


The Reformation Messenger



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 8, AUGUST 2005

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



*"A new commandment I give unto you,
That ye love one another; as I have loved you,
that ye also love one another." John 13:34*

The Reformation Messenger

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.

- Tel: 416-252-1197 Fax: 416-252-6625
- Email: timom@sympatico.ca
- Web: www.ims.truepath.com

In This Issue

CONFLICT, PERPLEXITY & TROUBLE	3
A CALL TO REPENTANCE	5
HE SPEAKS; I RESPOND	6
NEUTRAL GROUND	10
PETER'S DENIAL - OUR DENIAL	12
REVIVE US AGAIN: Part 4	14
REFORMATION DVD	16
HEALTH MATTERS: BLUEBERRIES	17
SIGNS OF THE TIMES: A DIVINE LEADER	19
A NOBLE REGENERATION	20
CHILDRENS CORNER: EARTHQUAKE	25

Subscribe To The Messenger

Please Fill In: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

No. of subscriptions: at \$18.00 each per year

(Price includes 12 issues, one per month, including shipping & handling)

Amount of cheque: \$

Payable to: IMS Publishing

Makes A Great Gift!

www.4truth.ca

IMS
PUBLISHING

54 NEWCASTLE ST.
TORONTO, ON
CANADA
M8Y1A3



CONFLICT, PERPLEXITY & TROUBLE

“Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? Hath thy soul loathed Zion? Why hast thou smitten us, and there is no healing for us? We looked for peace and there is no good; and for the time of healing, and, behold trouble! We acknowledge, O Lord, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee. Do not abhor us, for thy name’s sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us. Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Art not thou he, O Lord our God? Therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.” Jer. 14:19-22.

Everything that can be shaken, will be shaken, that what cannot be shaken may remain. Should we complain because we live in the midst of trouble and tumult? Would we want to live in complete peaceful retirement, yet never progress? Would we want the world to continue as it has for 1000’s of years?

Again, what if we discover sin in members of the church, or in ourselves where we least expect it? Should we become despondent, give up, and decide that righteousness is impossible? No! God allows us to discover our own sins and weaknesses, and those of others, so that we will flee to Him for help, and in no case put our trust in flesh, either our own, or that of others.

“Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the Lord. For he shall be like the heat in the desert, and

shall not see when good comes; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreads out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat comes, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it?

“I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As the partridge sits on eggs, and hatches them not; so he that gets riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

“A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary, O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because

they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters. Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.” Jer. 17:5-14.

Every weakness that we see in any other person, or in ourselves is in the Lord’s purpose to cause us to in no case put our trust or hope in any man. The wisest and best are only human and sometimes err. We are prone to look to others for help, sympathy, or understanding, instead of going to God in every case and in every unexpected situation.

This life is simply a training ground for God’s workers—a workshop where the impurities are removed and the gold refined. The fire must often be applied to remove the chaff, and who likes to go through the fire? Who enjoys being chiseled, and burned, and washed, and shaped and put aside, and picked up, and frozen, and heated, thawed and melted, worked and shaped... and the process never seems to end. Who likes living amidst turmoil and trouble?

“Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults.” Ps. 19:12

But if we desire to be among the white-robed singers, we will rejoice that God sees something worth working on in us. We will rejoice when our own errors are pointed out, even if it is humiliating and painful.

“And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.” Isa. 13: 11-13

Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory:

The last like the first sentence of the Lord’s Prayer, points to our Father as above all power and authority and every name that is named. The Saviour beheld the years that stretched out before His disciples, not, as they had dreamed, lying in the sunshine of worldly prosperity and honour, but dark with the tempests of human hatred and satanic wrath. Amid national strife and ruin, the steps of the disciples would be beset with perils, and often their hearts would be oppressed by fear. They were to see Jerusalem a desolation, the temple swept away, its worship forever ended, and Israel scattered to all lands, like wrecks on a desert shore. Jesus said, “Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars. Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these

are the beginning of sorrows.” Matt. 24: 6-8

Yet Christ’s followers were not to fear that their hope was lost or that God had forsaken the earth. The power and the glory belong unto Him whose great purposes would still move on unthwarted toward their consummation. In the prayer that breathes their daily wants, the disciples of Christ were directed to look above all the power and dominion of evil, unto the Lord their God, whose kingdom rules over all and who is their Father and everlasting Friend.

The ruin of Jerusalem was a symbol of the final ruin that shall overwhelm the world. The prophecies that received a partial fulfillment in the overthrow of Jerusalem have a more direct application to the last days. We are now standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. A crisis is before us, such as the world has never witnessed. And sweetly to us, as to the first disciples, comes the assurance that God’s kingdom rules over all. The program of coming events is in the hands of our Maker. The Majesty of heaven has the destiny of nations, as well as the concerns of His church, in His own charge. The divine Instructor is saying to every agent in the accomplishment of His plans, as He said to Cyrus, “I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me.

In the vision of the prophet Ezekiel there was the appearance of a hand beneath the wings of the cherubim. This is to teach His servants that it is divine power which gives them success. Those whom God employs as His messengers are not to feel that His work is dependent upon them. Finite beings are not left to carry this burden of responsibility. He who slumbers not, who is continually at work for the accomplishment of His designs, will carry forward His own work. He will thwart the purposes of wicked men, and will bring to confusion the counsels of those who plot mischief against His people. He who is the King, the Lord of hosts, sits between the

cherubim, and amid the strife and tumult of nations He guards His children still.

He who rules in the heavens is our Saviour. He measures every trial, He watches the furnace fire that must test every soul. When the strongholds of kings shall be overthrown, when the arrows of wrath shall strike through the hearts of His enemies, His people will be safe in His hands.” (See 1 Chronicles 29:11, 12)

Consider bread. The wheat seed must be planted, watered, heated by the sunshine, grown, ripened, dried, reaped, threshed, stored, taken out, ground, mixed, kneaded, risen, baked, cooled, sliced, eaten. All to provide energy and life for mankind.

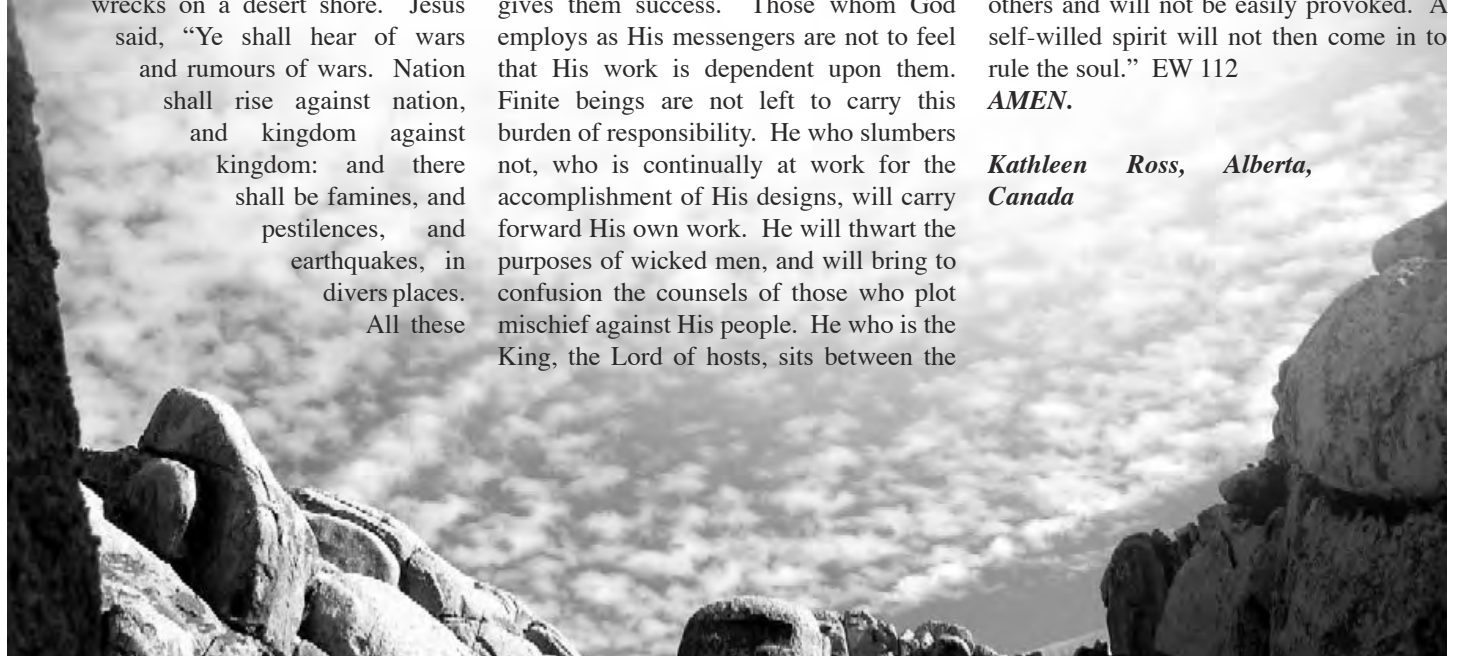
Martin Luther once said, “I desire to live in repose; but I am thrown into the midst of wars and revolutions.”

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

“We could not think of these important words, and call to mind the sufferings of Jesus that we poor sinners might receive pardon and be redeemed unto God by His most precious blood, without feeling a holy restraint upon us, and an earnest desire to suffer for Him who suffered and endured so much for us. If we dwell on these things, dear self, with its dignity, will be humbled, and its place will be occupied by a childlike simplicity which will bear reproof from others and will not be easily provoked. A self-willed spirit will not then come in to rule the soul.” EW 112

AMEN.

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada





“REPENT and turn yourselves from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.” Ezek. 14:6.

This is a strong and a firm warning which denotes the Lord’s purpose to stretch a darling hand to him who wants salvation. Man’s departure from sin should be a conscientious act that requires determination, will-power and personal struggle, including the power of God, which will enable man to overcome sin.

Repentance cannot take place without the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Repentance means pain. It is clear that it must come from the Lord. He has to make us abhor sin and feel sorry for the suffering our evil deeds or words cause to other people, to Him, and to His beloved Son who died due to our sinfulness. We should constantly plead to God that He may deliver us from the power of sin while we are still under His grace. Every sin, whichever commandment we transgress, can be expressed in one word, Idolatry. Whatever we exact above God and His holy will becomes an idol and has to be done away with, no matter how much pain it will or may cause us.

“Turning away your faces, all your abominations.” Consider that our eyes record everything we see like a camera, that everything we look at is not only an instant impression, but is stored in our mind and remains in our memory, and its picture can be made alive any moment. One of the main steps to overcome temptation and return to the Lord is by putting away our idols and by keeping our eyes away from them.

When we read Patriarchs and Prophets (section II) about the flood, so many things happened. We see before the flood, God sent Noah to warn the world that the people might be led to repentance to escape the threatened destruction; and as the time of Christ’s second coming draws near, the Lord always sends His servants to tell us the good news about His coming and to repent from our sins. These are warnings from the Lord unto the world to prepare them for the great event. Many people have been living in transgression of God’s law. And in His mercy, He still calls us to obey His sacred precepts; all who will put away his or her sins by repentance towards God, and faith in Christ, are offered pardon. It requires great sacrifice to put away sin if one loves sin; if we love God we will want to express our love by obedience to His law. If we consider the vast population which was on the earth before the flood, only eight souls believed and obeyed God through Noah. These eight were of Noah’s family, but others rejected and despised His message. Many have heard the truth, but have given a deaf ear to the Lord’s teachings, commandments and repentance of souls. So as it will be, the law-giver shall come to punish the disobedient. We are being warned to repent and turn our allegiance to God, having in mind that as it was in the days of Noah, even shall it be in the days when the Son of God is revealed.

God calls us for a full surrender, for all that we have and each day that we have, we have a part to act in deciding our destiny. We are God’s free agents and each one of us must work out his or her own salvation with fear and trembling, while God works in us to do His good pleasure. This notably

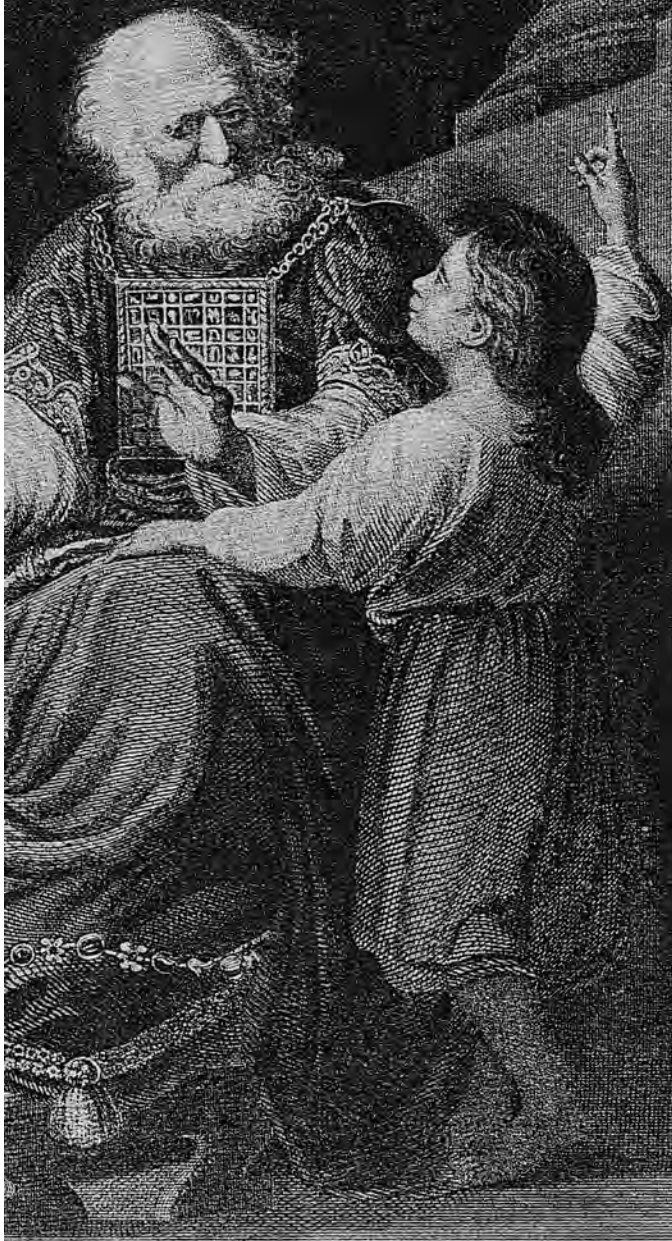
doesn’t matter who you are, how famous you are, neither your position in the work place. What is needed is a whole surrender and repentance between you and your Creator. Let God take you the way you are, and your name will be written in the Book of Life before He comes, having it in mind that we are living in the great day of atonement. We have to afflict our souls before God by sorrow for our sins because soon the door will be closed and nobody will open it for you. Ask yourself on which side you belong or are you still among the lost sheep? He went to prepare for us a nice supper in heaven, and we know that in His Father’s house there are so many things; no death and suffering, what a nice place for me and you!

Remember, I was once like you, bound with sin and abominations; I was overburdened with sorrow that threatened to overload me, but I found Jesus, the son of God, who was sent to deliver me from my bondage of sin, I was freed and made holy and for that reason, everything is possible if we put our trust in the Lord. And whatever our weaknesses may be, we must literally depart from the place or circumstances that lead us to temptation, lest we fall under its bewitching influence. Such an attitude will protect us from many snares, but it requires from us much awareness, prayer and perseverance.

May the Lord help us not to make any kind of compromise, and if we are still worshipping at foreign altars, that we may follow the right steps to repentance. **AMEN**

Willkister Akinyi-Outah

HE SPEAKS; I RESPOND



“Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down; and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak Lord; for Thy servant heareth.” (1 Samuel 3:9)

God has spoken. God is speaking. The big question is: Who is listening? Samuel was not accustomed to hearing God’s audible, personal voice. And perhaps Eli was not either. But when God persisted in calling the lad, and Samuel repeatedly reported this to the aged priest, the priest “perceived that the Lord had called the child.” (v. 8)

Then came the beautiful words which Eli placed in the mouth of the child, if once more the Lord should call him by name: “Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth.”

The Lord has spoken to Eli by His prophets, warning him of the consequences of indulgence toward his wayward sons. Because he indulged them even in high office, they had brought shame upon Eli, Israel, the tabernacle, the priesthood, and upon Jehovah. God had spoken. Eli had not responded. He heard with his ear, but no response from his heart nerved his will to do his duty to God and to Israel.

“Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth.” The child, Samuel, heard with his heart and his ear. He responded to the Lord in obedience. Shall we not search the halls of memory, of conscience, asking the Holy Spirit to give us Samuel’s ear—the hearing responding ear and heart?

Hearing And Believing

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” (John 5:24)

Many who heard Jesus’ words both on this occasion and many others, received no benefit from His words. To others, the same words brought the beginning of eternal life—heaven began for them, then and there. The difference is that some heard and believed. Some only heard. “The way in which I hear God, the quality of my hearing, will be indicated in my response.” (see James 2:14-26)

“Faith is trusting God—believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. Thus, instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness. Our lives, ourselves, are already His; faith acknowledges His ownership and accepts its blessing. Truth, uprightness, purity, have been pointed out as secrets of life’s success. It is faith that puts us in possession of these principles.” Ed., p. 253.

For further study, read Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 575-580.

Hearing And Following

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.” (John 10: 27, 28)

“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.” (John 10:14, 15)

How close and intimate and involved is the relationship between the Good Shepherd and His sheep! Jesus parallels that closeness with the closeness between Himself and His Father.

God is love and whoso dwelleth in God dwelleth in love. All who have indeed become acquainted, by experimental knowledge, with the love and tender compassion of our Heavenly Father will impart light and joy wherever they may be. Their presence and influence will be to their associates as the fragrance of sweet flowers, because they are linked to God and heaven, and the purity and exalted loveliness of heaven are communicated through them to all that are brought within their influence." MYP, p. 363.

"To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice; and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." (John 10: 3, 4)

Note that the Eastern shepherd moved out ahead of his few sheep. They followed him. What a contrast to the dog-assisted herdsman who drive large flocks of sheep ahead of themselves today. The life of the shepherd was governed by the needs of his sheep. He lived their life. Their every need was his to fulfill.

Is our response to God's word so childlike (so sheep-like) that we are prepared to follow His leading, no matter how narrow or how steep the path He chooses for us?

"It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Saviour's matchless love, revealed throughout His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary's cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of the beholders. They hear His voice, and they follow Him. DA, p. 480.

For further study, read *Desire of Ages*, pp. 480-484.

Hearing And Doing

"But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said,

www.imsessenger.org

Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not." (Matt. 21:28-30).

These two sons are so human, so much like us—especially the one who said, "I go, sir, and went not." Apparently it is not what we say but what we do that counts. Thank God, we can always change our minds and do what is right. But we must not leave it until too late. It may be better late than never, but it is always better never late.

"Counsel from the apostle James, "But be



ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgotteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1: 22-25)

"The most eloquent sermon that can be preached upon the law of Ten Commandments is to do them..."

"In order to gain a proper knowledge of ourselves, it is necessary to look into the mirror, and there discovering our own defects, avail ourselves of the blood of

Christ, the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness, in which we may wash our robes of character and remove the stains of sin. But many refuse to see their errors and correct them; they do not want a true knowledge of themselves." Test. Vol. 4, p. 58, 59.

"God requires that all of us should be self-sacrificing workers. Every part of the truth has a practical application to our daily lives. Blessed are they that hear the word of the Lord and keep it. Hearing is not enough; we must act, we must do. It is in doing of the commandments that there is great reward. Those who give practical demonstrations of their benevolence by their sympathy and compassionate acts toward the poor, the suffering, and the unfortunate, not only relieve the sufferers, but contribute largely to their own happiness and are in the way of securing health of soul and body. Isaiah has thus plainly described the work that God will accept and bless His people in doing." Test. Vol. 4, p. 59, 60.

"More than a promise is needed—The history of Israel as presented in this parable should be studied by all who would practice the teachings of Christ. The vineyard represents the church. The two sons are the two classes of men and women in the world. The Lord calls every member of His church to work in His vineyard. We are to understand our relation to Christ. Christ must abide in our hearts that we may keep before us pure principles, high incentives to moral rectitude. Our work is not merely to promise, but to do. Honesty and integrity must bind us up with God, to fulfill His word to the letter. Let those who hear the message God sends today beware, lest they follow the example of the self-exalted Jews. God does not propose to remove from our path everything that creates question or doubt in regard to the working of His servants. He gives ground for faith sufficient to convince the candid, sincere mind; but more evidence than this will never change the inward determination to resist light." (MS 127, 1899)

For further study, read *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 595, 596.

Hearing And Giving All

"And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And

he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: What lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, if thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.” (Matt. 19: 16-22)

A rich young man heard the words of Jesus and watched Him in His ministry. His heart was touched. He had heard, he had believed (in a measure). Now he wanted to follow. He felt that he had been doing right—but this was not enough.

Under the questioning of Jesus, this rich young ruler felt sure that he was doing all that could legitimately be required of him. “All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?” (v. 20)

It is perhaps commendable that the young man felt some kind of lack which Jesus could fill, and yet he could hardly admit any defect in himself. Jesus had put His finger on the plague spot in this man’s character in asking him to put what he had heard God say above every other consideration. In the person of the poor, he was asked to make God supreme, to do all that God asked—without reservation.

The choice is ours—“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” (1Tim. 6: 17-19)

“But whoso hath this world’s good, and

seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” (1 John 3:17)

“Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.” (Matt. 19:21-22)

“Christ’s words were verily to the ruler the invitation: ‘Choose you this day whom ye will serve.’ Joshua 24: 15 The choice was left with him. Jesus was yearning for his conversion. He had shown him the plague spot in his character, and with what deep interest He watched the issue as the young man weighed the question! If he decided to follow Christ, he must obey His words in everything. He must turn from his ambitious projects...

“He wanted the heavenly treasure, but he wanted also the temporal advantages his riches would bring him. He was sorry that such conditions existed; he desired eternal life; but he was not willing to make the sacrifice. The cost of eternal life seemed too great, and he went away sorrowful; ‘for he had great possessions.’

“His claim that he had kept the law of God was a deception. He showed that riches were his idol. He could not keep the commandments of God while the world was first in his affections. He loved the gifts of God more than he loved the Giver. Christ had offered the young man fellowship with Himself. ‘Follow me,’ He said. But the Saviour was not so much to him as his own name among men or his possessions. To give up his earthly treasure, that was seen, for the heavenly treasure, that was unseen, was too great a risk. He refused the offer of eternal life, and went away, and ever after the world was to receive his worship. Thousands are passing through this ordeal, weighing Christ against the world; and many choose the world. Like the young ruler, they turn from the Saviour, saying in their hearts, I will not have this Man as my leader.” (DA 520-523)

“The basis of all giving—Matthew 10: 8, last part.” “Freely ye have received, freely give.” The lesson is no less needed in the world today than when it fell from the lips of Jesus. Selfishness and cold formality have well-nigh extinguished the fire of love, and dispelled the graces that should make fragrant the character. Many who prophecy His name have lost sight of the fact that Christians are to present Christ. Unless there is practical self-sacrifice for the good of others, in the family circle, in the neighbourhood, in the church, and wherever we may be, then whatever our profession, we are not Christians.” DA, p. 504.

“To those who, like the young ruler, are in high positions of trust and have great possessions, it may seem too great a sacrifice to give up all in order to follow Christ. But this is the rule of conduct for all who would become His disciples. Nothing short of obedience can be accepted. Self-surrender is the substance of the teachings of Christ. Often it is presented and enjoined in language that seems authoritative, because there is no other way to save man than to cut away those things which, if entertained, will demoralize the whole being.” DA, p. 523.

For further study, read Christ’s Object Lessons, “The Reward of Grace,” pp. 390-393.

Hearing And Abiding

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7) Note: That the branches are not commanded to bear fruit. They are urged to “abide”. The vine and the Father—the Husbandman (John 15:1, 2) will provide the life and care for the fruitfulness.

“This spiritual relation (of abiding in Christ) can be established only by the exercise of personal faith. This faith must express on our part supreme preference, perfect reliance, entire consecration. Our will must be wholly yielded to the divine will, our feelings, desires, interests, and honour identified with the prosperity of Christ’s kingdom and the honour of His cause; we constantly receiving grace from Him, and Christ accepting gratitude from us.” Test. Vol. 5, p. 229.

“It is through the word that Christ abides in His followers. This is the same vital union that is represented by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The words of Christ are spirit and life. Receiving them, you receive the life of the vine. You live ‘by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.’ Matt. 4:4. The life of Christ in you produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering of Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ.” DA, p. 677.

For further study, read, *The Desire of Ages*, pp/ 674-680.

Hearing And Inviting

“And the spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” (Rev. 22:17)

“Come!” Say the spirit and the bride.

“Come!” Let each hearer reply.

One of the greatest evidences of having heard and responded to the God who speaks is in the hearer’s urge to pass on to others the gracious invitation he has received from heaven, to participate with the Holy Spirit and the church in the vital work of witnessing.

“Not upon the ordained minister only rests the responsibility of going forth to fulfill this commission. Everyone who has received Christ is called to work for the salvation of his fellow men. ‘The spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come.’ Rev. 22:17. The charge to give this invitation includes the entire church. Everyone who has heard the invitation is to echo the message from hill and valley, saying, ‘Come.’

“It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of soul saving depends alone upon the ministry. The humble, consecrated believer upon whom the Master of the vineyard places a burden for souls is to be given encouragement by the men upon whom the Lord has laid larger responsibilities. Those who stand as leaders in the church of God are to realize that the Saviour’s commission is given to

all who believe in His name. God will send forth into His vineyard many who have not been dedicated to the ministry by the laying on of hands.

“Hundreds, yea, thousands, who have heard the message of salvation, are still idlers in the market place, when they might be engaged in some line of active service. To these Christ is saying, ‘Why stand ye here all the day idle?’ and He adds, “Go ye also into the vineyard.’ Matt. 20:6, 7. Why is it that many more do not respond to the call? Is it because they think themselves excused in that they do not stand in the pulpit? Let them understand that there is a large work to be done outside the pulpit by thousands of consecrated lay members.

“Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the Church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. ‘The gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’ Matt. 24:14.” AA, p. 110, 111.

“To every child of God whose voice the enemy of souls has succeeded in silencing, the question is addressed, ‘what doest thou here?’ I commissioned you to go into all the world and preach the gospel, to prepare a people for the day of God. Why are you here? Who sent you?

“The joy set before Christ, the joy that sustained Him through sacrifice and suffering, was the joy of seeing sinners saved. This should be the joy of every follower of His, the spur to his ambition. Those who realize, even in a limited degree, what redemption means to them and to their fellowmen, will comprehend in some measure the vast needs of humanity. Their hearts will be moved to compassion as they see the moral and spiritual destitution of thousands who are under the shadow of terrible doom, in comparison with which physical suffering fades into nothingness.

“Of families, as of individuals, the

question is asked, ‘What doest thou here?’ In many churches there are families well instructed in the truths of God’s word, who might widen the sphere of their influence by moving to places in need of the ministry they are capable of giving. God calls for Christian families to go into the dark places of the earth and work wisely and perseveringly for those who are enshrouded in spiritual gloom. To answer this call requires self-sacrifice. While many are waiting to have every obstacle removed, souls are dying, without hope and without God... Where are those who are willing to do as much for the sake of telling others of the Saviour?” PK, p. 171-173.

It is impossible to separate the acceptance of salvation from a paralleling sense of mission. The heart and mind that have heard of God’s loving message are constrained to share the “Good News.” (see 2 Cor. 5:13, 14) To put it another way, he who has no sense of constraint or urgency upon him to share the gospel message and experience may need to take stock, to see whether he is still “abiding” in the vine—whether the words of Christ are abiding in Him.

The manner in which the believer responds to God’s speaking is indicative of the manner in which he is hearing. “The gospel commission is the great missionary charter of Christ’s kingdom. The disciples were to work earnestly for souls, giving to all the invitation of mercy. They were not to wait for the people to come to them; they were to go to the people with their message.” AA, p. 28.

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” Isa. 6:8

Dear reader, Christ’s work is to be done. Let those who believe the truth consecrate themselves to God. Where there are now a few who are engaged in missionary work, there should be hundreds. Who will feel the importance, the divine greatness, of the call? Who will deny self? When the Saviour calls for workers, who will answer, “Here am I, send me?” **AMEN!**

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia
E-Mail: goldenhingabantu@yahoo.com

NEUTRAL GROUND



Many think that they are being diplomatic and wise when they choose the neutral ground; this way they will not offend either side, or they just go along with the majority, even when their conscience tells them that the majority is wrong.

When Elijah called to the people, “How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.” Not one in that vast assembly dared utter one word for God and show his loyalty to Jehovah. All Israel was silent. This way they chose the neutral ground. All who still believed in the true God were afraid to express their opinion and chose to remain silent. Those who believed in Baal also decided to be silent. This was a religious crisis when the destiny of the whole nation was at stake.

Sister White writes, “If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.” Test. Vol. 3, p. 281.

When Jesus was in the judgment hall condemned by the false witnesses, not one of His followers nor His disciples dared to speak one word in His defense. When the people cried out, “Crucify Him, crucify Him,” they did not dare to raise their voices against it. They were not neutral in their minds, but in their actions they decided to take the neutral ground. They did not cry, “Crucify Him,” but by their silence they accepted the position of the majority.

“No one connected with the sacred work of God can remain on neutral ground. If a man is divided, undecided, unsettled, until he is sure that he will lose nothing, he shows that he is a man God cannot use. But many are working in this line. They have not been appointed by God, or else they have decidedly failed to be worked by the mighty agency of the Holy Spirit.” TM, p. 403.

The conference presidents often prefer yes-men in their committees, so that no one would oppose their ideas and proposals. For a while it may benefit these committee members and give them favours even, but in the end God will put them aside. They are not the Elijahs of the last days who dare to speak up, even against the king himself.

When the Israelites were fighting against the Canaanites there was one city nearby called Meroz. The inhabitants of this city did not come to help the Israelites against their enemies. They wanted to remain neutral, not for nor against. For this reason a bitter curse was pronounced against this city by the angel of the Lord. “Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof: because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.” Judges 5:23.

Today the battle continues between the armies of Satan and the army of the Lord. Each member of the church is needed in this battle. The curse of Meroz rests upon those unfaithful Christians who do not come to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Everywhere the souls are perishing for the lack of knowledge, and the Lord has given us the work of witnessing to them of this great salvation.

Cain's question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" has been repeated by many Christians. They are satisfied in their own salvation and have no interest in the salvation of others. They may not say this in words but they surely do in their actions.

It is Satan's deception to hide the talents which God has given us. The servant with one talent was cast into an outer darkness because he did not use his talent. We must not forget that by saving others we save ourselves.

Paul's counsel to Timothy is applicable to us also. He calls Timothy a soldier of Christ. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Tim. 2: 3, 4.

In the army there is no neutral ground. In Christ's army even less. We have a war to fight, and our enemy is mighty and cunning. Satan has his agents in the very church of God. He is far more successful fighting from the inside than from the outside of the church. This is the reason why God has to bring shaking into His church time to time. It was Judas, one of the disciples, who betrayed Jesus into the hands of the enemy.

If we find an Achan in the church, should we speak up or remain silent? What if this Achan is in a leading position, should we still speak up?

My brother and my sister, do not choose a neutral ground, but rather speak up. Defend the truth, be like Elijah who brought reformation into the nation, alone. You may lose the favour of men, but you will surely be approved by God as a faithful servant and a good soldier of Christ's army. May the Lord help us all in this. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada




CONDE FAMILY VISITS BELIEVERS IN CHICAGO, USA



SISTER EDELINE TEACHES IN TORONTO, CANADA

PETER'S DENIAL - OUR DENIAL



Perhaps the title would be better suited to read, "How Not To Deny Jesus." So, we can begin by saying there are many convenient, but aimless ways to deny Jesus. "But how," one may ask, "can this be?" I love Jesus. I live a "pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father... visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep self unspotted from the world." (James 1:27) "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." (Matt 7:21)

With this, we can search our hearts and ask, again, how do we deny Jesus, and if so, what are "these ways" so that I can walk without denying Him? Denial and to deny has often been mentioned in the Bible, however, and is not only reserved for the Apostle Peter. But, it's Peter's thrice denial of Jesus that we are most familiar with, and is most striking.

Simply, the word denial means, "to declare untrue, contradict, reject." Moreover, it means "to disown, refuse, or abstain from." No one likes to be rejected, or disowned, or contradicted. Yet, we are living in such a time and surrounded by this foul atmosphere. It's a daily occurrence for many today; in the family, work, school, marriage, the church.

In another respect, however, we see that all the world is troubled and anxious. All of the forces of the world want to unite, and churches are striving for revivals. Freedoms, however, are being denied, yet many speak of freedom as an attainable virtue, to be cherished, treasured!

If we were to look all around us, we must admit we're really all like lost sheep. No one knows which road to take. We're walking on the streets of this life without noticing that we are walking on the streets of the "last drama." For many, it's a Greek Tragedy! History has a way of repeating itself, for those who understand, and have lived through its trials.

In the book of Zechariah 13:7, we read that in the entire world there is violence, and that the "sheep are scattered." Furthermore, there are catastrophes, hatred, differences, corruption, enmity, envy, and more... ! Yet, in this heartless world, we're still "walking home," but our walk is slow. Each with his own thoughts, and aims.

In but a little while, we will be walking in the center of the Great Controversy. The road is already winding and rising, tortuously. What do we hear all around us? Tougher times lie ahead for us! That's why Zechariah, whose name means "the Lord remembers," wrote "smite the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered."(7:1). All those with the Shepherd, too! All those named, the sheep!

Man usually likes to follow fables, the Greeks, myths, but in all, man follows his own desires of the heart, in any era. Each of us following and choosing which leader he wants to follow.

Each of us, however, believe that we are strong enough. But, Zechariah, again, painfully tells us of a sword, "against my Shepherd."(v 1). When the sword falls, when the test comes to each of us, what then? In Mathew 26:31, we read, "Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night; for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad." Jesus is telling us here, that "you will be made to stumble." He says, also, "This night you will all leave me."

These words may bring pain to the heart, as it did some 2000 years ago. The disciples were astonished at these words. They recalled

the words that Jesus spoke at Capernum, when He presented Himself as the "Bread of Life." He encouraged those to eat the "Bread of Life." Many were scandalized when they heard these words. Is it possible for Jesus to scandalize people? But, they were scandalized! So, the same story will be repeated. Here the words are addressed by the Lord to Peter. We can put in our own name, William, Jane, Mary, Alex, etc. Peter, with the other Apostles, had confidence in themselves. Peter confessed his faith. We, too, need to confess our faith, "Lord, I'm willing to die for you. Lord, even if others scandalize me."

But, no! The Apostles wanted to contradict Jesus. Are we ready when He wants us to "go"? Even to die for Jesus? Say, in your heart now, yes or no.

Peter was ready to follow Jesus, even to death! Have we confessed the same faith? When baptized, didn't we confess a promise to do whatever Jesus wanted us to do? That promise we gave then is still valid today. Peter made a promise in a special moment. He thought he knew himself. But in his heart he was still weak. Why? What happened? Well, it is called EGOISM. He had a lot of trust in SELF. He was essentially, an egoist and confident in himself. With these two traits of character, he showed to Jesus that he was still weak, yet.

1 The Lord asked him to examine his heart. Peter needed less of self and more of Jesus. We speak now of Peter. How's Peter? Each of us? We give lots of promises by lips (Matt 26:69-74). What was the report of Peter then? DENIAL! Great pain entered the heart of Jesus. Not for the enemy but one of his own disciples, who denied Him! Rejected Him!

Jesus spent all His life in this life for the service of His disciples. But, when the time came when Jesus needed somebody, He was denied! Three times! And, in what way? The first time He was denied, Peter said, "I don't know what you're saying" – angrily! The question arose, "Peter, are you really denying your Lord, and so quickly?" Peter was working on the side of Satan, and not to be known as a disciple of Jesus. We, too, when we hide we become tools and slaves of Satan. We need to confess our faith openly. The second denial was clearer. What did Peter say? "I don't know this man." This is what we are and think, often. After awhile, the third confession or denial came. The way we talk can reveal

whether we are with Jesus or not. Peter, then, "began to curse and to swear, I don't know this man."(v-75). Peter's answer now was different. He was angry, nervous, full of passion. "He denied the Lord!" "Then the rooster crowed."(v-74)

We too, can hear the rooster crowing, any minute in our lives. Where are we among those who deny Jesus Christ? Among the disciples of Jesus, or those who are hiding from fear of persecution? We can deny the Lord the same way Peter denied the Lord.

How can we deny our Lord? Are you interested in knowing how? So that we do not make the same mistake? Well, we can deny Jesus Christ with our words; gossiping, or in a light way against one another, in a joking way, or ironic way. Also, when we throw darts to the heart of one. Like when we speak without respect or in a proper way, rudely, lying with our words. By our words, thusly, we can show that Jesus Christ does not live in us. With our character, we can confess that the love of Jesus does not live in us. When we show that we like comforts, and the easy life, also. When we try to escape the possibilities, and the trials of life. We can deny Jesus if we show we love luxury. We can deny Jesus by living in conformity with the world. Also, when we have an ambiguous behavior or incorrect conduct. We deny Jesus when we try to justify our own opinion. We deny Jesus when we are trying to justify our ego. Finally, we deny Jesus by allowing our minds and by permitting our hearts to follow sentiments, for our sentiments are hard to control! Our sentiments can obstruct us and causes us to concentrate on our own self and condition. This way we give place in our heart to Satan in place of Jesus. Satan says, that "then and there they are my ambassadors."

Is this the way you want to be? We have need for conversion! To change our life. (John 21:15-17) "Do you love me? Feed my sheep." Jesus asked Peter this question three times; as three denials! Before this fall Peter spoke fast, and light and gave his opinions before thinking clearly, and not giving enough time to understand what he was to say. But, after his conversion, Peter became a new person. He was no longer – spontaneous! He didn't have so much confidence in self, or pride. He was warm still, but could control himself, and thereby, be more obedient.

So, the question Jesus asked, "Do you love

Me,"--is important, as it is a necessary quality we need to have. If we don't have this characteristic, then we cannot be faithful servants. Secret sins must first be confessed secretly. Open sin must be confessed openly in public. Disciples that are really converted must show, and really share what they experienced. Peter wanted to follow his own plan. This is for us, too. We think much the same way. Peter denied Jesus three times. That is why he needed to confess three times.

But, there is one difference here. The Lord does not call him Peter, but Simon; by his old name! His name before his conversion. Why? Because Peter had to be converted again. "Simon, do you love me more than others?" Do we, too, love Jesus more than others? There's one mistake here, however, with Peter, by saying that he loved Jesus as no one else does! Here's the character, again, of Peter, elevating himself higher than others! Just a way of expressing himself, with authority, and pride, again.

But, when Jesus asked Simon, again, "do you love Me more than others?" This time Peter answered, "Lord you know I love you." This time he didn't answer, "more than others." But, he thought, "Yes, Lord I love you." The second time Simon answered, "Yes Lord you know I love you." We can wonder here, however, why did he need to say it again, three times? Simon may have wondered why, also. He may have thought, "maybe I did not know myself enough." He may have loved the Lord with his lips but not his heart.

Then he recalled what Jesus said, that he would deny Jesus three times. The last answer was very different. No more a proud elevated one with ego. That time Peter humbled himself, by answering, "Lord you know everything." "You know I love you." "You know my heart." Peter may have thought, "I am not interested in knowing myself." Furthermore, "I don't know if this love I express today will last."

You know there is all the power of self-examination. We need to act this way, too, and pray this way. Lord I love you! But, have in mind that one may have selfishness, envy, and pride. This time, therefore, I have a reason to pray to you differently. The time comes to pray to You--to change my heart. Make me to be different! Make me so your love can fill my heart. Please elevate me higher – so I will be sanctified. God wants this change for each of us. *Amen*
John Theodorou, U.S.A.



REVIVE

US

AGAIN

Part 4

God has shown that health reform is as closely connected with the third angel's message as the hand is with the body. There is nowhere to be found so great a cause of physical and moral degeneracy as a neglect of this important subject. Those who indulge appetite and passion and close their eyes to the light for fear they will see sinful indulgences which they are unwilling to forsake, are guilty before God. Whoever turns from the light in one instance hardens his heart to disregard the light upon **other matters**. Whoever violates moral obligations in the matter of eating and **dressing**, prepares the way to violate the claims of God in regard to eternal interests. {CH 73.1}

Satan invented the fashions which leave the **limbs exposed**, chilling back the life current from its original course. And parents bow at the shrine of fashion and so clothe their children that the nerves and veins become contracted, and do not answer the purpose that God designed they should. The result is habitually cold feet and hands. Those parents who follow fashion instead of reason will have an account to render to God for thus robbing their children of health. Even life itself is frequently sacrificed to the god of fashion. {CG 427.1}

All matters of dress should be strictly guarded, following closely the Bible rule. Fashion has been the goddess who has ruled the outside world, and she often insinuates herself into the church. The church should make the Word of God her standard, and parents should think intelligently upon this subject. When they see their children inclined to follow worldly fashions, they should, like Abraham, resolutely command their households after them. Instead of uniting with the world, connect them with God. {CG 430.2}

Special attention should be given to the extremities, that they may be as thoroughly clothed as the chest and the region over the heart, where is the greatest amount of heat. Parents who dress their children with the extremities naked, or nearly so, are sacrificing the health and lives of their children to fashion. **If these parts are not so warm as the body, the circulation is not equalized.** When the extremities, which are remote from the vital organs, are not properly clad, the blood is driven to the head, causing headache or nosebleed; or there is a sense of fullness about the chest, producing cough or palpitation of the heart, on account of too much blood in that locality; or the stomach has too much blood, causing indigestion. {CG 426.2}

In order to follow the fashions, mothers dress their children with limbs nearly naked; and the blood is chilled back from its natural course and thrown upon the internal organs, breaking up the circulation and producing disease. The limbs were not formed by our Creator to endure exposure, as was the face. The Lord provided, . . . also, large veins and nerves for the limbs and feet, to contain a large amount of the current of human life, that the limbs might be uniformly as warm as the body. They should be so thoroughly clothed as to induce the blood to the extremities. {CG 426.3}

When I have looked upon my sisters in Sydney and **saw** the socks they wore in 35 degrees, my first thought was 'they are nuts!' But after learning about 'the shame of they nakedness' and the circulation is not equalized, and consequently I am injuring my health, I changed immediately. And by the way: my husband is doing the same. All short sleeve shirts and shorts went to the second hand store. Out of the building, he is not sweating more with long sleeves and long pants as before. It is now our second summer with 30-40 degrees, and we feel comfortable with it and we are still amazed about it. God made us and He knows what is best for us! Amen?

The limbs, which should have even more covering than any other

portion of the body, because they are farthest from the centre of circulation, are often not suitably protected; while over the vital organs, where there is naturally more warmth than in other portions of the body, there is an undue proportion of covering. The heavy draperies often worn upon the back, induce heat and congestion in the sensitive organs which lie beneath. This fashionable attire is one of the greatest causes of disease among women. Perfect health depends upon perfect circulation. If the limbs are properly clothed, fewer skirts are needed. These should not be so heavy as to impede the motion of the limbs, nor so long as to gather the dampness and filth of the ground, and their weight should be suspended from the shoulders. The dress should fit easily, obstructing neither the circulation of the blood, nor a free, full, natural respiration. The feet should be suitably protected from cold and damp. Clad in this way, we can take exercise in the open air, even in the dew of morning or evening, or after a fall of snow or rain, without fear of taking cold. Exercise in the invigorating air of heaven is necessary to a healthy circulation of the blood. It is the best safeguard against colds, coughs, and the internal congestions which lay the foundation of so many diseases. True dress reform regulates every article of clothing. {CTBH 89.1}

If the dress of the child combines warmth, protection, and comfort, one of the chief causes of irritation and restlessness will be removed. The little one will have better health, and the mother will not find the care of the child so heavy a tax upon her strength and time. {CG 425.4}

Many of the mother's burdens are the result of her effort to keep pace with the fashions of the day. Terrible is the effect of these fashions on the physical, mental, and moral health. Lacking the courage to stand firm for the right, women allow the current of popular feeling to draw them on in its wake... Too often professedly Christian mothers sacrifice principle to their desire to follow the multitude who make fashion their god. Conscience protests, but they are not brave enough to take a decided stand against the wrong.

Parents frequently dress their children in extravagant garments, with much display of ornaments, then openly admire the effect of their apparel and compliment them on their appearance. These foolish parents would be filled with consternation if they could see how Satan seconds their efforts and urges

them on to greater follies. {CG 434.3}

Mother, do you want your child to live and wear the bloom of health? Then teach her to dress healthfully. If you love her and desire her good, why do you teach her by your example that it is no sin to mar the human form divine? What reason can you render to the Creator for deforming his handiwork? Turn away from the fashion plates, and study the human organism. We are fearfully and wonderfully made, and we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice to God. How can Christian mothers be worshipers at the shrine of fashion, and yet preserve their loyalty to the God of heaven? It is impossible; "ye cannot serve God and mammon." [LUKE 16:13.] You cannot devote your time and talents to the world, and yet keep your mind and body in a condition to do the work committed to you, of training your children for God, and aiding them in a physical development that shall be a blessing to them to the end of life.

Little boys also are dressed so as to leave the lower limbs with far less protection than the upper part of the body. The limbs, being remote from the centre of circulation, demand greater protection, instead of less. The veins which convey the blood to the extremities are large, providing for the flow of a sufficient quantity of blood to afford warmth and nutrition. But when the blood is chilled from these parts, the veins contract, and the circulation is retarded. Not only do the extremities suffer from cold, but through lack of nutrition the limbs do not attain their natural development. A good circulation purifies the blood, and secures health; while a poor circulation renders the blood impure, and induces congestion of the vital organs.

Mothers, why not clothe your boys and girls comfortably and properly? Let their dress be simple, loose, and comfortable; clothe their limbs, and especially the ankles, warmly and evenly; then let them go out and exercise in the open air, and live to enjoy health and happiness. It will take moral courage to break away from the chains of fashion, and dress and educate your children with reference to health; but the result will abundantly repay all the self-denial and inconvenience occasioned. {CTBH 91.1-3}

God designed the reform dress as a barrier to prevent the hearts of our sisters from becoming alienated from Him by following the fashions of the world. Those who removed that barrier did not take upon

themselves the burden to avert the dangers which must follow. Some in responsible positions have exerted an influence in favour of worldly customs and entirely at variance with the Bible standard. They have done their part in bringing about the present state of worldliness and backsliding.

God has been testing His people. He allowed the testimony concerning dress to become silent, that our sisters might follow their own inclination and thus develop the real pride existing in their hearts. **It was to prevent the present state of worldliness that the reform dress was recommended.** Many scorned the idea that this dress was necessary to preserve them from following the fashions; but the Lord has permitted them to prove that pride was cherished in their hearts, and that this was just what they would do. It is now shown that they needed the restriction which the reform dress imposed. {4T 639.2}

My dear sisters, this was written in the late 1800's! Do we need a reform today? Can you see how far we have gone away from the foundation of our faith? 2 Kings 22:13 "...great [is] the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us."

In a vision given me at Battle Creek, January 3, 1875, ...the wide diversity in dress was an injury to the cause of truth. That which would have proved a blessing, if uniformly adopted and properly worn, had been made a reproach, and, in some cases, even a disgrace. {4T 637.2}

In all respects the dress should be healthful. "Above all things," God desires us to "be in health"--health of body and of soul. And we are to be workers together with Him for the health of both soul and body. Both are promoted by healthful dress. {CG 398.1}

If we are Christians, we shall follow Christ, even though the path in which we are to walk cuts right across our natural inclinations. There is no use in telling you that you must not wear this or that, for if the love of these vain things is in your heart, your laying off your adornments will only be like cutting the foliage off a tree. The inclinations of the natural heart would again assert themselves. You must have a conscience of your own. {CG 429.4}

Evelin Graf, Australia
evelin7@bigpond.com

NEW DVD: The S.D.A. Reformation of 1914

Dear Fellow Advent Believers,

Greetings in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior, with Jeremiah 31: 3: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

I am writing to you in order to acquaint you with a newly released video that deals with a special aspect of the Advent message--the Reformation.

We trace our heritage back to the Advent Movement of 1844. We are preaching the three angels' messages throughout the world and still uphold the original teachings of the pioneers. Our every endeavor is to warn the world and prepare a people for the soon coming of our Lord.

The beginning of this Reform Movement goes back some ninety years when both the world and the Church faced a terrible crisis.

This new video presentation, 74 minutes in length, takes you step by step through the development of the prophesied Reformation.

This first-of-its-kind video production dealing with the origin of the Reform Movement presents over 200 slides with commentary and photographs of Advent pioneers and important events in our church history. To give you a fair idea of the scope of this video, here are some highlights:

- Significant events before and after 1888
- Laodicea and the Shaking
- The Christian and the War
- The Remnant

Here are some source materials that this historical documentary will examine:

- The Word of God
- Spirit of prophecy statements
- Important out-of-print documentation
- Original photographs from six continents

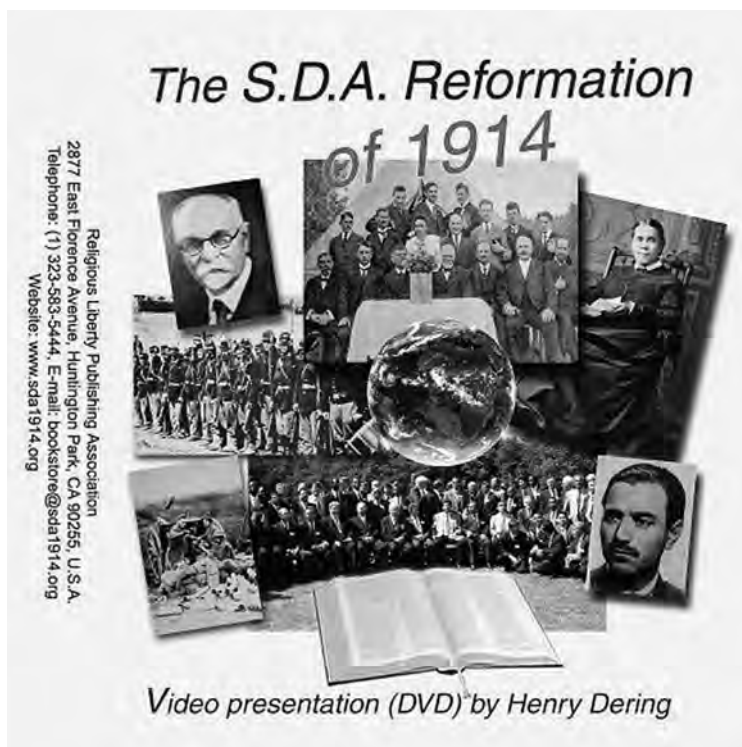
To Receive Your Dvd:

Please send a suggested \$7 donation to:

Religious Liberty Publishing Association
2877 East Florence Avenue
Huntington Park, CA 90255, USA.
E-mail: bookstore@sda1914.org

May the Lord grant us the joy of sharing the truth with others in these last hours of earth's history.

With Christian Love, Br. Henry Dering, Minister





HEALTH MATTERS: BLUEBERRIES

Every now and then, a great food comes along that not only tastes good but is good for you, too. Blueberries are sweet, juicy, cute, delicious, and they're packed full of all sorts of amazing health benefits—like Vitamin C, fiber, calcium, and iron. And as far as getting antioxidant protection, you can't do better than a serving of blueberries.

No matter how healthy you may be, molecules called free radicals are created in your body whenever cells turn oxygen into energy. And these molecules are out to destroy healthy cells. Given enough time and opportunity, free radicals cause all kinds of sickness—even heart disease and cancer. Luckily, nature provides a delicious antidote in blueberries.

Each little fruit contains the pigment, anthocyanin, which gives the berry its blue colour—kind of like dye you can eat. But anthocyanin is also a powerful antioxidant that hunts down and destroys free radicals. Scientists at the USDA-ARS Human Nutrition Center on Aging recently came up with a way to measure the total amount of antioxidants in foods. Blueberries scored near the top of their list. They discovered blueberries are so full of goodness that a half cup serving has the same amount of antioxidants as five servings of foods like peas, carrots, apples, squash, or broccoli.

“Blueberries provide a relatively concentrated source of antioxidants,” says Dr. Ronald L. Prior, one of the researchers. “With other fruits and vegetables, blueberries provide a way to increase antioxidant intake, which may have long term health benefits.”

You'll find members of the blueberry family throughout Europe and Asia, including England where they grow a distant cousin called bilberries. But more than 40 varieties are also native to North America. Don't confuse them with huckleberries, however, which look similar, but have large seeds.

Six Ways Blueberries Keep You Healthy

Puts the crunch on cancer. Cancer is often the end result of free radicals gone haywire. But you can short-circuit these killers with powerful antioxidants like the ones found in blueberries. Recent studies in Germany found foods high in antioxidants like anthocyanin seemed to protect people from cancer. The more of these types of antioxidants people ate, the less likely they were to develop cancer.

Beats heart disease. For years doctors have known free radicals attack your arteries, leaving them scarred and more easily clogged by fatty deposits. The longer this goes on, the higher your risk for heart attacks and strokes. But they also know certain antioxidants fight free radical damage and keep your blood from getting too sticky.

German researchers discovered people who ate the most antioxidant-rich foods, like blueberries, were the least likely to die of a heart attack. If heart disease runs in your family, blueberries, which help keep your arteries open and strong, could be one delicious way to protect yourself.

Stabilizes blood sugar. Blueberries are a favourite folk remedy for high blood sugar, but scientists only recently found their own proof. Animal studies in Italy showed blueberries lowered blood sugar levels by about 26 percent. Although diabetes is a serious illness that requires professional care, it certainly couldn't hurt to sprinkle a handful of these healthy berries on your cereal or whip some into an energy-boosting smoothie. If you have diabetes, talk to your doctor about any changes in your diet.

Gives UTIs the slip. Researchers know *E. coli* bacteria cause a lot of urinary tract infections (UTIs). For years doctors thought the acid in certain fruits, especially cranberries, worked to get rid of UTIs by chasing away these bacteria. Now they know blueberries, like cranberries, contain antioxidants that actually change the structure of the bacteria—they become powerless to attach themselves to your cells and start multiplying. The secret to fewer UTIs: Eat more blueberries.

Keeps your mind sharp. Exciting new studies at Tufts University in Boston suggest blueberry extract may improve memory, coordination, and speed tests. You just might be able to reverse some of the symptoms of aging by adding blueberries to your daily menu.

Restores regularity. People in Sweden have used blueberries for hundreds of years as a cure for diarrhea. It may be blueberries counteract the bacteria causing diarrhea or it could be their soluble fiber keeps your bowels humming along regularly. A single cup of blueberries contains about 15 percent of your daily recommended intake of fiber. Just think, you might be able to throw away both your diarrhea and laxative medications simply by adding blueberries to your diet.

Pantry Pointers

Look for plump, dark blueberries without any mold, and use or freeze them within five days. Since heating destroys some vitamins in the berry, it's best to eat them uncooked. Freezing, however, does not affect the nutritional benefits. Don't wash the berries before freezing, though, since they'll end up clumping together. Toss some blueberries in your next fruit salad, in your morning muffins or pancakes, and enjoy.

Signs of the Times: A Divine Leader, December 20, 1905

In our behalf the Saviour gave Himself to a life of self-denial and sacrifice. He laid aside His royal robe and kingly crown, and stepped down from His position as commander in the heavenly courts, to take humanity upon Himself, and stand at the head of the human race. He came to be tempted as man is tempted, to pass through the vicissitudes through which human beings are called to pass, and to live a life of sinlessness, showing to all the “better part” that they may obtain by living for God, through the grace received from heaven. For our sake He became poor, that we might come into possession of eternal riches He took our nature upon Him, that we might be partakers of the divine nature, and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. He subjects Himself to poverty and temptation, that human beings, seeing His example, listening to His teaching, obeying His lessons, might obtain everlasting life--even an eternal weight of glory.

O Jesus, what humiliation, what suffering, what trial, Thou didst endure to procure for us happiness in this world and in the world to come! Thou wast wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Thee, and by Thy stripes we are healed.

It is a marvel to the angels that human beings should choose to be incapable of realizing how greatly Christ humiliated Himself in their behalf. They marvel that men and women do not rejoice to acknowledge Christ as their Saviour, to accept Him as their Leader, and to follow His example of self-denial.

The course followed by human beings seems to the angels strangely inconsistent. They wonder why beings dependent on their Creator for every breath they draw act so unreasonably; why they choose the side of the one who crucified Christ, and who has filled the world with envy and strife and jealousy.

Can we, as reasoning beings, regard as wise the choice that leads us to stand under the black banner of rebellion, rather than under the banner of Prince Emmanuel?

Choose the Life.

Christ is the Lord our righteousness. Let us take our stand on His side. Let none be ashamed to acknowledge Him as their leader, their counselor, their guide, and their exceeding great reward. Is this sacrificing anything? Is it an honor to be numbered among Satan’s army? Those who make this choice gain nothing. Only death, eternal death, awaits them.

Satan charged God with possessing the attributes that he himself possessed. Christ came to this world to reveal God’s character as it really is. He is the perfect representation of the Father. His life of sinlessness, lived on this earth in human nature, is a refutation of Satan’s charge against the character of God.

Christ is the Light of the World, pure, clear, and undimmed. This light shines out in sharp contrast with Satan’s gloom. Into the darkness of error and deception it casts a light that is a perpetual reproach to the sin of the world. Our Redeemer did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth. He is “the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” He offers to cover our unworthiness with the spotless robe of His righteousness.

Christ is constantly inviting us, Look unto Me. He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. No man can look to Christ without being strengthened and uplifted. By beholding Him, we are changed into His likeness, and cherish the same spirit. All sullenness, all gloom, are gone. The experience of the Christian is as clear as the sunlight. His constant question is, What shall I render to Thee for all Thine infinite love and mercy to me? I am Thy servant; for Thou hast loosed my bonds.

What Holiness and Love Require.

True holiness is wholeness in the service of God. This is the condition of true Christian living. Christ asks for unreserved consecration, for undivided service. He demands the heart, the mind, the soul, the strength. Self is not to be cherished. He who lives to himself is not a Christian.

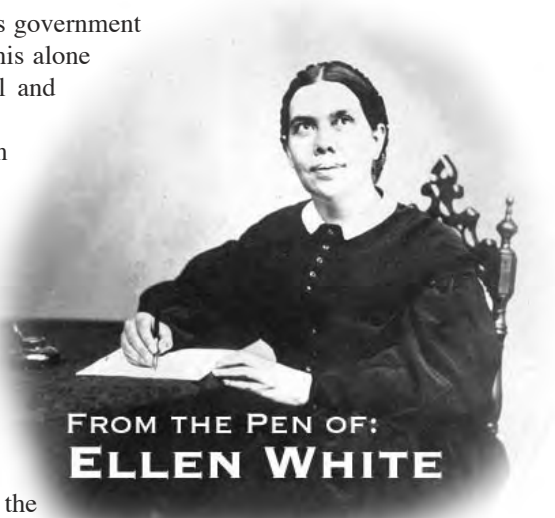
Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God’s government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian’s character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation.

And love will be revealed in sacrifice. The plan of redemption was laid in sacrifice,--a sacrifice so broad and deep and high that it is immeasurable. Christ gave all for us, and those who receive Christ will be ready to sacrifice all for the sake of their Redeemer. The thought of His honor and glory will come before anything else.

If we love Jesus, we shall love to live for Him, to present our thank-offerings to Him, to labor for Him. The very labor will be light. For His sake we shall covet pain and toil and sacrifice. We shall sympathize with His longing for the salvation of men. We shall feel the same tender craving for souls that He has felt.

This is the religion of Christ. Anything short of it is a deception. No mere theory or profession of discipleship will save any soul.

We do not belong to Christ unless we are His wholly. It is by half-heartedness in the Christian life that men become feeble in purpose and changeable in desire. The effort to serve both self and Christ makes one unfit to endure when the test comes upon him.





A NOBLE REGENERATION

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” Romans 12:2.

The setting of the sun today is a time cut short to bring us nearer to that solemn moment when all the creation upon the earth will witness the coming of the Son of Man as the bright morning star. His (Jesus) coming is not a coincidence, but a fulfillment of His words, “if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you into myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” John 14:3. He will receive unto Himself a people that have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust, and have become partakers of His divine nature. Hence where life attracts life so will divinity attract divinity. Should divinity attract divinity, where will the end be of the human race, that is carnal and sold under sins be? If all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, that there is none righteous, who are this that will applaud the coming of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? Is it not the same human race that have renewed their minds, that they may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God? Most certainly, yes! Jesus pleads for such ones, “I pray that thou (God) shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil,” John 17:15, that is the world.

“We are living in a time when everything that is false and superficial is exalted above the real, natural and the enduring. The mind must be kept free from everything that would lead it in a wrong direction. It should not be encumbered with trashy stories, which do not add strength to the mental powers. The thoughts will be of the same character as the food we provide for the mind. The time devoted to needless, unimportant things would better be spent in contemplating the wonderful mysteries of the plan of salvation and in using every God-given power to learn the ways of the Lord, that our feet may not stumble upon the dark mountain of unbelief or stray from the path of holiness which was cast up by infinite sacrifice for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. The strength of intellect, substantial knowledge gained, are acquisitions which the gold of Ophir could not buy.” 5T544

“The world is busy, anxious and devoted. Evil is eagerly followed as though it were righteousness, error as though it were truth, and sin as though it were holiness. Darkness is covering the earth, and gross darkness the people. And shall God’s people be asleep at such a time as this? Shall those who hold the truth be silent, as if paralyzed? Infidels declare that if they believed what Christians profess to believe, they would be far more in earnest than they. If we believe that the end of all things is at hand, ‘what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?’” 5T 546-7

THE OLD MAN

The phrase ‘old man’ as found in Romans 6:6, Ephesians 4:22 & Colossians 3:9 refers to the corrupt human nature, the inborn tendency to evil on all that are born of a woman. It’s true that even the most revered Doctors/Professors in philosophy, theology or any line of study bears the impress of the old Man who is being referred to as the corrupt human nature. Of such, Paul exhorts never to attribute their tact and skill to take the place of a “thus said the Lord” for “the natural man received not the things of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned” 1 Corinthians 2:14. Neither are the professors of truth in varied

ranks (Pastor, Priest, Bishop, Cardinal, Reverend, Pope etc) as known to man, exceptions in understanding the spiritual warning, instruction, reprove or rebuke in their sound or corrupt human nature. The message meant for our good will ever be slighted to mean foolishness, for man says that there would be an acceptable substitute that works fairly well with our corrupt human nature than the constraining "thus said the Lord." "There is a way which seemeth right into a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" Proverbs 14:12. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world and the world heareth them," I John 4:5.

In the struggle for mastery, "the flesh (old man) lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary, the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" Galatians 5:17. What characterizes the old man is clearly manifest in Galatians 5:19 – 21, all interwoven in the commonly known term of self. The craftiness of Satan has always led many of us to overlook that what is featured here is not part of our nature, in referring to one or more of such traits that we need to overcome. Whether we subject all these traits to the higher powers and be left with only one strife, are we any better before a holy God? Never! His one desire in having Jesus Christ die on the cross of Calvary is "to present to Himself a glorious church (people), not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it (they) should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:27

"Satan is playing the game of life for every soul. He knows that practical sympathy is a test of the purity and unselfishness of the heart, and he will make every possible effort to close our hearts to the needs of others, that we may finally be unmoved by the sight of the suffering. He will bring in many things to prevent the expression of love and sympathy. It is thus that he ruined Judas. Judas was constantly planning to benefit self. In this he represents a large class of professed Christians of today. Therefore we need to study his case. We are as near to Christ as he was. Yet if, as with Judas, association with Christ does not make us one with Him, if it does not cultivate within our hearts a sincere sympathy for those for whom Christ gave His life, we are in the same danger as was Judas of being outside of Christ, the sport

of Satan/s temptations." 6T 264-5.

How curious should we be in knowing what will be our barrier from entry into the holy city and presence of a Holy God? The promise is "seek and you will find." What do we find? "Another book was opened; wherein were recorded the sins of those who profess the truth. Under the general heading of selfishness came every sin. There were also headings over every column, and underneath these, opposite each name, were recorded, in their respective columns, the lesser sins.

"Under covetousness came falsehood, theft, robbery, fraud and avarice; under ambition came pride and extravagance; jealousy stood at the head of malice, envy, and hatred; and intemperance headed a long list of fearful crimes, such as lasciviousness, adultery, indulgence of animal passions, etc" 4T 384 – 4. Such is the nature of the old man, who we are, but have to shake off.

It is important to note that the old man is full of selfishness, in that he ever expects to gain from others but never to benefit any, that always expects sympathy, consolation, forgiveness, good commendation reports, etc. But on the contrary, from the same mind with these positive wishes, emanates a desire for self gain, cruelty, un-forgiveness, evil surmising, envying, hatred, strife, wrath, seditions etc., to testify to our true human nature of sin. The old man is ever impressed and moved by the counsel of Jesus that "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" Matt. 7:12. Hence our efforts are always fruitless when in human strength and wisdom we strive to live to this call, "for the good that I (we) would I (we) do not, but the evil which I (we) would not, that I (we) do "selfishness will require of others that which we are unwilling to give them" 3T 31. The utter defeat of that which we perceive as noble and worthy of doing is simply because we want to be facilitators of God's cause, with all our humanness; Christ bids us to leave them at the cross of Calvary. Hence, it is needless for us to always suffer embarrassment for failure to do the good that we would, for there is the opportunity of "putting off" the old man and "putting on" the new man, that our intended and expected goodness may be real and acceptable.

THE NEW MAN

The new man to be put on is Christ, who regenerates us from the old man. The new man is Christ Jesus formed in the believer. And for this to be, the natural man must die and the new man Christ Jesus, take possession of the soul, so that the follower of Jesus may say in verity and truth: "I live; Yet not I but Christ liveth in me."

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17. Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. This change is in itself the miracle of miracles. A change wrought by the Word, it is one of the deepest mysteries of the Word. We cannot understand it; we can only believe, as declared by the scriptures, it is 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'" AA 476.

By His (Jesus) perfect obedience, He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His minds, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life" COL 312.

"Many are inquiring, 'How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?' You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but

you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.” SC 47

The merger that Christ is striving to effect in us is one that requires our full consent. To everyone he says, “Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me” Revelation 3:20. Our duty in the great object of His mission on earth is “to prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight” Matthew 3:3. How straight have we and are we preparing the way of the Lord? Do it in any way, but so that the faithful guide will always approve. “All should guard the senses, lest Satan gain victory over them; for these are the avenues of the soul” 3T 507. Hence making our path straight infers to doing away with every objectionable thing/trait that will be opposed to our harmonious blending with our guest at the door of our hearts. The objections with which we are to guard our souls/senses were long before penned down for our good as quoted below:

“ I

saw that many have so much rubbish piled up at the door of their heart that they cannot get the door open. Some have difficulties between themselves and their brethren to remove. Others have evil tempers, selfish covetousness, to remove before they can open the door. Others have rolled the world before the door of their heart, which bars the door. All this rubbish must be taken away, and then, they can open the door and welcome the Saviour in.

“I saw that the minds of some of the church have not run in the right channel. There have been some peculiar temperaments that have had their notions by which to measure their brethren. And if they did not exactly agree with them, there was trouble in the camp at once. Some have strained of a gnat and swallowed a camel.

“These set notions have been humored and indulged altogether too long. There has been a picking at straws. And when there were not real difficulties in the church, trials have been manufactured. The minds of the church and the servants of Lord are called from God, truth, and heavens to dwell upon darkness. Satan delights to have such things go on; it feasts upon him. But these are none of the trials

which are to purify the church and that will in the end increase the strength of God’s people” IT 143 - 5.

We are who we are as an individual or church organization because of the choices and priorities that we have made in our lives. To us all (those who are advancing to grow in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ as giants and those who are satisfied with this grace to the level of dwarfs) is the thought that “The power of a higher, purer, nobler life is our great need. The world has too much of our thought, and the kingdom of heaven too little” AA 478. Upon this state of being everyone is called to make a decided noble substitute for the incorruptible nature of God in place of a corruptible man; through the strength and power of Jesus working from within, that we may acknowledge the great reformer’s entreaty, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30.

THE NOBLE EXCHANGE

The result of us changing sides is to enable us to receive the gift of the heavenly kingdom, which is our Father’s good pleasure to give. In and through Paul, God



is making a constant reminder saying. “know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners (old man), shall inherit the kingdom of God” 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10.

“Jesus Himself, in His infinite mercy, is working on human hearts, effecting spiritual transformations so amazing that the angels look on with astonishment and joy.” 5T 731. “Which in time past were not a people, but are now a people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy” 1 Peter 10. All that have been and are yet, are under the threat of eternal condemnation; “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” Yet, we will hear a consoling offer, “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in fire that thou mayest be rich; and a white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear” Isaiah 64:6, Rev. 3:18.

Christ is the Creator. “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him all things consist” Col. 1: 16, 17. Many of us stumble at our very blessing(s) when we fail to identify the fullness of Christ that is for our good when He testifies that, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head” Matthew 8:20. With the first thought of the broken body of the King of kings on the cross of Calvary, one could easily assert to the false accusation that He claims to be the Son of God. However, if we would but give a second thought to that which Jesus tells us, we certainly will know why Jesus the Creator of heaven and earth is poor. The apostle Paul recounts, “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your (our) sakes he became poor, that ye (we) through his poverty might be rich.” II Corinthians 8:9.

Upon the Mount of Olives, Jesus had beforehand unfolded this noble exchange, in saying, “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

Matthew 5:3. “This kingdom is not, as Christ’s hearers had hoped, a temporal and earthly dominion. Christ was opening to men the spiritual kingdom of His love, His grace, His righteousness... His subjects are the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted for righteousness’ sake. The kingdom of heaven is theirs. Though not yet fully accomplished, the work is begun in them which will make them ‘meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the Saints in light.’ Col. 1:12

“All who have a sense of their deep soul poverty, who feel that they have nothing good in themselves, may find righteousness and strength by looking unto Jesus... He bids you exchange your poverty for the riches of His grace. We are not worthy of God’s love, but Christ, our surety, is worthy, and is abundantly able to save all who shall come unto Him. Whatever may have been your past circumstances, if you will come to Jesus just as you are, weak, helpless, and despairing, our compassionate Saviour will meet you a great way off, and will throw about you His arms of love and His robe of righteousness” MB 8 -9.

GROWING UP INTO CHRIST

“Christ expects that men will become partakers of His divine nature while in this world, thus not only reflecting His glory to the praise of God, but illumining the darkness of the world with the radiance of heaven. Thus will be fulfilled the words of Christ: ‘Ye are the light of the world’” 5T 731. Becoming a partaker of the divine nature of Christ, is to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

“We have a work to do to fashion the character after the divine Model. All wrong habits must be given up. The impure must become pure in heart; the selfish man must put away his selfishness; the proud man must get rid of his pride; the self-sufficient man must overcome his self-confidence, and realize that he is nothing without Christ... We must have a living connection with God.” Amazing Grace 232

“All defects of character originate in the heart. Pride, vanity, evil temper and covetousness proceed from the carnal heart unrenewed by the grace of Christ.”

“It is by the renewing of the heart that the

grace of God works to transform the life. No mere external change is sufficient to bring us into harmony with God. There are many who try to reform by correcting this bad habit or that bad habit and they hope in this way to become Christians, but they are beginning in the wrong place. Our first work is with the heart: Ibid 223.

“Let us represent the Christian life as it really is; let us make the way cheerful, inviting, interesting. We can do this if we will. We may fill our own minds with vivid pictures of spiritual and eternal things, and in so doing help make them a reality to other minds. Faith sees Jesus standing as our Mediator at the right hand of God. Faith beholds the mansions He has gone to prepare for the those who love Him. Faith sees the robe and crown all prepared for the overcomer. Faith hears the songs of the redeemed, and brings eternal glories near. We must come close to Jesus in loving obedience, if we would see the King in His beauty.” Ibid 341

Bible religion has and will always elevate reason until Christ is blended with all our thoughts. “The noble powers, of the mind may be so dwarfed by lack of exercise on themes worthy of their concentration as to lose their ability to grasp the deep meaning of the word of God. The mind will enlarge if it is employed in tracing out the relation of the subjects of the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual.

“There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible” SC 90. Hence the more we feed our mind with Bible truths having a definite purpose in view – to live the call therein, we may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun. Similarly we are to experience a gradual transformation as we behold Him that is the way, truth, and the life, who all the Scriptures testify about.

EXCHANGING SIDES

(To the Caves from the Mansions and to Mansions from the Caves)

Sooner or later, the world will experience

the most interesting drama, most frightening to them that have chosen to be who they are (old man), but of rejoicing to them that have chosen to put on the new man. Heaven, as the spectator of the drama is astir and greatly astonished as the kings and nobles of the earth exchange sides with the unworthy of the earth. A faithful account, not fables has been set before us; the profane, who once were kings, nobles and mighty men did command the respect and reverence of many in their supposed wisdom, will be greatly dismayed in learning that they are fools. Too late they will realize that they were not hid to self, and their lives were not hid with Christ in God. “They seek to flee from the presence of the King of kings. In the deep caverns of the earth, rent us under by the warring of the elements, they vainly attempt to hide” GC 644. “And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich, 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: For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Rev. 6:16, 17

The fleeing throng feels that their magnificent palaces, mansions and villas cannot hide them better than the caves and mountains can. Too ignorant they are to know that the mountains too have to obey the voice of their Creator, to flee from them in order that they may see and witness the promise of His coming against the ridicule “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’ II Peter 3:4. At His appearance, they are now speechless, defenseless and without refuge. The scene on the other camp, who have their lives hid with Christ in God is a wonderful one. As the doomed throng seeks refuge in the caves and mountains, those that have nobly substituted their nature come forth “From garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains and deserts, from the caves of the earth and the caverns of the sea,” COL 179 in response to the call of Christ, of whose image they partake. They are not speechless as they come forth. They certainly have a message for their now lip-quivering friends. Their voices rise in triumphant song, “God is our refuge



and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.” “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us... we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.” Psalms 46:1 - 3, Isaiah 25:9. It is a noble substitute to have the saints leave the caves as they usher in those that have not put on the new man Jesus Christ, as they go forth to inhabit the heavenly mansions prepared for them.

Let us therefore fight a good fight against self, the greatest battle that was ever fought by man – the surrender of self to the will of God, the yielding of the heart to the

sovereignty of love. For the old nature born of blood and the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up before it’s declared. “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still’....” Revelation 22:11, a verdict that is never to be revoked.

“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil,” (Jeremiah 13:23) may this noble regeneration take place in all of us, is my wish and prayer. *AMEN.*

John Riang’a Obwocha, Nairobi - Kenya

EARTHQUAKE



CHILDRENS CORNER

Living through an earthquake can be a frightening experience. In a large earthquake, there is often much damage. Many buildings fall down and many lives are lost. Here is a story about a family in Guatemala when an earthquake hit in February 1976, and how God miraculously protected them from danger. God's protection and safety for them was powerfully demonstrated.

Elizabeth and Fred and their family were spending their first night in the apartment above El Calvario Church in Guatemala City. They had driven in that day from San Antonio, Texas, with a fifteen-passenger van full of food, clothing, and blankets for these church members.

They had first been assigned to a little

guesthouse out in the country belonging to some missionaries. After five days of travel in the van, the cottage looked so welcome that they rested a bit. Then around six that evening Elizabeth told Fred that she got an impression that it was urgent for them to go back to Guatemala City right now. She was sure they could spend the night in the apartment above the church. She thought that if they waited until the next day they might be delayed at various checkpoints.

So they drove to Guatemala City. At three in the morning Elizabeth lay awake with a verse from Isaiah 41 that kept going through her mind. "Fear thou not, for I am with thee." She had been lying in bed since midnight meditating on this Scripture about being afraid of the ends of the earth trembling, and neighbours helping neighbours:

"The isles saw it, and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, drew near, and came. They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage... Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee..."
Isaiah 41:5, 6, 10.

Elizabeth looked at her watch – it was two minutes past three. The dog on the roof by the window let out a mournful howl. Other animals down the road began

to wail. She wondered what was causing such an awful commotion.

Then, without warning, their bed suddenly flipped up in the air and bounced back down to the floor with great force, as though a powerful hand was pushing it. Fred and Elizabeth prayed. It was the only thing they knew to do. But the earth kept trembling.

When she raised herself out of bed, Elizabeth fell against the wall, breaking her watch. She then ran to the girls' bedroom to arouse them. Fred followed her.

"Senor, get out. Pastor says for your family to get out of this building, Hurry! Hurry!" a young boy standing at the front door shouted at them. Elizabeth grabbed her Bible and underclothes and made her way down the stairs, which were already separating from the building.

The sky was a brilliant glow, orange-red in colour with yellow clouds puffing across the horizon. Was all the earth on fire? "Do not fear," flashed before Elizabeth's mind once again. She was amazed at the inner peace she felt as they crawled into the van for safety.

The massive earthquake that hit Guatemala at 7.6 on the Richter' scale at 3:02 A.M. on February 4, 1976, lasted only thirty seconds. When all the tremors subsided, more than three hundred towns had been destroyed and more than a million people were homeless. An estimated seventy-seven thousand were injured and twenty-three thousand were killed. Of course, the family didn't know the extent of the damage as they sat in the van huddled between blankets.

Thankful to God for the safety of their family, Elizabeth thought back over the events that had led them to this spot – arriving just in time to be in one of the worst calamities to hit this small Latin American country. They had been



scheduled to bring the van to Guatemala City two months earlier, but the van had not come to the dealer from the factory.

When they received news that the van was finally on its way they prepared to leave, asking their pastor and congregation in Texas to pray for them, their trip and their mission. They started packing the van for their long drive. People from their church kept arriving at their house with blankets, sheets, coats, and jackets, wanting them to deliver them to needy Guatemalans. All the time they thought the donated items slightly inappropriate. Didn't Guatemala have a mild climate? Why would people need blankets?

Elizabeth was puzzled by the abundance of canned goods donated for them to take. And just before they left, she threw 25 litres of water into the van. Allen, their teenage passenger, also brought 25 litres.

Why? She wondered. Surely they didn't need that much water.

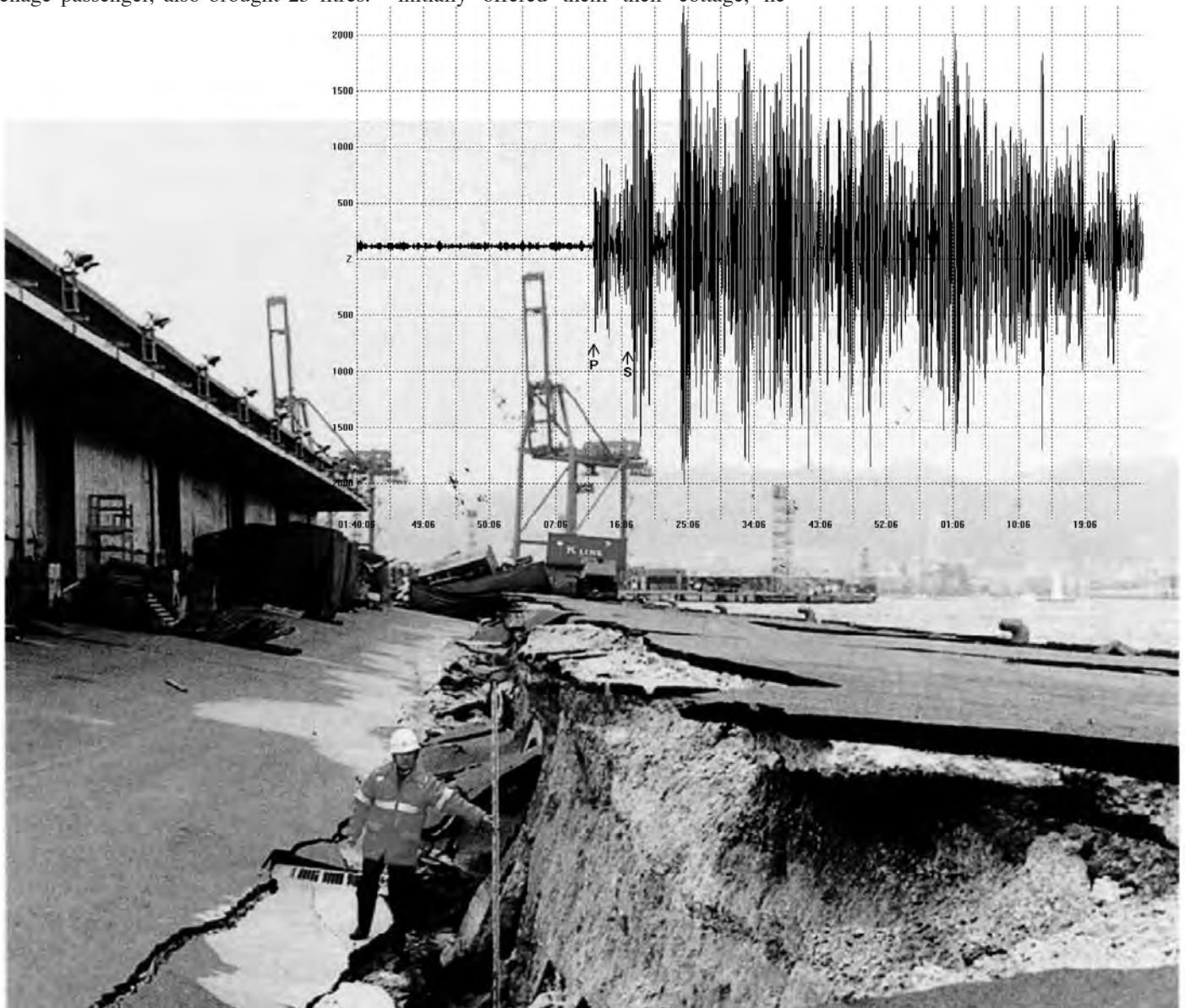
The first major earthquake shock had covered 3,530 square miles, and Guatemala had been, in essence, ripped in two. We felt numerous tremors following the first massive quakes.

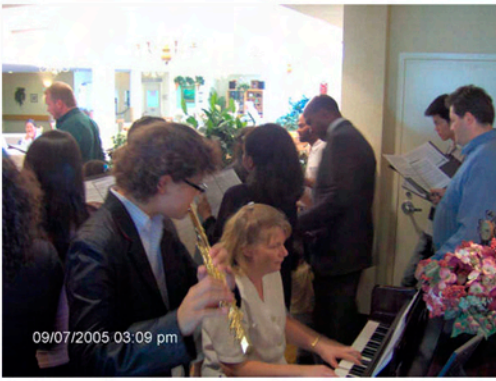
Fred and Elizabeth helped in whatever way they could. Over the next seven days they bedded down with their family each night in the van, happy to call it "home." They spent their days helping the homeless and injured, distributing blankets and canned foods. Now they realized why God had directed their church members to send so much in the van. The extra water was desperately needed too.

When Fred drove out into the country to check on the missionary family who had initially offered them their cottage, he

saw that a cement post had fallen across the beds where their family would have been sleeping. God had certainly directed them to go into Guatemala City instead of staying there that night.

After the earthquake, many non-Christians accepted the Lord, just as the Philippian jailer did when the earthquake hit the prison in which Paul was held. Many in Guatemala knew their Christian friends had been protected. As horrible as some natural disasters are, if you dig for the rest of the story, you can usually find some life changing results. Nothing happens by accident. Although Satan tries to destroy a lot of people through these disasters, God overrules and protects His people as they pray to Him and trust in Him. We can look to God as our Protector, our strong Rock of defence, who is an ever-present help in trouble.





**Singing At
Nursing Homes,
In Toronto Canada**



Picnic In Ontario, Canada

Love Fulfills the Law

The attribute that Christ appreciates most in man is charity (love) out of a pure heart. This is the fruit borne upon the Christian tree. "Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4:7). The Lord Jesus has said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34, 35).

When enshrouded in the cloudy pillar He spake to the children of Israel through Moses: "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord" (Lev. 19:17, 18). "These things I command you, that ye love one another" (John 15:17).

If you are Bible Christians, each will have as great an interest for his brother workman as for himself. The work of giving the bread of life to souls that are ready to perish, should be all absorbing, keeping the hearts of the workers kind and tender to one another. True Christian courtesy needs to be cultivated, the mind and heart must be educated and trained by deeds of kindness to have an unselfish interest in every laborer in the work.

Regard yourselves as missionaries, not among heathen, but among your own brethren. It requires a vast amount of time and labor to convince one soul in regard to the truth. How much money has been expended in efforts to turn men and women from sin to righteousness! And when souls are brought into the truth, what takes place in heaven? There is more joy in the presence of the angels over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety and nine just persons who [think they] need no repentance (see Luke 15:7).

If you keep yourselves in the love of God, an influence will surround the soul which will be a savor of life unto life. You are to watch for souls as they that must give an account.--Manuscript 16, Dec. 22, 1892, "Love for Brethren."
Ellen White