


The Reformation Messenger



VOLUME 10, NUMBER 9, SEPTEMBER 2003

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



*"And the Spirit
and the bride say,
Come.
And let him
that heareth say,
Come.
And let him
that is athirst come.
And whosoever will,
let him take the water of life freely."*

(Revelation 22:17)



We Believe

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

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

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

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

His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.

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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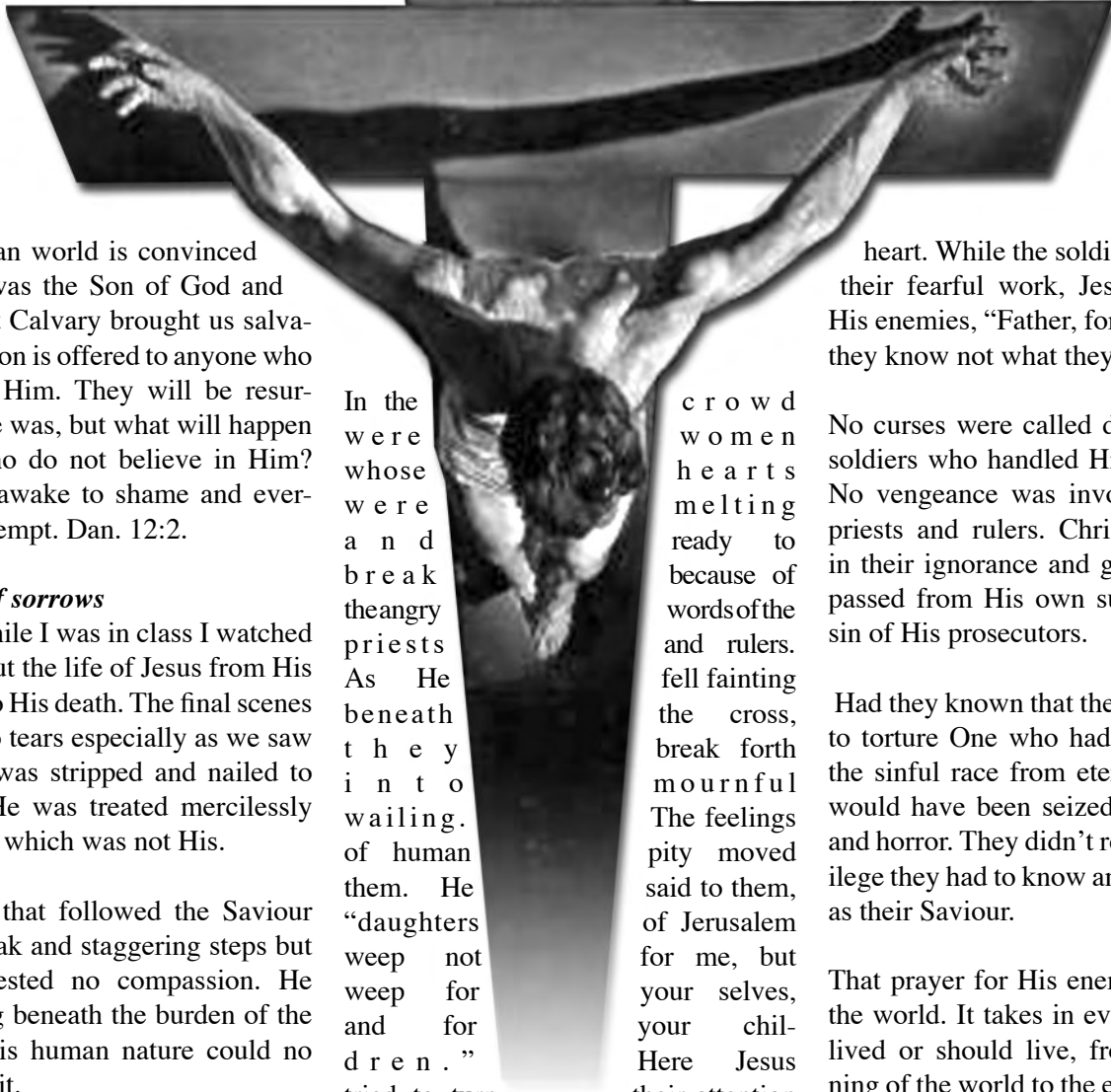
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"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM"



The Christian world is convinced that Jesus was the Son of God and His death at Calvary brought us salvation. Salvation is offered to anyone who believes in Him. They will be resurrected as He was, but what will happen to those who do not believe in Him? They shall awake to shame and everlasting contempt. Dan. 12:2.

As a man of sorrows

One day, while I was in class I watched a video about the life of Jesus from His childhood to His death. The final scenes moved us to tears especially as we saw how Jesus was stripped and nailed to the cross. He was treated mercilessly for the guilt which was not His.

The crowd that followed the Saviour saw His weak and staggering steps but they manifested no compassion. He fell, fainting beneath the burden of the cross for His human nature could no longer bear it.

He had endured the anguish of the betrayal and had seen His disciples forsake Him and flee. The crowd taunted and reviled Him because He could not carry the heavy cross. Again the burden was laid upon Him and again He fell fainting to the ground. Nobody helped Him. They only mocked and reviled Him by saying, "Make way for the king of the Jews!" At this time a stranger, Simon a Crynian, coming from the country meets the throng. He stops in astonishment at the scene. As he expressed his compassion, they seized him and placed the cross upon his shoulders.

In the were whose were a and break the angry priests As He beneath t h e y i n t o wailing. of human them. He "daughters weep not weep for and for d r e n . "

He tried to turn to the fate awaiting them if they chose not to believe in Him who came to save the world through His suffering. His sorrow was not for Himself but for all who defy and deny His love and grace.

There were two thieves in the hands of those who placed Jesus on the cross. While they struggled for freedom, Jesus, the Saviour who had power to save Himself, made no murmur or complaint. His face remained calm and serene, but great drops of sweat stood upon His brow. There was no pitying hand to wipe the death dew from His face, nor words of sympathy and unchanging fidelity to stay His human

crowd women hearts melting ready to because of words of the and rulers. fell fainting the cross, break forth mournful The feelings pity moved said to them, of Jerusalem for me, but your selves, your chil- Here Jesus their attention

heart. While the soldiers were doing their fearful work, Jesus prayed for His enemies, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

No curses were called down upon the soldiers who handled Him so roughly. No vengeance was invoked upon the priests and rulers. Christ pitied them in their ignorance and guilt. His mind passed from His own suffering to the sin of His prosecutors.

Had they known that they were putting to torture One who had come to save the sinful race from eternal ruin, they would have been seized with remorse and horror. They didn't realize the privilege they had to know and accept Jesus as their Saviour.

That prayer for His enemies embraces the world. It takes in every sinner that lived or should live, from the beginning of the world to the end of time. On the cross He suffered abuse and mockery from the wicked men. "If thou be the son of God, come down from the cross", "let Him save Himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God."

In the midst of all the tumult around Him, He received comfort from the prayer of the penitent thief. This thief was not a hardened criminal. He had been led astray by evil associations and was less guilty than many of those who stood beside the cross reviling the Saviour. He had seen and heard Jesus, and had been convinced by His teaching, but he had been turned away from Him by the priests and rulers. This was his

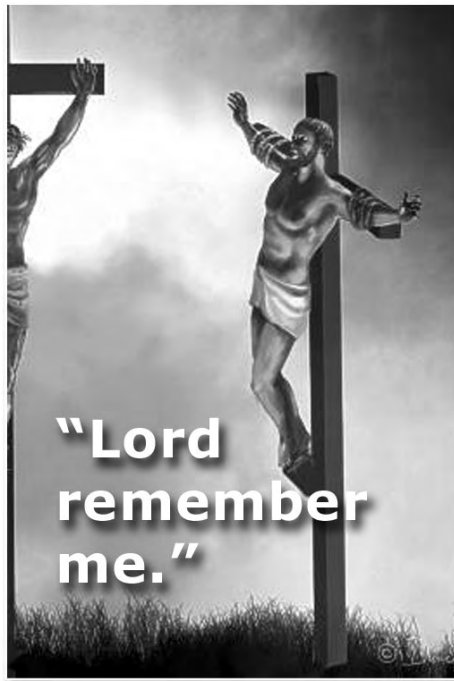
opportunity to see Jesus and he was with him at Calvary. He had heard Pilate's declaration, "I find no fault in Him." John.19:4. The thief confessed, "For we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this man hath done nothing amiss."

The thief's turning point

Hopeless and despairing, he remembered all he had heard of Jesus; how He healed the sick and pardoned sin. Having seen the title above the Saviour's head, he saw "the lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world," by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, he cried to the dying Saviour, "Lord remember me." Jesus replied, "Verily I say unto thee today, thou shalt be with me in paradise."

When Jesus said, "I say unto thee today, thou shalt be with me in paradise;" Christ did not promise that the thief should be with Him in paradise that day. He Himself did not go that day to paradise. He slept in the tomb, and on the morning of the resurrection He said, "I am not yet ascended to my Father." Jn. 20:17.

Our Lord is always ready to forgive us if only we acknowledge our sins and weaknesses, and repent while there is still one more opportunity offered to us.



Even if we die-(sleep) "in the dust of the earth," we "shall awake to everlasting life," like the repentant thief who was assured of paradise. Dan 12:2.

If we ignore His invitation and reject Him, we shall not be forgiven for, "Christ has never forgotten the days of His humiliation. He has not lost any of His humanity. He has the same tender, pitying love, and is ever touched with human woe. He is ready to help us but, the names of those people who have refused to repent will have their sins

remain and they be charged against them in the books of record. They shall awake to everlasting shame and contempt.

If we refuse to repent, we will have to give an account to the Father as if we did the act of abusing, mocking, stripping, dividing His garment, spearing His rip, spitting on His face, betraying and finally nailing Him again to the cross.

My wish and prayer for some of us who have been led away by evil associations and are desperate to come back for one reason or another is that we would call to Him, saying, "Lord, remember me." He shall "forgive" them and we will have the assurance of being with Him "in paradise." **AMEN.**

MOGUNDE CHARLES

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Quotations:

D.A Desire of Ages. Psalms 69:20, 21

C.O.L Christ Object Lessons. Matt.27: 31-53

Mark: 15:20-38

Jn.19:16-30



Take back the Night?

“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be



sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord

Jesus Christ... And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.” 1 Thess. 5:4-9,23,24

Perhaps you have listened to news reports of women marching through city streets loudly protesting and saying that they were taking back the night – a reference to the violence against women and their lack of safety on city streets at night. They were going to take back the night from all of the men who had stolen it from them. And maybe you have listened to news reports about young women protesting about society’s outdated dress standards, and flaunting their naked or near naked chests and legs for anyone and everyone to see. Do these two seemingly unrelated events actually have a relationship? Our society that has become very feminized says no, but what does inspiration say?

“Women are too often tempters. On one pretense or another they engage the attention of men, married or unmarried, and lead them on till they transgress the law of God, till their usefulness is ruined, and their souls are in jeopardy. The history of Joseph is left on record for the benefit of all who, like him, are tempted. In principle he was firm as a rock, and he answered

the tempter: ‘How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’ Moral power like his is what is needed now.” T 5 596

And how do they engage the attention of men? Of course, through the powerful means of sexual attraction, which is bound up in our minds with reproduction – survival itself. But it need not be thus, for as we go on to read: “If women would only elevate their lives and become workers with Christ, there would be less danger though their influence; but with their present feelings of unconcern in regard to home responsibilities and in regard to the claims that God has upon them, their influence is often strong in the wrong direction, their powers are dwarfed, and their work does not bear the divine impress. They are not home missionaries, neither are they missionaries away from the home; and frequently home, precious home, is left to desolation.

“Let everyone who professes Christ seek to overcome all unmanliness, all weakness and folly. Some men never grow up to the full stature of men in Christ Jesus. They are childish and self-indulgent. Humble piety would correct all this. Pure religion possesses no characteristics of childish self-indulgence. It is honorable in the highest degree.” Ibid. 596-597

Did you notice that Sr. White, a very active and vital woman, who accomplished so much in her life, mentions the neglect of home responsibilities in this passage? Isn’t that precisely what the feminist movement is all about? Modern women say that they want to be free from home responsibilities-that they don’t need to look after the home, or even the children, because their self-fulfillment is more important? So they leave their God-appointed place in order to seek their place in the world. But are women any more happy today than they were a hundred years ago? I would venture

to say no, and I believe that most modern commentators, if they were honest would have to agree. Even they are asking, “What do women really want?” For so many of them get to the age of thirty or forty, and then realize that their life is nothing without a husband, and/or children, so they give up their careers, and try to have families. But the modern phenomenon of the super-woman has given way in many circles, to those who appreciate staying at home, and fulfilling their God-given role.

1 Tim. 2:15 Does anyone know how many children Sr. White had? Was she a good homemaker? Yes, she got very involved in planting, building, cleaning, canning, cooking – so she didn’t think that was degrading work, though she also accomplished much writing, speaking and publishing in her life, as well.

And of course the Bible foretold the very state of society under which we suffer today. 2 Tim. 3:1-5

This message is not only for women,



but men also, because you notice that the statement in Testimonies Volume 5, includes the self-indulgence of men. Have you noticed that wherever there is much self-indulgence, there is also much crime? One leads to the other, isn’t it? For when men and women have no sense of God,

they will have no sense of right and wrong. And man, being physically stronger, will take what he wants from those that are weaker. When women indulge their sense of power over a man, he will resent not being able to answer those strong desires, not lawfully aroused, and indulge himself through inappropriate ways. How can women take back the night, when Satan is inspiring them to inspire men to immorality? A woman has a very potent power in her sexuality, but if not converted to Christ, this will be a powerful influence to tempt and seduce, to hurt and destroy .

Look at the history of Samson – who was physically the strongest of all men, but morally he was the weakest of all men. And in his story we can read the end of all of those who will not be converted on moral questions. Yes, perhaps they believe but do



not come to the place of actually yielding obedience to their Saviour. It is no small matter to submit the desires, passions and purposes of life to Jesus, but this is the only thing that will mean peace and fulfillment for the youth.

Here's another statement from the pen of inspiration for you, which is quite prophetic, I think... "There is an increasing tendency to have women in their dress and appearance as near like the other sex as possible and to fashion their dress very much like that of men, but God pronounces it abomination. 'In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety.' 1 Tim. 2:9.

"God designed that there should be a plain distinction between the dress of men and women, and has considered the matter

of sufficient importance to give explicit directions in regard to it; for the same dress worn by both sexes would cause confusion and great increase in crime." CG 427 Isn't that exactly the situation today? Almost all the clothing styles are called unisex- one form for men and women.

Why is there so much crime? Well, lots of social commentators will try and tell you that it is because of drugs or because of society itself, but here is a deeper root cause that inspiration talks about, and don't laugh because it is not me saying it, but rather the spirit of God. And it makes sense, because how much confusion is there about sexual identity as well as anger and resentment that fuels crime, today?

As Inspiration says the dress question is very important in last days events – for

this is at the very heart of the great increase in crime. Physically, mentally, morally and spiritually – there is much increase in crime today, isn't it? We commit crime against ourselves when we fail to dress properly, by violating the laws of health. We commit crime against others, weak, perhaps and ready to fall without much of a push, so how necessary it is for us to uplift the dress reform amongst those professing godliness.

When this Reformation first started out, there was a clear distinction between the dress of men and women. And now, more than ever we must uplift the dress reform, for it is about faithfulness to the seventh commandment, and the preservation of the family itself.

But there has come in a liberal element to God's people very much in the past few years – have you noticed? Some apparently amiable church leaders, not wanting to offend, and "only wanting to uplift the love of God" have studiously avoided presenting this question to their churches. Newly converted young men and women come into the faith thinking that is perfectly all right for them to dress like they always dressed, except perhaps on Sabbath, they will wear a different style of clothes. Is this pleasing to our Lord, Jesus Christ?

Ex. 32:6-8 What was the result of their idolatry? Music, dancing and nakedness. Exactly like today – human nature hasn't changed much, has it?

The only way that we can effectively take back the night, is if we become children of the day. Only if we are not of the night nor of darkness, can we walk with Him in robes of light. The logical end of Dress Reform is to address the situation between the sexes – to ensure that there is a proper reserve and sense of propriety between the sexes.

Now it is true we do not make the dress question prominent in our message, because we want to uplift Christ, and Him crucified. In reality though, we will be judged by the way that we dress ourselves, for our dress, as Inspiration tells us, is an index to the heart.

And what did He say would be the result of walking and talking with God? John 14:15-21

To put this in practical terms: Romans 14: 23 James 4: 17 Yes, young people, and older ones, God is speaking to us, to square our lives with the gospel. To actually put into practice what we know. If we know Him as Saviour, it will be the most natural thing in the world to obey Him, isn't it? 1 Cor. 10:31

No matter if it is our manner of entertainment or dress, our eating and drinking – it will all be in harmony with God's word. Gal. 5: 24 ; 6:14

May we see Jesus and Him crucified, whereby the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world. Romans 6 In fact, we have to be dead to sin. Now what does that say to you about going along with the ways of the world in the way that we dress?

I don't think there could be any more of a definite word to strike at the carnal heart, could there?

May His Holy Spirit gain the victory in our clothes as well as in our attitudes, for in this way it will be seen that we truly love Him and want to serve Him. We will not be of the night nor of darkness in the way that we dress. We will truly take back the night, for Inspiration tells us that women and girls that dress modestly will avoid a thousand unseen dangers. *Amen*

Jerry Eaton

LIKE THE MOST HIGH

Part 3

[Love] suffereth long, and is kind; [love] envieth not; [love] vaunted not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

It is without variableness or shadow of turning--the same yesterday, today, and forever. TM, p. 519.
God is love. MYP, p. 363.

When Adam's sin plunged the race into hopeless misery, God might have cut Himself loose from fallen beings. He might have treated them as sinners deserved to be treated. He might have commanded the angels of heaven to pour out upon our world the vials of His wrath. He might have removed this dark blot from His universe. But He did not do this. SD, p. 11

Love can no more exist without revealing itself in outward acts than fire can be kept alive without fuel. 1T, p. 695.

Love cannot live without action, and every act increases, strengthens, and extends it. 2T, p. 135.

God's law is the law of love. MB, p. 97
The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner. PP, p. 63.

But instead of destroying the world, God sent His Son to save it. DA, p. 37

Love imparts to its possessor grace, propriety, and comeliness of deportment. Love illuminates the countenance and subdues the voice; it refines and elevates the entire man. 4T, pp. 559, 560.

It refines our taste, sanctifies our judgement, and brings peace of mind, and, in the end, everlasting life. 1T, p. 310.

Righteousness is love, and love is the light and the life of God. MB, p. 18.

The law required righteousness--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. DA, p. 762.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23, (The glory of the attributes of God is expressed in His character. COL, p. 115)

But Christ, coming to earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. DA, p. 762.

Christ was the majesty of heaven, the Prince of life. 9T, p. 69. But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:7.

Our Lord and Saviour laid aside His dominion, His riches and glory, and sought after us, that He might save us from misery and make us like Himself. 2T, p. 170

Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian's character. COL, p. 49.

He has given in His law a transcript of His character. 8T, p. 63

The followers of Christ are to become like Him--by the grace of God to form characters in harmony with the principles of His holy law. GC, p. 469.

It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that we are members of the family of God; it is love, a love that embraces all humanity. Even sinners whose hearts are not utterly closed to God's Spirit, will respond to kindness; while they may give hate for hate, they will also give love for love. But it is only the Spirit of God that gives love for hatred. MB, p. 75.

Jesus said, "Love one another, as I have loved you." How much? 1T, p. 150. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13.

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:7, 8. Christ consented to die in the sinner's stead, that man, by a life of obedience, might escape the penalty of the law of God. 2T, pp. 200, 201. By giving His life for the life of men, He would win the world back to its loyalty. 8T, p. 208.

Oh, what an immense sacrifice was this for the fallen race! What love, what wonderous and matchless love! 2T, p. 73. Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it everyday of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. 5T, p. 740.

And it is stronger than death; for He died to purchase our salvation, and make us one with Him, mystically and eternally one. So strong is His love that it controls all His powers, and employs the vast resources of heaven in doing His people good. It is without variableness or shadow of turning--the same yesterday, today, and forever. TM, p. 519.

And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. John 1:16. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it. Ephesians 5:25.

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Romans 13:10

Amen.
Chester Cosby
Detroit, Michigan, USA

THE TWO HORNED BEAST



Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

Introduction

“The ‘two horns like a lamb’ well represent the character of the United States Government, as expressed in its two fundamental principles, Republicanism and Protestantism.”¹

“‘And he had two horns like a lamb.’ The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as ‘coming up’ in 1798.”²

It is stated that the two lamblike horns represent Republicanism and Protestantism, fundamental principles of the United States Government. It is apparent that these two principles would appear in the United States Government by the year 1798. This article examines how and when these two principles did appear in the United States Government.

Republicanism

In prophecy a beast is symbolic of an earthly government. In Revelation 13 there are two beasts. The first beast described in Revelation 13:1-10 is the government of Papal Rome and with her the governments of Christendom that did her bidding. The second beast described in Revelation 13:11-18 is another earthly government which we aim to identify.

To understand when this second beast should appear, we must date the verse previous to its appearance. “He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword” (Revelation 13:10). This verse was fulfilled when the Pope was led into captivity by the French Army in 1798. John now beholds another beast coming up out of the earth. For the specifications of

prophecy to be fulfilled another earthly government must come into existence by 1798.

Now notice the second beast of Revelation 13 comes up out of the earth. Compare this with the beasts in Daniel: “Behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another” (Daniel 7:2,3). The beasts of Daniel arose to power through wars of conquest, represented as winds striving upon a turbulent sea of peoples. However, the second beast of Revelation 13 arises in a different manner. It grows up out of the earth peacefully and gradually, without wars of conquest. It grows up in a region of few peoples, not a sea of peoples. Therefore it could not arise in the crowded struggling peoples of the Old World. It must arise in a sparsely populated region such as the New World, the Americas. There it could arise peacefully and gradually through colonisation rather than through wars of conquest.

Who colonised the New World? The British began to colonise the Americas in the early 1600’s. These colonies grew peacefully and gradually for many years until the late 1700’s at which time we are looking for another earthly government or another beast. The British were part of the Papal beast. They were a crown or a monarchy that had supported the Papacy. They are one of the ten crowns of the Papal beast (Revelation 13:1). So in order for British colonies in North America to become another beast they had to break away from the previous beast. They had to become independent of the British monarchy, independent of this crown.

Did the British colonies of North America become independent? Yes they did. From 1774 to 1776 the 13 British colonies of North America overthrew their British governments, fighting the American war of independence from 1775 to 1783. The American war of independence was not a war of conquest. It was not the overthrow

of nations like the beasts of Daniel. It was simply 13 colonial states standing in defense of their right against the mother country. The independence of the United States of America was recognised by Britain in the year 1783.

Often when other British colonies became independent they retained their ties to the British crown and became constitutional monarchies. But where this beast is concerned the case must be different. It is another beast with a distinct form of government having no ties to a crown of the previous. But what form of government could this be? It is a beast without crowns upon its horns showing that it is not a monarchical or kingly form of government. Also, when this beast or government has acts to perform, it says to them that dwell on the earth that they, the people, should do it (Revelation 13:14). This represents a form of government where power must reside with the people: a republican government. Therefore to fulfill the specifications of this prophecy we look for a Republican form of government to appear in the Americas just prior to the year 1798.

In 1783 when independence of the United States was recognised there were 13 states each with their own Assembly. There was no national government, only a Confederation of States. A more substantial government would be required if these 13 Confederate States were to constitute another whole beast. American leaders such as Alexander Hamilton and James Madison sought to create a national government. And for this purpose a Constitutional Convention was convened at Philadelphia in 1787. Delegates from 12 of the 13 states attended.

“The Constitutional Convention began on

May 25, 1787, when a quorum of delegates arrived at Philadelphia's Independence Hall, then known as the Pennsylvania State House. The distinguished gathering brought together nearly all of the nation's most prominent men, including George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and the ailing Benjamin Franklin." 3

The Convention debated and wrote a new Constitution. James Madison was primarily responsible for its wording. The Constitution laid out a republican form of government in which power resides with the people. "Thus the Constitution—which began 'We the people'—created a government with the people, and not the state legislatures, as the constituent power." 4

The writing of a new Constitution resulted in the formation of a new government. This government or beast when formed must also have two lamblike horns. In prophecy, horns represent powers (see Habakkuk 3:4). Therefore two powers must appear somewhere in the establishment of its Constitution. The first lamblike horn that appeared in the Constitution was power residing with the people rather than with the states. It is the horn of Republicanism, a gentle innocent lamblike principle of equity and fairness in government. For this horn to properly arise the states needed to submit to the Constitution by ratifying it in their own Assemblies.

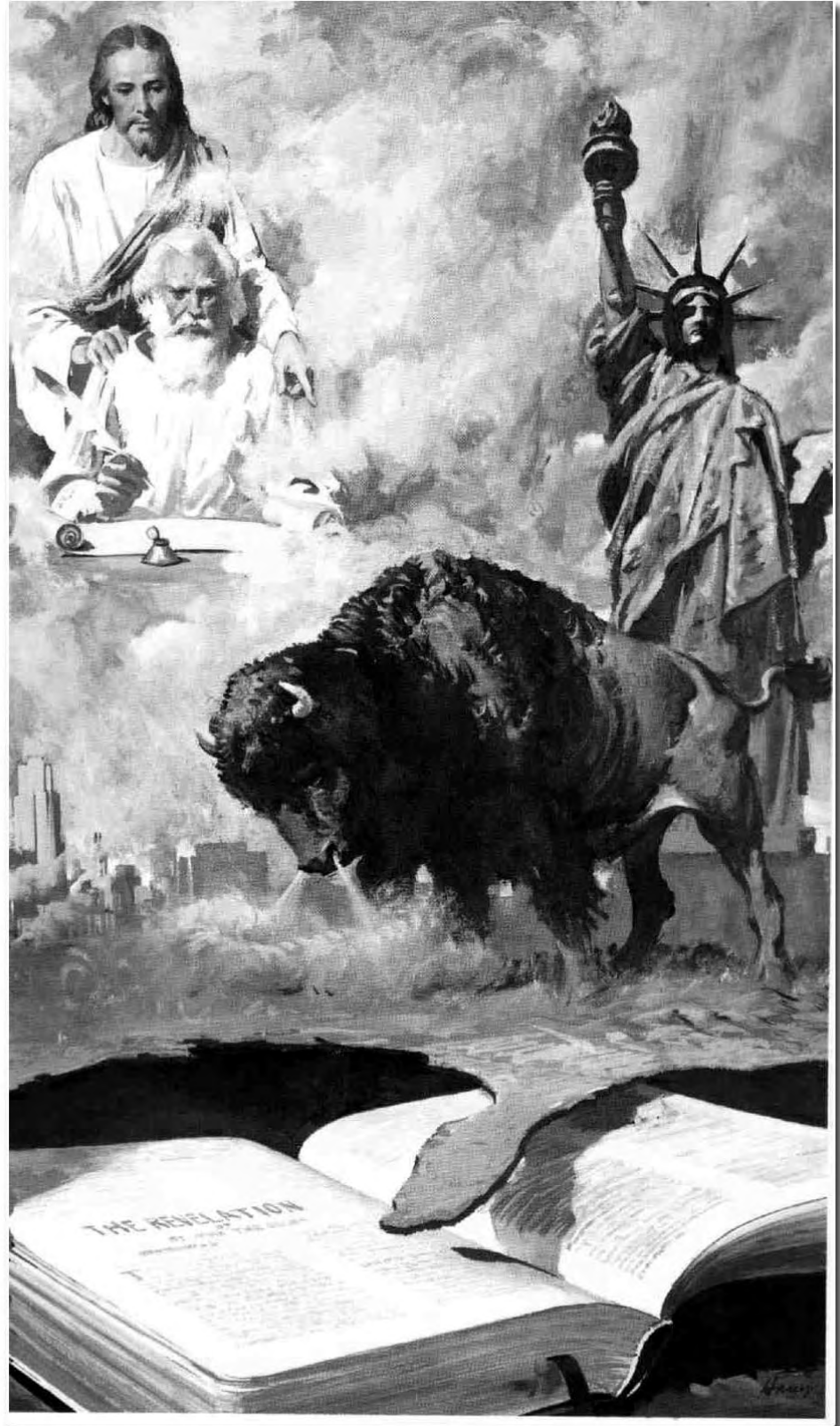
"The delegates to the Constitutional Convention created a novel method of ratifying the Constitution. Each state was to hold a ratification convention. Once nine states had ratified the document, the government under the Articles of Confederation would end, and the new government would go into effect." 5 For the new government to go into effect 9 of the 13 states, a three-fourths majority was required to ratify the Constitution.

Ratification of the Constitution took place as follows: "Delaware became the first state to ratify, on December 7, 1787. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, and South Carolina followed it. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify, thus making the Constitution legally effective. But without ratification by New York and Virginia, it was doubtful

the Constitution could succeed. Virginia ratified four days later, but by the narrow margin of 10 votes out of 168 cast. New York finally ratified on July 26, by a vote of 30 to 27. North Carolina eventually ratified in 1789, and Rhode Island in 1790." 3

By watching the process of Constitutional

ratification we see the rising of the lamblike horn of Republicanism. The exact period of its rise we date from the beginning of the Constitutional Convention May 25, 1787 to June 12, 1788 when the Constitution became legally effective. On that day in 1788 the first lamblike horn pushed its way up.



Protestantism

To complete the beast a second lamblike horn must appear in establishment of the Constitution. Ratification of the Constitution had nearly failed, as many people feared the Constitution did not adequately safeguard their rights. "In closely fought and often bitter battles in state conventions, the Constitution's supporters secured victory only by promising to amend the Constitution at the first opportunity." 3

"Leaders in Rhode Island and North Carolina refused to ratify the Constitution because of the lack of a Bill of Rights." 6 The state of Rhode Island had been established upon the principles of religious liberty. Without a Bill of Rights that included religious liberty Rhode Island did not want to join the Union. Therefore the Constitution must be amended to include a Bill of Rights so that the beast could be properly formed and that the second lamblike horn could appear.

The first Congress under the Constitution met March 4, 1789. In Congress James Madison kept the idea of a Bill of Rights alive. "When Madison reminded fellow members of Congress of the promise to enact a Bill of Rights, his insistence upon action met with some coolness. He kept fighting, however, and presented his plan to the House in June 1789." 6 After much debate a series of amendments emerged, which Congress passed on September 25, 1789. These became the first ten amendments of the Constitution, also known as the Bill of Rights.

Once the Bill of Rights was proposed by Congress, North Carolina and Rhode Island joined the other states in ratifying the Constitution. North Carolina ratified the Constitution on November 21, 1789, and became the 12th state to enter the Union. While "Rhode Island was the last of the original 13 states to ratify the Constitution and did so with the narrowest margin, a

vote of 34 to 32 on May 29, 1790." 7 Thus Rhode Island became the 13th state to enter the Union. The Union was now complete and the beast properly formed. To show that this is the beast properly formed, one only need look at the American flag with 13 stripes or the American emblem, an eagle clutching 13 arrows with 13 stars above. These symbols represent the 13 original states that formed the Union.

The Union had been incomplete because the Constitution lacked a Bill of Rights but more particularly, it lacked religious rights. The First Amendment to the American Constitution supplied the lack stating that: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This second lamblike horn that appeared in the Constitution was the power of conscience above civil government. It is the lamblike horn of Protestantism, a gentle innocent lamblike principle of religious liberty. For this horn to properly arise the states needed to ratify the Bill of Rights and amend the Constitution.

"Support from three-fourths of the states is needed to amend the Constitution. Vermont's 1791 statehood brought the number of states to 14, so 11 states were required to add the Bill of Rights to the Constitution. Virginia became the 11th to do so on December 15, 1791." 6 Thus the states ratified the Bill of Rights in 1791, three years after the Constitution was ratified in 1788.

By watching the process of Constitutional amendment we see the rising of the lamblike horn of Protestantism. The exact period of its rise we date from when Congress first met under the Constitution on March 4, 1789 to December 15, 1791 when the First Amendment became legally effective. On that day in 1791 the second lamblike horn pushed its way up.

To show that the second lamblike horn is indeed Protestantism we can compare the American Constitution to original Protestantism. The American Constitution: "In the famous words of Thomas Jefferson,

the Constitution erects a 'wall of separation' between church and state. The First Amendment's Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause serve as the principle bulwarks against government intrusion in religious life." 3 Original Protestantism: "The principles contained in this celebrated protest of the 19th April 1529, constitute the very essence of Protestantism. Now this protest opposes two abuses of man in matters of faith: the first is the intrusion of the civil magistrate, and the second the arbitrary authority of the Church. Instead of these abuses, Protestantism sets the power of conscience above the magistrate; and the authority of the Word of God above the visible church." 8 Both the Protest at Spire, where Protestantism gets its name, and the American Constitution profess the exact same principle. They both reject government intrusion in religious life. This principle, the essence of Protestantism, was revived in the American Constitution.

Conclusion

To conclude it may be helpful to briefly review the coming together of the beast of Revelation 13:11. It broke away from the previous beast (1775 - 1783); the first lamblike horn came up (1787 - 1788); the beast itself came together as a complete Union (1790); the second lamblike horn came up (1789 - 1791). All this occurred when it should, just prior to the year 1798. It occurred with such detail and exactness that it demonstrates the truth of the prophecy.

Amen

*Glendon Higgins
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WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT?



The majority of people in the world are seeking for happiness through the pleasures and attractions that Satan is offering. He leads people to think that they will be happy if they amass great wealth for themselves or waste their lives in the pleasures of this world. He is leading people to believe that true happiness has nothing to do with a connection with Jesus and is striving with all his cunning wiles to cut the connection that people may have with Jesus. Some think of religion as a round of ceremonies that they must occasionally perform to appease an angry God so that after the end of this life they will not end up burning in the fires of hell, while their human nature is still craving the things of this world.

One of the worst deceptions is when people honestly believe that this to be God's church, but that the rules are not meant to be as strict as some may teach. It is ok, to occasionally step off the standard just for a short while, or to just take a short step off. Or to even put one foot off the standard while the rest of the person remains on top.

Is there any bending of the rules with God? No, but while He is a strict God, He is also a very merciful God.

“And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, [and] be merry. But God said unto him, [Thou] fool, this night thy soul shall be required

of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So [is] he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:16-21.

This man may have been a very pious worshipper of God. He may have kept all 10 commandments as the rich young ruler claimed to. However his downfall was in not having pity upon the poor. He was living for himself only. Notice how he talks about himself. He says, “my fruits,” “my barns,” “my goods,” “my soul.” His thoughts were all of self. He had made his fortune and was ready to retire. He then plans on consuming the good things of life with no further thought of producing. He feels certain that he has enough to last the rest of his life, and will spend his days in living for himself. However this man lacked heavenly treasure. Any man who thinks and plans exclusively for himself, lacks good sense in the sight of God. The gospel of the kingdom is designed to take men's thoughts away from self and direct them upward toward God and outward toward their fellow men. What will this man profit when his soul is required of him that night? It will profit him nothing since he has lost what is most important – the heavenly treasure.

“You may devote your entire existence to laying up treasures upon earth, but what will they advantage you when your life here closes, or when Christ makes His appearance? Not a farthing can you take with you. And just as high as your worldly honours and riches have exalted you here to the neglect of your spiritual life, just so much lower will you sink in moral worth before the great tribunal of God's judgment.” 4T 53.

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” Mark 8:36, 37.

“No scheme of business or plan of life can be sound or complete that embraces only the

brief years of this present life and makes no provision for the unending future.” IT 145.

“If you devote your lifetime to securing earthly treasures, and lose the heavenly, you will find that you have made a terrible mistake. You cannot have both worlds.” IT 706.

“Can we not understand that the most costly thing in the world is sin? It is at the expense of purity of conscience, at the cost of losing the favour of God and separating the soul from Him, and at last losing heaven. The sin of grieving the Holy Spirit of God and walking contrary to Him has cost many a one the loss of his soul.” Faith And Works, p. 17.

“That which is highly esteemed among men is abhorrent in the sight of God.” COL 267.

Achan thought he was gaining a little wealth. What did it profit him? He ended up losing, not only his earthly life, but also his heavenly, eternal life. “When the records of heaven shall be opened, the Judge will not in words declare to man his guilt, but will cast one penetrating, convicting glance, and every deed, every transaction of life, will be vividly impressed upon the memory of the wrongdoer. The person will not, as in Joshua's day, need to be hunted out from tribe to family, but his own lips will confess his shame. The sins hidden from the knowledge of men will then be proclaimed to the whole world.” PP 498. Achan lost everything in the end.

Annianias and **Sapphira** thought they were gaining a little by keeping back a portion for themselves, what did it profit them?

“Ananias and Sapphira had made a pledge to give to the Lord the proceeds from the sale of certain property.

“Afterward, Ananias and Sapphira grieved

the Holy Spirit by yielding to feelings of covetousness. They began to regret their promise and soon lost the sweet influence of the blessing that had warmed their hearts with a desire to do large things in behalf of the cause of Christ. They thought they had been too hasty, that they ought to reconsider their decision. They talked the matter over, and decided not to fulfill their pledge. They saw, however, that those who parted with their possessions to supply the needs of their poorer brethren, were held in high esteem among the believers; and ashamed to have their brethren know that their selfish souls grudged that which they had solemnly dedicated to God, they deliberately decided to sell their property and pretend to give all the proceeds into the general fund, but really to keep a large share for themselves. Thus they would secure their living from the common store and at the same time gain the high esteem of their brethren." AA 72. Again, while they thought they were gaining, they lost everything.

Gehazi thought he was gaining something by taking a few of the gifts from Naaman that had originally been offered to, but refused by, his master, Elisha.

"Gehazi, Elisha's servant, had had opportunity during the years to develop the spirit of self-denial characterizing his master's lifework. It had been his privilege to become a noble standard-bearer in the army of the Lord. The best gifts of Heaven had long been within his reach; yet, turning from these, he had coveted instead the

base alloy of worldly wealth. And now the hidden longings of his avaricious spirit led him to yield to an overmastering temptation. "Behold," he reasoned within himself, "my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but . . . I will run after him, and take somewhat of him." And thus it came about that in secrecy "Gehazi followed after Naaman." PK 250. He thought that he could hide the truth from Elisha, but forgot that he could hide nothing from God.



Ahab thought he was gaining a beautiful vineyard, but he met a horrible death in battle.

"The men of his city, even the elders and the nobles, . . . did as Jezebel had . . . written in the letters which she had sent unto them." Then Jezebel went to the king and bade him arise and take the vineyard. And Ahab, heedless of the consequences, blindly followed her counsel and went down to take possession of the coveted property.

"The king was not allowed to enjoy unrebuked that which he had gained by fraud and bloodshed. "The word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?" And the Lord further instructed Elijah to pronounce upon Ahab a terrible judgment.

"It was less than three years later that King Ahab met his death at the hands of the Syrians." PK 206/7.

Adam and **Eve** thought they were gaining

something by eating the forbidden fruit. They thought they would reach a higher level of existence; they would 'be as gods knowing, good and evil.' Gen. 3:5.

King Saul thought he was gaining something when he let his men keep the animals that he was supposed to destroy when God sent him to destroy the Amelakites. He thought he was gaining the support and approval of his soldiers because he allowed them to take all this

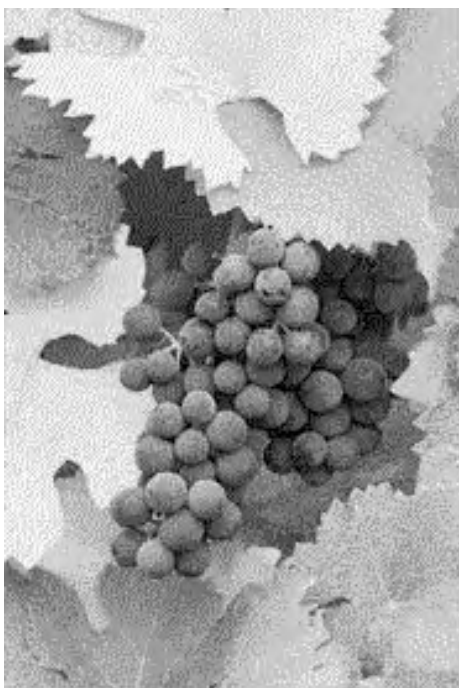
wealth for themselves. He lost his kingdom to David and lost his salvation in the end.

All these people thought they were gaining something by being disobedient, justifying in their minds that in some cases it was only a slight disobedience. In reality they all were losing something. Except for the case of Adam and Eve, no record of true repentance is recorded in the Bible. In the judgment they will have to give an account for their disobedience, no matter how small it may be. Every sin will keep a person out of heaven.

TODAY

There are people who think they are gaining if they don't pay their tithes and offerings faithfully, but are they really gaining? They argue that they can't afford to feed their families if they give too much to God. Are they not robbing God and bringing a curse to themselves? Would it not be better to be honest with your money and have God's blessing? No one may know your true income. This is a trust between you and God. He knows if you are being like Annanias and Sapphira and bringing in only a partial tithe and offering.

Today there are so many ways in this day and time that people use to try to gain something – to get ahead. What about things



like cheating on taxes? You gain more money for yourself? I met one Christian who felt it was his religious duty to be dishonest with his taxes because the government was corrupt and was not using his money correctly. He would rather give more to the church. What government could have been more corrupt than the Roman Empire in the time of Christ and Jesus taught the importance of paying an honest tax to the government?



Then some working just slightly into the Sabbath hours, feeling it is not so important to keep Sabbath to the exact minute. They may gain a few more dollars, but what does all this profit a person on the judgment day when they have to meet their maker face to face? They are really losing very much in the way of heaven, although it may appear that they are gaining something in this world.

Or then on Friday, those wanting to get in as much work as possible before the Sabbath may not work into the Sabbath hours, but walk off the job one minute before Sabbath begins. What are they gaining? They still have to travel home, they still have to clean up and take a shower. Are these activities in keeping with the Sabbath commandment? No, they are not gaining anything.

There are so many other areas where Satan leads members to feel they need not be so strict, in areas such as diet. They reason that little indulgence now and then is ok in order to please the appetite. Is a little sin now and then really ok? Jesus is our perfect example. We must pattern our lives after Him if we ever wish to be in heaven with Him. Did He ever indulge in the least bit?

In the eyes of the world some of these

people may appear to be gaining something, whether monetary wealth, or pleasure, but in the eyes of God, they are sustaining a terrible loss. To ignore the voice of the Holy Spirit and to wound your conscience, even in little matters, leads to a terrible loss.

Heaven and earth are complete opposites. What is gain on earth is loss in heaven. Paul said, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." Phil. 3:7.

"There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Proverbs 11:24, 25.

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." 1 Cor. 1:17.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." 1 Cor. 1:18.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." 1 Cor. 3:19.

The world and heaven are at the opposite



ends of the scale. There is no in between. We need to ask ourselves which side we are on. Are we seeking the wisdom of God, or are we seeking the wisdom of the world? Do we want to live the lifestyle of heaven, or the lifestyle of earth? They are complete opposites and we have to decide where we will be. The choice is ours – God will help us to live the lifestyle of heaven if we

should choose that side of the scale. We can't do it alone – it's impossible.

Abraham recognized this fact. He dwelt in a tent although he was a rich man.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:8-10.

Being a rich man, Abraham did not strive for worldly greatness. He happily spent his life living in a tent because he knew that all things on this earth will pass away some day and God has a better home prepared for the faithful souls which He will give to them when He comes again.

In everything that we do on this earth we need to ask ourselves the question, "is this bringing me closer to God? or is it taking me further away?" Each day ask yourself what it will profit you, before you do or say anything. Don't exchange heaven for even the smallest sinful indulgence that Satan offers in this world. Don't give up your salvation for sin – even the smallest sin carries a high price – the cost of your salvation.

May God help each one of us to make a firm decision to follow Jesus all the way; to give ourselves 100% to Him, trusting Him to take care of all our needs. Great is our reward in heaven should we decide to hold on to the promises

He has made to us. And one of the greatest promises is that He made is that He will be with us until the end. He will help us to live the lifestyle of heaven. It is not an impossibility for those who believe. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.

AMEN

Wendy Eaton



Testimonies are Righteous



“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with the whole heart.”— Psalm 119: 1,2.

The word of God is to be studied carefully. Some times a portion may be skimmed over lightly, however it may have a deep meaning and contain thought provoking truths that should be more carefully considered.

I am sure that many of us have come across these two verses in Ps 119: 1,2, but how many people have taken the time to analyze these verses, to find out, what is the golden truth hidden in them? If we have not done so, let us do it now with earnest prayer. May the living God give us understanding and knowledge.

In the first verse the psalmist says, “Who walk in the law of the Lord!” In the second verse he says, “Who keep his testimonies”. The psalmist diligently differentiates between the law and testimonies, as they both are different.

In following verses of this same chapter in Ps. 119, reading up to verse 6, in place of the word ‘law’ he uses other words, ‘precept’, ‘statutes’, and ‘commandments.’ But again, the testimonies are different from them. If you want to differentiate between the law and testimony clearly we need to read Isa. 8:20. “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word it is because there is no light in them.” The law and the testimony both are different here as we read also in Psalm 119:1.

In the Tamil Bible, the translated version, it reads the word law as “Vedham”. The assistant of Segambulk the missionary one

who came to Tranqubar translated the first Tamil Bible. Since the translating assistant was a Brahmin he used most of the Sanskrit and Hindi words. The word Vedham is derived from the Sanskrit word “Vedham”. You can refer the religious canonical book of Hindus where they say Rig-Yedha, Yesur Vedha, Sama Vedha and Adhavana Vedha. The word Vedha or Vedham means canon or the rule. So the Tamil translator of the Bible used the proper words “Vedham” for the word law.

Here the word law denotes the Ten Commandments. We can then come to the conclusion that the Psalmist encourages us that walking in the law of the Ten Commandments and keeping the testimonies is the only way of Salvation. There is not a vast difference between the words walk and keep. Therefore the law of God and testimony can’t be neglected in the Christian life, particularly in the Adventist life style.

The laws of God, or Ten Commandments, are in the centre of the Bible and the other words surrounding them are the testimonies in the Bible. However, using the principle laid out in Isa 8:20, when the apocrypha was tested no sequence of truth was found in it. Therefore the books of the apocrypha were rejected. Since we are studying about the testimonies let us see more about these testimonies.

In Psalms 119:88 the Psalmist says, “Revive me according to your loving kindness, so that I may keep the testimony of your mouth.” The testimonies are from the mouth of God. He created heaven and earth by that same mouth. In verse 24 of the same chapter it says, “Your

testimonies also are my delight. And my counselors.” The testimony of the mouth of God is the only counselor for us. No organization, policy, or human philosophy can be placed in this stead. Further, in this same chapter in verse 144 it says, “the righteousness of your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding and I shall live.” From the phrases “The righteousness of your testimonies is everlasting”; we are very sure that the righteousness of Christ or the righteousness of the law of God is everlasting. The righteousness of the testimonies is also everlasting. It means that the righteousness of Christ is closely paralleled with the righteousness of the testimonies. Both are everlasting.

Since the plan of salvation was first instituted, God is maintaining this system of testimony. In Deut. 31:24, 26, it says “so it was when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished,” that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord saying; “Take this book of the law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there as a witness against you.”

The word “witness” and “testimony” have the same meaning. After Moses completed writing the book of law, he commanded the Levites to put this book beside the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord. Two things must be carefully considered in these verses. The first is this book of the law that was written by Moses with his own hands, and the other is that Moses commanded the Levites to put this book of law beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord God. What was inside of the Ark of the Covenant? The law of God - the Ten Commandments that

were written by His own hands and given to Moses at Mount Sinai. His own hand wrote the law of God, so there would not be any mistakes or errors in the writing. Also because it is an everlasting righteousness. The Eternal God will create eternal things only. The removable, or changeable Mosaic Law or Ceremonial Law, was allowed to be written by the hands of Moses, a mortal man. One thing we should never forget as written in Psalms 119:144 is that the testimonies are everlasting.

The Psalmist in the same chapter of 119:99 says, "I have more understanding than all my teacher's, for your testimonies are my meditation." According to the historical findings of the book of Psalms, never do they say that King David wrote Psalm 119. The Author of this Psalm 119 is anonymous and some of the anonymous psalms are traditionally attributed to Ezra. However it may be that King David also was meditating on the testimonies. This can be understood from Psalm 51:16-17. These verses reveal that King David understood the spiritual meaning of the sacrifices in the Mosaic Law – a law of ceremonies. In another words it can be said that the book of law kept beside the ark of covenant of God are the testimonies or the Ceremonial Law.

God expected that the same spiritual meaning should be understood by the Israelites who practiced the Ceremonial Law that it is the testimony and has sanctifying power. Since they did not understand this they would not accept Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem as their Redeemer. Their failure to meditate upon the testimonies led them to reject Christ, the Son of God

This Mosaic Law is the testimony that was kept beside the ark of covenant was to point forward to the sacrifice and the redemption of Jesus Christ when He was crucified on the cross of Calvary. The Apostle Paul reaffirms this in his theological definition for Mosaic Law, says that this law was a shadow of things to come. It was a shadow pointing forward to Christ and His sacrifice upon the cross. He describes this in Colossians 2:14-16. "Having wiped out the hand writing of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and power. He made a public spectacle of them, over them in it. Therefore

let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbath."

Many of the other Christian churches are quoting the above verses to defend the argument that the law of God was nailed to the cross. Their immature understanding of the Word of God or their preconceived erroneous doctrines, which originated from the Roman Catholic Church and the Augustinian theological concept, causes this misunderstanding.

Now we are very clear in our understanding, that the Ceremonial Law are the testimonies which were kept beside the Ark of the Covenant of God and were abolished when Christ was crucified upon the cross of Calvary and sacrificed Himself as a lamb.

One thing we have to understand is that the sacrificial system was only abolished but not the testimonies, because we read earlier in Psalms 119:144, "The testimonies is everlasting." So we can come to the conclusion that the sacrificial system was abolished and the testimonies are changed. How are the testimonies changed? It is Justification by faith and the Righteousness of Christ. The changed testimonies are only described in the books of the New Testament. Some of the scripture references to support this doctrine of the justification by faith and the righteousness of Christ are: Romans 4:1-8, Romans 3:21,31.

In the book of Revelation we read the counsel to the Laodicean church in chapter 3, the seventh church period, which is a representation of the Seventh-day Adventist church. They are encouraged to obtain the white raiment, which is the righteousness of Christ (Rev. 19:8). This counsel to Laodicea, or the golden truth of the Righteousness of Christ message, was proclaimed in 1888 at the Minneapolis conference. In 1888 the message proclaimed was, "Christ our righteousness." Gods messenger, Sr. E.G. White, writes as follows "The Lord in his great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in surety. It invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God...." TM91, 92.

In every meeting since that General Conference, souls have eagerly accepted the precious message of the Righteousness of Christ. We thank God that there are souls who realize that they are in need of something which they do not possess. They need: gold (faith), love, the white raiment of Christ's righteousness, and the eyesalve of spiritual discernment. If you possess these precious gifts, the temple of your human soul will not be like a desecrated shrine. Brethren and sisters, I call upon you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth to work where God works. "Now is the day of gracious opportunity and privilege." COR p 45.

The above statements prove that Sr. E.G. White's understanding of the changed testimony [changed from Antitypical] is according to the Word of God. This is confirmed in all the writings of E.G. White where the central theme is Christ our Righteousness. In Testimonies to Ministers page 79,80, we can read that Sr. E.G. White says the message that was given at the Minneapolis conference is a testimony to the church. Therefore none of the E.G. White writings should be neglected. To reject them would mean you are rejecting the testimony. The writings of E.G. White are not her own words but were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of Prophecy given as a gift to the remnant church as written in Rev 12:17,19:10. The Spirit of Prophecy is the Testimony of Jesus, according to the Word of God. Rejecting the counsels in the Spirit of Prophecy is rejecting the Testimony of Jesus. Those who are rejecting the Spirit of Prophecy are not keeping the Testimonies and it will result with them losing sight of Christ as the Israelites did. As the Mosaic Law was canonical to the Israelites the Testimonies to the Church by E.G. White are canonical to the SDA church.

The following statement reveals how the Seventh-day Adventist Church is heeding the counsel of the testimonies of E.G. White "... Satan takes the council of every mind that is not decidedly under the control of the spirit of God. Some have been cultivating hatred against the men whom He has commissioned to bear a special message to the world. They began this satanic work at Minneapolis. Afterward, when they saw and felt the demonstration of the Holy Spirit, testifying that the message



was of God. They hated it the more, because it was a testimony against them. They would not humble their hearts to repent, to give the glory, and vindicate the right. They went on in their own spirit filled with envy, jealousy and evil surmising, as did the Jews. They opened their heart to the enemy of God and men. Yet these men have been holding positions of trust, and have been molding

the work after their own similitude, as far as they possibly could..." TM 79,80.

".... Yet many have listened to the truth spoken in demonstration of the spirit, and they have not only refused to

accept the message, but they have the light. These men are the ruin of souls. They have interposed themselves between the heaven sent light and the people. They have trampled upon the Word of God and are doing despite to his Holy Spirit." TM91

"One thing is certain: Those seventh day Adventists who take their stand under Satan's banner will first give up their faith in the testimonies of God's spirit." 3 SM84.6. "I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people back slide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. But few know what our churches are to experience...." 5T 75,76.

The testimonies are not to be neglected; they are for the spiritual benefit of the remnant. They are righteousness, which leads to eternal life.

May God bless His chosen children to walk in the right path, which will lead them to remain with Jesus where He is now. *Amen*

*Brother Davidsampathkumar, India
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Urgent Appeal: Please Send Help For Mansa Church Building



We always think of our family of brothers and sisters in the International Missionary Society for the sacrifice that they do in order to support the work of God in the world.

Brother Chimba of the UK helped the brethren of Mansa with funds from which they were able to build the Mansa church building here pictured. May God bless him. While almost complete there remains an urgent need for window frames, door frames and roofing materials to finish the structure.

We ask that anyone who is able to help finish God's house to please contact:
Golden Kayawa (H), International Missionary Society, S.D.A. Reform Movement, PO Box 620298, Kalomo – Zambia

Sincerely, your brother in the Lord,
Pastor Golden Kayawa



The Roots of Modern Occultism

Part One

of nature and mankind form an indispensable part of occultism. The Jesuit Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, often called "Father of the New Age" remonstrates:

"Evolution... is a general condition to which all theories, all systems, all hypotheses must bow... a light illuminating all facts, a curve that all lines must follow." – Dave Hunt, *Occult Invasion*, p. 18.

"In our theological reasoning we must incorporate... the theory of... evolution, ... reincarnation...our working together with modern sciences is of utmost importance." Freely translated from German into English, *The Occult Digest*, January 1931.

Ken Wilber in his book *The Atman Project* says it loud and clear: "If men and women have ultimately come up from amoebas, then they are ultimately on their way towards God." – Dave Hunt, *Occult Invasion*, p. 20.

The leading Freemason W. L. Wilmhurst declares: "the evolution of man to Superman – was always the goal of antique mysteries (occult teachings)... Man, who had emerged from the earth developing through the lower realms of nature into his present rational status, must complete his evolution by becoming a god-like being to unite his consciousness with "Omniscience". – Chr. Bird, *Fruitful Searches*, in *New Realities*, March 1982, p. 59.

"New Age leader Robert Muller, for many years Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, expresses much the same: "I believe that humanity ... has a tremendous destiny to fulfill and that a major transformation is about to take place in our evolution..."... Decide to open yourself ... to the potential of the human race, to the infinity of your inner self, and

you will become the universe ... at long last your real, divine, stupendous self." – Dave Hunt, *Occult Invasion*, p. 19.

In Paradise

"Now the serpent was more subtil 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." Gen. 3: 1-5.

The Central Idea in the Whole of Occultism really is this:

We take life in our own hands, in other words we do not need to be dependent on God. We manage fine ourselves. When God influences our lives then we have to break loose from His influence. When we have achieved this then we are free people. And being free we don't need God, period. Because we do not need God, we are in the end "God" ourselves. –

Remember the totally contrary statement from Hermann Bezzel: "... dependency on God is happiness."

The Bible does not say when God had created Adam that He promised him to become like God! This was rather Satan's deceptive promise to Eve!

Independence from God really means to be separated from Him:

"And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand,

To begin with a quote from the faithful Bavarian theologian and pastor Hermann Bezzel (1861 – 1917): "Genuine piety rejoices in that, that dependence on God is happiness."

What is Occultism?

Before we talk about the roots of modern occultism we first need to define the word itself. And right here we have a problem. We may ask ten people and get eleven different answers. Every one gives an answer according to his or her opinion or point of view. Occult supporters present a different argument than Bible believers, and a secular oriented person believing in neither, may stay unimpressed altogether.

Occultism, lat. OCCULTUS, "occult: 1, beyond the bounds of ordinary knowledge; mysterious; 2, not disclosed, secret; 3, communicated only to the initiated; 4, ... pertaining to, certain reputed sciences, as magic, astrology; (witchcraft) etc.; 5, hidden from view.... 7, the supernatural; 8, anything occult; 9, to hide." Maquerie Dictionary.

A look through the magazine *Esoteric*, (the deeper knowledge of east and west) gives one a pretty good overall view of today's occultism. To give a personal definition I may say Occultism views a dependence on God as misfortune.

Evolution and Occultism

Evolution, or the step by step development

and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.” Gen. 3:22-23.

In this context it is interesting to mention “that in religions around the world the serpent has consistently been portrayed as the symbol of perennial wisdom and eternal life. There can be no doubt that the serpent, who came to Eve, is identified everywhere (except in the Bible) with the occult and is honored as embodying that mysterious force which occultists of all kinds seek to enlist in the accomplishment of their desires.” – Dave Hunt, *Occult Invasion*, p. 109.

As a warning against the dangers of modern occultism read the following Bible text: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after God.” Col. 2:8.

History of Occultism

“Ancient handed down sources (for the occult) are found in the Mithra-cult, in the Iris-cult of Ancient Egypt, in the Weda of India, in Greek

doctrines... in the cult of Cebele and Dionisos. Also Celtic and Teutonic cults play a part. The most important branches in occultism which developed at the emerging of Christendom are Gnosis, the Jewish Kabala, and Alchemie.” – Antholzer, p. 18.

What is Gnosis?

Gnosis: Greek – Knowledge

“Knowledge of spiritual truths reputedly possessed by the ancient Gnostics, who believed them to be essential to salvation.” Encarta Concise Dictionary.

Simon Magus was known as one of the first greatest Gnostics; probably the same mentioned in Acts 8: 9-13

“But there was a certain man, called Simeon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching

the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simeon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”

Gnosticism flourished during the second and third centuries after Christ. Today it flourishes again full scale within the frame of the New Age movement.” – Antholzer, *Maechte der Bosheit*, p. 19.

What is the Kabala?

The term “Kabala” encompasses the whole of mystic and esoteric traditions of Judaism. It is assumed that the Kabala developed after Gnosticism and was influenced by the same.

The goal of the Kabala is to develop an alternative system of Bible interpretation, based on certain reading techniques, available only to initiates. These reading techniques deal with the determination of secret names of God, of angels and demons. The names of demons are taken as sacred words which are to lend extraordinary power to those who are capable to pronounce them correctly, power to create and to destroy.” – *Ibidem*, p. 20.





Humanism

Humanism contributes a significant part to the success of modern occultism.

“Belief in a human-based morality, as system of thoughts that is based on the values, characteristics, and behavior that are believed to be best in human beings, rather than on any supernatural authority.” – Encarta Concise Dictionary.

Classical antiquity was taken as model for humanism. This is important to know, because we must consider that the ancient pagan Greek way of thinking was from the beginning already of occult character. Remember the above statement: To be

independent (from God) is a classic sign of occultism.

Humanism has like its model – classical antiquity – no place for God and Jesus Christ. Everything is accomplished by human efforts period. Man wants to make himself completely “independent” of God.

In some respect humanism resembles Christianity but it is an antichristian philosophy (ideology) with a Christian scarf around.

Despite the similarities, in truth the whole of humanistic ideology is used as a helpful tool of argument against biblical truths. (According to Meskemper, p. 65).

In humanism we find the central idea of the serpent in Eden: “Ye shall be as gods.”

End of Part One. To be continued.

Article by Helmut Welker, Germany, translated by Edda Tedford, Canada.

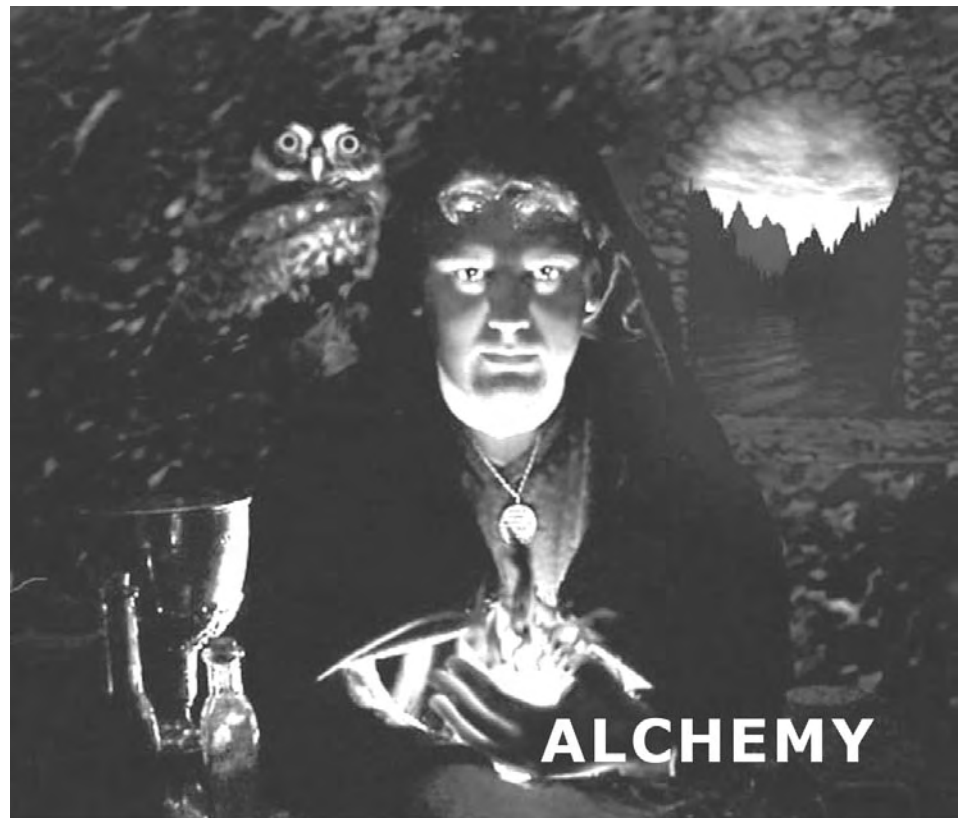
What is Alchemy?

“The term Alchemy is a collective term of all those esoteric doctrines which deal with the example of possible transformation of ordinary metal into precious metal (gold) just like the transformation of an infidel (person) into a spiritual minded person. These transformations are only possible with the help of the “Stone of the Wise” (Arabic: ALKIMIYA). Generations of famous alchemists worked preparing this stone, called “the Great Work.” The psychologist and alchemist Carl Gustav Jung fostered a special interest in this branch of science.” – Ibidem, p. 20.

Dependence on God

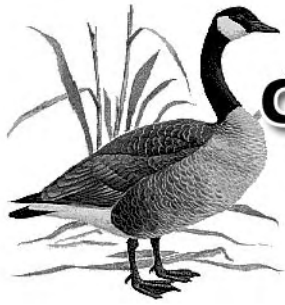
A personal connection with God includes a total surrender into His hands and complete trust in God’s leading. The believer yields himself to the full control of the Holy Spirit who then is able to work mightily in him. Remember the quote from Bezzel: “Dependence on God is happiness.”

This surrender to God’s leading happens through faith in Jesus Christ. The well known text in Romans 8:28 reveals much: “And we know that all things work together for good in them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.” But sad to say too many people are reluctant to entrust their lives to the full control of God. Their faith is shallow for after all they want to make the decisive steps themselves.



By taking a superficial look at humanism, Christians may find good points because the improvement and care of human life and tolerance, respect and equality are also Christian values.

However there is a major difference:



CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE

August 1 - 3, 2003



On the evening of Friday, August 1, 2003, Br. Kanagarajah, the Canadian Field President, opened the conference by reading Psalm 100 with the congregation, singing hymn 100 "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and a prayer by Br. Henry Dering. The scripture reading was found in John 17:21. He welcomed the unseen guest, Jesus Christ, and the speakers that had come from all over the world and members of the 7 churches from across Canada with the wish that all may come closer to God during this conference.

Br. Ivo Yonov, our Bible worker from Montreal presented to us a sermon entitled "The Best Seat in the House". Our human nature wants to have the best seat, yet according to Jesus in Mark 10:36,37 and Luke 14:7-11, the best seat in the house is the last seat. If you willingly take the last seat, you will be exalted. But if you seek the first seat, you will be abased. Mark 9:35. We need to let others do the promotion and not ourselves. We must take the humble seat in the house, as the best seat, because that is the Lord's seat.

For Sabbath opening, Br. Henry Dering from California, USA spoke to us about "We are almost Home". It is a wonderful feeling to go home. How many of us are

sick and tired of this world and want to go home? We are all on a spiritual journey to the Promised Land. The anticipation and excitement is building up. All roads lead to Rome, to Montreal, to the Bloor St. church but... not all roads lead to heaven – only one leads to heaven. Prov. 14:12. The Scriptures are the best map for us to follow. We need to follow the right map. Matthew 23:24. There are signs telling us that we are nearing the end. Rev. 14:1. Our Heavenly Father

eral Conference representative for North America, spoke to us about the Sanctuary (Psalm 51:6). We need to go into the sanctuary. We need Atonement – meaning unity – one with the Father. Jesus experienced everything that there was from the perspective of suffering. Jesus suffered physical abuse. Jesus bore the shame and humiliation on the cross. People seek ways to numb the pain in this life... Jesus cures not only the symptoms, but the problems as

well. In the communion service, the wine represents the blood of Jesus. The bread – His body that was broken. There is a Saviour that can heal and cure. Every problem that exists in the world is because people do not follow God's word. The sanctuary represents witnessing for the church, God wants to make us the light of the world. Know what you believe and why you believe it. We need to take the message that we have and bring it

to others. Satan is 10 times more powerful than he was 2,000 years ago, but we can be 10 times more powerful than that with God's help! God has given us something special and we need to share that with others.

After lunch Br. Kanagarajah performed the examination of the baptismal candidates.



Brothers: Dering, Foster, Thiel, Kanagarajah praise the Lord with song

loves us. Through His word – in the skies – He sends us the message – Come Home. Today is the day that we need to make our decision.

Sabbath, August 2, 2003

After the Sabbath School, which was lead by Br. Larue Shields, Br. Gary Foster, the Gen-

Sis. Reyna Conde conducted the Young People's meeting in which the children presented a program called "They all Sang Jesus" which was about Jesus and His love for us. Many special songs followed and the older youth gave honour and praise to the Lord singing about the many names of Jesus. The specials were a delight and encouragement to all.

The Missionary Experiences was held by Br. Timo Martin. We need to share the experiences that God has given to His faithful servants. We need to tell others what great things God has done for us.

Br. John Thiel from Australia spoke to us first. He told us about his personal experience with the Lord from 14 years old when he was baptized and onwards. He studied Christ our Righteousness and was searching for the right church. Although there were bitter experiences, the Lord carried him through them all. He encouraged all to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Next was Br. Henry Dering who spoke to us about his recent trip to Peru, the largest union in our church with over 5,100 members. The people in Peru are very poor, yet they are rich in spirit. In the smaller cities hundreds of people and in the larger ones thousands came out to the evangelistic meetings. He encouraged us by saying that Missionary work is exciting. It is fun work and extended an invitation to the congregation for individuals to make a missionary journey with him.

Our Br. Joshua Martinez from Orlando, Florida gave an example how a sister was going through hard times. Some of our church members got together to give this sister a surprise birthday party which cheered her very much. We need to have a merry heart for Jesus Christ.

Br. Ivo Yonov read to us from Philippians 4:13. An experience he made while travelling was in meeting a Bulgarian family. This family introduced him to others in the Bulgarian community in Montreal. Now he is studying with this one lady who is very interested in our message. He made friends with her before giving her in depth Bible studies. He spoke to her about the health message – the right hand of the gospel message.

After dinner, Br. John Thiel read from Matthew 13:10-16. Jesus used parables to illustrate his lessons. Parables are for those who cannot understand because they have closed their eyes and ears to the mystery. Then he took us on a journey -the journey of Jesus from heaven to earth and back. The old covenant tells us that we are sinners. The deep things of God, things in His mind can be transferred to our mind through the Holy Spirit. John 16:13,14. The



Brothers: Brian & Kenny
praise the Lord with a violin special

Spirit of God can come into us – the very mind of Jesus will enter us. Faith in Christ is the work of God on the human mind. The Holy Spirit hears and then shows it to us. Let the Holy Spirit lead you on this journey. Phil 2:6,7.

Jesus bore the sins of the world. All these sins were pressing upon His divine soul.

Our worker from Vancouver, Michael Mitov, read from Isaiah 11:1,2. He spoke about a fellow from Ecuador who was a member for almost 30 years in the Adventist church and now was attending our church and asking to be baptized.

Br. Mike Newby spoke of the potential that our Canadian Field website has and about the wealth of information that is contained there. He told us how we can do missionary work via e-mail and about an experience he had with a man in Tennessee who had just gone through a heart attack.

Br. Kanakarajah said that the Lord has blessed the Canadian Field. It now has 5 full-time workers. He spoke of the work in Canada and in particular the success in New Brunswick.

Jesus was bombarded with the evil thoughts and evil feelings of the whole world. Jesus underwent a painful journey, every step of the way. This is what Jesus did for me. Jesus was in agony over the same thing that you enjoy. It is our lack of knowledge of Jesus that keeps us in our sin. We need the Holy Spirit to show us how much Jesus suffered because of our sin.

If you want to have victory over sin, fasten your intelligent mind upon Jesus Christ – victory will come. By beholding you will be healed. II Peter 1:3,4 You can experience the divine nature in your human flesh. Jesus is the source of our unity. Nothing else will do.

For Sabbath Closing Br. Joshua Martinez spoke to us about when we have the word of God in our hearts, we have love. The Lord wants us all to be one in Him. Luke

10: 25-29. Can we inherit eternal life? We are all born with a sinful nature. Jesus loves us. He is interested in our salvation. John 15:13. Satan is the thief, the robber that is trying to destroy us, our homes, our families. He reminded us of the story of the Good Samaritan. God loves us so much that he wants to pour out His blood to disinfect us and His Holy Spirit to heal us. We must learn of Christ. When the character of Christ is perfectly reproduced in us, then He will come. We need to love each other. We need to be like the Good Samaritan. Jesus has not yet come because we are not ready. God not only wants our words but also our actions.



Mabel Urizar dedicates her life to the Lord through baptism

Sunday, August 3, 2003

Early Sunday morning two young souls, Edwin Alfaro and Mabel Urizar dedicated their lives to the Lord through baptism. Although the morning was grey and overcast, Br. Gary Foster performed the baptism as those gathered and all of heaven was watching and singing hymns of glory and praise.

Back at the church Br. Foster welcomed our new brother and sister officially into church membership.

This was followed by a health meeting which was held by Br. John Thiel. The atonement of Christ with us is a divine remedy – cure for transgression and restoration of spiritual health. Atonement is a Divine Remedy. When you study physiology and anatomy you begin to understand how fearfully and wonderfully we are made. Today people are amazed at how man has created the computer and its capa-

bilities, yet how much more complex is a human being?

Our mind is responsible for our health.

Satan caused sin to enter into Eve through her mind. Jer 17:1. Our

body is the outer court of the sanctuary. Our brain is the sanctuary – divided into 2 compartments. Fear creates adrenalin in our body. Stress is a constant source of adrenalin injection. Stress is fear!

In Counsels to Teachers on p.424, it says, “Through sin the whole human organism is deranged.” We have to acknowledge that our computer is deranged, has crashed and cannot be relied upon. The atonement is the cure. The external has affected the mind and

the mind has affected the body. Through understanding disease we can understand the cure.

The first remedy to deal with every disease, to receive healing, is to go to the Master Healer Ex. 15:26. With today’s medicine the symptoms of the disease can be taken care of but not the disease itself. God says, if you do everything I say, He will bring none of these diseases upon us.

The first step is to exercise of our faith in our mind. True faith receives Christ as a personal Saviour! Jesus’ faith must be inside us – not our faith in Him. Saving faith is a transaction – a covenant relationship with God. God is prepared to heal us if we submit ourselves to Him.

According to the medical profession there is no cure for brain damage. The remedy for every disease is Christ our Righteousness. The only way you can remain healthy is maintaining that daily relationship with Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the Healing Agency on the mind and body. We need to fill our mind with Jesus and His righteousness continually. We need this message to sweep through our ranks. We need to make this the central theme of our life.

Finally, at the farewell meeting, we heard some parting words from our visiting ministers and workers. We were encouraged words to have the unity and love of the early apostles. Jesus is waiting for us. We need to pray for our faith to continue to grow in the spirit and power of Jesus Christ. If we surrender ourselves fully we will become nothing and Jesus will become everything to us. This is the church of God, not because we are perfect, but because we unitedly hold on to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will finish the work. We need to work together united in love. We need to pray for each other. Let us keep Christ in our lives wherever we go. We need to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and share this message of Jesus with others.

In closing we all sang “God Be With You”. Those that attended this conference can truly say that this was a blessed conference.

Praised be the name of the Lord!

Canadian Field Secretary



Shilsha praises the Lord with song

WILL IT PAY?



This is a question that is often asked by people when they are entering into a business deal or some enterprise. Even farmers ask this question when they plant their crops.

People also ask this question when they are invited into religion. Most people decide against it. They consider the cost of religion and then decide that it does not pay to sacrifice so much for heaven and eternal life.

Christ represents Himself as the heavenly merchantman. He says: Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which satisfieth not?" "Come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Isa. 55:2,1.

People who consider that the price required for heaven is not too high are willing to pay it, since the price is only their sins.

It is like a doctor who would tell his patients that the price for his services is only their diseases. He would say, 'give me your cancer, your diabetes, your heart disease and there is no other fee to pay.'

But people who love sins are not willing to give them up. A dishonest businessman thinks that it pays to be dishonest. He gains more money by it. A pleasure lover thinks that it pays to go to the places of entertainment. He enjoys them and life is more interesting and exciting. A Sabbath breaker thinks he can accomplish more by working seven days a week rather than only six. A covetous man thinks that paying tithes would make him poor. That is how people think that sin will pay. They think that they are happier and richer than the one who obeys God.

But the word of God tells us the opposite. "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Ps. 16:11.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." John 15:11.

Only a truly happy person is one who obeys God, one who has the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

Sinners can never feel this joy and peace that God's children have. "The way of transgressors is hard." Prov. 13:15. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezek. 18:4.

Even the lukewarm Christian who says, 'I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing,' is really wretched and miserable. A nominal Christian who is not fully converted is not happy. It does not pay to be a half-hearted Christian. They lose both worlds. They do not enjoy the pleasures of the world, and neither do they have joy in their religion or eternal life in the end.

A true, faithful Christian is happy even in sufferings and persecutions. "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake, Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matt. 5:11-12.

Moses made a right choice. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Heb. 11:25.

In the middle ages the people of God were persecuted, oppressed and killed by the cruel hand of the papacy. "They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented: (of whom the world was worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth." Heb. 11:37-38.

Did it pay for these people to flee from place to place; making the mountains their places of refuge, and many cases their places of burial?

At one time the soldiers of the papacy burned or suffocated more than three thousand in one cave. Four hundred of them were little infants, with their mothers. With just one word of denial of their faith they could have saved their lives and returned to their homes. But they decided that it pays to be faithful, even unto death.

They lost their earthly life but they secured their eternal, better life.

Soon the sighs and tears of God's oppressed children will be exchanged for joy and glad hosannahs. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." Ps. 126:5.

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Ps. 30:5.

It will pay to give all you have for the eternal inheritance. It will pay to exchange sickness for health, perplexity for assurance, weariness for rest, death for life, mortality for immortality. **YES, it will pay! AMEN.**

*Timo Martin
Toronto, Canada*



DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE

Can the innocent party get remarried?

PART 1

We live prophetically in the end of time and Satan is working very hard to destroy God's people "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" 1 Peter 5:8. One of the greatest attacks is against the families in the Christian circle especially now that he knows he has very little time before the Lord comes. There are marriages breaking up and causing turmoil in their homes. As a church our families are being attacked and we need to be clear on this issue that has left families very unhappy in our ranks.

God has His messengers working also to avert the enemies impending judgments. "Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" Malachi 4:5,6. The church of God is called to be like an Elijah to do a work of restoring the family. "Those who are to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ are represented by faithful Elijah..." Testimonies to the Church V.3 p.62 The Lord is calling us especially in our homes as husbands and wives to be able to discern who is the one trying to destroy our homes as a family. To be able to withstand the attacks of the enemy we need the Spirit of Elijah and of John the Baptist.

In the world the enemy is having a feast, marriages break up by the hundreds every day, the average of a married couple to divorce is 3 to 1, that is a high risk. It is also happening in Christian denominations and in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The Seventh Day Adventist Church allows its members and pastors to Divorce and Remarry. I would like us to see in the Bible and Testimonies if this is the will of God.

I would like us to begin with a couple of references of the work of restoration we

are called to do as a Reform Movement. "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for **the old paths**, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls, But they said we will not walk therein." Jeremiah 6:16 The Lord again is calling us to walk in the old and ancient ways of our pioneers and only in this way will we find rest. When we refuse to walk according to God's way we will suffer the consequences.

Today as in the day of Jeremiah and of Jesus Christ, we are to proclaim the message of reformation, in other words of restoration "And they that shall be of thee shall **build the old waste places**: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called. **The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in,**" Isaiah 58:12 "The age in which we live calls for reformatory action" Testimonies to the Church V. 4 p.488. What are we called to restore? The very principles the enemy is trying to destroy, the principles of our faith. The restoration of our marriages is to take a prominent place in the message of Reformation in our time. Therefore the people that present this message are like faithful John the Baptist who would not hesitate to call the sin of adultery by its name even if it costs them their earthly lives.

Jesus was a real reformer, since He is the complete system of truth, let us examine His stand to see what we should believe on divorce and remarriage.

"And he saith unto them, whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." Mark 10:11,12 Let us examine the text, if a man divorces his wife and marries another he is committing adultery against her and therefore is the guilty

spouse. If a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she also is guilty of adultery and therefore is the guilty spouse. In either case, the guilty spouse is pointed out. Now the question rises what about the innocent spouse? **Once the guilty is found out, does the innocent spouse have the right to remarry?** This question was asked in the time of Jesus, we can rest assured that his answers are correct.

"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: **and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.**" Luke 16:18 Here we have a man that divorces his wife and marries another. Just like in the text in Mark, he is considered the guilty spouse and his wife the innocent one. But it goes further it speaks about the innocent party, where Mark kept silent, **she is not in adultery as is her husband. But it clearly says that if she, the innocent party marries, the one that marries her is committing adultery. Therefore it is still considered an adulterous relationship.**

I would like to stop here and in the second part we will look deeper into the issue, and study in detail Matthew 19 and other Bible texts. There are difficult situations in which a divorce happens and the innocent party suffers. Like I stated in the beginning the enemy is working hard to destroy our homes, our only hope is in having Jesus Christ 24/7/365. If we are going through a difficult situation in our marriage, pray to the Lord for wisdom to go through the storm. Remember we are called to be restorers in the end of time, not destroyers. The Lord may help us as we walk the narrow path that through the Righteousness of Jesus Christ to live the principles given to us by the hand of God. **Amen**

Joshua Martinez

THE MAN WITH A PAST



The winter after her husband's death Ellen White spent in California. She would centre most of her activities in that state until she left for Europe in 1885. Returning from Europe, she settled in Healdsburg, California.

One Sabbath a friend introduced her to a six-foot man whose tanned face revealed that he had spent much time outdoors. The man seemed deeply moved by his meeting with Mrs. White. Taking her hand firmly in his grasp, he said, "I'm thankful that I can speak with you." They discussed different religious topics for several minutes, and he appeared highly interested in what she had to say. She instinctively tried to encourage him in his religious life.

Later Mrs. White met an acquaintance in the main tent. "You know that tall man you met a little while ago?" he said, pausing to chat.

She nodded.

"He's had a fascinating life." Briefly he sketched what he knew about the man.

Many years earlier the stranger had come into contact with Adventists and became interested enough to observe the Sabbath for awhile. But then other matters caused him to gradually drift away.

California was still frontier country then, and law and order had only a slim hold on many of the cities and towns in the state. Large numbers of people openly used violence and force to gain whatever they wanted. Robbery and murder were common.

Some of the man's friends lived outside the law, and he became entangled in their crimes. Eventually he robbed and stole and began to burn barns and houses, a common way of getting revenge then. Proudly he boasted of crimes, such as sheep-stealing, and people were afraid of him.

But one day his life began to change. Curiosity and boredom led him to attend a series of religious meetings conducted in Fresno by E.P. Daniels, an Adventist evangelist. At first the man considered the meetings only a form of nightly entertainment. Then after several nights the minister presented the subject of confession. The sermon deeply bothered the criminal. As he applied the speaker's words to himself, he paled at the thoughts, which turned and twisted through his mind, and his mental agony became unbearable. He slipped out of the tent.

The cool night air calmed him somewhat, and he went back into the tent. Daniel's

words continued to burn into his mind. A few minutes later the criminal again walked out of the tent. But an unseen force drove him back to his seat. A third time he tried to leave the tent, but he found himself back inside even quicker than before. The room seemed to grow hotter and hotter, and perspiration streamed down his face. Suddenly, terribly dizzy, he thought he would faint. Satan and Christ struggled for possession of his heart.

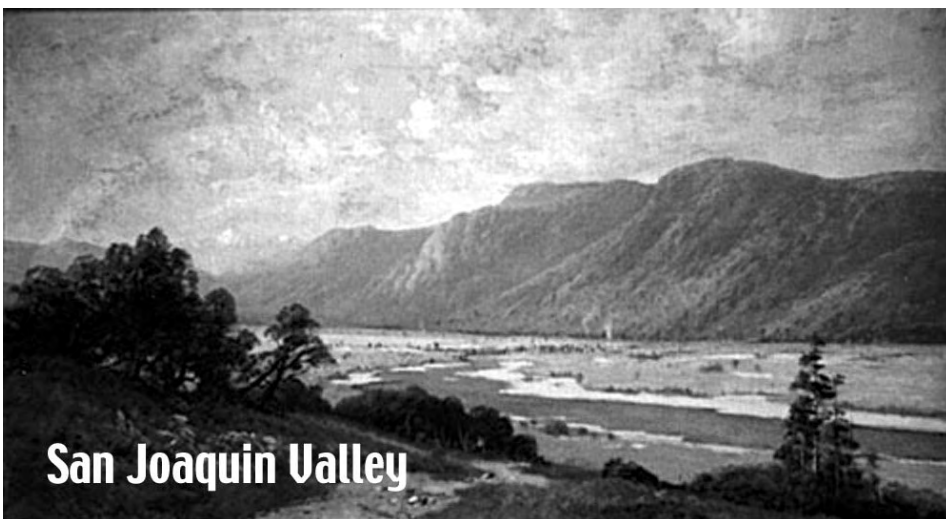
Finally the meeting ended, and the people streamed outside. Exhausted, the man rested a moment to gather his strength. Then he pushed through the crowd to Daniels and said, "I must talk to you." Desperately he described his life and what he had just gone through to the evangelist.

"Is there any hope for me?" he said, asking the eternal question of one who has suddenly realized his true state from God. "I am lost – lost forever. Will you pray for me? Please pray. I'm afraid even to go home lest God destroy me."

Leading the man to one side of the tent, Daniels dropped to his knees. The distraught man sobbed in agony as he listened to the evangelist's prayer. The prayer soothed his troubled mind, and he felt peace come over him as he realized that God had forgiven his past life. The two stood and shook hands.

"Now," the former criminal said, "I have much to do – much to do. For example, I stole thirty-one sheep from a man in Selma. I must go and confess to him."

Daniels wondered if he should encourage the man to confess to his sheep-stealing and other crimes, since he would surely be thrown into prison. Yet it was the right thing to do. The man had already made up his mind. "I would rather go to prison and stay there than think that I was not willing to do my part, even though God has forgiven my sins," he said, understanding Daniels' thoughts. He knew the dangers he faced.



San Joaquin Valley

Prisons during the nineteenth century were terrible places. Disease and unhealthful conditions prevailed. Prisoners received poor food, and in some jails the inmates died from starvation. In most prisons the inmates could not talk to each other, and some guards inflicted frequent punishments, such as whipping or flogging. Some penitentiaries confined men in tiny cells with no chance for exercise. Others had factories in which they used the prisoners like slaves, making them work for twelve to fifteen hours a day. Daniels knew that his new convert had every reason for trying to avoid going to jail.

Accompanied by a friend who had often committed crimes with him, the man rode out a day later to make things right with the people he had wronged. Wandering across the San Joaquin Valley and coming over a rise, the two men saw another horseman approaching. The converted man recognized the rider as one of the people he had robbed. Reining his horse in the shade of a tree beside the road, he waited for the rider to approach.

The farmer, a man who prided himself on being the local disbeliever of Christianity, recognized him and began to tremble. He wondered if he could whip his horse about fast enough to escape. But the repentant criminal was too close. The farmer watched in horror as the man who had once robbed him slipped off his horse and ran and knelt before him. Shock replaced the horror when the man began to ask forgiveness for his robbery.

“When did you begin to act like this?” the agnostic asked in amazement. “What has changed you? I didn’t know that any religion would make a thief ask forgiveness. Tell me, man, what has happened to you?”

Looking up at the farmer with a strangely softened expression, the converted criminal explained that he had gone to the Selma Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting, and that God had changed his life there.

The farmer pushed the brim of his hat back and thought a moment, then glanced down at the man kneeling on the ground. “Well,” he said finally, “I think I’ll go to that meeting and see what it is they have to offer.” He urged his horse forward and disappeared over the rise, a little cloud of dust marking his passing.

The converted man went from one town to another throughout the San Joaquin Valley, admitting and confessing his many crimes to the people he had injured.

Word of his deeds travelled widely, finally reaching the attention of the local authorities. They called a grand jury to investigate the matter, and the jury summoned the former criminal to appear. When questioned whether the stories they had heard about him were true, he confessed to all the crimes he had committed. Startled, the jury listened, and then withdrew to another room.

“What will we do with him?” the head juror asked. “He’s admitted to enough crimes to keep him in prison the rest of his life.”

“We have no choice,” someone commented. “The law says he must go to jail.”

The head juror frowned. “Would you imprison a man like that – one who had had such a complete transformation? God has forgiven him, and he has asked forgiveness from those whom he has wronged. I think he deserves our forgiveness too. I would rather have my right arm cut off at the shoulder than see a man like that go to jail. I recommend no action be taken against him.”

The others finally agreed.

The story of this conversion spread even faster after the grand jury refused to bring the man to trial. People knew that only God could lead a man to repent and confess so many crimes despite danger that he might have to go to prison. A church that could change a man’s life so completely must have Christ behind it, they decided, and its teachings must be correct. Many persons began to take an interest in the SDA message as a result.

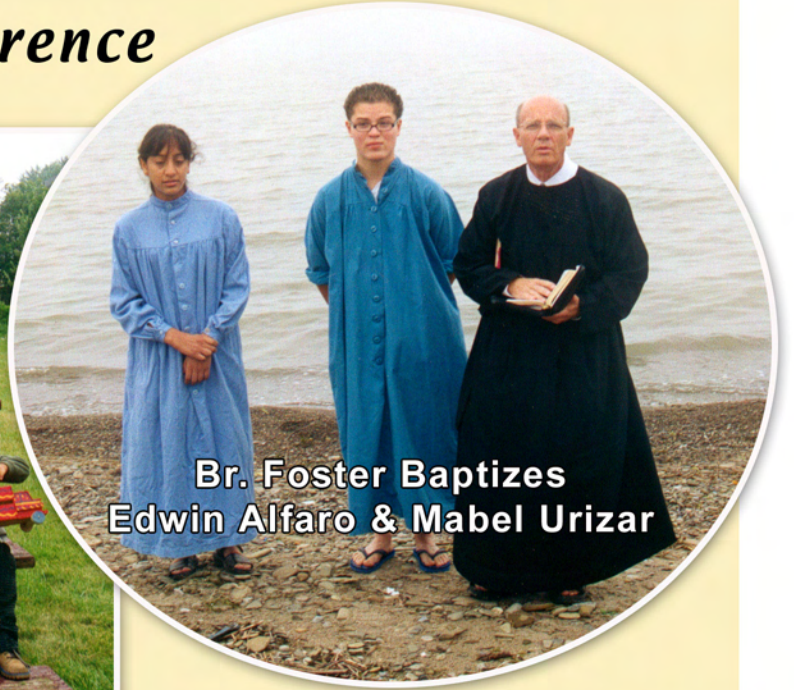
When Mrs. White heard the stranger’s story, she marvelled at what God could do. She breathed a sigh of relief that she had taken the time to encourage the man after the friend had introduced him. The conversion of the ex-thief was one of the greatest advertisements the Adventist Church could have, the greatest witness to its claim as the true church. If she had rebuffed the man by not taking the time to talk to him, she might have discouraged him and caused a great loss to the church.



Canadian Field Conference



Children at the conference



Br. Foster Baptizes
Edwin Alfaro & Mabel Urizar

South Central African Union



Brothers:
Pederson, Dering, Thiel, Bescec

Pastor:
Golden Kayawa Hingabanti

CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE



TORONTO

www.imssdarm-bg.org/Messenger