

M **The Reformation** *Messenger*

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 9, SEPTEMBER 2005



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



*"Repent ye therefore, and be converted,
that your sins may be blotted out,
when the times of refreshing shall come
from the presence of the Lord;" Acts 3:19*

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

A FINAL VICTORY	3
REVIVE US AGAIN: Part 5	5
SPIRITUAL RIPTIDE!	8
BUY OF ME GOLD...	11
HEALTH MATTERS: FIBER	13
CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE 2005	14
CONDEMNATION	18
"YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME"	23
CHILDRENS CORNER: WHY ANNIE CRIED	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

A FINAL VICTORY

“And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:18, 19.

The Lord Jesus spoke this promise to his disciples when 70 from those He had appointed to do His work: to heal the sick and bring the message of peace to the people, returned amazed to see that the demons would submit to them when addressed in the name of Jesus.

Satan, our accuser, cannot stand any more before the throne of God and will never again be able to do so. Since Christ died on the cross, he cannot any more come before the Father as he used to do at Job’s time. His field of action is now restricted to the earth, where the Lord saw him falling unto like a lightning.

Although he is like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour, he has no more power upon us than the one we ourselves allow him to have. How and when do we give him power? When we do not act by faith. *“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”*, promised us our Lord. Do we believe His promise?

The prince of darkness may appear as an angel of light, but since he rebelled against his Creator in heaven he is nothing but a serpent, a poisonous reptile whose bite may be fatal if we do not know the antidote.

As we know, the children of Israel were bitten by serpents in the wilderness because they gave in to their lustful wishes and asked for food that God had considered wise to keep away from them, but they were healed as they looked at a brass snake hanging on a pole. That snake was a symbol of Jesus, who was made sin for us, crucified. Our sinful nature was crucified and everyone who believes it can say together with Paul, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”* Galatians 2:20.

The Lord gave us power to *“tread on serpents”* and His promise is that nothing will by any means hurt us. What hurts us? Do we maybe hurt one another when we tell each other a certain truth? Paul asked the Galatians, *“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”* Galatians 4:16.

What is the truth? An important part of the truth is the one we are presenting today, that our enemy has been condemned to death, that our sinful flesh was crucified, that we were set free through the knowledge of Him who died for us and we can stop sinning.

What is then our problem? Someone may say, lack of faith, or love of sin. Even love of sin has to do with lack of faith. We do not believe that God’s plan for us, the product of His infinite love for man, which surpasses our understanding, is above everything. We do not believe that He is the only One who can make us happy, and therefore we delay our surrendering to Him.

The promise in the verse we are considering says, *“... nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

When Paul was on the island of Malta, a snake bit him on the hand but he did not

Memories:
Canadian Field Conference
2005

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶



panic, he simply shook it off his hand into the fire and nothing happened to him. Paul's experience with the snake can be considered a symbol of our experience with Satan, if we want to live according to the faith the Lord offers us.

Paul was travelling to Rome and the whole crew went through hard trials on the sea, which they overcame by faith after the whole crew prayed and fasted for 14 days. All this happened because the seamen did not listen to Paul's advice not to leave Crete. In Acts of the Apostles we read that *"the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul."* Acts 27:11. But in spite of their stubbornness and trust in their own understanding, the Lord saved them. As they humbled themselves before the Almighty with prayer and fasting, two powerful weapons the Lord has given His people, their plea was heard in heaven and God's arm was moved to compassion.

Malta was not part of their itinerary, but an emergency stop and the Lord had work for Paul there.

A dedicated minister, a man who lives his life for God's glory, will never be jobless and every situation, either negative or positive, will be an opportunity for God to manifest His power through him. God's faithful servant may go through many trials but at the end the Sun of Righteousness will shine in his life.

In Acts of the Apostles 27:20, we read: *"And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on [us], all hope that we should be saved was then taken away."* When a situation is desperate and the rays of the Sun of Righteousness seem not to shine upon us any longer, when the stars--the ministry--do not give any light, and we turn to the living God as our only hope, with prayer

and fasting, we shall have the same results as the crew in the boat heading to Rome. *"But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, ...For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island."* Acts 27:21-26. The Spirit of God led them to a place where there was much work for Paul to do in the name of His Saviour.

"And while the day was coming on, Paul besought [them] all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing." Acts 27:33. They had all fasted for 14 days for their salvation, all together as one body, as long as the tempest lasted, while they did not see either the sun or the stars. They interrupted their fasting when *"the day was coming"*, when they had some sign that their prayer was answered, when they received some light from heaven for their problem, when the Lord spoke to Paul through an angel. May this experience serve us as an example.

In darkness, in spite of the fear that had overcome them, they sailed forward and were led to the island of Malta. The devil, who is afraid of God's faithful children because he knows they carry salvation in their hearts, did not manage to destroy Paul at sea. But Satan never gets tired, so when they landed on the island, he appeared in the form of a serpent that clung unto Paul's hand. The old serpent that had deceived Eve in paradise, now wanted to prevent that hand that was going to bless so many people and heal them, from fulfilling its mission.

But the experience at sea had strengthened

Paul's faith in His Saviour. Paul knew what he was saying when he wrote, *"all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose,"* in his epistle to the Romans 8:28.

Since Paul could not be intimidated by the devil's attack, the inhabitants of the island were amazed to see *"the [venomous] beast hang on his hand,"* and Paul who *"shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm."* Acts 28:4.

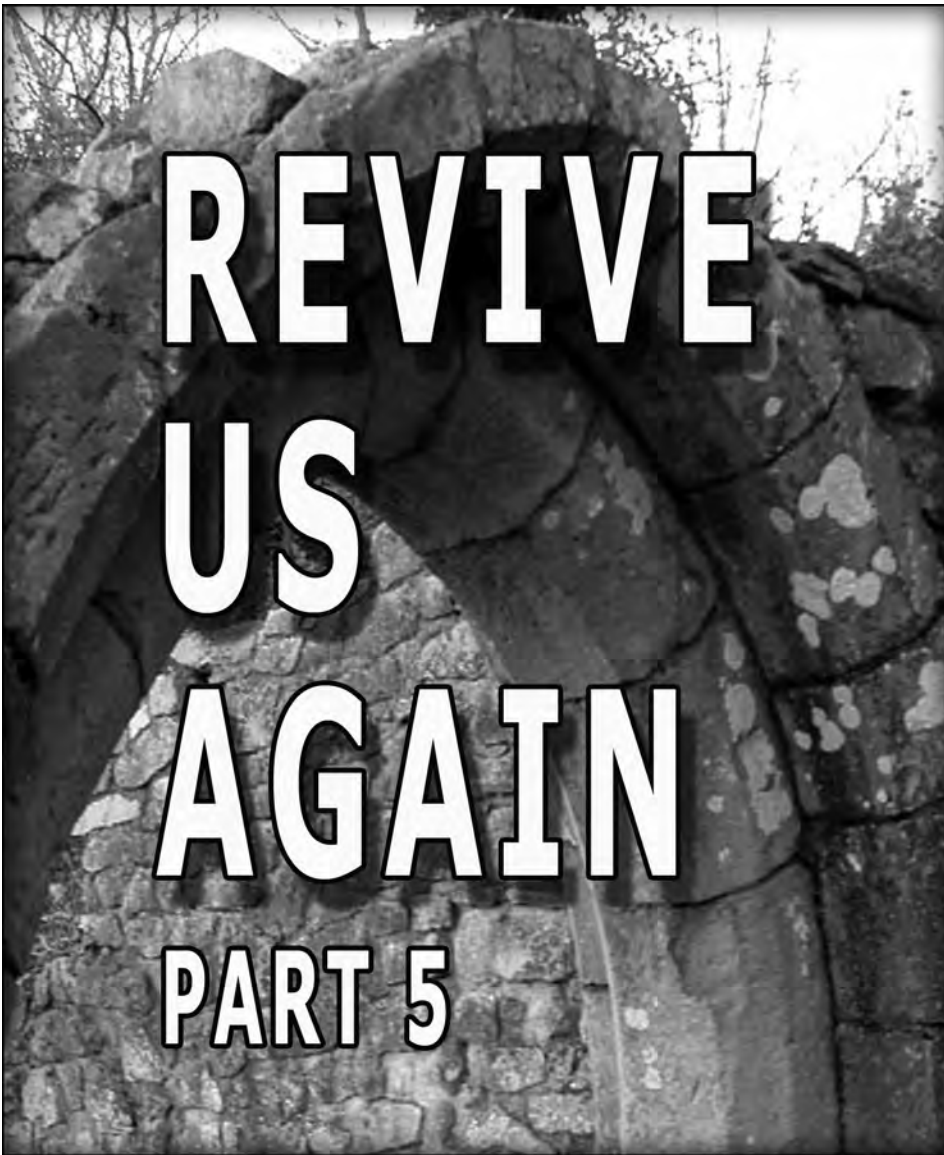
This is Satan's ultimate fate, the one he chose for himself when he rebelled against the King of the universe in heaven. He will be burnt for all the sins he made us commit.

Jesus said to the adulteress, *"Go and sin no more."* He tells us the same thing today. If we walk by faith, we can do it. We have enough experience with sin to know it does not make us any happier; on the contrary, it robs us of our peace and joy.

Let us follow Paul's example: every time the enemy clings to our hand, let us remember it is because the devil knows the Lord has a special commission for us, as he had for Paul in Malta, and he tries to hinder God's plan. Let us shake him into the fire instead of falling prey to his shrewdness. Let us remember that the Lord gave us power *"to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy"* and nothing shall by any means hurt us. **AMEN.**

Teresa Corti





Pride and vanity are manifested everywhere; but those who are inclined to look into the mirror to admire themselves will have little inclination to look into the law of God, the great moral mirror. This idolatry of dress destroys all that is humble, meek, and lovely in character. It consumes the precious hours that should be devoted to meditation, to searching the heart, to the prayerful study of God's Word... No Christian can conform to the demoralizing

fashions of the world without imperiling his soul's salvation. {CG 433.2}

Many dress like the world, in order to have an influence over unbelievers; but here they make a sad mistake. If they would have a true and saving influence, let them live out their profession, show their faith by their righteous works, and make the distinction plain between the Christian and the worldling. The words, the dress, the actions,

should tell for God. Then a holy influence will be shed upon all around them, and even unbelievers will take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus. If any wish to have their influence tell in favour of truth, let them live out their profession and thus imitate the humble Pattern. {CH 598.1}

The reform dress, which was once advocated, [the "reform dress" advocated and adopted in the 1860's was designed by a group of sda women in an attempt to provide a healthful, modest, comfortable, and neat attire in harmony with the light given Ellen White, which was much needed at the time. See pp. 252-255. It called for loose-fitting garments hung from the shoulders with a hemline about nine inches from the floor. The lower limbs were clothed with a trouserlike garment providing comfort and warmth.], proved a battle at every step. Members of the church, refusing to adopt this healthful style of dress, caused dissension and discord. With some there was no uniformity and taste in the preparation of the dress as it had been plainly set before them. This was food for talk. The result was that the objectionable features, the pants, were left off. The burden of advocating the reform dress was removed because that which was given as a blessing was turned into a curse. {3SM 253.2}

I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps,--the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received." I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been



obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. --Early Writings, pp. 258, 259. (1858.) {CW 53.1}

The Example Some Set.--There are those who with all the light of the Word of God will not obey His directions. They will follow their own tastes and do as they please. These give a wrong example to the youth, and to those who have newly come to the truth who have made it a practice to copy every new style of dress in trimmings that take time and money, and there is little difference between their apparel and that of the worldling

Let our sisters conscientiously heed the word of God for themselves. Do not begin the work of reform for others until you do; for you will have no success; you cannot possibly change the heart. The working of the Spirit of God inwardly will show a change outwardly. Those who venture to disobey the plainest statements of inspiration will not hear and receive and act upon all the human efforts made to bring these idolaters to a plain, unadorned, simple, neat, proper dress that does not in any way make them odd or singular. They continue to expose themselves by hanging out the colours of the world. . . . {3SM 254.5}

There is an increasing tendency to have women in their dress and appearance as near like the other sex as possible and to fashion their dress very much like that of men, but God pronounces it abomination. "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety." 1 Timothy 2:9. . . . {CG 427.2}

God designed that there should be a plain distinction between the dress of men and women, and has considered the matter of sufficient importance to give explicit

directions in regard to it; for the same dress worn by both sexes would cause confusion and great increase of crime. {CG 427.3}

Have not our sisters sufficient zeal and moral courage to place themselves without excuse upon the Bible platform? The apostle has given most explicit directions on this point: I will therefore... that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." Here the Lord, through His apostle, speaks expressly against the wearing of gold. Let those who have had experience see to it that they do not lead others astray on this point by their example. That ring encircling your finger may be very plain, but it is useless, and the wearing of it has a wrong influence upon others.

Especially should the wives of our ministers be careful not to depart from the plain teachings of the Bible on the point of dress. Many look upon these injunctions as too old-fashioned to be worthy of notice; but He who gave them to His disciples understood the dangers from the love of dress in our time and sent to us the note of warning. Will we heed the warning and be wise? Extravagance in dress is continually increasing. The end is not yet. Fashion is constantly changing, and our sisters follow in its wake, regardless of time or expense. There is a great amount of means expended upon dress, when it should be returned to God the giver.

Will my sisters consider these things as they are, and will they fully realize the weight of their influence upon others? By walking in a forbidden path themselves, they lead others in the same way of disobedience and backsliding. Christian simplicity is sacrificed to outward display. My sisters, how shall we change all this? How shall we recover ourselves from the snare of Satan

and break the chains that have bound us in slavery to fashion? How shall we recover our wasted opportunities? How bring our powers into healthful, vigorous action? There is only one way, and that is to make the Bible our rule of life. All should work earnestly to do good to others, watch unto prayer, take up the long-neglected cross, and heed the warnings and injunctions of Him who has said: "Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." {4T 631.1}

My Christian sisters, face the mirror, the law of God, and test your course of action by the first four commandments. These explicitly define our duty to God. He claims the undivided affections; and anything which tends to absorb the mind and divert it from God assumes the form of an idol. The true and living God is crowded out of the thoughts and heart, and the soul-temple is defiled by the worship of other gods before the Lord. "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me," says the commandment. Let us search the heart, compare the life and character with the statutes and precepts of Jehovah, and then seek diligently to correct our errors.

The last six commandments specify the duties of man to his fellow men. Here are brought to view solemn obligations which are trampled upon every day by professed commandment keepers. Those who have been enlightened by the grace of God, who have been adopted into the royal family, ought not always to be children in the work of the Lord. If they wisely improve upon the grace given, their capacity will increase and their knowledge become more extensive, and they will be entrusted with a still greater measure of divine power. In putting forth earnest, well-directed efforts to bring their fellow men to a knowledge of the truth, they will become strong in the Lord; and for working righteousness on the earth, they will receive the reward of eternal life in the kingdom of heaven. This is the privilege of



our sisters. And when we see them using God's time and money in needless display of dress we cannot but warn them that they are breaking not only the first four, but the last six commandments. They do not make God the supreme object of their worship, neither do they love their neighbour as themselves. {4T 632.1}

To protect the people of God from the corrupting influence of the world, as well as to promote physical and moral health, the dress reform was introduced among us. It was not intended to be a yoke of bondage, but a blessing; not to increase labour, but to save labour; not to add to the expense of dress, but to save expense. It would distinguish God's people from the world, and thus serve as a barrier against its fashions and follies. He who knows the end from the beginning, who understands our nature and our needs,--our compassionate Redeemer,--saw our dangers and difficulties, and condescended to give us timely warning and instruction concerning our habits of life, even in the proper selection of food and clothing.

Satan is constantly devising some new style of dress that shall prove an injury to physical and moral health; and he exults when he sees professed Christians eagerly accepting the fashions that he has invented. The amount of physical suffering created by unnatural and unhealthful dress cannot be estimated. Many have become lifelong invalids through their compliance with the demands of fashion. Displacements and deformities, cancers and other terrible diseases, are among the evils resulting from fashionable dress. {4T 634.3}

Many a style of dress that was inappropriate and even ridiculous has been generally adopted because it was the fashion... dress reform comprised more than shortening the dress and clothing the limbs. It included every article of dress upon the person... Dress reform proper provided for the

protection and development of every part of the body.

To those who consistently adopted the reform dress, appreciating its advantages and cheerfully taking their position in opposition to pride and fashion, it proved a blessing. When properly made, it was a becoming and consistent dress, and recommended itself to persons of candid mind, even among those not of our faith. {4T 635.1}

Some have said: "After I wear out this dress, I will make the next plainer." Now, if conformity to the fashions of the world is right and pleasing to God, where is the need of making a change at all? But if it is wrong, is it best to continue in the wrong any longer than is positively necessary to make the change? Right here we would remind you of the zeal and earnestness, the skill and perseverance, you manifested in preparing your dress according to the fashion. Would it not be praiseworthy to manifest at least equal earnestness to make it conform to the Bible standard? Precious, God-given time and means were used in fashioning those garments; and now what are you willing to sacrifice to correct the wrong example you have been giving to others? {4T 640.3}

Why will not everyone who professes to love Jesus flee from these soul-destroying indulgences! The world is crazy after show and fashion and pleasure. Licentiousness is steadily and fearfully on the increase. Why will not Christians be true to their high profession! {4T 646.3}

Christ is ashamed of His professed followers. Wherein do we bear any resemblance to Him? Wherein does our dress conform to the Bible requirements? I do not want the sins of the people upon me, and I will give the trumpet a certain sound. For years I have borne a plain and decided testimony upon this subject, in print and upon the speaker's stand. I have

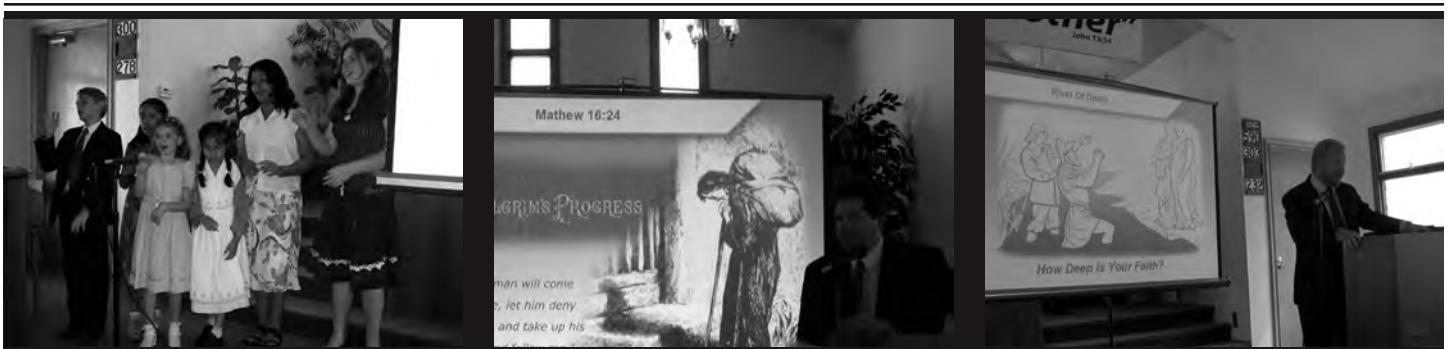
not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God. I must be clear of the blood of all. The fact that worldliness and pride bear almost universal sway is no excuse for one Christian to do as others do. God has said: "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil." {4T 647.1}

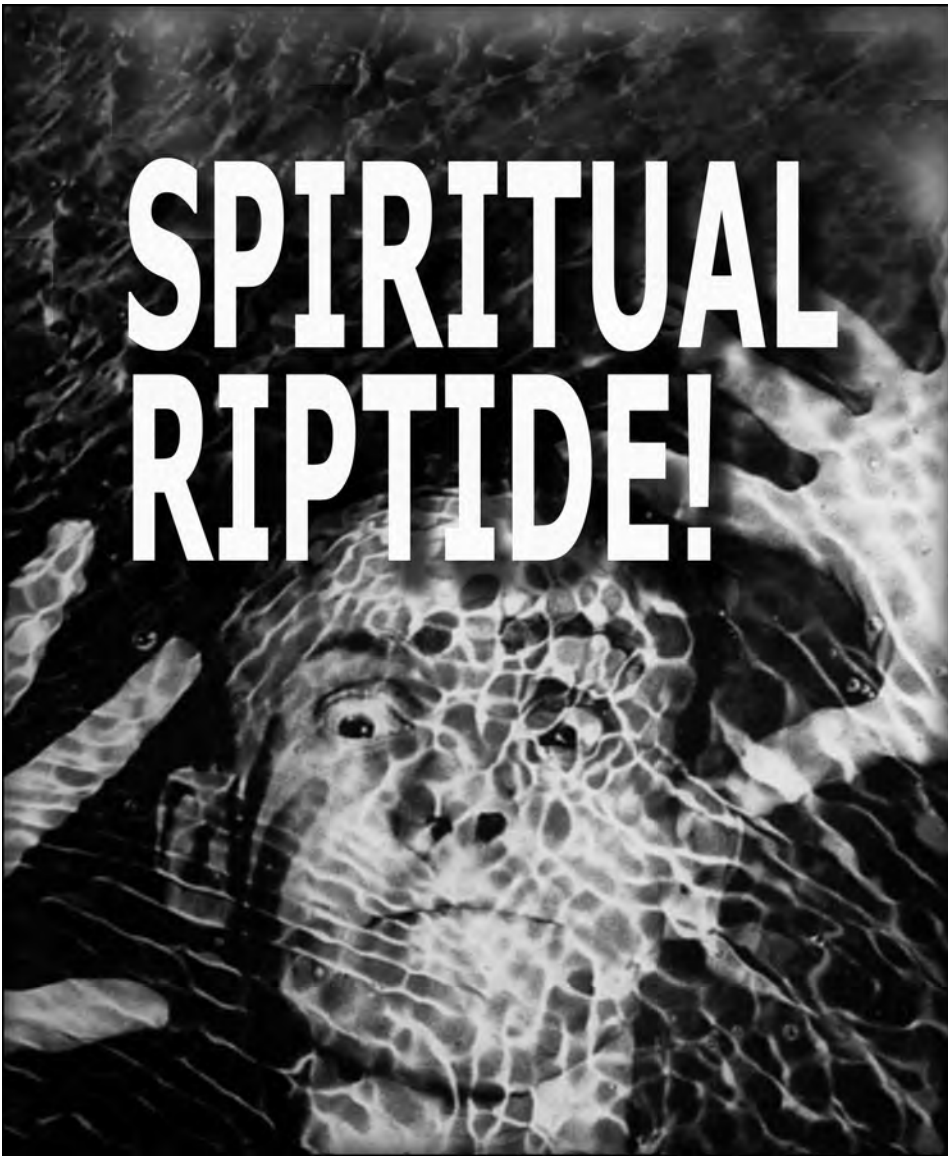
Do not, my sisters, trifle longer with your own souls and with God. I have been shown that the main cause of your backsliding is your love of dress. This leads to the neglect of grave responsibilities, and you find yourselves with scarcely a spark of the love of God in your hearts. Without delay, renounce the cause of your backsliding, because it is sin against your own soul and against God. Be not hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Fashion is deteriorating the intellect and eating out the spirituality of our people. Obedience to fashion is pervading our Seventh-day Adventist churches and is doing more than any other power to separate our people from God. I have been shown that our church rules are very deficient. All exhibitions of pride in dress, which is forbidden in the word of God, should be sufficient reason for church discipline. If there is a continuance, in face of warnings and appeals and entreaties, to still follow the perverse will, it may be regarded as proof that the heart is in no way assimilated to Christ. Self, and only self, is the object of adoration, and one such professed Christian will lead many away from God. {4T 647.2}

There is a terrible sin upon us as a people, that we have permitted our church members to dress in a manner inconsistent with their faith. We must arise at once and close the door against the allurements of fashion. Unless we do this, our churches will become demoralized. {4T 648.1}

Maranatha

Evelin Graf, Australia
evelin7@bigpond.com





A riptide is, in essence, an undercurrent flowing in a different direction from the water at the surface. It is often referred to as an undertow, but it is rightly called a riptide. Even the best swimmer can be pulled out to sea. It is the “undercurrent” that causes one to “drift away,” and drown. A swimmer will never plunge into an undercurrent. Only a fool will.

Tsunami

In South-East Asia, the tsunami trapped many; the unwary. The bottom of the huge massive wave hits the shore before the crest. The water does not normally rush onto the shore, but the opposite! The sea rushes out from the beaches or shores, so the beaches were magically full of gorgeous, colorful, stranded fish! Men ran down to the beaches with gunny-sacs and stuffed them full of fish. But, when the tsunami started to roll in, after 5-10 minutes, they were sucked up into the ferocious wave, “drifting away” to their deaths and oblivion.

Spiritual Drifting

But, what are the signs now of spiritually drifting away? Are we drifting spiritually, caught in a spiritual and physical riptide? Have you analyzed your past life? Are you swimming and struggling against the current, in the opposite direction, fighting the current, panicking, fatigued, drowning, and with no hope of escape?

Are we, as in the opening message of warning to the “hearers” in Hebrews, paying attention, heeding to things we have heard? Or, are we unconsciously “drifting away,” not knowing? We thought we were swimming in the right direction; and we were strong. Things were looking right, but in the end we are lost, pulled under and carried away by the riptide, the undertow, exhausted, too weak to escape, or think clearly... too late!

The danger, again, lies below the waves,

“Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should drift away.” Hebrews 2:1

Hearing

What did they hear? The Gospel, the Christian ministry of Jesus Christ, how God spoke through Jesus Christ. Jesus was careful, and prayerful not to “drift away.” He spoke through the Father.

Riptide

But, let us first explain more of the term – riptide – before proceeding further. It is very common in Florida, and other coastlands of America. It kills more than 100 people each year in the dangerous ocean, waiting for swimmers to panic, fatigue, and drown. This killer is called a “riptide.” Riptides are not to be confused with undertows. It does not pull you down. Basically, it just carries you out – “drift away.”



not on the top, where the waters are faster, unexpected, sudden, hidden, switched away by the riptide. There are dangerous waters in this life, too; drifting, cold, dark waters, that surround us, ready to pull us down and cause us to “drift away.”

Caught

Many Jewish believers who left Judaism for Christianity, wanted to reverse their course, to escape persecution by their own countrymen. They could no longer fight the “current.” It was easier to go happily downstream. The Apostle Paul exhorted them to “go on to perfection” (Heb 6:1). He told them, that Christ is better than the Angels, better than Moses, better than the priests of Aaron.

The Galatians, too, were not falling back into sin but, were becoming “fixed,” making just a show of holiness. Their attitude was, “I’m not likely to go wrong, but you are.” When we have this attitude, we become God Almighty over a particular doctrine, and imagine that everyone else is wrong; caught in the undertow,... “drifting away.”

Awakening

What we need is not a revival, but an awakening. It is when there is an incoming of the tremendous life of Jesus into our lives. (Gal 6:14) The spiritual undertow, or riptide, that pulled and turned away the Galatians was Judaism, formalism, fixity. It was not dominant, but hidden, subtle, below the surface. They were... “drifting away.”

It ran in exactly the opposite direction to the current of liberty, which Jesus was bringing them. The undertow and riptide of ritualism, cast a spell and charmed them! Instead of safely on shore, they were “drifting out to sea.” Galatians 5:7 says, “you ran well. Who hindered you from observing the truth?” Are you hindered by

something... “drifting away?”

No Time

There are drifting waters in this life, too. How is that? One says, “I do what the Lord asks me. I have knowledge, study the Bible, pray.” How often a day? A week? The Bible is the best source of advice. The consequences in our lives are nowhere else better to be found. Moreover, how many have morning worship? Evening worship?

The Israelites were lost, had “no time” for this. How often do we catch ourselves saying this, too, “no time!” “You’ll never find time for anything. If you want time, you must make it.”(Charles Buxton, English author, 1821-1871).

What is the relationship of a working father to his son? A study was recently conducted in the U.S.A. The average time is 4 hours/week. If a father says, he “has no time” for his child, he never should have been a father. If you don’t make time for your child or family you are... “drifting away.”

Spend special time for spiritual things. Put attention to the spiritual things we “hear.” Listen, and pray together. Be in Heavenly Places--church, Bible study, witnessing, doing good, etc. Furthermore, speak spiritual things. Think spiritual things. Faith, knowledge, virtue, temperance, equals... love.

Creaking Signs

Another sign of “drifting away” is the desire to be with God’s people... less! Are you happy with the brethren in church? Many are unhappy in church with the brethren, and distance themselves. If so, you’re... “drifting away.”

Do you ever visit a brother or sister unexpectedly? What do you hear inside the door (sometimes)? Silence? Or, “what does he want here?” How often do we say or do

this? When have you last been visited? Or, when have you visited one of the brethren, too?

When there is a reunion in the church or conference, are you happy to be there, feel inferior, or avoid certain brethren? Maybe you prefer to be someplace where you can be entertained, happy, contented, hear “smooth things,” but not the Law of God, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, or the Sanctuary... If so, you are... “drifting away.”

Do you enjoy hearing missionary reports, or testimonies? Or, you may start a Bible study, share the gospel, (time means nothing), and then suddenly lose desire, grow cold. Or, when your souls don’t return for Bible study, you lose interest, don’t follow up, or are plainly indifferent? If so, you are... “drifting away.”

In Touch

When you are canvassing, distributing pamphlets, meeting people, are you happy when you return? When you serve God, your spiritual life grows. Remember that as long as God has a work for you to do for souls, He will keep you alive to do it!

“We cannot come in touch with divinity without coming in touch with humanity.” (COL 384,385). Do good! Smile! Sing! It lifts up your spirits.

But, all things affect us when we do not serve God; economic problems, family problems, marriage problems, health problems, church problems. The spiritual life becomes painfully weakened, and you... “drift away.”

The Apostle Paul reminds young Timothy of his spiritual heritage, and responsibilities. Yet, Paul was not only in prison when he wrote this letter, but was abandoned by most of his friends, (2 Tim. 1:15; 4:16), the last place one would expect





a letter of encouragement. Paul, however, was serving God. That is what mattered most. He was in touch.

Diligence

I believe that most of you will agree that another sign of “drifting away,” is when we are happy in worldly things. God, however, gives us a remedy for this in 2 Peter 1:5-7: “giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.”

If steps are full of ice, give diligence, and you will never fall. If we watch our steps and clean the steps, we will not fall. Clean our paths, therefore.

If we prepare our spiritual life with diligence we will never fall, or be victim of an undertow or riptide. Retirement from Christian life ends in darkness, and death (1Peter 2:11) There are some things in our lives that pound like the waves on our souls. Some say, in spite of this, “We are strong, we can’t sin; since we’re holy and righteous.” If so, we are liars, and... “drifting away.”

Drop Anchor

We have to be aware always of our desires: spiritual or carnal? Be in constant vigilance. The “anchor” against drifting is not in me, the author, the Pastor, the deacon, brethren, your spouse, but Jesus Christ. He is our mooring and stabilizer. Fix yourself to it. It does not drag or get entangled. Enoch was with God and Abraham was with God. Paul walked in the ways of Jesus Christ.

A father and son were crossing a rocky bridge. The son was afraid of the dark and of falling. The father said, “where I step place your steps in mine.” Do we put or follow the steps of Jesus, or are we...

“drifting away?”

Escape

By reading the Bible, and praying, Jesus Christ will be your fortress. It will be pleasing to be with the brethren in church or home. Or, do you want to escape, and be free? Be not like the foolish virgins. Study the Bible, pray unceasingly, have vigilance with the brethren, or you will be lost. Are you in love with worldly things and all its glitter? Are you...“drifting away?” How can you escape? The answer is found in Heb 2:2,3. “For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?”

It Is Simple

Salvation is simple! Ask God to save you against the current of undertow that comes to us. It is not easy, but He helps. He gives us courage in our heart by His words and promises. If we accept Him, and approach Him, we will not... “drift away.”

Being caught in a riptide requires certain rules we can, in a way, also apply to our spiritual riptide experiences.

First thing to do when caught in a “riptide” is to stay calm, do not panic. Second, do not fight it. Do not struggle against the “current” and become exhausted. Swim parallel to shore until free of the stream of water. The riptide is just carrying you out... “drifting away.”

But, be alert for **SPIRITUAL RIPTIDES** that would quickly suck you under. **AMEN.**

John Theodorou, U.S.A.





“And unto the Angel of the church of the Laodicean’s write: These things saith the AMEN, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the Creation of GOD; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou

mayest be rich, and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore, and repent.”

“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.”

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also

overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” Rev. 3:14-22.

This counsel to the Laodiceans is a fearful one. They are described as lukewarm; wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. And, to make matters worse, they do not know it. They think they are rich, and need nothing. They feel perfectly satisfied with life, and with themselves. Have you ever felt like that? Well, I do know that I have, at times. I thought I was doing very well, spiritually, physically, etc. It was all a deception.

I love God and His testimonies because when He lets you know, in no uncertain terms, that you are poor, wretched, miserable, blind and naked—He immediately offers riches, fire, food, eyesalve, and clothing—everything necessary for a really good life.

Being and knowing that you are cold, naked, hungry, and poor is really a blessing in disguise. As Jesus said in His famous sermon, “Blessed are the poor in spirit;... Blessed are they that mourn;... Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

There is a wonderful passage in Gospel Workers for those of us who feel and know our spiritual helplessness, and yet wish to do and be a blessing in God’s work.

“THE OUTLOOK—We are nearing the close of this earth’s history. We have before us a great work,—the closing work of giving the last warning message to a sinful world. There are men who will be taken from the plow, from the vineyard, from various other branches of work, and sent forth by the Lord to give this message to the world.

“The world is out of joint. As we look at the picture, the outlook seems discouraging.



But Christ greets with hopeful assurance the very men and women who cause us discouragement. In them He sees qualifications that will enable them to take a place in His vineyard. If they will constantly by learners, through His providence He will make them men and women fitted to do a work that is not beyond their capabilities; through the impartation of the Holy Spirit, He will give them power of utterance.

“Many of the barren, unworked fields must be entered by beginners. The brightness of the Saviour’s view of the world will inspire confidence in many workers, who, if they begin in humility and put their hearts into the work, will be found to be the right men for the time and place. Christ sees all the misery and despair of the world, the sight of which would bow down some of our workers of large capabilities with a weight of discouragement so great that they would not know how even to begin the work of leading men and women to the first round of the ladder. Their precise methods are of little value. They would stand above the lower rounds of the ladder, saying, “come up where we are.” But the poor souls do not know where to put their feet.

“Christ’s heart is cheered by the sight of those who are poor in every sense of the term; cheered by His view of the ill-used ones who are meek; cheered by the seemingly unsatisfied hungering after righteousness, by the inability of many to begin. He welcomes, as it were, the very condition of things that would discourage many ministers. He corrects our erring piety, giving the burden of the work for the poor and needy in the rough places of the earth, to men and women who have hearts that can feel for the ignorant and for those that are out of the way.

“The Lord teaches these workers how to meet those whom He wishes them to help. They will be encouraged as they see doors

opening for them to enter places where they can do medical missionary work. Having little self-confidence, they give God all the glory. Their hands may be rough and unskilled, but their hearts are susceptible to pity; they are filled with an earnest desire to do something to relieve the woe so abundant; and Christ is present to help them. He works through those who discern mercy in misery, gain in the loss of all things. When the light of the world passes by, privileges appear in all hardships, order in confusion, the success and wisdom of God in that which



seemed to be a failure.

“My brethren and sisters, in your ministry, come close to the people. Uplift those who are cast down. Treat of calamities as disguised blessings, of woes as mercies. Work in a way that will cause hope to spring up in the place of despair.”

(There is much more, please read Gospel Workers, p. 36-39)

Tell me the old, old story, of unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love; Tell me the story simply, as to a little child, for I am weak a weary, and helpless and defiled. Tell me the story softly,

with earnest tones and grave. Remember I’m the sinner whom Jesus came to save; tell me the story always, if you would really be, in any time of trouble, a comforter to me. Tell me the same old story, when you have cause to fear, that this worlds empty glory is costing me too dear; Yes, and when that world’s glory is dawning on my soul, tell me the old, old story: Christ Jesus makes thee whole.

Sometimes when I am really down, and almost in despair because of the hardness of my heart, and the tenacity of my sins and weaknesses,—a ray of light will gleam through the darkness when words like these flash into my mind: “Despair of nothing, hope for everything.” Out of the deepest darkness, the brightest light will shine.” Both Whitefield and the Wesleys were prepared for their work by long and sharp personal convictions of their own lost condition. And they did a strong and good work for God, and won many souls from error to truth.

As we look at the world now, we see that it is nearly given over to worldliness—business and pleasure occupy the people from morning to night. Business, pleasure,—and/or ill health are the order of the day. And it was exactly the same when our Lord Jesus walked the earth. What can break the iron grip that these forces have upon the world’s people? Nothing, of course, but the softening influences of the Holy Spirit of God. Only the power of God can loosen the hold that these powers have upon the whole people.

And we need this softening, subduing, refining, and enlivening power in our lives. Let us lift up our hearts and our hands unto God in unison and plead for His rain to fall upon our thirsty lives. We need to buy of Him gold tried in the fire... **AMEN.**

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada



HEALTH MATTERS: FIBER

Fiber is the part of fruits, vegetables, and grains your body can't digest. There are two kinds, both important in keeping you healthy. Soluble fiber dissolves easily in water and becomes a soft gel in your intestines. Insoluble fiber remains unchanged as it speeds up your food's trip through your digestive system.

9 Conditions You Can Fight With Fiber

Bumping up the fiber in your diet can help you avoid these conditions—or deal with them in a healthier way.

Diabetes. Fiber helps improve the way your body handles insulin and glucose. That means you can lower your risk of diabetes by eating whole grains rather than refined carbohydrates. Dark rye bread, whole-wheat crackers, multi-grain bagels, and bran muffins are good choices.

Heart attacks and strokes. The soluble fiber in foods like oatmeal, okra, and oranges helps eliminate much of the cholesterol that can clog your arteries and cause a stroke or heart attack.

Constipation and hemorrhoids. If fiber intake were adequate, laxatives would seldom be required. Apples, sweet potatoes, barley, and pinto beans provide this roughage. Some say a better name for fiber would be “softage,” because it keeps the stool moist, soft, and easy to eliminate.

Appendicitis. Keeping bowel content soft seems to provide the best safeguard against the development of appendicitis. Treats

like apricots and peaches are a tasty way to do this.

Diverticulosis. As your body processes fibrous foods like peas, spinach, and corn, it tones up your intestinal muscles. This helps prevent pouches, called diverticula, which can cause abdominal pain if they become inflamed.

Weight gain. The best way to lose weight is to eat low-fat, low-calorie vegetables and grains. The more bulky fiber-rich foods you eat, the less fat you will be consuming, and vice versa. And since the fiber swells, you'll feel satisfied faster. If you have room for dessert, choose fruits like plums or strawberries.

Cancer. A high-fiber diet defends against colon and rectal cancers in two ways. Cultural studies showed the more animal fat in a diet, the highest the incidence of bowel cancer. The more bulky, fiber-rich foods people eat, the less unhealthy fat they consume.

Not only that, but a healthy portion of fiber speeds cancer-causing compounds out of the digestive system more quickly—before they have a chance to make trouble.

Even if experts debate how all this really works, anyone who loads their plate with whole grains, legumes, fresh fruits, and vegetables will say there's no argument with natural success.

Fiber is considered a protector against

other conditions, like gallbladder disease, varicose veins, and hiatal hernia.

How To Fit More Fiber Into Your Day

Now that you have so many good reasons to eat fiber, consider these ways to get more into your diet. But don't overdo it. Adding too much fiber to your diet too quickly can cause unpleasant side effects, like gas, bloating, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea. Your best bet is to add fibrous foods gradually.


Start the day with a whole-grain cereal. Read food labels to find a cereal that contains at least 5 grams of fiber per serving. Top it off with raisins, sliced bananas, or chopped apple.

Eat some vegetables raw. Munch on carrot or celery sticks, and lunch on a crunchy garden salad. When you cook vegetables, steam or sauté them just until tender.

Eat fresh fruits. And whenever possible, eat the skins of fruits and vegetables. That is where you will find the most fiber.

Substitute brown rice for white. With that switch, you will triple the fiber. Try some less familiar unprocessed grains as well, like bulgur, couscous, or kasha.

Add beans to soups and stews. To prevent gas and bloating, don't cook dried beans in the same water you soak them in.

Sip some psyllium. Sometimes dental problems make chewing difficult, and you have to choose soft, low-fiber foods. At times like these, it may be helpful to supplement your diet with Metamucil—made from the fiber of ground psyllium seeds. This isn't a laxative, but it can help your bowels function normally if you take it daily, not just when you are constipated. 



CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE 2005

“love one another”

Friday Evening

On the evening of Friday, July 29, 2005 we assembled for our annual Field Conference. Members and visitors gathered from all over Canada as well as the USA and Holland.

Our motto, “love one another” is taken from the book of John: “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

Br. Morris Lowe opened the conference by reading these verses. In addition, Br. Lowe added 1 John 3:23, “And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”

Br. Lowe appealed to us to practice love and not just to speak the words. During the conference we would hear many speeches on the subject of love; we should think of our lives and how we live the principle of love personally. He challenged us to really

fulfill the prayer of Christ so that we may be one. “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” 1 John 3:14-16

With love in our hearts, we then rose and sang the theme song, “Revive Us Again”, after which Br. Huur from Holland shared the opening message of the conference. Br. Huur posed a question to us; “What can I tell you about this theme that you don’t know already?”

It’s not just a word or a phrase but it is a meaningful thing for an entire eternity, especially if we want to be in Heaven. “We are all here, but how have we come here?”

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37. Jesus tells us that no one can “come to Me” except I draw them. How can I love God and not my

brother? Br. Huur explained the example of Elisha and the woman in 2 Kings chapter 4. “Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.” 2 Kings 4:1,2

He shared that Elisha first told the woman that she had to go out and borrow all the oil that she could from her neighbours if she wanted his help. She did, and she found that she not only had enough to then sell and pay her late husband’s debts but also more than enough for her family’s needs as well. This is the same way with love. We must go out to our neighbours and love them if we expect God to accept our love to Him. How can we love God who we have not seen if we do not love our neighbour who we have seen?

Br. Mitov, the bible worker in Vancouver, then opened the Sabbath. We are in the



time when we are waiting for Christ to return. But what is our mission? Jesus commands us to preach the Gospel all over the world. But He also commands us to feed and clothe the hungry. Above all He commanded us to love one another. The most important thing for us is that we have this love for it will remain with us forever. "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." 1 Corinthians 13:8. True love is forever!

Sabbath

On Sabbath morning we gathered again to praise the Lord as Br. Bob Johnson opened our Sabbath School with Mathew 16:13-18. "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

"And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

During Mission period many people shared missionary experiences from across Canada showing that God is indeed working through His people. After the Sabbath School Br. Larry Watts from Sacramento, California examined baptismal candidate Sis. Veronica Garcia and acceptance candidate Br. Parks. Br. Watts said that this was one of the most enjoyable parts of being a minister. Br.

Watts asked the members if we loved these two people? Because we were now going to be responsible for their welfare. Br. Watts then said that a big problem sometimes is when we bury people alive. Baptism is a burial and we need to die to self completely. Sis. Veronica then shared her favourite verse, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." She said this really shows the love God has for us.

Br. Parks then shared a favourite verse of his, 1 John 3:16. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

After the conclusion of the candidate examination, Br. Watts asked us "Can we say anything that will change our lives?" When did Jesus say the words found in John 13:34, 35? He was in the upper room surrounded by His disciples, before He went to the Garden of Gethsemane where He would pray with blood and sweat for you and me. When Jesus said these words, His real hope and idea that He had was that we who had been bent by sin, could through Him be straightened back. Love is misunderstood and misapplied in our society today. Love is not a permission to sin. If we are afraid to die then we will never live. Jesus wants you to be straightened again.

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Luke 10:18. Why is there no love in the world? Selfishness. Do we ever complain about our brethren? Doubt? Covet? These are offerings to Satan. This means that for you, Satan hasn't fallen from Heaven. Don't give Satan even one nanosecond of your time!

After lunch we enjoyed a presentation by the Toronto youth. It was a multimedia presentation on Pilgrim's Progress. What does it mean to "take up thy cross and follow Me"? Jesus asks us to go on a journey with Him. Where are we going? What is at the end? Why should we follow? What is the cross that Jesus asks us to pick up? It is a journey that we believe affects each and every one of us. You may find today that you are at the beginning of this journey, or are at a point where you have not yet decided to leave. Maybe you will find that you are already nearing the end, or maybe you are somewhere in between.

One thing is for certain, each one of us is represented in this story of the Pilgrim's Progress, and it is of vital concern to each of us to not only know where we are, but where we are, in fact, going.

This is a story of the pilgrims' journey to change their life from their sinful human nature to the divine nature of Jesus Christ. We could call this journey the Christ Our Righteousness journey or sanctification.

A man named John Bunyan who was imprisoned for his faith wrote the Pilgrim's Progress. It was from his prison cell that one night he had a dream and the next morning he began to write the story of the Pilgrim's Progress. Are you on your way to the celestial city?

Br. Oscar Oviedo, the bible worker in London, Ontario then led us in a missionary meeting. Through slides and questions he inspired us to engage in spreading the Gospel message to those around us. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" Isaiah 52:7



“But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.” Mathew 26:32 Why did Jesus want the disciples to go into Galilee? Jesus told them twice to go into Galilee. Why? He told them there that He wanted them to be His ambassadors. He wanted them to go into the entire world. But how do we reach this goal? God gives us each something, even one talent. There are many ways to spread the Gospel and each of us has a part to play, if we only trust God to help us.

Br. Kelly then spoke to us. He said that there is good news and bad news about loving one another. Br. Kelly told us “I love God, isn’t it wonderful to love God?” God says that if “you love Me” then love the people. “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.” John 21:15,16 That’s the bad news. We must love one another. If you “love Me...Feed My sheep.” The way we treat each other says a lot about how we think of the Lord.

“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.” 1 John 4:20,21

When Jesus spoke the words contained in the motto of this conference, He saw the fragmentation that would come within the movement that He was initiating. He knew that the only protection against this was for them to truly love one another as He had loved them. Br. Kelly pointed out

that there is not one Christian church in the world that is known as the church that loves one another. He challenged us to become known for our love to one another, to be known throughout the world as the church that loves people.

Next, through music and narration, the youth from Mississauga brought to life the Seven Churches of Revelation. These were not just messages to churches long ago, but they are also cumulatively messages to us today. We need to study where we are in light of them and take the best characteristics for ourselves to emulate as God’s people.

After supper, Br. Martin led the testimony meeting. “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;” Psalm 103:1-3.

“O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;” Psalm 107:1, 2

It is good to praise the Lord. Malachi writes that Heaven has a book of remembrance that will last forever. Each deed done, each is recorded. Throughout eternity its pages will live as a testament to what was done at this time. We should ever praise the Lord for the many good things that He does for us in our lives even the things that are unseen by us. Many people shared their thankfulness for God’s working in their lives. Many an eye welled with tears as each testimony bore witness to the wonderful working of God in everyone present’s life. May we ever look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith!

Sabbath was closed with a message from

Br. Bosse, the bible worker from New Brunswick. “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:8-18.

There is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear. We must be bold in the day of judgment, and we can be if we love our brethren today. Today we must have the true love that Jesus had towards His disciples, a love that led Him to give His life for them and us. Today we must be true representatives of Jesus.

Sunday

On a warm sunny morning eighty souls gathered by the shore of Lake Ontario. The waves lapping the shore were a beautiful backdrop for the baptism of Sis. Veronica Garcia. Many souls were present



to witness this wonderful ceremony. Br. Watts, who conducted the baptism, told of how this process symbolized the death of Sis. Veronica's old life and her birth into a new life in Christ. Many people's thoughts went back to their own baptisms and the commitments they had made then.

After the ceremony, Br. Watts conducted the acceptance into fellowship of Sis. Veronica and Br. Parks. Br. Watts chose for Br. Parks a verse from the Bible, 1 John 4:17, "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."

Sis. Rose Powell chose Romans 12:12 as a verse for Sis. Veronica, "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" With this, these two dear souls were accepted into fellowship.

Sis. Helen Marttinen then conducted a health meeting in which she explained the benefits of different herbs that God has provided for us for our healing. She spoke of the proper use of such herbs as Dandelion, Horsetail, Echinacea, Ginkgo biloba, Yarrow and Chamomile. Proper use includes when to take them, when not to take them and what combinations of herbs to avoid.

Br. John Bescec then conducted the farewell meeting. He once more pointed us to the theme of our conference, "love one another." He said that during the conference God was sending us a message. The Lord has given us another chance, a chance to demonstrate that we have Jesus in our lives. He reviewed the many messages on loving our brethren that God had given us throughout the past few days. God has a plan for His people and it begins with love for our fellow man. Let us go forward from here and put into practice what we have learned.

Let us be known as the church that loves each other and their fellow human beings!

During the conference there were presented many beautiful songs to the praise of the Lord. There were also wonderful meals prepared by members of the various churches, accommodations provided by brethren and many unseen duties done. Each contribution made by God's grace, contributed to make what many there present, commented, a truly blessed and special experience. For more information: www.4truth.ca

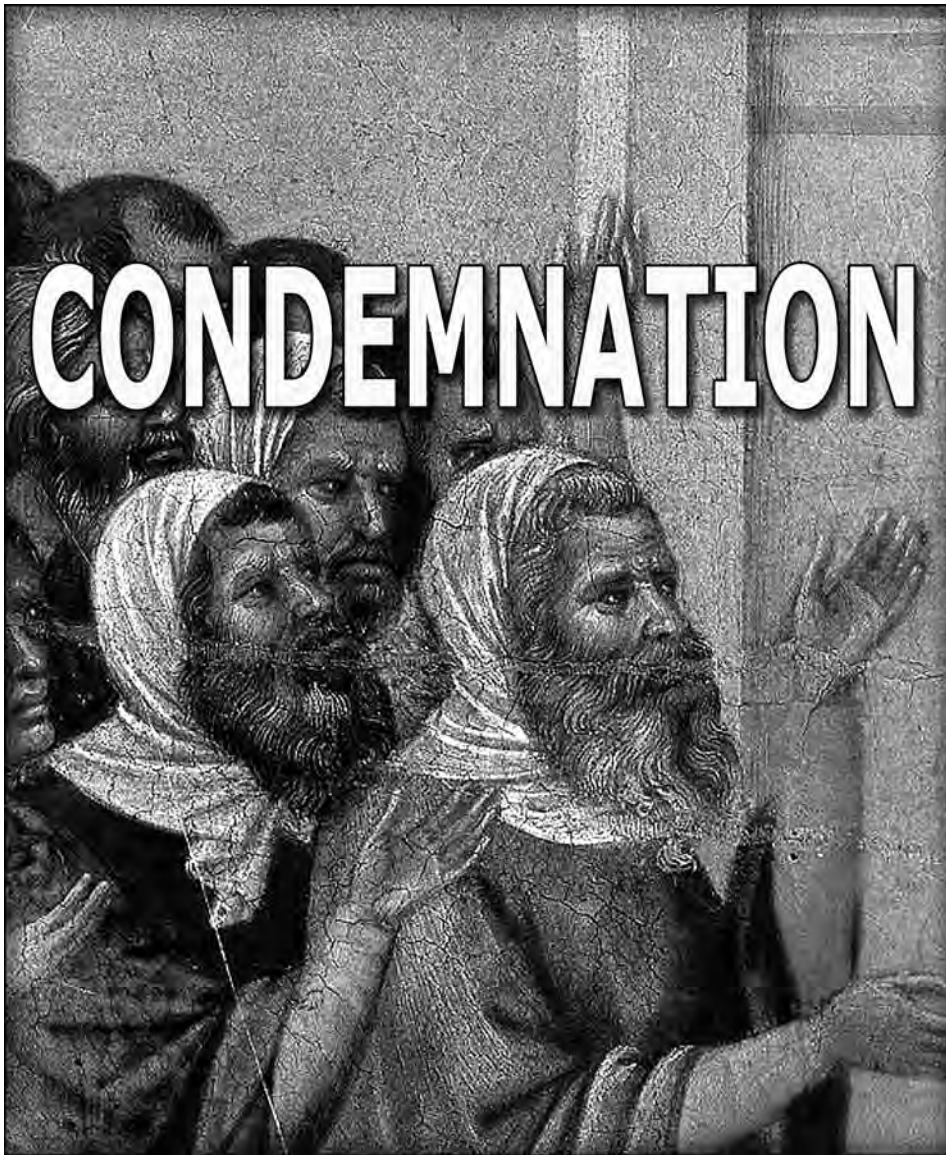
We hope to see you all at our next conference in 2006!

Canadian Field Secretary



*"love one another;
as I have loved you"*





another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.” Romans 2:1. “The word ‘judge’ used in this Bible verse does not of itself mean ‘to condemn,’ but rather, ‘to separate’... or ‘to pronounce judgement’, and where the context so requires, ‘to condemn.’” 6 BC 484. However in its truest sense the word judgement could be positive or it could be negative. It simply means that you passed sentence.

To be condemned is not a pleasant thought. It can actually create a frightening feeling. A criminal is condemned for his crimes and may spend the rest of his life in a prison cell. Many Christians were condemned for their faith in the Dark Ages and it was only with the help of Jesus that they could endure the suffering. The worst condemnation would be being condemned to hell fire. The thought of this condemnation has led many to run to Jesus in order to escape this terrible punishment. However if there were not punishment, how many of them would continue to follow Jesus? What is their real motive for service?

DOES JESUS CONDEMN THE SINNER?

In the time of Jesus, the Pharisees had portrayed God the Father as an avenging judge who takes delight in condemning sinners. Nothing could be further from the truth. In speaking of His mission to this earth, Jesus said, “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:17.

The Pharisees brought condemnation against a woman found in adultery. They were equally guilty, if not more so, than the woman, but they hid their sin under a cloak. When Jesus pointed out their sin, they left His presence in shame. There was no one left to condemn the poor woman as

Often when we’ve committed a grievous sin our conscience feels condemned. I’m sure some of us have even felt so guilty that we are too ashamed to come before God. We wonder if He will ever be willing to forgive us. Finally we do return to the loving arms of our Saviour after much deep repentance and self-reproach. The experience can make us feel utterly condemned before God at those times.

What does the word “Condemnation” mean? When we hear this word we think of something negative. It is not the same as the word “Judge”. To judge someone means to pass sentence – to form an opinion on a matter – to make a mental judgement. Although occasionally we think of judgement as having a negative connotation as written in this verse. “Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest



her accusers had left. Jesus asked her if there was no one to condemn her and “She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” John 8:11.

“The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.” Psalm 37:33

Jesus does not condemn the guilty sinner. I will use the definition “unfit for service,” when speaking of condemnation in this article. Does Jesus pronounce anyone unfit for service? He clearly stated that His mission was not to condemn man but to save him.

But Jesus *did* condemn something. “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:” Romans 8:3. Jesus condemned sin in our flesh. There is no value in sin. To be in sin makes a person completely unfit for useful service.

Often Christians have gone to the other extreme by saying that since Jesus will not condemn anyone, they can continue in their sins and He will save them to the uttermost. This is a false teaching because Jesus condemned sin, so a person who retains their sinful habits is condemned along with the sin they cherish.

WHO DOES CONDEMN?

Although Jesus does not condemn people, who does?

Wicked against righteous:

“They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood.” Psalm 94:21.

“He that justifieth the wicked, and he that

condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.” Proverbs 7:15

Wicked people have always tried to condemn the righteous. They can’t tolerate righteousness. It is impossible for them to simply get along, and lead their own lives, ignoring the righteous. Like the Pharisees in the days of Jesus, when faced with purity, they feel condemned (they see their unfitness for service), so to avoid their feelings of condemnation, they turn it around and condemn the righteous as straight laced fanatics, completely unfit for the service of God.

In the time of Christ the Pharisees felt condemned in the presence of Christ. That was only because of their sinful lifestyle. They condemned themselves. “It angered these guardians of society that He with whom they were continually in controversy, yet whose purity of life awed and condemned them, should meet, in such apparent sympathy, with social outcasts. They did not approve of His methods. They regarded themselves as educated, refined, and pre-eminently religious; but Christ’s example laid bare their selfishness.

“It angered them also that those who showed only contempt for the rabbis and who were never seen in the synagogues should flock about Jesus and listen with rapt attention to His words. The scribes and Pharisees felt only condemnation in that pure presence; how was it, then, that publicans and sinners were drawn to Jesus?” COL 185/6

Satan:

“And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of

the fire?” Zechariah 3:1,2. Satan likes to condemn God’s people. He likes to point out their sins stating that they are wholly unfit for the service of God. “Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.” 1 Timothy 3:6.

What happened to Jesus?

“But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?” Luke 23:40 The Jewish leaders did not value the gift of Jesus. They condemned Him as unfit to be the King of the Jews. They chose Barabbas instead.

HOW WE CONDEMN OURSELVES

The reality is that people condemn themselves. Jesus offers us pardon, freedom from sin and condemnation, however many people reject this offer of mercy. God is calling us: “Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” Ezekiel 33:10, 11

“Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.” Ezekiel 18:31,32. When we choose to reject God’s way of salvation, we bring condemnation upon ourselves.

Now we are going to read several ways in which we condemn ourselves.



Our words:

“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” Matthew 12:37. How much more seriously would we choose our words if we were constantly aware of the fact that every word we speak is written down in the books in heaven. We will have to face our words in the judgment, if they are not of a righteous nature and if we have not repented of them. “Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee.” Job 15:6

If our speech is good, no one can condemn us. “Sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.” Titus 2:8. If we keep our words pure, the wicked will have nothing with which to condemn us. They may make an attempt like the Jewish leaders did in the days of Jesus and Paul the Apostle, but they will be empty words, with no real value.

“If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.” Job 9:20. Be careful of your words. They may not be evil words, but they may be proud words. As Job is stating here, the person who says he is perfect will be condemned by his own words. Also they may be words of self-justification when a sister or brother points out a sin to us. Eve did this when the Lord pointed out her sin. She blamed the serpent for beguiling her and then blamed God for creating the snake. She was justifying her actions. When our sins are pointed out it is best to repent and not seek to justify our actions. There is no justification for sin.

“UnChristlike speech lies at the foundation of nine tenths of all the difficulties that exist in the church.” RH 11-24-04. In order to avoid difficulties in the church a place to start is with unChristlike speech. 90% of the problems would disappear.

Gossip has ruined many friendships and discouraged many souls in the church. “Speak words of kindness, words of uplifting; for this is the fruit borne on the Christian tree.” RH 11-24-04.

Our motives:

People may look good on the outside, but God can read the heart. They may speak pleasant words and be polite and kind, but if their motives are wrong they are condemned. “And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.” Ezekiel 33:31. These people are busy bodies. They are not doing the Lord’s work but sit down and condemn others who are busily working. They are looking for minor faults and errors to pick on the workers in order to justify their own inactivity. They claim a superior piety. These people are condemned – they are not useful for anything in their current state. “Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.” Matthew 15:7,8. “The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.” Psalm 55:21.

Unbelief:

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” John 3:18, 19. The fact that you are reading this acknowledges the reality that you believe in Jesus. You are not an unbeliever. However, there are

unbelievers who call themselves Christian. There are even unbelievers in the church. While they may say they believe in Jesus, and they do believe that He exists and is living in heaven, they do not believe He has the power to help them to overcome sin. They accept the fact that they are weak themselves, but they have no belief that Jesus can help them. These people are condemned. They are unfit for service, there is little God can do with them as they hold on to their sin.

“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.

Sin:

“Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.” Titus 3:11. When you choose to sin, you are condemning yourself to death. As we read earlier, God is asking you why you are choosing death. God has promised to assist you in overcoming sin. Do you believe that He can keep you from sinning? Don’t harden your heart, just believe that He can and He will.

Grudge:

“Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.” James 5:9. Is there a brother or sister in the church who you feel you do not get along with? You decide that you simply will avoid them in order to avoid any unpleasant conversation from being exchanged. You believe that in order to preserve your, as well as your brother’s, faith and reputation, it is best to avoid him. Or are you jealous against a brother or sister? If we have any negative feelings against any of our brothers or sisters, we have condemned ourselves. “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let



each esteem other better than themselves.”
Philippians 2:3

Grey areas:

“But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.” James 5:12. What do I mean by grey areas? Those are areas where we compromise a little. We don’t need to be so strict in our health reform or our Sabbath keeping, we can bend a little and God will overlook it. We need not become fanatic. With God things are either right or wrong, there are no grey areas. There is only black or white --yes or no -- sin or righteousness.

Light and privileges:

How can our light and privileges condemn us? They will condemn us if we don’t use them. If we hide our light under a bushel, it may go out. Sins of omission are often not thought too much about. We tend to focus on sins of commission, however sins of omission are just as grievous if not more so than sins of commission. “The best evidence that you are in Christ is the fruit you bear. If you are not truly united to Him, your light and privileges will condemn and ruin you.” 5T 348. If we neglect a known duty we are ignoring the voice of the Holy Spirit. How privileged we are to have the light and truth that we do. Will we neglect to share it with others? Will we neglect to read our Bibles because we just feel too lazy most of the time? “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” James 4:17

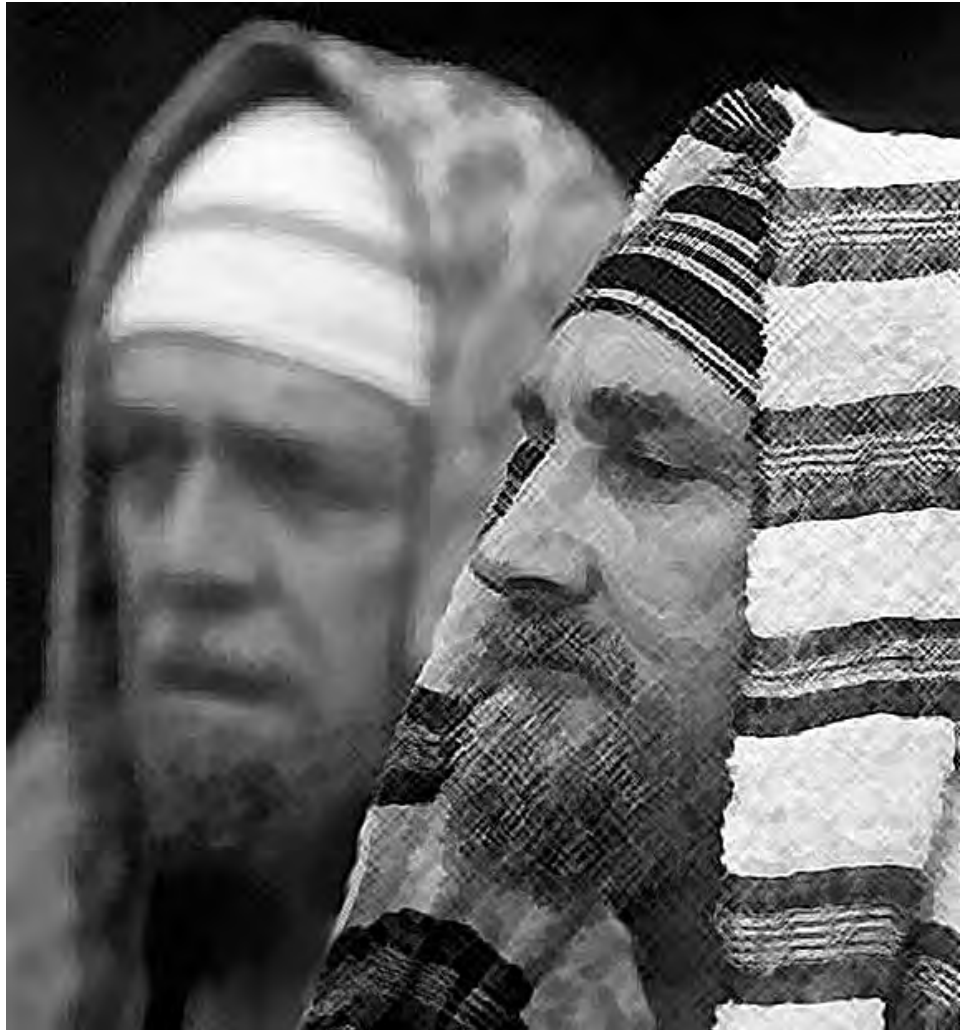
“Those who are unfaithful to the work of God are lacking in principle; their motives are not of a character to lead them to choose the right under all circumstances. The servants of God are to feel at all times that they are under the eye of their employer. He who watched the sacrilegious

feast of Belshazzar is present in all our institutions, in the counting-room of the merchant, in the private workshop; and the bloodless hand is as surely recording your neglect as it recorded the awful judgment of the blasphemous king. Belshazzar’s condemnation was written in words of fire, ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting;’ and if you fail to fulfill your God-given obligations your condemnation will be the same.” MYP 229

Rejecting new light:

“If light come, and that light is set aside or rejected, then comes condemnation and the

frown of God; but before the light comes, there is no sin, for there is no light for them to reject.” 1T 116. It has happened that when people have received some Bible Studies, they decide they don’t like what they have heard. The cross is too heavy; the road is too narrow. They simply can’t give up their worldly habits, or can’t give up their work or pleasure on Sabbath. Therefore they decide they don’t want to have more studies because they don’t want to know more about their obligations to God. They prefer to remain in ignorance thus rejecting the light they’ve currently received. They are condemning themselves. They will





Praise the Lord that He has loved us with an everlasting love.

CONCLUSION:

Don't condemn yourself, or your brothers. "You will have many perplexities to meet in your Christian life in connection with the church, but do not try too hard to mold your brethren. If you see that they do not meet the requirements of God's word, do not condemn; if they provoke, do not retaliate. When things are said that would exasperate, quietly keep your soul from fretting. You see many things which appear wrong in others, and you want to correct these wrongs. You commence in your own strength to work for a reform, but you do not go about it in the right way. You must labor for the erring with a heart subdued, softened by the Spirit of God, and let the Lord work through you, the agent. Roll your burden on Jesus. You feel that the Lord must take up the case where Satan is striving for the mastery over some soul; but you are to do what you can in humility and meekness, and put the tangled work, the complicated matters, into the hands of God. Follow the directions in His word, and leave the outcome of the matter to His wisdom. Having done all you can to save your brother, cease worrying, and go calmly about other pressing duties. It is no longer your matter, but God's." 5T 347

May God help us to all be found without condemnation when Jesus returns. May we be useful instruments for Him striving to uplift our brethren, working together as we travel the straight and narrow road to heaven. There is little time left, but thank the Lord that He is willing to cover us with His robe of righteousness and to free us from sin and unrighteousness. **AMEN**

Wendy Eaton, Australia

all be judged according to the knowledge they could have gained, but chose not to. Whether they didn't want to or just didn't have the time -- were too busy to attend religious meetings and study their Bible. They miss out on learning and receiving new light from the Lord. How important that we use our time wisely.

LEADERS

"My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation." Romans 3:1. There is greater condemnation on a leader who has left the service of the Lord and turned to idols. There is little chance for him to be restored to his former behaviour. Although he may repent and be restored into fellowship with God, he may not be able to return to his former position as he has given a poor example in his life. Moses did a seemingly small sin. He got angry and struck the rock, taking honour and glory to himself for the water. For this sin he could not enter the Promised Land. What is his sin in comparison to the sin of the murmuring multitude that had little faith in God? It may seem small, but Moses was the leader and was to provide a good example.

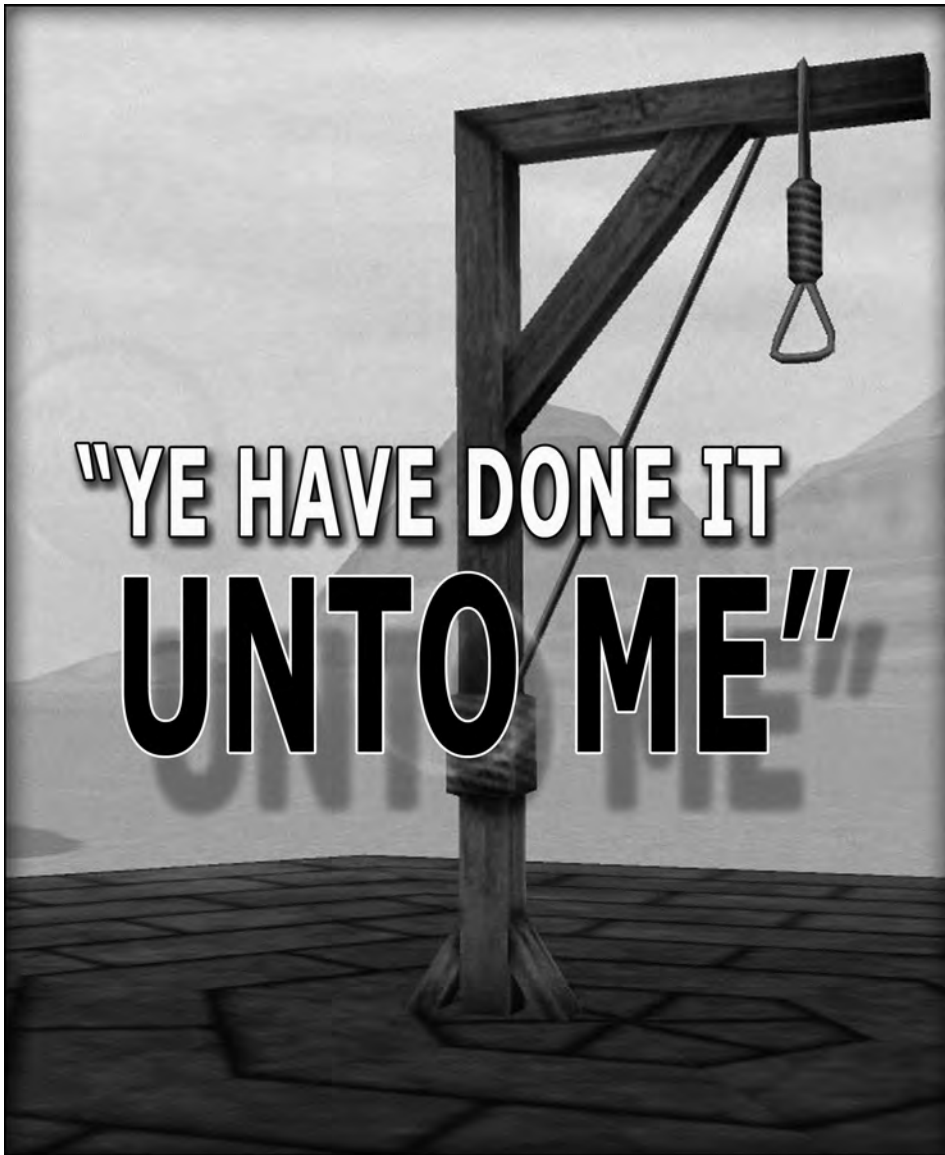
HOPE IN JESUS

We have all committed actions in the past that have brought condemnation upon ourselves. We have made ourselves unfit for the service of God, however Jesus doesn't leave us in this hopeless state. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Psalm 55:7. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1. Jesus wants us all to be saved. Come to Jesus. Surrender your life to Him. Let Him direct your paths and you will not be condemned.

Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth." Romans 14:22. Yes, stop condemning yourself.

"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





**"YE HAVE DONE IT
UNTO ME"**

Often we treat each other badly, thinking that they deserve this kind of treatment without realizing that Jesus takes it personally as being done to Him. Every blow that we give to the child of God is given toward Jesus directly.

Our religion is in great part to love our neighbour; not only the holy ones but all of them. How we treat our fellow men determines how we will be treated. If we

would understand the law of sowing and reaping, we would be more careful how we treat each other. Jesus made this clear to us. "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matt. 7: 1, 2.

The Lord gave this divine law to ancient Israel, "Blessed is he that blesseth thee,

and cursed is he that curseth thee." Num. 24:9.

Solomon understood this law of God. He writes, "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him." Prov. 26:27.

Haman hated Mordecai and planned to kill him. He built gallows 50 cubits high with the purpose to hang Mordecai on it. But in the end he himself was hung on it and Mordecai was exalted to the position which Haman had before. Not only Mordecai, but he planned to destroy all the Jews in the Medo-Persian empire. But the Lord intervened and the people of Israel were saved and their enemies were destroyed. This will be also our experience in the last days.

"The trying experiences that came to God's people in the days of Esther were not peculiar to that age alone. The revelator, looking down the ages to the close of time, has declared, 'The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' Rev. 12:17. Some who today are living on the earth will see these words fulfilled. The same spirit that in ages past led men to persecute the true church, will in the future lead to the pursuance of a similar course toward those who maintain their loyalty to God. Even now preparations are being made for this last great conflict.

"The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God's people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and



are trampling on His Sabbath.” PP, p. 605.

It is Satan’s plan to make us to fight against our enemies, or to wish evil to come upon them. Jesus said, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” Matt. 5:44.

Apostle Paul had the same understanding of the law of God. He writes, “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” Rom. 12: 19-21.

This is a difficult lesson to learn. It is so easy and natural to hate and to seek revenge, but to forgive and to do good to our enemies is a difficult lesson to learn. Without the help of the Holy Spirit it cannot be done. Jesus gave us an example, when He prayed for His murderers, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

It may happen that we offend someone and we lose his friendship and he becomes

our enemy. To win him back to our friendship is not easy. Solomon writes, “A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.” Prov. 18:19.

One person offended will speak to his friends and soon many will join him. This kind of offence has caused family feuds and even wars.

A leader in the church has to become a peacemaker. Otherwise the church will be divided and peace and unity will be lost. If the leader himself offends even one person in his congregation, his leadership and influence will suffer and people lose their confidence in him.

Many have left the church because they were offended by someone; yet these offences do come. Satan is behind them, trying to destroy the peace and love in the church. Jesus said, “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me,

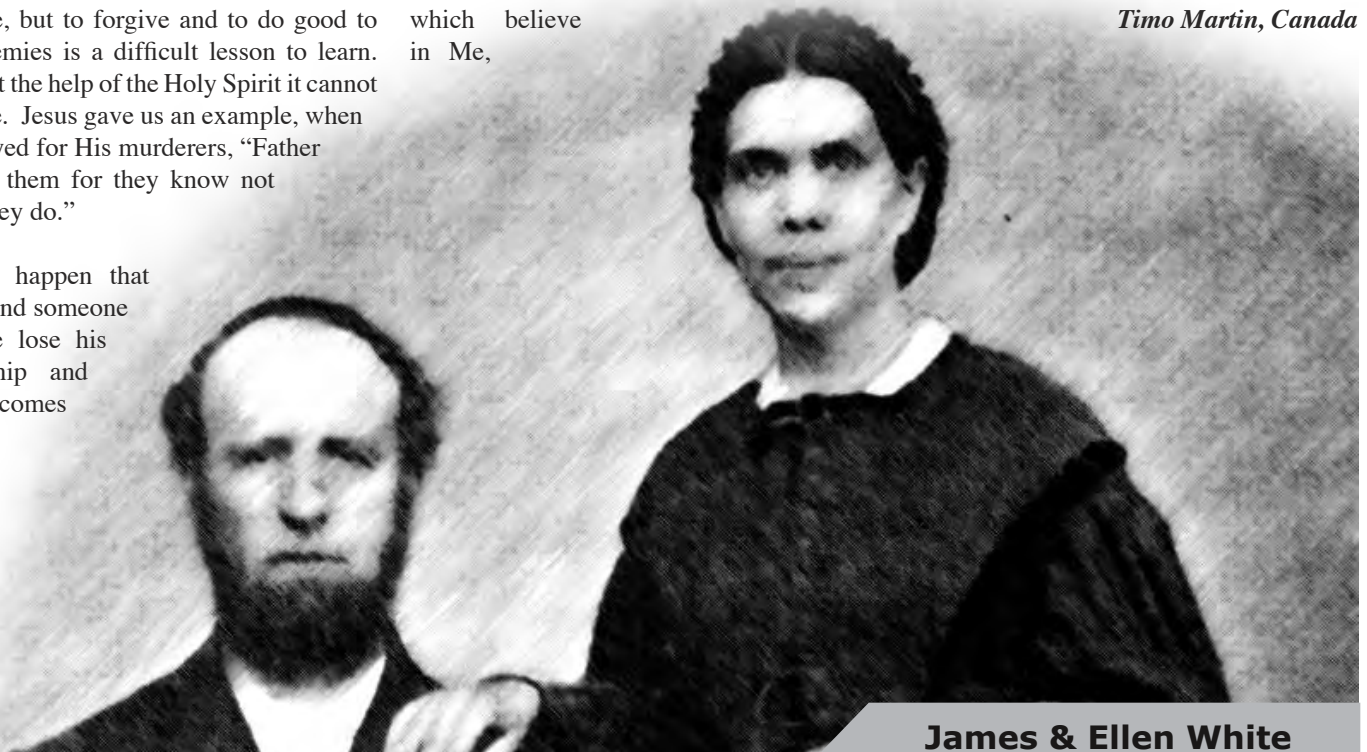
it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! For it needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh.” Matt. 18: 6,7.

Our salvation depends on our behaviour, and how we treat our fellow believers; whether it is good or bad. Jesus takes it personally as done to Him, and He pays everyone according to their deeds.

If we learn to sow the seeds of kindness, even towards erring brothers and sisters, we can be a blessing and save them, and also save ourselves. Then we will have blessed fellowship with friends rather than with enemies.

May the Lord help us all to love even our enemies. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada



James & Ellen White



WHY ANNIE CRIED



CHILDRENS CORNER

This was the last night of the Week of Prayer, and the students sat quietly listening to the speaker as he told them of the trials that lay ahead for God's people and how they must get ready. It was a solemn occasion, and everyone knew that at the end of the service the speaker would call for testimonies and a full consecration.

Annie sat near the front with her roommate, Helen. She was listening vaguely, but she was thinking more. How much fun she and Helen had had rooming together these past two years! Soon they would be parting, and they would probably never see each other again. What would life be like without Helen? She wondered. Helen always helped with everything. They studied their Sabbath School Lessons together, and if she ever had to give a talk for the youth meeting or had other responsibilities placed on her it was Helen who helped her.

For, you see, Helen was raised an Adventist and Annie was not. How she envied Helen! It would always be easy for Helen to remain true, for she had her parents and brother and sisters. Annie had no one. Annie squeezed Helen's hand without actually knowing she was doing it. Helen gave her a smile and squeezed back. How could Helen ever realize the turmoil that was going on in Annie's heart?

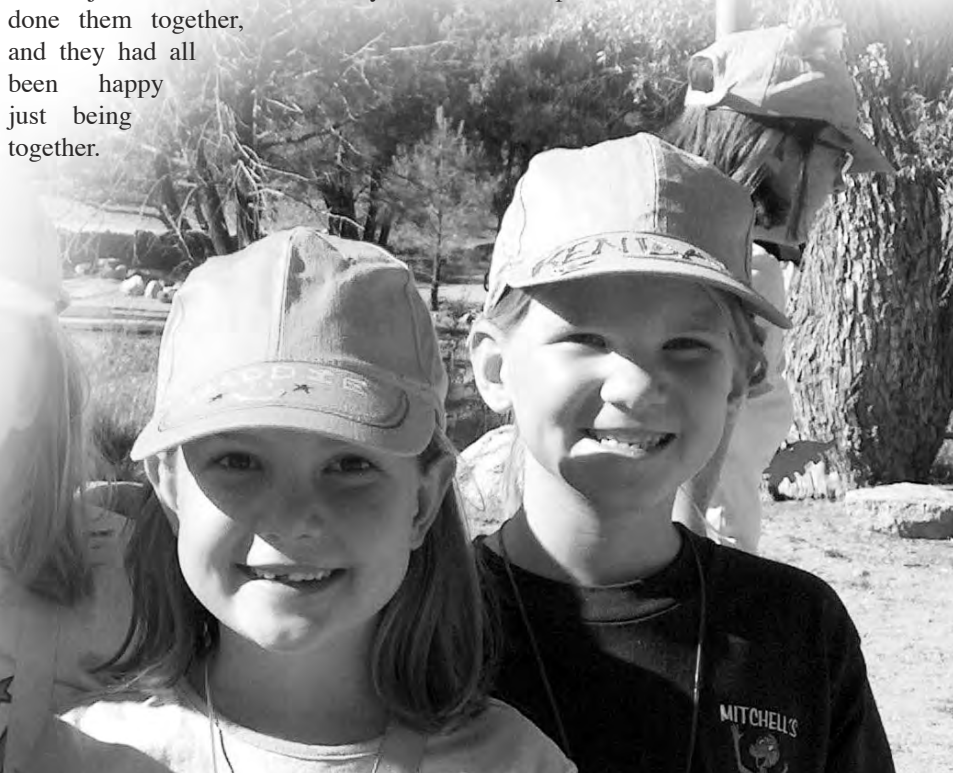
Annie had spent a weekend or two with Helen and her family, and she had had to admit that it was the most fun she had ever had. Not that they had done anything special. Oh, no. Actually, if one

considered the things they did, the weekend might have been classed as boring. But it had been so satisfying. Every morning Helen's father had read from the Bible for morning worship and prayed that the family would be protected and kept from temptation during the day. Every evening they had gathered around the piano to sing. Sabbath they had gone out in the afternoon distributing literature and had paid a visit to a sick friend.

No, you couldn't say that the things she had done with Helen were particularly exciting. It was just that the whole family had done them together, and they had all been happy just being together.

Annie sighed. Such a deep sigh, it was, that Helen looked at her and squeezed her hand again. Annie went on remembering. As long as she could remember her father and mother had been separated. Her father had been an Adventist when he was young, and when it came time for Annie to go to high school he had shipped her off to the Adventist high school, much to her mother's disgust and certainly not because Annie wanted to go.

Weekend leaves were very difficult. She always went to her mother's place, for she spent the summers with her father.



And at her home Saturday was the day her mother always took her shopping for things she needed at school. There were usually parties to go to, and at first Annie had enjoyed them. But at the last party she went to she had felt strangely out of place. There had been dancing, and quite a few of the girls and boys had smoked.

No, Annie decided, she did not belong anywhere, really. Not at home with her mother, not with her father, and not with the Adventists. She was not a member of the church, even though sometimes she thought she would like to be.

The students were rising to testify now. She listened, a bit bored and not sure that she wanted to stand and say anything. Helen squeezed her hand and looked at her as though to ask her to stand with her. But Annie sat tight. She could not think of a thing to say. And she was not going to say she wanted to be ready for Jesus to come when she was not sure that she did.

This last thought startled her a bit. What *did* she want? She didn't want to be lost. Yet how could she remain true when she had no encouragement? She began to cry. Helen stood and gave a testimony in her usual courageous and determined way. Annie could stand it no longer. She got up and ran from the chapel. When the meeting was over Helen went as quickly as she could to the dormitory. Annie lay across the bed sobbing her heart out. Helen did not know what to say, so she just sat down beside her.

A group of girls came to the door and asked whether Annie was ill. Helen told them she was not and gave them that please-get-out-of-here-and-don't-ask-any-questions look, and they left. Miss Thompson came up to see if she could help, but Helen said she thought Annie wanted to be left alone.

Helen got ready for bed quietly. What should she do? She didn't want to anger Annie. She had no idea what was bothering her. Maybe it was better just to let her cry.

Finally Annie stood up. "Can I do anything to help?" Helen asked timidly.

"Nobody can help me," Annie said. "I'm lost and I know it. But what can I do?" She twisted the corner of her handkerchief. "I know I won't be ready to go to heaven when Jesus comes. But I'm not sure that I



want to go anyway."

Helen looked shocked. Not want to go to heaven? She had never heard anyone say such a thing before.

"Why should I want to go to heaven?" Annie asked, more of herself than of anyone else. "Nobody I love will be there. My mother won't be there. She couldn't care less. My sisters can't think of anything but new clothes and good times. They won't be there. And my father -- " she almost laughed-- "I've heard him testify

in church that he wants to be there, but you know he won't be, not after leaving my mother and marrying another woman. Sure, he goes to church once in a while, but only when somebody special is going to preach. He won't be in heaven, that's for sure. He won't give up his smoking habit and he loves parties."

The lights went out, and Annie began to get ready for bed. Her tears were dry now, but she was still thinking. She was glad Helen didn't say anything. She just needed someone to listen to her tonight. "So," she sighed, "if no one I love will be there, why should I want to go?"

Helen pushed farther down under the covers. She didn't know whether she would say anything or not. Finally she said softly, "I want you to be there. And Jesus does."

Annie jumped into bed and sat with her arms around her knees. There was a long silence. Helen wondered whether maybe she should not have spoken.

Then Annie spoke softly, with a lilt in her voice that showed the sorrow was gone. "I guess that's true, isn't it? I'd better get ready." She jumped out of her bed and grabbed Helen's arm. "Come, let's say our prayers together."

Yes, Jesus wants all of you to be there with Him. He paid an infinite price for your salvation and He is working untiringly for your salvation today. Do you want to be there? Whether you have been raised in the church or not, Jesus is well able to help everyone to prepare to be there. Just surrender your life to Him today and see the miracles He will work in your life.



*For More Memories of the
Canadian Field Conference 2005
www.4truth.ca/pictures*



Br. Watts Visit to Vancouver, Canada



Church Clean Up in Toronto, Canada



Children at the Canadian Field Conference in Toronto

CANADIAN CONFERENCE



www.imsmessenger.org