



The Reformation Messenger

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

*"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended:
but this one thing I do, forgetting those things
which are behind, and reaching forth unto
those things which are before,
I press toward the mark for the prize
of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 3: 13, 14



We Believe

The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.

He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.

The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness.

The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.

His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.

Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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In This Issue

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD	3
1ST ANGEL'S...	5
NOW! 2006	7
"THESE OUGHT TO DIE"	10
JOURNEY TO THE 7 CHURCHES	13
HEALTH MATTERS: SUGAR...	17
WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?	18
ANSWERING THE CALL	22
FRIENDLINESS AND COURTESY	23
THE CAT THAT PLAYED "SATAN"	24
CC: STANDING BEAR'S SPEECH	25

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Death is our enemy. We try to avoid it by any means. Doctors and hospitals are busy trying to heal sickness and to lengthen a person's life. We practice healthful living and a proper diet for the same reason.

Death is a result of sin. It was not God's plan that people should die. But because of sin, the good and bad people, they all have to die sooner or later.

In olden times, when a person died, people mourned him for a month or more. We read that for Aaron, the people mourned 30 days and for Jacob, 70 days.

It was a great sorrow for the family and for the friends when someone passed away, especially if it happened to a younger person.

Now, this is how people look upon death. Humanly, it seems the end of life and the end of all activity. But God looks upon death differently. Therefore, it is written in the Bible, "And I heard from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13.

It did not say, blessed are the living, but blessed are the dead. To a Christian, death is a sleep and a rest from all his labours.

They are now beyond Satan's temptations also, waiting for the resurrection morning.

Paul writes, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21.

Paul was not afraid of death. He recognized that it is easier to die for Christ than to live for Him.

In Psalms, we read, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Ps. 116:15.

God lets His children to die when their life work is finished. It is really a shortcut to heaven. People who died thousands of years ago do not see the time passing. They closed their eyes in death and next they open them to the second coming of Christ, to go to heaven with Him.

In Revelation, we read, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth." That is after 1844, when the third angel's message began to be proclaimed.

To die at this time means to escape the terrible persecution, the Sunday law, and Jacob's trouble; and yet belong to the 144,000.

"It is not always safe to ask for unconditional healing... He knows whether or not those

for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon our world." CH 375 (1897)

"The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be laid away before the time of trouble. We shall see our children again. We shall meet them and know them in the heavenly courts." 2SM 259 (1899)

Adam was at first terrified that he had to die because of his sin. But, after witnessing and living a life full of suffering and sorrow, he considered it as God's mercy that he can die.

"He witnessed the wide-spreading corruption that was finally to cause the destruction of the world by a flood; and though the sentence of death pronounced upon him by his Maker had at first appeared terrible, yet after beholding for nearly a thousand years the result of sin, he felt that it was merciful of God to bring to an end a life of suffering and sorrow." PP 82

"To the believer, death is but a small matter. Christ speaks of it as if it were of little moment. 'If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death; he shall never



taste of death.' To the Christian, death is but a sleep, a moment of silence and darkness." DA 787

There were times when God's messengers and prophets wished to die. Moses was discouraged and said to the Lord, "I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. And if Thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray Thee, out of hand, If I have found favour in Thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness." Num. 11:14, 15.

M o s e s wished to die, rather than live. He could h a v e chosen t o remain in Egypt in the r o y a l court and live a life of luxury, but he c h o s e to suffer with his people, but at times it seemed too much for him. The Lord did not forsake him but encouraged him to continue.

The trials and sorrows that the Lord has to bring upon His people often seem to consume them to the point that they wish to die. But then, He comforts them and strengthens them to accept these

trials as blessings.

We read of the martyrs in the time of persecution, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Rev. 12:11. They could have saved their lives by denying their faith, but they remained faithful even unto death.

"Of all the gifts that heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honour. Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honoured than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon. 'Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but to suffer for His sake.' Philippians 1:29." MH 478.

To suffer and to die as a martyr for Christ is an honour, which their enemies do not understand.

Some time ago I had a dream of the time of persecution. I was taken a prisoner and sentenced to die, because I had preached the Sabbath during the time of Sunday law. As the soldier took me to the place of execution, I talked to him about our faith. Then we arrived there and I closed my eyes and said my last prayer. Then I woke up, because it was only a dream. But the strange part was that in the dream I felt such a happiness and joy which I had never felt before in my life. After I woke up the whole day I felt as I was walking in the clouds. The peace of heaven and the joy in my heart was so great that I said, "I am ready to die as a martyr in order to have this happiness and joy again. Then I realized that those who had died as martyrs did not really suffer, but had the most joyful experience of their lives.

It is much better to be persecuted than being the persecutor. And let us remember, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." This is my wish and prayer. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada



“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day,” writes the prophet of Patmos, “and heard behind me a great voice, as a trumpet, saying, “I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, what thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia: unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.” (Rev. 1:10, 11) ST, 2-4-1903

The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian era. AA Pg. 585 “The woman” is a symbol of the church, and the seed of the woman is the number of believers in any generation, and the “remnant of her seed” means, of course, the last generation of the church.” 3BIO Pg. 483 “Laodicea” signifies “the judging of the people,” or according to Cruden, “a just people.” The message to this church brings to view the closing scenes of probation. It reveals a period of judgment. It is the last stage of the church. Daniel and the Revelation, Pg. 391. The words addressed to the Laodicean church describe their present condition perfectly. (See Rev. 3:14-20) EW Pg. 107

In the word of God an angel is represented as flying in the midst of heaven, “having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; and worship Him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.’” 8T Pg. 26, 27. Under the appropriate symbol of an angel flying through the midst of heaven is represented the work of the people of God. In this work heavenly intelligences cooperate with human agencies in extending the last message to the inhabitants of the world. FE Pg. 209. The message itself sheds light as to the time when this movement is to take place. It is declared to be a part of the “everlasting gospel;” and it announces the opening of the Judgment. The message of salvation has been preached in all ages; but this message is a part of the gospel which could be proclaimed only in the last days, for only then would it be true that the hour of Judgment had come. GC Pg. 355, 356.

The prophecy of the first angel’s message, brought to view in Revelation 14, found its fulfillment in the Advent movement of 1840-1844. 4SP Pg. 222. The Scripture which above all others had been both the foundation and the central pillar of the Advent faith was the declaration: “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” (Dan. 8:14) 4SP Pg. 258.

In the typical system, which was a shadow of the sacrifice and priesthood of Christ, the cleansing of the sanctuary was the last service performed by the high priest in the yearly round of ministration. It was the closing work of the atonement—a removal or putting away of sin from Israel. It prefigured the closing work in the ministration of our High Priest in heaven, in the removal or blotting out of the sins of His people, which are registered in the heavenly records. This service involves a work of investigation, a work of judgment; and it immediately precedes the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; for when He comes, every case has been decided. GC Pg. 352.

When Jesus leaves the sanctuary, then they who are holy and righteous, will be holy and righteous still; for all their sins will then be blotted out, and they will be sealed with the seal of the living God. But those that are unjust and filthy, will be unjust and filthy still, for there will



be no priest in the sanctuary to offer their sacrifices, their confessions, and their prayers before the Father. FLB Pg. 213.

“The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,” Matt. 22:2, “and sent his servant at suppertime to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.” Luke 14:17. “And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment.” Matt. 22:11.

By the king’s examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. COL Pg. 310. The Laodicean

message applies to all who profess to keep the law of God, and yet are not doers of it. 7BC Pg. 962.

The law of God is the standard by which the characters and lives of men will be tested in the Judgment. GC Pg. 483. It is the standard that all must reach if they would enter the kingdom of God. HP Pg. 137. The law cannot save you, but it is the standard of character, and to represent the character of Jesus Christ you must live the law, for He lived the law in our world. 7BC Pg. 970. The love of God underlies every precept of His law, and he who departs from the commandment is working his own unhappiness and ruin. MB Pg. 52.

Many are flattering themselves that they are right with God, when they have not

the principles of the truth in their hearts. 4T Pg. 227. They feel that they are “rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing,” while Heaven pronounces them poor, miserable, blind, and naked. 5T Pg. 265. Such reckon themselves among the chosen, peculiar people of God, yet they experience not His presence and power to save them from yielding to temptation and folly. 2T Pg. 125. Many deceive themselves in thinking that they can continue in sin, and transgress God’s holy law, and yet claim Christ as their Saviour. RH 10-15-1895.

The true disciple of Christ will bear the divine impress. Their teaching will be in harmony with the teaching of the Son of God. Their character will be molded after the great Pattern. ST, 4-13-1888.

Tying the judgment in with the message to the Laodicean church, [Sister] White argued: “It is most reasonable to conclude that there is a special call to the remnant, and a special work to be performed by them, and for them, preparatory to the decisions of the judgment in regard to them, and that their salvation depends upon fully obeying the calls and counsel to them. 1BIO Pg. 354. Will the churches heed the Laodicean message? KC Pg. 114. Will the people of God now humble their hearts before God, confessing and forsaking their sins, that they may receive the forgiveness and favour of God, and come into complete harmony with Him? EW Pg. 58.

My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. 1SAT Pg. 248. *AMEN*

Chester Cosby, Detroit, USA

“The love of God underlies every precept of His law”



“Men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth for the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (Luke 21:26; Matt. 24)

Panic Syndrome

Millions are apprehensive and suffering anxiety regarding the New Year—2006. Some sensational speakers predict catastrophic events; coming or imminent terrorist attacks, wars, starvation, droughts, world chain reactions, closing down critical systems of power, water, communications, and leading to panic. Some are selling bags of books, recommending or stockpiling dried foods, water, medications, generators, and even guns and ammunition. Others are saying to withdraw enough cash to last at least two months.

Cultural Connections

Furthermore, as we cautiously tread into the New Year, people are becoming more sensitive to their origins, cultures, creeds, races, and the future of humanity. Because such great and rapid changes are taking place and knowledge is being increased (Dan. 12:4), people cannot even imagine what this year and decade will bring. Everyone, it seems are now more aware of the volatility of the age. In addition there is an alarming increase the number of natural disasters, pestilences, animal diseases, violence, terrorism, immorality, financial, political, and religious instability, and compounded even more by cultures that appear to be drifting like a ship without sail, rudder, or anchor and is in dire need of a moral compass. Jesus foretold a time “when men’s hearts would be failing them for fear and the expectations of those things which are coming on the earth.” (Luke 21:26) (Matt. 24)

Fertile Times

Because of all this, there is a spectacular interest now in Bible prophecy. This year—2006—therefore, is a very fertile time for evangelistic opportunities; to reach people in our community and the world. In spite of ongoing political upheavals, doors are now open wider to the gospel in countries like India, Russia, China, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Cuba, and mostly the USA where there is a void of organized churches, but harbour small pockets of faithful believers, waiting to be led and counseled. Modern technology is growing at an unprecedented rate. Tools of technology such as Internet, iPod, satellite TV, radio, now makes world preaching and teaching of the gospel message possible. The goal of preaching the three angel’s message worldwide is now finally a reality, a promising goal. Jesus promised, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come.” (Matt. 24:14)

No Escape

As in the story we all know of Joseph, times of plenty are followed by times of famine. There will be an element of panic this year. Expect the unexpected. We should be, however, more concerned with the paralyzing apathy that may come after Jan. 1, 2006 and the crises of the past year evaporate, and everyone begins to chant the familiar mantra... Peace, Peace! “For when they shall say, Peace, and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child: and they shall not escape.”

(1 Thess. 5:3)

It is Late

Remember, that all the virgins were sleeping when the bridegroom came. (Matt. 25:1-13) Also, carefully remember that day before the flood of Noah and the fire of Lot. The sun was shining upon the people engaged in eating, drinking, marrying, and building. (1 Peter 3:20) What we fail to do now during these times of great opportunity we will unfortunately struggle to accomplish later in a time of paralyzing apathy and indifference. "I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work." (1 John 9:4) That is why we should now do everything possible to capitalize on the wide-open window of evangelistic opportunity this New Year 2006.

Be Watchful

Christians need to carefully and prayerfully guard against fanning the flames of any bizarre movements, cults, or spirits. But, try to seize every opportunity to preach Christ now, before advancing further into the New Year—2006, and provide an unprecedented opening for the Holy Spirit's power. Paul said, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (1 Cor. 9:22) In other words, he reached out to people where they were, used tools that met their needs, and employed methods that touched their hearts.

Greek Connection

The Apostle Paul demonstrated this principle while visiting Athens. He used one of the Athenian's idols as a means to proclaim the true God to the people. "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, 'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom, therefore, ye ignorantly worship, him I declare unto you.'" (Acts 17:23) Although he failed to reach the Athenian philosophers, he zealously and consistently preached in faith and prayer.

Weather Forecasting

Evangelism is somewhat like farming; timing, and weather are very, very important. Often the seasons and weather will dictate the schedule of a farmer. Likewise, God's people must be prepared to seize fertile opportunities for soul

winning. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season." (2 Tim. 4:2) Jesus further said, "When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt. 16:2, 3)

Too Busy?

The power of the Holy Spirit is given to witnesses and is not only for witnessing. God always seems to call people (men and women), who are active and busy. Have you ever noticed that? Moses was tending sheep. Elijah was farming. Peter was fishing. Gideon was threshing wheat. Ruth was gleaning barley. Saul was searching for his father's lost beasts. Nehemiah was working as a royal butler. Those God calls, He qualifies—those He qualifies He uses. God calls men and women when they are busy; and Satan calls them when they are idle. David fell for Bathsheba during a time of leisure at the palace when he should have been out with his soldiers fighting on the battlefield.

The Best Occupation

God designed and created people to be productive; and the best occupation of all is helping people, making others happy, our fellow humans and God's creatures. That is our purpose. God is calling you, too! Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit from above and went about doing good, and healing. "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

God can also give power to minister for His followers; the obedient ones, the saints, for a glorious, blessed ministry. "As my Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." (John 20:21) Have you ever noticed how many times in Scripture the promise for supernatural power is directly connected with active ministry?

High Power

"And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal all manner of sickness and all

manner of disease... And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Matt. 10:1, 7, 8)

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:18) "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Those God appoints He anoints, too.

Secret of Miracles

"God, it is clear, regards the ministry of saving others as the most noble work or goal in our lives. Here a little, there a little. Let the truth be presented as it is in Jesus, line upon line, precept upon precept," (Ev. 201) "preparing the soul before sowing the seed, dwelling upon the necessity of practical godliness." (Ev. 200) "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." (Prov. 11:30)

The Lord will pour His power on and work His wonders for those who endeavour to do this great work. Notice the pattern here now, a simple one. The majority of God's miracles are connected with the ministry! In Acts 8:39, Philip was giving a Bible study and baptizing an Ethiopian eunuch when the Holy Spirit fell on him from Gaza to Caesarea. Paul was preaching when he raised Eutychus, blinded the sorcerer, and delivered a girl from demons. God miraculously delivered Peter, Paul, Silas, and the 12 apostles from prison when they were actively preaching and teaching the truth. Most of the miracles in the Old Testament were seen in men on the battlefield, including Samson, David, Gideon, and Jonathan. We are on the battlefield now, too. Likewise, too, we can experience wonderful works of the Holy Spirit... when feeding the multitudes with the bread of life. He will multiply the bread, as He did for the 5000.

Conversion Secret

Some are afraid they might do something wrong in witnessing, so consequently



months before, Jesus sent the 12 out, later 70, to preach with miraculous results. “And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name.” (Luke 10:17) Active ministry is part of a conversion process as surely as exercise is part of a child’s growing process, and proper nutrition is to his health and maintenance.

Sick Church Remedy

“Active ministry and witnessing is part of the conversion process. This wonderful truth is not only for individuals but also for churches. Those congregations that exist as an exclusive society, gazing, hypnotized by their own reflection, eventually wither away, atrophy, and die. One of the best remedies, in fact, for a sick-ailing church is “evangelism.” It is not by any means by encouraging feasting, gluttony, and dissipations, by the suppers, fancy fairs, dances and festivals, nor bazaars, nor even to lotteries and like devices.” (WM 289, 290) “Nor even to music that offends God by a display of instrumental music (namely drums) by those that are not consecrated and worldly musicians with the likes and unmerciful Satanic beat of New Age music, now played in some churches in the Sabbath service.” Ev. 509, 510) If short of money, it is not again, by the above means just mentioned, but by “evangelism!” When the Apostle Peter needed money, Jesus sent him fishing. (Matt. 17:27) Are church members lacking zeal, enthusiasm, in the doldrums? Do “evangelism.” It will quickly awaken and revitalize the existing sleepy sheep. Is the church weighed down with doctrinal confusion, seeking something new and exciting? Do “evangelism.” Try organizing evangelical seminars or lecture series, particularly on prophecy now. This will do wonders to harvest new wheat into the garner and help the existing members redirect their compass of truth.

Fix Internal Problems

Mechanical equipment that lies around idle soon rusts quickly and deteriorates. It is impossible to stay upright on a motionless bike, or turn a sailboat on a windless sea. Likewise, churches that neglect the great commission (Matt. 28:19, 20) and lose their evangelistic momentum are often quickly consumed by internal problems.

Workers Needed

It is very clear that true Christians should not be a part of any maddening, worldly panic, but the year 2006 and shortly after is now prime time for sowing the gospel and harvesting souls. But, there is still a problem again: For “the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest.” (Luke 10:2) Will you be a faithful labourer for Him? Then try ask God to lead you into a witnessing opportunity, today, then just stand back and watch what He does! You will like it! He will answer your prayer. So, be ready! God is watching and waiting for opportunities to use His power, and commissions angels for those who are willing to do His bidding. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.” (2 Chron. 16:9) Right now, start praying, “Here am I, send me,” (Isa. 6:8) and just see what the Lord will do! It works! Let this be part of your daily prayer life.

Paul’s Secret

The secret of Paul’s power and success was this: He kept back nothing that was profitable for the people. He preached Christ publicly, in the market place, and the synagogues. He taught from house to house availing himself of the familiar intercourse of the home circle. He visited the sick and sorrowing, comforting the afflicted, and lifting the oppressed. And in all that he said and did, he preached a crucified and risen Saviour. (WM 62) (1 Cor. 2:2; Acts 20:20)

What Next?

Many are apprehensively asking how one should prepare for the New Year—2006. Some wonder if they should sell their home, move to the country, stockpile food, water, gas, matches, flashlights, batteries, and other necessities.

We must be very careful and guard ourselves against temptations, of thinking we can save ourselves by loading up with provisions in our cellar and pantries. The foundation of all false religion is trusting in our own works for salvation. If we merely make spiritual preparation our number one

they do nothing. Some thought that they would gladly work for the Lord, but they don’t feel “holy enough.” It is true that dirt sticks to a rusty shovel or spade, making the work harder, but the best way to clean it is to dig with it. Ministry is also a part of the sanctification process. After 3 ½ years as followers of Jesus, the apostles still were not completely converted or sanctified. Jesus clearly confirmed this when He said to Peter, “But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou are converted, strengthen thy brethren.” (Luke 22:32) In only one 24 hour period before the cross, the disciples showed room for improvement and progress. They argued among themselves, and fought for the highest positions, acted confused by Christ’s teachings, slept when Jesus thought they should be praying, and forsook Jesus when the mob came for Him. Peter even went further and denied Jesus three times with swearing and cursing! Yet, just a few

priority in our lives, then God has already proven that He can supply all our temporal needs, even if it takes a miracle. Have you ever had such a religious experience?

Lean Times

There is, however, no sin in making practical provisions for potential lean times. God told Noah to store sufficient resources for his sea journey. As Solomon reminds us “A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.” (Prov. 22:3)

Our ultimate trust, though, must be in our Lord, Jesus Christ. Otherwise, we are prone to repeat the mistake of the stingy fool who put his trust in his well-stocked barns: “But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” (Luke 12:20)

Remember, too, when the children of Israel stored away manna at the wrong time it always bred worms and stank. (Ex. 16:20)

Survival Tools

How should we prepare then? With weapons and ammunition? Yes! “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” (Eph. 6:13)

Gold, clothing, and medial supplies? Yes! “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou may be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.” (Rev. 3:18) Food and water? Yes! “Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfieth not? Just hearken diligently unto me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.” (Isa. 55:1, 2)

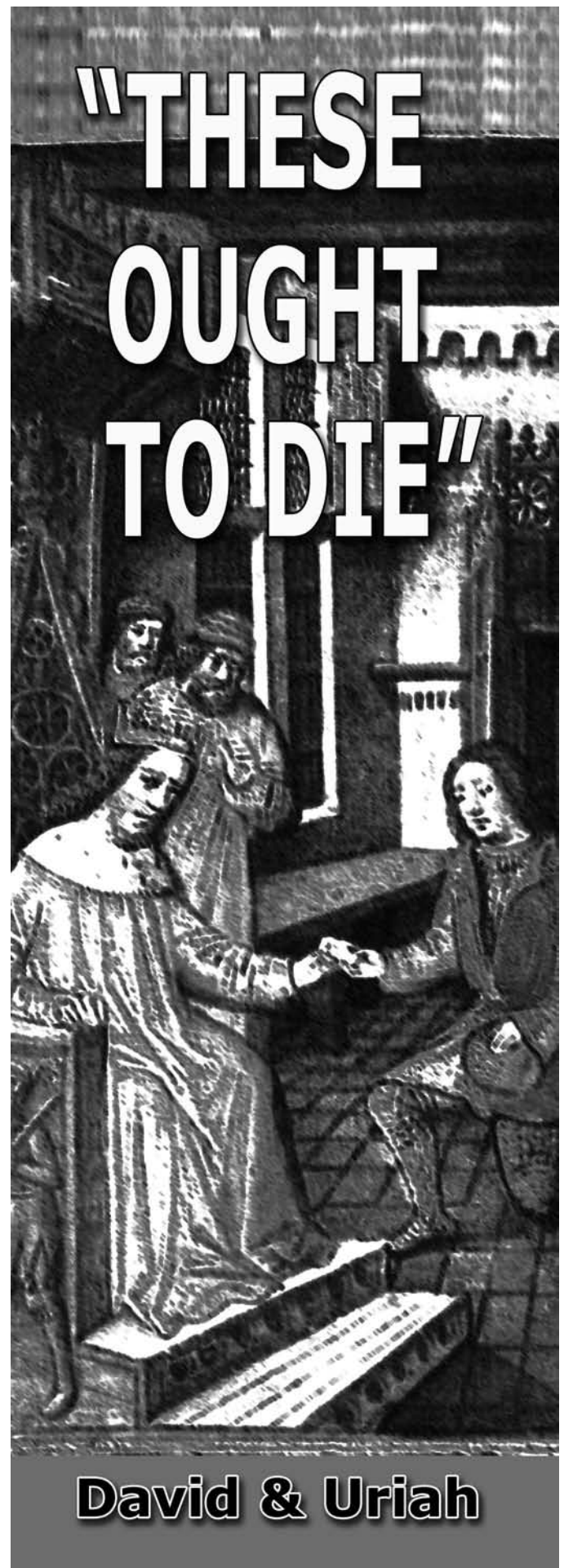
Should we withdraw cash in case the ATM or banks fail? Maybe, but all earthly currency is subject to devaluation and theft. Ultimately, we must be certain we have that precious pearl of great price in the safety deposit box of our soul. “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matt. 6:19-21)

Spiritual Supplies

The Lord will provide us with spiritual supplies, for He has promised, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:9)

If we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, these spiritual supplies will survive any unforeseen degree of inconvenience or chaos. (Matt. 6:33) NOW—is the time! *AMEN*

John Theodorou, USA



“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Gen. 1:27-28. And from these, man was to be in control of the earth as God’s representatives, but his tenure was conditional upon his obedience and his loyalty. Should he choose to sin, he thereby forfeits his position as a ruler and eventually even life itself.

Let us look at and contemplate about the story of a young ruler who received the power to reign when he was twelve years old. 2 Kings 21:1, 2, 6. Menasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign and he reigned 55 years... and he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel... And he burned his sons as an offering and practiced soothsaying and augury, and dealt with mediums and with wizards. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger. Surely, if king Menasseh were to rule today, his chances of facing a coup would be very high. His fate would be to face a firing squad. For, in many countries worldwide, some offenders have been shot to death for practicing less than half of Menasseh’s sin... He ought to die because he had imported the abominations of the heathens into God’s chosen people; he had even shed blood of the innocent, filled Jerusalem from one end to the other with every conceivable kind of wickedness; he had led the nation into sin.

And this is a question to ask ourselves. How could God think of sparing Menasseh? God must avenge the murder of His prophets, and also all the crimes done by this vicious king. One of the first victims of Menasseh had been Isaiah the prophet. For over half a century, he had stood before Judah as the appointed messenger of God. Menasseh had killed him; he must meet the consequences, yes? That is how we think; it is not how God thinks. The Bible says in 2 Chron. 33: 12-18, “And when he (Menasseh) was in distress he entreated the favour of the Lord, his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers; He

prayed to Him and God received his entreaty and heard his supplication and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom, then Menasseh knew that the Lord was God.” Against all odds, he repented of his sins and was forgiven. This was the kind of God that Jesus came to reveal. A LOVING GOD. A person like Menasseh who betrayed God in all ways could have faced the second death but he repented and was saved. What will it be like when Isaiah meets Menasseh, the man who killed him, the murderer, in heaven? I know he will rejoice.

Remember, when we get to heaven, we would like to interview people like David and Uriah. The right time to conduct the interview would be when the two men meet again for the first time. King David stole Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba, then later he arranged for Uriah’s murder. David’s quick response when the prophet Nathan confronted him with the situation was, “As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die.” 2 Sam. 12:5. “The man was to die!” was David’s own judgment. But he repented and was forgiven. In Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 356, it says, “He receives pardon through faith in the atoning sacrifice. Unlike the lifeless symbol, Christ has power and virtue in Himself to heal the repenting sinner. While the sinner cannot save himself, he still has something to do to secure salvation.” He that cometh to me, says Christ, I will in no wise cast out. But we must come to Him and when we repent of our sins, we must believe that He accepts and pardons us. Faith is the hand by which the soul takes hold upon the divine offers of grace and mercy. Nothing but the righteousness of Christ can entitle us to one of the blessings of the covenant of grace. There are many who have long desired and tried to obtain these blessings but have not received them because they have not denied the idea that they could do something to make themselves worthy of them; they have not looked away from self. Let us not think that our own merits will save us.

“This man ought to die!” was David’s own judgment. Remember, even today there are people of various caliber who have longed for another’s death in some way or another; we are not different from king Menasseh since we have all sinned. But, in Psalm 51:1-17 is a prayer where David was pleading to God for forgiveness. Likewise, it was and is my prayer and yours also, “Have mercy upon me, O God, according

to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

What a wonderful prayer! Heaven is pleased with and will automatically and instantly answer it. And here is the answer in 2 Samuel 12:13. “I have sinned against the Lord... The Lord also hath put away thy sin [and mine], thou shalt not die.” What a wonderful moment it will be to look into each other’s eyes, with the person who in the past despised you, and once more become friends! Never to part again; what a reunion it will be in heaven!

Have you ever wronged someone? Has someone seriously wronged you? Wronged you enough to an extent that you said, “If heaven is for so and so; then I don’t want to go there?” Or, if that church is for so and so, I will never go to that church? HAVE COURAGE! HEAVEN IS FOR SINNERS transformed by the power of God. There is no sin that cannot be forgiven if the sinner is willing to confess and forsake it. no sinner need to die because Jesus has once

died on behalf of every one of us, and that is why, when we get to heaven, we shall be “surprised” to find some of the greatest sinners we have ever known, all forgiven, washed clean by the blood of the Lamb.

It was early in the morning when Jesus had just come from the temple and began to teach. Suddenly he was interrupted by a group of scribes and Pharisees, dragging a frightened woman into the temple. They set her before Him. Her face was wet with tears, and drawn with terror. Her clothes were torn. She stood there in the midst, waiting for the doom to be pronounced that she knew the law demanded. “Master,” her accusers reported, “This woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest Thou?” John 8:4, 5. and they continued to ask Jesus, “Master, you know the teaching of the Old Testament where the matter of adultery is concerned. If You are the one who gave Moses those commandments, as you claim, will you agree that she should be stoned right now, to death? Jesus had already made it clear that sex outside of marriage is wrong; they even heard Jesus preaching that even thinking of extra-marital sex was evil. (Matt. 5:27) But these people knew where Jesus stood on the matter, because the Bible says that they were testing Him. They waited to see what Jesus would say, but He said nothing. He bent down and began to write with His finger in the dust, as though He had not heard them. Then His conscience-pricking words (John 8: 7), “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.” Then He bent over and continued writing. Curiosity got the better of them. They stepped closer and saw to their horror, their own sins written in the dust in front of the temple. Startled, self-condemned, they went out one by one, beginning at the eldest even unto the last person, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing in front of Him. And when Jesus raised Himself, He saw that no one but the woman remained. And the Lord said to her, “woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said, no man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more.” John 8:10, 11. What a friend is Jesus, who forgives us at a moment when we are walking into the valley of the shadow of death, like this woman! She was forgiven at a moment intended to be her last day on earth! Her forgiveness was too

good to be true. But it was true and exact. She gazed into the Master’s face, her heart overflowing with gratitude. From that day, she was a new woman, resolved by God’s grace to live a life appropriate to one bound for eternity. People like Mary Magdalene, a woman caught in adultery was transformed by God’s great grace. No wonder she loved much as was granted the privilege of anointing the Lord before His burial. She was granted the privilege of meeting the Lord first after His resurrection, after all her sins, she lived to see her beloved Master. Barabbas, deserving death, walked away rejoicing, while many remained at the foot of the cross weeping and watching her Master die.

As it was in the past, likewise it is today. Many are bound with different kinds of idols. There are also many wicked rulers today, who are practicing the abominations of Menasseh. Many are like Mary Magdalene, but there is hope! The hope of forgiveness. The power that transformed them, the power that changed the heart of David, so that God could call him “a man after My own heart,” is available for all of us. The blood that flowed on Calvary is deep enough to immerse every sinner who is willing to be cleansed. No one will be lost because of the sins they have committed. Those who will be lost will be those who have rejected God’s great grace as it is in Jesus. Rev. 22:11-12 reads, “Let the evildoers still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” So, no one



will be saved by their track record, their performance, their good works. Salvation is in Christ and nothing else. Those who will be saved, will be saved because they have accepted what God has done in Jesus Christ. The good works that must be seen in their lives will be an automatic consequence of the work of God’s great grace in their lives.

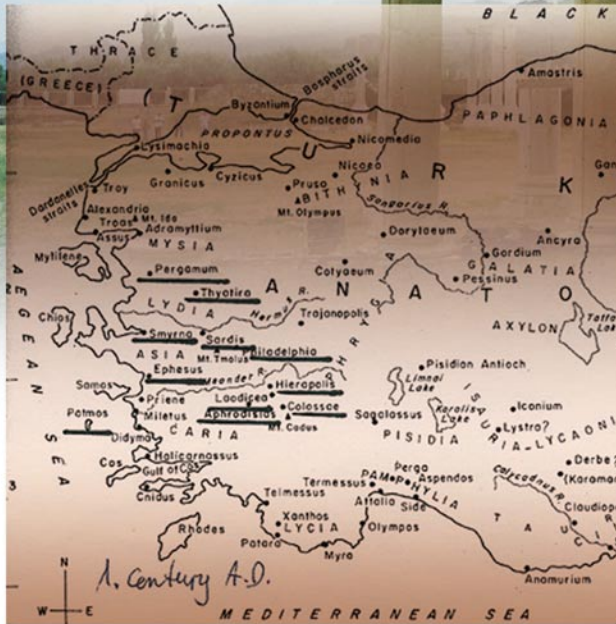
All of us - condemned sinners
All of us - worthy of death
All of us - bound for eternal death.

The wages of sin is death, but thanks be to God for Jesus Christ who took our place and tested death for everyone. Therefore, we have no need to die the second death. Jesus died the second death for us. All we have to do is to accept His sacrifice, because He said in Isa. 43:25, “I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” And this should be our joy that as long as our sins shall be blotted away, our loving Father will not remember them anymore. And let this be my prayer and yours daily that our sins be cleansed and washed by the blood of Jesus. Heaven is waiting for us. **AMEN.**

Willkister A. Outah, Kenya

JOURNEY TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Rev. 2-3



Sardis

At the base a short distance away are the remains of ancient buildings, recently excavated, a number of shops, bath, a latrine, a Jewish synagogue well preserved,

strong citadel on the mountain, and King Croesus (the richest man at that time) lived there. He improved the currency of that time by minting pure gold and silver coins, which helped the trading business, financing literature and art. King Cyrus of Persia, by a wise and simple method conquered the kingdom of the Lydians, and Sardis fell in 546 BC.

Tour 3, two days: Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea

Day 1

Sardis

It was once the capital of ancient Lydia, established 1200 –1100 BC, also among others under Roman rule. It glories in superb marble constructions, gold, silver, sulfur, wool, gem carving 600BC to 300BC. Sardis was destroyed by the mighty earthquake in 17 AD. Brutus and Cassius, the murderers of Caesar, died here in this earthquake.

Sardis has one of the most picturesque surroundings of the seven churches. There is a mountain of rich brown sandstone, upon which the ruins of the former acropolis can be seen; wind and weather carved sharp edges on the mount give it a distinctive sharp silhouette.

the last several meters of the Royal Road, leading from Susha to Sardis, etc, and the most imposing huge gymnasium, whose facade has recently been restored with great care. Beautiful carvings in the giant columns and arched structure can be admired, a place which once has been a great learning centre.

On the opposite site, 1-2km to the west lie the ruins of the vast Artemis temple, built by order of Alexander the Great in 334BC. Before that, King Croesus had a temple erected near the same place dedicated to Cybele, the fertility cult goddess, but was destroyed by an Athenian army against their Persian rulers at that time 498 BC. However, the spirit of Cybele lived on in the people, and Artemis became the goddess with the same attributes as Cybele, later in Roman times known as Diana.

At the back of the temple are the remains of a small Byzantine church. Sardis had a

Cyrus built the Royal Road from there to Persia, connecting with the capital of Persia, Susha. Hellenistic era, 334- 133 BC. Alexander conquered Sardis in 334 BC and all of Minor Asia. The Roman period was from 133-1315 AD, with a peaceful, easy life. Caesar Augustus was here deified, a temple was dedicated to him which was condemned by Christ in the letter to the church of Sardis.

The Jews lived here with good businesses; the synagogue (320 –360 AD) was then in the centre of the city. With Diocletian began a new era; Sardis was the capital of his new province of Lydia, and Constantine made it a Christian metropolis, mixed with pagan practices. Riches and prosperity had an effect on the church; they died spiritually, had a name but were dead so Christ rebukes them, and He tells them to strengthen what remains. But there were some who kept the faith, a minority not



Sardis: Jewish Synagogue



Sardis: Gymnasium



Sardis



Sardis: Artemis Temple

known from there. But in the historical period applied to the 7 churches (1560 – 1833 AD) Sardis had men, who, after the effect of the Reformation had almost died out, preached the crucified Saviour, and did not spot their garments with the world and apostasy, including Whitefield and the Wesley Brethren who then formed the Methodist Church.

Philadelphia

After visiting Sardis we came down to Philadelphia (today Alasehir), where we had lunch right on the precinct of the former Basilica in Byzantine style dedicated to the apostle John. There are only the large corners of the brick construction left today, hard to photograph, because they are so huge and far apart. One can not get the whole site on the film at once. The area suffered many earthquakes and thus this church has been affected too in 17AD and 23 AD.

Philadelphia was founded in the reign of Attalus II of Pergamon, (159-38 BC), 45 km south of Sardis. It is the least distinguished of the cities of the Seven Churches. Few ruins are left of the old Philadelphia now.

It was once under another name, Caltebus, on the Persian Royal Road, and controlled the most important valleys of Asia Minor, the River Hermus, and the Meander River. The religion before Christianity was not centred around emperor worship of the Romans, but more on local gods and the gods of Olympus, Zeus, etc. It was the centre of grape cultivation and thus Dionysus naturally was the main god of the people. Grapes are still grown today along with liquorice in large productions.

Philadelphia was from the beginning when the Gospel came to them, a missionary city. It witnessed to the Hellenistic culture (Greek was spoken there) in all the surrounding areas. The Christians there loved Jesus supremely and desired to tell others about Him with a burning heart of love. Thus Christ has only good things to say about them and promised them a great reward. No suffering was too hard or effort too great to bring the message of salvation. The Advent movement 1833 –1844 is the perfect reproduction of what the Philadelphia church has been, with their love for the brethren, the suffering of

want and the scorn from the world, yet had regarded it as nothing in comparison with the treasure of the love of Jesus Christ their King, dwelling in their hearts.

Laodicea and Pamukkale

After several hours we come to Laodicea, almost straight south of old Philadelphia, situated on a hillside between two valleys, one with olives the other with almond plantations, and mountains in the distance.

It is already five PM, but we still had the privilege to enter the ancient site, which had been excavated only four years ago. The theatre, stadium, an Odeon, have been unearthed some decades ago. The street of Laodicea is of marble, but there is not much to see of the once rich city with marble buildings, temples, theatres, etc. except broken marble everywhere. The majority is still under the earth, waiting to be excavated. Its origins go back to 250 BC with the Hellenistic rule. Cicero lived here in early 50 BC, bringing justice to some unpleasant distress caused by Appius Claudius. He also stopped the demand of his friends to send wild animals to Rome for their games there.

Laodicea was at the cross-roads between Sardis and Perga north to south, and the east- west traffic from the Euphrates to Ephesus. It soon developed into a busy, rich city, and so self-sufficient, it refused outside help after the devastating earthquake in 60AD. Jews lived here well before the Christian era, and were probably much engaged in the money transactions the city was famous for. The woollen blankets of black goat hair produced there was of very good quality and sought out. In 1860 the entire region was destroyed by an earthquake.

Beside this a certain eye-balm made there added to the fame of Laodicea. There was an eye-disease going around in those days, called Trachoma, which if not treated, caused blindness. The apothecaries mixed water containing calcium- bicarbonate and olive oil together, put a white stone in the solution, a Phrygian marble, and let it dissolve to a paste-like compound in about 15 days. It was also used as powder then put onto the affected eyes for three days. Tablets of it were exported also for other uses.

The water supply came from the mountain of Hierapolis, across Laodicea, where hot springs from deep in the earth containing volcanic rocks emerged, flowing down the hills turning the area it covered white with the rich calcium deposit, forming pools on several levels. The water was partly contained in open channels, thus cooled down when it had reached Laodicea. It is interesting how natural occurrences fitted the spiritual conditions of the church there, so that Jesus saw it necessary to use them to open the eyes of a seemingly blind, self-sufficient church. The same rebuke is for the church today, and the visit to those places of the early churches will hopefully not be forgotten by any one, but serve as an eye-opening experience.

The apostle Paul had been here and maybe preached in the theatre and market place, where most of the people gathered. The first letter to Timothy had been written from Laodicea. There was a church in Paul's days in Laodicea in a house of one called Nymphas, as he sent regards to them in the epistle to the Colossians.



Philadelphia



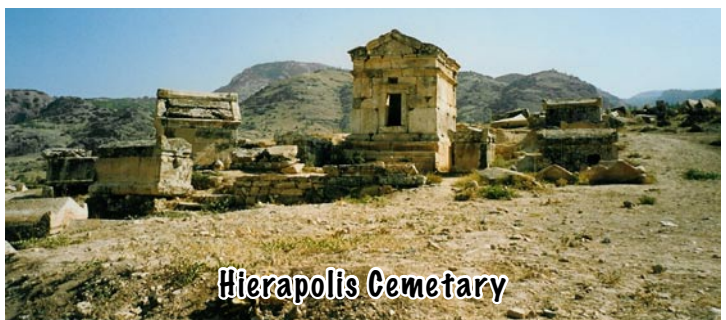
Laodicea



Group @ Dinner



Pamukkale



Hierapolis Cemetery



Group @ Lunch



Aphrodisias Amphitheater



Br. Dering Seminar



Aphrodisias Artemis



Gate To Aphrodisias

It is now evening and the bus takes us to our booked hotel in Pamukkale, a new, very nice complex, where we shall spend the night. There are pools with the water from the thermal spring, and some make use of it right away. We have dinner in a very large elegant dining room, with a grand selection at the buffet prepared for us. There is a room at the lower level for our worship, and tired from a big day, it was wonderful to sleep between crisp white sheets in a very quiet, peaceful environment.

Day 2

Hierapolis and Aphrodisias

After worship in the morning we headed for the thermal spring area and ancient Hierapolis, called Pamukkale today.

The since ancient times the road leads through a most interesting, 2500 year old cemetery, with open (empty) sepulchres, graves, sarcophaguses everywhere in a 6.5 sq/km area. We have no time for a closer look except for a short picture-taking break. We came to the world famous pools of warm water from the thermal spring; people must take off their shoes if they want to step into them. There is an established spa where people can sit in the pool with the hot water coming from the mountain, restaurants, shops.

Behind it is the ancient city of Hierapolis, which is busy with excavating teams. You have to climb the hill to get there and receive a rewarding look down the valley and the very large, well preserved amphitheatre, with many statues and niches at the stage. There are more ruins to see, but time did not permit a longer stay. We are off towards the direction of Aphrodisias, and travelling through the area we see the modern, world recognized University for medicine. The surroundings of Pamukkale are engaged in carpet weaving, handmade of best quality, has a large textile centre exporting clothing articles worldwide, industry of glass, crystal, silk carpet productions, electronics, fibre cables, etc.

The landscape is lush with orchards of oranges, peaches, pomegranates, okra, grapes, and other fruits and vegetables. The mountain ranges in the distance differ from totally bare to wooded slopes.

The road is the same except for the paving,

which Paul travelled with his companions toward Colossae; it was the only one through the land here then. When he wrote a letter to the Colossians, he mentioned Epaphras, (he was from that area and was accompanying Paul), who was very concerned for their welfare and faith of those in Laodicea and Hierapolis; Paul petitioned them to read this letter to them, too. We do not go to Colossae, it is too far away.

Before noon we arrive at Aphrodisias (150 000 pop. in 20 AD), a recently excavated large ancient city and directly on that road, so that Paul had to pass through it. The area was dedicated to Aphrodisia, the goddess of beauty and love; she had a nice temple built for her. There was a beautiful entrance made, a marble gate through which every pilgrim had to walk who wanted to visit the temple area. This is one of the best parts still intact. There was a long marble columned street with shops, school, drinking fountains, the Hadrian bath with marble walls and other buildings. At one far end is the amphitheatre, well preserved, and at the other end of the huge city is an enormous stadium, the largest in the antique world seating 35 000. It had races, gladiator fights, lions and tigers. Twenty years ago this stadium was still covered with soil and farm fields.

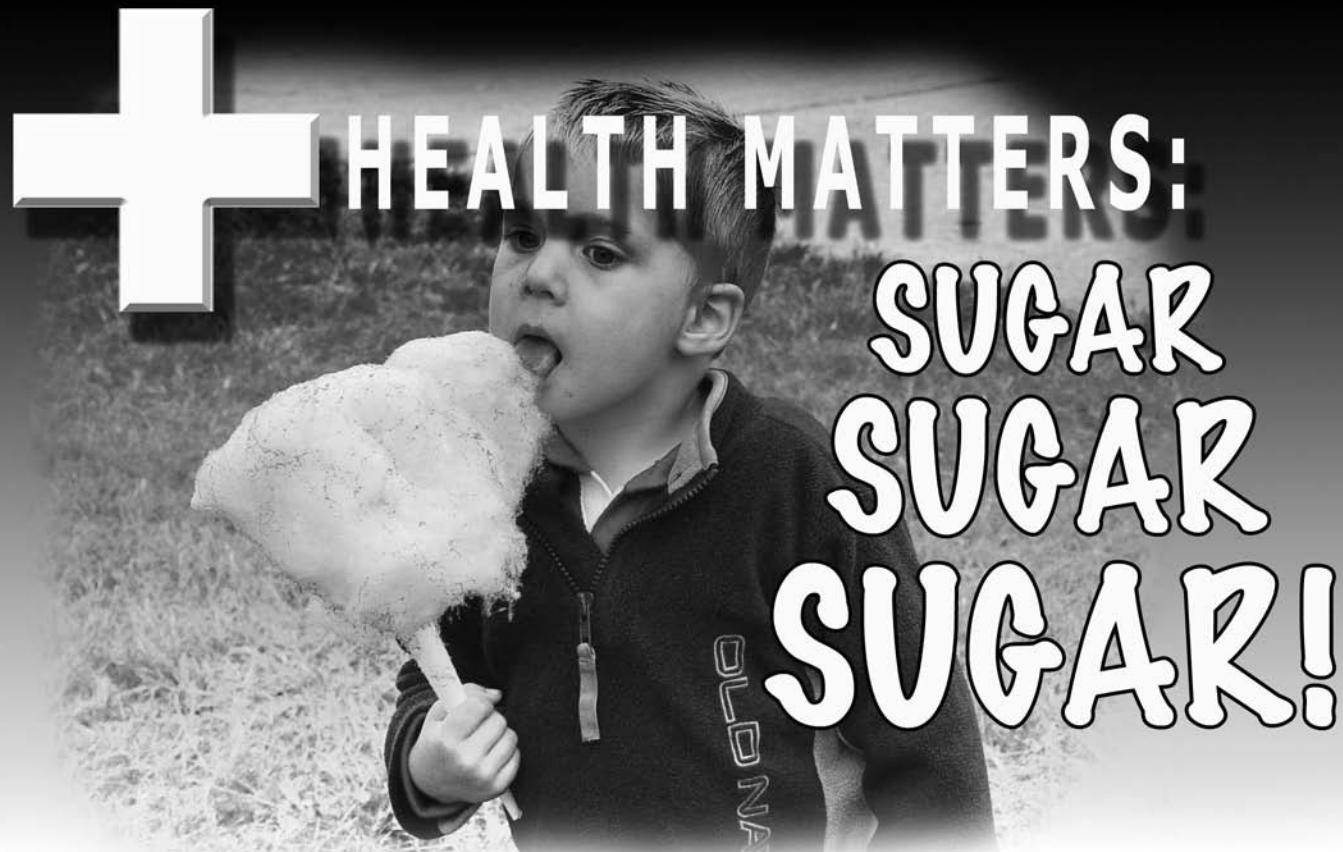
The city was a centre of art schools, producing marble statues and exporting them to other cities. The temple of Aphrodisias, like many other pagan worship places was used as a Christian church in 600 AD. In 1180 AD an earthquake destroyed the whole area.

Our guide told us that historians say Paul and Barnabas visited here, though the Bible does not mention this. But they say that some information concerning the travels of Barnabas have been taken out of the Bible at the 1st Council of Nicaea.

After this we had our lunch in a lovely, rustic restaurant in the country and were served a very good, healthy meal.

Then it was time to head back for our hotel, taking hours to get there; it is long after sunset that we finally arrive. We are tired, but grateful for a most interesting journey. End of Part 3. *To be continued.*

Edda Tedford, Canada



From the smallest child to the aged, sugar is one of the most addictive pleasures that we as a people seem so unable to eliminate from our diet. What are we doing to the temple which God has given us to use for Him in His service?

First let us review what God in His great mercy revealed to Ellen White in order to prepare a people to stand before Him, a perfect people without blemish.

“Sugar clogs the system. It hinders the working of the living machine.” CDF 327. “The free use of sugar in any form tends to clog the system, and is not unfrequently a cause of disease.” CDF 197. “Sugar is not good for the stomach. It causes fermentation, and this clouds the brain and brings peevishness into the disposition.” CDF 327. From the Natural Health Bulletin is quoted, “If we jailed sugar instead of criminals, we might well have less crime in our society.” This study was done by a group of food-behaviour specialists in Los Angeles County, headed by Dr. Bernard Mason of the County Task Force on nutrition and behaviour. They reported that a change from sugary “junk” food to “health food” helped control criminal tendencies. Basic Rule: “As little sugar as possible for the imprisoned,” says Dr. Mason. “The reason is that we

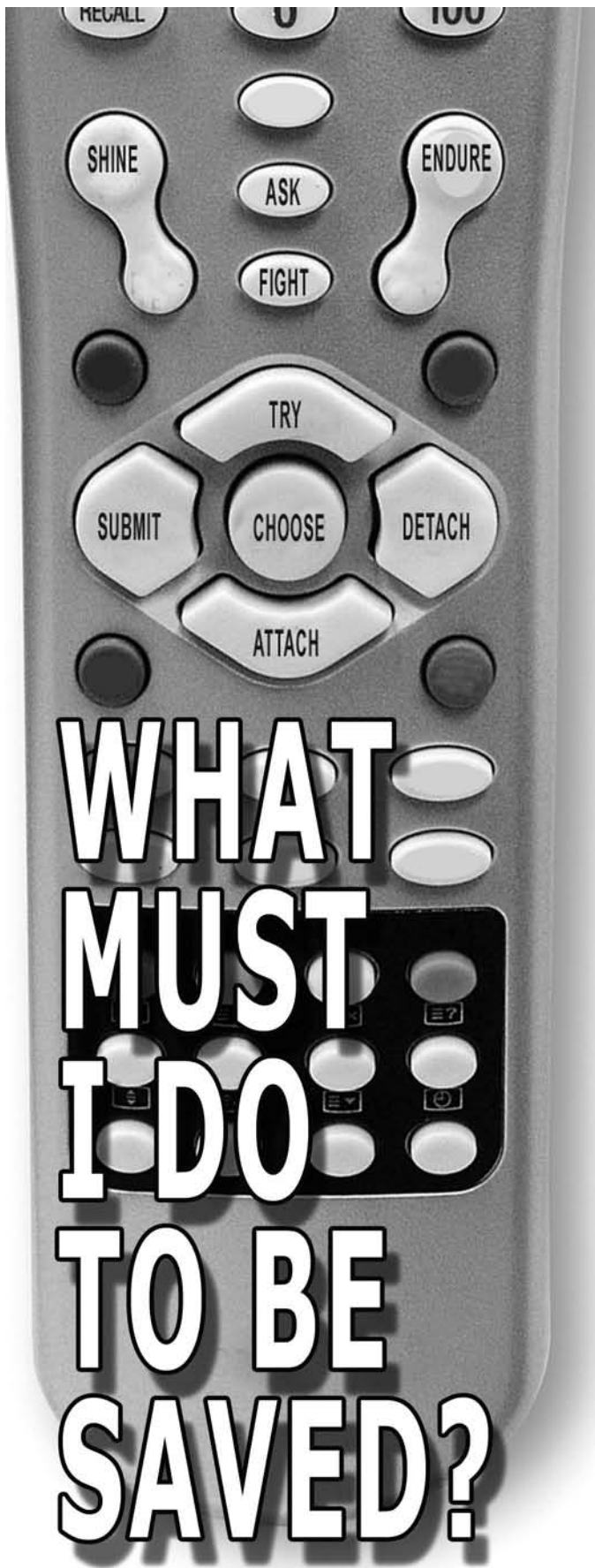
believe it is responsible for many bizarre behavioural attitudes—even homicidal and suicidal.” He explains that 90% of criminals in custody have hypoglycemia, low blood sugar, because of the modern junk foods, alcohol and drugs that most criminals are on. Dr. Mason made a diet change among the confined. No soft drinks and french fries were given. Instead, the inmates were given raw zucchini, fresh fruit, broccoli, apples, bananas, peaches, and yogurt. Cooks were instructed how to use tofu in combination with brown rice, spaghetti, and meatless enchiladas. Dr. Mason reports, “There has been a change in the actions and attitudes of the criminals, leading to increased stability, a more cooperative attitude, and a willingness to improve their lives.” He feels it was the “no sugar” rule, which resulted in correcting their hypoglycemia, that led to reduced mental disturbance and less crime.

According to a Scottish study conducted by G. Hems from the Department of Community Medicine, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, we read that “women who eat less refined sugar, less total fat, less animal protein, and fewer animal calories have the best chance of avoiding breast cancer.” He analyzed breast cancer rates in relation to child-bearing, various differences in diet, and other factors in forty-one countries.

For the first time, sugar was implicated as a possible cancer-causing substance.

When we refer back to God’s original diet for the human race, we find that “Adam and Eve came forth from the hand of their Creator in the perfection of every physical, mental, and spiritual endowment. God planted for them a garden, and surrounded them with everything that was lovely and attractive to the eye, which their physical necessities required... A benevolent Creator had given them evidences of His goodness and love in providing them with fruits, vegetables, and grains, and causing to grow out of the ground every variety of tree for usefulness and beauty.” Confrontation, p. 10. God created us with taste buds that we might enjoy the food we eat, but we have perverted those taste buds. Can they ever be normal again? Give God a chance, and you will see that in a short time those abnormal cravings cease and there will be true enjoyment in eating wholesome, unrefined, and nutritious food.

Christ is soon to return to take His faithful ones home. Forever remember that, “True conversion to the message of present truth embraces conversion to the principles of health reform.” Letter 62, 1909 AMEN.



“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Acts 2:37.

“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:30

Do we have to do something to be saved? We are saved by grace are we not? In answer to the question of the multitude after the Day of Pentecost, Peter answered the people by saying, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38.

TRY HARDER

Raising children is a beautiful experience. Watching them begin to show signs of intelligence and daily growing in wisdom is a precious time in any parent’s life. As we raise our children they are constantly learning new skills – such as walking, writing, and reading, and often they fail the first time. It may take some time for them to perfect the skill and at each step of the way we encourage them to try harder, and they do try harder and harder until they succeed.

It is the same in our religious experience, when we are battling against sin and we fail, often we are encouraged by our fellow believers to try harder. Try harder to overcome that sin; try harder to live righteously; try harder to be more like Christ.

Is that the answer – just trying harder? How hard are you trying? Should you be trying harder – how can a person become Christlike? Is it simply by trying a little bit harder?

‘Try’ is an action word. It means to make an attempt. Sometimes we don’t make a strong enough attempt and we are encouraged to try harder.

Some Christians believe that the Christian life is a passive experience. Simply believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. However, the word believe, in Greek is not a passive word, but rather an action word. In English we take it as passive.

Therefore when Paul encouraged the believers to, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” Acts 16:3 this calls for action of some sort. Is it the action of trying harder? No it is not. You cannot live the Christian life by simply trying harder. You may try hard to do right, try hard to love someone, but it cannot be done. “We need not begin by trying to love one another. The love of Christ in the heart is what is needed. When self is submerged in Christ, true love springs forth spontaneously.” 7T 266

CHOOSE

Firstly, to live for Christ requires a person to make a conscious choice. It is not trying harder or on the other side, simply drifting along in a correct channel. “A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish. Christ first chose us, paying an infinite price for our redemption; and the true believer *chooses* Christ as first and last and best in everything. But this union costs us something. It is a union of utter dependence, to be entered into by a proud being.” MYP 118

“When Christ took human nature upon Him, He bound humanity to Himself by a tie of love that can never be broken by any power save the choice of man himself. Satan will constantly present allurements to induce us to break this tie--to choose to separate ourselves from Christ. Here is where we need to *watch*, to *strive*, to *pray*, that nothing may entice us to choose another master; for we are always free to do this. But let us keep our eyes fixed upon Christ, and He will preserve us. Looking unto Jesus, we are safe. Nothing can pluck us out of His hand. In constantly beholding Him, we ‘are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.’ 2 Corinthians 3:18.” SC 72

COME

Once we’ve made a choice, we need to do something about it. Jesus is calling us, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matt. 11:28

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17

At this point in time, notice, nothing has yet been said about trying hard to put away sin; trying to be a good Christian; trying to keep the commandments. Simply – choose and come.

“Just as you are, come to Him, and trust yourself in His hands. Believe that He does accept you as He has promised. Do not try to do some great thing to recommend you to God, but trust in Him now, just now...Come by humble faith to Him who has never said to the needy and suffering, ‘Seek ye My face in vain.’ We know that we are sinners and that we often err and are frequently overcome with temptations; but this should not lead us in our great need to keep away from the only One who can help us and save us from the power of Satan. This is the enemy’s work to discourage, ‘Come now, and let us reason together’ is the Creator’s invitation to the beings He has made. Isaiah 1:18. God does not force the will of His creatures. He cannot accept an homage that is not willingly and intelligently given. A mere forced submission would prevent all real development of mind or character; it would make man a mere automaton.

Such is not the purpose of the Creator. He desires that man, the crowning work of His creative power, shall reach the highest possible development. He sets before us the height of blessing to which He desires to bring us through His grace. He invites us to give ourselves to Him, that He may work His will in us. It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God.” SC 43

“Jesus invites us to come to Him and He will lift the weights from our weary shoulders and place upon us His yoke, which is easy, and His burden, which is light. The path in which He invites us to walk would never have cost us a pang had we always walked in it. It is when we stray from the path of duty that the way becomes difficult and thorny. The sacrifices which we must make in following Christ are only so many steps to return to the path of light, of peace and happiness. Doubts and fears grow by indulgence, and the more they are indulged, the harder are they to overcome. It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.” 4T 558

SUBMIT

Once we come to Jesus and learn of Him, we will ask, as the believers did in the days of the Apostles, “What must I do to be saved?” At this point in time, we will be willing to do as Jesus asks us. In order to find true happiness, we must give up our own ways and submit to the ways of the Lord.

Submission is not always an easy action to perform. In this world, people can be very proud. They want to be their own person, manage their own lives and affairs. As children get older they no longer wish to live submissively under their parents’ rule. Society is heading in the wrong direction when submission is no longer being taught and encouraged. Children are permitted to rebel against parents and if parents rise up to discipline them too strongly, the parents are reprimanded. Therefore these children grow into rebellious adults. To learn submission is very difficult, but it is a necessary action for Christian living.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye



are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16

Once a person has met Jesus, they are more willing to submit. There will still be a struggle with the carnal human nature, but the desire to serve the Lord is there. The choice has been made.

"The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness." SC 43

"All who form this union must feel their need of the atoning blood of Christ. They must have change of heart. They must *submit* their own will to the will of God. There will be a struggle with outward and internal obstacles." MYP 118

James encourages, not only submission to God, but also various other actions important to Christian living. "*Submit* yourselves therefore to God. *Resist* the devil, and he will flee from you. *Draw nigh* to God, and he will draw nigh to you. *Cleanse* your hands, ye sinners; and *purify* your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and *mourn*, and *weep*: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. *Humble* yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:7-10

There is something that you must do for your salvation, however, none of this is possible unless Jesus is dwelling in a person. We cannot do it ourselves, simply by trying harder.

"Fallen man is Satan's lawful captive. The mission of Jesus Christ was to rescue him from his power. Man is naturally inclined to follow Satan's suggestions, and he cannot of himself successfully resist so terrible a foe, unless Christ, the mighty conqueror, dwells in him, guiding his desires, and giving him strength. God alone can limit the power of Satan. He is going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it. He is not off his watch for a single moment, through fear of losing an opportunity to destroy souls. It is important that God's people understand this, that they may escape his snares." MYP 51

"After the union with Christ has been formed, it can be preserved only by earnest prayer and untiring effort. We must *resist*, we must *deny*, we must *conquer* self. Through the grace of Christ, by courage, by faith, by watchfulness, we may gain the victory." T5, p. 231.

DETACH AND ATTACH

What often seems more difficult is when Jesus asks us to give up our best loved idols. It is only difficult because of the struggle in our hearts and minds. We love our idols, but we also know that they are not good for us and are separating us from Jesus. The struggle can become intense. We may outwardly try to overcome, but internally we are rebelling.

"To let go of the darling idols that have been cherished for years is a very difficult duty, however the only way to try happiness and peace is to let go of them and attach to Jesus. There must be a painful work of *detachment*, as well as a work of *attachment*. Pride, selfishness, vanity, worldliness--sin in all its forms --must be overcome, if we would enter into a union with Christ. The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is, they try to attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from these cherished idols." MYP 118

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

Once we have permitted Jesus to dwell in our hearts, we cannot hide the light. Jesus tells us to "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Mat 5:16

"Christ does not bid His followers strive to shine. He says, Let your light shine. If you have received the grace of God, the light is in you. Remove the obstructions, and the Lord's glory will be revealed. The light will shine forth to penetrate and dispel the darkness. You cannot help shining within the range of your influence." COL 420

ENDURE

The Christian life is one of perseverance. When the way gets difficult many are tempted to give up the battle. "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but

he that *endureth* to the end shall be saved." Matt. 10:22. We need to hold on to Jesus and not let go at any cost.

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." 2 Timothy 2:3

"This world is not a parade ground, but a battlefield. All are called to endure hardness, as good soldiers. They are to be strong and quit themselves like men. Let them be taught that the true test of character is found in the willingness to bear burdens, to take the hard place, to do the work that needs to be done, though it bring no earthly recognition or reward." Ed 295

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Rev 3:11

ASK

And yes, we do need to *ask, seek* and *knock*. All these are action words. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" Matt. 7:7. Jesus also knocks at our heart's door and it is up to us to open that door.

"Ask, then; ask, and ye shall receive. Ask for humility, wisdom, courage, increase of faith. To every sincere prayer an answer will come. It may not come just as you desire, or at the time you look for it; but it will come in the way and at the time that will best meet your need. The prayers you offer in loneliness, in weariness, in trial, God answers, not always according to your expectations, but always for your good." GW 258

"It is a wonderful thing that we can pray effectually; that unworthy, erring mortals possess the power of offering their requests to God. What higher power can man desire than this,--to be linked with the infinite God? Feeble, sinful man has the privilege of speaking to his Maker. We may utter words that reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. We may speak with Jesus as we walk by the way, and He says, I am at thy right hand. GW 258

"We may commune with God in our hearts; we may walk in companionship with Christ. When engaged in our daily labor, we may breathe out our heart's desire, inaudible to any human ear; but that word cannot die away into silence, nor can it be

lost. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the noise of machinery. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard." GW 258

However, "If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions. Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will cleanse us; yet we have a work to do in complying with the conditions of acceptance." SC 95

"But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul." Deut 4:29

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13. "The whole heart must be yielded to God, or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness." SC 43

FIGHT

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:12

"We are to do all that we can do on our part to *fight* the good *fight* of faith. We are to *wrestle*, to *labor*, to *strive*, to *agonize* to enter in at the strait gate. We are to set the Lord ever before us. With clean hands and pure hearts, we are to seek to honor God in all our ways." FW 48

"Help has been provided for us in Him who is mighty to save. The spirit of truth and light will quicken and renew us by its mysterious workings; for all our spiritual improvement comes from God, not from ourselves. The true worker will have divine power to aid him, but the idler will not be sustained by the Spirit of God." FW 48.

"In one way we are thrown upon our own energies; we are to strive earnestly to be zealous and to repent, to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts from every defilement; we are to reach the highest

standard, believing that God will help us in our efforts. We must seek if we would find and seek in faith; we must knock, that the door may be opened unto us. The Bible teaches that everything regarding our salvation depends upon our own course of action. If we perish, the responsibility will rest wholly upon ourselves. If provision has been made, and if we accept God's terms, we may lay hold on eternal life. We must come to Christ in faith, we must be diligent to make our calling and election sure." *Faith and Works* p. 48

In order to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes, we need to have a perfect balance between faith and works. May God help us to hold on to Jesus by faith so that He can enable to live the Christian life that is possible only through a

connection with Him. This is the only way that we can fulfil the requirement of entrance to heaven, which is "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5: 48 **AMEN**

Wendy Eaton, Australia



ANSWERING THE CALL

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain, let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand.”

The afternoon of December 3rd, 2005 marked a most solemn time as most, if not all the churches and groups in the Canadian region adhered to the call to seek the Lord God to “spare thy people” as per Joel chapter 2.

As the leaders of the Mississauga and Toronto churches consecrated themselves and sanctified the people, here was an awesome sense of solemnity as the large congregation was called to “be still and know that I am God.” The program consisted of readings and prayers and the recognition of who alone the great God is, and for forgiveness in keeping with the theme “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”. The entire chapter of Joel 2 was developed which asked us to tremble for what was to come upon the land. Then, in love God invited us to “turn” to the Lord with rended hearts. We understood that if we turned to this God who is gracious and plenteous in mercy, He would remove the reproach for His namesake and will ultimately doubly bless us with the latter rain with the ultimate manifestation of His spirit upon the people.

By the close of the meeting we saw hearts melted with love once more for each other. Halfway through, the entire church was called to cross over to each other and shake hands and ask forgiveness for that which may still have been lingering. God wonderfully manifested His sweet healing spirit there.

One person, after the fact said they felt like something lifted and there was peace once more. Another individual said, “We must do this again.” One said they felt the presence of God and His touch in the midst of us.” Many also rededicated their lives once more to the Lord. Like a thread the song “Revive us again” was interwoven throughout the meeting. In closing one of the leaders said, “All sadness is gone, this is time for rejoicing, it is now time to seek God for His promised latter rain as per Joel 2:22.” Indeed it was time for rejoicing. Indeed there was a revival. The time indeed has come for a thorough reformation to

take place- a heartfelt reformation so that the wonderful outpouring of His latter rain that, if asked for and received by faith will cut the work short in righteousness.

This all began when a small group of lay people met for house to house prayer meetings. From week to week they met. They prayed together, cried together and broke bread together. They saw family’s lives put back together, young people earnestly praying. Young people, finally after months of being prayed for come to the Lord. They had no idea that it was God’s intention to use it for His glory; to use it to unify the people and to cause it to be a fitting opening for the annual general week of prayer. They could now understand why they felt so compelled to study the 2nd chapter of the book of Joel with a strong impression to take it to the larger church community. It has brought a sense of humility and deeper trust in God, they agreed as they saw how He used this insignificant group of lay people praying and rededicating themselves to God to cause a Canada-wide solemn assembly “Only God could bring this about,” one young person said. To Him be the glory.

One of the organizers said it is as if we were back in days of old when people would come together and pray and break bread. She said that weeks before, this little group of lay members and their children, in addition to coming together on Wednesday nights, would meet for prayer breakfast. The day prior to the assembly there was a chain prayer which saw each one, including the children take an hour of the day to pray for what turned out to be a magnificent way of God moving upon His church. “We felt” she continued, “that we had to be obedient to the Lord,” as over and over Joel 2 kept coming back to us. On seriously studying it stated, “We saw that God wanted to use us as instruments in His hand.” Hesitantly and prayerfully we went from one leader to the other with this burden that was not going away. By the grace of God and His foreknowledge, they, along with the Field decided to engage in it accordingly.

December 3rd became God’s appointed date for the assembly, as it was a wonderful preparatory time for entering into a most precious and long-awaited week of prayer. As well we saw how it correlated with the

seeming inspired words of the writers of the week of prayer.

For example, the reading for Friday the 9th started off with the quotation found in Joel 2:12 13,17, “Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye to me with all your heart...” To sum up, the author went right into the theme of the Assembly. “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”

We received positive feedback from other parts of the country as well. For example, Sister Kathleen Ross who met with Br. Shultz and his wife in Alberta, Canada wrote, “Thanks for calling us and allowing us to participate. This brings us closer to God and to one another. The continued fasting gives a special sense of dependence upon God and opens hearts and clears our minds. May this good work continue,” she concluded, “and we will be drawn closer to God and to one another”. Br. Bosse from New Brunswick commented, “The people and myself saw the seriousness of it and wished we had a format to follow but thanks be to God we too joined in as best we could.

Sister Pederson from Hamilton said, “While we could not come down to Toronto, my husband and myself joined in at home. We actually read the entire book of Joel and received a great blessing.” Br. Oscar Oviedo from London, who was to have helped in the officiating in the Toronto gathering expressed his sadness for something coming up at the last moment which prevented him from attending, but expressed appreciation to have been invited. He received a great blessing as he prepared his talk. Our brethren from Cambridge came as well, expressing gratefulness for such an assembly.

The organizer concluded: “Only God now knows what this will yield in eternity and hope and pray that truly a heart reformation will have resulted and that the long awaited latter rain will be soon poured out on the church, thus enabling us to truly fulfill God’s commission to us.” To God be the glory. AMEN

Rose Powell



FRIENDLINESS AND COURTESY

1 Peter 3:8 “...be pitiful, be courteous.”

In order to be a successful soul winner, one must show friendliness and practice tact and courtesy. It is a fact that businessmen and politicians make themselves as attractive and appealing as possible in order to reach their goals. Many of these people, unfortunately, only put on these graces--they do not come from the heart.

“A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of Christianity.” Gospel Workers. p. 122.

Besides these, every worker for the Lord should have good eye contact, good manners, a firm handshake, and a happy, smiling face when greeting others. A smile is the universal language of the world. (Also, it takes 58 fewer muscles to smile than to frown)

“The religion of Jesus gives peace like a river. It does not quench the light of joy; it does not restrain cheerfulness nor cloud the sunny smiling face.” Steps to Christ. pp. 120-121

“If your heart is sad, let not your face reveal the fact.” “Children are attracted by a cheerful, sunny demeanor.” Child Guidance. pp. 146, 148

Whether we come into a home for a Bible study, or attend church services on Sabbath, let’s try smiling. It doesn’t cost anything! Visitors will be delighted when they see cheerful faces.

Another grace that needs special attention is humility. The heavenly intelligences can cooperate with him who is seeking, not to exalt self, but to save souls. It is pride that is a stumbling block to success for it is opposed to God’s nature of love. Lacking love and true compassion in his heart, man becomes cold as steel and very critical of others.

In the gospel of John, we find a group of scribes and Pharisees who had accused a woman of a serious sin--adultery. Jesus did not justify nor condemn her. He merely said to her, “Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more” John 8: 11. What amazing sympathy and understanding was shown by Jesus toward this frightened woman. He came not into this world to condemn, but to save sinners.

The church of God should have the same attitude toward all sinners. No matter what they have done, they need to be loved.

Only by strictly adhering to the timely Biblical rule found in Matthew 18: 15-17, can the believers do justice to themselves and help the sinner find his way back to God. It is not by casting stones, which often wound and even kill spiritually, that a sinner is benefited. He is to be directed to a living and loving Saviour Jesus Christ who forgives and cleanses from all sin. **AMEN**

Henry Dering, California, USA



THE CAT THAT PLAYED "SATAN"

Once upon a time, not long ago; in fact, it is still being enacted; a black and white cat was chosen to play the role of "Satan." His counter-part is an orange cat named Sunshine.

Black-Nose, for that is his name, from the black tip on his nose, is an older cat, as cats go—14 years old, to be exact. He is the adversary of Sunshine, named for his yellow-orange fur. The battle has been smoldering for years, and now and again, bursts out in fury, much to the dismay of the mistress of the house.

The cat, Black-Nose, is of a family of fierce and aggressive fighters. Some of his close relatives have been put to death or exiled for their malicious actions. But all this has no influence on Black-Nose, for he knows nothing about it. All he knows is that his main mission in life is to make life utterly miserable for Sunshine.

Once again, the other day, as the mistress happened to be glancing out of the window, she saw Black-Nose aggressively hovering over a crouching Sunshine. Now you must understand some of the history of the case. From the moment Sunshine began to be an adult male cat, Black-Nose has decided he must go. Sunshine is 9 years old. Over the years, Black-Nose has ripped

up Sunshine's tail more than once, gashed open his head (which the dog licked until it healed), broken 2 or more of his canine teeth out, and just generally terrorized this poor, non-aggressive cat, who simply wants to live his peaceful life.

Well, as I was saying, the other day, Black-Nose was at it again, attacking Sunshine viciously and maliciously. Now, also understand, that Mistress has beaten Black-Nose repeatedly for his actions. But, being merciful, she has never hurt him enough, it seems. And in between times, she thinks, "Live, and let live," and has tried to make life happy for all.

However, this malicious attack was wearing out the patience of the owner of the place. She was plotting vengeance. Death of the aggressor, whether by axe or water, even crossed her mind. Putting an end to this constant warfare seemed a reasonable solution. However, at present, she is making do with simply trying to make the life of Black-Nose as miserable and uneasy as he has made Sunshine's.

It is not a pleasant task for a peace-loving person to have to make war on another living being. It is miserable to see fear in the eyes, the hasty exit when you appear. But how about the innocent victim? His

life has been made miserable and uneasy and painful time and time again.

Can we learn lessons from the animals relative to the warfare that is waging on planet Earth? In think we can. The adversary knows that his time is short, he bides his time, then when least expected, he launches a vicious and malicious attack against God's innocent ones.

But the Holy Watcher also bides His time, weighing events, and when the obedience of His faithful ones is fulfilled, He will assert His insulted authority.

I personally thank my god, Holy Shepherd, and Faithful Friend, for His unsleeping watch care over His sheep, His friends, and all. All things of earth are under His divine survey, and from His calm and high place He orders events as He sees fit. **AMEN.**

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada

STANDING BEAR'S SPEECH



CHILDRENS CORNER

The first time an Indian was permitted to appear in court in this country and have his rights tried, was in the year 1897. Previous to this every Indian in the United States was subject to the orders of the Secretary of the Interior. If he happened to be a man of a tyrannical nature, the Indians fared hard. One Secretary of the Interior at the point of the bayonet had caused all the Poncas Indians to be driven from northern Nebraska down to Indian Territory, depriving them of lands to which they held government deeds. They were left in the new country for months without rations, and more than one third of them died. Among these was the son of Standing Bear. The old chief refused to have the boy buried in the strange country, and gathering about thirty members of his tribe together, he started for their ancient hunting-grounds, intending to bury his boy where generations of the Poncas chief's lay.

The Secretary of the Interior heard of the runaways, and through the War Department telegraphed to General Crook, of Omaha, to arrest the Indians, and return them to Indian Territory. So General Crook arrested Standing Bear and his followers, and took them all, with the old wagon that contained the body of the body of the dead boy, down to Omaha.

Standing Bear told his story to the general, who was already familiar with many wrongs that had been committed against the Indians, and who was indignant at their treatment. He detained the Indians at Omaha until he consulted with a Mr. Tibbles, an editor of a newspaper. They agreed to espouse the cause of the Indians, securing to Standing Bear a trial in the United States court. It was the most notable trial ever brought in the West, and, in fact, the scope was as wide as any ever tried in this country; for upon its decision one hundred thousand persons were made citizens.

Mr. Tibbles, who attended every session of the court, describes what took place, in the

following words:

"The court-room was crowded with fashionably dressed women; and the clergy, which had been greatly stirred by the incident, were there in force. Lawyers, every one in Nebraska, and many from the big Eastern cities; business men; General Crook and his staff in their dress uniforms (this was one of the few times in his life that Crook wore full dress in public); and the Indians themselves, in their gaudy colours. The court-room was a galaxy of brilliancy.

"On one side stood the army officers, the brilliantly dressed women, and the white people; on the other was Standing Bear, in his official robes as chief of the Poncas, and with him were his leading men. Far back in the audience, shrinking from observation, was an Indian girl, who afterwards became famous as a lecturer in England and America. She was later known on both continents by a translation of her Indian name, In-sta-the-am-ba, Bright Eyes.

"Attorney Poppleton's argument was carefully prepared, and consumed sixteen hours in the delivering, occupying the attention of the court for two days. On the third day Mr. Webster spoke for six hours. And during all the proceedings, the court-room was packed with the beauty and culture of the city.

"Toward the close of the trial, the situation became tense. As the wrongs inflicted on the Indians were described by the attorneys, indignation was often at white heat, and the judge made no attempt to suppress the applause which broke out from time to time. For the department, Mr. Lambertson made a short address, but was listened to in complete silence.

"It was late in the afternoon when the trial drew to a close. The excitement had been increasing, but it reached a height not before attained when Judge Dundy announced that Chief Standing Bear would be allowed

to make a speech in his own behalf. Not one in the audience besides the army officers and Mr. Tibbles had ever heard an oration by an Indian. All of them had read of the eloquence of Red Jacket and Logan, and they sat there wondering if the mild-looking old man, with the lines of suffering and sorrow on his brow and cheek, dressed in the full robes of an Indian chief, could make a speech at all. It happened that there was a good interpreter present—one who was used to "chief talk."

"Standing Bear arose. Half facing the audience, he held out his right hand, and stood motionless so long that the stillness of death which had settled down on the audience, became almost unbearable. At last, looking up at the judge, he said:

"That hand is not the colour of yours, but if I prick it, the blood will flow, and I shall feel pain. The blood is of the same colour as yours. God made me, and I am a man. I never committed any crime. If I had, I would not stand here to make a defense. I would suffer the punishment and make no complaint."

"Still standing half facing the audience, he looked past the judge, out of the window, as if gazing upon something far in the distance, and continued:

"I seem to be standing on a high bank of a great river, with my wife and little girl at my side. I cannot cross the river, and impassable cliffs arise behind me. I hear the noise of great waters; I look, and see a flood coming. The waters rise to our feet, and then to our knees. My little girl stretches her hands toward me and says, "Save me." I stand where no member of my race ever stood before. There is no tradition to guide me. The chiefs who preceded me knew nothing of the circumstances that surround me. I hear only my little girl say, "Save me." In despair I look toward the cliff's behind me, and I seem to see a dim trail that may lead to a way of life. But no Indian ever passed

over that trail. It looks to be impassable. I make the attempt.

“I take my child by the hand, and my wife follows after me. Our hands and our feet are torn by the sharp rocks, and our trail is marked by our blood. At last I see a rift in the rocks. A little way beyond there are green prairies. The swift-running water, the Niobrara, pours down between the green hills. There are the graves of my fathers. There again we will pitch our teepee and build our fires. I see the light of the world and of liberty just ahead.’

“The old chief became silent again, and, after an appreciable pause, he turned toward the judge with such a look of pathos and suffering on his face that none who saw it will forget it, and

““But in the center of the path there stands a man. Behind him I see soldiers in number like the leaves of the trees. If that man gives me the permission, I may pass on to life and liberty. If he refuses, I must go back and sink beneath the flood.’

“Then, in a lower tone, ‘You are that man.’

“There was silence in the court as the old chief sat down. Tears ran down over the judge’s face. General Crook leaned forward and covered his face with his hands.

Some of the ladies sobbed.

“All at once that audience, by one common impulse, rose to its feet, and such a shout went up as was never heard in a Nebraska court-room. No one heard Judge Dundy say, ‘Court is dismissed.’ There was a rush for Standing Bear. The first to reach him was General Crook. I was second. The ladies flocked around him, and for an hour Standing Bear had a reception.”

A few days afterward Judge Dundy handed down his famous decision, in which he announced that an Indian was a “person,” and was entitled to the protection of the law. Standing Bear and his followers were set free; and, with his old wagon and the body of the dead child, he went back to the hunting-grounds of his fathers, and buried the body with tribal honours.

Some Things We Need

The courage born of God, not man,
The truth to speak, cost what it may;
The patience to endure the trials
That form a part of every day;
The purpose firm, the will to do
The right, wherever we may be;
The wisdom to reprove the faults
That in our loved ones we may see,—
Reprove in tone and spirit sweet,
And ne’er in temper’s eloquence;
The heart to love the ones in wrong,
While wrong we hate in every sense;
The strength to do our daily task
As unto God,—for we’re His own—
To seek His approbation sweet,
And not men’s praise, fame, or renown,—
These, these, and more, are things we
need
If Christ we’d represent indeed.

said:



Children in Granby



Br. Augustus Leaves Hospital



Br. Bosse in New Brunswick



Br. Bosse & Friend in New Brunswick



Conference & Baptism in Quebec, Canada

REST IN PEACE

Sister Hulda Unger

Our dear Sister Hulda Unger passed away peacefully, in the hospital on November 20, 2005. Sister Hulda was born on July 6, 1931 at sea in international waters off the coast of France. She spent her childhood in South America, and later in Germany. In 1947, she moved to Canada with her parents and settled in Winnipeg. Later she moved to Kitchener, and in 1956 she married Ehud Unger. They had four children, Helga, Walter, Edith, and Linda. The family regularly attended church and were involved in many church-related activities. Hulda was a faithful Reformer and often she delighted us with her accordion music. Her husband passed away in 1998 and she lived alone since then. Three and a half years ago she suffered a blood clot in her leg which hampered her mobility. She remained faithful in the church which she loved, to the end of her life.

On November 24th. a great number of friends and relatives gathered at Ratz Bechtel Funeral Home in Kitchener to show their last respects for Hulda. Br. Evald Pedersen spoke from Psalm 90 about the shortness of life and how quickly it passes. Man is like grass in the morning and in the evening it is cut down and it withers. "The days of our lives are seventy years; are eighty years, Yet their For it is soon cut off, number our days, That we



And if by reason of strength they boast is only labour and sorrow; and we fly away. So teach us to may gain a heart of wisdom."

The Bible tells us about the resurrection that will take place when Jesus comes again. John 5:21,28,29 states: "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to whom He will. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good to the resurrection of life..." 2 Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21, 1-5,7 tell us that this new life will be a perfect life. There will be no more sorrow, no more sickness and no more tears; and we have reason to believe that Sister Unger died in that wonderful hope that Jesus will come again. As she mentioned to Br. John Radin the last time he spoke with her by telephone, "I am too tired to speak with you now, but I will see you in heaven." Brother Pedersen concluded his service with the wish for everyone who was present, either that we may see Jesus when He comes in the clouds of heaven and be able to say, "This is our God whom we have waited for and he shall save us," or if we fall asleep like Sister Unger, before Jesus comes that we can say, "We'll see you in heaven."

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We truly feel the loss in the church, but we have the wonderful Advent hope that soon we shall meet our dear Sister Hulda again at the coming of Jesus. May the Lord bless and comfort all her sorrowing friends and relatives with this blessed hope.