

# The Reformation Messenger

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

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



# The Reformation Messenger

## We Believe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## In This Issue

<b>EXCUSES, EXCUSES!</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DIVINE ASSURANCE #2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ABOUT FREEDOM</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PUT ON YOUR OWN...</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT...</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>GOD'S APPOINTED WAY</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>THE TRUTH SPREADS...</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>"WORSHIP THE LORD...</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>CC: CHOOSE HOW YOU...</b>	<b>25</b>

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# EXCUSES, EXCUSES!

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jews first and also for the Greeks. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”* Romans 1:16, 17

## **New Life**

How do the just live? They “live by faith.” But, accordingly all humanity is found guilty (Rom. 3:19, 23) and a justification is revealed sufficient for man’s need and received through faith alone” (Rom. 3:28). This is a new life which all justified persons may enjoy through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. There is no respect of persons, for it relates to the whole world with Him who is the “God of the Jews” and “of the Gentiles also.”

## **Saved**

The Hebrew and Greek words for “salvation” imply the ideas of deliverance, safety, preservation, healing, and soundness. Salvation then, in reality, can be said to be in three tenses: 1. The Christian has been saved from guilt and the penalty of sin (Luke 7:50); 2. The Christian is being saved from the habit and dominion of sin (Rom 6:14); 3. The Christian will be saved and taken up in the air at the Lord’s return, from all the bodily infirmities that are the result of sin and God’s curse

upon the sinful world. (Rom 8:18-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)

## **Exercise**

Well, all of this is sound doctrine, known to many, and assuring in hope. Most assuring, however, is that this ripening faith can be exercised, and increased, thereby. Admittedly, however, “Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by His faith.”(Habakkuk 2:4). It is true, furthermore, that, “by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God--not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph 2:8,9).

## **Not Me**

Clearly this is very beautiful, and this view contains one of the highest and central Church truths of Christianity. Earlier, however, the perplexing problem existed with many, Jews and Greeks alike, of unbelief. This unbelief of the Gentile world came slowly, in stages. But, this unbelief has pervaded the world today and in its growing prevalence has affected many, who earlier had an unwavering belief. Their rock-bound belief was battered and shaken. A belief that was traditional, doctrinal-based, and rooted, suddenly became blotted out of their lives relapsing into a life submerged in worldly matters

and conflicting currents of thinking.

Such an episode occurred in Pastor’s life. He abandoned his once-cherished Church and belief, and entered another profession. All the truths he once believed and accepted were now rejected, being now filled with bitter doubt and excuses. It was a tragic scenario to witness. He seemed hopelessly paralyzed. Clearly then, he apostatized from the faith and the Church, shaken with doubt, and full of excuses for his decision.

## **Where Is God?**

He had no more faith, full of lingering doubt, and bitterness, saying that, “God needs to prove Himself to me.” Furthermore, he even doubted the existence of God! On the other hand, strangely, he said, “But, I still like Christians, and know that the Church and Christians help people, and do a lot of good in the world.”

## **Doubting Thomas**

I told the Pastor in question, that one can doubt, if he chooses to believe, everything, and anything. For example, even that the world is not round. But, scientists and explorers have found that the world is, in fact, 8000 miles in diameter, and 25,000 miles in circumference, and recently from satellite pictures, that it is round. You cannot change this fact or description. Indeed, speaking further to him, one can even doubt one’s own existence.

When, I the author, attended the University of Loyola, a Jesuit University, we were required to take courses such as Metaphysics, Ethics, Logic, etc. In the process, we would study for weeks the many proofs of our own existence; one argument being, that by simply saying, "I am, therefore I exist." Worldly foolishness, and debating. I continued with the Pastor, and asked him, "are we just dreaming, and can therefore, doubt our real existence?" Furthermore, saying to him, "we are here, talking together, or are we just living in a vacuum or jar of vapor?" I said, "pinch yourself, if you don't believe."

### **No Excuse**

The book of Romans, for one, in many ways, reveals His love for man. Many today live in a "world within a world." God simply asks us to have faith in Himself and His goodness. Self-pity and doubt is of the devil. The apostle Paul was talking to the Jews and Greeks; to the Gentiles, explaining to them of God's displeasure of sin. If one doubts the many references to God's love for man, and His existence, we only need to see the evidences of His love for man, and for us.

Yes, we see it in nature, but practically we can see it daily in His promises, answers to prayer, His mercy, grace, patience, provisions, protection, healing, guidance, peace, and comfort of the Holy Spirit's presence... and more! There is no excuse! Simply, He cares for you. Remember this, daily. The apostle Paul, expounds on this, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them." (Rom 1:1) We clearly see, moreover, in the entire universe a profound revelation of the power and Deity of God. Are we responding, in like, to it?

### **DNA Power**

Everywhere we look we see examples of God's power. It's so obvious we miss it! The vast expanse of the universe points to a Creator beyond our imagination. Yet the universe in miniature, down to the intricate DNA molecules that hold the code for who we are, turns out to be equally vast and creative in scope. God has scattered clues about Himself everywhere!

Our amazing bodies, created in "God's image," reveal clue after clue to God's identity. What a wonder so many turn from the evidence to deny God's existence!

### **We Lose**

Yet these same people are so quick to blame this non-existent God when things get tough, bad things, adversities, or misfortunes happen in their lives. Like it or not, you and I are trace evidence of God's creative power. If we deny the evidence, we lose!

Rather, we are to say, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well." (Psalm 139:14) (Colossians 1:16).

Does it take more faith to believe that the cause-and-effect principle applies to God's relationship to the world or to believe that this stupendous pile of clear evidence called the universe, including us, tells us nothing about God?

### **It Is The Law**

One cannot escape the consequences of his life, or make excuses. The apostle Paul was a learned man and a teacher. From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the last chapter of Romans he reiterated and taught obedience to faith and not one without the other. Paul speaks further, of God's righteous judgment, saying, "For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law." In other words, some sin with the law, others sin without the law. But, "sin is the transgression of the law."

### **Heart Care**

The Jews had the Ten Commandments, Moses, the Psalms, and the books of the prophets. The Gentiles did not. What law did the Gentiles have? Well, Paul always had a desire to visit Rome and preach the Gospel, saying, "Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles." (Rom 1:13). The Gentiles were "doers and hearers." The law was written on the Gentiles' hearts by God. In fact it's written on everyone's heart; Muslims, Buddhists some 100-200 centuries ago. It's written there clearly, to know right from wrong. If it is written in the hearts of man, then, naturally man would "do it" If man, then, were to hear the word of God, they would "do it."

### **New Light?**

In the Jews' heart, too, and the Gentiles' heart, we find the law written. Here is the evidence (and the test). The Gentiles had no excuse. The evidence was there. Ah! But, if it was not in the hearts, they might have reasons to doubt Yes. But, speaking in reference to the doubting Pastor in the beginning and his excuses, God needs not appear to him or anyone. He created the universe for our eyes to feast upon daily, and partake of its fruits.

Further evidence is clearly manifested in the scriptures: "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (Jeremiah 31:33). Is this a new concept, or light? No, it was written on the hearts of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. (Heb 10:16).

### **All Or Nothing**

We see this principle and doctrine of belief interspersed throughout the Word of God; the Law of God – the obedience and disobedience of it. "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Also, "And to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good." (Deut 10:12,13). This is how God relates to our hearts. How? "With all your heart and all your soul." (Deut 30:10).

This is not a New Testament idea. It was revealed in the Book of Moses. God is looking from above on all your hearts and souls, not in Heaven but here, now, on earth to hear and to do it in our words emitted from our mouths and in our hearts. Above all to Do It! It's written so clearly in the Word of God, but He wants it placed in our hearts. We see the working of this principle in a practical manner in Gal 5:22-25, whereby by these fruits of joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control, are written whereby the true Christian character is developed by the Holy Spirit, and not by self-effort. "Do the fruits of the spirit appear in your life?" (Signs of the Times, Feb. 28, 1895).

The Ten Commandments are there, too, to clearly guide us: the first four towards God,

and the following six towards man (others). In essence they are all about love, and its manifestations in our daily thinking and living in a world that is in shambles.

### **Success Story**

One interesting test, of many, with the Law of God in our relationships with man, poses the question, “can I become genuine in success and in the success of others?” Their failures and the failures of others?

We find an answer for Christians and for those within God’s family. “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” (Rom 12:15). Interestingly, in Greece a traditional belief for friendship is based on this verse – a test of your friendship for one another. How one reacts or responds to such circumstances is dependant on your faith, for only by the Holy Spirit at any age in life, young and old alike, can God plant the I AM in our hearts.

### **I Give Up**

Paul stated that there is no reason, even for the Gentiles of his time to make excuses. God, in fact, speaks to the heart. What, however, was the result of the Gentile world’s unbelief? “Wherefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own bodies between them...” (Rom 1:24-32). Please read these passages in their entirety for a prophetic revelation of today’s standards and woes of life in a crumpling world. Granted that these conditions existed and exist to-day, what did God mean by saying, “God also gave them up.” Does God ever give up?

Yes, if one rejects the Holy Spirit, and lives this kind of life. I don’t want to live this way of life, and I’m certain that you, too, do not want to. We can resist by overcoming sin. Here is the battle. But, we can resist because God lives in us and by His free grace, transforms us in our hearts.

### **Seeing Is Believing**

But, why does God appear to be silent in our lives, and we cannot readily see Him. Ah! But Paul sees this clearly and so can we. “For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse;” (Rom 1:20). We, too, are without excuse. We can see His power and divinity working

in our lives – if you believe, do not doubt, or make excuses. The transforming Spirit of God is there. We all have it. Even if you are stranded on a deserted island, the “body of the Holy Spirit” is working. As you gaze upon the waters, you see the sea, the waves, the fish, the sand, the waving palm trees, the coconuts, He is there, the Holy Spirit. Moreover, to supplant this, where do we come from? Is our existence the power of creation or just a happening? This makes no sense to a finite mind. There’s ample evidence from faith to faith.

### **No More God**

What happens when we doubt? There are many things. There is no God to thank. There is no God to glorify. There’s no God to protect us. There is no God to guide us. There is no God to heal us. When we look at the first Commandment of the Law of God, it’s clear that “we shall have no other Gods before us.” (Exodus 20:3). God created us. If we are to fly at 40,000 feet, we could see a small part of the magnificence of the planet earth, and how large the universe must be. God created it all. It’s the History of Histories. It’s important for God above to look at the entire universe, and for us to take a look at this evidence of His greatness and power. It’s evidence, whether we have a Bible or not, it’s there in all its wonder! But, there are many still in disbelief, doubting, and making excuses, “professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” (Rom 1:22)

Instead of God, they worshiped idols, symbols, and made images, and worshiped “things” It is much the same today, in grim and hideous reality, conforming to the world, compromising, and practicing tolerance to sinful displays, transcending all norms of Godly conduct and beliefs, following false prophets. Meanwhile, always making excuses or denying the existence of any changes or similarities to past examples for us from the wilderness experiences, “written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.” (1Cor 10:11; 2 Thess. 3:9; 1Pet 2:21).

### **Freedom Of Choice**

There are no excuses, according to the apostle Paul. The Holy Spirit is speaking to our heart. There is evidence daily of the created world. Meanwhile, Satan is buffeting us from behind to worship him rather than the true Creator and Sabbath worship. How far back does the true weekly

cycle go? The weekly cycle goes entirely back to the creative story in Genesis 1 and 2. If these first two books of the beginnings of the heaven and earth were eliminated (Gen 1, 2), the entire Bible would have little understanding. But, even without the Bible to one who doubts and makes excuses, there is the weekly cycle, the seven days of the week, the four seasons, the rotation of the earth, the sunrises, and sunsets. No one can deny it. But, yet, many doubt and are duped and deceived by man into believing the lies of evolution and the Big-Bang theory. Yes, you can and may still doubt, as the disenchanting Pastor, and choose either way, but I want to believe in the Sovereign God, the Lord and Master of all creation. Don’t you?

### **We Have It**

The apostle Paul preached that all sinners could be saved “by grace through faith.” But, “what advantage, then, hath the Jew? Or, what profit is there of circumcision? Much, in every way, chiefly because unto them were committed the oracles of God.” (Rom 3:1, 2). So, did the Jews have an advantage over the Gentiles? Yes, they had the Bible and the oracles of God. Ah! But, we have it too! The Old and New Testament! And more! We have the Spirit of Prophecy, and Health Reform! Yes, and the faith story of Creation. Does this, however, increase your faith? Every step of our journey heavenward is a step in our spiritual maturity and faith; The principles of health written some 2000 yrs ago are valid today, too. Do we earn salvation by health reform principles? No, but they make sense today. It’s merely more evidence of God’s leading hand in our lives.

Many are sheepishly making lame excuses and others are even foolishly praying in error for excuses. The aim in life is God’s, not ours. He wants implicit faith in Him. We need not be surprised over what events are to take place soon, if we have genuine faith in Him. “The best proof of faith in Christ is distrust of self and dependence on God.” (Signs of the Times Feb. 28, 1895)

Remember this: Nothing can keep Him out of our lives unless we let Him, unless we give in to the paralysis of self-doubt and defeat and proceed to make fabricated **Excuses, Excuses. Amen**

*John Theodorou, USA*

# DIVINE ASSURANCE



## PART 2

We have just seen this beautiful comfort, rest, assurance for my personal salvation. Something you need to enlarge and ponder on more and more. It will unfold more and more. As it does, it will lead you to greater heights of obedience to God. It will purge His people. If you don't have this, the apostles raised the alarm bells.

What did we read in Romans 16:25? What did the apostle Paul say? What gospel? My gospel which was the mystery. His gospel.

Let's see the alarm bells that were raised by the shepherds of the flock of early Christianity. If you read the whole book of Galatians, you will notice they were trying to be saved by keeping the law without understanding the saving knowledge of Jesus. Notice what he says in Galatians 1:6: "I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel." What did he call it? Another gospel.

Galatians 1:7. "Which is not another, but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

How serious is the contortion of this subject? Let him be accursed. The gospel that I have just delineated, this mystery of Christ in you through the incarnation that Sis. White says is a mystery indeed but must be revealed is so poorly understood. If the teachers of the gospel do not preach this, let him be accursed. That's what is written, these are not my words.

2 Corinthians 11: 2-4. "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."

Notice the beautiful reference to one body and one flesh? One connection. Note it says another Jesus. The Jesus who was in the flesh like you and I. The Jesus who really did have sin in His flesh, the Jesus who really did have sin in his flesh so that He might be our example, if anybody reaches another Jesus... God is jealous over you.

What frightful danger it is when people are beguiled by Satan into another gospel. It is still the gospel of Jesus Christ they claim. Yes, Jesus did all these things, He did become a man, they agree with all that. But they are preaching another Jesus. Not the Jesus with the sinful flesh which you and I have. Which is the mystery of the incarnation.

Galatians 1: 11, 12. "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it."

He says it very plainly. It's not after man theologically working things out. It is what was revealed to me. It was the gospel of the apostle. They proclaimed the pure gospel. How easily the true gospel can be lost. It's what he said in Galatians: "What happened to you? I marvelled that you were so soon removed from it."

Has this happened to Christianity ever since? Have they lost the true gospel? Have they taken hold of the wrong Jesus? Indeed.

In Paul's jealousy over his flock, he warned the people. He named those who were teaching the error. He named them. This is something that really struck me. I sometimes imagine naming the people who teach the error. I then have people pouncing on me, you shouldn't be talking like that. Listen to the apostle Paul; listen to him who is jealous over his flock.

Acts 20:29-31. 29 "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

This is intense—can you see? If we do not have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, we are lost. With tears he pleaded with them. I sometimes wonder whether I should be doing this when I see people drifting away from the pure gospel.

Jude 3 "Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." What does contend mean? You are going to fight for the truth, you are going to uphold it and you are going to contend for it.

1 Timothy 4:16 "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

How carefully he warned and carefully he was prepared to expose the counterfeiters of the pure gospel. 1 Timothy 1: 18-20. "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 19 Holding faith, and a good conscience;

which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: 20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."

How would you like to be a member of the church and the minister to say they were the ones I delivered unto Satan? He named them. What were they doing? Blaspheming. Isn't that what the Catholic Church eventually did? What was Jesus telling them to do with the unfaithful ones? Get rid of them. I am very happy that you are against them in certain stages as he speaks. They were removed.

Why should these people be named? Why should these false doctrines be identified? Can you make sense of it? If people can't quite understand this mystery and then they get false doctrines, those who clearly can see what is going on, they have to warn the flock, don't they? Here is where the danger is, can you see it?

2 Timothy 2:17-19. 17 "And their word will eat as doth a canker; of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Here are erring teachers, he identifies and names them. What does Jesus do in Revelation? Who does He identify here? Revelation 2: 15-16. 15 "So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

The doctrine of the Nicolaitans. There was a company of people that existed in the Christian church called the Nicolaitans. If there is in the Christian church people that have perverted the doctrine, are we going to say, "oh, we must not say anything about them?"

According to Jesus what must we do? We must identify them as Jesus did.

The doctrine of the Nicolaitans. What is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans? "The doctrine

is now largely taught that the gospel of Christ has made the law of God of no effect. That by believing we are released of the necessity of being doers of the word. But this is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans that Christ so unsparingly condemned.

Can you see Jesus nailed it down and He identified the people who were preaching it? Should I do the same? I am going to. I am going to let you see for yourself. I am going to let you see from the word of God and what the word of God identifies about these people.

1 John 4:1-3. 1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

Here the Bible identifies the people who preach that Jesus Christ did not come in the flesh are of the spirit of anti-Christ. I am going to quote an excerpt of the Catholic Catechism. It says something very interesting about the nature of Christ. When people read this they think that it is going to be easy.

"There have been men who refused to believe that God would humble Himself so much as to become really man. They taught that Jesus had only the appearance of a man. We know that God's love is such that He sent His Son down to become a real man. Really one of us. He took the nature of a slave. As Paul tells us, fashioned in the likeness of men and presenting Himself to us in human form. Jesus had and will have forever all that makes a real man. He had a man's soul that was directly created by God as ours was and a man's body that He took from His mother, He had all the powers of a man, His mind learned in the way ours does. He used it to think, to know, to plan and to judge. He had a man's free will, He had a man's love, and with it He loved His Father and loved all men for the sake of His Father. His body was in every way a man's body with the senses and powers of a man. It had the needs of a man's body, food and rest. It could feel weariness and pain as a man's body can. It

developed from babyhood, to boyhood, to manhood as every man's body does. He had the feelings of a man and He showed those feeling as a man does. Joy in His faithful friends, sorrow at heard-hearted pride and betrayal, sympathy with others in their sorrows. Because He was a real man, He could suffer for us both in body and in soul."

Do you agree with all this? It's true, isn't it? So are they of the spirit of the anti-Christ? We know they are anti-Christ. But do they teach the truth? Read carefully.

"He has been through every trial fashioned as we are, only sinless." Douay Bible. Because He is all holy, He could not possibly sin and He did not have impulses rising up within Him and tempting Him such as we have as the result of original sin." (Ibid)

They sounded so good for so long, didn't they, and then all of a sudden they come up with the devil's perversion of the true Jesus. Do you know that this is why so many people today do not recognise that the Catholic Church is wrong? We can recognise it better but they can't recognise it in the spirit of the other churches.

Quote from the Seventh Day Adventist 27 Fundamental Beliefs Book: "Both Adam and Christ, the last Adam or the second man represent all humanity. While the natural birth saddles each person with the results of Adam's transgression, everyone who experiences the spiritual birth receive the spiritual benefits of Christ's perfect life and sacrifice. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Adam's rebellion brought sin, condemnation and death to all. Christ reversed the downward trend. In His great love He subjected Himself to the divine judgment on sin and became the humanities' representative. His substitutionary death provided the deliverance from the penalty of sin and the gift of eternal life for repentant sinners. Scripture clearly teaches the universal nature of Christ's substitutionary death."

This is all I could find together with the other things, which they had absolutely right, just like the Catholic Catechism. Once upon a time the SDA church taught exactly as I have been showing you.

Bible Readings for the Home Circle, p.

174, 1915 edition. "In His humanity Christ partook of our sinful fallen nature. If not, then he was not made like unto His Brethren, was not in all points tempted as we are, did not overcome, as we have to overcome and is therefore the complete, perfect Saviour man needs and must have to be saved. The idea that Christ was born of an immaculate or sinless mother, inherited no tendencies to sin and for this reason did not sin; removes Him from the realm of a fallen world and from the very place where help is needed. On His human side Christ inherited just what every child of Adam inherits, a sinful nature. On the divine side from the very conception He was begotten and born of the spirit as all are and all this was done to place mankind on vantage ground and to demonstrate that in the same way everyone who is born of the spirit may gain like victories over sin in his own sinful flesh. Thus each one is to overcome as Christ overcame. Without this birth there can be no victory over temptation and no salvation from sin. God in Christ, condemned sin not by pronouncing against it merely as a judge sitting on the judgment seat, but by coming and living in sinful flesh and yet without sinning. In Christ He demonstrated that it is possible by His grace and power to resist temptation, overcome sin and live a sinless life in sinful flesh."

One hundred percent correct, isn't it? One hundred percent. He had sinful flesh.

This is now from the ministry written by the Adventist leadership to its people. And to the ministers who teach the people: The Ministry—September 1956. "When He Christ took upon Him sinless human nature, He did not cease to be God. [Notice the first mistake, sinless human nature] Many years ago a statement appeared in the Bible Readings for the Home Circle, the 1915 edition [as quoted above], which declared that Christ came in sinful flesh. Just how this expression slipped into the book is difficult to know, but when that book was revised in 1946, this expression was eliminated. Since it was recognised as being out of harmony with our true position. When God became man, He partook of the same moral nature that Adam possessed before the fall."

What is the public standing of the SDA church today? A repudiation of what they once stood for. The SDA church, point

4: "Differing with the positions of the church on nonessentials. While apostasy always takes its toll, one of the heavy pressures on the remnant church today is the divisive effect of some segments of the church who nevertheless profess dedication to Christ and the finishing of the mission of the church. These members hold certain positions on the human nature of Christ, the nature of sin, and the doctrine of righteousness by faith in an end-time setting. Since the Adventist people as a whole do not share these views, the former feel that the church has apostatized from the faith of the pioneers. Some would even suggest that the organized church is no longer fulfilling the role of the remnant church as specified in prophecy.

In some respects the present situation is similar to the experience of the early church and the Jerusalem Council. The world church of Seventh-Day Adventists has agreed on 27 Fundamental Beliefs, summarization of basic Biblical teachings, and seeks to rally the membership to the Saviour and this core of Bible truths. The specific topics alluded to above are not a part of these summarizations. The world church has never viewed these subjects as essential either to salvation or to the mission of the remnant church. The Scriptures do not make these subjects central; the data is sparse; and there are sharp differences of view with devoted Christians on both sides.

There can be no strong unity within the world church of God's remnant people so long as segments who hold these views vocalize and agitate them both in North America and in overseas divisions. These topics need to be laid aside and not urged upon our people as necessary issues. We should not let Satan take an advantage of God's church at this point and allow such matters to divide us and, consequently, to weaken our outreach and fellowship..."

"The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. Christ was a real man; He gave proof of His humility in becoming a man. Yet He was God in the flesh. When we approach this subject, we would do well to heed the words spoken by Christ to Moses at the burning bush, 'Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.' (Ex.



3:5) We should come to this study with the humility of a learner, with a contrite heart. And the study of the incarnation of Christ is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth.” 1 SM 244.1

“There are many who err, and who feel their shame and folly. They look upon their mistakes and errors until they are driven almost to desperation. These souls we are not to neglect. When one has to swim against the stream, there is all the force of the current driving him back. Let a helping hand be held out to him, as was the Elder Brother’s to the sinking Peter. Speak to him hopeful words, words that inspire him with courage. Tell him of an almighty hand that will hold him up, of an infinite humanity in Christ that pities him. It is not enough for him to believe in law and force, things that have no pity, and never hear the call for help.

He needs to clasp a hand that is warm, to trust in a heart full of tenderness. Keep his mind stayed on the thought of the divine Helper ever beside him, ever looking upon him with pitying love. Bid him think of a Father’s heart that ever grieves over sin, of a Father’s hand stretched out still, of a Father’s voice saying, ‘Come unto Me,... and I will give you rest.’” RH, January 19, 1911, par. 8

I was once part of a membership of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement that says this about the nature of Christ. This was a declaration they made in 1999: They do say like the others say, that Jesus Christ did come in the same human flesh as us, but then they say: “While He, Christ took our fallen nature we believe in harmony with what is written that in Him

there is no evil propensity to sin but that He was tempted from without, not from within.” SDA Reform Movement—Glad Tidings Magazine.

They are saying exactly the same thing as what the Catholic Church is saying. There was no sinful impulses coming through Him. They follow on to say: “Christ partook of our sinful nature and was thus encompassed with infirmities, weaknesses, and liabilities but He had no evil propensities in human nature. Evil

follow His example and deal with your sin in your sinful flesh in exactly the same way as Jesus dealt with His. Anyone who teaches different, is of the spirit of the anti-Christ.

Through this understanding you can be assured where it says, if they do not speak according to the law and to the testimony, there is no light in them. They might have all the other truths right, but if they do not proclaim it with living application, there is no light in them.



tendencies are evil propensities or evil leanings, inclinations and bias. These reside in our mind, not in our physical flesh. Christ had none of these in His mind or flesh.” SDA Reform Movement—Glad Tidings Magazine.

Shall we be silent and not identify false teachers? The central pillar of the SDA three angel’s messages is the faith of Jesus. The experience that Jesus made in our sinful flesh. If that is deranged, we have no saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We need to identify through the flock, the error and who teaches it. Just like Paul did. So the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus give you a divine assurance, a divine assurance that you are saved through the precious gift of the atonement of Jesus Christ in the incarnation that you can

We must stand up and be counted on the very central pillar of the SDA faith that was once delivered to the saints. That we would watch ourselves and the doctrine and uphold the pure doctrine that is the central pillar that upholds every other doctrine so that we don’t become confused by false teachings that are around us today.

There has been a sad destruction of pure truth in the ranks of Christendom today, but praise God that all the central pillars of the faith have been delivered to God’s people. Let us uphold, preach, teach, and agitate them to the ends of the earth, for then Christ can come, when the true gospel is restored. **AMEN.**

*John Thiel, Australia*



# ABOUT FREEDOM

*"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."*  
John 8:36.

Freedom! What a wonderful feeling! Who does not want to be free? Many nations in the world celebrate the day in which they were set free from the yoke of a foreign power by the hands of some hero or martyr. But many of these countries, later on, fall under the oppression of a dictator, a national leader who imposes his will upon the population. There is still much oppression in this world, even though we may boast of having pulled down some barriers, such as the Apartheid that discriminated against the black in South Africa, or the dowry that put a price on a partner, allowing a woman to be bought for a few cows, as it is still the case in Africa, or it was until not so long ago the case in some Mediterranean countries in which it was "bad luck" for parents to have only girls, since in order to marry them off they had to have land, houses, or some kind of a possession, otherwise the girls remained single and were a burden to their father. All these laws may not exist any more, but their principles have remained as prejudices in the mentality of man.

It is thus that many women in the most civilized countries have united in a liberation movement to fight for their rights and some have become real man-haters.

Although we were all set free through the precious sacrifice of our Saviour, the greatest Martyr of all times, although we could all celebrate an independence day, when we were declared free from a foreign power--the day of our baptism, we still suffer under the pressure of a local dictator -- our ego, and the prejudices of an obsolete law--the law of the flesh.

But the word of God tells us, *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."* Indeed, really, absolutely.

There are two famous statues in this world, one is to be found in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and it is a huge statue of Christ standing on a hill overlooking the city and inviting it to repentance and the other one is the not less well-known statue of Liberty, in New York. Both of them are hollow and one can climb to the top up an inbuilt staircase. It is interesting that the closer one comes to the top, the narrower the place is and one has the feeling of getting out of breath for lack of enough oxygen. Many people turn back because they cannot bear this feeling.

We, as Christians, are expected to reach the height of Jesus' character, to walk on a narrow path, to die to self. It is only by doing this that we shall reach our goal, "...narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:14. To be free, contrary to what man usually thinks, consists not of allowing oneself everything, but to be able to dispense with everything.

The Bible speaks of a man who had a great growth, he was a head taller than his fellowmen and he was chosen as a king. But Saul exalted himself above his fellowmen and was not accepted by God. The Bible also speaks of a huge statue that was built by a very proud king to perpetuate his kingdom. He had seen many wonders, had acknowledged God's power, but since his ego was occupying the throne of his heart, he was ready to annul God's prophecy revealed to him in an act of great mercy. Through God's infinite grace, Nebuchadnezzar was forgiven and he acknowledged, *"those that walk*

*in pride he is able to abase.*" Daniel 4:37.  
There is hope for everyone.

Each statue that we may build for the preservation of our ego will not be able to stand in the presence of a holy God. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought to the temple of Dagon, the god of the Philistines, the statue fell down and was broken.

*"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."* To be free in Christ means not to worship any idol, but to surrender our will to His and to climb the ladder that begins with faith and ends with love. If we do not look back, we shall have no vertigo.

We may have gone all around the world, seen many statues and climbed many towers, but real freedom can be obtained only at the feet of the cross where our sinful nature was crucified. May the Lord help us not to fear the heights. *AMEN*

*Teresa Corti*

**2006**

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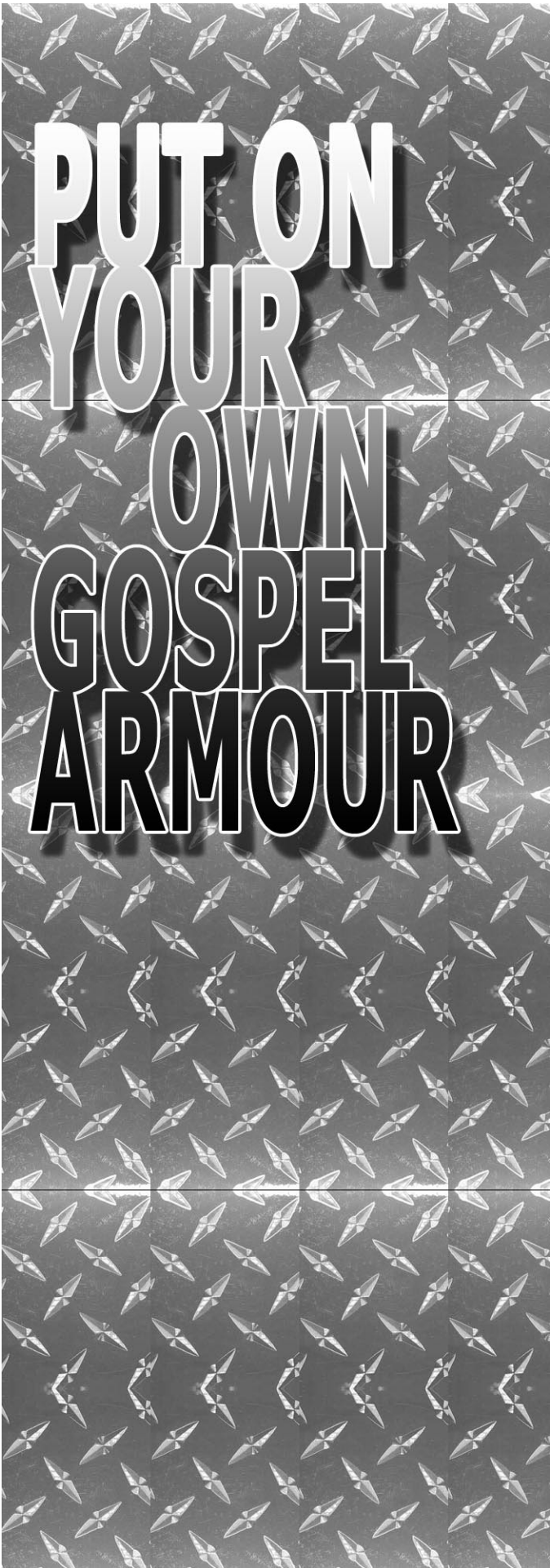
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# PUT ON YOUR OWN GOSPEL ARMOUR

“David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee. And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.”  
1 Samuel 17:37-40

Saul was King of Israel and he thought that his way was the correct way of working. This is the way we’ve always done it. We fight with a full armour. He had no concept of another way, but David did.

Why did David reject Saul’s armour? Firstly, David knew that he didn’t need any earthly protection in order to gain the victory. He had slain a lion and a bear in the past without any armour. His method was tried and true for himself. It worked for him. Armour is heavy and would have inhibited the free movements of his limbs in order to accurately and quickly dispatch the stones from his sling. David’s method may not have worked for another soldier who did not have the accuracy with a sling as did David. Other soldiers needed armour and sword for victory, but David did not. David had to fight with his own weapons; weapons he had proven for himself.

In God’s work it is the same. We can’t fight with someone else’s armour, we have to fight with the armour that God has given to us. We each must have on the gospel armour, but we are not all robots made from the same mould. We are not to wear the armour of another person. Our armour will look similar as Christians, as is the case in any army today, however each has their own individual armour fitted. What fits one person, will not fit the next.

There is the danger that leaders and missionaries decide that their methods of labour are the best methods and must be followed by everyone. They want to put their armour on all the members and other missionaries. However this is not correct. Leaders have a duty to educate the people in various lines of work – they are to educate the people to put on their own gospel armour not dictate to them which armour to wear.

“The inexperienced ones should not be sent out alone. They should stand right by the side of older and experienced ministers, where they could educate them. But they should say to them, ‘You must not copy my gestures, nor the tone of my voice, so that nobody will know whether you are speaking or whether I am speaking. You are to stand in your own armour, with your own phase of character, sanctified by God. You are not to take my phase of character, nor my gestures, nor my tone of voice, nor my expressions, nor my words.’

“When one of these men who have not an experience in the work stands by your side he is not to think in everything just as you think, and look at everything just as you look at it; that if you should give up the truth he would say, ‘I might as well give it up.’ Let them stand to obtain a symmetry of character from the God of heaven; not that they should have your ideas, and you have a moulding influence on them;

but you should carry them right to the Bible as their pattern. The importance of these things has been shown me so many times that I feel a burden on this point.

“God never designed that one man’s judgment and plans should be regarded as supreme. He says, Ye are labourers together with God. Let no man undertake to repress or discourage. Let him not seek to put his armour upon his brother, for he has not proved it. . . . And the ministers are never to copy any man’s gestures, his habits, his attitude, his expressions, the tones of his voice. They are to become no man’s shadow, in thought, in sentiment, or in devising and executing the great whole. If God has made you a shepherd of the

flock, He has given you qualification to do that work.” Ev. 684/685.

Each member and worker must be taught to put on their own armour and to think and act for themselves. It is the duty of the ministers and leaders to educate the members to use their talents for the Lord. We all have different duties to perform that the Lord requires of us and never are we to judge another because they are not doing the same duty as we are in exactly the same manner as we are.

“Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness. Those who are accounted good workers will need to draw nigh to God, they will need the divine touch. They will need to drink more deeply and continuously at the fountain of living water, in order that they may discern God’s work at every point. Workers may make mistakes, but you should give them a chance to correct their errors, give them an opportunity to learn caution, by leaving the work in their hands.” TM 300

## LAY MEMBERS

As lay members there is often the danger of not picking up our armour to join the battle. It is easy to put on the leader’s or minister’s armour or even not put one on at all; to feel that the leader can do all the fighting in the Christian warfare. The missionary battles are often left to the ministers. As lay members we need to remember that we are all equal in the eyes of God. We are all brethren. No one is in a lower position or less important than the minister, they simply have different duties. We have a different armour and a different area to work in. For us to be a missionary in our work place is of equal importance as the minister and Bible worker who is ministering in their field of labour.

“The essential lesson of contented industry in the necessary duties of life, is yet to be learned by many of Christ’s followers. It requires more grace, more stern discipline of character, to work for God in the capacity of mechanic, merchant, lawyer, or farmer, carrying the precepts of Christianity into the ordinary business of life, than to labour as an acknowledged missionary in the open field. It requires a strong spiritual nerve to bring religion into the workshop and the business office, sanctifying the details of everyday life, and ordering every transaction according to the standard of God’s word. But this is what the Lord requires.” MYP 215

“Because they are not connected with some directly religious work, many feel that their lives are useless, that they are doing nothing for the advancement of God’s kingdom. If they could do some great thing how gladly they would undertake it! But because they can serve only in little things, they think themselves justified in doing nothing. In this they err. A man may be in the active service of God while engaged in the ordinary, everyday duties--while felling trees, clearing the ground, or following the plough. The mother who trains her children for Christ is as truly working for God as is the minister in the pulpit.” PK 219. Their own armour is different, but they are equally doing a valuable work for the Lord and should not be told that their armour is not the correct one and they need to adopt one that is identical to the leader’s armour, doing their missionary work in an identical fashion to that of the leader.

## CHURCH EMPLOYEES

Once a member in the church becomes a minister, does this make him officially an administrator in God’s church? Is he to only give Bible Studies and do administrative work and that is all? If these are our thoughts then we have it all wrong. Employment in God’s church is not a hierarchy as it is in many businesses in the world. It is not to be viewed as a system with different levels of employees with the canvasser in the lowest position in the church. Once a person has proved himself as a canvasser, he receives a promotion and a wage increase. He is now a Bible worker. Once he has proven faithful for many years as a Bible worker, he receives another pay increase and is ordained to be a minister. It is now that he has reached the pinnacle of his career. This is not correct thinking. The reality is that the duties of church employees overlap to a great degree. Every employee should be giving Bible Studies as well as canvassing. The amount of time spent at each duty may differ, however there is an equality amongst the missionaries in the church. They simply have different duties – a different armour of service. Not one armour fits all employees.

“I sincerely hope that no mind will receive the impression that it belittles a minister of the gospel to canvass... I have been shown that the most precious ministry can be done by canvassing, and that by ministers... The canvassing work is an important field for labour: and the intelligent, God-fearing, truth-loving canvasser occupies a position equal to that of the gospel minister.” TM 317

And no missionary can dictate to another missionary the exact methods that must be used for the work of the Lord. Working with souls is an individual work. While the employees are to be educated as to the best methods of labour, they are not to be given the armour of another soldier to wear. There needs to be freedom to allow the Holy Spirit to work. As stated above, “the intelligent, God-fearing, truth-loving canvasser should be respected; for he occupies a position equal to that of the gospel minister. Many of our young ministers and those who are fitting for the ministry would, if truly converted, do much good by working in the canvassing field. And by meeting the people and presenting to them our publications they would gain an experience, which they cannot gain by

simply preaching. As they went from house to house they could converse with the people, carrying with them the fragrance of Christ's life. In thus endeavouring to bless others they would themselves be blessed; they would obtain an experience in faith; their knowledge of the Scriptures would greatly increase; and they would be constantly learning how to win souls for Christ." 6T 321. They would be putting on their own gospel armour.

## EDUCATION

Another important duty of the minister is to train young workers to work. The minister, or church employee, should not be expected to do all the missionary work in the church. They should not preach all the sermons, give all the Bible studies, but they should be an educator for volunteer missionaries also. "Let ministers put to use all their ingenuity in devising plans whereby the younger members of the church may be led to co-operate with them in missionary work. But do not imagine that you can arouse their interest merely by preaching a long sermon at the missionary meeting. Plan ways whereby a live interest may be kindled. Let all have a part to act. Train the young to do what is appointed them, and from week to week let them bring their reports to the missionary meeting, telling what they have experienced and through the grace of Christ what success has been theirs. If such reports were brought in by consecrated workers, the missionary meetings would not be dull and tedious. They would be full of interest, and there would be no lack in attendance." AH 487. We all are missionaries; all have an armour to wear even if not a full-time paid employee in the church.

A missionary, whether a Bible worker, minister or canvasser should not have as the main focus of their work giving Bible Studies to, and visiting and counselling regularly, the established lay members, but rather instructing them on how to do missionary work. "God has not given His ministers the work of setting the churches right. No sooner is this work done, apparently, than it has to be done over again. Church members that are thus looked after and laboured for become religious weaklings. If nine tenths of the effort that has been put forth for those who know the truth had been put forth for those who have never heard the truth, how much

greater would have been the advancement made! God has withheld His blessings because His people have not worked in harmony with His directions." 7T 18

The Jews in Jesus' day were jealous and angry when Jesus went to spread the gospel to those they deemed unworthy. They would have been much happier had Jesus spent His time and energy on them rather than for those who did not know the truth. "Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?" the Pharisees asked Christ's disciples. And the Saviour responded: "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matthew 9:11, 13.

"Our ministers are not to spend their time labouring for those who have already accepted the truth. With Christ's love burning in their hearts, they are to go forth to win sinners to the Saviour. Beside all waters they are to sow the seeds of truth. Place after place is to be visited; church after church is to be raised up. Those who take their stand for the truth are to be organized into churches, and then the minister is to pass on to other equally important fields." 7T 19

"Just as soon as a church is organized, let the minister set the members at work. They will need to be taught how to labour successfully. *Let the minister devote more of his time to educating than to preaching.* Let him teach the people how to give to others the knowledge they have received. While the new converts should be taught to ask counsel from those more experienced in the work, they should also be taught not to put the minister in the place of God. Ministers are but human beings, men compassed with infirmities. Christ is the One to whom we are to look for guidance. 'The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,... full of grace and truth.' 'And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.' John 1:14, 16" 7T 20. The ministers must instruct the members on how to put their own armour on and engage in the battle with the strength of the Lord.

"It is not the Lord's purpose that ministers should be left to do the greatest part of the work of sowing the seeds of truth. Men who are not called to the ministry are to be encouraged to labour for the Master according to their several ability. Hundreds of men and women now idle could do acceptable service. By carrying

the truth into the homes of their friends and neighbours, they could do a great work for the Master. God is no respecter of persons. He will use humble, devoted Christians, even if they have not received so thorough an education as some others. Let such ones engage in service for Him by doing house-to-house work. Sitting by the fireside, they can--if humble, discreet, and godly--do more to meet the real needs of families than could an ordained minister." 7T 21

It is also incorrect for one employee in the church to dictate to another one regarding the manner that he is to work. One man's methods are not suitable for everyone.

## THE YOUTH

From the example of the Waldenses, we can gain precious lessons on the methods of instruction for our children and young people to put on their gospel armour. The youth are the future of the church and need to be instructed from their earliest years, to be prepared to fill the places of the old Christian soldiers who are becoming weary with age. The Waldensian youth were taught to put on their own armour that the Lord has provided them with and go to battle against all the forces of Satanic darkness in the Dark Ages. The ministers and gospel leaders trained the Waldensian youth to do a mighty work for the Lord.

They had a beautiful training ground that was safe and secluded; a place where, for a time, they were relatively safe from the enemy. The mountain fortresses of the Alps, was the place that God provided for them. Fleeing from the wrath of the Papacy they left houses, lands, relatives and friends to a place where they could serve God according to their own conscience.

What kind of training was given to these young people? "Pure, simple, and fervent was the piety of these followers of Christ. The principles of truth they valued above houses and lands, friends, kindred, even life itself. These principles they earnestly sought to impress upon the hearts of the young. From earliest childhood the youth were instructed in the Scriptures and taught to regard sacredly the claims of the law of God. Copies of the Bible were rare; therefore its precious words were committed to memory. Many were able to repeat large portions of both the Old and the New Testament. Thoughts of God were

associated alike with the sublime scenery of nature and with the humble blessings of daily life. Little children learned to look with gratitude to God as the giver of every favour and every comfort.” GC 67

These mountain regions are comparable to our churches today. They are places where we can hear the truth preached in its purity; a place to regain spiritual strength for the battles of life we have to face during the week; a place we can draw near to God as we draw near to one another in unity of spirit and truth. After the church services and fellowship we go our separate ways to be beacons of light to the world. Hopefully the truth continues to shine brightly during the week and we seek to draw others closer to our Redeemer. There is a time of trouble soon to break upon our world; a time when we will perhaps not have a Bible in our possession to bring us comfort and counsel. It would benefit us to do as the Waldenses did and commit large portions to memory while we still have the time. We will then be ready for the battles of life for we will be armed with the sword of the Spirit and the full armour of God. This training we must begin with our children when they are quite young. They need to put on their own gospel armour, not their parent’s armour or the church leader’s armour.

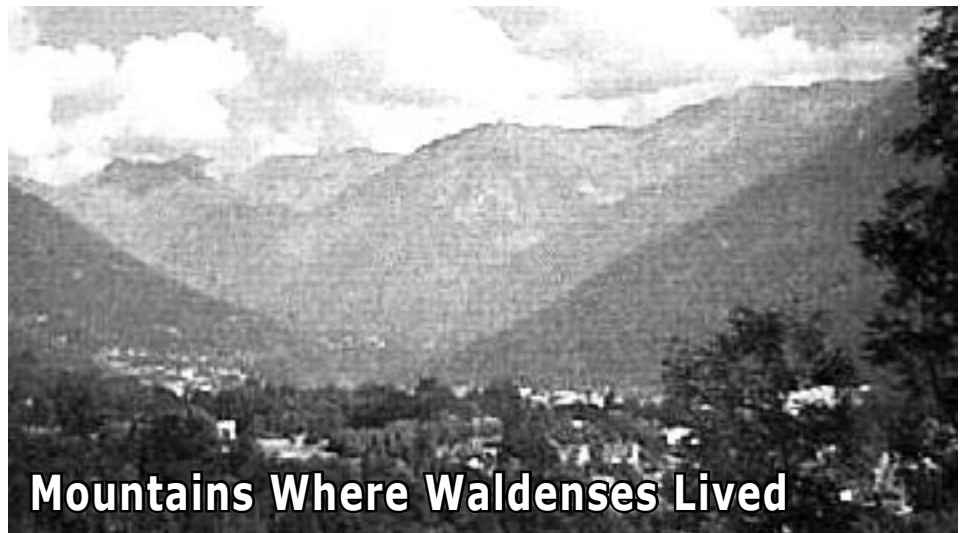
“Parents, tender and affectionate as they were, loved their children too wisely to accustom them to self-indulgence. Before them was a life of trial and hardship, perhaps a martyr’s death. They were educated from childhood to endure harness, to submit to control, and yet *to think and act for themselves*. Very early they were taught to bear responsibilities, to be guarded in speech, and to understand the wisdom of silence.” GC p. 67

They were taught the extreme sinfulness of sin. “The pains of duty and the pleasures of sin are the cords with which Satan binds men in his snares. Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful.” 5T 53

The Waldenses understood self-denial “for the truth’s sake, and with persevering patience they toiled for their daily bread.” GC 67. Precious lessons were taught to their children. These were not lessons of ease and pleasure. From the earliest years, “economy and severe self-denial formed a part of the education which the



**Typical Waldenses Home**



**Mountains Where Waldenses Lived**

children received as their only legacy. They were taught that God designs life to be a discipline, and that their wants could be supplied only by personal labour, by forethought, care, and faith. The process was laborious and wearisome, but it was wholesome, just what man needs in his fallen state, the school which God has provided for his training and development. While the youth were inured to toil and hardship, the culture of the intellect was not neglected. They were taught that all their powers belonged to God, and that all were to be improved and developed for His service” GC 67, 68. They were taught to think and act for themselves.

While the Waldenses were neatly hidden away in the mountains the young were raised, not with the false idea that they were to remain in the mountains where they were safe. “While the Waldenses

regarded the fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom, they were not blind to the importance of a contact with the world, a knowledge of men and of active life, in expanding the mind and quickening the perceptions. From their schools in the mountains some of the youth were sent to institutions of learning in the cities of France or Italy, where was a more extended field for study, thought, and observation than in their native Alps. The youth thus sent forth were exposed to temptation, they witnessed vice, they encountered Satan’s wily agents, who urged upon them the most subtle heresies and the most dangerous deceptions. But their education from childhood had been of a character to prepare them for all this.” GC 69, 70 They did not attend these universities for the sole purpose of obtaining an education and a Degree upon completion. While they felt this was an important part, they also

carried with them the precious pages of the Bible which they were always seeking for opportunities to share. Often the Papal leaders were mystified as to how this 'heresy' (as they termed it) was permeating their entire university.

Most importantly the Waldensian youth were taught that their first duty was to God and their fellow men. They were taught the importance of missionary work. We want our youth also to have the spirit of Christ and "the spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour. Such was the Spirit of the Vaudois [Waldensian] Christians. They felt that God required more of them than merely to preserve the truth in its purity in their own churches; that a solemn responsibility rested upon them to let their light shine forth to those who were in darkness;... The missionaries went out two and two, as Jesus sent forth His disciples. With each young man was usually associated a man of age and experience, the youth being under the guidance of his companion, who was held responsible for his training, whose instruction he was required to heed. *These co-labourers were not always together, but often met for prayer and counsel, thus strengthening each other in the faith...* Every minister possessed a knowledge of some trade or profession, and the missionaries prosecuted their work under the cover of a secular calling. Usually they chose that of a merchant or pedlar." GC71

For what kind of future are we preparing our youth today? Think how many Waldensian mothers bade tearful farewells to their youth as they sent them on their way, knowing full well they were facing the wrath of the enemy and knowing that they might never see them again in this life. Yet they refused to selfishly keep them at home. To them the cause of God was dearer than life itself. The sacrifice can only keenly be felt by parents as they watch their children leave the safety of their home, but if they have done their duty properly in preparation for this event, they need not fear. They've educated the youth to make their own experiences with God and put on their own gospel armour, not their parents' or church leader's armour. They've been taught to think and act for themselves and can be trusted in the hands of God. Not a life of ease and comfort but a life of toil and self-denial for the Master.

The youth need to be educated from their earliest years how to teach the Scriptures; how to give Bible Studies; how to canvass. They need to also be shown by example how it is done so they can put on their own gospel armour and join the Christian army, doing the work of the Lord in whatever capacity He has called them.

"The Waldensian missionaries were invading the kingdom of Satan, and the powers of darkness aroused to greater vigilance. Every effort to advance the truth was watched by the prince of evil, and he excited the fears of his agents. The papal leaders saw a portent of danger to their cause from the labours of these humble itinerants. If the light of truth were allowed to shine unobstructed, it would sweep away the heavy clouds of error that enveloped the people. It would direct the minds of men to God alone and would eventually destroy the supremacy of Rome.

"The very existence of this people, holding the faith of the ancient church, was a constant testimony to Rome's apostasy, and therefore excited the most bitter hatred and persecution. Their refusal to surrender the Scriptures was also an offence that Rome could not tolerate. She determined to blot them from the earth." GC 76

Are we today as much of a threat to the kingdom of Satan as were those early Waldensian missionaries? If Satan feels threatened in any way he then makes a concerted effort to attack those which are against him. Satan would not have felt threatened had the Waldenses remained in their mountain fortresses. He will not feel threatened if we remain in the safety of our "mountain fortress" and not seek to reach others with the truths that we know.

In the end of time God will have a church that is pure and faithful, with each member wearing their own gospel armour. You can't wear another man's armour or force your armour on another person. There will be a mighty shaking just prior to the falling of the Latter Rain at which time all those that are not fully committed to the Lord will be shaken out; those who are not wearing their gospel armour; those that don't find their greatest joys in sharing the truth with others. "Eagerly did the Vaudois missionary unfold to the inquiring mind the precious truths of the gospel... It was his greatest joy to give hope to the

conscientious, sin-stricken soul." GC 73.

I am sure that when it was time for them to lay down their armour as their life approached its end none of them thought that they had wasted their life away and not enjoyed life. They perished fully satisfied that they had lived their lives to the fullest for their Lord and Saviour who had done so much for them. Not only did they bring spiritual relief to many burdened minds but they prepared the way for the great Reformation that followed in Europe.

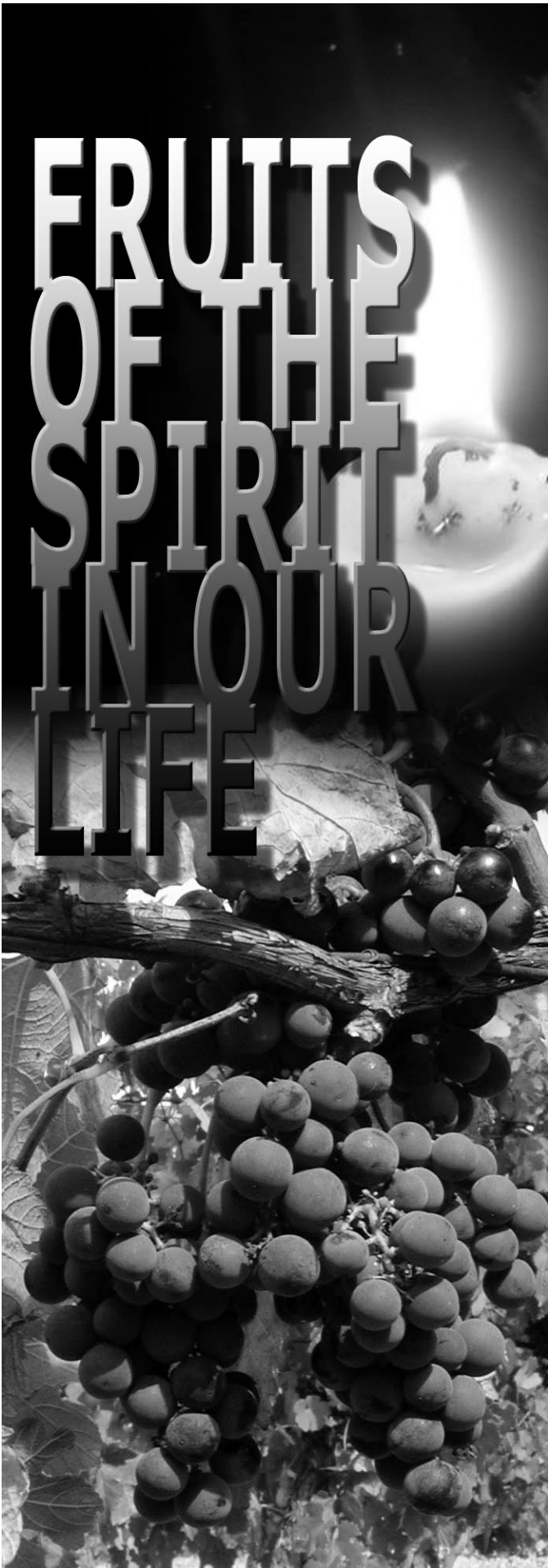
## CONCLUSION

"Many long for special talent with which to do a wonderful work, while the duties lying close at hand, the performance of which would make the life fragrant, are lost sight of. Let such ones take up the duties lying directly in their pathway. Success depends not so much on talent as on energy and willingness. It is not the possession of splendid talents that enables us to render acceptable service, but the conscientious performance of daily duties, the contented spirit, the unaffected, sincere interest in the welfare of others. In the humblest lot true excellence may be found. The commonest tasks, wrought with loving faithfulness, are beautiful in God's sight." PK 219 "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10

Let's put on our own gospel armour that God has provided and join the Christian army, putting aside our desire to relax our efforts. The end is at hand, it is time to stand up and fight. There is no time to relax our efforts as the enemy is going about as a "roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8. Our only safety is to keep our gospel armour on and soldier on in the strength of the Lord.

*"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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"* Ephesians 6:13-17 AMEN  
**Wendy Eaton, Australia**





Isaiah, the prophet tells us that in the last days, “darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall rise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.” Isa. 60:2.

The Holy Scriptures also reveal that the only light which will pierce this thick spiritual darkness will be that which emanates from Christ’s followers; we need to arise and shine. There is not nor ever can be, any other source of light. Christ Himself said, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matt. 5:14-16.

As we are heeding the admonition to arise and shine; if we are to shine as a light in this world, we must first be closely connected with Jesus Christ, the source of all light, and His faith must be engraved upon the fleshy tables of the heart.

Only those who are thus connected with our Saviour Jesus Christ can be true light bearers in every sense of the word. However, before one can be a light bearer, one must have become a fruit bearer. John 15:1, 2, 4, 5. “I am the true vine and My Father is the Husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me; I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.”

It is clear from these words that only as we are connected with Christ, the true vine, can we bear fruit and only as we bear fruit, we shine as lights in the world. Therefore, let us consider these spiritual fruits individually, as found in Galatians 5: 22-23—love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. This is the harvest which Christ looks for in the life of every true Christian. Only those who bring forth these fruits of the Spirit, fulfill the righteousness of the law, as the Apostle Paul states in Romans 8:4. A perfect example of a man who brought forth all the fruits of the Spirit was Enoch. Amid the total darkness and apostasy of this time, he shone as a bright light in the world. Gen. 5:24. Shadrach, Meschach, Abednego, and Daniel also shone in the court of Babylon. It is a significant fact that the first spiritual fruit mentioned on the Christian tree is love. This attribute takes the first place because all others are dependent on it. God Himself is love, without love there could be no joy, peace, and longsuffering, or other spiritual fruits. Love is the foundation of the universe. In the plan of redemption, this divine love must be reflected in the life of every true Christian.



A detailed description of this spiritual fruit is given in 1 Corinthians 13. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that whereas faith and hope will one day vanish, when faith has become sight, and hope has been realized, love will endure forever.

Joy, which is a natural consequence of love, Paul admonishes us in Phillipians 4:4. “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.” “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.” Prov. 17:22. Joy and happiness apart from Christ are impossible. The only really happy people in the world are true Christians. Luke 2:10; John 1:3, 4.



Peace is the third spiritual fruit; the world is torn by hatred, strife and violence, bloodshed and war; a world

which knows no peace, because it rejected the Prince of Peace. Peace comes to the soul as a result of obedience to the law of God. John 14:27.



The fourth fruit is longsuffering or patience. An attribute which God's people will possess in the latter days to a

special degree. Rev. 14:12. "Here is the patience of the saints."

As patience is not an attribute of the natural heart, God has given His people special light, through the message of health reform, on how to cultivate this fruit of the Spirit, by showing us the exact effect of right and wrong eating on character. Temperance in eating must be practiced before we can be patient men. 2T 405. A disregard of this heaven-sent message will hinder our progress in the Christian life and unfit us to stand in the fierce conflict which awaits God's people in the coming days. Daniel and his companions are our example.

"True gentleness is a gem of great value in the sight of God. A meek and quiet spirit will not be ever looking out for happiness for itself, but will seek for self-forgetfulness and find sweet comfort and true satisfaction in making others happy." 3T 536. Goodness is another attribute which is distinctly foreign to man in his fallen state. "True goodness is accounted of heaven as true greatness. A person may have property and intellect, and yet be valueless, because the growing fire of goodness has never burned upon the altar of his heart." 2T 305. Let us strive by the grace of Christ to keep this fire continually burning. Joseph had this quality of gentleness in character. He was the man of charity when he showed his gentleness to his brothers in Egypt. We



need such kind of spirit to help us to be meek.

Temperance is the last of the fruits of

the spirit in a time of general apostasy from God when men's hearts are overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness. Luke 21:34.

Daniel 1:8, "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank..." Eccl. 10:17, "Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of noble and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness." Nevertheless, temperance in all things is and remains the motor of the true Christian. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. 1 Cor. 4:25. **AMEN.**

*Anthony Cedric Adjei, Ghana*



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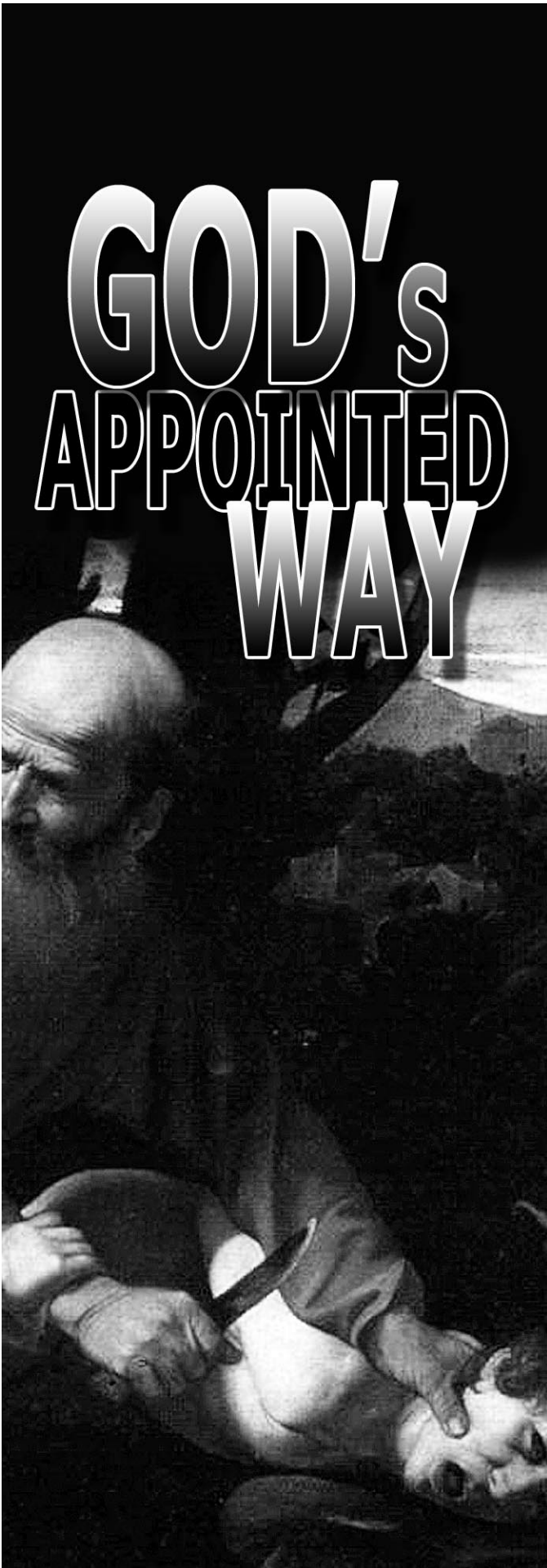
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**2006**



Who is wiser, man or God? Who can make a better plan for salvation than what God has made? Who can write a better book than the word of God.

Isaiah writes, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isa. 55: 8,9.

Yet, since the beginning man has placed himself above God. Since Adam and Eve's time, man has doubted God's wisdom, and gone directly opposite to His laws and instructions. God set apart the seventh day and sanctified it, but man has decided to change the Sabbath to the first day of the week, and almost the whole world follows man's commandments, rather than God's commandments.

God said, "that the wages of sin is death," but man has changed it, and instead says that "the wages of sin is eternal life in hell fire." Practically all that God has spoken man has decided to change. Therefore we have so many different churches, and all of them teach different doctrines, and different way to practice religion.

None of these churches teach salvation according to God's appointed way. There is only one church that teaches the truth as God has given it. Therefore only a small remnant will be saved out of millions of professed Christians.

How many Christians would see the wisdom of God in His commanding Abraham to sacrifice his son. It does not seem logical to human wisdom.

How many Christians would see the wisdom of God if He would tell them, "Go and sell all that you have and give to the poor." Many Christians think that ten percent of their income is too much to give.

Very few professed Christians have read the Bible through, simply because they do not think it is important to know what God has spoken.

God has appointed church meetings for our instruction and fellowship; but many do not see the importance of them. Often members stay home from prayer meetings, because they think that they know enough. Also, they may be busy with homework or they are tired from the day's work. They do not realize that these meetings are God's mediums for our salvation. Many will be lost because they neglected them.

The first one who started to doubt God's wisdom was Lucifer in heaven. Then next a multitude of angels joined with him, thinking that they are wiser than God. With this same deception he has created many different churches who all believe that they are right and everyone else is wrong, and God's appointed way is ignored.

Now as we come closer to our own church family, there are many who do not think that the standard need to be so high to reach salvation and eternal life.

Sister White tried to arouse the people to see their danger. Therefore she wrote over 100,000 pages of testimonies, books and private letters. But what value do these books have if we do not read them nor practice

their instructions?

These books are God's medium also which will help us into salvation. If we ignore them and do not read them, it is a neglect that may cost our eternal life.

"I have tried in the fear of God to set before His people their danger and their sins, and have endeavoured, to the best of my feeble powers, to arouse them. I have stated startling things, which, if they had believed, would have caused them distress and terror, and led them to zeal in repenting of their sins and iniquities. I have stated before them that, from what was shown me, but a small number of those now professing to believe the truth would eventually be saved—not because they could not be saved, but because they would not be saved in God's own appointed way. The way marked out by our divine Lord is too narrow and the gate too strait to admit them while grasping the world or while cherishing selfishness or sin of any kind. There is no room for these things; and yet there are but few who will consent to part with them, that they may pass the narrow way and enter the strait gate." Test. Vol. 2, p. 445, 446.

"One of the greatest reasons for the declension of the church at ----- is their measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves. There are but few who have the living principle in the soul and who serve God with an eye single to His glory. Many at ----- will not consent to be saved in God's appointed way. They will not take the trouble to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling. The latter they do no experience; and, rather than be at the trouble of obtaining an experience through individual effort, they will run the risk of leaning upon others and trusting in their experience. They cannot consent to watch and pray, to live for God and Him only. It is more pleasant to live in obedience to self." Test. Vol. 2, p. 397.

"God loves both of you and wants to save you with an abundant salvation. But it must not be in your way, but in God's own appointed way. You must comply with the conditions laid down in the Scriptures of truth, and God will as surely fulfill on His part as His throne is sure. Because the admonitions that God sends to His people are humiliating to human nature,

you must not, my brother, rise up against these reproofs and warnings. You need to die daily, to experience a daily crucifixion to self." Test. Vol. 3, p. 323, 324.

"No matter who you are or what your life has been, you can be saved only in God's appointed way. You must repent; you must fall helpless on the Rock, Christ Jesus. You must feel your need of a physician and of the only remedy for sin, the blood of Christ. This remedy can be secured only by repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ... The blood of Christ will avail for none but those who feel their need of its cleansing power." Maranatha, chapter 65.

The testimonies are clear and point out our danger of going out of God's appointed way.

As we are nearing the end, Satan's deceptions will increase and more people will fall to sleep like the foolish virgins while being in an unsaved condition.

When the Lord brings upon them trials and tests they complain and murmur like did Old Israel in the wilderness. They do not realize that these trials and fiery tests are God's appointed way to save them. Because they complain and are dissatisfied in the way that God is leading them, He will leave them alone as He did Old Israel, that only two adults reached the Promised Land.

Paul writes, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." Phil. 2:14.

He also adds, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28.

If we let God be our leader He will bring us daily into circumstances which will help us in our sanctification. It will not be an easy road, but it will lead us to perfection and to heaven. To learn humility and patience is not easy to endure, but there is no easier way to do it, except the way of God.

Joseph was sold as a slave and spent many years in prison. This was God's appointed way for him. Moses spent 40 years caring for sheep. This also was God's appointed way for him.

God will not give us even one drop of pain and sorrow needlessly. It is all well calculated in His wisdom in order to save us.

When fiery trials come on your way, when your best friends turn against you, when death seems more desirable than live, then remember to give thanks to the Lord for your trials.

These offences must come upon us, not to destroy us but to purify us, and make us ready for heaven. Then, behold the Lamb of God suffering without one word of murmur, or complaint. Also remember that the end will be glorious; the image of Jesus in us.

We sing in a gospel hymn, "The way of the cross leads home."

Then carry your cross cheerfully without complaint and this cross will save you, and eventually it will become your joy and glory. May the Lord help each one to accept God's appointed way for us.

**AMEN**

*Timo Martin, Canada*



**REFORMATION MESSENGER: JULY 2006**



# THE TRUTH SPREADS LIKE A FOREST FIRE

“If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.” Reformation Handbook, p. 16, para. 2

We were privileged and richly blessed with the presence of our dear Br. Shirima, minister of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Reform Movement in Africa. Br. Shirima was dreadfully sick, having a fever close to 105F. However, our brother did not give in to his sickness, but gained strength through Jesus Christ to share his wonderful experiences he had as a missionary for the Lord in Africa.

## **About Africa**

Africa is a continent made up of 57 countries with several different languages, Swahili being the most popular, and also includes Spanish, English, Arabic, Portuguese and more. It is spoken in all parts of Africa. Islam and Christianity are the two main religions, constantly causing war with each other. Brother Shirima, being a witness to several of these wars, later on shared some of his deadly experiences.

### *How the Reform Message Came to be in Africa*

The Reform message was first heard in Africa in the early 1920's. Later it was introduced to Zambia in 1940. In 1968, Kenya came to know the reformation, and in 1994 it was received in Tanzania. The message began to spread quickly through all of Africa. Because people began to convert to this wonderful faith, many were put in jail for at least a week, only making the message spread even quicker, amazingly touching the hearts of many.

Four years later, when war broke out in Africa, many brethren held onto their faith by not joining in such acts. These men and women of strong courage were tortured, put in jail and even put to death.

### *Brother Shirima, Victim of Burundi's Genocide*

When the message was brought to Burundi, over 3,000 souls accepted this truth, but not long after a genocide war broke out, causing Br. Shirima and a thousand more to flee at once from the war zone. Praise God, Br. Shirima was rescued after fleeing for a week. Unfortunately, thousands were killed in this genocide. As the war was isolated to Burundi, people had to flee to nearby countries. Only half of our brethren survived. These people had to suffer for ten years because of this genocide. Today there is great poverty in Burundi and our brethren need all the help they can get.

### *The Genocide in Uganda*

One million people were killed in the genocide that occurred in Uganda. Many of them were brethren in our faith, sadly in one incident, a whole church was wiped out.

### *Congo*

Congo, a French-speaking country, is the third largest country in Africa. Before the civil war in Congo, there were 10,000 members in the Reform Church. But after being scattered because of the war, only 3,000 members have remained. Life in Congo is very miserable

because of the amount of poverty that is found there. Out of all the other countries in Africa, Congo is considered to be one of the worst to be in. When Br. Shirima went to Congo for the second time, he was temporarily put in jail because he had traveled from Rwanda, and at the time there was a war between Rwanda and Congo. He was released the following day.

**Ghana**

The northern part of Ghana is made up of Muslims, but Christianity is most popular in the south. Ghana is a very religious country.

In 1994, the Reform message came to Ghana. Brethren from North America would constantly go visit believers in Ghana making it very stabilized. But for a while it was no longer visited, which caused it to collapse. But God in His mercy has once again given hope to the brethren.

**Togo**

Sixty percent of Togo is made up of voodoo religions. But many were receptive to the truth, a message they had never heard of. Their hearts were touched when Br. Shirima brought them this wonderful light.

**Liberia**

The brethren in Liberia are very enthusiastic about evangelizing the message to others that they have received. On the contrary, Nigeria has no members. But Br. Shirima intends to bring them this wonderful truth we have.

**Ethiopia**

Ethiopia is a unique country, interestingly it has never been colonized. For a while, Ethiopia didn't want any communication

with the rest of the world. It is very different from all the other countries in Africa. It has its own language, called Alamaric and it also has its own food. The brethren who wanted to preach the truth in Ethiopia weren't able to for a while. But, of course, the Lord always makes a way, with a lot of prayer the brethren had the opportunity to share with the Ethiopians the way to Jesus. Now there are 450 members in Ethiopia.

**Goodbye**

The doors are still open in Africa to win many souls. May our hearts be moved to help as much as we can. Offerings and donations are accepted at any time.

Let us always remember these brethren from Africa in our prayers and especially Br. Shirima who is hving difficulties with

his health. AMEN.

*Veronica Garcia*

**Number of Members:**

- Tanzania 1,000
- Kenya 1,200—the brethren are begging for donations to build a missionary school
- Uganda 300
- Rwanda 500
- Burundi 1,500
- Congo 3,000
- Ghana 100
- Benin 50
- Cameroon 300
- Ethiopia 450
- Malawi 400



# "WORSHIP THE LORD, YOUR GOD"

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the Soul;" Psalms 19:1

"God has seen fit in this manner to bring the minds of His people to His word, to give them a clearer understanding of it. The word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed testimonies, bringing them back to the word that they have neglected to follow..." – 5T – 633.

Here, in the continent of Asia, especially in India, they have a custom among the people which is to bow down and respect the elders just like God. Once upon a time the people worshiped kings and officers during slavery; now the people worship the world's political leaders. We can say this is fraud and an act of deception. But if we worship the Lord only with true faithfulness, we can receive everlasting benefits. We must remember this, always and in every moment in our lives.

The Holy Bible says, "You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them..." Exodus 20: 4, 5.

So, we know, if anyone worships or bows down to any carved image, or any likeness of anything or worship a dead person, it is called idol worship. The same way, there is no permission for human beings to worship any livestock, that is, animals, birds, trees or mankind. Why? This is a very dangerous sin.

## ***Serve the Lord your God:***

"Jesus was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil... the devil took Him upon an exceedingly

high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Matthew.4: 8–10.

[ Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20 ]. We must think of these words always. Because this warning is not only to Satan, but to all mankind. Idol worship is one of the greatest sins in the world. This kind of worship is spreading now everywhere to every corner of this world. Satan is deceiving the people through this kind of sin. Why? Satan knows very well, his time will close very soon. Our loving Saviour Jesus Christ is coming soon as the King of King and the Lord of Lords.

## ***Faithful Accountant Worshiped Jesus:***

"After the death of Moses, Joshua was to be the leader of Israel to conduct them to the Promised Land. He had been prime minister to Moses during the greater part of the time the Israelites had wandered in the wilderness. He had seen the wonderful works of God wrought by Moses, and well understood the disposition of the people. He was one of the twelve spies who were sent out to search the Promised Land, and one of the two who gave a faithful account of its richness and who encouraged the people to go up in the strength of God to possess it. He was well qualified for this important office. The Lord promised Joshua to be with him as He had been with Moses, and to make Canaan fall as easy conquest to Him, provided he would be faithful to observe all His commandments...

"The children of Israel had passed over Jordan and dry land. The passage of the Israelites over Jordan was to be miraculous.

"As Joshua withdrew from the armies of Israel, to meditate and pray for God's special presence to attend him, he saw a man of lofty stature, clad in warlike garments, with his sword drawn in his

hand. Joshua did not recognize him as one of the armies of Israel, and yet he had no appearance of being an enemy. In his zeal he accosted him, and said, 'Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And He said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto Him, What saith my Lord unto His servant? And the Captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.'

This was no common angel. It was the Lord Jesus Christ, He who had conducted the Hebrews through the wilderness, enshrouded in the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day. The place was made sacred by His presence." – The story of Redemption. pp.175, 178.

"No stain rested upon the holy character of Joshua. He was a wise leader. His life was wholly devoted to God... Joshua was loved and respected by all Israel." What wonderful advice he gave to the children of Israel. "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth,... And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve,... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." – The story of Redemption, pp. pp.181, 182., Joshua. 24 : 14, 15.

## ***Abraham – the friend of God!***

"Then Abraham fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:" Genesis 17:3, 17.

"Abraham, 'the friend of God,' set us a worthy example. His was a life of prayer. Wherever he pitched his tent, close beside it was set up his altar, calling all within his encampment to the morning and evening sacrifice. When his tent was removed, the altar remained. In following years, there were those among the roving Canaanites who received instruction from Abraham; and whenever one of these came to that altar, he knew who had been there before

him; and when he had pitched his tent, he repaired the altar, and there worshiped the living God.” – PP, p.128.

“God conferred great honor upon Abraham. Angels of heaven walked and talked with him as friend with friend...” PP, p.138.

“Of Abraham it is written that ‘he was called the friend of God,’ ‘the father of all them that believe.’ James 2:23; Romans 4:11. The testimony of God concerning this faithful patriarch is, ‘Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.’ And again, ‘I know him, that he will command his children and his house hold after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him.’ It was a high honor to which Abraham was called, that of being the father of that people who for centuries were the guardians and preservers of the truth of God for the world—of that people through whom all the nations of the earth should be blessed in the advent of the promised Messiah.” – PP, pp. 140, 141.

### ***So, what we are learning from the life of our ancestor, prophet Abraham?***

“Abraham had honoured God, and the Lord honoured him taking him into His counsels, and revealing to him His purposes. ‘Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?’ said the Lord...” PP, p.139.

The above same words repeated again from another prophet, Samuel, “Therefore the Lord God of Israel says... for those who honour me I will honour, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.” – I Samuel 2:30.

### ***Shall We Worship the Angels?***

Here in India, people are worshipping everything in nature. For example: the rain is called Varuna Bhagavan, Fire – Angi Bhagavan, Air – Vayu Bhagavan; in different names, they are worshipping trees, animals, birds, heaven and earth. (Bhagavan means God) So, they are thinking everything is God. But we know God created everything perfectly and beautifully in this world for the happiness of mankind. Livestock fears man, yet man surrenders in front of them and worships them. For example, the ram, ox, and

chicken fear man, so he killed and ate these kinds of animals and birds. Man fears the tiger, lion, rain, snake, fire, thunder. Yet, he worshipped them anyway, though worship of nature is sin. The Bible says, “Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.” – Psalm 104:4; Hebrews 1:7.

So, we can understand the people in Asia worshipping angels also, especially the Hindu people. They worship water, earth, fire, air and heaven and many things included in the above five. For many years this has been the custom of the Asian people.

### ***I am your fellow servant:***

So, there is no permission in the Bible for worshipping the Angels.

One of Jesus’ disciples, Apostle John, tried to worship the Angel. But the Angel said to him, “...see thou do it not! I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God!...” Rev. 19:10 Again Apostle John tried to worship the Angel, as written in Revelation 22:8, 9, “And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. Then saith he unto me, ‘See thou do it not, for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.’” So we can conclude that the worship of angels also sin.

We know that angels are our friends, they are always helping us, teaching us heavenly things. Sister E.G. White says to us, “We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions,” – M.H.p.249, “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” – Hebrews 1:14.

### ***I myself am also a man:***

“And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, ‘Stand up; I myself also am a man.’” – Acts 10:25, 26.

“As Peter entered the house of the Gentile, Cornelius did not salute him as an ordinary visitor, but as one honored of Heaven,

and sent to him by God. It is as eastern custom to bow before a prince or other high dignitary, and for children to bow before their parents who are honored with positions of trust. But Cornelius, overwhelmed with reverence for the apostle who had been delegated by God, fell at his feet and worshipped him.

“Peter shrank with horror from this act of the centurion, and lifted him to his feet, saying, ‘Stand up; I myself also am a man.’ He then commenced to converse with him familiarly, in order to remove the sense of awe and extreme reverence with which the centurion regarded him.

“Had Peter been invested with the authority and position accorded to him by the Roman catholic church, he would have encouraged, rather than have checked the veneration of Cornelius. The so called successors of Peter require kings and emperors to bow at their feet, but Peter himself claimed to be only an erring and fallible man.” – The story of redemption. p. 287.

So, we could also not worship mankind. According to the word of our Saviour Jesus Christ, “you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.” – Matthew 4:10.

“From every Christian home a holy light should shine forth. Love should be revealed in action. It should flow out in all home intercourse, showing itself in thoughtful kindness, in gentle, unselfish courtesy. There are homes where this principle is carried out – homes where God is worshiped and truest love reigns. From these homes morning and evening prayer ascends to God as sweet incense, and His mercies and blessing descend upon the suppliants like the morning dew.” – PP.p.144.

“...God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” – Acts, 10:34, 35.

May God abundantly bless all those who are reading this article and who faithfully worship the Lord our God. **Amen.**

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# CHOOSE HOW YOU START YOUR DAY



## CHILDRENS CORNER

Michael is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Michael was there telling the employee to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Michael and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Michael replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Mike, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it."

"Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes it is," Michael said. "Life is all about

choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how to react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Michael said. Soon thereafter, I left my employment to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Michael was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Michael was released from

the hospital with rods placed in his back.

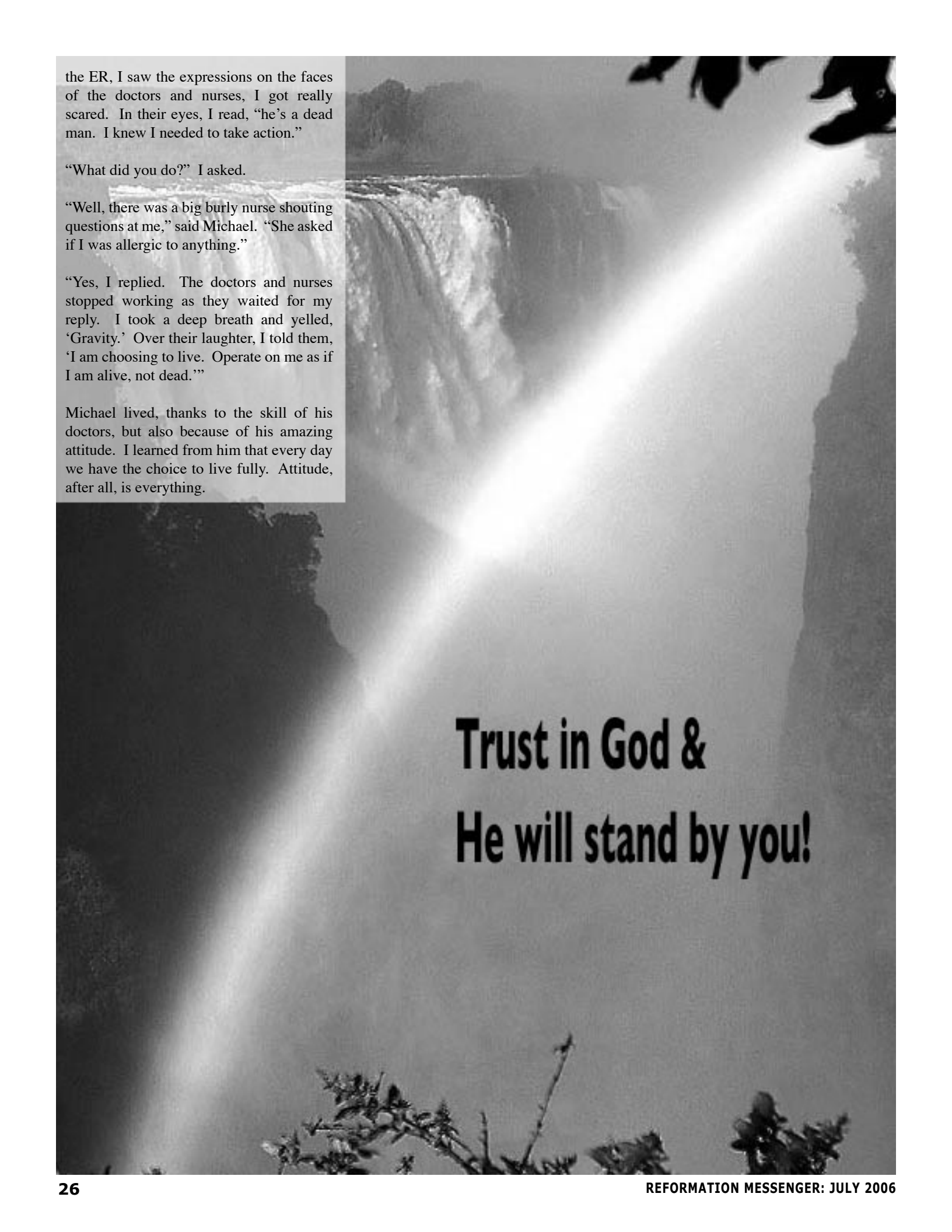
I saw Michael about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I would be twins. Do you want to see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was the well-being of my soon to be born daughter," Michael replied. "Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared?" Did you lose consciousness?" I asked. Michael continued, "... the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into





the ER, I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, “he’s a dead man. I knew I needed to take action.”

“What did you do?” I asked.

“Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me,” said Michael. “She asked if I was allergic to anything.”

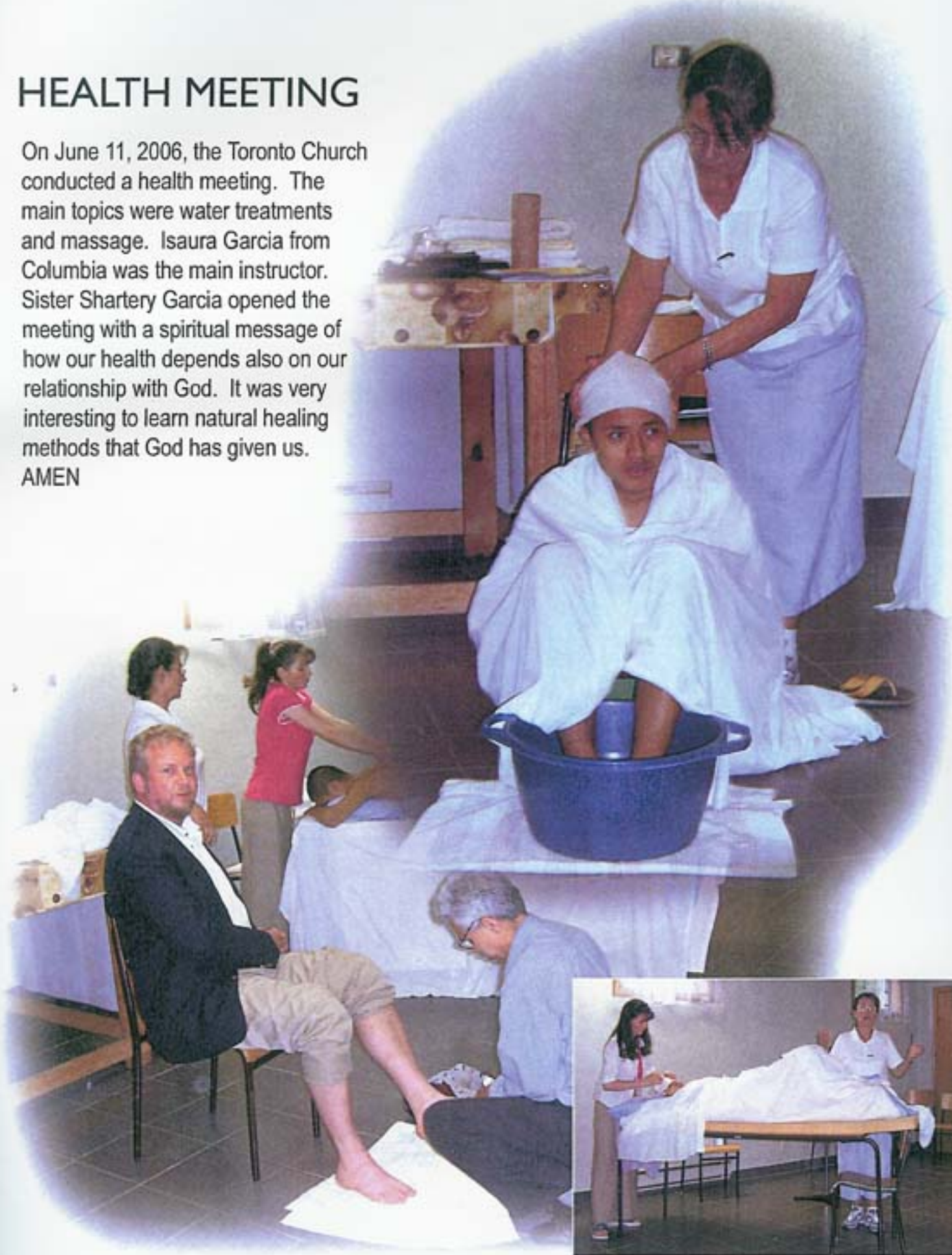
“Yes, I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, ‘Gravity.’ Over their laughter, I told them, ‘I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.’”

Michael lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

**Trust in God &  
He will stand by you!**

## HEALTH MEETING

On June 11, 2006, the Toronto Church conducted a health meeting. The main topics were water treatments and massage. Isaura Garcia from Columbia was the main instructor. Sister Shartery Garcia opened the meeting with a spiritual message of how our health depends also on our relationship with God. It was very interesting to learn natural healing methods that God has given us. AMEN



# *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*

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*While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the under-current is tending. Its professions are mild, and apparently Christian; but when it shall speak, it will reveal the spirit of the dragon. It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures, and be able to give the reason for our faith. Says the prophet, "The wicked shall do wickedly, and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."*

*Ellen G. White*