



The Reformation Messenger

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

*"The grass
withereth,
the flower
fadeth:
but the word
of our God
shall stand for ever."*

(Isaiah 40:8)



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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IN THE VALLEY OF DECISION

“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.”

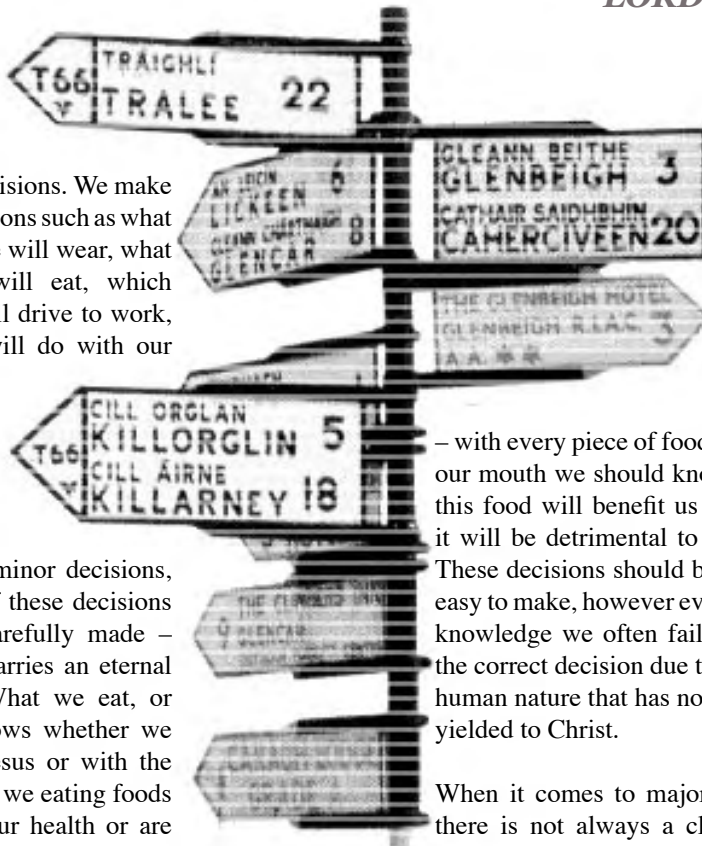
JOEL 3:14

Every day we are making decisions. We make small decisions such as what clothing we will wear, what food we will eat, which way we will drive to work, what we will do with our time after our work or school is finished for the day. These may seem like minor decisions, but each of these decisions must be carefully made – each one carries an eternal weight. What we eat, or wear – shows whether we are with Jesus or with the world. Are we eating foods that help our health or are we more concerned with satisfying our taste buds instead of keeping our body healthy? Do we wear clothing that represents Jesus as an ambassador for Christ? Or do we choose clothing that represents the world, whether we show we don't care by dressing in a slovenly manner, or do we dress to be fashionable as to draw attention to ourselves by our clothing? What kind of books will we read, etc. and the list of minor decisions we make daily goes on and on.

We also have major decisions to make in our lives. Decisions such as what we will do for a living. What kind of education we will obtain. Where we will live. Where we will go to church. These decisions have a major impact on our lives on this earth.

Both major and minor decisions have a weight on our eternal salvation.

Those of us who are church members know a lot of the requirements that God has given to us for daily living. Requirements such as dress reform, health reform, tithe paying, Sabbath keeping etc. If we have been



t a u g h t correctly we don't need to consult J e s u s w i t h each of t h e s e decisions

– with every piece of food that enters our mouth we should know whether this food will benefit us or whether it will be detrimental to our health. These decisions should be relatively easy to make, however even with this knowledge we often fail of making the correct decision due to our fallen human nature that has not been fully yielded to Christ.

When it comes to major decisions, there is not always a clear answer and we need guidance in order to make the correct decision.

Make sure to consult Jesus when making major decisions – decisions that don't seem to have a clear answer. – He WILL give an answer...

Jesus is not only interested in our spiritual welfare, but also with our lives here on this earth. When we are faced with perplexing decisions, we can consult Jesus – He WILL give us answers when we ask Him. It may not always be the answer we want. Jesus can answer, 'no', or 'wait.' But regardless of what the answer is, the important issue is that He WILL answer.

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This [is] the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” Isaiah 30:21

We have the example of *David*, before he was king in Israel. He heard that the city of Keilah was being attacked by the Philistines and he asked the Lord whether he should go and rescue them. “Then they told

David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors. Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.” 1 Sam 23:1,2. After a successful battle, David again inquired of the Lord as to whether he should remain in Keilah or whether he should leave. “Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up.” 1 Sam 23:10-12. So David left the city.

There are many other examples in the Bible where God gave direction to His followers. All throughout the wilderness wanderings Moses was given instructions as to where to travel next. Joshua was given instructions for the conquest of Canaan beginning with Jericho. Many of the faithful kings of Judah received instructions from the Lord.

“Our only safety will be found in constantly seeking wisdom from God, in carefully weighing every matter with much fear and trembling, lest there should be brought into the work not the light of heaven, but the weakness of man. But the Lord has promised to give light to those who seek Him with the whole heart. If we will ***but wait patiently*** and prayerfully upon God, ***and not follow our own impetuous plans***, He will guide our decisions and open many doors of hope and labor.” TM 211

“Let the men to whom God has entrusted great responsibilities be ***perfectly sure*** that they are following their great Leader, even Christ, and are not moving under the impulse ***of their own natural tempers***. We shall be safe only when we consecrate our-

selves to God and look unto Jesus, earnestly longing to work out His plan. Men may follow many kinds of lights, but there is only one Light that it will be safe for them to follow. Be sure that you are following Jesus whithersoever He goeth. ***Let none run ahead of Christ,***"

Sometimes when we want an answer from the Lord, we may not receive a verbal answer. We may ask for a sign as did Gideon. We may also be led to a Bible verse that gives an answer to our prayers. Other times the Lord's answer is 'wait.' He wants to teach us patience. The time for an answer to our prayers has not come yet. "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." Ps 27:14 "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry." Ps. 40:1

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

As parents when we raise our children we make all their decisions for them in the beginning. Decisions such as food, clothing, church attendance, friends and associates. The question to be asked is, "when do we stop making decisions for them?" "When do they take over the decision making in their lives?" As they grow, they, increasingly want to make their own decisions and often want to make important decisions before they are ready to do so. Parents need to teach them how to make the right decisions and give them opportunities to make some decisions, watching to see if they will make the right decision. If not, they are still under our care and we can correct them and guide them to make the right decisions in the future, but we have to give them opportunities to make decisions for themselves. There have been times when my children were afraid to make a decision, but I refused to make it for them. They asked me what I wanted. I told them, "no, it is not what I want, but what you want in this decision. I will love you the same no matter what you decide." It is well and good for children to counsel with parents all their lives, but parents cannot make decisions for their children for the rest of their lives. There comes a time when we have to let go and pray for them.

Sister White tells us that children will often seek to gain more freedom to make their own decisions before they are ready. Those of us who are parents of older children, I am sure, have experienced this push for what they think of as more freedom.

"Children who are under strict discipline will at times have dissatisfied feelings. They will become impatient under restraint, and will wish to have their own way, and go and come as they please. Especially from the age of ten to eighteen, they will often feel that there would be no harm in going to picnics and other gatherings of young associates; yet their experienced parents can see danger. They are acquainted with the peculiar temperaments of their children and know the influence of these things upon their minds, and from a desire for their salvation keep them back from these exciting amusements.... The children should not be left to take their own course and always choose for themselves.... And parents need to watch and counsel their children, and decide for them, and show them that if they do not yield cheerful, willing obedience to their parents, they cannot yield willing obedience to God, and it is impossible for them to be Christians." 1T 391

"The principles necessary for our youth to cultivate must be kept before them in their daily education, that when the decree shall go forth requiring all to worship the beast and his image, they may make the right decisions, and have strength to declare, without wavering, their confidence in the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, even at the very time when the law of God is made void by the religious world." 5T 525

Can our youth make the right decision in this future crisis?

"Satan is marshaling his host, and are we individually prepared for the fearful conflict that is just before us? ***Are we preparing ourselves and our households*** to understand the position of our adversaries and their modes of warfare? ***Are our children forming habits of decision***, that they may be firm and unyielding in every matter of principle and duty? I pray that we all may understand the signs of the times, and that we may so ***prepare ourselves and our children*** that in the time of conflict God may be our refuge and defense." CG 555

In the time of the end, when there is trouble in the land youth can't lean on their parents.

We must remember that our children may be separated from us at any time. Moses was 12 when he was taken to the court of

Pharaoh, however his mother was aware of this fact and dutifully prepared him for his future life, educating him with the knowledge of God. I am sure, though, Jacob had no idea that his son, Joseph, would be taken away at the age of 17. Daniel also went to Babylon at the age of 17. Their parents had done an excellent job in preparing these children for the Lord since we see how faithful they were, while living in a completely heathen environment. Can our children do the same? Have we prepared them? Is the truth so deep in their hearts that they will follow Jesus and take a firm and decided stand for the truth if they were apart from us? And don't forget the little slave girl in the household of Naaman. If we don't feel that our children can remain faithful away from us, perhaps we are not teaching them to make decisions. Right decisions for the Lord – perhaps we are making too many of their decisions for them.

APPETITE

To eat the right foods, requires decision. We decide what we will put into our mouths and what to reject.

"To deny appetite requires decision of character. For want of this decision multitudes are ruined. Weak, pliable, easily led, many men and women fail utterly of becoming what God desires them to be. ***Those who are destitute of decision*** of character cannot make a success of the daily work of overcoming. The world is full of besotted, intemperate, weak-minded men and women, and how hard it is for them to become genuine Christians." CD 165

"When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou [be] a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat." Pro. 23:1-3

Daniel was faced with an important decision regarding his health. He was offered rich foods to eat from the king's table.

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." Dan. 1:8. He didn't care if the king would be upset. His first duty was to God and secondly to any man on this earth.

If our appetite is perverted, or our health poor due to intemperate eating, then we can only blame ourselves for the bad decisions we have made. We must start to make better decisions regarding our health.

UNCHANGABLE?

“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.” Pro. 21:2. It is so true, that without Christ people tend to think they are right all the time. This leads to many arguments and disagreements in the family as well as in society. It is often very difficult to admit we have made a mistake, and to change our mind and way of thinking. It is unfortunate that many, even though convinced of their wrong in their hearts, refuse to admit it because of their pride.

“When a man takes the position that when he has once made a decision he must stand by it, and never to alter his decision, he is on the same ground as was Lucifer when he rebelled against God. He held his plans regarding the government of heaven as an exalted, unchangeable theory. No man should think that human opinions are to be immortalized. Any man taking the stand that he will never change his views places himself on dangerous ground. Those who hold the position that their views are unchangeable can not be helped; for they place themselves where they are not willing to receive counsel and admonition from their brethren.” 3BC 1161

DECISIONS FOR ETERNITY

This is the most important decision we will ever make. Will we follow Jesus? Will we follow the world?

Daniel faced a crisis. The decree went out that no one could worship any one else besides the king for 30 days. Would Daniel decide to hide his faith? Or would he continue as he did before.

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.” Dan. 6:10

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Mat.6:24. We are either on one side or the other. The decision is ours. If we decide for Jesus, He gives us strength to follow through with our decision. If we decide for the world, Jesus leaves us alone and Satan takes control of our lives. We are basically servants, but we have the right to choose our master.

“The day of the Lord is approaching with stealthy tread; but the supposed great and wise men know not the signs of Christ’s coming or of the end of the world. Iniquity abounds, and the love of many has waxed cold. There are thousands upon thousands, millions upon millions, *who are now making their decision* for eternal life or eternal death. The man who is wholly absorbed in his counting room, the man who finds pleasure at the gaming table, the man who loves to indulge perverted appetite, the amusement lover, the frequenters of the theater and the ballroom, put eternity out of their reckoning. The whole burden of their life is: What shall we eat? what shall we drink? and wherewithal shall we be clothed? They are not in the procession that is moving heavenward. They are led by the great apostate, and with him will be destroyed.” 6T 406

Some are delaying baptism for one reason or another. We are living so close to the end of time that every person needs to make a serious examination of their lives. Those not baptised, need to ask themselves why? And change those things that are preventing their baptism. Those that are baptized, need to make sure they are still on the straight and narrow way.

BE CAREFUL

“The temptations to which we are daily exposed make prayer a necessity. Dangers beset every path. Those who are seeking to rescue others from vice and ruin are especially exposed to temptation. In constant contact with evil, they need a strong hold upon God lest they themselves be corrupted. Short and decisive are the steps that lead men down from high and holy ground to a low level. In a moment decisions may be made that fix one’s condition forever. One failure to overcome leaves the soul unguarded. One evil habit, if not firmly resisted, will strengthen into chains of steel, binding the whole man. MH 509/10

JOSEPH AND REUBEN:

These two men faced the same temptation.

One decided to resist the temptation while the other gave in.

Here is Joseph’s reaction when he was faced with the decision. “There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou [art] his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.” Gen. 39:9,10



This is Jacob’s description of Reuben’s character which he spoke on his deathbed. “Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father’s bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.” Gen. 49:4.

We too can make the same decision as Joseph did, firmly deciding that we will not sin against God.

NEED COURAGE

It is not easy to be a Christian – to give up our worldly habits. In the time of King Nebuchadrezzar, he set up a golden statue and ordered all men to bow down to the statue or be thrown to the fire. Most bowed in fear, whether they were Gentiles or Jews. But there were a few who had no fear. “There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” Dan. 3:12. Although the world may look down upon

Christians as weak, it really takes men of courage to stand for the truth – to be different. To face death with a smile on your face, as the martyrs did in the Dark Ages, takes great courage. They made a firm decision to follow the Lord, even if it meant a martyr's death.

“It requires moral courage to take a position to keep the commandments of the Lord. An opposer of the truth once said that it was only weak-minded people, foolish, ignorant persons, who would turn away from the churches to keep the seventh day as the Sabbath. But a minister who had embraced the truth, replied, “If you think it takes weak-minded persons, just try it.” It takes moral courage, firmness, decision, perseverance, and very much prayer to step out on the unpopular side.” Ev 240

“Christian life is more than many take it to be. It does not consist wholly in gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindliness. These graces are essential; but there is need also of courage, force, energy, and perseverance. The path that Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path. To enter that path and press on through difficulties and discouragements requires men who are more than weaklings. Men of stamina are wanted, men who will not wait to have their way smoothed and every obstacle removed, men who will inspire with fresh zeal the flagging efforts of dispirited workers, men whose hearts are warm with Christian love and whose hands are strong to do their Master's work.” MH 497

PROMPT DECISIONS

Sometimes prompt decisions are important. In the business world occasionally prompt decisions need to be made. For example, if you are buying something second hand, like a car and you see one advertised in a newspaper at a good price, if you don't act fast – someone else will make the purchase and you will lose out. Spiritually there are times we must make prompt decisions also **King Saul** had to act quickly when the Ammonites came to attack the city of Jabesh-Gilead. The king of the Ammonites wanted to pluck out the right eye of all the residents in the city in return for a peaceful surrender. King Saul was outraged when he heard this and this was his first battle he led as the king of Israel. He acted promptly and you can read the entire story in 1 Samuel 11.

“I have been shown that the most signal victories and the most fearful defeats have been on the turn of minutes. God requires promptness of action. Delays, doubtings, hesitation, and indecision frequently give the enemy every advantage. My brother, you need to reform. The timing of things may tell much in favor of truth. Victories are frequently lost through delays. There will be crises in this cause. Prompt and decisive action at the right time will gain glorious triumphs, while delay and neglect will result in great failures and positive dishonor to God. Rapid movements at the critical moment often disarm the enemy, and he is disappointed and vanquished, for he had expected time to lay plans and work by artifice.” 3T 497

“God wants minutemen. He will have men who, when important decisions are to be made, are as true as the needle to the pole; men whose special and personal interests are swallowed up, as were our Saviour's, in the one great general interest for the salvation of souls.” 3T 505

“Punctuality and decision in the work and cause of God are highly essential. **DELAYS ARE VIRTUALLY DEFEATS**. Minutes are golden and should be improved to the very best account. Earthly relations and personal interests should ever be secondary.” 3T 499

NOT INFLUENCED BY OTHERS

“If in defiance of God's arrangements the world be allowed to influence our decisions or our actions, the purpose of God is defeated. TM 16

Aaron did not believe in worshipping idols, however he was influenced by the nation of Israel to do things he didn't really believe in.

“And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them? And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for [as for] this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.” Ex. 32:21-24.

In making important decisions, never allow yourself to be influenced by friends or relatives. “You allow the words of your relatives and special friends to influence your propositions and affect your decisions. You credit them too readily and incorporate their views into your own ideas and are too often led astray. You need to be guarded... Your judgment, your feelings, your views, influence them, and, in turn, they influence you; and a strong current will be set flowing in a wrong direction unless you are all humble and thoroughly consecrated to God. All the elements of these family connections are naturally independent and conscientious, and, unless especially balanced and controlled by the Spirit of God, are inclined to extremes.” 3T 506

“Never, never be influenced by reports. Never let your conduct be influenced by your dearest relatives, “ or friends. In your association with others always ask: are they influencing me or am I influencing them? If they make us less spiritual, perhaps we should not be spending time with them. It is the Lord's will that we influence them, not them us.

WITHOUT DECISION A MIND IS FICKLE

Some people are simply drifting through life, allowing circumstances and other people to make their decisions for them. They have no direction or goal in their lives. This is not acceptable with the Lord. “He that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed... A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways.” James 1:6,8.

A doubleminded man is torn between the call of earthly pleasure and unswerving loyalty to God.

“Every movement in connection with the cause of God should be characterized by caution and decision. Without decision, an individual is fickle and unstable as water, and can never be truly successful.” 4T 454 Joshua encouraged the people to follow his example and decide to follow the Lord, “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were]

on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:14, 15.

GOD'S FINAL DECISION

In the future, God will make His final decision. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Rev. 22:11

"In the great day of final decision, when every man shall be judged according to his deeds, every voice of self-justification will be hushed; for it will be seen that in His gift to the human race the Father gave all He had to give, and that they are without excuse who have refused to accept the gracious offering." CS 213

SOLEMN WILL BE THE DAY OF FINAL DECISION...

"Sad will be the retrospect in that day when men stand face to face with eternity. The whole life will present itself just as it has been. The world's pleasures, riches, and honors will not then seem so important. Men will then see that the righteous-
n e s s
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despised is alone of value. They will see that they have fashioned their characters under the deceptive allurements of Satan. The garments they have chosen are the badge of their allegiance to the first great apostate. Then they will see the results of their choice. They will have a knowledge of what it means to transgress the commandments of God.

"There will be no future probation in which to prepare for eternity. It is in this life that we are to put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. This is our only opportunity to form characters for the home which Christ has made ready for those who obey His commandments." COL 319. They made the wrong decisions in their lifetime.

"The days of our probation are fast closing. The end is near. To us the warning is given, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:34. Beware lest it find you unready. Take heed lest you be found

at the King's feast without a wedding garment." COL 319

Each decision we make in this world has eternal consequences, so it is extremely important to ask God to direct each step of the way. Each step is a step closer to heaven or a step further away. Each temporal decision is also very important in the light of eternity. The safest place for us to be is the place where God wants us to be. Don't remain in the valley of decision. Many people in the world have not decided if they want to serve the Lord or not. Is the Christian pathway the right way? There are people in God's church, young, as well as old, people who still have not fully decided. You need to ask yourself, why? What is holding me back? Why am I in the valley of decision? What do I love in this world that I am not willing to give up for the Lord? What would happen to me if Jesus came today? We must make a firm decision, NOW, to do God's will, because tomorrow just may be too late. *AMEN*

Wendy Eaton, Australia



HE LEADETH ME...

in this confusion they lost their way and started to follow the wrong leader. The only way to escape the snares and dangers

that the enemy has set on our way is to have a guide who knows the way and can lead us out of this maze to the celestial city.

Offences

One of the major snares is the offences that come upon us and many have fallen victims to the enemy by them. It is not so much the offences that come from outside but the ones that come from inside the church.

Jesus said that, "It must needs be that

offences come." Matt. 18:7. God permits this test to come upon us to try our patience. Evil speaking of one another is offensive and even that it is spoken behind the victim's back it normally eventually comes to his ears.

Favoritism, especially by the leaders has offended many. One who is neglected or pushed aside can suffer when he sees that others who may be less capable are chosen.

Some are offended when their sins are pointed out. Only few people have the talent to give rebuke in such a loving way that no offence will be taken.

"All coarseness and roughness must be put away from us. Courtesy, refinement, Christian politeness, must be cherished. Guard against being abrupt and blunt. Do not regard such peculiarities as virtues; for God does not so regard them. Endeavor not to offend any unnecessarily."

R.H. Nov. 25, 1890.

Love for Position

Some have left our church because they were not chosen to the position that they desired. Even on the General Conference level this can happen. They forget that God has some corner in His great vineyard for everyone and for every talent. If it is not the work that they themselves like to do, God may have

We are traveling in the maze of the confusing, sin ridden world, trying to find our way to our destination. On every side there are dangers and snares and dead ends and the nearer we come to the end, the more confusing it becomes. Satan is doing his utmost to lead us in a wrong direction.

Looking at all the old conference pictures we see how many members and even ministers have left us and joined with the enemy. Somewhere

something else planned for them. Moses, Joseph, Daniel and many others did not know the work that God had planned for them until they were called into it.

Covetousness

Many have stumbled on this stone and lost their faith. The tenth commandment is widely broken even by professed Christians. We learn from the Bible that the love of money is the root of all evil. Sabbath keeping, tithing and other offerings are heavy burdens to the covetous person. Only few people have learned that giving is the condition for receiving. Many examples are given in the Bible of covetousness; Balaam fell a victim to it, also Judas and Achan.

“Covetousness, selfishness, love of money, and love of the world, are all through the ranks of Sabbathkeepers. These evils are destroying the spirit of sacrifice among God’s people. Those who have this covetousness in their hearts are not aware of it. It has gained upon them imperceptibly, and unless it is rooted out, their destruction will be as sure as was Achan’s. Many have taken the sacrifice from God’s altar. They love the world, love its gain and increase, and, unless there is an entire change in them, they will perish with the world. God has lent them means; it is not their own, but God has made them His stewards.” Test. Vol. 1, p. 140.

Worldly Entertainment

Television, videos, and Internet are reaping a rich harvest to

Satan. Many Christians will be lost because of these stumbling stones. Many think like Eve in paradise, “I will only look,” but looking at evil produces desires which in turn produces sinful acts. Our minds are like a computer; what is put in that will come out in thoughts, words and acts. Paul wrote that in the last days people will be “lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” 2 Tim. 3:4. More time is spent watching vanity than reading the Bible.

David asks a question and also answers it. “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity.” Ps. 24:4.

“Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity.” Ps. 119:37.

People who start to follow vanity in this maze of life will come to the dead end and perish unless they turn back to follow their Leader.

Appetite

To many their belly is their God. They do not realize the danger of indulging a perverted appetite. This was the first sin in paradise that brought all this evil into the world. This was the first victory which Christ gained

after His baptism by fasting 40 days.

“Every true Christian will have control of his appetite and passions. Unless he is free from the bondage and slavery of appetite he cannot be a true, obedient servant of Christ. It is the indulgence of appetite and passion which makes the truth of none effect upon the heart. It is impossible for the spirit and power of the truth to sanctify a man, soul, body and spirit, when he is controlled by appetite and passion.” Test. Vol. 3, p. 570.

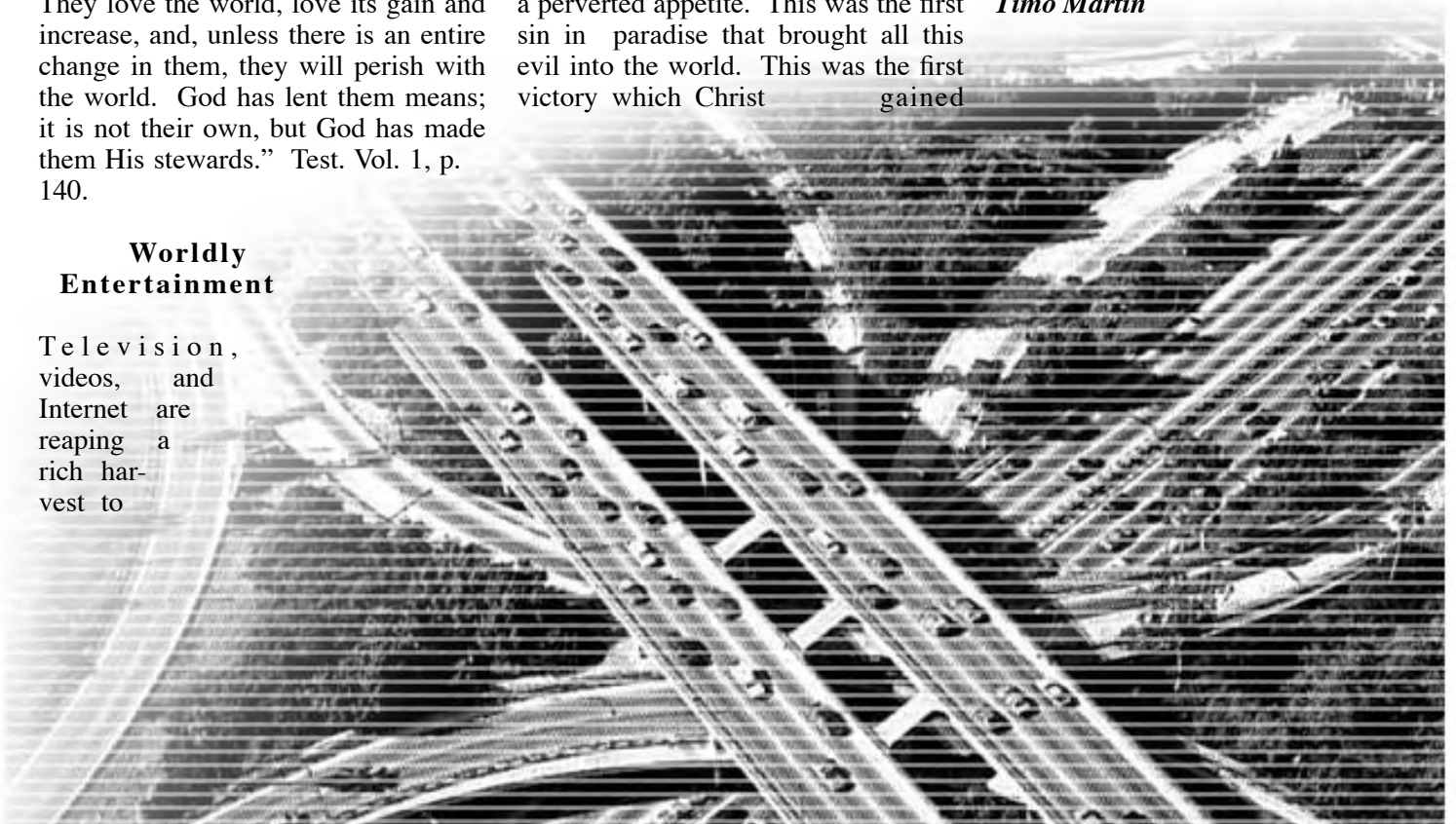
The Eden was lost by indulging the appetite and it can only be gained by controlling the appetite.

Many other dead end roads are found in this maze that Satan has created. No one has found a way out of it without the divine guidance. We must follow the Leader. Jesus is the way. His life is the road map to us, how we must deny ourselves and carry our cross and we will come out of this confusing maze sanctified and prepared for heaven.

May the Lord help us all in this.

AMEN.

Timo Martin



How do you treat your friend?

“Henceforth I call you not servants...but I have called you friends...” John 15:15

The religion of Christ should not only prepare us for the future immortal life, but should also enable us to live the life Christ lived while He was here on earth. Jesus is not only our example, He is also our friend and guide.

Jesus is attractive. He is full of love, mercy, and compassion. He has chosen to be our friend, and to walk with us in all aspects of our lives. He says: “I am the Lord your God; walk beside me and I will fill your path with light.”

Jesus the Majesty of heaven has chosen to befriend those who turn to Him with their burdens, weaknesses and worries.

He shall make them His beloved children, and shall finally give them an inheritance, which is of more value than the empires of kings; a crown of glory even more valuable than any that has ever graced the head of the most exalted monarch on this earth. We have the privilege of daily walking beside Jesus, in peace and happiness.

We can have many friends, but they shall never be to us what Christ is.

Imagine that an old friend passes by your house unexpectedly at breakfast time. You offer to take the day off to be with him but he insists and tells you not change your schedule just because of him. So then you invite him to accompany you to work and he accepts.

How would he feel if you ignored him completely, would not speak to him, would not invite him to eat, and would refuse to present him to the rest of your friends? I am sure that we all agree that this is not the way to treat a friend.

Jesus told His disciples that they were His friends (John 15:15). And those of us who know Christ as our personal Saviour have

the assurance that we are also His friends.

Nevertheless, can we truly say that we treat Him as our friend?

Evaluate your friendship with the Lord asking yourself these questions:

Do I speak to Jesus through prayer throughout the day?

Do I take time to read and meditate on His word?

Do I enjoy communion with Him?

Do I worry about what He might think of my actions?

Do I ignore Him or do I respect Him?

Do I present Him to others?

Do others know that I have a close relationship with Christ?

Let us make sure to treat Jesus every day as He deserves to be treated, as our Saviour, teacher, and friend.

Brethren and youth, and everyone who believes in the words of Christ, learn to recognize that friendship with Him requires faithfulness on our part. **Amen**

José Alberto Mourato



The Roots of Modern Occultism

Part 2



death of Schiller rocked the orientation on the classics ... had repeated encounters with death... There is a nearing to the romantic – demonic... to the oriental world... Conquering also over these powers and finding a balance through sacrificing and renouncing ... all this he worked out in his various works including Faust II.

German Poets and Writers

It may be surprising to include this paragraph in an article about occultism, but the sketches of the lives of the following writers, poets will make us realize, that their works laid the decisive basis to the spreading of occultism. “Through the means of literature new, Bible-foreign ideas, ideals and spiritual values would become common knowledge. It is the reason why Christian students are often not able to free themselves from the fog of secular philosophies and structures.” – Meskemper, p. 75.

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing 1729-1781

In his last dramaturgical piece “Nathan the Wise,” Lessing glorifies tolerance and humanism (without God). Gottfried Meskemper declares this play “Nathan the Wise” as an official Freemason drama that wants to postulate the indifference of the three religions – Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

“Lessing was a Freemason himself and he wrote an even more devastating pamphlet against the Gospel called “Wolfenbutter Fragmente” under the pseudonym Reimarius.” – Ibid. p. 163.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 1749-1832

He is fondly called the “Prince of Poets” or the “Greatest German Poet.” On the other hand Goethe says about himself that “in his 82 years of life he has not been for as four weeks altogether a happy man.” – Ibid. p. 163.

We find under Goethe: The period after the

1814 Goethe writes about his works: “... wrote this little piece like my other things as sleepwalker...” Meskemper, p. 82.

In another place he says: “At first I had no idea, no inspirations, but then they came suddenly over me and wanted to be put down all



Goethe

at once so that I was instinctively compelled to write them down like in a trance.

In such sleepwalk conditions it often happens that a sheet of paper would not lay straight and I only noticed that when I was finished or had no more space to write on...

This force of almost medium-like writing made him later realize that some of his works seemed altogether quite strange.” – Ibid. 82.

Goethe was not unfamiliar to “imagination”, one phenomenon of occultism. “In my

younger years I experienced several incidents where on lonesome walks I felt a strong desire for a beloved girl and thought so long about her till she really came to meet me.”

“I got so restless at home, “ she would say, “I could not help it, I just had to come.” – Ibid. p. 84.

In 1821 he writes to von Humboldt: “Being led by demons sometimes...” and to Zelter 1816: “What man intends will be led in other ways except higher and lower interfere...” To the same address he writes 12 years later: “... highly recommendable to all good willed demons.” – Ibid. p. 85.

Goethe has not been without warning: “Under the influence of the friend of his mother he began to occupy himself with pietistic literature. He was especially fascinated by the personality of his lady mentor who was a member of the Brotherhood of Herrenhut.” – Ibid. p.106.

With the indwelling emptiness Goethe dealt himself with: “She explained to me my unrest, my impatience, my striving, my seeking, my searching, pondering and wavering in her own way, hiding nothing to convince me that all that was the result because I do not have a reconciling God. Now I thought that I had quite a good relation to my God...” Ibid. p. 106.

In January 1780 Goethe applied for membership at the Freemason Lodge Amalia.” – Ibid. p. 107.

“When Goethe in January 1801 fell seriously ill, Christiana heard with fear and concern how the sufferer in his delirium was bursting out the most touching and moving utterances to the Saviour. But when the fever left him and consciousness returned, the old man Goethe spoke again.” Ibid. p. 136.

Talking about Goethe, the play “Faust”

most not be left out. There are two versions of “Faust” in circulation. We mentioned this in the previous article “What can Christians learn from Psychology”.

Goethe knew what he was writing: “I am afraid of it myself” he said. Ibid. p. 163.

Friedrich von Schiller 1759 – 1805

1794 at the age of 35, Schiller became a friend of Goethe. The works of this last years took place under close exchange of thoughts with Goethe. Who at the end had influenced who the most is not important. Schiller creates some very popular classics, but a great portion of his works remained almost unknown.



Friedrich von Schiller

“Schiller produced some kind of popular gospel, especially in the essay: “About the Esoteric Education of Man.”... This famous article contains the illusion of a possible self-salvation of mankind through the ennobling influence of art, where the existing permanent gulf between... Divinity and mortality becomes reconciled through beautifully built bridges. – Ibid. p. 28.

He gets acquainted with the philosophy of Kant through from Vienna fleeing Jesuit and Freemason, philosopher Reinhold. Kant formulates the significance of human knowledge, awareness – but without God. This message of Kant’s teaching was to Schiller like a revelation. “This is it, so must the world, so must the about God be seen,” he stated later when explaining his insights.

Moved by the philosophy of Kant, Schiller 1791 wrote a pamphlet with the title: “Something about human society according to the Mosaic Document.” ... Man is to

become the creator of his own happiness. ... He is to find again the state of innocence he had lost through his reason and return as a free, sensible person to the place where he started off as creature of instinct; from the Paradise of ignorance and bondage he is to... work up to a Paradise of knowledge and liberty. ... If we transform that voice of God in Eden which forbade the tree of knowledge ... into a voice of instinct ... then is his apparent disobedience against the divine command nothing else than apostasy from his instinct – impulse – that means a first expression of his self-action, the first daring act of his reason – the beginning of his moral existence. This apostasy of man from his impulse is without controversy the most wonderful and greatest event in the history of mankind; in that moment he declares his freedom. ... The philosopher has the right to call this a giant leap of the human race, because man became from being a slave to natural instincts a free being. ... with this step he jumped on the ladder which after many thousands of years led him to self-government.” – Ibid. p. 240.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel 1770-1831

German philosopher. He was beside Kant the most profound German philosopher with international recognition. His works are a synthesis of antiquity, Christian and New Age thinking. It is not hard to imagine what the result of the blending of Christendom



Hegel

with antiquity (which God hates) must be and this together with New Age reasoning oriented after antichristian humanism.

The works of Hegel served Rudolf Steiner in the development of his theory of anthropology.

Before Darwin came along, “Hegel had already advocated a sort of spiritual evolution. To him evolution was the self-organization of the mind through nature ... God became nature ... pantheistic elements appear in his writings.” – Lothar Gassmann, Rudolf Steiner, p. 41.

Hermann Hesse 1877-1962

German poet, his work is strongly autobiographic, of pensive character, melancholic.

“In the centre of his self-study stands Goethe. Entranced and mesmerized he reads for a long time hardly anything but Goethe. ... He occupies himself with Goethe’s life, then studies Lessing, Schiller and Greek



Hermann Hesse

mythology ... In an article “A Thank You to Goethe” he confesses: “Of all the German poets Goethe is the one to whom I am indebted the most, who fascinated me the most, encouraged impressed me the most.” – Meskemper, p. 103.

“Salvation through writing instead through the blood of Jesus Christ – Hesse follows also here his idol (Goethe).” – Ibid. p. 111.

Hermann Hesse, raised in a pious home “attempted to write a book about his faith.” Ibid. p. 114.

He says further: “Also this was no accident that I, growing up within a genuine active Christianity, experienced the first impulses of a personal religion of Eastern character ... In comparison I had learned Christianity to be stiff, cutting into my personal life ... narrow, with somewhat sweetly verses, ... boring sermons and preachers. ... In con-

trast the Indian world of religion and poetry was far more enticing, there was nothing to beset, distress me, my fantasy found room to expand, no pious Bible studies, gray, dull pulpits. ... I could freely let the first messages of the East Indian world enter my mind and they stayed there all my life." – Ibid. p. 115.

Also Hesse sought the solution to his problems within himself or in nature.

The Influence of the so called "Poets and Writers."

The detailed presentation of these writers was done on purpose to show that in the 18th and 19th century those till today respected and often quoted poets and writers had with their thoughts and ideas prepared the ground for modern occultism: Man is lord over himself, can further develop through his own efforts, he does not need the almighty God. Man can do all by himself.

These dangerous ideas are taught in schools to young minds without screening them. Because of ignorance on behalf of teachers and educational authorities, hidden dangers are not detected and pointed out. Interestingly, these men are still regarded as great poets and thinkers, a classification making one curious studying.

Satan could cleverly hide his messages beneath sheeps clothing.

Now to say, I can't send my child to a public school is certainly exaggerating. A knife is dangerous when handled wrongfully, even life threatening. We need to inform the youth so that they are able to analyze the danger and go around it. The importance is that they are able to deal with this problem, to suppress it is definitely not the right way to go.

In Conclusion: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." – Eph. 6:12.

Looking at today's occultism there are two women we must not forget to mention:

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky 1831-1891

Helena Petrovna (also called H.P.B.) born August 12, 1831 in Jekatarinoslaw (Ukraine) died May 8, 1891; the most influential occultist of the 19th century and founder of

the Theosophical Society." – Encyclopedia Britannica, 278.

Who is this magic sphinx of occultism?

From whence did she receive her instructions? What did she teach? What influence did she exercise over her contemporaries and followers? Are her teachings still of relevance today?

All current occult, Gnostic and esoteric movements were strongly influenced by her. Her wealth of thought became part of the New Age movement. Already as a toddler that just learned to walk she communicated with her deceased mother.

"It seems that invisible powers were ministering to little Helena. Objects she desired



Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

but could not reach came to her by invisible hands; she read the minds of the people present like an open book, foretold events that occurred later on, etc. She was indeed a "Wonderchild", an item of admiration and a fearful thing to the superstitious." – Holthaus, Madame Blavatsky und die Theosophische Gesellschaft, p. 15.

"On July 7, 1849 the 60 year old General Blavatsky married Helena, then just 18 years of age." – Ibid.

Three months later she left her husband. In her extensive travels she became familiar with several branches of occultism. She came to the U.S.A. to learn the forbidden practices of the Voo-doo cult.

She once told her friend that while in London Hyde Park, she met for the first time her secret master. ... The secret masters or mahatmas (great souls) were to later become key – figures in the Theosophical

Society and in the life of Madame Blavatsky.

Not only the secret master M. later identified as Morya, but also masters Hilarion, Khoot-Homi and John King conveyed their wisdom to her." – Ibid. p. 17.

She studied the various cultures and sects of Southern Russia." 1865 she traveled to Syria and Persia and became a member of the Druids and other mystic orders of the orient. In Italy she studied together with a witch. " – Ibid. p. 19.

"On her next journey to India in 1868 she met for the first time her master K.H. Afterwards she must have received intensive training in Tibet by her masters ... till 1870. Then she met in December on her return journey master Hilarion in Egypt. ... In Kairo she worked again together with occultist Paulos Metamon ... When H.P.B. arrived in New York she had a 25 year odyssey behind her in which she had come in contact with almost every kind of religion and culture on earth and thus gained a tremendous insight in mystic traditions." – Ibid. p. 19.

"About the assistance of the masters Olcott says: "One day in the summer of 1875, H.P.B. showed me some pages of a manuscript she had prepared and said: "I wrote this last night by instruction, but I do not know for what purpose. Maybe for a book, a newspaper article, or for nothing. Whatever, I wrote what I was ordered..."

She said she wrote about matters she had never studied and quoted from books she had never read in all her life. Especially the secret master Morya was to be the help in this writing. Blavatsky received her information through automatic dictation. Sometimes messages on mysterious pieces of paper were whirling through the room." – Ibid. p. 25.

"1875 H.P.B. receives mysterious orders from secret whereabouts: "Was given instruction directly from India to set up a philosophic organization and to find a name for it." – Ibid. p. 23.

The organization was founded in October of the same year 1875 under the name of "Theosophical Society." Among the founders was also the famous inventor Thomas Alva Edison.

In one of the statutes it says: "The society teaches and expects from its members

an exemplary lifestyle with highest moral and religious ambitions; resistance shall be exercised against the materialism of science, against any form of theological dogmas especially against those of Christian belief, which the leaders consider to be particularly destructive..."

With this the aim of the organization was obvious. Right from the start the members had deliberately set themselves against Christianity.

The Theosophical Society also was eager to assist in the establishing of an universal brotherhood of mankind. This idea was a far-set objective which could only be realized through the uniting of all world religions.

Here was the onset of the creating of a one-world-empire with a one-world-government, one-world-religion and one-world-language. It is the so called New Age.

When H.P.B. traveled in February 1879 to India, she immediately engaged herself in organizing hostile campaigns against Christian missionary activities.

She bought a property in Adyar. "Contact with the masters intensified, in 1883 daily visits to her have reported." – Ibid. p. 28.

Later Madame Blavatsky traveled to Europe. According to instructions from her masters, she began in Wurzburg to work on the book: "the Secret Doctrine."

Every morning she would find on her writing desk further information for the book. There was no more turning back:

"The masters were here, they put me to the test, either to die and to be free if I want to, or I was to live and finish "The Secret Doctrine." I was told I would have to suffer much, and in London

would undergo serious trials and terrible times." – Ibid. p. 33.

"May 1st she went from Ostende to London where she opened the Blavatsky Lodge. The paper "Lucifer" was the voice of the lodge. H.P.B. pushed for the establishment of an esoteric department within the Theosophical Society, which she then arranged in 1888." – Ibid. p. 34.

She lived a restless life, traveled many countries, investigating countless cults and religions. Through her contact with occultists, spiritualists, brethren of lodges and with her masters, she was a decided opponent of Christianity. "The theosophical reinterpretation of the Bible has for H. P.B. no limits ... also the image of the devil of H.P.B. does not correspond with that in the Bible as the enemy of God. To Blavatsky the devil is the guardian angel of Christendom." – Ibid. p. 71.

Music

In the remarkable book of Brian Neumann "The Power of Music," he says: "Another interesting fact is that Elvis Presley occupied himself with the teaching of a woman with the name Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, With this information at hand, one should look twice at Elvis' claim of being a Christian." – Neumann, p. 80.

Blavatsky's Pantheism

We find in the writings of Madame B. Clear references to pantheism. "Our Godhead neither thrones in Paradise nor in

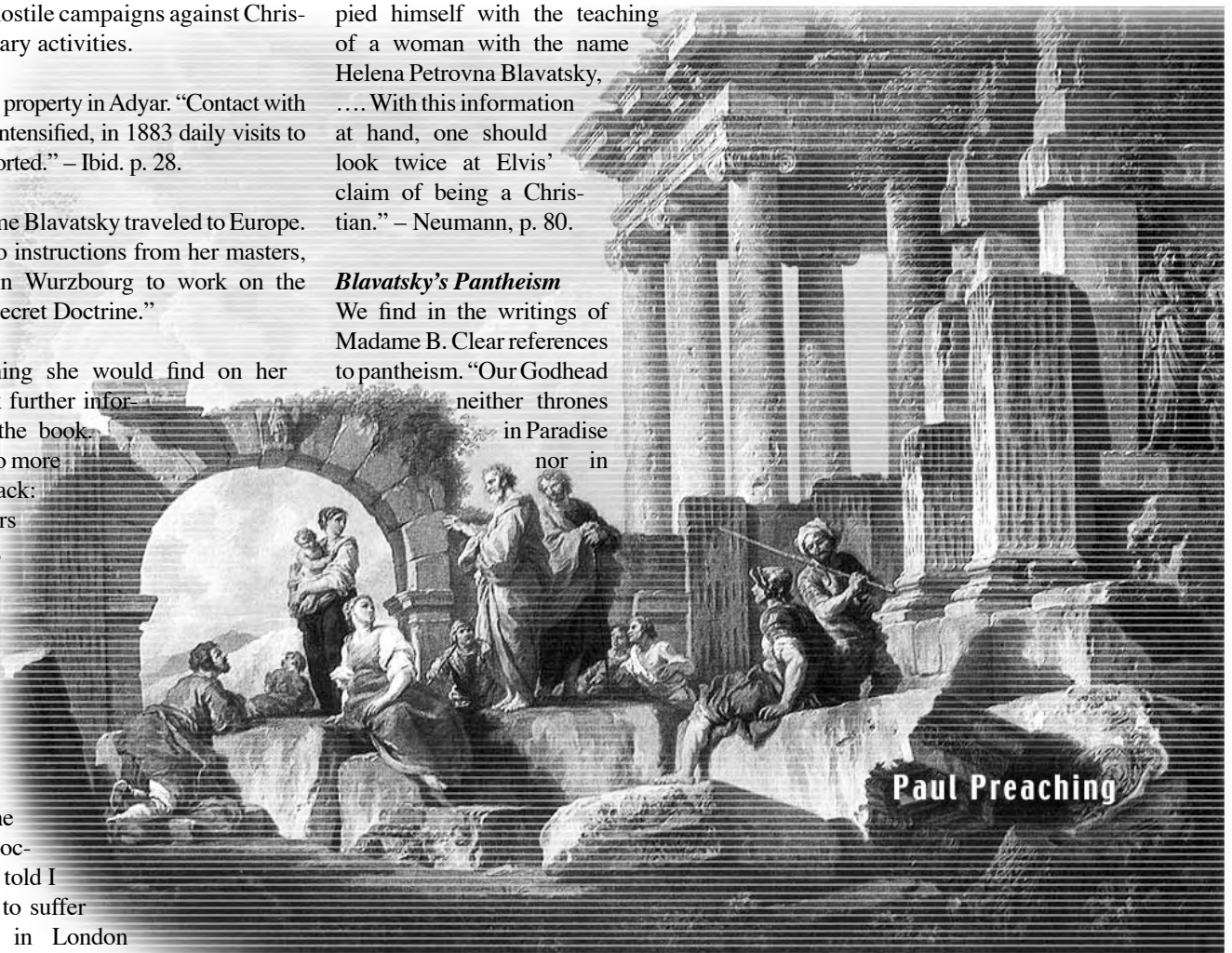
any specific edifice or mount; it is everywhere, in each atom of the visible and invisible universe, it is in, above and around each invisible atom and divisible molecule: for it is the mysterious power of evolution, the omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent creative potentiality." – Ibid, p. 56. In the same book it says about her: "We repudiate any idea about a personal God." – p. 54.

She clearly says she does not want anything to do with this God. She believed that Christian churches hold a false belief. In her eyes salvation can be obtained only through knowledge, that is – through gnosis.

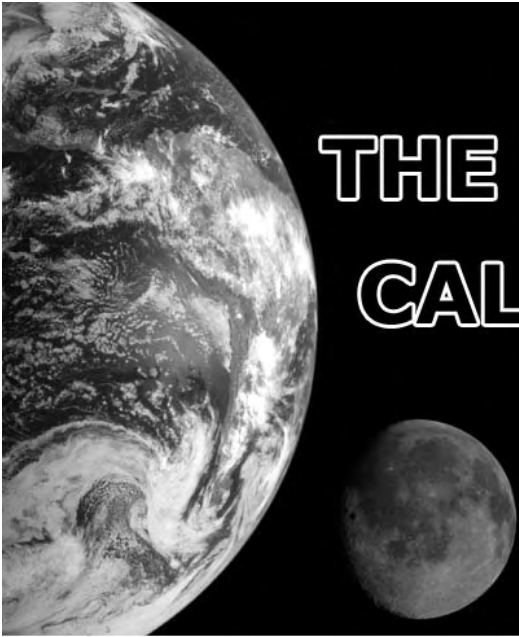
Such train of thought is not new. The apostle Paul was confronted with it already then. We find his clear statement in 1.Timothy 6:20-22: "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith."

End of Part Two. To be continued.

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



Paul Preaching



THE WORLD CALLED TO ACCOUNT



When the voice from Heaven will be heard saying, "It is done," THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS will manifest His power for the deliverance of His people living on this earth. Rev.16:17-19:16.

At that time "Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: "It is done." Revelation 16:17." GC 636. Heaven and earth will be shaken by a mighty earthquake "such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, [and] so great." Rev.16:18

"Ragged rocks are scattered on every side. There is a roar as of a coming tempest. The sea is lashed into fury. There is heard the shriek of a hurricane like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction. The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed up by the angry waters." GC p 637

Graves are opened, and "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Dan.12:2. "Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash

of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: "Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!" GC 644

"All come forth from their graves the same in stature as when they entered the tomb. Adam, who stands among the risen throng, is of lofty height and majestic form, in stature but little below the Son of God. He presents a marked contrast to the people of later generations; in this one respect is shown the great degeneracy of the race. But all arise with the freshness and vigor of eternal youth." GC 644

The saints had their sins removed from the sanctuary in heaven. They had done a special work of purification, of putting away sin while living on this earth and were now ready for His appearing. But there was another class that seemed indifferent to the work of Jesus as a priest and advocate in Heaven. They were to compare their characters with the law of God so that they might have learned what their defects were while they had the opportunity for repentance and reform.

"But in order to secure the favor of the world, they set aside its precepts and taught others to transgress. They have endeavored to compel God's people to profane His Sabbath. Now they are condemned by that law which they have despised." G.C.640.

"It is those who by faith follow Jesus in the great work of the atonement who receive the benefits of His mediation in their behalf, while those who reject the light which brings to view this work of ministration are not benefited thereby. The Jews who rejected the light given at Christ's first advent, and refused to believe on Him as

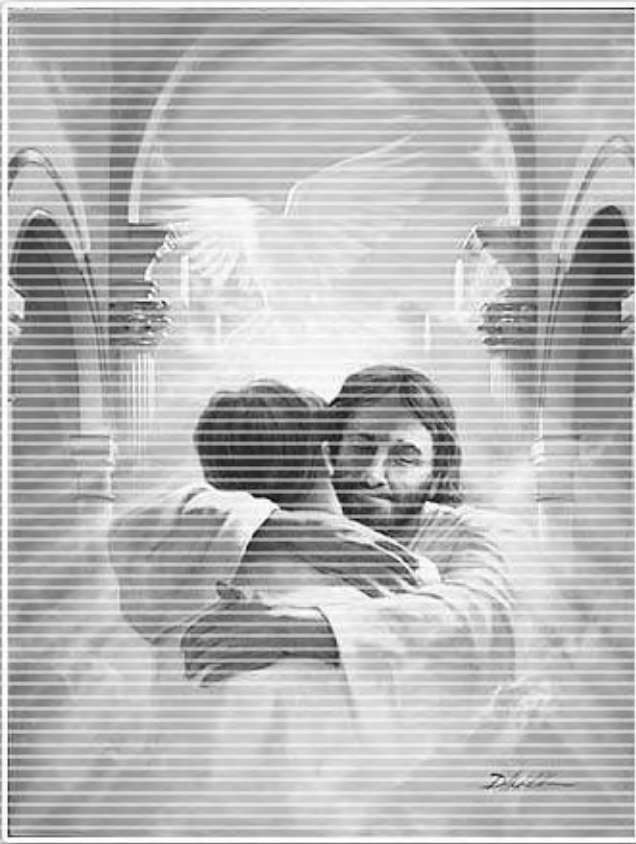
the Saviour... were left in total darkness to continue their useless sacrifices and offerings.... That door by which men had formerly found access to God was no longer open....Therefore they found no communion with God. GC 430.

"A message was sent from heaven to the world in Noah's day, and their salvation depended upon the manner in which they treated that message. Because they rejected the warning, the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race, and they perished in the waters of the Flood.

"In the time of Abraham, mercy ceased to plead with the guilty inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot with his wife and two daughters were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven. So in the days of Christ...But Christ still intercedes in man's behalf, and light will be given to those who seek it." GC 431

"In Noah's day, men had disregarded the law of God until almost all remembrance of the Creator had passed away from the earth. Their iniquity reached so great a height that the Lord brought a flood of waters upon the earth, and swept away its wicked inhabitants.... In this time of prevailing iniquity we may know that the last great crisis is at hand. When the defiance of God's law is almost universal, when His people are oppressed and afflicted by their fellow men, the Lord will interpose. Men who claim to be Christians may now defraud and oppress the poor; they may rob the widow and fatherless; for all this God will bring them into judgment. They "shall have judgment without mercy" that have "showed no mercy." (James 2:13.). COL 178

"They shall stand before the Judge of the earth, to render an account for the pain they have caused to the bodies and souls of His



Home at last

heritage...Every tear shed, they must answer. God will reward them double for their sins." COL 179.

"From India, from Africa, from China, from the islands of the sea, from the downtrodden millions of so-called Christian lands, the cry of human woe is ascending to God. That cry will not long be unanswered. God will cleanse the earth from its moral corruption, not by a sea of water as in Noah's day, but by a sea of fire that cannot be quenched by any human devising." COL 179

"God has a controversy with the world. When the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened, He has an awful account to settle, which would now make the world fear and tremble were men not blinded and bewitched by satanic delusions and deceptions. God will call the world to account for the death of His only-begotten Son, whom to all intents and purposes the world has crucified afresh, and put to open shame in the persecution of His people. The world has rejected Christ in the person of His saints, has refused His messages in the refusal of the messages

of prophets, apostles, and messengers. They have rejected those who have been colaborers with Christ, and for this they will have to render an account." TM 39

But some, the minority will have no account to settle because, "Every sin of which they had been guilty was forgiven, and they stood before God as chosen and true, as innocent, as perfect, as though they had never sinned." TM 39

Christ has never forgotten the days of His humiliation "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; I hid not my face from shame and spitting." Isaiah 50:6.

Unless they repent and confess their sins, they will remain charged against them in the books of record. Oh what fearful histories will be opened to the world on the judgement day – histories of sins never confessed, of sins not blotted out!

Brethren and sisters, there is a need to humble our souls before God. "Cease to do evil," but do not stop there, "learn to do well." Adam fell because he disregarded the words of the Lord and heeded the words of Satan. Will it pay to transgress? By transgression Adam lost Eden. By transgression of God's commandments man will lose heaven and an eternity of bliss. These are no idle tales. They are truth.

It is my wish and prayer that we shall all stand before God's throne as chosen, and true; as innocent, and perfect, as though we had never sinned, so we can have heaven as our eternal Home. **AMEN**

By Mogunde Charles
C_Mogunde2002@yahoo.com

"He has the same tender, pitying love, and is ever touched with human woe." TM 39

Jesus is ready to help us but, those who misrepresent his truth, mixing the comical with the religious in the pulpits, are giving the trumpet an uncertain sound. His eyes see them and sadly He turns away. These preachers are turning the church into a theatre. All that is done, is done to win praise to weak humans, crucifying the Son of God afresh, putting Him to open shame. They are careful of their ways before men, but they are an offence to God. They cherish sins both open and secret.



In The Heavenly Sanctuary

A Critique of the 51 Movement's Stance on the Human Nature of Christ

As far as the history of Adventism is concerned, there have been three different interpretations of the human nature of Christ¹, and they are briefly as follows:

1) *The Traditional Christology, or the Postlapsarian Position*

This is called postlapsarian because Christ came in the same human nature of Adam **after** the Fall. Therefore, when Christ was born on this earth, he took on human flesh that had been degenerated for over 4000 years, and thus had to bear the results of sin in His body, such as weaknesses, infirmities and liabilities. In addition to this, Christ took on sinful human flesh, that had begun with Adam after his fall, and thus had to continually war against the lusts, the evil propensities² and evil inclinations of His flesh, but never once, in His entire life, gave in, or responded, to its inner temptations. This view had its preeminence from the early 1850s up until the early 1950s.

2) *The New Christology, or the Prelapsarian Position*

This is called prelapsarian because Christ came in the same human nature of Adam **before** the Fall. Therefore, when Christ was born on this earth, He took on human flesh that had never sinned, nor was it physically corrupt in any way, therefore, His flesh was holy and immaculate. As a result, He was never tempted from within, but only from without. In addition to this, “whatever Jesus took was not His intrinsically³ or innately⁴ All that Jesus took, all that He bore, whether the burden and penalty of our iniquities, or the diseases and frailties of our human nature – all was taken and borne vicariously.’ ‘Vicariously He took our sinful, fallen nature.... He bore our weaknesses, our temptations, vicariously⁵, in the same way He bore our iniquities.”⁶ This view began in the early 1950s.

3) *The Alternative Christology*

This is a mixture of the Traditional and New Christology because Christ came in the human nature of Adam **before** and **after** the Fall. Therefore, when Christ was born on this earth, he took on human flesh that had been degenerated for over 4000 years, and thus had to bear the results of sin in His body, such as weaknesses, infirmities and liabilities. However, unlike the Traditional position, Christ was never born with sinful flesh, and thus never had to continually war against the lusts, the evil propensities and evil inclinations of His flesh. Therefore, essentially, Christ was also tempted only from without, and not from within, which basically, again, agrees with the New Christology in that His flesh was holy and immaculate. This view is the most recent, having started in the 1980s, and probably the most popular in Adventism.

Interestingly, all three interpretations of the human nature of Christ claim to have their support from the Bible and from the Spirit of Prophecy. Therefore, if Ellen White’s writings can be interpreted in three different ways, then something is greatly wrong here. However, the purpose of this article is not necessarily to elucidate in greater detail the three interpretations of the human nature of Christ⁷, but rather to determine in which category the 51 Movement belongs to in regards to their current view of the human nature of Christ, which is shown in the appendix at the end of this article.

Point 1:

The first point involves a resolution concerning the human nature of Christ which the 51 Movement had passed in their 1987 GC session. It reads in part as follows:

“While He (Christ) took our fallen nature, we believe in harmony with what is written that there is in Him no evil propensity to sin, but that he was tempted from without, not from within (John 14:30; James 1:14), in all points as we are yet without sin.”

Essentially, they are saying that Christ, and interestingly also the rest of humankind, was never tempted from within, but only from without. Let it suffice for now to have only the Spirit of Prophecy provide a refutation. Later, the scriptural basis of the human nature of Christ will answer in more detail points one and points two.

Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 47:

*“Some feel their need of the atonement, and with the recognition of this need, and the desire for a change of heart, a struggle begins. To renounce their own will, perhaps their chosen objects of affection or pursuit, requires an effort, at which many hesitate and falter and turn back. Yet this battle must be fought by every heart that is truly converted. We must war against temptations without and within.”*⁹

Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 222:

*“A man may be trying to serve God, but temptations from within and from without assail him. Satan and his angels urge and coax him to transgress.”*⁸

Ministry of Healing, p. 130:

*“Apart from divine power, no genuine reform can be effected. Human barriers against natural and cultivated tendencies are but as the sandbank against the torrent. Not until the life of Christ becomes a vitalizing power in our lives can we resist the temptations that assail us from within and from without.”*⁹

1. These three categories taken from J. R. Zurcher, *Touched With Our Feelings* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1999), pp. 272-274.

2. However way it was used in the past, according to today’s definition, propensity is synonymous with words like “leaning” and “inclination,” however, whether good or evil, it is often intense and stronger. – Merriam-Webster Online, <http://www.m-w.com>.

3. Intrinsic: “originating or due to causes within a body, organ, or part” – Ibid.

4. Innate: “existing in, belonging to, or determined by factors present in an individual from birth” – Ibid.

5. Here, all three words, vicariously, means to be imputed with something, resulting in one having “experienced or realized through imaginative or sympathetic participation in the experience of another” – Ibid.

6. J. R. Zurcher, *Touched With Our Feelings*, p. 273.

7. For an excellent in-depth historical survey of Adventist thought on the human nature of Christ, please see J. R. Zurcher, *Touched With Our Feelings*.

8. See also ST May 11, 1904.

9. See also ST July 9, 1902; December 1, 1914.

Review and Herald, April 29, 1884:

“Every one of us needs to have a deep insight into the teachings of the word of God. Our minds must be prepared to stand every test, and to resist every temptation, whether from without or from within.”

Signs of the Times, April 19, 1883:

“We tremble for the youth of our day, because of the example that is given them by those who profess to be Christians. We cannot close the door of temptation to the youth, but we can educate them that their words and their actions may have a direct bearing upon their future happiness or misery. They will be exposed to temptation. They will meet foes without and foes within, but they can be instructed to stand firm in their integrity, having moral principle to resist temptation.”

Review and Herald, September 8, 1874:

“What appreciation can such have of the temptation of Christ in the wilderness, and the victory he gained upon the point of appetite.”

After surveying a few examples of the passages shown above, it is extremely hard to imagine how anyone could have stated that we are not tempted from within, and how anyone could have failed to notice the statements above. Since it is true that Christ was tempted in all points as we are, as the 51 Movement agrees, and that we are tempted from without and from within, then undoubtedly the logic concludes that Christ was also tempted from without and from within.

Point 2:

The second point involves a resolution concerning the human nature of Christ which the 51 Movement had passed in their 1999 GC session. It was an attempt to explain further and to reinforce their resolution that they had passed 13 years earlier. It reads in part as follows:

“We re-emphasize that there were no evil propensities or tendencies to sin in Christ’s human nature.”

“Christ partook of ‘our sinful nature’ (ST July 30, 1902; MM 180), and was thus encompassed with infirmities, weakness and liabilities (2T 202, 508, 509; DA 49; 1SM 253; 3SM 131, 132; 4BC 1147:4), but He had no evil propensities or evil tendencies in His human nature. Evil tendencies or evil propensities are evil leanings, inclinations, and bias. These reside in our minds not in our physical flesh (AH 127, 128). Christ had none of these in His mind or flesh (human nature).”

The term “human nature” can have different connotations depending in what context it is used in. Therefore, one has to be informed of the terminology the 51 Movement use in these statements. As it is evident on the very last sentence of the second paragraph, by “human nature,” in both of these paragraphs, they only mean “human flesh.” They claim that there were no evil propensities or evil tendencies in Christ’s flesh, AND in our

flesh. And by “sinful nature” they only mean taking on flesh with its **results from sin**, namely, the infirmities, weaknesses and liabilities, where the SDAs, quoting Henry Melvill, an Anglican minister of the 19th century, calls these infirmities as “innocent infirmities” such as “hunger, pain, sorrow, etc.”¹⁰ But the 51 Movement does not consider the human flesh of Christ as being sinful, which is different from the “innocent infirmities.”

We now need to take a look at the biblical evidence that supports the fact that our human flesh, and likewise Christ’s human flesh, is indeed sinful.

The apostle John shows very clearly the natural condition of the human flesh when he states, “For all that (is) in the world: the **lust of the flesh**, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.” (1 John 2:16)

If it is true that our flesh does not have evil tendencies or evil propensities, then how was it possible for John to state the very opposite, namely, that our natural flesh lusts, and continues to do so? John clearly states that the epithumia of the flesh, namely, the lusts and cravings of the flesh are all from the world, not from God. And these lusts of the flesh are indeed sinful, for if one loves them the love of God would not be in him (v. 15). The 51 Movement’s teaching that our flesh is not sinful, namely, that they do not have evil propensities or evil tendencies, is totally ludicrous¹¹ and is in direct contradiction to the teachings of the apostle John.

It is very strange that the 51 Movement backs up their statement that evil propensities or evil tendencies reside only in our mind, and not in our flesh with The Adventist Home, pp. 127, 128. When one reads them, they will find that it actually speaks contrary to what they have stated. We will explain the passage of debate, namely:

“The lower passions have their seat in the body and work through it. The words ‘flesh’ or ‘fleshly’ or ‘carnal lusts’ embrace the lower, corrupt nature; the flesh of itself cannot act contrary to the will of God. We are commanded to crucify the flesh, with the affections and lusts.”

Here Ellen White specifically states that the flesh has a lower passion, that it embraces the lower, corrupt nature. We are to crucify this flesh, which contains affections and lusts.¹² This is perfectly in harmony with Apostle John’s understanding of the “lust of the flesh.” By stating that our flesh consists of affections and lusts, it straightly nullifies their statement that there are neither evil propensities nor evil tendencies in our flesh.

If there was one person to have forever settled the issue of what type of flesh Christ, and we, came in, and to truly experience the war against the flesh, it would be the apostle Paul. Paul states clearly, concerning Christ, that God sent “his own son in (the) likeness of sinful flesh.”¹³ (Rom. 8:3). Here, Paul provides a crystal-clear definition of the human flesh that is to be understood in all other occurrences of “flesh” in regards to human flesh,

10. Seventh-day Adventists Believe (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1988), p. 57.

11. To say that Christ did not have sinful flesh is one thing, but to say that even WE do not have sinful flesh is another, and is truly outrageous. Not only is it totally unbiblical, but it is also totally foreign to each of our own individual experiences in fighting against sin.

12. The phrase, “The flesh of itself cannot act contrary to the will of God,” simply means that the flesh by itself, all alone, cannot do the actual act of sin. It only tempts against the mind, and

when the mind responds to it, when it starts to work with the flesh, then the actual sin is brought to fruition. See James 1:14, 15.

13. To forever settle the issue on what this phrase really says, the original Greek reads: “en homoimati sarkos hamartias” which, as expected, translates literally as, “in (the) likeness of sinful flesh.” Any translation that does not have the phrase “sinful flesh” must be ignored (the NIV, for example, has the phrase “sinful man,” which is truly doing an injustice to the Greek), since the doctrine of Christ overcoming in sinful flesh is truly vital in the Christian’s goal of full sanctification and perfection.

namely, that all who have been born from Adam since his fall all have “sinful flesh,” including Christ’s human flesh. This one statement from the apostle alone is enough to refute any other claims that our flesh does not have evil propensities or evil tendencies.

The apostle strengthens and builds up his claim of “sinful flesh,” namely, that the flesh has evil tendencies, just in previous chapters, where he states not to let sin reign in our bodies, to obey its lusts (Rom. 6:12), that no good thing dwelled in his flesh (Rom. 7:18), that sin dwelled in him (vss. 17, 20). Then, “But I see another law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and taking me captive by the law of sin which is in my members.” (v. 23). The Greek word *melos* refers to a part of the body. The plural form, *mele*, which is used here in this verse, then refers to all the parts, or members, of the body making up the whole. Therefore, Paul states that sin is in the entire body, in all of its parts. Anyone who states that humans are never tempted from within, that our mind never struggles against the lusts of the flesh, would have been totally foreign to the apostle, and would be totally foreign to each of our own personal experiences. Paul clearly states that the law of sin is in our members, our body, our human flesh. In the next verse, because his flesh was sinful, Paul condemns his own body (v. 24). And he finally concludes the chapter saying that the mind shall serve the law of God, while the flesh continues to serve the law of sin (v. 25).¹⁴

In these verses above, as we have seen, there is absolutely no indication that the human flesh is holy and immaculate, that the human flesh does not have evil propensities or evil tendencies, that the mind is never tempted from within by the flesh. To believe that the flesh is likewise so, whether one believes in the new christology or the alternative christology, is to believe that Christ’s human flesh was also holy and immaculate, and this is nothing more than the false doctrine of the immaculate conception of Mary of the Roman Catholic Church, which ultimately leads to the papacy’s goal of Marian worship.

Out of the many places where Ellen White uses the phrase “likeness of sinful flesh,” either from a direct quote from Apostle Paul or from her own words, just a few will certainly suffice to show the fact that all humanity are born with sinful flesh, and likewise Christ was born with sinful flesh.

Bible Echo, December 15, 1892:

“The Redeemer of the world might have come attended by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of angels; but instead of this He clothed his divinity with humanity, made Himself of no reputation, took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of sinful flesh. For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels, but He took on Him the seed of Abraham.”

ST, February 20, 1893:

“He made himself of no reputation, took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of sinful flesh. For our

14. See Apostle Paul’s teaching of sinful flesh in other books, such as Galatians 5 (second half) and Ephesians 2 (beginning).

15. In fact, the doctrine of “sinful flesh” is not limited to apostles Paul and John. The concept of our flesh being sinful was also taught by the apostles Peter and James. See, respectively, 1Pet. 2:11; 2Pet. 2:10, 18 and James 4:1.

sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich.”

ST, April 11, 1895:

“Those who have experienced the blessing of God should be the most grateful of persons. They should send up to God words of thanksgiving because Christ came in the likeness of sinful flesh, clothing his divinity with humanity, in order that he might bring before the world the perfection of God in his own character.”

ST, May 16, 1895:

“We are too much in the habit of thinking that the Son of God was a being so entirely exalted above us that it is an impossibility for him to enter into our trials and temptations, and that he can have no sympathy with us in our weakness and frailties. This is because we do not take in the fact of his oneness with humanity. He took upon him the likeness of sinful flesh, and was made in all points like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God.”

ST, July 2, 1896:

“In the councils of heaven the Lord planned to reshape the broken, perverted characters of man, and to restore to them the moral image of God. This work is termed the mystery of godliness. Christ, the only-begotten of the Father, assumed human nature, came in the likeness of sinful flesh to condemn sin in the flesh.”

Youth’s Instructor, August 23, 1894:

“Let children bear in mind that the child Jesus had taken upon himself human nature, and was in the likeness of sinful flesh, and was tempted of Satan as all children are tempted.”

Ellen White clearly equates “human nature” with “sinful flesh.” The apostle John warns that anyone who does not accept that Christ came in sinful flesh has, not the Spirit of God, but rather the spirit of antichrist (1John 4:2, 3). The 51 Movement is antichrist since they are doing just that, because they are denying that Christ came in sinful flesh, therefore, by Apostle John’s own words, the Spirit of God is truly not in them.¹⁵ The papacy succeeded in infiltrating the SDA with Catholicism, and now likewise with the 51 Movement.

There have been two major errors that have been propagated in the church, namely, the doctrine of the immaculate conception, and the doctrine of original sin. In order to view Christ as having a sinless human nature, the councils of the Catholic church believed it was necessary to invent the immaculate conception of Mary, with the result that Christ would then, also, be born immaculate. Protestantism, on the other hand, believed in the Augustinian doctrine of original sin, where it states that because of Adam’s original sin, all descendants that had ever come from him were automatically born sinners, and were automatically guilty. Since Christ was to be our Saviour, it was not possible for Him to be born a sinner and to be guilty at the same time, so then it was necessary to invent the doctrine that Christ took on the human nature identical to that of Adam’s before his fall. Whether one believes in the immaculate conception of Mary, or the doctrine of original sin, the results are the same, namely, that Christ had holy flesh, which is nothing more than the doctrine of the papacy.

The Bible speaks nothing about the immaculate conception or the doctrine of original sin. Likewise, all the Adventist pioneers

rejected them. One does not become a sinner, and thereby becoming guilty, at birth. However, one does become a sinner, and likewise guilty, from the moment they commit their very first sin, and we all have fallen, we are all sinners and guilty, because “all sinned” (Rom. 3:23). However, Christ never sinned in His entire life, therefore, He was neither a sinner nor was He guilty.

So serious and important is the true understanding of the doctrine of Christ’s human flesh, that the reason why Ellen White left Australia to head back to the United States was solely to combat the holy flesh movement that had been propagated in the state of Indiana.¹⁶ Regarding the situation of this movement and its teachings, she wrote, “Last January the Lord showed me that **erroneous theories and methods** would be brought into our camp meetings, and that the history of the past would be repeated. I felt greatly distressed. I was instructed to say that at these demonstrations demons in the form of men are present, working with all the ingenuity that Satan can employ to make the truth **disgusting** to sensible people; that the enemy was trying to arrange matters so that the camp meetings, which have been the means of bringing the truth of the third angel’s message before multitudes, should lose their force and influence.”¹⁷ Then she adds, “The third angel’s message ... is to be kept free from every thread of the **cheap, miserable inventions of men’s theories**, prepared by the father of lies, and disguised as was the brilliant serpent used by Satan as a medium of deceiving our first parents.”¹⁸ (Emphasis mine). Notice here that the third angel’s message must be carefully guarded, and have the pure understanding of the human nature of Christ. If Ellen White were alive today, she would look for the church that keeps the Ten Commandments of God, and the pure doctrine of the sinful flesh of Christ, and that would certainly not be the Seventh-day Adventist Church or the 51 Movement.

After considering the above evidences, the 51 Movement belongs to those who believe in the alternative christology. Therefore, the guilt of the 51 Movement lies in their acceptance of the false doctrine of original sin, resulting in the sin of omission. They took only parts of the Bible, and parts of the Spirit of Prophecy, and then made a doctrine out of it, without considering the entire evidence.¹⁹ In the 1987 GC session, they stated that “all our teaching should be based on a ‘thus saith the Lord’, and not on individual opinions.” However, based on the above study, they have done the exact opposite: by stating only opinions which are not based on sound biblical doctrine.

Let it be known that the reason why God allowed the split to happen in 1951 of the Reform Movement was because He already knew that the descendants of those 11 delegates who left the 1951 GC session meeting room in administrative protest would, a little over 30 years down the line, become antichrist and teach a catholic doctrine. This deadly sin of the 51 Movement fornicating with Catholicism has been out in the open for at least 16 years now. Just as the Adventist leaders rejected the Christ our Righteousness message in 1888, so likewise the 51 Movement leaders, after three times²⁰, rejected the Christ our Righteousness message in 1999.

16. J. R. Zurcher, *Touched With Our Feelings*, pp. 107-115.

17. Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 37.

18. *Ibid.*

19. Key christological phrases from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy had been omitted, such as “sinful flesh” and “tempted from without and from within.”

20. First in 1987, second in 1995, and third in 1999. See Luke 22:34.

In Revelation 14, it speaks of the 144,000 who are undefiled with women, because they are virgins (v. 4), they hold onto the pure truth of the Bible. The 144,000, who are produced only in the time of the end, are not polluted in any way with the fallen churches, relationally or doctrinally. In Revelation 18, Christ calls all those who had been defiled by her to come out of her, in order that they no longer participate in her sins, and that they not receive her plagues (v. 4).

Therefore, may the Lord help the true Adventist Reform Movement – holding to the firm foundations of the Great Advent Movement, and the firm foundation of the upholding of God’s Ten Commandments in 1914 – the International Missionary Society, to help and minister to the honest souls in the 51 Movement who are willing to escape the false teachings of their leaders bound in Catholicism, over to those who are fervently keeping the Ten Commandments of God, and the true faith of Jesus, including the pure biblical doctrine of the human sinful flesh of Christ.

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Appendix

Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement 18th General Conference Session. 1999. Temporary Doctrinal Committee

Agenda, Item 5. - Human Nature of Christ (relating to sinful tendencies/leanings in the flesh) Does the human nature have sinful tendencies, propensities to sin, or passions to evil in His physical flesh?

After considering the reasons for presenting this question, and the reading of resolutions (#44, 1987; #68, 1995), it was proposed that a statement be sent to the Australasian Union as follows:

Statement

In harmony with our resolution #44, 1987,

“We believe that the Divine nature of the Son of God was blended with the fallen human nature of the sons of Adam after the fall and after 4000 years of degeneracy according to the great law of heredity. This we believe is the mystery of the incarnation. DA 21. While He (Christ) took our fallen nature, we believe in harmony with what is written that there is in Him no evil propensity to sin, but that he was tempted from without, not from within (John 14:30; James 1:14.), in all points as we are, yet without sin. He could have yielded to temptation, but He did not, thus becoming both our Saviour and Advocate. We may overcome through Him even as he overcame. Christ was, is, and always will be, God. 1 John 5:20; Hebrews 13:8; 2:13-18; 7:16, 26, 27; Romans 1:13; 8:3; Hebrews 2:9; 1SM 253; 5T 699. This subject should not be discussed further as it is the “mystery of all mysteries” (6BC 1082) and all our teaching should be based on a “thus saith the Lord”, and not on individual opinions.”

We re-endorse the intent of this resolution, which is to briefly cover a deep and complex mystery which is to be appreciated in making a personal experience (John 1:14; 7BC 904; GC 251). We re-emphasise that there were no evil propensities or tendencies to sin in Christ’s human nature, in harmony with the following statements from the Spirit of Prophecy:

“Be careful, exceedingly careful as to how you dwell upon the human nature of Christ. Do not set Him before the people as a man with the propensities of sin. He is the second Adam...”

He [Christ] could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity.” The SDA Bible Commentary (EGW Comments), vol. 5, p. 1128.

“He [Christ] was a mighty petitioner, not possessing the passions of our human, fallen natures, but compassed with like infirmities, tempted in all points even as we are.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, pp. 508, 509.

“He [Christ] was to take His position at the head of humanity by taking the nature but not the sinfulness of man.” The SDA Bible Commentary (EGW Comments), vol. 7, p. 925.

“The prince of darkness found nothing in Him; not a single thought or feeling responded to temptation.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 422

“Clad in the vestments of humanity, the Son of God came down to the level of those he wished to save. In him was no guile or sinfulness; he was ever pure and undefiled; yet he took upon him our sinful nature. Clothing his divinity with humanity, that he might associate with fallen humanity, he sought to regain for man that which, by disobedience, Adam had lost for himself and for the world.” —The Review and Herald, December 15, 1896.

Christ partook of “our sinful nature” (ST July 30, 1902; MM 180), and was thus encompassed with infirmities, weakness and liabilities (2T 202, 508, 509; DA 49; 1SM 253; 3SM 131, 132; 4BC 1147:4), but He had no evil propensities or evil tendencies in His human nature. Evil tendencies or evil propensities are evil leanings, inclinations, and bias’. These reside in our minds not in our physical flesh (AH 127, 128). Christ had none of these in His mind or flesh (human nature). The work of conversion and sanctification is the process which God uses to remove these evil propensities from our nature. We believe that this is in harmony with the following statements from the Spirit of Prophecy which clarify this question:

“Jesus Christ is our example in all things. He began life, passed through its experiences, and ended its record, with a sanctified human will. He was tempted in all points like as we are, and yet because he kept his will surrendered and sanctified, he never bent in the slightest degree toward the doing of evil, or toward manifesting rebellion against God.... Those who have a sanctified will, that is in unison with the will of Christ, will day by day have their wills bound to the will of Christ, which will act in blessing others, and react upon themselves with divine power.” ST October, 29, 1894.

“Christ’s perfect humanity is the same that man may have through connection with Christ. As God, Christ could not be tempted any more than He was not tempted from His allegiance in heaven. But as Christ humbled Himself to the nature of man, He could be tempted. He had not taken on Him even the nature of the

angels, but humanity, perfectly identical with our own nature, except without the taint of sin. A human body, a human mind, with all the peculiar properties. He was bone, brain, and muscle. A man of our flesh. He was compassed with the weakness of humanity. The circumstances of His life were of that character that He was exposed to all the inconveniences that belong to men, not in wealth, not in ease, but in poverty and want and humiliation. He breathed the very air man must breathe. He trod our earth as man. He had reason, conscience, memory, will, and affections of the human soul which was united with His divine nature.” 16MR 181.

“The Lord Jesus, through sacrificing His life upon the cross, purposed by the agency of the Holy Spirit to bring man to see his position as a sinner and surrender his will to God’s will. He will sanctify every soul that will receive the gracious gift, and [will] give him power to become a son of God. He takes away the destructive tendencies of the sinful nature and brings the human agency into His service.” 18MR 208.2.

“The old nature, born of blood and the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The old ways, the hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up: for grace is not inherited.... A genuine conversion changes hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong.” Maranatha, 237. (See also 6BC 1101.)

“The word of God destroys the natural, earthly nature and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus.” DA 391

“Genuine conversion is needed, not once in years, but daily. This conversion brings man into a new relation with God. Old things, his natural passions and hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong, pass away, and he is renewed and sanctified. But this work must be continual: for as long as Satan exists, he will make an effort to carry on his work. He who strives to serve God will encounter a strong undercurrent of wrong. His heart needs to be barricaded by constant watchfulness and prayer,.... Divine grace must be received daily, or no man will stay converted....” Our High Calling, 215.

“All must come under the training of Jesus. When they fall upon Christ, their own hereditary and cultivated tendencies are taken away as hindrances to their being partakers of the divine nature. When self dies, Christ lives in the human agent; the man abides in Christ, and Christ lives in him.” Gospel Herald, April 23, 1902.

“Bad dispositions, hereditary tendencies, are opposed to the gospel of Christ.” 1 MR 318.

“Every one who by faith obeys God’s commandments, will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression.” ST, July 23, 1902. (See also 6BC 1118)

*“the word of God is quick, and powerful,
and sharper than any twoedged sword”*



THE POPE'S APOLOGY

Has Rome changed? Absolutely not! The Pope's apology was a dramatic fulfillment of prophecy:

"The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with APOLOGIES her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The Papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogative of God; her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High." *Great Controversy* p. 571
(emphasis added)

"Even the secular press detected the deception of the Pope's apology:

"Last Sunday, the pope asked the world to forgive countless Christians of sins committed in the name of the Roman Catholic Church. But he exonerated the Church itself of all responsibility for those sins. Pope John Paul II wants to have his cake and eat it, too.

"The general confession by the head of a church with more than a billion members is an extraordinary act of good conscience and political courage.

"At a mass in St. Peter's Church in Rome, the pope apologized for the calamity caused by seven categories of sins committed

through the course of the Church's history. The list included specifically or by inference, sinful acts done during the Crusades, at the Inquisition against Jews, women, gypsies, minorities and human rights in general.

"But the pope insists those sins were committed by individual Christians only, never by the Church. That's like saying Phillip Morris employees make cigarettes, but the company doesn't. The position is silly and dangerous. Unless the pope recognizes that the Church has, on occasion, intentionally led members to sin, true reform is unlikely.

"Certainly, millions of Catholics believed they were following the teaching of the Church when doing many of the things for which the pope now apologizes. That's because the Church has systematically taught and enforced many of them.

"But the Catholic theology argues that the Church is holy and can do no wrong. That is a theologically important point about the divine nature of the church, but it ignores the very human dimension of the institution. Conveniently, it lets the Church off the hook for virtually everything.

"One prominent Roman Catholic priest thinks the pope should have made it clear that the children of the Church in need of forgiveness included popes, cardinals and clergy. He believes the pope was badly served by the Church's bureaucracy which, like all bureaucracies, exists to preserve its own power.

"The pope had a great idea that some in the Vatican are obscuring with a fog machine," said the Rev. Thomas Reese, editor of the Jesuit weekly magazine, *America*, in a *New York Times* article Monday.

"In other circumstances, there is essentially no distinction between the pope and the Church. Catholic theology claims that where the pope is, there is the Church. When the pope speaks, the voice of the Church is heard.

"And that Church taught Crusaders to slaughter Muslims, directed Catholics to put Jews into ghettos and gave members the context in which to relegate women to second-class citizenship. Those are notorious acts the pope now sloughs off as the individual sins of the faithful. (*The Palm Beach Post [USA]*, Friday, March 17, 2000)

"In his book *Vicars of Christ*, page 244, Peter de Rosa, a graduate of the Vatican's Gregorian University and former Professor of Theology and Ethics at prestigious Roman Catholic Seminaries, states that 80 successive popes promoted the Inquisition.

"The Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem, Israel Meir Lau 'specifically called on the pontiff to denounce the silence of Pius XII during the Holocaust. (*USA Today*, March 13, 2000). Instead the present Pope is seeking to canonize Pius XII. Another Israeli, Avner Shalev correctly pointed out that the Pope 'asked pardon and forgiveness for the individuals but not for the church itself.'"
(*Ibid.*)

"In the *SDA South Pacific Record* April 29, 2000 Pastor Ray Roenfeldt, Professor of Theology at Avondale College, wrote an article concerning the Pope's apology. Dr. Roenfeldt had earlier claimed that the Pope's letter *Dies Domini*, which advocated civil legislation to protect Sunday observance, was both Christ —and salvation— centered! His article on the apology simply reflected the thinking of the secular press. He made no reference to *Great Controversy* nor to *Revelation 13*. Nor was there any mention

that the Pope's apology failed to measure up in any way to that which a sincere apology for the evils of the Roman Catholic Church demanded. Be not deceived- when professedly SDA leaders can make those kind of statements and not go unrebuked, then God's true Church is to put on her beautiful garments, for it is surely time for her to shine. Revival and Reformation is absolutely essential in the face of such apostasy!

PREPARATIONS FOR MARTIAL LAW IN THE UNITED STATES

The Sydney Morning Herald, weekend edition, July 27, 28, 2002, one of Australia's most respected and careful newspapers, reported "recent pronouncements from the Bush Administration and national security initiatives put in place in the Reagan era could see internment camps and martial law in the United States.

"When President Ronald Reagan was considering invading Nicaragua he issued a series of executive orders that provided the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with broad powers in the event of a 'crisis' such as 'violent and widespread internal dissent or national opposition against the US military invasion abroad'. They were never used.

"But with the looming possibility of a US invasion of Iraq, recent pronouncement by President George Bush's domestic security chief, Tom Ridge, and an official with the US Civil Rights Commission should fire concerns that these powers could be employed, or a de facto drift into their deployment could occur.

"On July 20, The Detroit Free Press ran a story entitled 'Arabs in US could be held, Official warns'. The story referred to a member of the US Civil Rights Commission who foresaw the possibility of internment camps for Arab-Americans. FEMA has practised for such an occasion."

The Sydney Morning Herald article quotes Ritt Goldstein, an investigative journalist, as stating that 'the Bush Administration [has] plans for a domestic spying system more pervasive than the Stasi Network in East Germany.'

This report surely is most concerning to every student of the prophecy of Revelation 13.

SPEAKING AS A DRAGON

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as dragon. Rev. 13:11 This prophecy emphasizes the power which the United States will assert.

"And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed...And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles

cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. Rev. 13:12, 14, 15 – (emphasis added).

"The Bush Administration has spelled out its determination to enforce America's global domination, insisting it will allow no other power to challenge its military and economic supremacy.

"In a 33-page document, published overnight Sydney time, President George Bush says the US will never allow its



which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and

military might to be challenged the way it was during the Cold War.

"It says, 'the President has no intention of allowing any foreign power to catch up with the huge lead the United States has opened since the fall of the Soviet Union more than a decade ago.'

“A senior White House official said Mr. Bush had edited the document heavily because he thought there were sections where we sounded overbearing or arrogant.

“But its hawkishness is clear. ‘Our forces will be strong enough to dissuade potential adversaries from pursuing a military build-up in hopes of surpassing, or equaling, the power of the United States.’ ‘With Russia no longer able to come close to matching US military spending, the doctrine seems aimed at rising powers like China. It cites the non-proliferation agreements that have failed to prevent Iran, North Korea, Iraq and other countries from obtaining weapons of mass destruction.’”

Prophecy is very clear about the role that the U.S. will play in last day events. The U.S. position now is almost completely ready to propagate papal falsehoods. As soon as the Muslim extremists are out of the way, then the pope can step to the head of the united world religions, and the U.S. can play their part to force all nations to accept the Image to the Beast, which they will set up. (A National Sunday Law, which will then become Universal at the behest of the U.S.)

May God help us to be ready to stand by faith looking only to Him, His approval and strength, for the arm of flesh will fail us, but if we lean upon the everlasting arms, we have nothing to fear.

LEMON JUICE CURE PUTS THE SQUEEZE ON AIDS

It's hardly the news AIDS researchers wanted to hear; the humble lemon, which sells for about \$2.98 a kilo, may prove a potent force in preventing transmission of the HIV/AIDS virus.

“University of Melbourne researcher Roger Short has found that lemon and lime juice can not only be an effective contraceptive – it also appears to obliterate the AIDS virus in a test tube.

“Human trials testing the final veracity of the research in practice are yet to take place because of the ethical concerns associated with placing people's lives at risk through potential transmission of the deadly virus. ‘We are lucky in Australia where we have the epidemic under control, but

it is spreading in developing countries,’ Professor Short said.

“There are 42 million people with HIV, with 5 million new infections each year, and the number is rising. It is the greatest threat to human civilization we have ever known.

“What we come up with as a prevention has to be incredibly cheap because one quarter of the world is living on under \$2 a day.’

“Meanwhile, the Federal Government is close to releasing the findings of its review last year into the five year funding arrangements for research into HIV/AIDS, which is to be renewed next year.

“Some have argued that HIV/AIDS has attracted a disproportionate amount of government funding in the past, compared with other areas including heart disease and cancer. In 2002, the NHMRC spent \$3,018,130 funding 50 research grants into HIV/AIDS.

“Professor John Kaldor, of the University of NSW and deputy director of the National Centre for HIV epidemiology and clinical research, said it was too early to say if the lemon/lime juice research was a cost-effective form of prevention.

“‘First of all it has to be demonstrated that it works,’ he said.

“Asked whether the lemon juice finding had trivialized the massive investment in AIDS research to date-with a cure still yet to be found-Professor Kaldor said the national AIDS strategy had been evaluated a number of times and shown to be effective.

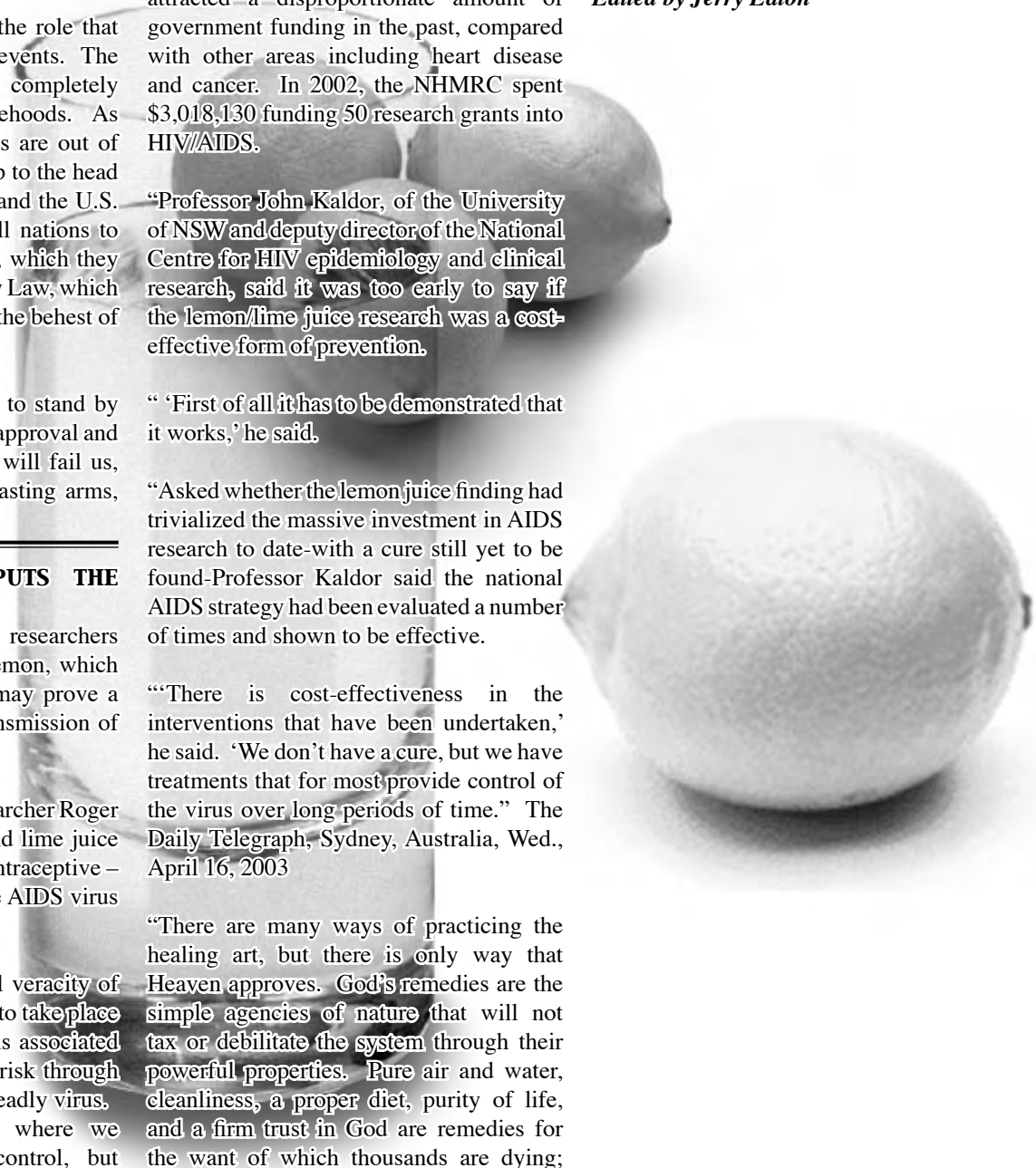
“‘There is cost-effectiveness in the interventions that have been undertaken,’ he said. ‘We don't have a cure, but we have treatments that for most provide control of the virus over long periods of time.’ The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, Australia, Wed., April 16, 2003

“There are many ways of practicing the healing art, but there is only way that Heaven approves. God's remedies are the simple agencies of nature that will not tax or debilitate the system through their powerful properties. Pure air and water, cleanliness, a proper diet, purity of life, and a firm trust in God are remedies for the want of which thousands are dying;

yet these remedies are going out of date because their skillful use requires work that the people do not appreciate. Fresh air, exercise, pure water, and clean, sweet premises are within the reach of all with but little expense; *but drugs are expensive, both in the outlay of means and in the effect produced upon the system.*” T 4, 443

Reading this article, don't you get the idea that the lemon juice therapy for HIV/AIDS sufferers will never even get a fair chance? The Big Drug Cartels already have their plans in place and are making a lot of money with those plans, and no natural remedy will ever upset their bureaucracy, even if that remedy could save millions of lives and much suffering.

Edited by Jerry Eaton



GOD WILL PROVIDE



Becoming an Adventist minister in the mid-nineteenth century was a serious and difficult thing. The church gave him no regular income. Instead he had to support himself by farming or working at some trade. The time he had left over from working he devoted to the ministry. A few, including the Whites, did spend their whole time as travelling evangelists. But the Adventists had no regular church organization and no system of paying those serving as minister-evangelists or editors and writers. They had to depend on themselves and the occasional gift of farm produce. A few more wealthy Adventists donated some money, but such cases were rare.

Not until 1859 did the Adventists begin any kind of systematic offerings for the support of the clergy. For a number of years ministers received such 'pay' as a bushel of wheat, a sack of potatoes, a bushel of turnips, and, at times some cash from a believer. Entering the ministry was a risky venture for a man with a family, especially if he desires to spend his full time at it. For a time James White had to mow hay and work on the railroad to feed his family.

When John Norton Loughborough began to believe that God wanted him to join the Seventh-day Adventist ministry, he faced an important decision. Somewhat younger than Mrs. White, he sensed a little of her disappointment when Christ did not come in 1844. Afterwards he served for three years as a lay preacher among the non-Sabbath keeping Adventists. In 1852, at twenty years of age, he accepted the Sabbath doctrine and felt a desire to return to the ministry. Yet he hesitated. He wanted to save enough money to support his wife.

Before his acceptance of Seventh-day Adventism he had successfully sold sash locks for windows. After joining the church, it seemed that no matter how hard he tried; he could not make his business succeed. Although builders admitted they needed locks in their construction, they would not buy any from him. Frequently the sales

from a five-day week did not produce enough profit to pay for his transportation and hotel bills. He had once managed to save thirty-five dollars, but his continuing expenses ate that up, and he could no longer afford to leave Rochester, New York, on sales trips. Things began to look desperate for him. As his income vanished, the feeling that he should enter the ministry grew. Yet with scarcely any money on hand, he knew that he and his wife could not live on an Adventist minister's tiny and extremely uncertain income.

By the middle of December 1852, his savings had dwindled to a three-cent coin. As he attended the next Sabbath meeting held in the White home on Mount Hope Avenue, it seemed that a cloud hung over everyone present. Someone suggested that prayer would remove the strange feeling. During the prayer Mrs. White went into vision. Coming out she explained that the reason such a depression hung over the meeting was that Loughborough was resisting the conviction of duty. God gave Mrs. White the vision so that she could make a special plea to John.

"He is resisting the conviction of duty," she said. "God wants him to devote himself completely to preaching."

Going home after the meeting, John began to do some serious thinking. In prayer he wrestled with the problem. The problems

of supporting himself as a minister loomed before him, but the danger of resisting God's will for his life appeared even more serious. The conflict raged within his mind. Finally he made a decision. He would go preach, confident that God would open the way. His tension relaxed, and peace filled his mind.

Monday morning his wife came to ask him for some shopping money, not knowing he had only three cents left. "John," she asked, "can you let me have some money? We're out of matches, and I also need some thread from town."



John Norton Loughborough 1832-1924

Reaching into his pocket for the tiny silver coin, he handed it to her, explaining, "Here is a three-cent piece. It's all I have. Get a penny's worth of matches, a skein of thread, and bring me back the other cent. I want to have a little money in my pocket." He paused a moment. "You know, Mary, I can't seem to make my business succeed no matter how hard I try. I don't quite

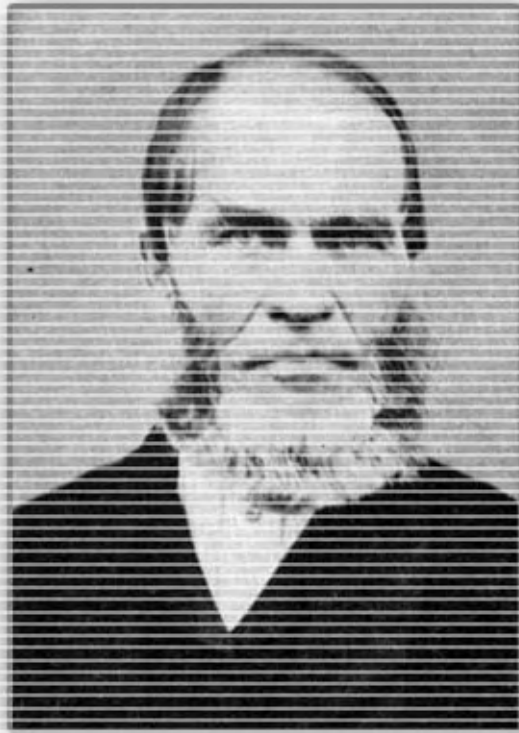
understand it."

Bursting into tears at the sudden thought of their poverty, his wife sobbed, "John, what are we going to do?"

"I am going to return to preaching."

"But if you do, how will we live?"

"I don't know, but God does. As soon as I



Hiram Edson

made my decision to rejoin the ministry, I felt an assurance that God would take care of us.”

Not sharing his faith, Mary ran into the bedroom and threw herself down on the bed to cry for an hour. Unable to cry anymore, she washed her face and walked to the village. John sighed as he watched her leave, then returned to his study of the message he would be preaching to others. A little later someone knocked on the door.

“Are you John Loughborough – the lock salesman?” the stranger asked when John went to the door.

John nodded.

“I’m from Middleport, about sixty kilometres up the Erie Canal.”

Loughborough invited the man inside.

“My health has been rather poor lately,” the man explained after they had exchanged greetings, “and I am going to Ohio for a better climate. I want to take along some kind of business to meet expenses as I travel and find a

new home. Someone suggested that I try selling locks, and Thomas Garbutt recommended I contact you to get some of Mr. Arnold’s patent sash locks. Eighty dollars’ worth would keep me going for awhile. Pick me out an assortment, and I’ll come tomorrow to pick them up and pay for them.”

The lock factory was one kilometre away and Loughborough earned a commission of twenty-six dollars for making that one kilometre walk. This money had at least a hundred times the purchasing power it would have today.

Two hours after the customer left, Mary returned from her shopping and found her husband in a cheerful mood. Somewhat upset at his behaviour, she asked why he seemed so happy. He told her about his sale to a man who had travelled almost sixty kilometres to buy some locks, and instead of going one more kilometre to the factory, had stopped at the Loughborough home. Again Mary went to the bedroom to cry, but this time she cried with different emotions.

With the profit from the sale, John bought firewood, flour, and other supplies his wife needed.

The next Sabbath the Adventist believers in western New York held a general reli-

gious meeting. Again Mrs. White received a vision. She was shown that Loughborough was correct in giving himself to the work of the ministry.

That night Hiram Edson, an early Adventist leader and one of the first interpreters of the sanctuary doctrine, arrived in Rochester on the nine o’clock evening train. He had not planned to attend the general meeting in Rochester, some sixty kilometres from his home. But, while praying during family worship, he had the strong impression that he should go to the city, that someone needed him there. Not able to throw the thought off, he went to the barn and prayed. The voice telling him to go to Rochester grew stronger and more persistent.

Catching the first train west after the Sabbath ended, he arrived after the Adventists’ evening meeting. He told James White about the strong urge he had felt to come to Rochester. “What do you want of me here?” he inquired.

“Get old Charlie [the White’s horse],” James White replied, “and the carriage, and take Loughborough out on a six-week preaching circuit in south-western New York and Pennsylvania.”

John Loughborough continued his preaching career for over 75 years. He served as an administrator and as the denominations first historian. He also helped establish tithing among Adventists.

Loughborough accomplished much for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but without Mrs. White’s influence he might never have become a minister.



Church Outings: Ontario, Canada

The youth outing that had been planned for Sunday, August 17 was moved to Sunday, August 24 because of the blackout that affected certain states in the U.S. and part of Canada.

On Sunday morning a bus was taken from Toronto by the youth to Awenda Provincial Park, a really nice place on the tip of Georgian Bay. The trip was approximately two hours long.

There were a couple of visitor youth, friends of some of the brethren who also came along. It was nice to have them with us and have them interact with the other youth.

Not long after reaching the park, some of the children and youth went swimming, since the water wasn't too cold they were able to spend a nice time in the water.

After swimming there was lunch. The bus driver was invited to eat too. She helped herself, and took a little bit of everything. She really enjoyed the vegetarian meal and even asked people for the recipes saying that if she hadn't been told it was vegetarian she wouldn't have known.

Later on in the afternoon, the children, youth and even some adults played a game of volleyball.

There were also some other games that take a bit of skill like the egg relay and "on the river on the bank." The children were having so much fun that some of the people on the beach chose to join them.

As the day came to a close, they boarded the bus and after a prayer began the road home again.

On August 31, there was another outing to Rockwood, a beautiful scenic area, where the members and children were able to spend a nice time in nature amongst the trees. Two hammocks were set up and the children really enjoyed swinging on them.

Some people took a nature walk through the surrounding woody area, while others went canoeing and some played a water balloon catch game before going swimming.

In the evening the children played with a skipping rope and had fun taking turns.

It is wonderful to go to church every Sabbath and spend the day with our heavenly Father, but it is also "the privilege and duty of Christians to refresh their spirits and invigorate their bodies by innocent recreation, with the purpose of using their physical and mental powers to the glory of God." MYP 364

Spending the day in nature and recreation was a great blessing for our minds and bodies.

Amen





*Br. Kalengkongan &
Hens Karinda & Wife
visit sabbath school
on Isnland*

*Br. Keni, Kalengkongan,
Hens Karinda &
90 year old Br. Lalelung
on a missinary trip.*



*Jessica Rattu is
baptized by
Br. Karinda
in Jakarta*