



The Reformation Messenger

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 6, june 2004

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

"And God said,

Let the earth bring forth grass,

the herb yielding seed,

and the fruit tree yielding

fruit after his kind, whose seed

is in itself, upon the earth:

and it was so. " Genesis 1:11



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.

Official Publication of the International Missionary Society of the Seventh Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field.

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Amount of cheque: \$

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54 Newcastle Street

Toronto, Ontario

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THE SPECTACULAR MOMENT



“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” “And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Revelation 1:7, Philippians 2:11.

The Lord is soon coming in the clouds of heaven. His coming is yet for an appointed time, which shall be witnessed by ALL as never to be. Though it tarry we must wait for it because the Lord will not tarry. The utterance from the faithful lips of God’s servant, Habakkuk remains to testify this till it comes to pass.

How unique and spectacular will this day and moment be? Inspired writers never had another day to liken it with thus saying “... there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.” Joel 2:2 (Last part).

UNIVERSAL DRAMA

The time is at hand when the whole of creation will be spectators in their earthly arena as Jesus makes His second appearance to men not as a carpenter’s son, but as a King of Kings clothed in the splendor of His divinity. It will be a solemn moment and EVERY EYE, will be a witness to this event. It’s a moment in its own in that all who lived from Adam to the last one to be born, the Bible declares, “shall see him.” How will it be with the blind that never saw a ray of light all through their lives? It is at the

command of Jesus that ALL, with or without sight, should behold His majesty (Isaiah 35: 5,6). Hence, of the many agencies to be brought to an end, the loss of sight will be one of them. To the phrase “every eye shall see Him” exempts none regardless of his status. “And the kings of the earth and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” Revelation 6:15,16.

Concerning this time, God would not have us ignorant for how much better are the demons of Gadara, who have a clearer knowledge of this coming time than us. “And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?” Mathew 8:29.

THE NOBLE HERITAGE

As the last born church and children of God on a measuring scale, it’s only so, after being

enriched with ALL the knowledge of truth that will make us a peculiar and wise people in a world that has bent so much to the wisdom and philosophy of man. As a last-born child to a father who inherits all that the father has i.e. land, houses, money, vehicles etc., so it is with us the remnant church of the living God. It’s His good pleasure to give us EVERYTHING liberally that is called His for our blessing, He gives the richness of His grace, joy, happiness, peace, love, patience, forbearance, humility etc only for us to own it with untold heavenly mansions of God.

Often our perceptions illuminate many of our thoughts concerning the moment of our Lord’s appearance in glory. We shall be as He is when He appears and that we may behold His beauty when He comes, are the only matching traits we can find. Only in the distant future, can we be able to fit into His likeness. It has become Satan’s fashion to deceive multitudes of professed Adventists, however, what God’s servants see in vision in relation to this view has a marked contrast to Satan’s suggestion(s). Before Jesus’ appearance on the clouds of heaven, it was witnessed that; “Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with consecration, will hasten from place

to place to proclaim the message from heaven.” GC 612. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:2, 3.

Our loving Father has withheld nothing back from our knowledge that will help us be “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9. Before then (spectacular moments) He has given us ample opportunities that we may transform our vile natures to bear the likeness of our Lord’s splendor when He comes to take His friends home. “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he (Jesus Christ) is pure.” 1 John 3:3.

THE SANCTIFYING TESTIMONY

Many have disputed the Lord’s coming, “And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” “For this they willingly are ignorant of “.... “But if any



man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.” 2 Peter 3:4,5 (first part), 1 Corinthians 14:38. However for you, dear reader, “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” Isaiah 60:1.

In recounting their own victory to entitle them homage in the Holy City, the saints would hardly remember anything save “the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.” Concerning their testimony

our attention is thus called to, “The name (Christian) was given them because Christ was the main theme of their preaching, their teaching, and their conversation. Continually they were recounting the incidents that had occurred during the days of His earthly ministry, when His disciples were blessed with His personal presence. Untiringly they dwelt upon His teaching and His miracles of healing. With quivering lips and tearful eyes, they spoke of His agony in the garden, His betrayal, trial, and execution, the forbearance and humility with which He had endured the contumely and torture imposed upon Him by His enemies, and the Godlike pity with which He had prayed for those who persecuted Him. His resurrection and ascension, and His work in heaven as the Mediator for fallen man, were topics on which they rejoiced to dwell.” AA 157.

RECESSIVE POWER OF SANCTIFICATION

“The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close.” GC 611-2 Solomon declares this plainly in His borrowed wisdom saying; “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.” Ecclesiastes 1:9:10.

In faith, as we behold and hear the gentle voice of our Saviour entreating us “come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and

I will give you rest,” leaves us with the reason as to why, “the believers at Antioch realized that God was willing to work in their lives ‘both to will and to do of His good pleasure.’ Phil. 2:13. Living, as they were, in the midst of a people who seemed to care but little for the things of eternal value, they sought to arrest the attention of the honest in heart, and to bear positive testimony concerning Him whom they loved and served. In their humble ministry

they learned to depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit to make effective the word of life. And so, in the various walks of life, they daily bore testimony of their faith in Christ.” AA 158.

CALL HIM YOUR LORD TOO

The example of the believers in Antioch is worthy of emulation to all of us who live at the end of the world’s history. They were and are without a doubt waiting to witness the spectacular moment in which their Lord, whom they dearly loved and testified of till death, appears in the clouds. Our standing to witness this moment with the people of Antioch heavily depends on the portion of our life that we have consecrated in His service. How we have testified to all about His redemption work, and that man was a prisoner but has hope in regaining the lost glory from sin, “Then Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker. None but Christ can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin. He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will. He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the marred character after the pattern of His divine character, and to make it beautiful with His own glory.” DA 38.

THE CHOICE IS SOLELY YOURS

It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord’s professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years “We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel; but for Christ’s sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action.” Ev. 696.

It’s not the will of God that His children (of whom we are) be dismayed in the moment of triumph saying that, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved,” Jeremiah 8:20. Rather we will with un-fainting joy, sure of what to expect, loudly declare; “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” Isaiah 25:9. May we live to have this blessed hope! In that spectacular moment! **AMEN.**

John Riang’a Obwocha
Nairobi – Kenya.



When you go to school, in high school, college or university – you are given a timetable. Certain classes are scheduled at certain times. The classes start on time. If you are late, you miss a part of the class. You cannot change the time. Also, when the course of study is over for one semester, there is an exam timetable. You cannot change that either. If you choose not to attend the exam at the time when it is scheduled, you will more than likely fail the course.

God is our teacher and He has a timetable. He has a certain time when He has scheduled a class with His students. He loves His students and calls them His children. “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18. Other places He calls His students brothers. “For which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,” Hebrews 2:11. Either way He loves them so much that He considers them family members. We have been adopted into the family of God. “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?” James 2:5

There are two very specific times when God has scheduled a “class” with His “students.” Those two time slots are Sabbath morning (and sometimes Sabbath afternoon) and Wednesday evening, for prayer meeting. Sometimes in between there may be unscheduled classes or special activities. There are public awareness events (Missionary work) and social events (church outings in nature). It is our choice to attend these extra functions. They are not mandatory, however they are all beneficial for our success.

Just as in a university class, not everyone turns out to every class, so also in God’s class; people are late or they simply skip the classroom. It makes Jesus a bit sad because He has so much that He wants to teach His students, yet some simply don’t show much interest.

If we are studying Biology at school and choose to go to a math classroom, that won’t help us much when it is time to write the Biology exam. Similarly, if we are studying the truths in God’s church, but choose to attend a different “classroom” – from a different church, where they only teach partial truth, we may fail when exam time comes (which is the judgement at the end of the world) simply because we have not received the appropriate instructions and teachings.

Those “classroom” times are not the only times our Father wants to teach us something. When we go to school, there are formal set times in our timetable for instruction, however in the evenings and weekends we take time to review or study more on the subject and to do our homework in order to keep up with the studies at school. Without taking time for homework, we will not do well in our studies at school. Our Heavenly Father also expects us to do homework, extra study (at the very least, morning and evening worship but preferably more) on our own time if we are to do well in our formal studies when we meet together at church.

The exam time at the end of the semester is like the judgement day. Can you change the date? Can you arrive late? Can you decide on the date? No, those in authority set the date and you have to be there on time at the required place or you will fail the exam. God has His exam time also. It is called the Investigative Judgement. It is going on right now in heaven. Some day soon your name will be brought up... at the right time... according to God’s timetable. If you have not taken

advantage of the instruction in the past, you may not pass the course.

You must be able to use the knowledge that has been taught, in the future at your employment, without your textbooks. So also, we will not always have our Bibles with us. In fact, we are told, there will be a time when we may have to answer for our faith before the kings of this earth and without having our Bibles with us. We may also meet someone on the street who asks us a religious question and if we have done our study ahead of time, we will have a ready answer for them.

In History, God has always had a timetable. There was a timetable before the flood. The people living at that time were given 120 years to make a decision for the Lord. Not one day more. When the door to the ark was closed, it was too late.

Israel was to remain in captivity 70 years... then it was time to return home.

Jesus came to earth at the specified time. The Jews were fully aware that it was time for the Messiah to appear when He did come. The timetable was recorded in the Old Testament.

“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.” Gal. 4:4

Many prophecies were given in the Bible and most of them have been fulfilled according to the time specified.

WAIT

Don't plan your own timetable. Wait for God to reveal His timetable to you. “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.” Psalm 27:14.

Jesus said, “Follow Me.” However some want to run ahead of God.

“God is leading out a people, not a few separate individuals here and there, one believing this thing, another that. Angels of God are doing the work committed to their trust. The third angel is leading out and purifying a people, and they should move with him unitedly. Some run ahead of the angels that are leading this people; but they have to retrace every step, and

meekly follow no faster than the angels lead. I saw that the angels of God would lead His people no faster than they could receive and act upon the important truths that are communicated to them. But some restless spirits do not more than half do up their work. As the angel leads them, they get in haste for something new, and rush on without divine guidance, and thus bring confusion and discord into the ranks. They do not speak or act in harmony with the body. I saw that you both must speedily be brought where you are willing to be led, instead of desiring to lead, or Satan will step in and lead you in his way, to follow his counsel. Some look at your set notions, and consider them an evidence of humility. They are deceived. You both are making work for repentance.” 1T 207

“To Peter the words ‘Follow Me’ were full of instruction. Not only for his death, but for every step of his life, was the lesson given. Hitherto Peter had been inclined to act independently. He had tried to plan for the work of God, instead of waiting to follow out God's plan. But he could gain nothing by rushing on before the Lord. Jesus bids him, ‘Follow Me.’ Do not run ahead of Me. Then you will not have the hosts of Satan to meet alone. Let Me go before you, and you will not be overcome by the enemy.” DA 816

DAVID'S EXAMPLE

King David is a good example of someone who waited according to the Lord's timetable. He waited to be crowned king in the Lord's time. His men tried to urge him to take King Saul's life early, when he had an opportunity, but he decided to wait for



God's time. “Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time. And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless? David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.” 1 Samuel 26:8-11

Sometimes unconverted ministers are left in leading positions as was King Saul, and it has caused distress amongst God's people. “We have been inclined to think that where there are no faithful ministers there can be no true Christians, but this is not the case. God has promised that where the shepherds are not true He will take charge of the flock Himself. God has never made the flock wholly dependent upon human instrumentalities. But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor.” 5T 79. The unfaithful ministers are not to be left in position, however they need to be removed according to the time God specifies.

Jacob was the opposite to King David. He didn't wait for the Lord, but went ahead with his desire to have the birthright. Running ahead of the Lord cost him much grief for the rest of his life. Had he waited for the Lord, what a different life he would have lived.

GOD HAS A SPECIFIC TIME FOR EVERYTHING

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time

to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace." Eccl 3:1-8

WHAT IS GOD'S PERSONAL TIMETABLE FOR YOU?

Ask Him.

Your personal life:

God has a timetable for your personal life – how long will you live? If you choose not to take your life early by some foolish habits or suicide, God has His timetable for you. When there is an earthquake, or plane crash, why do some perish and some survive? Only God knows.

Then there is God's time versus our time. What do we consider God's time and what do we consider ours? Is God's time only the Sabbath? We do our duty in keeping the Sabbath for God and the rest of the week is for us to do as we please? Oh, we may add a quick morning and evening worship for God also, but the rest is for us to do what we want to do. Often, after our working day we say that the rest of the hours of the day are for our own time - is this true? We will be judged more heavily regarding those leisure hours that we wasted. All hours are God's hours. "Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time." COL 3:42. It doesn't mean we are engaging in missionary activities or Bible studies 24/7, however when we do our jobs or engage in recreation, it is all for the glory of God. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31

How much time do we have to live? God's says, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Mat 24:44. When is He coming for YOU?

Who knows when we will breathe our last? "The Lord could, by neglecting man, stop his breath at once. All that he is and all that

he has pertains to God." Faith and Works page 22

Your material goods:

As we near the close of this earth's history, there will come a time when we need to sell our properties and our lands. When will that be? We don't know exactly, but God knows and we need to ask Him.

"Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth. . .

"I saw that if any held on to their property and did not inquire of the Lord as to their duty, He would not make duty known, and they would be permitted to keep their property, and in the time of trouble it would come up before them like a mountain to crush them, and they would try to dispose of it, but would not be able. . . But if they desired to be taught, He would teach them, in a time of need, when to sell and how much to sell." EW 57

Are you asking God daily, when it is time for you to sell?

SOMETIMES, GOD, IN MERCY, WILL DELAY HIS TIME

"Had Adventists, after the great disappointment in 1844, held fast their faith, and followed on unitedly in the opening providence of God, receiving the message of the third angel and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming it to the world, they would have seen the salvation of God, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts, the work would have been completed, and Christ would have come ere this to receive His people to their reward." 1SM 68

TIMETABLE FOR THE WORLD

The longest prophetic time was the 2,300 days, extending to 1844. After that we are living on what has been called borrowed time.

How much more time do we have to live on this world? Do we have just an unspecified amount of time and one day when God feels all is in readiness, He will come?

□He knows, "But of that day and hour

knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Matthew 24:36. He simply has chosen not to reveal to us the exact day. He did, however, give us signs to let us know that the end of the world is near – and you can read those in Matthew 24.

How long will He wait? Only God knows. He has His timetable for the world. When the fullness of the time is come, He will come back to the earth and destroy the wicked, taking the righteous to heaven. May we be on the Lord's side when He does come. We are living in a time that is called, the tarrying time, how long until that tarrying is over? Only God knows.

If we want to be ready when the timetable is complete, we must be faithfully following God's timetable today, preparing for the exams. We will then receive our reward on graduation day, when Jesus comes in the clouds of glory. It is my wish and prayer that each one of us will graduate with honours so we can meet for a reunion at the great table in heaven at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. *AMEN*
Wendy Eaton, Australia

Here is a song that I want to share:

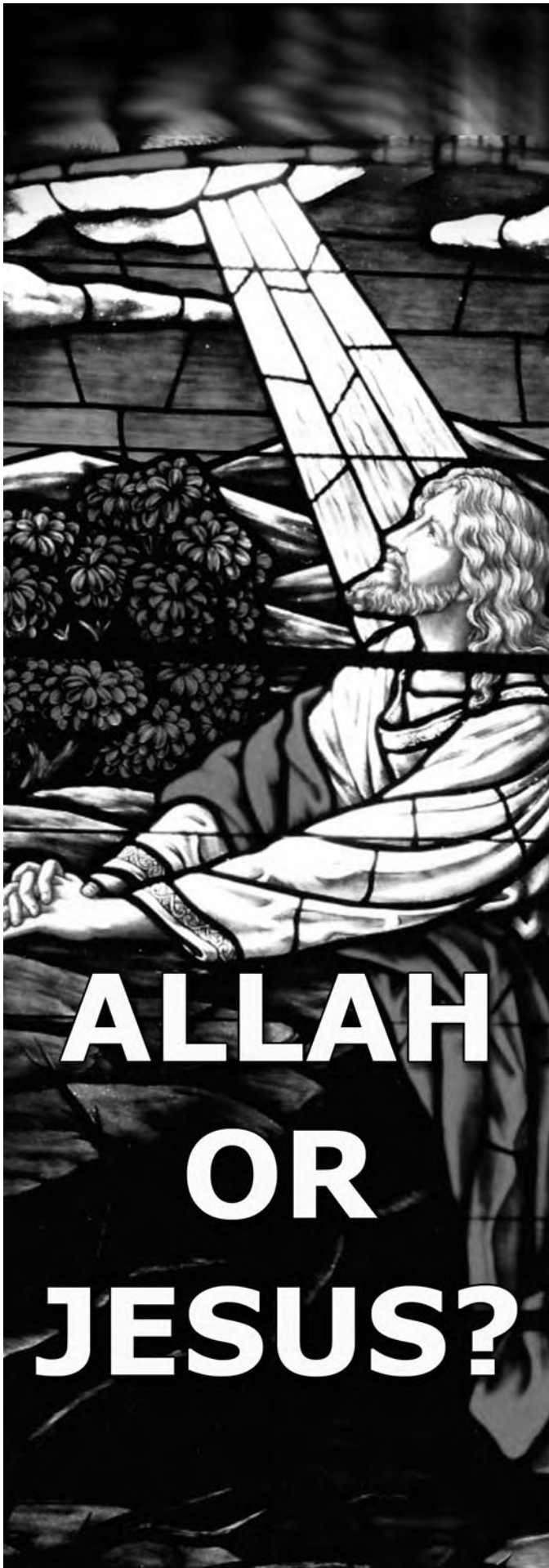
Still Time

**There's still time for you to come
For the Lord is calling you home
Do not delay; and wait another day
For tomorrow may just be too late.**

**O the world will pass away
Sinner come to Jesus and pray
He wants your heart; new life to
you impart
Why will you reject all of His
love?**

**But the time is very near
When the Lord from heaven will
appear
It's then too late for you have sealed
your fate
By rejecting His pleading today.**

**The Lord is calling; His voice is so
clear
If you will not listen, It will be silent
to your ear**



Last month I attended my annual training session that is required for maintaining my state prison security clearance. During the training session there was a presentation by three speakers representing the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Muslim faiths, who explained each of their belief systems.

I was particularly interested in what the Islamic Imam had to say. The Imam gave a great presentation of the basics of Islam, complete with a video. After the presentations, time was provided for questions and answers.

When it was my turn, I directed my question to the Imam and asked: "Please, correct me if I'm wrong, but I understand that most Imams and clerics of Islam have declared a holy jihad (Holy War) against the infidels of the world. And, that by killing an infidel, which is a command to all Muslims, they are assured of a place in heaven. If that is the case, can you give me the definition of an infidel?"

There was no disagreement with my statements, and without hesitation, he replied, "Nonbelievers!"

I responded, "So, let me make sure I have this straight. All followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith so that they can go to Heaven. Is that correct?"

The expression on his face changed from one of authority and command to that of a little boy who had just been caught with his hand in the cookie jar. He sheepishly replied, "Yes."

I then stated, "Well sir, I have a real problem trying to imagine Pope John Paul commanding all Catholics to kill those of your faith or Dr. Stanley ordering Protestants to do the same in order to go to Heaven!"

I continued, "I also have a problem with being your friend when you and your brother clerics are telling your followers to kill me. Let me ask you a question. Would you rather have your Allah who tells you to kill me in order to go to Heaven or my Jesus who tells me to love you because I am going to Heaven and He wants you to be with me?"

You could have heard a pin drop as the Imam hung his head in shame.

Needless to say, the organizers and/or promoters of the "Diversification" training seminar were not happy with Rick's way of dealing with the Islamic Imam and exposing the truth about the Muslim's beliefs.

This is a true story and the author, Rick Mathes, is a well known leader in prison ministry.

*Story by Rick Mathes
Submitted by Larry Watts*

Influence Of Phoenicians On Hebrew Civilization

Through Religion PART 2

The religious practices of the Phoenicians are mentioned in the Bible and in the writings of Greek and Latin authors, as is confirmed by the Phoenician inscriptions and the tablets found in Ugarit. Certainly, “what the Old Testament tells us of Canaanite culture could also describe

to specify that many names of gods are just nicknames, or condescending names designed to hide the real name of the god that was known by the common people.

Deities

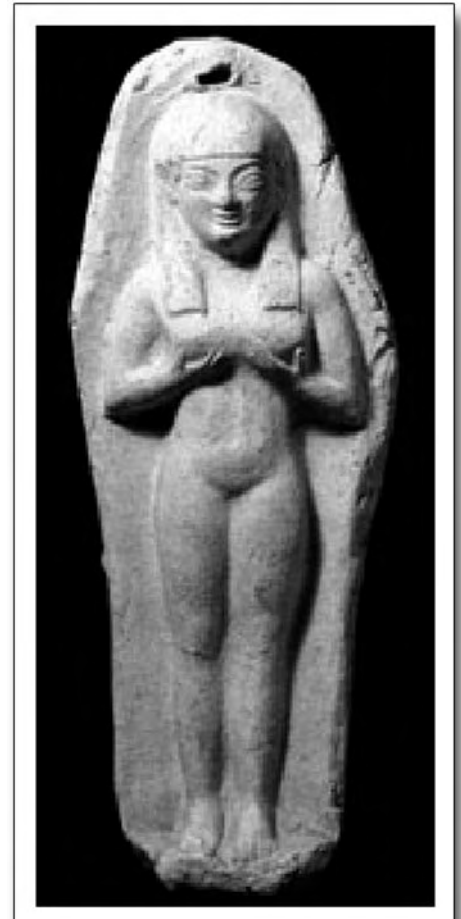
We find the existence of many gods which the Phoenicians worshipped, but we will refer to just some of the gods which the Bible mentions as being the gods which the Hebrew people also worshipped. The Pantheon at Ugarit has two gods as central figures: El and Baal, both common names – the first name means “god”, and the second name means “master”.

Baal is frequently mentioned in the texts from Ugarit under different compound names: Baal-Semed, Baal-Hanan, Baal-Samin, Baal-Peor (the Moabite god that Israel worshipped, Numbers 25:3 – “And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor; and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel”) etc. Baal appears also in the Bible as a god which the Hebrews worshipped: 2 Kings 17:16 last part – “...and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal”; Baal is Dagon’s son, the ancient god of wheat and of fertility, under the form of quiet or stormy rain. He is the god adored by Philistines in their cities Gat, Asdod and Ekron (Judges 16:23 – “Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand”). These compound names were not differing from one city-state to other city-states, just the name of the city was added, in which the name Baal was adored. For example: Baal-Lebanon (The Lord of Lebanon), Baal-Samin (The Lord of heavens), Baal-Berith, Baal-Hazor, Baal-Tamar, Baal-Zebub etc.

Baal was often identified with Adad, the Babylonian’s god, and then with the Arameans’s god under the form of Hadad. Baal’s role in the texts from Ugarit seems to be to regulate the seasons, and especially to bring the rain and thunder.



Baal



Astarte

Phoenician culture.”¹ In fact, we could say that there is harmony between the Semitic populations from Syria, Palestine and Lebanon, if we recognize that the names of Canaanite gods can differ from one city-state to other city-states. But the cult of these gods, their adoration and their religious rituals are the same in the whole region. At the beginning, we have

Baal’s wife is **Ashtoreth** (**Astarte** of Greeks), a variant of the Babylonian goddess’s name, Ishtar. Ashtoreth has the attributes of virginity, goddess of love, also the attributes of the goddess of passion, war and massacre. The Bible also speaks about the religious practice of the Phoenicians adopted by the Hebrews and often calls her “the goddess of the Zidonians”. 1Kings

1. Sabatino Moscati, The Phoenician world, p. 6.

11:5 first part. (Judges 2:13 – “And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth”; 1 Samuel 12:10 – “And they cried unto the Lord, and said, we have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth...” etc.)

Besides these statues, the Phoenicians worshiped natural objects, for example, the mountains and the rivers they bowed to. Concerning trees, the Phoenicians, like the ancient Greeks, had sacred groves and the Old Testament cites these groves consecrated to Ashtoreth. (2 Kings 17:10 – “And they set them up images and groves in every high hill and under every green tree.”)

Pillars were also adored. Such pillars have been found in Samaria and Jerusalem, though God commanded His people, “overthrow their altars, and break their pillars and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.”(Deuteronomy 12:3) The pillar was a symbol of a holy tree in which the deity was supposed to dwell.

The Phoenician temples were erected on the height of hills or mountains. The temples had as their servants the priests with shaven heads, exactly as in Egypt, and dressed only in linen garments, also as in Egypt. From the Old Testament we read about the existence of Baal’s priests of whom there were great numbers and which Elijah commanded the people to kill after the false prophets couldn’t bring the fire down for the offering. (1 Kings 18:40 – “And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.”)

The Phoenician priests had amongst them the prophets who told fortunes, the wizards who did magic and in the end there was the old Canaanite religious practice-necromancy, namely the calling of the dead to life for them to tell the future. This is what king Saul did in going to the witch of En-dor and for which he died. (1 Samuel 28:6-14)

Temple Prostitution

There is no doubt that in Phoenicia both male and female prostitution was done for their heathen deities.

Unfortunately this practice was often found amongst the Hebrew people. The Bible writings calls it “the price of a dog” (Deuteronomy 23:18 – “Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow; for even both these are abomination unto the Lord thy God”); this referred to the money collected from this practice which was practiced at times even in Jerusalem, though the faithful would oppose it. (1 King 15:12 first part; 14: 24 – “And he took away the Sodomites out of the land...”; “And there were also Sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel.”)

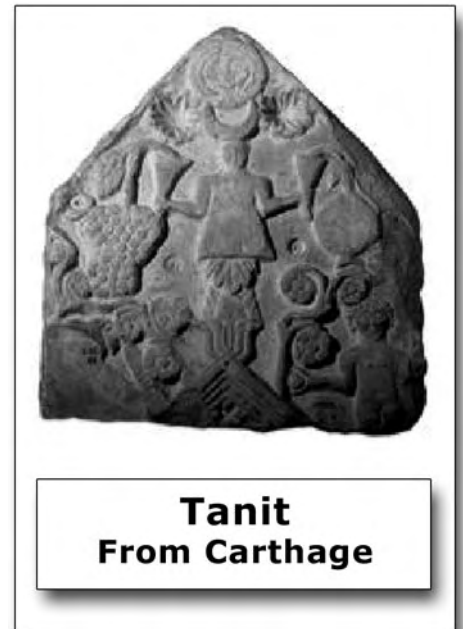
There must be a correlation between both the male and female temple prostitution with the customs of the famous Canaanite cities: Sodom and Gomorra. The Bible text says that two men entered the city as visitors, who in fact were angels, who came into Sodom to save Lot and his house. But the men in the street “called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them.” Genesis 19:5 There was a ritual in Sodom to have sexual relations with strangers and maybe the same ritual of temple prostitution was in Gomorra. This is seen also in Judges 19: 22 “...the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, and beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him.”

Human Sacrifice

The Phoenicians brought offerings to their gods in order to acquire their goodwill, and offered them food, flesh and fruits which either were burned on the altars or were eaten in part by the believers and priests. But beside these usual offerings they brought human sacrifices and these, with temple prostitution, constitute the most striking characteristics of the Phoenician’s religion.

In Carthage² the god Baal-Hammon (named also El) was given child sacrifices in which children were burnt alive till late in the Carthaginian colonial times, maybe till the 3rd century BC.

Diodorus from Sicily describes how the



victims were put on the hands of a bronze statue of that god, heated until red-hot, and then they would fall down into the fire. “There was in their city a bronze image of Cronus, extending its hands palms up and sloping toward the ground, so that each of the children when placed thereon rolled down and fell into a sort of gaping pit filled with fire.”³

With all the documentation brought by pagan and Christian sources concerning human sacrifices in Phoenicia, the school of higher criticism from the 18th -19th century was skeptical concerning the reality of these dates, because there were no archeological confirmations of these assertions.

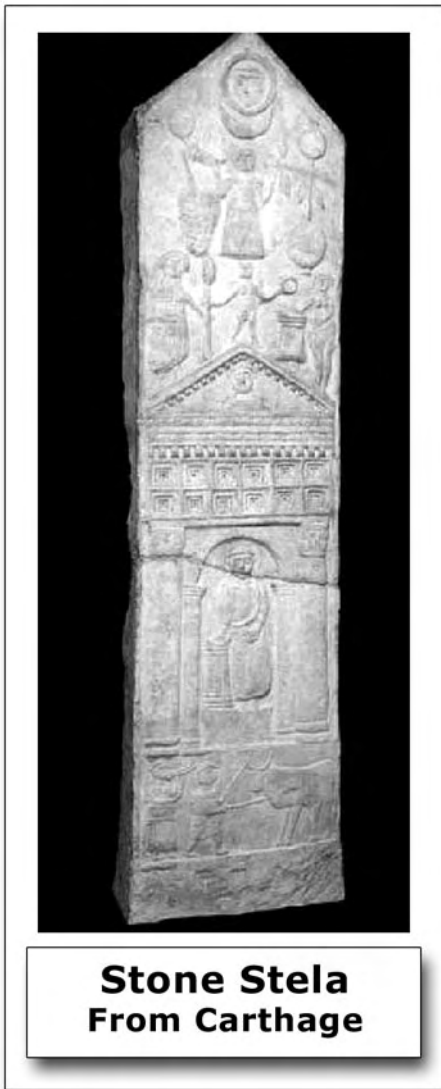
However, the situation was changed because they uncovered evidence in Carthage and in various other sites from Tunisia stelae dedicated to **Tanit** (identified with Astarte) and to **Baal-Hammon** (in the Bible it’s named Molech, 1 Kings 11:7 last part – “...and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon”). The stelae show the ritual of child sacrifice, also signs of Tanit, dedications to Baal-Hammon and Tanit, sun discs, crescent moons entwined with snakes, etc. Some of them are exhibited in the British Museum in London, which has a collection of nearly two hundred Punic and Neo-Punic stelae.

2. Phoenician colony founded in 814 BC in North Africa (today Tunis, Tunisia) by queen Dido (Elissa), the sister of Tyre’s king, Pygmalion.

3. Diodorus from Sicily, History, XX, 6-7

Child sacrifices were called in Phoenician molk, in Hebrew molek and later this sacrifice was called molchomor. This Bible passage was about child sacrifice, which was offered in tophet – the place where babies and small children were sacrificed. (2 Kings 23:10 – “And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.”).

“The children were the most usual sacrifice for the god, Baal-Hammon. The ritual proceeded from the idea that the small pure children – the most precious thing which the parents had – are the perfect sacrifice for forgiveness and that this appeases, for certain, the gods. Plutarch tells that the mother assisted at the sacrifice without a cry or a sigh. If



she was crying or sighing, she lost her honor, but anyway the child was thrown into the fire. The children were sacrificed

every year on a certain day – before some important event or after misfortunes.”⁴

This molek sacrifice is mentioned many times in Old Testament. King Ahaz gave his son as an offering to the god Molech, “following the abomination of the heathen”. (2 Kings 16:3 – “...and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel.”) “The new religious ceremonies took root after the marriage of Ahab with Jezebel, Ethbaal’s daughter, the king of Tyre.”⁵ The prophet Jeremiah condemns the sins of Judah - erecting sacrifice altars to burn their sons and daughters in the fire. (Jeremiah 7:31; 19:5 – “and they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart”).

God commanded His people to not follow “the abomination of the heathen” from the country which He would give them (Leviticus 18:3, 21; 20:2 – “After the doing of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doing of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances”; “And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord.” “Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.”), but the people didn’t listen. (Ahaz – 2 Kings 16:3; Manasseh – 2 Kings 21:6 “And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger”).

In fact, child sacrifice was a current practice of the Canaanites from the third and second millennium B.C. and archeological excavations from Gezer (near modern Ramla, Israel) revealed children’s bones, calcified half way, used in the construction of foundations for homes.⁶

In Genesis the episode in which God commanded Abraham “take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and

offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of” is explained in great detail. The episode typified with unrivalled force the profound significance of faith. Abraham was not preparing himself to sacrifice his child for a certain result, like Mesha, the Canaanite did. The king of the Moabites sacrificed his eldest son in order to gain the victory. (2 King 3:27 – “Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt-offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.”) Abraham was bound to God by faith, he did not doubt the holiness, perfection and almighty power of his God. He did not understand the full significance of the act that God asked of him. Only God knew the significance and value of this symbol, which for most others, must have seemed only like the crimes of the heathen. He did not fulfil a Canaanite ritual because he did not have a goal and did not understand the significance of his act. On the other hand his faith ensured that it was not about a crime. (James 2:23 – “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God”)

“He might have pleaded that age should excuse him from obedience. But the patriarch did not take refuge in any of these excuses. Abraham was human; his passion and attachments were like ours; but he did not stop to question how the promise could be fulfilled if Isaac should be slain. He did not stay to reason with his aching heart. He knew that God is just and righteous in all his requirements, and he obeyed the command to the very letter.”⁷

“The ram offered in the place of Isaac represented the Son of God, who was to be sacrificed in our stead.”⁸ God wanted to show to the fallen world that forgiveness can not be obtained through human sacrifices, that only “perfect obedience can be accepted”. And much more God wanted them to understand that animal sacrifice was a type of the true Sacrifice which human sacrifice could not substitute.

4. Hans-Christian Hüf, Sphinx, the mysteries of history, vol. 3-4, The publishing house “Saeculum”, Bucharest, 2000, p. 281. Original title Sphinx. Geheimnisse der Geschichte, 3, Von Ramses II. bis zum Ersten Kaiser von China; 4, Von Richard Löwenherz bis Casanova, Gustav Lübbe Verlag GmbH, Bergisch Gladbach., 1998-1999.

5. Ibidem, p.281.

6. Constantin Daniel, Phoenician civilization, Bucharest, 1979, p. 259.

7. Elle G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 108.

8. Ibid, p. 109.

“Heavenly beings were witnesses of the scene as the faith of Abraham and the submission of Isaac were tested. The trial was far more severe than that which had been brought our first parents...”⁹

Among other “abominations” which Solomon made before God was to love many strange women that caused him to sin and one of them was even the daughter of Pharaoh – from the XIX dynasty, (1Kings 11:1 – “But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;”), to worship Astarte (1 King 11: 5 – “For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Micol the abomination of the Ammonites”), he erected altars on high places for Molech and Chemosh. (1King 11:7 – “Then did Solomon build a high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.”).

The god Chemosh is the main god of Moab; he is mentioned eight times in the Old Testament. They brought human sacrifices to him and this is certified by the burning of his son, Mesha (2 Reigi 3:27) and the writing from the stela of Mesha, king of Moab. The Mesha Inscription describes the revolt of Mesha after the death of Ahab (2 Reigi 3) and in lines 14-18 he was speaking about the human sacrifices devoted to Chemosh:

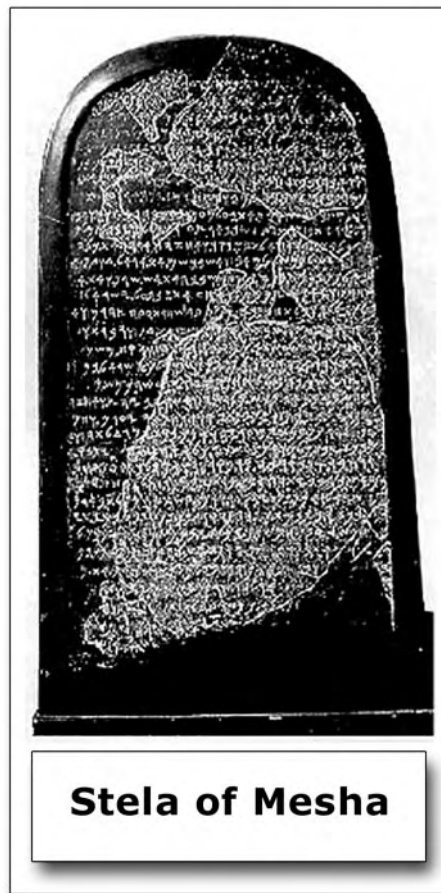
“And Chemosh said to me: ‘Go! Take Nebo against Israel.’ And I went by night and fought against it from break of dawn till noon. And I took it and slew all: 7,000 men, boys, women, girls, and pregnant women, because I devoted it to Ashtar-Chemosh. And I took thence the altar-hearths of YHWH and I dragged them before Chemosh” (lines 14-18).¹⁰

Modern Child Sacrifices

Of course, for us it is very difficult to understand the Phoenician thinking, their mysticism, going to the extreme cruelty toward innocent children. Today, the research from psychology, biology and education show that:

“The baby depends completely on his mother. The mother is the absolute pedagogue. The child identifies with her... Both the mother and child are making up not only a biological unit, but also an educational unit, in which both are influencing reciprocally. Any dysfunction in the mother-child relation, in the communication between them, might generate delays and perturbations in the psychological development of child and in the emotional and moral development of mother.”¹¹

“If the parents show calm, equilibrium and affection, the growth of the child is influenced positively toward the same characteristics: trusting, equilibrium, and affection. If the persons around him offer insecurity and indifference, distrust and



fear will persist as basic structures of his personality.

The deficit of care, stimulation and affection might transform the child into an uncertain, anxious and mistrustful adult.”¹²

Concerning spiritual development Ellen White wrote: “Parents, for Christ’s sake do not blunder in your most important work, that of moulding the characters of your children for time and for eternity. An error on your part in neglect of faithful instruction, or in the indulgence of that unwise affection, which blinds your eyes to their defects and prevents you from giving them proper restraint, will prove their ruin. Your course may give a wrong direction to all their future career. You determine for them what they will be and what they will do for Christ, for men, and for their own souls.

“Deal honestly and faithfully with your children. Work bravely and patiently. Fear no crosses, spare no time or labour, burden or suffering. The future of your children will testify the character of your work. Fidelity to Christ on your part can be better expressed in the symmetrical character of your children than in any other way. They are Christ’s property, bought with His own blood. If their influence is wholly on the side of Christ they are His co-labourers, helping others to find the path of life. If you neglect your God-given work, your unwise course of discipline places them among the class who scatter from Christ and strengthen the kingdom of darkness.”¹³

At the end of this subject about what the Phoenician world was, I have to mention that there are many other things concerning the Phoenician life and their customs that we can perhaps look at in another article. May God bless you! *Amen*

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9. Ibid, p. 110.

10. “The stela of Mesha, discovered in 1868 then brought back by Clermont-Ganneau in 1873, carries an inscription of thirty-four lines in Moabite, a script close to ancient Phoenician. The text commemorates the defeat inflicted on the kingdom of Israel after the death of Achab, shortly before 842 BC. The stela was erected at Dibān, capital of Moab, par Mesha, son of Kamoshyat, King of Moab.” - Louvre

11. Irina Maciuc, Elements of differential psycho-pedagogic, chapter “The new-born and the first year of life”, Didactic and Pedagogic Press, Bucharest, 2000 p.48.

12. Ibidem, p. 47.

13. Ellen White, Testimonies, vol. 5, chapter “Training of children” pp. 39-40.

MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART



On Monday, April 12, I was accused of being irate. “Irate!? Irate!? I was not irate.” My boss, my coworkers, even the customer whose merchandise I was delivering did not believe the allegation. “Chester!? Not Chester!?” But, yet still, my conduct provoked the terminal manager who then demanded my immediate departure and prohibition from the grounds. Now my cousin, my aunt’s daughter’s son, he was irate.

On Wednesday, April 7, a man with a gun came to my aunt’s house looking for my cousin. He was not there, neither does he live there, nor, until recently, is he welcome there. Fortunately, no shots were fired. My cousin, after he had heard what had happened, cautiously sought out the man. When he had found him, my cousin, being protective of his family, entreated the man not to involve the relatives. He also tried to settle their dispute reasonably. The man, however, coaxed my cousin into coming to his home, where he and his business associates beat my cousin, leaving him half dead. My cousin, afterwards, was able to return to his home, where he retrieved a gun, and, unfortunately, returned to the area where he was assaulted, and fired many shots. I do not know if any one was hurt.

Again, I say, I was not irate. But, yet still, my conduct provoked the terminal manager who barred me from entering their yard. Naturally, I tried to justify myself. After reviewing the situation, I asked myself, What would Jesus have done? I was then convicted of sin. I wanted to return that night and apologize, but I was advised to wait a few days until the manager cools off.

“The professed Christian who comes up to that last fearful conflict unprepared will, in their despair, confess their sins in words of burning anguish, while the wicked exalt over their distress. These confessions are of the same character as was that of Esau or of Judas. Those who make them, lament the result of transgression, but not its guilt. They feel no true contrition, no abhorrence of evil. They acknowledge their sin, through fear of punishment; but, like Pharaoh of old, they would return to their defiance of Heaven should the judgment be removed.” (GC, pp. 620, 621).

On Easter, April 11, I talked with my cousin. (I’ve also witnessed to him in the past). He explained to me what started it all--an illegal business transaction gone sour. The man took, and my cousin took back. My cousin felt that he had made a mistake in associating with the man. My cousin admitted that his lifestyle was a mistake, an offence to his family, to society, and to God. “But,” he said, “What are the opportunities for a young black man besides basketball, rap music, and drugs?” But, then he is reminded of the opportunities once offered him. He was a certified welder. He had had a college scholarship. He was even invited to participate in the Olympics. Unfortunately, he confessed, he wanted to obtain a lot of money quickly with the least amount of work.

“Christ was the only sinless one who ever dwelt on earth; yet for nearly thirty years He lived among the wicked inhabitants of Nazareth. This fact is a rebuke to those who think themselves dependent upon place, fortune, or prosperity, in order to live a blameless life. Temptation, poverty, adversity, is the very discipline needed to develop purity and firmness.” (DA, p. 72).

“Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!” (Psalm 107:8). “For He

maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Mat. 5:45, last part). “Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man, to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living. He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not; He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.” (Job 32:29, 30, 27, 28). “Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and His wonderful works to the children of men!” (Psalm 107: 15).

O n

Thursday, April 15, I apologized to the terminal manager for not being Christ-like, “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.” (1 Peter 2: 22, 23). “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled

Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Phil. 2:6-8).

Also on Thursday, it was confirmed. The body found yesterday was that of my cousin, my aunt’s daughter’s son. He had been murdered. He was only 22 years old.

“What is humility? That sense of sin and unworthiness which leads to repentance.” (9MR, p. 229). “A sense of our own weakness and frailty will lead us to lean upon One that is mighty to save, whose delight is to impart strength and courage to the humble, self-abased suppliant. Humility is the greatest ornament a Christian can wear.” (RH, 1-10-1856). “When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.” (20 MR, p. 117).

“The statement made by Moses under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that he was the meekest man upon the earth, would not have been regarded by the people of his time as a commendation; it would rather have excited pity or contempt. But Jesus places meekness among the first qualifications for His kingdom. In His own life and character the divine beauty of this precious grace is revealed.” (MB, p. 14).

“Look unto Jesus at all times and in all places, offering a silent prayer from a sincere heart that you may know how to do His will. Then when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard for you against the enemy. When you are almost ready to yield, to lose patience and self-control, to be hard and denunciatory, to find fault and accuse--this is the time for you to send to heaven the prayer, ‘Help me, O God, to resist temptation, to put all bitterness and wrath and evil speaking out of my heart. Give me Thy meekness, Thy lowliness, Thy longsuffering, and Thy love. Leave me not to dishonor my Redeemer, to misinterpret the words and motives of my wife, my children, and my brethren and sisters in the faith. Help me that I may be kind, pitiful, tenderhearted, forgiving. Help me to be a real house-band in my home and to represent the character of Christ to others.” (AH, p. 214). *Amen.*

Chester Cosby, Detroit, MI





WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

EXODUS 28:36-38

What is the purpose for your life today? Continually, restate to yourself what the purpose of your life is. What is your purpose for living? What is your purpose in this shaky world? Why are you existing? What or whom are you existing for? What is your purpose for being a father or mother? A husband or wife? A student? Is there any end? What is the purpose for being where you are today and doing what you are doing?

Is our life just, or merely to be born, live, study, work, and then die? Man was created, certainly for a greater destiny or end than that! What is the destiny of man? But, firstly, destiny means a set, predetermined life... a life based on fate. Do we live by fate or chance, a life wildly based on chance? A life that is a gamble based on luck? No! for, the God-fearing life of a Christian is founded on divine principles and beliefs.

Is the end or purpose, then happiness? Well, in part, happiness can play an important role in man's life. But, happiness is not a word to be found anywhere in the Bible. Happiness, by definition means favoured by luck, comfort, trusting to luck. Furthermore, happiness depends on what happens. Ah! But joy does not. Joy is an emotion, an expectation of good; and that which causes happiness. For example, we look with joy to His second coming. Jesus says, "These things have I spoken to you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." John 15:11. so, is the end or purpose of man happiness or joy? Again, in part, but not explicitly. What can it be then?

Perhaps, the purpose of man's existence or end is bounding health. Health, sound in body, mind and soul, free of disease or agonizing pain and suffering? No. But, we read..."your body is the temple of God." 1 Cor. 6:19. certainly, this must be our purpose, or wish in life. But, no it is not. Again, the question lingers.

The purpose and end of man finally here on earth today is entire "HOLINESS"! (Ex. 28:36-38). What really matters, then, based on this is whether a man will accept the God, Lord and Master who will make him holy! At all costs and constant striving, man must be rightly related or connected to God. But being related or connected rightly is not adequate, yet we often hear this from the pulpit! We need more importantly to be ONE in Jesus. God, therefore, has ONE purpose and end, a divine end, for mankind... namely, HOLINESS!

In this God also has a plan for man and mankind. God's one aim is the production of saints (Rev. 14:12). He wants to take us out, furthermore, from this decaying world and take us up in the air to Heaven and an eternal life of blessed peace and joy. But, unfortunately, many believe that God is merely an eternal "blessing-machine". That He just turns out blessings! Oh, Lord, bless me, bless her, bless him, bless our home, bless our children, bless our church, bless our pastors, bless our friends, bless our enemies, everyone... everywhere!

But, He did not come to save men out of pity because He just pitied them. But, He came to save men because He had created them to be HOLY. The atonement, the redeeming effect of Christ's incarnation, sufferings, death, reconciliation between God and men, means that God can put me back into perfect union with Himself... ONE... and without a shadow between, through the death of Jesus Christ. He does this no matter who we are, what we are, and where we are.

Never tolerate sympathy with yourself or others or any practice or any action that is not in keeping with a Holy God. Furthermore, holiness means unsullied walking with the feet, without gloominess or a disagreeable, harsh, angry disposition, or low spirits or depression. This means living in a state of... selflessness! Moreover, holiness means unsullied talking with the tongue. Holiness means unsullied thinking with the mind. Every detail of our lives is under the scrutiny and searching eye of God.

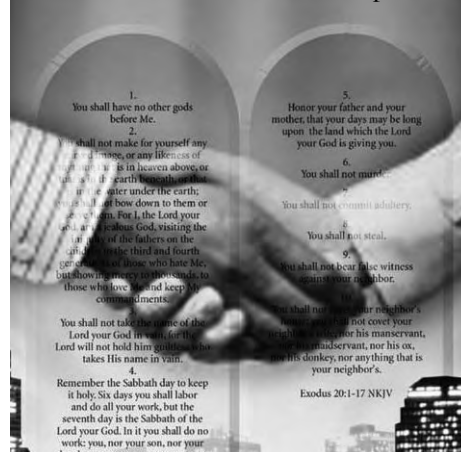
So, holiness is not only what God gives me, but what I manifest that God has given me, my every word and act—good and bad. What does the Bible now say how holiness is defined? It is very clearly and simply defined in Deuteronomy 4:5,6. “Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’” Where else can we find laws more pure and just than those given to Moses for the children of Israel? Where else can we gain such strength? What other book can teach men how to love, fear, and obey God? It purifies life.

But, there is a counterfeit holiness that leads men to follow their own feelings and impressions rather than yield obedience to the law of God. We can define holiness further by reference to Acts of Apostles, p. 51. “Holiness is not a rapture, a spiritual or emotional ecstasy and feeling, but a complete surrender of the will to God.” Going on further, it is “living every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” It is, simply, doing the will of our heavenly Father. It is trusting in Him. When? In trials, in darkness as well as light. It is walking by faith and not by sight. It is relying on God with unquestioning confidence and resting in His love.

“Man has no power to grow in holiness apart from Jesus Christ.” SC 69. “Follow after, and grow in holiness constantly.” Phil. 3:12. There are some erroneous ideas regarding holiness. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” 1 John 1:8. Some

confess holiness but refuse to obey His commandments. “And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.” 1 John 3:5,6. Now, he who keeps HIS COMMANDMENTS ABIDES IN HIM, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” 1 John 3:24.

There is many who strive to obey God’s commandments, but have little peace or



joy. Why? Because they have, “false professions and faint views. This failure is due to a lack in exercising faith.” EW 70. “They walk in a parched land, a dry wilderness. There are others who desire an ‘easy religion’, a ‘goody-goody’ religion or church.” A religion of this kind gives no striving effort, no self-denial, no sacrifice, no separation from foolishness of the world. Sacrifices in the Bible means that we give to God the very best we have. Many want one foot in the world and one foot in Heaven. To attain a holy life requires work, time, perseverance, patience, and sacrifice. The easy or popular road is a popular doctrine today. The theme is “faith in Jesus only”... and “only the love of Jesus”... nothing more.

But, what saith the Word of God? “Have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?” Jam. 2:4. So, we see here that “by works man is justified, not by faith only.” GC 472. What then is the test of holiness? We can read from the Holy Scriptures, “He who says, ‘I know him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But, whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.” 1 John 1:4,5. Here then is the test of every

man’s profession. Do you know Him? How well?

This, the moral law, is the only standard of holiness in Heaven and Earth. He who claims to be without sin is far from holy. Why? Because he has no ideas of the purity and holiness of God or what they must become to be in harmony with His character and agree with God. “Pursue peace with all people and holiness without which one cannot see God.” Heb. 12:14.

What is life like without holiness? The human heart is selfish, sinful, vicious, and with a hasty temper... self is dominant.

So, how can we live a life of holiness? It is by receiving the life poured out on us, given us, on Calvary, on the cross, that we can live the life of holiness. This life we receive by receiving His Word, by doing those things He commanded.

Thus, we become ONE with Him. When this happens we become selfless, affectionate, servants. Furthermore, “He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood,” He says, “and dwelleth in Me and I in him.” That way, too, the soul receives spiritual strength with every communion.

Here we have a living ONENESS with Christ, and thus the Father, from this service. The practice of holiness is pleasant when we perfectly surrender to God. It is joyful, delightful to the truly converted. But, “the path of holiness is narrow. It is hard work, a hard road to travel.” 5T 41-42. A life-long struggle.

Then how do we, finally, come closer to perfect holiness? Christ has done all for us because we were helpless; we were bound in chains of darkness, sin, and despair and could do nothing for ourselves. It is through exercise of faith, hope, and love that we come nearer and nearer to perfect holiness. Jesus Christ stands for holiness. Behold Him! Fervently pray like you never prayed before; diligently read like you never read before. This is the secret of holiness. It is within the reach of ALL, who reach for it by faith. But a great deal depends on what is the real deep desire of our hearts.

Look to Jesus. Think of Jesus. Go to Jesus. Lean on Jesus. YOU CAN DO IT! AMEN.

John Theodorou, USA



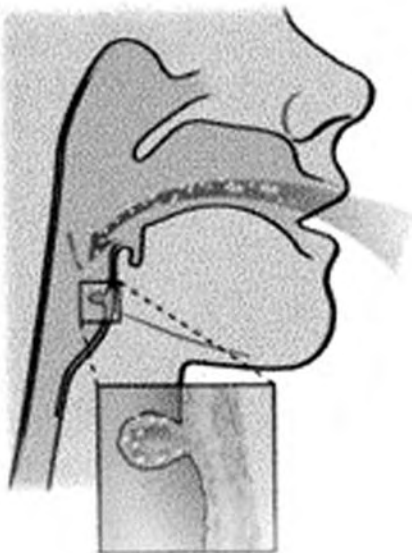
MONONUCLEOSIS

SYMPTOMS—Depression, fatigue, fever, generalized aching, sore throat, swollen glands, headache, jaundice, with possible red rash in the form of raised bumps.

CAUSES—Mono is a contagious disease, primarily affecting the spleen and lymphatic systems.

It can be transmitted by kissing, sexual contact, or sharing food or utensils. But it can also be spread through the air, breathing contaminated air exhaled by another, usually by coughing or sneezing. So it is not necessarily the "kissing disease" it is described to be.

Most frequently contracted by children and teenagers, the



incubation period is 10 days among

children and 30-50 days among adults.

The symptoms are very similar to those of the flu, but those of mononucleosis continue for 2-4 weeks! Even after the other symptoms are gone, a general fatigue can continue for 3-8 weeks more. Some people continue to feel fatigued for months or years.

Individuals frequently say they felt sick but continued working, thinking they would shake it off—and then came down with mono. So, if you feel like going to bed and getting well, do it before something worse happens to you.

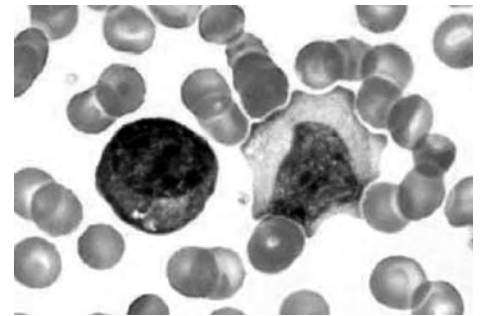
The Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) or, more rarely, the cytomegalovirus (CMV), is the cause of this infection. Therefore, it cannot be treated with antibiotics. Both EBV and CMV remain in the body throughout the rest of one's life; but the infection, carefully treated, generally seems to go away. Therefore, rest and care for yourself, so the outward symptoms will successfully go away!

TREATMENT

- Go on a light fast of fruit and vegetable juices for a day or two.
- Eat a nourishing diet, emphasizing vegetable soups, potato peeling broth, and brown rice. Eat small meals.
- Drink plenty of distilled water,

and be sure your intake of trace minerals is adequate.

- Do not eat processed or junk foods. Do not eat meat, sugar, fried foods, or drink soft drinks.
- Stay in bed until the worst part is over. You need lots of rest.



-Do not strain at the stool, for this could injure a temporarily enlarged spleen.

-Be alert to signs that a more serious splenic infection may be about to begin: a fever of 102F, severe pain in the middle of your left side that lasts 5 minutes or more; breathing becomes difficult. If this happens, CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN.

ENCOURAGEMENT—Jesus is your counselor. It is your privilege to cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. John 15:11. AMEN.

Kathleen Ross
Alberta, Canada

"WHAT MANNER OF SPIRIT YE ARE OF?"



We can have the Holy Spirit of God in us or we can have Satan's spirit, and very often we do not know which spirit it is that controls us. The disciples of Jesus did not like how the Samaritans treated them and wanted to call fire from heaven to consume them, but Jesus rebuked them saying, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of." Luke 9: 55.

The Pharisees and Jews in general considered themselves the favourites of God, but Jesus called them the children of the devil. This is the worst kind of blindness, to think that God's Holy Spirit dwells within us while it may be Satan's spirit.

"Self-righteousness and passion blind our eyes, so that we do not discern the Saviour." BC 6, p. 1097. This was the reason why Jesus called the Pharisees blind and leaders of the blind. Also the Laodicean angel is called blind, yet they themselves think that they are "rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing." Rev. 3:17.

It is terrible to think even that the leaders of God's own church can be blinded and be controlled by Satan's spirit. This happened many times in the Old Israel. They led the whole nation to worship idols. In the time of Christ the leaders of the church were controlled by Satan.

Of all the Millerite leaders, only one joined the Adventist Church. The leaders of the Seventh-Day Adventist church committed sin against the Holy Spirit, yet they continued as leaders of the church of God.

"They began this satanic work at Minneapolis. Afterward, when they saw and felt the demonstration of the Holy Spirit testifying that the message was of God, they hated it the more, because it was a testimony against them. They would not humble their hearts to repent, to give God the glory, and vindicate the right. They went on in their own spirit, filled with envy, jealousy, and evil surmisings, as did the Jews. They opened their hearts to the enemy of God and man. Yet these men have been holding positions of trust, and have been molding the work after their own similitude, as far as they possibly could." TM, p. 80.

"I can never forget the experience which we had in Minneapolis, or the things which were then revealed to me in regard to the spirit that controlled men, the words spoken, the actions done in obedience to powers of evil... They were moved at the meeting by another spirit, and they knew not that God had sent these young men to bear a special message to them which they treated with ridicule and contempt, not realizing that the heavenly intelligences were looking upon them. I know that at that time the Spirit of God was insulted." MS 24, 1892.

"We should be the last people on the earth to indulge in the slightest degree the spirit of persecution against those who are bearing the message of God to the world. This is the most terrible feature of unchristlikeness that has manifested itself among us since the Minneapolis meeting. Sometime it will be seen in its true bearing, with all the burden of woe that has resulted from it." G.C.B., 1893, p. 184.

"Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath. While professedly they receive Christ, they embrace Barrabas, and by their actions say, "Not this Man, but Barrabas." Let all who read these

lines, take heed. Satan has made his boast of what he can do. He thinks to dissolve the unity which Christ prayed might exist in His church. He says, "I will go forth and be a lying spirit to deceive those that I can, to criticize, and condemn, and falsify." Let the son of deceit and false witness be entertained by a church that has had great light, great evidence, and that church will discard the message the Lord has sent, and receive the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories. Satan laughs at their folly; for he knows what truth is.

"Many stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan." TM, p. 409.

No one is outside the deceptions of Satan. Leaders, members, children, they all have the danger of falling into the control of Satan's spirit. Yet they think that God's Spirit is with them.

What we need is the gift of the Holy Spirit to discern the spirits. (1 Cor. 12:10). With this gift we can recognize the spirit in a person. Also

are signs that tell us which spirit controls them.

Those that have the Holy Spirit have also the fruit of the Spirit. They love even their enemies, they have fullness of joy, and a peace of heaven in their hearts.

Again, those that have Satan's spirit are complaining, criticizing, miserable, easily offended, and seeking positions. At the same time they are so blinded that they cannot see their true condition. All their religious efforts are in vain, only to be lost in the end.

The lukewarm professor of religion is in a lost condition. By his example he is causing others to fall into the same condition. The True Witness is offering to them gold, which is love and faith, also white raiment, which is Christ's righteousness, and eye salve which is the Holy Spirit. These heavenly gifts will open our spiritual eyes to see our true condition and provide us the help needed to reach perfection.

In the coming shaking there will be a separation between these two classes of the members in the church.

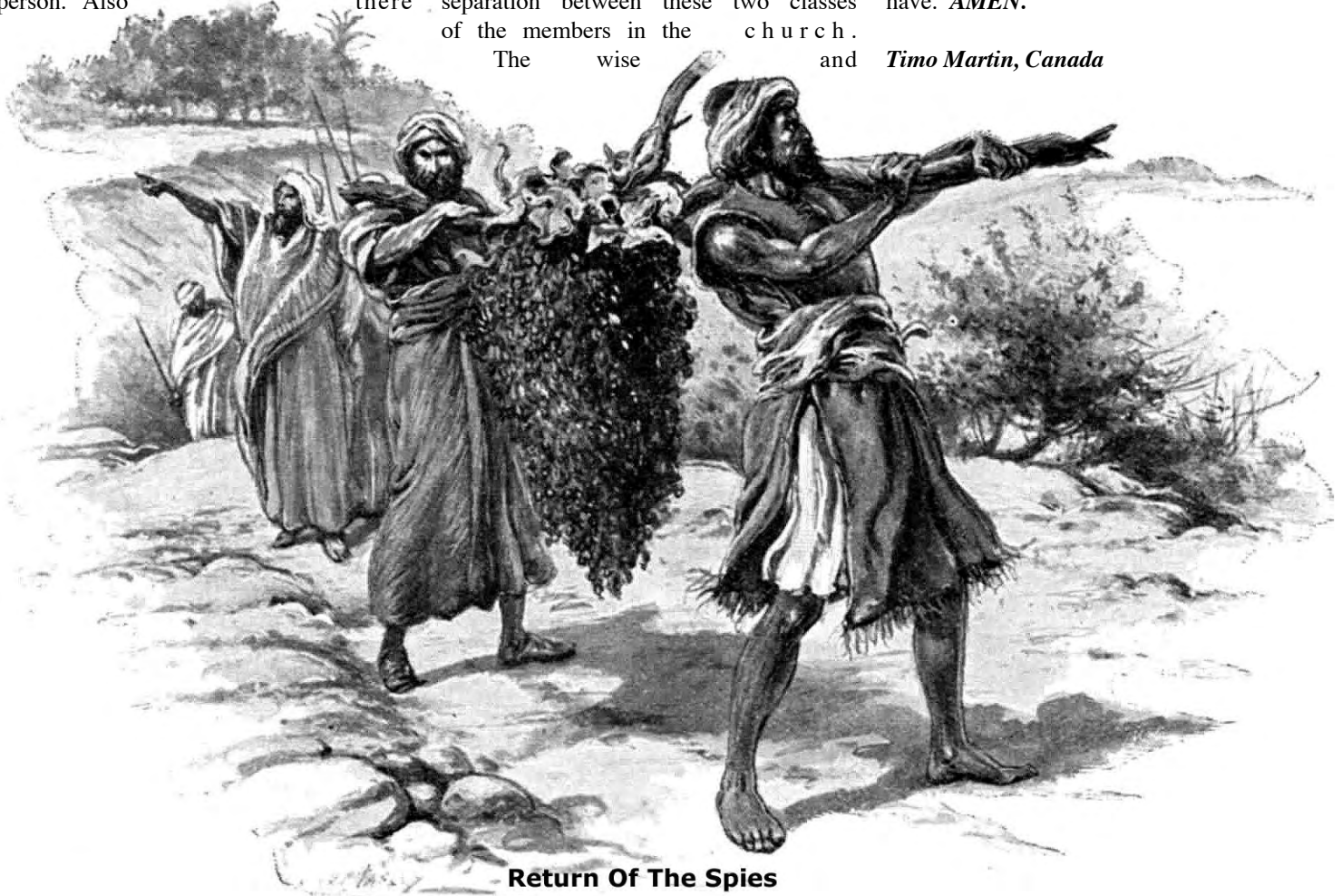
The wise and

foolish virgins will be separated and the little faithful remnant will receive the Latter Rain and finish God's work on the earth.

The 600,000 men, 20 years and over who left Egypt all perished in the wilderness. The reason for it was that they were controlled by Satan's spirit. Joshua and Caleb had God's Spirit and they were allowed to enter the Promised Land. These 600,000 men kept the Sabbath, paid tithes, participated in the worship, and obeyed all the rules and ceremonies that God had given them, yet they lost this life and also the eternal life. Satan controlled them while they were members in the Church of God.

Today Satan has more temptations than ever before prepared for God's people. Television, Internet and the worldly literature are mediums in the hands of Satan to draw people into his snares. It is of utmost importance to examine ourselves to find out what manner of spirit we are of. Our happiness in this life and our hope of eternal life depends on the spirit that we have. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada



Return Of The Spies



Most every country is fighting for democratic freedoms to create a modern and civil society. Are we enjoying a real freedom at the moment? Really, it is a very painful question which we have to think about in these last days. Some human rights groups are still shouting for every person's democratic freedoms, but they could not touch their target.

Modern technological developments in the last century have done wonders to convert this vast world into a global village. Any event in any part of our planet earth cannot pass unnoticed, taking place even in the remotest corner. While in the developed countries every home has a television set if not two, and Internet facilities are as accessible to all and sundry as have been toys for their children.

Satellite networking, digital telephones and radio transistors in areas where bullock cart sustains itself as one of the major means of transport have totally changed the complexion of the lives of the people wherever they are.

“The man who thinks he knows something does not know as he ought to know.” 1 Cor. 8:2.

We know that in every field knowledge is increasing. Day by day we have seen a very substantial increase in the modern security systems. In the recent developments in electronic technology, it has resulted in the manufacture and marketing of vastly improved security devices. But in looking at criminal activities, the crime rate is growing rapidly in both the internal and external types of thefts. The aviation authorities are introducing Air Marshals in the flights in the future. Can they put a stop to world criminal activities?

September 11, 2001 was a defining moment in modern history, not simply because of the unprecedented evil of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, but also because of the paramount political, moral and spiritual choices before all religions and nations. The innocence wished for our new millennium vanished as the World Trade Center towers collapsed and one fifth of the Pentagon disappeared. “Black Tuesday” might come to be known as the day that terrorism imploded on itself, simply because the carnage was so unbelievable, the attack so cowardly and the body count so high. The US State Department lists a total of 77 American casualties in terrorist attacks from 1995 to 2000, and then one day more than 3000 deaths in the World Trade Center alone. The living God is showing heavy distresses in every country in so many ways. The people are walking in worldly, blind circumstances and we daily are sinning against the living God.

“Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what He commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility, perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger.”
Zeph. 2:3.

The whole world is now daily fearing for terrorism and natural disasters. How should the Reformed Adventists react to Islam and to our Muslim friends? How should we understand the acts of terrorism and how does this affect our assessment of Islam? Does the Gospel speak to the actual human condition before us?

Islam is the second largest religion of the world, with almost 1.2 billion followers. Muhammad brought Islam to his fellow Arabs in

the early 8th century A.D. and Muslims are now present in every country of the world. At the worst extreme all Muslims have been viewed as terrorists and a legitimate target of hate and violence. The headgear of Osama Bin Laden and his Taliban allies should think that this is not a suitable time for terrorism.

In Germany where some Church leaders also blessed Adolf Hitler in Nazi Germany for his evil acts. History was witness to the emergence of Nazism and Facism in between the first and second world wars and these two posed a more serious challenge both to capitalistic society and the emerging Communism—they had to join hands to defeat Hitler and Mussolini in Europe.

President Bush advertently or inadvertently—had described his post-9/11 war against terrorism as a “crusade” without realizing that by saying that he had sounded the death-knell for the world, for the World Order he had chosen to preside over. And that—his so-called slip of the tongue had plunged the world formally into a clash of civilizations as predicted many years ago by Samuel P. Huntington, that of Christianity versus Islam. Peaceful followers of Islam—that has no record to dread the world with the Jewish holocaust, under Christian President Truman killing three hundred thousand innocent Japanese people, that has a history to back its claim that Jews were being persecuted by the Christians in Europe.

Anwar Sadat, a Muslim, the president of Egypt was assassinated by Islamic terrorists. The World Trade Center bombing was masterminded by the Islamic Cleric, Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahaman of Egypt, now is serving a life sentence in prison in the United States. Osama Bin Laden is very obvious proof of how Islamic ideas can be twisted to defend a campaign of evil. A native of Saudi Arabia, Bin Laden released a warning in February 1998 that spelled out his own views. “The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies—civilians and Military—is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it.”

This fatwa “urging Jihad against Americans was also signed by Muslim extremists from Egypt, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.” Bin Laden told the ABC

news producer Rahimullah Yousafzai in the year 2000, in February, that he would kill his own children if necessary in order to hit American targets. When is Bin Laden going to come out from the caves of Afghanistan? And also, when are the Taliban going to show their green lamps to the American military?

A trial of Saddam Hussein would primarily bring forth evidence of his heavy crimes. He is now counting his time and days in jail. He could face the death penalty. The Pakistan president Gen. Pervez Musharraf escaped two times from car bombings in last December 2003. India and Pakistan’s Kashmir tug of war is still going on at the Kashmir border where both military’s guns are shouting every day. The both countries should come for a final resolution of the region’s future. What about the Palestine and Israel issue, where these countries should come to a very steady negotiation. Can we expect that this can be done in the Middle East?

“That though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish. That they will be forever destroyed.” Ps. 92:7.

It is quite distressing to see support for Bin Laden in Palestine, in some areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Sudan, and on some famous Muslim websites too. On the Islamic Gateway’s Forum, one writer argued that the Sept. 11 attacks were not pinpointed enough. Next time they need to target “specific people,” journalists, people from think tanks, people from security and diplomatic services.

However absolutely right our condemnation of terrorism, it is necessary to address the political decisions that shape terrorism. Bin Laden, for example was once an ally of the US because of American support for the Taliban in resisting Communism in Afghanistan.

In China where we can find the “house churches” are growing illegally. But there is no way to determine how many of those groups are very active in China. Still, the “house church” leaders have been beaten, fined or imprisoned because they are sharing Christian ideas. Ironically, these events are said to have taken place shortly before Beijing of 2008. It seems that international pressure with regards to Chinese human rights abuse is weak,

or perhaps international leaders think the Olympics could influence China for the better.

Freedom House, a group based in Washington, D.C. reports that China has more Christians in prison for their faith than any other country in the world. Fear also is what motivates the Chinese government’s concern over unregistered religious groups. It is also the only rationale for stipulations like the government’s requirement that people register their Bibles.

“You have heard these things: Look at them all. Will you not admit them? Now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you.” Is. 48:6.

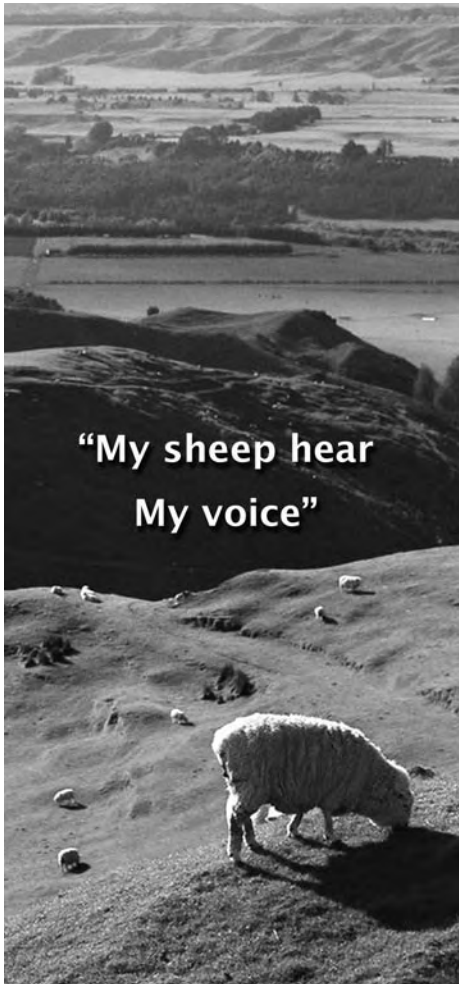
The idea that people must put Jesus first in their life is what alarms the Chinese government about the Christian faith. They do not see it as a Western influence as Communism is. They see Christianity as something opposed to Communism because they are two different systems of living for the people. China needs more teachers and preachers from the Reformed Adventist group. This Reformed Adventist group should introduce the real truth to them. Instead of sending trained ministers to Australia, we should send workers to China, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Burma and Nepal. And also we should give financial help, literature, spiritual movies, Bibles and clothes primarily to these countries. Most of the churches do not preach or teach the real prophecies of living truth to the people.

The Canadian Reformed Adventist Church group actively should support work in these countries in many ways. Many should join in an Asian Reformed Adventist team, especially India, Sri Lanka and China should be our focus countries in 2004. Believers will ask our living God, Jesus to influence the course of events. In Sri Lanka, where the Organization of Parents and Family Members of the disappeared in Sri Lanka—held a commemoration two weeks ago for nearly 52,000 missing people, demanding punishment of the guilty and compensation for their families. The figure of 52,800 comprises 44,000 Sinhalese who disappeared during the second youth uprising between 1987 and 1992, and some 8,500 people, mostly Tamils who went missing in the North and East provinces since 1995. Around one

million are totally disabled in one form or another, according to social welfare ministry statistics. A majority are from rural areas.

“Men will go there with bow and arrow, for the land will be covered with briars and thorns. As for all the hills once cultivated by the hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briars and thorns. They will become places where cattle are turned loose and where sheep run.” Is. 7:25-26.

The life of Jesus is our supreme example of His love. He loved all classes of people. He loved even His enemies. He regarded them as brothers and sisters, and His wounded heart ached when He saw them submitting to evil. The Lord is our refuge and strength. The promise of Jesus rings ever so much more comforting. “My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me, I give unto them eternal life,” and they shall never, even as buildings fall, as planes crash, as terrorists plot. Jesus was crucified that they, too, might be saved. Friend, this love is a healing stream for all nations. Are you and I in it? *AMEN*
Xavior Chelliah, Canada



CANADIAN CONFERENCE

*You Are Invited To Attend
In Toronto
July 30, 31 & Aug 1, 2004*

For More Information Please Contact:

*Timo Martin:
416-252-1197 or 416-235-0667
timom@sympatico.ca*

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

WHEN: DECEMBER 27, 2004 to JANUARY 2, 2005.

WHERE: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The Australian Field would like to invite young people from around the world to attend a Youth Conference in the middle of our summer at the end of this year.

Spaces are limited in Sydney as our facilities can only accommodate approximately 60 young people. Therefore it is recommended that you reserve your space early.

Reservations must be received by September 1st, 2004.

Payments can be sent to:

International Missionary Society
P.O. Box 54,
Toongabbie, NSW 2146
Australia

For detailed information:

**jerryeaton@smartchat.net.au or markus@justinternet.com.au
or call by telephone: Tel. (+61) 2-9670-2886**

We look forward to seeing as many of you as we are able to do so at the end of this year.



ATTITUDE OF RELATIVES

by Ellen White

Indulgent Relatives Are a Problem. Be careful how you relinquish the government of your children to others. No one can properly relieve you of your God-given responsibility. Many children have been utterly ruined by the interference of relatives or friends in their home government. Mothers should never allow their sisters or parents to interfere with the wise management of their children. Though the mother may have received the very best training at the hands of her mother, yet, in nine cases out of ten, as a grandmother she would spoil her daughter's children, by indulgence and injudicious praise. All the patient effort of the mother may be undone by this course of treatment. It is proverbial that grandparents, as a rule, are unfit to bring up their grandchildren. Men and women should pay all the respect and deference due to their parents; but in the matter of the management of their own children, they should allow no interference, but hold the reins of government in their own hands. {CG 288.1}

When They Laugh at Disrespect and Passion. Wherever I go, I am pained by the neglect of proper home discipline and restraint. Little children are allowed to answer back, to manifest disrespect and impertinence, using language that no child should ever be permitted to address to its superiors. Parents who permit the use of unbecoming language are more worthy of blame than their children. Impertinence should not be tolerated in a child even once. But fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts and grandparents laugh at the exhibition of passion in the little creature of a year old. Its imperfect utterance of disrespect, its childish stubbornness, are thought cunning. Thus wrong habits are confirmed, and the child grows up to be an object of dislike to all around him. {CG 288.2}

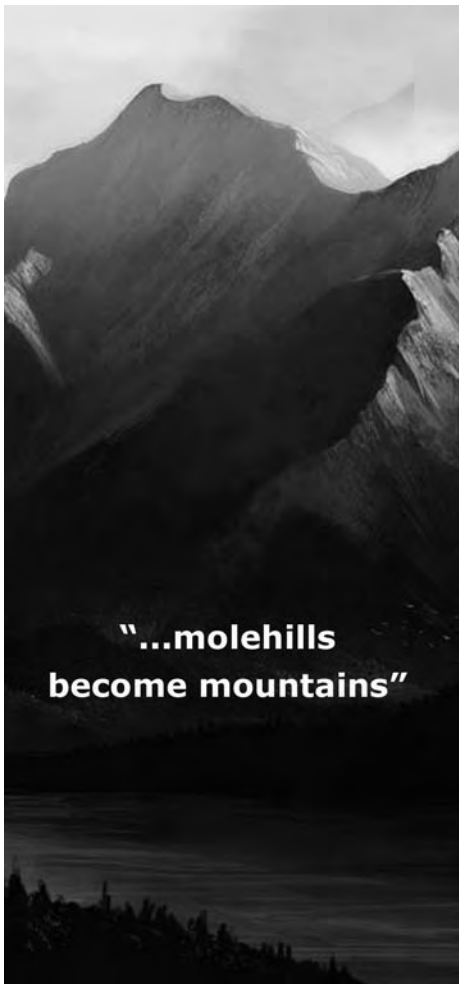
When They Discourage Proper Correction. I tremble especially for mothers, as I see them so blind, and feeling so little the responsibilities that devolve upon a mother. They see Satan working in the self-willed child of even but a few months of age. Filled with spiteful passion, Satan seems to be taking full possession. But there may be in the house perhaps a grandmother, an aunt, or some other relative or friend, who will seek to make that parent believe that it would be cruelty to correct that child; whereas just the opposite is true; and it is the greatest cruelty to let Satan have the possession of that tender, helpless child. Satan must be rebuked. His hold on the child must be broken. If correction is needed, be faithful, be true. The love of God, true pity for the child, will lead to the faithful discharge of duty. {CG 289.1}

Perplexities of a Family Community. It is not the best policy for children of one, two, or three families that are connected by marriage to settle within a few miles of one another. The influence is not good on the parties. The business of one is the business of all. The perplexities and troubles which every family must experience more or less, and which, as far as possible, should be confined within the limits of the family circle, are extended to family connections and have a bearing upon the religious meetings. There are matters which should not be known to a third person, however friendly and closely connected he may be. Individuals and families should bear them. But the close relationship of several families, brought into constant intercourse, has a tendency to break down the dignity which should be maintained in every family. In performing the delicate duty of reproof and admonishing, there will be danger of injuring feelings, unless it be done with the greatest tenderness and care. The best models of character are liable to errors and mistakes, and great care should be exercised that too much is not made of little things. {CG 289.2}

Such family and church relationship . . . is very pleasant to the natural feelings; but it is not the best, all things considered, for the development of symmetrical Christian characters. ... All parties would be much happier to be separated and to visit occasionally, and their influence upon one another would be tenfold greater. {CG 290.1}

United as these families are by marriage, and mingling as they do in one another's society, each is awake to the faults and errors of the others, and feels in duty bound to correct them; and because these relatives are really dear to one another, they are grieved over little things that they would not notice in those not so closely connected. Keen sufferings of mind are endured, because feelings will arise with some that they have not been treated impartially, and with all that consideration which they deserved. Petty jealousies sometimes arise, and molehills become mountains. These little misunderstandings and petty variances cause more severe suffering of mind than do trials that come from other sources. {CG 288-290}.

Ellen White



TRANS FATTY ACIDS

Who, What, Where?

- Trans fatty acids (a.k.a. trans or trans fats, are found in large amounts in foods containing hydrogenated vegetable oils.
- Trans fatty acids also occur naturally (in small amounts) in meat and dairy products. They've been part of the human diet for as long as people have been eating meat and dairy.
- The level of trans fats in meat and dairy is small, compared to the amount found in foods containing hydrogenated vegetable oils.

Why Hydrogenate?

- When oils are hydrogenated, they are converted from their liquid state to a hardened form.
- This artificial hardening of liquid oils offers a lot of advantages to food manufacturers. It stabilizes the oil, extends its shelf-life and allows for higher cooking temperatures.

The Controversy

Hydrogenation causes a chemical shift in polyunsaturated fatty acids, changing their behaviour. Instead of acting like normal unsaturated fats, trans fatty acids act much like saturated fats in our bodies raising total blood cholesterol levels and increasing the risk of heart disease.

Fat Sense

- Both saturated fats and trans fats have been shown to raise blood cholesterol levels and increase the risk of heart disease. Many experts believe that it's more important to reduce the consumption of saturated fats than trans fats.
- Health Canada says we shouldn't eat any more trans fats than we already do... but they haven't asked us to reduce those levels, either.

Hiding Places

- Any foods that list partially hydrogenated oils on the ingredient list contain trans fats. Check labels.
- Processed foods are more likely to contain trans fats than whole, natural foods.
- Commercially prepared baked goods, often contain trans fats—whether it's bread, buns, muffins, cookies or crackers. Check labels and ask your baker if they use hydrogenated oil.
- Other likely hiding places: doughnuts, pizza crusts, potato chips, shortening, and french fries.
- Any margarine that does not state non-hydrogenated on the packaging likely contains trans fats/

Trans-free Margarines

Margarine manufacturers have developed many soft margarines that are non-hydrogenated. But they're not entirely trans free. For instance, Becel contains less than 0.1 gram in a 100 gram serving—but that's so small it's considered nutritionally insignificant.

KRISTY'S PRAYER



CHILDRENS CORNER

Kristy wished with all her heart that she had been born a boy. Why, oh, why did she have to be a girl? Girls never had any fun. They couldn't climb trees and explore caves and go hiking with the neighbourhood boys. At least Kristy couldn't. Mother always said little girls should be ladies. She could run and play ball with her brothers. She could ride her bike on the sidewalk, but when it came to real fun, Kristy always had to be left out.

Take, for instance, the time the

neighbourhood boys all went on an overnight hike into the mountains. She was the only girl in the neighbourhood, and of course she could not go. She couldn't go on the all-day bike ride for the same reason. In short, Kristy decided, it just wasn't fair. As long as she had to live with her brothers on a street where there were no girls she ought to be given the privileges the boys had. But mother always over-ruled, and Kristy always stayed home. It was getting worse as she got older, too. Now that she was ten, Mother had decided she should learn to knit and sew her own clothing. And of course she always had to practice the piano.

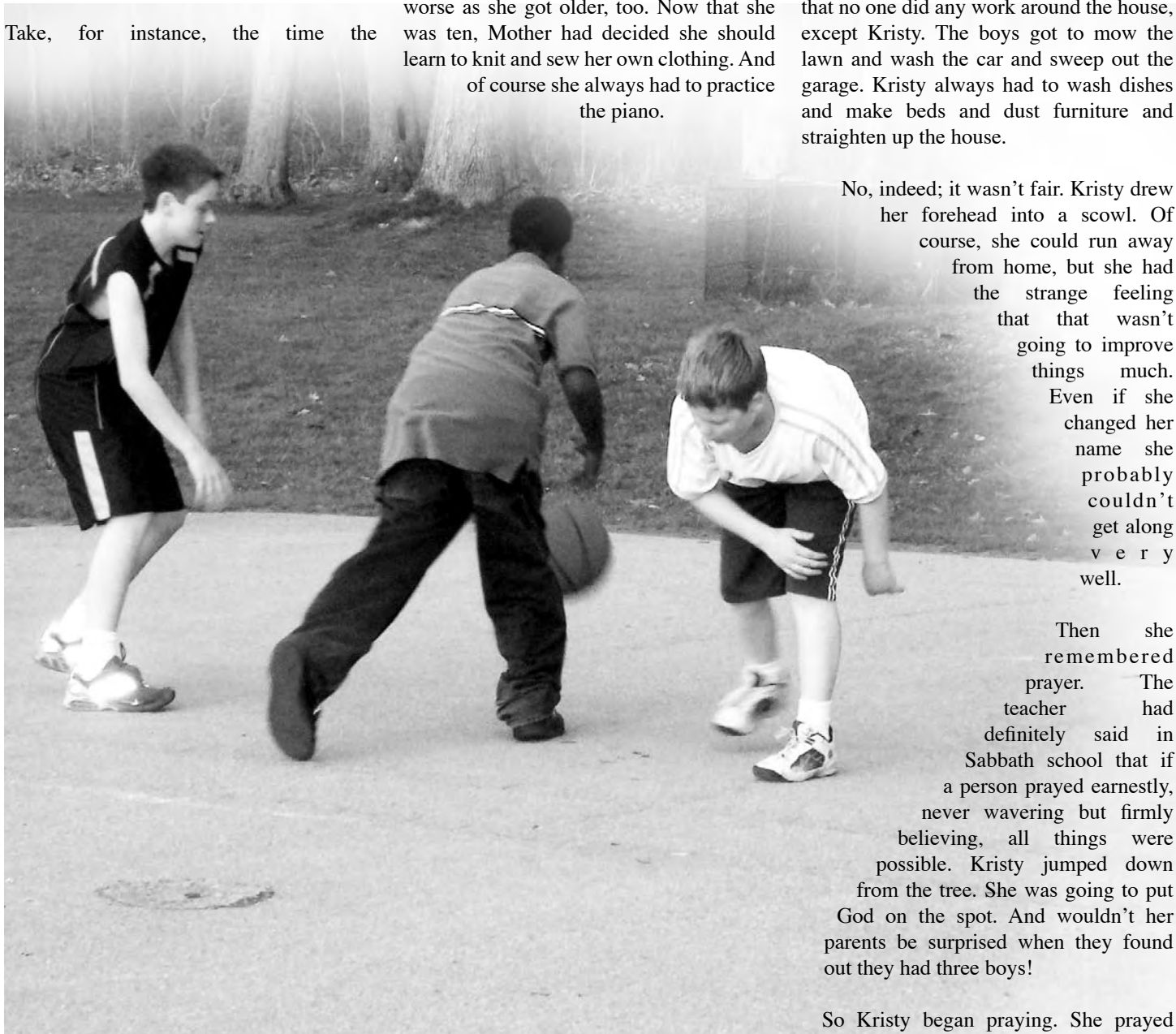
This was another thing that definitely was not fair. As soon as her brothers had gotten through the fourth piano book Mother had let them stop piano lessons. But not Kristy. "A girl should know how to play the piano well," Mother always said.

So as Kristy sat on her favourite perch in the old elm tree she surveyed the future gloomily. And even more, Mother made her wear dresses all the time. It seemed that no one did any work around the house, except Kristy. The boys got to mow the lawn and wash the car and sweep out the garage. Kristy always had to wash dishes and make beds and dust furniture and straighten up the house.

No, indeed; it wasn't fair. Kristy drew her forehead into a scowl. Of course, she could run away from home, but she had the strange feeling that that wasn't going to improve things much. Even if she changed her name she probably couldn't get along very well.

Then she remembered prayer. The teacher had definitely said in Sabbath school that if a person prayed earnestly, never wavering but firmly believing, all things were possible. Kristy jumped down from the tree. She was going to put God on the spot. And wouldn't her parents be surprised when they found out they had three boys!

So Kristy began praying. She prayed



hard and long. And she believed. She began reading her Bible and being especially good. Even Mother noticed the change and remarked about it.



But time went on, and nothing happened. Kristy made it easier for God by asking Him if He couldn't change her into a boy (she was sure He could, though), and to please help her mother to see that she could take care of herself as well as the boys and to let her do the things her brothers did. But mother was firm. Girls must learn to be ladies! Ugh!

Three months passed. As far as Kristy was concerned this was plenty of time for God to answer her prayer, but somehow He just wasn't doing anything. At worship one lovely Friday evening father chose to read about prayer. Kristy wondered vaguely how he could possibly know that she was praying so hard for something so special. When worship was finished she blurted out, "I don't believe in God anymore, Daddy."

Father looked up, surprised by this unexpected response to his devotional reading. Controlling his astonishment, he asked calmly, "And why not, little one?"

"God can do anything," Father began, and then as his mind raced ahead he wished he had answered more carefully – at least until he found out what was troubling his little daughter.

"Well, I don't believe it," Kristy flatly affirmed. "He never answered my prayers, and I believed just as hard as I could."

Father cleared his throat and thought hard. "Of course, it depends," he began. "I suppose there are some prayers God can't answer so as to please everybody."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, if I pray for rain so the lawn will get good and green again and Mr. Jones next door prays that it won't rain, because he wants to paint his house, what is God going to do about that?"

"Well, I suppose He would just have to do what is best. He would have to decide whether you needed the green grass more than Mr. Jones needed to paint his house."

"Exactly. Now what is your problem?"

"Oh, Daddy," and Kristy ran and sat on her father's lap. "I've wanted so badly to be a boy, and I know Jesus could do it if He wanted to. But He just doesn't even listen."

"He listens," Father assured her, stroking her blonde head, "But it's the same old problem. You see, Mother and I pray every day that you will be a good GIRL and that you will grow up to be a charming and intelligent lady. We thank God every day for you, for, you see, we wanted a girl very badly."

"Oh."

"And, you see, God knew way back there before you were born that someday you would be glad you are a girl, so He made you that way."

"Could He make me a boy if He wanted to?" Kristy said.

"Of course. If it would be good for you and for us and bring more glory to His name He could do it."

"Yes, but because you and Mother pray for

me to be a girl, and because you've known him longer, He gives you first choice?"

"Well," laughed Daddy, "I don't know about that. God is no respecter of persons. If He knew it was best, I'm sure He could do it. But you just wait. Someday you will be glad you are a woman and you will be happy God left you just the way He made you."

And she was.

Sometimes God does not answer our prayers exactly the way we want them to be answered, but that does not mean He is not listening. He promised, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21: 22.

Jesus listens, and then He answers our prayers in the way He knows is the best for us. We just need to trust that He knows what is best for us, and never complain of the way circumstances are in our lives, if God is in control.

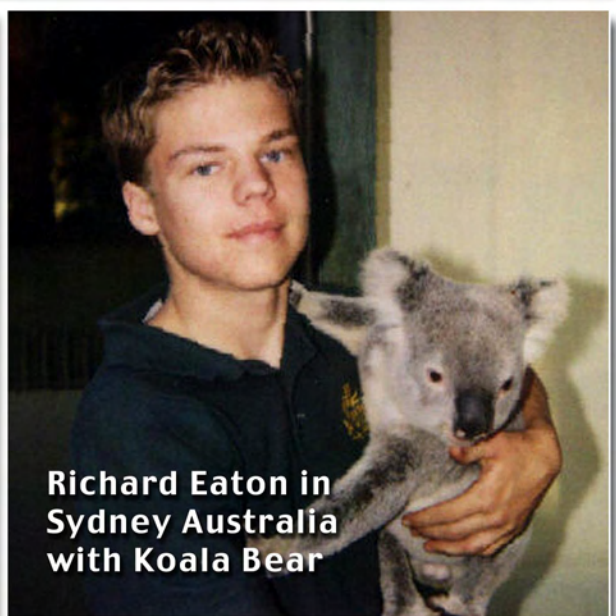




VISITORS IN MONTREAL



JOHN MCTAVISH WITH MAYOR OF TORONTO @ MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 7 VICTIMS THAT DIED IN A GAS EXPLOSION BESIDE TORONTO CHURCH



Richard Eaton in Sydney Australia with Koala Bear



SINGING @ NURSING HOME IN TORONTO



Kathleen Ross, Calgary



There is mighty power in prayer. Our great enemy is constantly trying to keep the troubled soul away from God. An appeal to Heaven by the humblest saint is more to be dreaded by Satan than the decrees of cabinets or mandates of kings.