

The Reformation Messenger



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

*"And now, Israel, what doth the
LORD thy God require of thee, but to
fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all
His ways, and to love Him, and to
serve the LORD thy God with all thy
heart and with all thy soul,
To keep the commandments of the
LORD, and His statutes, which I
command thee this day for thy good?
Behold, the heaven and the heaven of
heavens is the LORD's thy God, the
earth also, with all that therein is.*

Deuteronomy 10: 12-14



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 This Issue

<i>HOW TO PREPARE TO RECEIVE...</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>"I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS"</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>PARADISE LOST</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL...</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>TRUE BEAUTY!</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>AUSTRALIAN FIELD CONFERENCE</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>THE TWELVE TRIBES: JOSEPH</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>GIVE & IT SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOU</i>	<i>25</i>

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HOW TO PREPARE TO RECEIVE THE LATTER RAIN AS WE NEAR CHRIST'S COMING

REV. 18:1

This prophecy of Revelation 18 will soon be fulfilled. This glory represents the coming latter rain... the spirit of the Lord. As the preaching of the gospel opened under the power of the Holy Spirit, so will it close. Hence, there are two critical periods in the life of the Christian.

The latter rain of God's power will be much greater than the early rain the apostles received. But, there are certain conditions to be fulfilled first. As God's people today, we must get ready for the latter rain, even to a greater degree.

How do we prepare, therefore, to receive God's last manifestation of His power?

Here's the six steps given to God's last-day church, God's last generation of believers.

1. GROW

How? Under the early rain. The early, or former rain came to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. They preached with power in all the Roman empire. Each person who accepts Jesus Christ as His Saviour today receives the early rain in the spiritual experience of baptism... it must be a spiritual experience or encounter. Have you experienced it, yet?

In Palestine, the early rain moistened the soil for plowing, after four months of no rain; the dry season. The soil was moistened, therefore, for plowing and

seeding as well; all this to let it grow. In the same way, receiving the early rain lets us grow and develop spiritually. But, a planted seed needs water. It's true in our spiritual lives, too. If the Holy Spirit plants and waters the gospel seed, the seed will grow. But, if there's no water the gospel seed dies!

The Holy Spirit puts us on the Christian path. Peter on the day of Pentecost said, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and you will receive the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit helps us grow spiritually, but it needed the Holy Spirit's power every day. Sister E.G. White said it this way, "We need the blessings received under the former rain all the way to the end." She continued, "By prayer and faith we are to seek more of the Spirit." (T.M. pp. 507-508).

It's all very clear. That the latter rain is the final step in the Christian's spiritual growth, just as the importance of the last showers of Palestine's rainy season bring the crops to harvest. If, however, there's no daily growth in preparing for the latter rain, the Christian will not be ready when it falls. No rain, no harvest!

For this reason we are to pray daily and often for a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit as we mature under the early rain.

God, in His wisdom has warned us, however. "We can be sure when the Holy Spirit is poured out, those how did not receive and appreciate the early rain will not see or understand the value of the latter rain." (Mans. Release, Vol. 1, p. 180). Did you receive the early rain? Did you appreciate it? What's it doing for you, now? Being where you are? Reading this? Sharing it? Has it changed your life?

2. SEEK

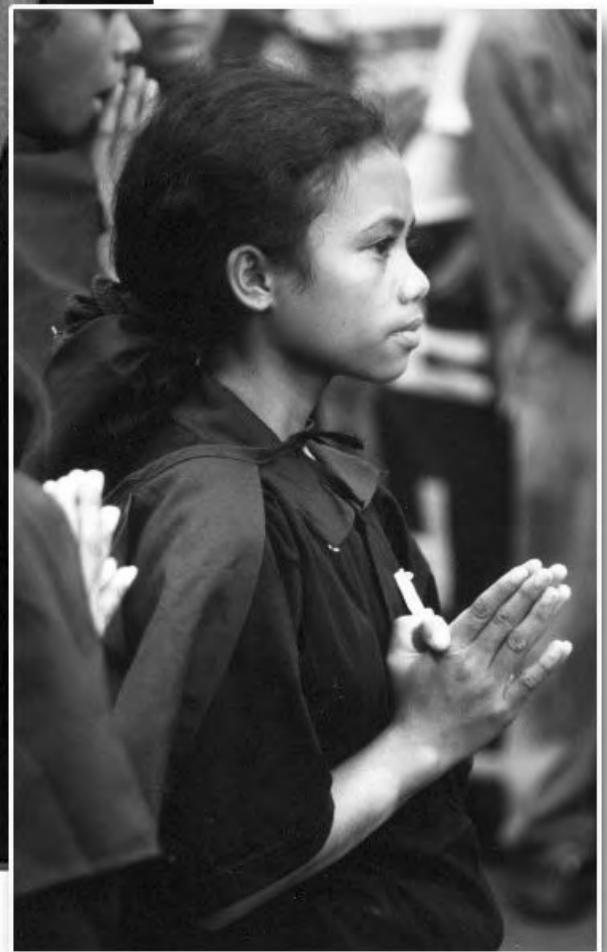
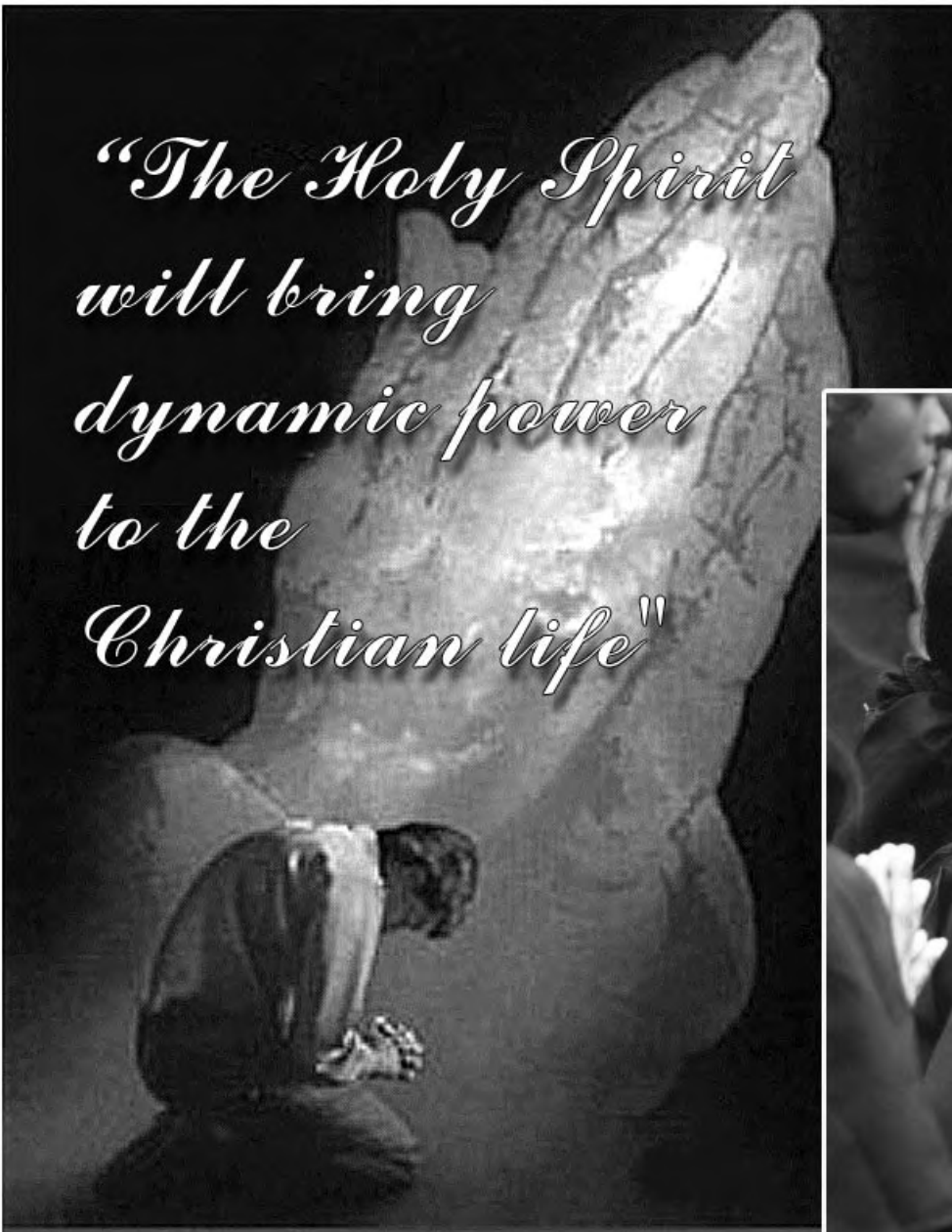
For what? For the Spirit now. What's the greatest danger, we as God's people are facing today? Procrastination! Yes, the latter rain's coming whether you believe it or not, like it or not... it is coming! Yes, we have the promises, but we tend to think it will come in the distant future. Remember, and I can't stress this enough... the falling of the latter rain is final. It's the last step in the Christian's personal spiritual growth. Thinking, only, that it will come in the future delays our preparing for it. Sis. E.G. White presses us with the urgency of getting ready today! She says, "The falling of the Holy Spirit on the church is looked forward as future, but it's the privilege of

the church to have it... now! Think about it for a moment! You can have it now! Today! How? Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to give it." (Ev. 701) The urgency she felt

will test us, to see if we can live without dishonouring him." (SM 3, p. 426-7).

What will happen? We will be sifted. It's not pleasant at times, but it is for our

apostles had is a model for us, if followed will prepare us for the latter rain. Sis. E. G. White sends us back to their experience to see what God requires of us. "It was by confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest



to prepare now is in the three commands... seek, pray, believe!

3. **STAND FIRM**

When? When tested! "The Holy Spirit will bring dynamic power to the Christian life (like the Apostles). They witnessed for Jesus in spite of the threats of beatings and death. God worked miracles, in spite of this, through them. But, we can abuse such power. How? By self-glorification. So, God first wants to see evidence that we will not misuse it. Before giving us the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain), God

own good. What did Jesus say to the Laodiceans? "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten." (Rev. 3:19). What must we do then? Discipline ourselves to look upon God's chastisements and sifting as preparation steps. Preparation steps for what? For being trusted with the power that he will give His church in the latter rain experience. And "who loves to have us trust him." (BC, 7A, p. 984).

4. **IMITATE**

What? The apostles. The experience the

prayer, and consecration of themselves to God, is how they prepared for the falling of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater amount must be done now." (TM 507).

The ten day period between the ascension of Jesus and the Day of Pentecost was a time of intense preparation. Luke says, "They all continued in one accord in earnest prayer and supplication, with



by-day under the early rain, we won't be ready for the latter rain. We won't have time to "catch up" to the point where God can trust us with the latter rain power. God's telling us, then, what must be done now, so we won't be left behind! Are you listening?

Jesus Christ emphasized the importance and urgency of preparing for the gift of the latter rain, by saying, "Ask, and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you." (Luke 11: 9-13). With this hope and promise from Jesus Christ, we can press on to the final

“Here’s another angel come down from heaven having great power, and the earth is flooded with his glory”

women and Mary, mother of Jesus Christ and His brothers.” (Acts 1:14). Sis. E. G. White says, they prayed often, humbled their hearts in true repentance, and deeply desired to be like Jesus in character, put away all differences, jealousy, desires for supremacy, and met with love and fellowship, prayed for wisdom to bring souls to Jesus and for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Here is a model; for one or a whole church can follow.

5. WORK

At what? At fulfilling the conditions to receive the latter rain. Paul told the Phillipians, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Phil. 2:12). All believers have a part, a work to do to fulfill the conditions to receive the latter rain, the promised power, no matter how menial, or impossible it may seem to you.

“Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than earthly parents to give good gifts to their children.”

“So, what is our work? By confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, we can fulfill the conditions. God's promised to bless us.” (SM 121). What could be clearer? Confession, humiliation and repentance. This brought us to Christ, didn't it? Remember? We found His grace and righteousness.

This experience is to continue and deepen

day-by-day, as we grow in the early rain experience. Paul says, “As you have so received Christ, walk in Him.” (Col. 2:6). So, we now add prayer, for the promised gift of the latter rain.

Zechariah teaches us, “Ask the Lord for rain in the time of rain.” (Zech. 10:1)... asking for the latter rain is to be as strong as asking for life itself!

6. GET READY

When? Right now! Now, because the latter rain is coming suddenly! It will be quick. His people won't have time to prepare. It's either get ready now... or, be left behind! There will be confusing cries, “Lo, here is Christ, lo, there is Christ”. The early Adventist pioneers experience with the Midnight Cry showed us the urgency in which the latter rain is coming, saying “I saw the latter rain coming suddenly as the midnight cry, and with ten times the power.” (S & M Collect. 1.4) It came suddenly and unexpectedly at a meeting in Oct. 1844, when Sam Snow explained the cleansing of the sanctuary. Sis. E. G. White described the end of God's work on earth. “The work will be short and unexpected; thousands will be converted to the truth in one day. (Amos 9:130. It will be so rapid, it will surprise the church. (EGW 1888 Mater., p. 754, 755).

When we realize the latter rain will come suddenly and unexpectedly, it emphasizes the importance that unless we grow day-

step in our early rain growth.

Jesus Christ will be here soon, without a doubt. “As God's children approach the time of Jacob's trouble, they will grow up into Christ and receive the latter rain. Men, women, and children will proclaim the 3rd angel's message gospel, with power. It's this latter rain that strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. “With the preaching of the gospel, the whole world will be filled with the glory of God.” (Ltr, 151-1847). The faces of God's children will shine with the glory of light. (BC 7A, p. 984).

The time of testing is here now. How many times have we told one another, “When we see the formation of the image of the beast, and a movement to enforce Sunday, we'll surely know the end is upon us. Protestants and Catholics are now partners.”

By these and other signs, God is calling His people to renew their covenant relationship with Him. Our only safety is in being ready for the heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and burning.

We are standing on the borders of the Promised Land—Let us rise up and go in!

AMEN

**John Theodorou
USA**

"I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS"

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. In order to communicate with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life. Having done so, and having righted all known wrongs, we may believe that our God will answer our petitions.

Do not fear to trust Him, even though you do not see the immediate answer to your prayers. Rely upon His sure promise, "Ask, and it shall be given to you." He knows your desires. He holds your future in His hands and therefore He will give to the old and to the young what suits them the best. God will always have a way when there seems to be, in our human reasoning,

"George," the woman called. He came running. He smiled and immediately he picked up Jane's luggage and began to carry them away in a hurry, before even bargaining with her for the service. He did seem to be a good man though.

Jane followed him trusting this seemingly honest man. She had no other option at this point in time. George now began to walk even faster and nearly disappeared rounding the narrow corridors of the town. Jane thought that this was perhaps a shortcut to the new bus (matatu) station.

When she caught up to him she asked, "George, how far is the new station?"

"A few metres", he replied.

In this place, dead bodies stripped of their garments were often a common sight. She felt weak but she recalled into her mind the word of God that "although there may be a tainted, corrupted atmosphere around us, we need not breathe its miasma, but may live in the pure air of heaven". SC 99.

She closed every door to impure imaginations and unholy thoughts by lifting her soul into the presence of God through sincere prayer. She constantly talked to God now and she thought of how prayers can move mountains. We all know that the enemy within should be feared more than the enemy without. Our imaginations can become the enemies we need to fear the

"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." John 16:23

no way out. Have you ever experienced this?

One night, there seemed to be no way for Jane to escape from a small "prison" that she found herself in. It was about 9:00 p.m when she wrestled with an energetic young man in his house. How did she end up in this situation?

On her way home from college she arrived at 7:00 p.m. to the second last town of Kitale. She was supposed to board another vehicle, a 'matatu', to take her to her home village 30 kilometres away. Her late arrival was due to a mechanical breakdown of the bus from the capital city of Kenya, Nairobi. At Kitale she learned that the matatu station had recently moved to a new location, and therefore she sought assistance to this new station since she had no idea where it was.

In the town there were only a few vehicles and the ordinary noise of the day had died down. A woman, who was preoccupied by her business of roasting fish in her small shop, seemed sympathetic toward Jane in her predicament but declined to direct her to the new station. She, however, called a robust young man to escort her.

Jane shouted, "Provided I arrive safely."

George laughed and added, "Don't worry, we are quite safe even though this place is unfriendly especially to strangers at this time of the night." Sounds of crickets had long died down. Far behind,

Jane could see the towers of the town and ahead was totally dark. Now they were in the slums, passing staggering couples who had had too much alcohol to drink. They instilled her with terrible fear. In the air, wafted the smell of cigarettes.

She would occasionally slip on the slippery muddy pathway. It was clear to her that it would be impossible for her to go back on her own in this maze of pathways they had just come through in the dark, and even worse, if she left the man now and tried, how would she get her luggage back? She was a prey in the hands of a cruel predator. She was under the control of the wrong master, this "Good Samaritan". It was too late at night (9:00 p.m.) to call for help. Who would help her in this forest full of carnivores? A forest full of murderers and immoral people?

most. However, Jane's internal enemies were defeated. She took control of her thoughts and emotions, by constant prayer to God.

At last she found herself in a mud hut with George. The tin lamp was lit. In the same room Jane could see a bed and three stools. In one corner were two thick knotty sticks and a slasher. On the floor, though the room was dimly lit, she could see several cigarette butts.

She lamented as to how she could find herself in such a place. Quietly she said, "Father, come to my rescue. You know under what circumstances I have found myself ... Father, I'm in the Devil's jaws, snatch me out of the Devil's dirty, stinking mouth before it snaps to crash me." She recalled the promise of Jesus in John 6: 24, "hitherto have ye asked nothing in my Name; ask, and ye shall receive; that your joy may be full."

This is a true story and is a common occurrence in our country. From Jane's experience we see how some faithful ladies get into trouble as opportunists take advantage over these victims of circumstances.

As a result many are defiled, transmitted with HIV/AIDS, or they get into a forced marriage or may give birth to unwanted children in a society perpetuating this evil generation.

“Jane, I understand you are hungry and tired as well; you are welcome here. I tell you Jane, that you are more at home here than I am; everything is yours.” George said these words while seated on his bed, his arms folded across his heavy chest. “Everything is yours,” said Satan, “If you just fall down and worship me”. Matt. 4:9. Many girls, once they are shown all the glory of such boys or men will fall down and remain sold under the slavery of the devil. This was not to be with Jane. She remained calm, happy and confident that the Almighty would do all to save her although she didn’t know how, but she was sure of His promise. She had learned that God has a way out when there seems to be humanly no escape. “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning, fiery furnace and He will deliver us out of thine hand.” Dan. 3:17.

The lady prayed, confessing all her sins and promising to be faithful in all her life. She prayed for the man as well. At this point the man suddenly rose and welcomed her to one side of the bed! She kept silent. Even though he insisted and begged, she gave him only eyes nothing more. She couldn’t completely hide her human fear although she tried to suppress it.

George lowered his head as he stretched out his hand to welcome her. She suddenly jumped into one of the corners. He followed her there. The girl now tried to resist. She cried, “George, leave me alone, please withdraw from me.” Instantly she again cried, “Brother, George... Brother George, I forgive you ... let the Almighty also forgive you.” On hearing these words, “Brother, I forgive,” he withdrew. Such words were like thorns in his breast, pricking his heart. He was ashamed and his facial expression marked with doubt as he stammered like a crazy man, fighting this innocent sister. Then he fell into his bed dumb and slept peacefully.

He was so weary that he did not even remove his shoes or clothes. He threw

himself into the bed with his clothes still on and he snuffed out the tin-lamp. Jane prayed again and again in the corner quietly. “Lord, let him sleep soundly and forget about me. Let him not wake up till dawn.” She realized that to make noise was to awaken a gang of similar men to come for her like the men who flocked to Lot’s door in Sodom.

She remained stuck in that corner, petrified like the pillar of salt, not daring to make any movement. The night hours moved slowly, suddenly the man sat up, grabbed a matchstick, struck it and at a glance realized that it was 5:00 a.m. and he was late to work. All at once he stooped, made long strides as if to attack her but he hurriedly went out of the room, leaving the door wide open.

From far away, Jane
heard a cock
c r o w i n g ;
s l o w l y
s h e

picked up her suitcase and made her way out of the slums. She thanked God for His protection the past night. How I wish to urge all who will read this story to believe that the prayer of faith has infinite power to save. However, we should be careful not to place ourselves in the way of temptation.

Our heavenly Father said that we have never asked Him what we want; instead we mistrust Him and trust our own selves and when things don’t work out we blame Him or end up in a more complicated condition than we were in the first place. We end up in a maze of ways that we cannot get out.

It’s my prayer that we learn to pray and trust in Him fully forever and ever. **Amen.**

By Charles Mogunde.

Kenya.





When God created man he was perfect physically and morally. He was like God, both in appearance and in character.

“So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” Genesis 1:27.

Garden of Eden

“And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” Genesis 2:8,9

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:” Genesis 2:15, 16

Eden, Heaven in Miniature

“Adam had themes for contemplation in the works of God in Eden, which was heaven in miniature. God did not form man merely to contemplate His glorious works; therefore, He gave him hands for labor, as well as a mind and heart for contemplation. If the happiness of man consisted in doing nothing, the Creator would not have given Adam his appointed work. Man was to find happiness in labor, as well as in meditation.” 1BC 1082

Someone to Share

“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” Gen. 2:18.

“After the creation of Adam every living creature was brought before him to receive its name; he saw that to each had been given a companion, but among them ‘there was not found an help meet for him.’ Among all the creatures that God had made on the earth, there was not one equal to man. And God said, ‘It is not good

that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.’ Man was not made to dwell in solitude; he was to be a social being. Without companionship the beautiful scenes and delightful employments of Eden would have failed to yield perfect happiness. Even communion with angels could not have satisfied his desire for sympathy and companionship. There was none of the same nature to love and to be loved.

“God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided ‘an help meet for him’--a



helper corresponding to him--one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy. Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self, showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation. ‘For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it.’ Ephesians 5:29. ‘Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one.’

“God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. ‘Marriage is honorable’ (Hebrews 13:4); it was one of the first gifts of God to man, and it is one of the two institutions that, after the Fall,

Adam brought with him beyond the gates of Paradise. When the divine principles are recognized and obeyed in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man’s social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature.

“This sinless pair wore no artificial garments. They were clothed with a covering of light and glory, such as the angels wear.” SR 21

God’s Purpose for Man

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Genesis 1:28.

“Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all [things] under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, [and whatsoever] passeth through the paths of the seas.” Psalm 8:6-8

Man was to be in control of the earth as God’s representative, but his tenure was conditioned upon obedience and loyalty. Should he sin, he would thereby forfeit his position as ruler and even life itself.

War in Heaven

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is

cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” Rev. 12: 7-10, 12

“Opposition to the law of God had its beginning in the courts of heaven, with Lucifer, the covering cherub. Satan determined to be first in the councils of heaven, and equal with God. He began his work of rebellion with the angels under his command, seeking to diffuse among them the spirit of discontent. And he worked in so deceptive a way that many of the angels were won to his allegiance before his purposes were fully known. Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character, nor see to what his work was leading. When Satan had succeeded in winning



many angels to his side, he took his cause to God, representing that it was the desire of the angels that he occupy the position that Christ held.

“The evil continued to work until the spirit of disaffection ripened into active revolt. Then there was war in heaven, and Satan, with all who sympathized with him, was cast out. Satan had warred for the mastery in heaven, and had lost the battle. God could no longer trust him with honor and supremacy, and these, with the part he had taken in the government of heaven, were taken from him.” 7BC 973

Satan’s Refusal to Obey Christ

“He [Satan] declares he cannot submit to be under Christ’s command, that God’s commands alone will he obey. Good angels weep to hear the words of Satan, and to see how he despises to follow the direction of Christ, their exalted and loving Commander.

“The Father decides the case of Satan, and declares that he must be turned out of heaven for his daring rebellion, and that all those who united with him in his rebellion should be turned out with him. Then there was war in heaven. Christ and His angels fought against Satan and his angels, for they were determined to remain in heaven with all their rebellion. But they prevailed not. Christ and loyal angels triumphed, and drove Satan and his rebel sympathizers from heaven.” 7BC 973

Rebellion Transferred to this World

“Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” Rev. 12:12

“Cast out of heaven, Satan set up his kingdom in this world, and ever since, he has been untiringly striving to seduce human beings from their allegiance to God. He uses the same power that he used in heaven--the influence of mind on mind. Men become tempters of their fellow men. The strong, corrupting sentiments of Satan are cherished, and they exert a masterly, compelling power. Under the influence of these sentiments, men bind up with one another in confederacies.” 7BC 973

“All the heavenly host acknowledged and adored the God of justice. Not a taint of rebellion was left in heaven. All was again peaceful and harmonious as before.” SR 19

Satan Viewed His Work

“Satan stood in amazement at his new condition. His happiness was gone. He looked upon the angels who, with him, were once so happy, but who had been expelled from heaven with him. Before their fall not a shade of discontent had marred their perfect bliss. Now all seemed changed. Countenances which had reflected the image of their Maker were gloomy and despairing. Strife, discord, and bitter recrimination were among them. Previous to their rebellion these things had been unknown in heaven. Satan now beheld the terrible results of his rebellion. He shuddered, and feared to face the future and to contemplate the end of these things.” SR 23/24

“Satan trembled as he viewed his work. He was alone in meditation upon the past, the present, and his future plans. His mighty frame shook as with a tempest. An angel from heaven was passing. He called him and entreated an interview with Christ. This was granted him. He then related to the Son of God that he repented of his rebellion and wished again the favor of God. He was willing to take the place God had previously assigned him, and be under His wise command. Christ wept at Satan’s woe but told him, as the mind of God, that he could never be received into heaven. Heaven must not be placed in jeopardy. All heaven would be marred should he be received back, for sin and rebellion originated with him. The seeds of rebellion were still within him. He had, in his rebellion, no occasion for his course, and he had hopelessly ruined not only himself but the host of angels also, who would then have been happy in heaven had he remained steadfast. The law of God could condemn but could not pardon.” SR 26

“Our God is a God of mercy. With long-sufferance and tender compassion He deals with the transgressors of His law... but there is a point beyond which divine patience is exhausted, and the judgments of God are sure to follow. The Lord bears long with men, and with cities, mercifully giving warnings to save them from divine wrath; but a time will come when pleadings for mercy will no longer be heard.” PK 275, 176.

Angels Warned Adam

“God assembled the angelic host to take measures to avert the threatened evil. It was decided in heaven’s council for angels to visit Eden and warn Adam that he was in danger from the foe. Two angels sped on their way to visit our first parents. The holy pair received them with joyful innocence, expressing their grateful thanks to their Creator for thus surrounding them with such a profusion of His bounty. Everything lovely and attractive was theirs to enjoy, and everything seemed wisely adapted to their wants; and that which they prized above all other blessings, was the society of the Son of God and the heavenly angels, for they had much to relate to them at every visit, of their new discoveries of the beauties of nature in their lovely Eden home, and they had many questions to ask relative to many things which they could but indistinctly comprehend.” SR 29

“The angels graciously and lovingly gave them the information they desired. They also gave them the sad history of Satan’s rebellion and fall. They then distinctly informed them that the tree of knowledge was placed in the garden to be a pledge of their obedience and love to God; that the high and happy estate of the holy angels was to be retained upon condition of obedience; that they were similarly situated; that they could obey the law of God and be inexpressibly happy, or disobey and lose their high estate and be plunged into hopeless despair.” SR 29

“They told Adam and Eve that God would not compel them to obey--that He had not removed from them power to go contrary to His will; that they were moral agents, free to obey or disobey. There was but one prohibition that God had seen fit to lay upon them as yet. If they should transgress the will of God they would surely die. They told Adam and Eve that the most exalted angel, next in order to Christ, refused obedience to the law of God which He had ordained to govern heavenly beings; that this rebellion had caused war in heaven, which resulted in the rebellious being expelled there from, and every angel was driven out of heaven who had united with him in questioning the authority of the great Jehovah; and that this fallen foe was now an enemy to all that concerned the interest of God and His dear Son.” SR 30

“They told them that Satan purposed to do them harm, and it was necessary for them to be guarded, for they might come in contact with the fallen foe; but he could not harm them while they yielded obedience to God’s command.” SR30

“The angels cautioned Eve not to separate from her husband in her employment, for she might be brought in contact with this fallen foe. If separated from each other they would be in greater danger than if both were together... Adam and Eve assured the angels that they should never transgress the express command of God, for it was their highest pleasure to do His will.” SR 31

A Chance to Choose

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Genesis 2:17.

“Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing... They were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels; but before they could be rendered eternally secure, their loyalty must be tested. At the very beginning of man’s existence a check was placed upon the desire for self-indulgence, the fatal passion that lay at the foundation of Satan’s fall. The tree of knowledge, which stood near the tree of life in the midst of the garden,

was to be a test of the obedience, faith, and love of our parents. While permitted to eat freely of every other tree, they were forbidden to taste of this, on pain of death. They were also to be exposed to the temptations of Satan; but if they endured the trial, they would finally be placed beyond his power, to enjoy perpetual favor with God.” PP 48

“God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automaton. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. Such a course would have been contrary to God’s plan in dealing with the inhabitants of other worlds. It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan’s charge of God’s arbitrary rule.” PP 49

“God made man upright; He gave him noble traits of character, with no bias toward evil. He endowed him with high intellectual powers, and presented before him the strongest possible inducements to be true to his allegiance. Obedience, perfect and perpetual, was the condition of eternal happiness. On this condition he was to have access to the tree of life.” PP 49



“So long as they remained loyal to the divine law, their capacity to know, to enjoy, and to love would continually increase. They would be constantly gaining new treasures of knowledge, discovering fresh springs of happiness, and obtaining clearer and yet clearer conceptions of the immeasurable, unfailing love of God.” PP 51

Deceived

“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:1-5

“Satan assumes the form of a serpent and enters Eden. The serpent was a beautiful creature with wings, and while flying through the air his appearance was bright, resembling burnished gold. He did not go upon the ground but went from place to place through the air and ate fruit like man. Satan entered into the serpent and took his position in the tree of knowledge and commenced leisurely eating of the fruit.

“Eve, unconsciously at first, separated from her husband in her employment. When she became aware of the fact she felt that there might be danger, but again she thought herself secure, even if she did not remain close by the side of her husband. She had wisdom and strength to know if evil came, and to meet it. This the angels had cautioned her not to do. Eve found herself gazing with mingled curiosity and admiration upon the fruit of the forbidden tree. She saw it was very lovely, and was reasoning with herself why God had so decidedly prohibited their eating or touching it. Now was Satan’s opportunity. He addressed her as though he was able to divine her thought: ‘Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’... It was Satan that spoke, not the serpent.” SR 31

“She enters into a controversy with the serpent. And he said unto the woman, ‘Yea, hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’ He begins his controversy in the form of a question. Eve answers, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.’ The serpent answers, ‘Ye shall not surely die; for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods knowing good and evil.’” 3SG 40

“Satan represented to the holy pair that they would be gainers by breaking the law of God. Do we not today hear similar reasoning? Many talk of the narrowness of those who obey God’s commandments, while they themselves claim to have broader ideas and to enjoy greater liberty. What is this but an echo of the voice from Eden, ‘In the day ye eat thereof’--transgress the divine requirement--‘ye shall be as gods’? Satan claimed to have received great good by eating of the forbidden fruit, but he did not let it appear that by transgression he had become an outcast from heaven. Though he had found sin to result in infinite loss, he concealed his own misery in order to draw others into the same position.” PP 55

Satan Uses Instruments

“In Eden Satan used the serpent as his instrument. Today he makes use of the members of the human family, striving by means of every species of cunning and deception to hedge up the path of righteousness cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in.” 1BC 1083

Used by Satan

“And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” Genesis 3:6

“Having herself transgressed, she became the agent of Satan in working the ruin of her husband. In a state of strange, unnatural excitement, with her hands filled with the forbidden fruit, she sought his presence, and related all that had occurred.

“An expression of sadness came over the

face of Adam. He appeared astonished and alarmed. To the words of Eve he replied that this must be the foe against whom they had been warned; and by the divine sentence she must die. In answer she urged him to eat, repeating the words of the serpent, that they should not surely die. She reasoned that this must be true, for she felt no evidence of God’s displeasure, but on the contrary realized a delicious, exhilarating influence, thrilling every faculty with new life, such, she imagined, as inspired the heavenly messengers.

“Adam understood that his companion had transgressed the command of God, disregarded the only prohibition laid upon them as a test of their fidelity and love. There was a terrible struggle in his mind. He mourned that he had permitted Eve to wander from his side. But now the deed was done; he must be separated from her whose society had been his joy. How could he have it thus? Adam had enjoyed the companionship of God and of holy angels. He had looked upon the glory of the Creator. He understood the high destiny opened to the human race should they remain faithful to God. Yet all these blessings were lost sight of in the fear of losing that one gift which in his eyes outvalued every other. Love, gratitude, loyalty to the Creator--all were overborne by love to Eve. She was a part of himself, and he could not endure the thought of separation....He resolved to share her fate; if she must die, he would die with her. After all, he reasoned, might not the words of the wise serpent be true? Eve was before him, as beautiful and apparently as innocent as before this act of disobedience. She expressed greater love for him than before. No sign of death appeared in her, and he decided to brave the consequences. He seized the fruit and quickly ate.” PP 55,56

When it is Better Not to Know

“And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly.” Eccl 1:17.

“Adam and Eve both ate of the fruit, and obtained a knowledge which, had they obeyed God, they would never have had--an experience in disobedience and disloyalty to God--the knowledge that they were naked. The garment of innocence, a covering from God, which surrounded them, departed; and they supplied the place of this heavenly garment by sewing together fig-leaves for aprons.

“This is the covering that the transgressors of the law of God have used since the days of Adam and Eve’s disobedience....But the nakedness of the sinner is not covered. All the arguments pieced together by all who have interested themselves in this flimsy work will come to naught.” 1BC 1084

Immediate Result of Adam’s Sin

“Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”
Genesis 3:23, 24

Not only did man forfeit his life through sin, but also his Eden home was lost. Since he was no longer fit to dwell in Eden, God drove him out.

Mighty angels were set as guards to prevent him from returning. His expulsion was complete. Never again could man enter the gates of paradise so long as sin continued to contaminate his life. He now became a vagabond and wanderer in a world that reeled under the weight of God’s awful retribution. His former personal contact with his creator was severed. He was banished from God’s presence.

“The transgression of that law caused a fearful separation between God and man. To Adam in his innocence was granted communion, direct, free, and happy, with his Maker. After his transgression God would communicate to man through Christ and angels.” SR 50

Image of God Lost

Through the fall, man, who had been created in the image of God, had lost that image. Sin had all but obliterated it from his life. He became foul and corrupt. His whole life was ruined and he became an alien to God’s Kingdom. “Strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.” Just as the Ethiopian is powerless to change his skin and the leopard his spots, so the sinner cannot restore righteousness to his depraved soul. Death must be the dire consequence of his sin. So far as his own power was concerned he was beyond hope.” (See Romans 7:24).

“We should beware of treating lightly God’s gracious provisions for our salvation. There are Christians who say, ‘I do not care to be saved unless my companion and children are saved with me.’ They feel that heaven would not be heaven to them without the presence of those who are

so dear. But have those who cherish this feeling a right conception of their own relation to God, in view of His great goodness and mercy toward them? Have they forgotten that they are bound by the strongest ties of love and honor and loyalty to the service of their Creator and Redeemer?

The invitations of mercy are addressed to all; and because our friends reject the Saviour’s pleading love, shall we also turn away?” PP 162

If we would ever remember that God sees and hears all that we do and say, keeping a faithful record of our words and actions, and that one day we must meet it all, we would fear to sin.

Wonderful Assurance

Just before Adam and Even were driven from their paradise home, they were given the wonderful assurance that God, against whom they had rebelled, would send them a Deliverer. This Redeemer would bear the burden of man’s transgression and would destroy the tempter who had led them into sin. See Genesis 3;15.

Dear reader, may this lesson help you and me to see your helpless condition and turn to God while there is still time.” AMEN

**Golden Kayawa
Hingabantu
Zambia**

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL...

Isaiah 29:6 speaks about the potter and how he can do what he wants with the clay. In the dictionary mercy is defined as : “compassionate rather than severe behaviour towards someone in one’s power.” The POTTER IS = THE LORD + The Clay = HUMAN BEINGS.

God is the source of all mercy, His name is merciful and gracious. This is what he told Moses . He does not ask if we are worthy of His love, but pours upon us the riches of love to makes us worthy.

The disciples at the Lord’s supper when their feet were to be washed were merciless and unforgiving toward each other. Jesus was the only Human being fit to teach us mercy i.e. “compassion and forgiveness”.

Are we His disciples not the same sometimes forgetting about mercy; unforgiving and resentful toward each other? Do we not sometimes participate in the footwashing ceremony in a symbolic manner (in the letter but not in the spirit)?

The footwashing symbolizes mercy and compassion toward each other. If someone (person or group) is doing wrong to us, do we just ignore him or her? Do we endeavour to get even closer to them, as we see and experience their weakness and flaws of character? Should we not have compassion on them and show them mercy?

This is what Jesus did all His earthly life. He was constantly seeing and interacting with human beings in their weakness and inefficiencies, it was loathsome to His holy soul for 33 years, but He did not stay away from us. So why should we stay away from our brethren because we may think they are so terrible in character?

This type of merciless attitude Christ spoke against when He said to His disciples “you do not know what spirit you are of”. He is speaking to us, he wants to pronounce on us the blessing of the merciful: that we each can obtain mercy.

In the miserable and offensive behaviour sometimes of our brethren, to the tempted, the wretched victims of want and sin, the Christian does not ask, are they worthy? But, how can I benefit them? We are to see in the most wretched, the most debased, souls for whom Christ died to save and for whom God has given to His children, the ministry of reconciliation (i.e. to bring us back again into love and friendship).

It is true that our hearts are by nature cold, dark unloving and hard; whenever one manifests a spirit of mercy and forgiveness, we do it not of ourselves but through the influence of the Divine Spirit moving upon our hearts.

To truly be merciful we have to be “partakers of divine nature”, “In the merciful, the compassionate love of God finds expression...” It is said: “all whose hearts are in sympathy with the loving heart of Christ will seek to reclaim, not to condemn”. The merciful are those who also manifest compassion to the poor, those who give kind words, looks of sympathy that help lift many burdens from the weary shoulders of others. Let us live the spirit of the footwashing ceremony and not desire just the symbol (the letter only). Proverbs 11:25 reads: “He that watereth shall be watered also himself.”

It says in the Testimonies, “there is a sweet peace for the compassionate spirit and blessed satisfaction in the life of forgetful service for the good of others. The Holy Spirit that abides in the soul and is manifested in the life will soften hard hearts and awaken sympathy and tenderness...we will reap what we sow.” When we stand and see others failing we will have compassion on them and help them. We will not leave them alone to themselves and keep away from them because they are not friendly.

We must be like our Master (divine and human), we must be merciful or else we will lose our salvation. We will not obtain mercy...we will not be called blessed in the end.

Blessed are the merciful in character (i.e. the forgiving and the compassionate), for they shall obtain mercy (in this life and forever). **Amen**

*Michael Newby,
Toronto, Canada*



TRUE BEAUTY!

People love to see the beautiful things that artists have created. They love to see the flower gardens, trees and all the beauty of the nature. They admire the colourful sunset and the starry sky. Lakes and rivers have an attraction to the people. Often they travel long distances to the beauty of the mighty Sequoia trees in California, to Niagara Falls or the Grand Canyon. People spend millions of dollars in cosmetics to make themselves more attractive. Meanwhile the true beauty is not sought after, if not completely ignored, which is a Christlike character.

“Not all the beauty of art can bear comparison with the beauty of temper and character to be revealed in those who are Christ’s representatives. It is the atmosphere of grace which surrounds the soul of the believer, the Holy Spirit working upon mind and heart, that makes him a savor of life unto life, and enables God to bless His work.” COL 298.

Who can see beauty in the words of John the Baptist, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30. People

admire the proud rulers, and the talented artists but who thinks that a humble, nondescript person can have some greatness or beauty. People think highly of the justice system in the country. They are glad when a criminal is caught and punished according to his crime. But who can see beauty in the words of Jesus, “Neither do I condemn thee.” John 8:11. Few people see beauty in forgiveness. They rather rejoice in revenge and in getting even. To love their enemies is a completely strange idea to most of the people. That is why we have so much terrorism and wars. The court system is way behind in the great number of cases where people accuse one another of their wrong doings. Can we see beauty in Joseph in how he forgave his brothers and helped them after they had hated him so much?

Some of the most beautiful stories are of people who sacrificed their goods and even their lives for others. We have heard stories where a person has offered his life for his friend who was sentenced to death. Jesus said, “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down

his
life
for his
friends.”

John 15:13.

“Covetousness, selfishness, love of money, and love of the world, are all through the ranks of Sabbath keepers. These evils are destroying the spirit of sacrifice among God’s people. Those that 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. And because of this, they call it their own and hoard it up. But, oh, how quick, when the prospering hand of God is removed from them, it is all snatched away in a moment. There must be a sacrificing for God, a denying of self for the truth’s sake.” Test. Vol. 1, p. 140.

Those who are not faithful to God in tithes and offerings are committing the same sin as Achan in the time of Joshua. They are taking to themselves the forbidden thing and they will perish

as surely as did Achan.

The widows two mites that she sacrificed to God is a rebuke to selfish, covetous people who have no spirit of sacrifice. Only few people see the beauty in it and even fewer people are willing to practice it.

Who can see beauty in the words of Jesus, when he said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

"Amid the agonizing sufferings of the Son of God, blind and deluded men alone remain unfeeling. The chief priests and elders revile God's dear Son while in His expiring agonies. Yet inanimate nature groans in sympathy with her bleeding, dying Author. The earth trembles. The sun refuses to behold the scene. The heavens gather blackness. Angels have witnessed the scene of suffering until they can look no longer, and hide their faces from the horrid sight. Christ is dying! He is in despair! His Father's approving smile is removed, and angels are not permitted to lighten the gloom of the terrible hour. They can only behold in amazement their loved Commander, the Majesty of heaven, suffering the penalty of man's transgression of the Father's law." Test. Vol. 2, p. 209.

When Apostle Paul understood the mission of Christ, he saw the beauty of it and now his only glory was Christ and Him crucified. The millions of martyrs who had seen the beauty of Christ's sufferings and cruel death, decided to follow His example.

In the view of the beauty of Christ's sacrifice, the beauty what man has created disappears. The beautiful creations of man then appear as vanity and loses their attraction.

"God, who created everything lovely and beautiful that the eye rests upon, is a lover of the beautiful. He shows you how He estimates true beauty. The

ornament of a meek and quiet spirit is in His sight of great price. Shall we not seek earnestly to gain that which God estimates as more valuable than costly dress or pearls or gold? The inward adorning, the grace of meekness, a spirit in harmony with the heavenly angels, will not lessen true dignity of character or make us less lovely here in the world." Test. Vol. 3, p. 376.

When a child who is playing with a toy sees another toy more attractive, will drop the first one and reach for the more beautiful one. We also when we see the true beauty in the life of Christ and in His faithful followers we will turn our eyes away from the

trivial things of this world to the true beauty. In the practical way we will love Bible reading more than watching vanity in the television. We will spend our money as a sacrifice for the saving of the perishing souls rather than in the vanity and in needless ornaments.

This is the same with our time. To get involved in active missionary work has a greater beauty than in wasting time in idleness.

May the Lord help us to have an eye for the true beauty, and turn away from the glitter and tinsel of the things of this world. *AMEN*

Timo Martin, Canada

*"He must
increase,
but
I must
decrease."*





AUSTRALIAN FIELD CONFERENCE

DEC. 31ST, 2003 – JAN. 4TH, 2004

As the year 2003 approached its end, believers from all over Australia gathered for another spiritual feast at the church headquarters outside Sydney. From far and wide they heeded the counsels given through the Spirit of Prophecy, that “The camp meeting is one of the most important agencies of our work. Brethren and sisters, it would be far better for you to let your business suffer than to neglect the opportunity of hearing the message God has for you. Make no excuse that will keep you from gaining every spiritual advantage possible. You need every ray of light.” T6, 31,39.

Before the commencement of the conference a peaceful delegates meeting

peace and happiness, nor hope beyond this earth. It is important that we do not follow the footsteps of the church of Ephesus. They left their first love. If we have lost that first love, we must come to Jesus and find Him as a friend once again. The signs of the times are creeping upon us stealthily and we must be wide awake to clearly discern what is going on in this world. It is time to make an earnest preparation.

During the conference, three people from three widely different areas spoke on the same subject, using some of the same Bible verses and spirit of prophecy quotes. This was a sure sign that the Holy Spirit was working at the camp meeting to awaken God’s people to the importance of this

living and the danger they were in. They were trusting in their works for salvation – which in itself is an impossibility. While we cannot be saved without obedience, that obedience cannot be of ourselves.

God is trying to prepare His people for salvation, however it is sometimes the case that believers do not want to cooperate with God. They wish to find salvation their own way, rather than God’s way. However “our righteousness is as filthy rags.” Isa. 64:6. “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them as dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own

“*PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD*” *Amos 4:12*

was held. The meeting went quickly, and efficiently and true unity and brotherly love were manifested throughout the meeting. Brother Antonino DiFranca, representing the General Conference, conducted the meeting.

The conference was opened on the evening of the 31st of December. This was the final day of the year 2003. We are now one year closer to the coming of the Lord and “it is high time to awake out of sleep;” Romans 13:11. Jesus is coming soon and we must be in earnest preparation today. We cannot delay the preparation for tomorrow may be too late. It is a solemn and serious time in which we live. We must give up all for Jesus. The ways of the world will only disappoint us. They will not give us lasting

message. This is the message for God’s people today. This message is the Christ our Righteousness message. From as early as 1852, messages were given through the Spirit of Prophecy, pointing the Seventh-day Adventist church to the Laodicean message. They were fast fulfilling the condition of lukewarmness spoken about in this message. “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” Rev. 3: 15, 16. These warnings were repeated in the following years and in 1888 a clear and definite message came to God’s people to awaken them. He had been trying to awaken the Advent people to the seriousness of the time in which they were

righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.” Phil. 3:8,9. The nation of Israel failed in understanding the righteousness of Christ. “But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.” Romans 9:31. In order to be saved, our righteousness must, “exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees,” Mat. 5:20 and this is only possible by putting on the robe of Christ’s righteousness.

In 1888 the Lord visited His people and they were not prepared. Are we preparing today? Before we call others to do a preparation, we must make sure we ourselves are prepared. We are to watch

and not sleep as did the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Satan is unwilling that the truth of Righteousness by Faith shall be presented and understood. The reason for this is that if this truth is fully received by the people, his power will be broken. If Satan can throw about the people doubt and unbelief, he can overcome them through temptation. It is Satan's endeavour to obliterate from the mind that it is necessary to depend upon the righteousness of Christ for salvation. Satan knows that if he can lead men to depend on their own works for righteousness, they will be his victims. Therefore the call is sounded: Lift up the crucified Saviour, and place your trust in His blood.

Justification by Faith is God's way of saving sinners; His way of convicting sinners of their guilt, their condemnation and their utterly undone and lost condition. It is also God's way of cancelling their guilt, delivering them from the condemnation of His divine law, and giving them a new and right standing before Him and His holy law. It is God's way of changing weak, sinful defeated men and women into strong, righteous, victorious Christians.

Some Christians look at salvation as a business transaction. Jesus died for them, so therefore they are promised salvation, much like a hand-shake in the business world. However, this is far from reality. In its truest sense this message is not a theory, but an experience, a vital change that takes place in the believer in Christ. It gives the sinner a new standing before God. It is the essence of Christianity. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8. "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." Gal. 3:16.

"No repentance is genuine unless it works a reformation. Christ Our Righteousness is not a cloak for unconfessed and unforsaken sin. It is a principle that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the principles of heaven." The results of the message are that we become free from condemnation,

we are forgiven of our past sins and we have peace with God. May God help us to fully understand this message so that we are prepared when Jesus comes a second time to this earth.

On Thursday evening, a power point presentation was given by our new missionary leader here in Australia. He has a great desire to see the message go forward and he shared with us some of the presentations that he has given in evangelistic meetings in the past. He has a vision to do evangelistic presentations in different parts of the county. May God help each one of us to also cooperate with the heavenly agencies for the work of giving the final warning message to this perishing world.

In the opening of Sabbath we were reminded of Biblical principles regarding the keeping of the Sabbath. If we are adequately prepared for the Sabbath we will receive the Sabbath blessing that was intended for us. We need to begin preparing and planning for the next Sabbath on Sunday morning, not leaving the preparation until the last minute. The Sabbath is a gift from God and we must first keep it in our hearts before we can keep it fully the way God intended it to be kept.

In almost every message we were encouraged in our preparation for the Lord's coming and the kind of preparation we e



must concentrate on. When we meet Jesus who will be able to stand before Him? We must be holy and this is a high calling for us. If Jesus came now, could you stand before Him? Are you ready to meet your God? God is more eager to meet us than you and I are to meet Him. Not only were messages presented on the Christ our Righteousness message, but also a message was given on the Atonement of Christ. The central theme of the Christ our Righteousness message is the Atonement with Christ which we must enter into. We must be at one with Jesus. "The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light which streams from the cross of Calvary, and in connection with the wondrous, central truth of the Saviour's atonement." 5BC 1137.

God will make us holy as is portrayed in the vision of Joshua and the High Priest. (Zechariah 3:1-5). "Zechariah's vision of Joshua and the Angel applies with peculiar force to the experience of God's people in the closing up of the great day of atonement. The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects, he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy."

T5, p. 472/473. Satan has the world behind him, and accuses God's people. When you stand accused what will you do about it? You need Jesus; you need the hope of glory; you can take hold of Jesus. Jesus wants to sup with you. He wants to free you from Satan's power. You are a child of God; will you endure until the end?

Jesus wants to guide and direct our lives, however, many try to take the steering wheel in their own hands. This warning message was given to us on Thursday evening. When young people reach a certain age, many of them want a

steering wheel in their hands. They simply can't wait until that day. Many Christians want to take the spiritual steering wheel in their own hands. We all have the possibility of choice. If we do take the steering wheel in our own hands, we surely will make a failure of our lives. We must turn over the steering wheel to Jesus and let Him guide and direct our lives. Today we must choose for Jesus. The choice is ours.

We are approaching the time of the end. Catastrophic events are occurring on a regular basis. In mercy to the world Jesus delays His coming so sinners may prepare. The seven last plagues are just around the corner. It is not the will of God that His coming is delayed. In the time of Ancient Israel, the adults who came out of Egypt perished in the wilderness. "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." Heb. 3:19. As we see the prophesied events it is time to make earnest preparation so that we will not be left out of heaven because of unbelief.

For the closing of Sabbath, the question was asked as to when will the world be converted? We read in Revelation 6:15, 16 about the great and mighty men on this earth calling for the rocks and mountains to fall upon them and hide them from the face of Jesus? Were they converted? They were, but they were converted in their minds, not in their hearts, but in their own time. It was too late. There will be a time when it is too late to be converted. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord." Amos 8:11. Today there is still hope. "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the

wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from you evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezekiel 33:11. Preparation to meet our God requires repentance – a deep sorrow for sin. "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried;" Dan. 12: 10. God wants to purify us, and make us white – there is opportunity for everyone. However trials are also a part of following Jesus. Trials are needed in order to purify God's children and make them white and as we allow Jesus to take control of our lives, He will work in and through us.

In Luke 21:29-32, we read of the parable of the fig tree. When you see the shoots of the fig tree, you know that summer is not far away. A comparison is made to the coming of Jesus. When you see the predicted signs coming to pass you know that the coming of Jesus is not far away. Many have lost heart in waiting. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick;" Pro. 13:12. The world will often taunt God's people as they see that the Lord is not coming as we are proclaiming. However, "whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15: 4. It is time to be patient but also to remain awake and prepare to meet our God as He is coming soon.

On Sabbath evening we were presented with a message about our helpers. The title of the message was, "Godly Agencies at Work to Prepare to Meet our God." Although there is a high standard placed before us, God has not left us to struggle on alone in this preparation process. There are three agencies provided to help us. There are three living persons in the heavenly

trio and they are our helpers. These three persons are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are working unitedly for the salvation of man.

The children and young people also got involved in a program on Sabbath afternoon. The children gave us details of the necessary preparation for Jesus to come and that preparation is putting on the armour of God in order to resist the fiery darts of Satan. "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.

The older youth described the future prophetic events still remaining to be fulfilled on this earth, beginning with the Sunday Law up until Armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ.

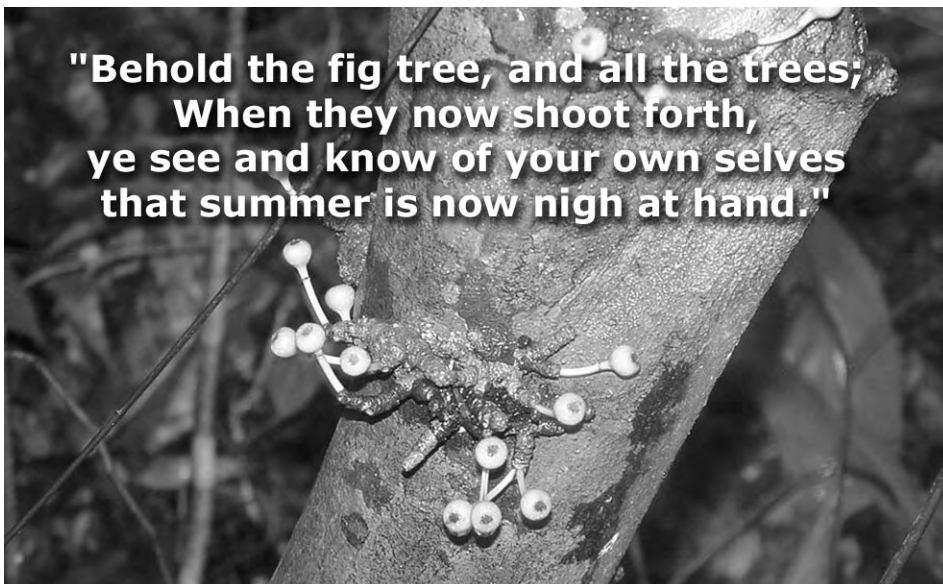
In Hosea we read, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;" Hosea 4: 6. Intellectual knowledge of future events is necessary so that God's people are prepared for, "the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:6. God knows the future and thankfully He has revealed those secrets to us so that we can be adequately prepared.

Sunday morning saw the blessed event of the baptism of a young man who had grown up in the faith. At almost 17 years of age, Benjamin Dammasch decided to make his covenant with God through baptism. It is always a blessing to see young people give their lives to the Lord and we pray that He will continue to be faithful in the years ahead. The body of Christ has many members and each one is important – even if it is the fingernail. All have their part to act.

The closing of the conference came all too soon. With some touching testimonies, we sang our final farewell song.

We all truly received the rich blessing we came for and will continue to shine for Jesus in the different corners of this country that we are dwelling in. Our spiritual appetite was satisfied.

We pray that all God's people around the world will make great preparations to meet their God, because He is coming soon.



THE TWELVE TRIBES

JOSEPH

The one hundred and forty four thousand will go through the time of Jacob's trouble. Some have really sinned badly but came out and are redeemed. Joseph came out of circumstances as well but he also started beautifully. It appears he never did any great sins. Yet he had to go through a purification process. Although he did no major sin, something still had to be removed.

"Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected." {GC 621.1}

"The trial of faith is more precious than gold. All should learn that this is a part of the discipline in the school of Christ, which is essential to purify and refine them from the dross of earthliness." {AG 81.4}

Although we may not find any serious sin in the life of Joseph, he went through a purifying process. What had to be removed from him? Earthliness. What was the beginning of his life?

Genesis 30:22-24. "And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. 23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: 24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son."

We remember Rachel had no children. She was in despair. After a long period of time, she gave birth. But what happened that she could give birth? God opened her womb.

God caused her to conceive. Therefore, what did Joseph become a type of? A Saviour like Jesus. Jesus was also born as a result of direct intervention from God.

Genesis 50:19-21. "Now thou art commanded, this do ye; take you wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours. 21 And the children of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way."

In these texts we see it was God who sent him. It was intervention of God to make him a saviour to the people in the time of the famine.

"The life of Joseph illustrates the life of Christ. It was envy that moved the brothers of Joseph to sell him as a slave; they hoped to prevent him from becoming greater than themselves. And when he was carried to Egypt, they flattered themselves that they were to be no more troubled with his dreams, that they had removed all possibility of their fulfillment. But their own course was overruled by God to bring about the very event that they designed to hinder. So the Jewish priests and elders were jealous of Christ, fearing that He would attract the attention of the people from them. They put Him to death, to prevent Him from becoming king, but they were thus bringing about this very result." {PP 239.2}

"Joseph, through his bondage in Egypt, became a savior to his father's family; yet this fact did not lessen the guilt of his brothers. So the crucifixion of Christ by His enemies made Him the Redeemer of mankind, the Saviour of the fallen race,

and Ruler over the whole world; but the crime of His murderers was just as heinous as though God's providential hand had not controlled events for His own glory and the good of man." {PP 239.3} "As Joseph was sold to the heathen by his own brothers, so Christ was sold to His bitterest enemies by one of His disciples. Joseph was falsely accused and thrust into prison because of his virtue; so Christ was despised and rejected because His righteous, self-denying life was a rebuke to sin; and though guilty of no wrong, He was condemned upon the testimony of false witnesses. And Joseph's patience and meekness under injustice and oppression, his ready forgiveness and noble benevolence toward his unnatural brothers, represent the Saviour's uncomplaining endurance of the malice and abuse of wicked men, and His forgiveness, not only of His murderers, but of all who have come to Him confessing their sins and seeking pardon." {PP 239.4} What a beautiful relation Jesus Christ and Joseph had.

How did Joseph come to pre-configuration? Was he faultless to begin with? Was it sin? What was it? Observe something about him that wasn't sin.

Genesis 37:1-11. "And Jacob dwelt in the

land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying."

What was his fault? He told his dreams to his brethren. This was his earthliness.

"His father, strong and tender as his love had been, had done him wrong by his partiality and indulgence. This unwise preference had angered his brothers and provoked them to the cruel deed that had separated him from his home. Its effects were manifest also in his own character. Faults had been encouraged that were now to be corrected. He was becoming self-sufficient and exacting. Accustomed to the tenderness of his father's care, he felt that he was unprepared to cope with the difficulties before him, in the bitter, uncared-for life of a stranger and a slave." {PP 213.2}

He was becoming self sufficient and exacting. Selfishness was over coming him. In his youth he was dealt with. Although he had a genuine motive, it was expressed in

earthliness. We also see he was a perfect little boy.

"Pure, active, and joyous, the lad gave evidence also of moral earnestness and firmness. He listened to his father's instructions, and loved to obey God. The qualities that afterward distinguished him in Egypt--gentleness, fidelity, and truthfulness--were already manifest in his daily life. His mother being dead, his affections clung the more closely to the father, and Jacob's heart was bound up in this child of his old age. He "loved Joseph more than all his children." {PP 209.1}

What was needed to remove this earthliness?

Genesis 37:13-14 "And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. 13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I. 14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem."

Genesis 37:23-28 "And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; 24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. 25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. 26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? 27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. 28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt."

That experience was the turning point in his life.

"One day's experience had been the turning point in Joseph's life. Its terrible calamity had transformed him from a petted child to a man, thoughtful, courageous, and self-possessed." {PP 214.1}

One day was all it needed. While these things were developing in his life, he felt unprepared.

"Joseph believed that the God of his fathers would be his God. He then and there gave himself fully to the Lord, and he prayed that the Keeper of Israel would be with him in the land of his exile." {PP 213.3}

As a result of that resolve, we have a beautiful example that we can do just that, no matter how hard it is when we are brought into terrible circumstances.

Genesis 39:4-12 "And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the



house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured. And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 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. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.”

What a perfect description of his resolve to glorify God. There you can see a resolve and determination. Here is an example of what you can do when you resolve.

Because of her reaction, Joseph suffered. Genesis 39:13-14 “13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, 14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:”

Genesis 39:19-23 “19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. 20 And Joseph’s master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. 21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. 23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.”

“Joseph suffered for his integrity, for his tempter revenged herself by accusing him of a foul crime, and causing him to be thrust into prison. Had Potiphar believed his wife’s charge against Joseph, the young Hebrew would have lost his life; but the modesty and uprightness that had uniformly characterized his conduct were proof of his innocence; and yet, to save the reputation of his master’s house, he was abandoned to disgrace and bondage.” {PP 218.1}

This was very unfair. We are often treated badly to save other peoples faces. How are we to react?

“Joseph’s real character shines out, even in the darkness of the dungeon. He held fast his faith and patience; his years of faithful service had been most cruelly repaid, yet this did not render him morose or distrustful. He had the peace that comes from conscious

innocence, and he trusted his case with God. . . . He found a work to do, even in the prison.” {CC 76.3}

Take things quietly when falsely accused. He succeeded in all those lower areas of life.

In the position next to Pharaoh, how was he tested there?

Genesis 41:41-44 “And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. 42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph’s hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; 43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. 44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”

Now he was the most exalted person in the world’s empire.

Philippians 4:11-12 “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”

Here is a revelation of what will happen to those people who will go through this fiery trial. They will be totally humble. It is the same principle as us, a pre-cursor of what we are going to be lifted to. Joseph revealed this in becoming part of the one hundred and forty four thousand. A promise was made to Joseph that he would get a double blessing.

Deuteronomy 33:13-17 “13 And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, 14 And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, 15 And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, 16 And for the precious things of the earth and fullness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren. 17 His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns

of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.”

Ephraim lost his position. Joseph and his son Manasseh are part of the one hundred and forty four thousand. There were two of him. The whole blessing was a rich reward. The one hundred and forty four thousand are going to have that blessing. There are twenty four thousand to his posterity. We notice the other blessing:

Genesis 49:22-26 “22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: 23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: 24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) 25 Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: 26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.”

What is there in it for us?

If we will learn in the test of trial and severity, what are we going to have to expect to be among the one hundred and forty four thousand? We might come to the point of no more sin, but earthliness has to be removed. The one hundred and forty four thousand have to go through the time of trouble.

“God has bidden you to go forward to perfection. Christianity is a religion of progress. Light from God is full and ample, waiting our demand upon it. Whatever blessings the Lord may give, He has an infinite supply beyond, an inexhaustible store from which we may draw. Scepticism may treat the sacred claims of the gospel with jests, scoffing, and denial. The spirit of worldliness may contaminate the many and control the few; the cause of God may hold its ground only by great exertion and continual sacrifice, yet it will triumph finally.” {5T 71.1}

Here we have the precious example of Joseph. **Amen.**

Ariadne Kondoukas, Australia



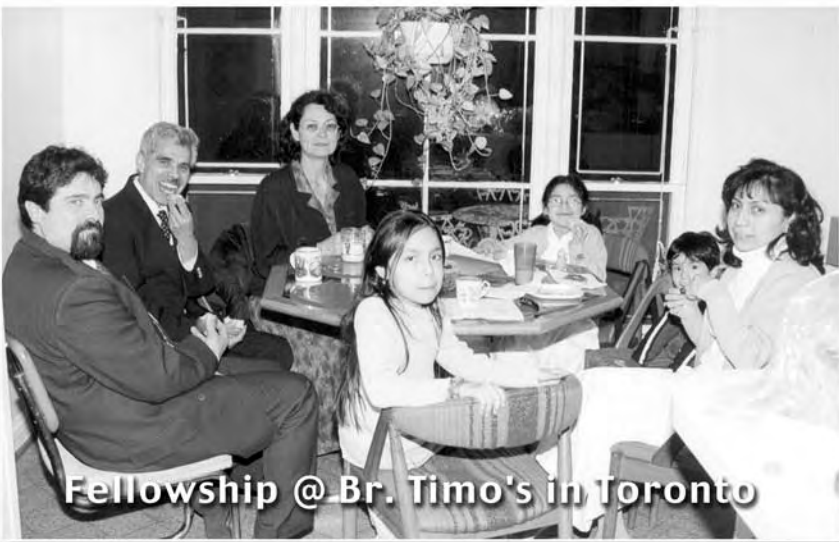
IMS
around the world



Kelly from Calgary visiting Toronto



Sis. Reyna & Soveal
@ wedding in Jamaica



Fellowship @ Br. Timo's in Toronto



New Years in Toronto

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions made for the New Year by the Toronto church

Chester: We will criticize each other less.

Abel: We need to speak less and listen more.

Alberto: I want to help the church and brothers and sisters more.

Xavier: I want to do more missionary work.

John McT: I want to be more faithful to God.

Deborah: I want to communicate more with God.

Rosario: I want to read the whole Bible this year.

Lucia: I want to participate more in the church and not be shy.

Isabel: I want to dedicate more time to the church.

Agnes: I want to be more faithful to God.

Gustavo: I want to do less fighting.

David: I want to read the Bible more.

Shilchah: I want to read the Bible more.

Eunice: We need to love each other more.

Pasita: I want to be perfect in character and forgive others and be more faithful.

Raquel: I want to read the 5 books of the Conflict of Ages series.

Araminta: I want to be a better servant to God and to others.

Max: I want to be a member in the London church and build up the church with Oscar.

Oscar: I want to submit more to God's leading.

Magnolia: I want to be a better help to my husband in his missionary work.

Nidia: I want to be more patient.

Elaine: I want to be nice to others.

Reyna: I want to read the 9 volumes of the Testimonies this year.

Pablo: I want to use time wisely.

Carolina: I want to be more persevering for good.

Timo: I want to retire from the worldly business and do more of God's work.

May God help us all to keep our New Year's resolutions. Amen

FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE

We were created in the image of God, which is reason enough for learning how to properly take care of our bodies that God has entrusted to us.

Few Christians really understand the principles of physiology. Far more seem to know about their automobiles than about their own bodies. Twenty-four hours a day, every day, our bodies are working away for us.

“Lead the people to study the manifestation of God’s love and wisdom in the works of nature. Lead them to study that marvelous organism, the human system, and the laws by which it is governed.” Ministry of Healing, p. 147.

When we realize how infinitely precious we are to God, that He would even consider to create a being in His image, and that His Son Jesus died to save each and every one of us; it then becomes even more important as to how we treat these miracle bodies made of flesh and blood.

There is no device to compare with man’s amazing structure. We are God’ property; we are God’s workmanship; fearfully and wonderfully made. God created these temples for the indwelling of His Spirit.

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

you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Cor. 6: 19, 20.

“God’s people are not prepared for the loud

of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God... In order to be fitted for translation, the people of God must know themselves. They must understand in regard to their own physical frames...” Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 32,33.

Between 50,000 and 100,000 different chemicals go into the making and running of the human body. They interact with each other in ways so complex that they make the world’s most advanced computer look like the early 1900’s manual typewriter.

These essential chemicals, known as nutrients, far from being isolated in their workings, need each other. It is only by working together that they can enact the complicated routines that make our bodies function.

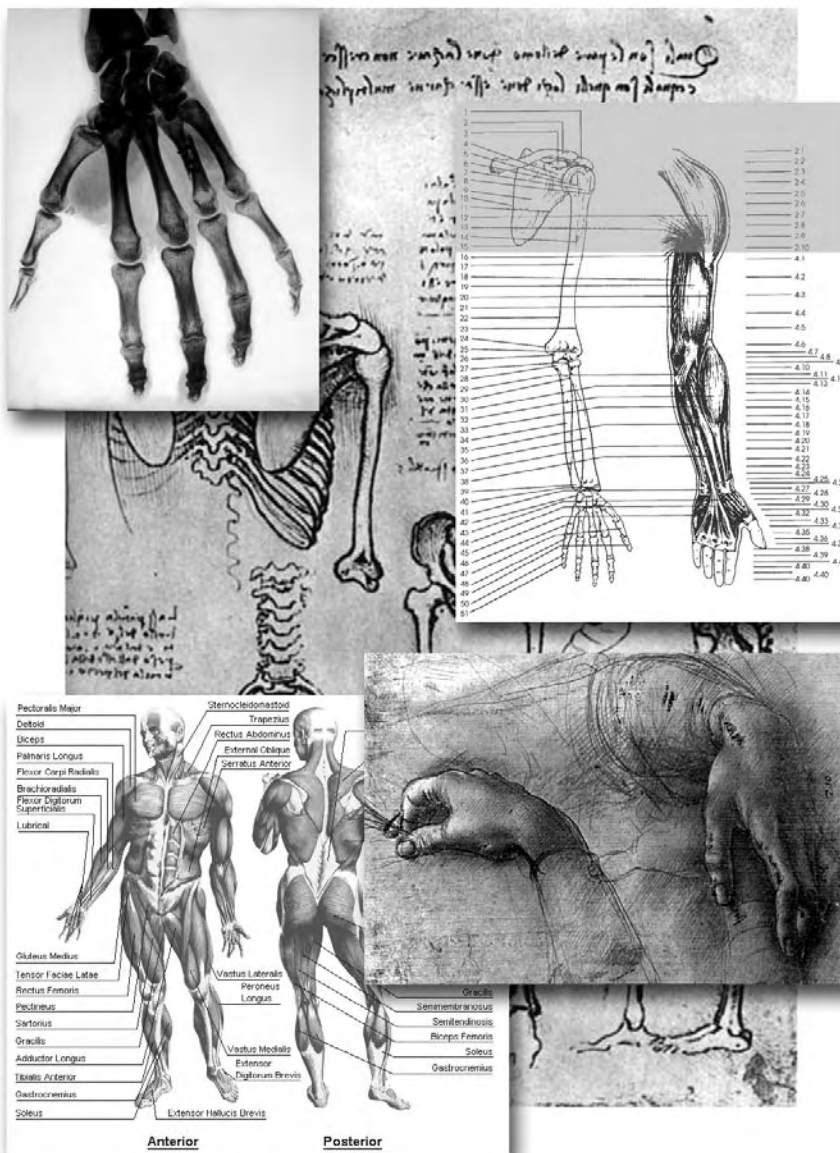
Our bodies are essentially a machine that operates like a distilling plant. It distills the food we eat and the air we breathe, extracting the finer intrinsic properties which then enter into the bloodstream. The portions which are too coarse to be absorbed are eliminated through the bowels. We were created to continually eliminate excesses and waste matter, otherwise, we would die in a very short time on our

metabolic waste and poisons.

From a book called: Something Better—Live Foods

Submitted by Kathleen Ross Alberta, Canada

www.imsessenger.org



cry of the third angel. They have a work to do for themselves which they should not leave for God to do for them. He has left this work for them to do. It is an individual work; one cannot do it for another. ‘Having, therefore, these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness

GIVE & IT SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOU



CHILDRENS CORNER

It was rice-planting time in Japan. Once again the land was humming with the rice field planting song.

Aki's mother was making ready to leave for the rice paddies. She too must help in the rice field. Before she left the house, she looked into the fuel basket. With a groan she said to Aki, "The fuel is so nearly gone, there is only enough for another cooking of rice. While you are caring for the baby, perhaps you would walk down the way. Now and again the wind sends leaves flying down the road. If you could get a basket of leaves..."

Aki said nothing. He did not look up, either. He had a secret, but was afraid that if he so much as squeaked, his mother might learn what it was.

"See to it that you take good care of the baby," mother warned Aki. With that she hurried away down the path to the rice paddies.

As soon as Mother was out of sight, Aki went across the way. Mitsu lived there. Mitsu had no little brother or sister to care for. "Come with me to the mountains today," said Aki. "You take care of the baby for me. I will search for fuel. If all goes well, there will be something to go under the rice pots tonight."

Mitsu put on her walking sandals, strapped the baby to her back, and the two set out.

They walked along until they came to the mission. White people from across the sea lived there. They had taken in all the babies that were not wanted. Other poor children went there to school. Mitsu and Aki were both poor; but not for anything would they have gone to that school. They had heard of the dreadful food they gave the children to eat at the school.

When the two came as far as the mission, they saw children who lived there. They were all gathered under the great willow

tree beside the gate. They were listening to their teacher talking. Mitsu and Aki had heard the old people talking about the strange school on the hill. They had said that the children who went to that school were thin and wretched from the food that was provided. "No doubt they will soon die," Mamasan Yakama had said. "What will the Jesus people do then?"

Mitsu and Aki did not know why they were called Jesus people. They thought that it had something to do with the food they gave the children.

Mitsu said to Aki, "Let us stop and look at the children. We will know then if they look sickly enough to die."

As they peered in, the teacher was saying, "It was a dark night. The sky was filled with stars. Suddenly the shepherds, who were tending their flocks, heard a sound. It was more than one sound. It was many sounds. Then they heard voices singing. Suddenly they saw beautiful people in the sky, only they had wings. They were called angels."

"And I know what they came to tell the shepherds," said the very smallest of the children. "They had come to say that Jesus was born that night."

Aki and Mitsu exchanged glances. Jesus was not a strange kind of food then, but a Baby.

"And what did the angels tell the shepherds to do?" the teacher asked.

"They told the shepherds to go to the inn in the town and there they would find a Baby lying in a manger," was the reply.

"When He grew up, He died to save us from our sins," the teacher went on to say. "He also taught us many wonderful truths. One of them is that if we have something, and someone else needs it more, we should

give it to him. This is how Jesus taught it. He said, 'Cast thy bread upon the water and it will come back to thee after many days.'"

Mitsu and Aki were so astonished at what they had heard that they left their place by the gate. On up the road they went.



"There is surely a mistake," said Mitsu. "The children who go to that school do not look sickly."

"They even looked stronger than we," Aki pointed out.

"But what strange teachings are theirs!" Mitsu said. "If we give to someone else, how then would we have anything for ourselves?"

They walked along until at length they came to a place where there were leaves. The wind had packed them down into a ditch, and left them there. Aki pounced on the leaves eagerly. Soon he had packed them all down in his basket. Surely this would be

enough for their mothers' rice pots tonight, the two decided. What a pleasant surprise this would be for his mother, Aki thought. She would know now that he had grown large enough to help her.

They pattered homeward until they came as far as the gate of the mission. Outside of the mission sat an old, old woman. She was so old that she could not work. For that reason she sat here by the gate begging from people that might go to the mission.

When she saw Aki and Mitsu, she said, "If I only had some young feet to run and gather leaves for myself. It has been many days since I had a leaf to burn under my rice pot."

Aki looked at Mitsu. She was thinking of the story he had heard at the mission that morning. Surely here was someone who had less than they.

"Why not give this poor lady the leaves we have?" Aki asked. "If what that Jesus teacher said is true, then we should be able to find other leaves for ourselves."

"Yes," Mitsu agreed. "Give it to the woman. We will then know if what the teacher told the children is true."

Aki emptied his basket into the basket of the old woman by the gate.

"It is what the Jesus people teach," he said. "We would know if it is a better way of doing than we have tried before."

"Jesus go with you," the old woman cried with joy, "and He will show you where there is a supply that will fill your basket again."

Aki took up his basket and once more the two set out for the hills. Aki's back was becoming so tired from the weight of the basket that he put it over his head instead. He could not see so well this way, but neither did it hurt his back.

Just then the two heard the sound of a motor. It was those Jesus people, who ran those cars. Mamasan Matsuaki had said to run and hide behind a tree when one of

those machines came along the road. But the children did not run and hide, their curiosity got the better of them.

As the car approached, the children could see two workmen in it. "We are going up into the hills. Would you like a ride?" the driver called.

Before Mitsu could remember that her mother had warned her against the cars of the white strangers, Aki said, "Honourable strangers, we are pleased at your offer." At that he climbed up into the truck and helped Mitsu up beside him.

The truck then gave a jerk and off they



went again. The rice paddies in the valley below were left farther and farther behind. Aki's eyes were like stars. He had never had a ride in a truck before. The baby also was so happy she began to sing. Mitsu alone was unhappy.

Just then the driver of the truck spoke up. "How far are you children going?"

"Honourable stranger," said Aki, "We do not know. We were going to look for leaves that our mothers might have fuel for their rice pots."

"Oh, very well," said the man. With that the truck shot forward and on they went. One turn in the road was passed and then another. Aki was thinking that the valley was left far behind now. He thought of how far Mitsu and he would have to walk to get home. Perhaps they would not even get home before dark came. Suddenly he wished that he and Mitsu had not accepted the ride at all.

Then the truck slowed up as they came to a place where a new road was being built. The driver pulled over to the side of the road. He turned to get Aki and said, "Why burn leaves when you can get wood? Look at all the chips there on the ground. They are from the trees that have been cut down to make place for the road. Help yourself to all you can carry."

Aki picked his basket full, and Mitsu filled the pockets in her sleeves. Aki's heart rejoiced over the treasure of a fine, clean wood. However, his rejoicing was brief. When he tried to get the basket on his back, it was so heavy he could not lift it.

Mitsu began to cry. They were far from home, and the basket was too heavy for Aki to carry.

"See here, what is all the trouble?" one of the workmen asked. When he heard what was wrong, he said, "Don't worry. We are bringing this truckload of wood right through your town. We will give you and the wood basket a ride home."

When Aki's and Mitsu's mothers came home that evening and saw all the fuel which had been brought home, they could scarcely believe their eyes. "Real wood," they said. "How long it will last."

"How come you two have found such a fortune in wood?" Mitsu's mother asked.

"It is because we listened to the words that Jesus spoke long ago," Aki replied.

"And tried them out," Mitsu added. Then turning to Aki, Mitsu added, and "This Jesus man taught words of wisdom, we know now might it not improve our minds to go and learn the rest of the wisdom He knew?"

Aki nodded. "Tomorrow," he agreed, "when the planting songs are sounding from the rice paddies, you and I shall go to learn wisdom where the Jesus people live."



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