

The Reformation **Messenger**

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

*"And Jesus, when he was baptized,
went up straightway out of the water:
and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him,
and he saw the Spirit of God descending
like a dove, and lighting upon him"*

Matthew 3:16



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.

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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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- Tel: 416-252-1197 Fax: 416-252-6625
- Email: timom@sympatico.ca
- Web: www.imsmessenger.org

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About the Cover:

The beach in Australia where Steve Caruana was baptized.

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COUNT IT ALL JOY

Every one wants to be happy. In the world people are going to great lengths to secure happiness and, unfortunately, most people are looking in the wrong places. In the Bible God has clearly given instructions which, if followed, will lead a person to true happiness and joy. However, Satan is telling the world a lie, just like he told Eve in Eden. He told Eve that God does not have man's best interest in mind in withholding something apparently good from them. Today he also tells people lies. He tells them that God does not want them to be happy. He tells them that God's way of happiness is all wrong and in reality it leads to a life of toil, pain and sadness. His own broad road is full of fun, excitement and entertainment. His way is the way of true happiness. God's way is boring. As followers of Christ, we must show the world that there is greater joy and happiness in serving the Lord than in serving Satan.

One lie that Satan tells people is that if they have a lot of money and don't need to work any more they will be supremely happy. He tells them to work as hard as they can to make as much money as possible so they can retire early and enjoy a life that is free from any care or obligations. They would not have to work any more at an age where they are still physically quite strong so now they can be free from care to relax at home, travel, and enjoy the entertainments of the world.

However, you need not wait until your retirement years or have a lot of money to enjoy this happiness that Satan offers. You can have it right now. You can indulge to your hearts content on evenings and weekends. Just toil on through the week and live for the weekends. If you run out of money, use the credit card and don't worry; the bank will take care of your bills for now.

Yes, Satan makes it appear very attractive, but it is all a lie. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12.

On the contrary, can the true Christian enjoy life if they don't go to the movies or theaters; if they don't watch TV or go to

parties? If they eat only simple foods and deny their own desires and cravings? They carry a heavy, shameful cross daily with regular fasting and self denial. Paul said, "I die daily?" 1 Cor. 15:31. Is this happiness? After Adam and Eve fell into sin, they were told, "In sorrow shalt thou eat of it, all the days of thy life." Genesis 3:17. Job says that, "Man is born unto trouble." Job 5:17. Jesus said "If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23. Again, is this happiness?

The Prodigal son was deceived by Satan's lies. He believed that his life on the farm with his father would not lead to happiness. He was thinking that all the glitter of the world, the party life, would bring him true happiness. He found out the hard way, when he ran out of money, that in the end there was no happiness at all. Thankfully he came to himself before he reached the very end of the road [death]. He said "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee." Luke 15:18. He realized that his father's way of life was the way to true happiness after all. His father had been right all along. His father was waiting for him with open arms when he came back.

The prodigal son portrays the sentiments of many young people in today's society, including many who have been brought up in the faith. They see the rules and restrictions in the home and church as only barriers to the true happiness that they see exists in the world and they thirst for it. They desire to be free from these rules and to enjoy life with those fun-loving people who are apparently enjoying life to the fullest. "Let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die." 1 Cor. 15:32. Who cares about the future life – just revel in happiness now.

Solomon was one who thought wealth would bring him happiness. He had surrounded himself with wine, women and song. How did he feel as his life was approaching its end?

Firstly he described how he enjoyed life to the fullest. Being the richest and wisest man that ever lived, he had the potential to also be the happiest man that ever lived, is

that not correct? Is that not what Satan is telling people today? Wealth and wisdom = happiness?

"I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life. I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees: I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour." Eccl. 2:3-10. He went on to sum up his life and here was his conclusion.

"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." Eccl 2:11. He even said, "Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me:" Eccl. 2:17. He found no happiness in all his wealth.

God does want people to be happy. The road to heaven is not an initiation process of suffering that you must endure in order to be granted the gift of eternal life. There is joy to be experienced along the way. It is not in the things of this world as the Prodigal son and Solomon thought.

Yes, God wants you to experience true joy, but there is a difference between joy and happiness. One of the fruits of the spirit is

“joy”, not “happiness.” (Gal 5:22).

Happiness is fleeting. It is dependant on outward external influence and is easily lost and found, by external circumstances. For example, Leah was happy when she was bearing children for Jacob. “And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher.” Genesis 30:13 Her life was not always happy though. She had a husband who loved her sister more than her. There were plenty of times that she was not happy.

Joy is everlasting. It is a calm and peaceful trust in God. No matter what the outward circumstances are, the inward joy remains unaffected. “These things have I spoken unto you, that my *joy might remain* in you, and that your joy might be full.” John 15:11. “When the light of heaven shines upon the human agent, his countenance will express the joy of the Lord within. It is the absence of Christ from the soul that makes people sad and of a doubtful mind. It is the want of Christ that makes the countenance sad, and their life is a pilgrimage of sighs. Rejoicing is the very keynote of the Word of God for all who receive Him. Why? Because they have the Light of life. Light brings gladness and joy, and that joy is expressed in the life and the character.” MS 96 1898.

Satan can take away our happiness. We may be sad at times, but he can never take away our joy if we are experiencing joy in the Lord.

As Christians we really do want both joy and happiness but in this world of sin we do get sad sometimes. We get sad when a loved one dies. We get sad when we lose a job, but if we have an inner peace, the joy remains and happiness can return again.

Does God’s way of life offer happiness and joy? Yes, you can have both. Satan only offers happiness that is fleeting. People are searching for the next party, the next form of entertainment, the next bottle of alcohol or the next drug to keep them happy. There is no happiness, joy or inner peace between these “happy” experiences.

IS THERE ANY HAPPINESS IN THE WORLD?

The world can provide happiness temporarily. To the proud man, having a high position is happiness. To a revengeful

person, revenge is sweet. To a sensual person, to gratify his passion is happiness. To a pleasure loving person, a good movie, show or music is happiness. To many people rich foods and drinks are happiness to gratify their appetites. To an alcoholic, another drink is happiness and to the drug addict another dose of a drug is happiness. These people are happy for a time, however are they joyful?

They are completely deceived by Satan. Let’s take alcohol for instance. How does the modern media portray alcohol consumption? Often TV commercials for alcohol show people having fun at the beach, or at a party. They appear happy and carefree. This is how Satan portrays it. The media does not show the end result, with the drunk lying in the ditch or the alcoholic who can’t support his family. The end results are hidden from view. It is true with any sin. STD’s and unwanted pregnancies are the last thing on the minds of young people who are sinning by fornication. There is happiness in the world, but not true lasting joy.

GOD’S INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRUE JOY

Firstly, it is important to remember that God DOES want you to be joyous and happy. There is no sin in being happy. “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” Romans 14:17

“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” John 16:23, 24 If we ask our heavenly Father for joy, will He give it to us? He most certainly will.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit

“And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.” Romans 13:52. Here is our first point. Being filled with the Holy Ghost brings a person joy. What does the Holy Ghost do for us? He will “guide you into all truth,” and “reprove the world of sin.” John 16:11,8. Does this sound like happiness? Most people do not like to have their sins and errors pointed out. They make excuses, like Adam and Eve did, or they get angry. But the followers of Christ find it joyful to have their sins pointed out. They are happy because now they can

correct the errors in their life – errors that they may not have seen before and which would have prevented them from entering heaven. We should rather thank the person bringing reproof to us.

“Whom the Lord loveth he rebuketh.” Job 5:17 “Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;” Psalm 94:12 “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” Hebrews 12:5-7

Missionary Work

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.” Luke 10:17. These seventy returned from a missionary tour with great joy. While on tour, they were away from the comforts of their homes and families. They likely experienced some difficulties and rejection along the way, however, there is great joy in seeing souls turn from the ways of darkness into light. There is no greater joy than to be a part of this experience. Although the angels are living in the bliss of heaven, they too receive great joy from this experience. Although they are unseen, they are working tirelessly for man’s salvation. And there is great joy when they see success for their labour. “Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” John 15:10. Paul and Silas were found singing in the dungeon while doing God’s work. The jail cell could not quench their joy. (Acts 16:25).

Though their outward body may suffer, it need not disturb their inward peace. This has proven to be true with many martyrs and Christians who have been persecuted for Christ’s sake.

Suffer for the faith

“But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.” 1 Pet. 4:13 “Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of

your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.” Phil 2:17. Paul was a joyful man, and what kind of life did he live? “Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.” 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Yet he had no regrets at the end of his life. He was able to say, “I have fought a good fight,” 2 Timothy 4:7.

“How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.” 2 Cor. 8:2.

In Temptation

Often when people are tempted by Satan, they get exasperated. A struggle is involved in fighting against sin. The flesh wants to yield, while the spirit desires to remain firm. However, we should rejoice when we are tried. “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” James 1: 2-4. “Faith, patience, forbearance, heavenly-mindedness, trust in your wise, heavenly Father, are the perfect blossoms which mature amidst clouds and disappointments and bereavements.” (Letter 1, 1883)

Obedience to Parents/Authorities

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Heb 13:17. Although young people often don’t believe it, there is truly joy in obeying those in authority, whether parents, teachers, or some public authority figure. Obedience here creates quiet, peaceful families and communities.

Afflicted And Mourn

“Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.” James 4:9. Is James wrong to say here that we should not be happy? “It is right to be cheerful, and even joyful. It is right to cultivate cheerfulness of spirit through sanctification of the truth; but it is not right to indulge in foolish jesting and joking, in lightness and trifling, in words of criticism and condemnation of others.

“Those who observe such persons who make a profession of religion, know that they are deceived. They know that the hands of such professors need to be cleansed, their hearts need to be purified. They need to experience genuine repentance for sin. What have they to mourn over? They should mourn over their inclination to sin, over the danger they are in from inward corruption and from outward temptation. They should be afraid because they have so feeble a sense of the sinfulness of sin, and so little idea of what constitutes sin.” (Letter 13, 1893)

“And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:” 1 Thess. 1:6. Affliction can bring us joy. We have the comfort that Jesus has walked the way before us. “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.” John 15:18.

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb 12:2. Why is this? He loved others more than himself.

JOY IN THE ATONEMENT

“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.” Rom. 5:11 “The atonement of Christ is not a mere skillful way to have our sins pardoned; it is a divine remedy for the cure of transgression and the restoration of spiritual health. It is the Heaven-ordained means by which the righteousness of Christ may be not only upon us but in our hearts and characters.” (Letter 406, 1906). As we contemplate this, our hearts overflow with joy. Nothing is too dear to give up for Christ.

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalm 119:165 “There is no peace in unrighteousness; the wicked are at war with God. But he who receives the righteousness of the law in Christ, is in harmony with heaven.” (Letter 96, 1896).

The world may look at Christians and either think they are crazy, always happy and joyful even in the most distressing times, or they may view them with envy, wishing they had the same peace that they had when they are going through difficulties. It has disturbed many people to see the peace on Christian faces amidst trial. Nero was disturbed when he went to view the faces of the martyrs he had condemned to death and they all had smiles on their faces.

“If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.” 1 Peter 4:14

SORROW TURNED TO JOY

Although we experience trials and difficulties, it does not need to disturb our peace. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.” John 6:20. Who will be happy when Christ appears? The people in the world will have completely lost their happiness while God’s people will be overflowing with joy.

The greatest hindrance that Christians face when regarding the experience of joy is when they try to attach to Christ without detaching from the world. These are the most unhappy people in the world. They are not happy in the world as their conscience bothers them, but they are not happy in the church as they still love the world. They may pretend to be happy to look good in front of others, but they are miserable inside. The only source of true happiness is in Christ.

May God help us to find the true Joy that is offered to us, rather than searching for the fleeting happiness that is offered by the world. There is true joy found only in Christ and in His service. **AMEN**

Wendy Eaton, Canada

LAODICEA MUST OVERCOME

Part 9

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”
Revelation 3:21

In previous messages we saw that Christ’s messages to each of the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 contain certain common elements. For example, to each church, Christ says, “I know thy works”. These messages are Christ’s evaluation of His people throughout the history of the church. He also begins His closing remarks to each church by saying, “He that overcometh...” followed by a promise unique to that church. The ultimate purpose of these messages to the seven churches is that God’s people may be overcomers, victorious.

In what sense must Laodicea overcome? Christ tells us that He wants us to overcome, so we need to know what it is He wants us to be victorious over.

The heart of the Laodicean message, we have seen so far, is that we need to overcome self. Whether it is our law keeping or our good works, or whatever we take pride in, the heart of our problem as Laodicea is self-righteousness. Wherever there is self, there is sin. So the thing we need to overcome is self.

And what is Christ’s promise to those in Laodicea who overcome sin?
“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”
Revelation 3:21

“I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps. And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts. And the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruit unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile for they are without fault before the throne of God.” (verses 2-5)

This group have not only been justified by faith, as have all believers, but they have experienced the full power of the gospel – that is, the imparted righteousness of Christ. “In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God” (verse 5). Revelation, chapter 7 also pictures this same group in these words:

“These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them”(verses 14,15).

This is the privilege Christ wants to give each of us.

Christ’s closing words to the Laodicean church contain something that doesn’t appear in His closing words to the other six churches. To each of the six, Jesus says, “He that overcometh...” But He takes Laodicea one step further; He adds, “Even as I also overcame: (verse 21). He wants this last generation of Christians to overcome in the same way that He overcame. The True Witness is pointing to His own victory as the example for Laodicea.

What did Christ overcome?

First, He overcame the world. He told His disciples, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). What did He mean? The Bible defines the world as "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1John 2:16). All this Christ overcame.

Second, He also overcame the prince of this world – Satan (see John 14:30). Jesus totally overcame Satan, and He overcame him, giving us an example of how we also can overcome him.

Third, He also overcame sin in the flesh. "God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and condemned sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:3). He condemned or overcame the law of sin and death – the principle of sin, which is the principle of self that dwells in sinful flesh.

All this Christ overcame – the world, the devil, and the flesh, or self. He overcame so that "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us" (verse 4).

Paul explains further what Christ has brought to us by His redemptive work. Christ "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" (Galatians 1:4). That is why we have hope. We are delivered from the evil that exists in this world.

The apostle John says, "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith" (1John 5:4). Never think that you will overcome the world and its sin by your own efforts or by your willpower alone. The world, the devil, and the flesh can be overcome only by faith, combined along with our efforts.

Paul is quite clear in Romans, chapter 7 that in and of ourselves, we cannot keep the law or do genuine good works. He ends the chapter with a summary describing what the Christian struggle with sin is like apart from the power of the Spirit. "With the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin" (verse 25). We can identify with Paul's lament, because we have experienced it so many times

ourselves. We contend against the flesh in battle and try to overcome with the power of our minds. And who wins? The flesh wins! Can your mind conquer your flesh? Paul's answer in Romans, chapter 7 is No. And the answer of our experience, over and over again is likewise No. The unconverted mind can defy the flesh for a time, but it can never overcome it.

Yet Paul goes on to say in Romans, chapter 8 that Christ has condemned – which includes overcoming – this law of sin in the flesh. And He did so in order "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (verse 4). The victory of Christ is not only to be applied to us for our benefit, but it is also for us to experience

If Laodicea finally repents, and turns from self-righteousness to the righteousness of Christ, if she walks by faith alone and no longer depends on self but on God, then all the victories described in Revelation 15 will be hers.

John says:

"I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb" (verses 2,3)

This is God's purpose for Laodicea.

What is the secret of this victory?

John says, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them (the false prophets, the antichrist, the beast, his mark, and his image) because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" 1 John 4:4

John is speaking of two persons here: "he that is in you" and "he that is in the world" He that is in the world is Satan. And he that is in you is Christ's Spirit. How do we know?

Paul says, "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). And Paul adds, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2). Christ dwells in you and I through the Holy Spirit. John is saying that the Holy Spirit who represents

Christ dwelling in us, is greater than Satan who dwells in the world. That is the source of our victory over sin.

Paul presents a similar argument. He says:

"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10: 4,5).

Notice what you can do in the power of "Christ in you" The Bible says it is possible to bring every thought under control by the power of the indwelling Christ.

Now comes the big question. What is the cost? What does it cost to have Christ dwelling and walking in us?

I can sum up the cost in one word – brokenness. In order to buy the heavenly merchandise offered by the True Witness – the gold purified in the fire, the white clothing, and the eye salve – we must be willing to pay the price, and the price is brokenness.

Jesus illustrated the brokenness that has to take place by what happens when we plant grain. He said "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (John 12:24). The shell of a kernel of wheat is very hard. The life is not in the shell; it is inside the germ. The shell has to be broken by water. It has to be softened and broken so that the life inside may spring out and produce fruit.

Paul uses the symbol of a vase or jar of expensive perfume. Now, when you buy expensive perfume, it often comes in a very beautiful bottle. The bottle is so pretty that you keep the bottle even after you have used all the perfume. Mary's alabaster jar held a very expensive perfume, but it was sealed. No one knew what was in it until she broke it open. Then the smell of this expensive perfume filled the whole room.

Christ is dwelling in you and in every born-again believer. But no-one can see Christ in you until the outer shell is broken. But here is the problem. We are great admirers of the beautiful bottles! We think that

the church cannot do without us. Some of us feel that the church could never get along without our expertise or our academic degrees. Some of us feel that the church would collapse without our administrative abilities. Some of us feel that this church would come to nothing without our gifts.

I have to give you some bad news. None of us is indispensable. The church can survive just fine without you or I. But it cannot survive without Christ. Don't ever get the idea when Christ uses you mightily that the church cannot do without you. It is Christ in you who is the hope of glory.

For the inner Christ to shine outwardly, the shell must be broken.

Self must be put aside. This world needs to see not how good we are, which is self-righteousness, but how good Christ is. That will take place only when we are willing to be broken. Self must die in order that Christ may live in us and through us (see Philippians 3:10).

The ultimate purpose of the Laodicean message is to help us realize that God wants a people – not just individuals, but a people – through whom He can lighten the earth with His glory. When this happens, God will be able to demonstrate the power of the gospel to the world, and there will be no excuse for anyone to be lost. God will be able to say to the universe and to the disbelieving world, “Here are My people. Here are the ones who have the faith of Jesus and have overcome self as He overcame”.

The devil will respond as he did in Job's case, “Let me see. Let me test them.” How severe will the test be? It will be a test that no other generation has ever experienced (see Daniel

12:1; Jeremiah 30:7). When that test arrives, will Laodicea be able to overcome? God has promised that there will be a people who will overcome in His strength.

The question is: Will we be willing to be broken? Will we be willing to say, “Not I, but Christ”?

The real issue is not whether we are going to heaven or not. The issue is that the world desperately needs to see Christ in us, the hope of glory. The world is waiting to see God's goodness, not man's goodness.

We have the light, but we must not have it under a bushel. Jesus says to us, “Ye are the light of the world....Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14).

It means that you'll be willing to be hurt when people don't appreciate you.

Are we willing to swallow our pride when that attitude occurs? Are we willing to be hurt even by a fellow church member and not give up? Ellen White says that we are to draw warmth from the coldness of others in these last days (see 5T: 136).

When someone says something that hurts you, please don't say “I'll quit coming to church” Jesus wasn't appreciated either when He arrived in our world. “He came unto His own, and his own received him not” (John 1:11). What would have happened to us if Jesus had said, “These people don't appreciate the tremendous sacrifice I'm making for them. I'll go back to heaven”?

Christ didn't let ingratitude or abuse deter Him from His mission. They spat on Him and made fun of Him. Have you ever been spat on? And what was Jesus' response? “Father, forgive them” In spite of the way the world treated Him, Jesus hung on and overcame. He overcame pride. He overcame self. He was obedient even to the death of the cross; He was willing to empty Himself and become nothing so that you and I might be in His kingdom!

When you and I are willing to surrender self and let the Holy Spirit take over, then we will overcome. Then the world will be lightened by God's glory. We need to begin today in our neighbourhood, in our own church.

“This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1John 5:4).
Amen

Anonymous





“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” Ps 34:4

When I think of my teen life and my then relationship with God the image of a fraying rope being held together by a single thread comes to mind.

Growing up in a Sunday church the Lord gave me from a young age the clarity of mind to see the many contradictions and false teachings that the people absorbed without one thought or question, but being young I was ill prepared to question doctrines and priests; there seemed no one who could guide me in reading the Bible. I remember trying hard to make sense of the book in which my life was to be governed but it seemed like a puzzle that I could not solve. Although I despaired, part of me held on knowing in time I would find my answers, and a voice repeated in my mind, “be patient”.

As the early years of my teen life went on I became enchanted with the world and God began to fade from my thoughts. After receiving disappointments here and there but failing to understand them as the gentle call of God to return to Him, I began to question my God.

My church attendance slowly disintegrated and the questioning and curious mind I once had, fuelled by despair and distracted by the excitement of the world softened to a whisper; I had become but a number in the church, another voiceless person to occupy the seats. Although I had begun to turn from God, part of me held on knowing in time I would find my answers, and a voice repeated in my mind, “be patient”.

The last years of my teen life were by far the most challenging and despairing. I was completely in the world, a rebellious teen angered with how unfair life was, made bitter by demands of a family that expected much from me and would mentally bring me down if I did not meet standards. I associated myself with people that cared little about anything else but themselves and would betray each other’s trust for personal satisfaction; these were my friends. All the while my esteem faded and my anger would be directed at God. I went through many a heartbreak in this time also, domestic quarrels and being stuck in a destructive relationship with a maniacally jealous and suicidal girl brought me to a low point. Instead of turning to my Saviour for answers I cursed Him and fell further into the world. I turned to alcohol and drugs for my escape and as I entered my final year of school the pressure that had been building only grew. My family on my back, my friends not caring for my problems, a relationship that brought me to frustration and anger and the mix of drugs to escape life were taking their toll.

This final year was to me a blur, I had sunk deep and realised it when my grandfather passed away right before my final exams. I cried bitterly yet deep within I was indifferent, I had lost hope in God and in my life. I no longer cared. I continued to drink my pain away thinking there was nothing else to do and went through my final exams without care, I did not study one book before me just to make my family angry and went to my exams hung-over and under the influence. I didn’t want anything anymore, this life had become dull and I was so bitter. The boy who had once eagerly sought the Lord had become lost in me. I repeatedly questioned God, why if He cared so much for me was I losing the strength to live?

I finished my exams and decided I needed to get away. With my so-called friends I took a vacation from myself and my troubled world. I did not care at that point about anyone in my life and wanted to do nothing but party. I had become a shadow of who I really was and at times I could hear the faint whispers within me say "This isn't who you are". It wasn't long before the thread that held me together broke. I, being utterly bitter decided to betray my friends and after doing so felt in full the pain that I had hid away. As all my friends took their turn to cast me out of their lives I felt the emptiness inside me swell and no drink could let me escape it.

I staggered to the beach late in the night and I was ready to end it, despair had defined my life, emptiness had defined me. I walked into the freezing waters and felt a soothing sensation, I was ready to let go, I was ready to give up. I walked further into the dark water and just as I went to dive into my grave alone and defeated, I heard a once familiar voice scream out, "be patient!"

Tears flooded down my face as I realised the Lord was with me, I was not alone and after falling so far from Him I realised that it was His hand under me when I needed Him most. He had been through my bitter walk right by my side and now I finally listened to His call. I fell to my knees and did something I had not done in years, I prayed. I prayed earnestly, letting Him know my heart's desire for Him, letting Him know I needed Him and I asked for forgiveness again and again. I could not stop crying, the tears blurred my vision so I kept my eyes shut. Still in the freezing water I prayed and cried out to God, "Lord show me what my life is for, what do you want of me?" I pleaded with the Lord to give me a sign. As the hours passed I felt a peace in my heart that I had never experienced before and as I opened my eyes I saw before me the sun rising. For the first time in a long time I was happy, my Lord was with me and I finally understood that He was more than stories in a book. He was an ever present companion, a true friend. I did not know where He would lead me from there but I trusted in His promise of something better, all I had to do was "Be patient".

By the Lord's mercy my marks were good enough for me to enter university and I could see that my life was changing; I made a firm

decision to treat others the way I had wished to be treated no matter what and to put them ahead of myself. Eager to start my new life I entered university a decidedly new man and by the Lord's purpose and grace the first person I met there was a young woman named Elizabeth. In the year that followed, Elizabeth shared with me little gems of the Lord's word that sowed in me seeds of curiosity that once filled my childhood. I could see in her a strong desire to serve the Lord and by her own experiences she attracted me to Him even more. I decided to study the Word for myself and with a little guidance my interest sparked to a unquenchable fire. I was so eager to know more about the precious Saviour that had been with me in the water and urged me to wait for something to come. To my delight that something to come had been Elizabeth and the IMS. Not long after my desire to serve the Lord was sparked was I asked her if I could come to church and learn more of the Lord.

It has been a year since I celebrated my first Sabbath and my life is now better than I ever imagined. The Lord saved me from myself and from that day I wanted to give everything that I was to Him. On the 13th of July 2007, my best friend, Elizabeth and I made our stand for the Lord and to make it even more special to me, we were baptised in the waters that only a few years before I went into to take my life. In a way I finished what I had begun but this time it was on a happier note. As I stood in the water the voice that beckoned me to keep fighting the good fight was echoed in the songs of my church family and the peace that the Lord had given me on that fearful night was present again.

What a joy it is to know Jesus! What a joy it is to belong to His family! If anything, my life has taught me to never let go of God because He never lets go of you. If ever your walk with the Lord comes to a low always remember to "be patient." *Amen*
Steve Caruana

Baptism of Steve Caruana and Elizabeth Manua.

On Friday July 13, Steve Caruana and Elizabeth Manua were baptized.

In the words of Steve Caruana, "the day was perfect and I truly felt the Spirit of the Lord manifest Himself in each member

present. The entire Sydney church all made their way to sunny Queensland to celebrate with the members of the Queensland church. Members either drove the 12 hours from Sydney to the baptism site or flew by plane. The day was cloudless, sunny and the location was postcard-worthy. We met early at a secluded spot in Burleigh Heads where the calm river met the open ocean. After setting up and clearing our minds with a walk along the shore, the church raised up in unity to sing my favourite hymn, "Search Me, O God," followed by some encouraging words from Brother Ebby, and a song by the water performed by Sister Val and her family. The song fittingly suggested that there is a time for everything and that the time for God was now.

"Elizabeth and I both entered the water together and although the water chilled to the bones, my heart was filled with a calming joy. As I witnessed Liz's baptism, I remembered the day the Lord called me from the world. I saw my best friend take a step that would lead her to a fruitful life in Christ, and it took all my strength to hold back the tears as I thanked the Lord for this moment. Then came my turn to make my choice. I looked out at the gathered family, brothers and sisters all smiling back at me and I flashed back to my experience. I was no longer alone on that shore; the same voice that urged me to be patient, to keep strong and hold on to hope was voiced in every member as they sang the hymn that led me to my watery grave.

"After changing from our baptismal gowns, we were presented our baptismal certificates. Brother Paul saw it appropriate to use Acts 7:55-56 as my baptismal verses. I truly understand what a miracle is, by the way the Lord has taken me into His fold. I have always questioned through the past year, why me, Lord? I am unworthy. I am a great sinner, but God's love for me has shown me that although I am blameful... I am also hopeful.

"I know this is the beginning of a great new chapter in my life and the trials to come will test my faith even more, but my heart is set and my confidence is steadfast. I will see my Saviour and my prayer is that all will stay strong in His love and mercy."

Steve Caruana



Stand Up For Jesus!

Canadian Field Conference
August 17-19, 2007

Motto: Stand Up For Jesus

On a beautiful summer evening we opened the Canadian Field Conference with an opening message from Br. John Bescec:

Standing up for Jesus is an individual decision. It is a personal decision. It is a statement that we make to the Lord and to those around us. This, brothers and sisters is a CALL TO ACTION.

The question that I would like to ask each one of you is to stop and think for a moment, how have I stood up for Jesus... today, yesterday, last week, last month and during this past year? Have I stood up for my Lord and Saviour in my personal life, in my family, in my neighbourhood, amongst my friends, at work, at school, in my community? What will the record books in heaven show? Did I stand up for Jesus, and how did I do it?

Did I stand up and demonstrate compassion, courage, discipline, endurance, faith, forgiveness, generosity, grace, holiness, hope, humility, justice, love, mercy, obedience, purity, repentance, sacrifice, service, trust, truth, wisdom? Did I stand up demonstrating the Fruits of the Spirit to those with whom my pathway has crossed this year?

Have you ever hesitated at an opportunity? Did you know that every opportunity that is placed before you is not an accident or pure chance? God engineers our circumstances. God is always working behind the scenes. He works and manoeuvres us to place us right where He wants us. This is what happens in our lives. Often we wonder why God allows certain things to happen to us, and yet, somewhere down the road we look back and see God's leading in it all... we see God's leading in our lives.

Once the Lord places us in certain situations it is our duty to take advantage of the opportunity.

Making A Decision

Br. Kanagarajah then brought to us the next message:

1 Kings 18:21

“And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”

Elijah stood on Mount Carmel and demanded that the people choose between God and Baal. If you choose God's way then there would be the benefit of God's blessing.

In Mathew 27, we see how different the history of the Jewish people would have been if they had made a different choice, if they had chosen Christ instead of Barabbas.

On Mount Carmel, there was confusion among the people because their minds and hearts were being pulled in two opposite directions. We must not have a divided heart.

We must decide for Christ and Christ alone.

Signs of the Times

Br. Michael Mitov then spoke to us:

What is the next step after we make a decision? Once we start on our Christian journey we know that our life is not easy; it is a fight, day by day and minute by minute.

The Lord gives us signs throughout our life. On May 18, 1918, there was an eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington State. It





had a magnitude of 8, just like the one that occurred the other day; its power was like that of 500 atomic bombs. This eruption was earlier forecast by many minor tremors; scientists gave many warnings but most people did not heed these warnings.

This is just like God works in our life. He gives signs in fulfillment of prophecy and even in warnings in our individual lives. In Revelation God tells us, "behold I come quickly".

Revelation speaks three times about the return of Christ. He is coming, but are we ready? There are signs that warn us, but what is our attitude? How do we respond to these warnings?

Many people in the world are concerned about the future, but what is their reaction?

Deuteronomy 7:9
 "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations."

This is the God that keeps His promises, that keeps His covenant.

Sabbath Opening

Br. Jerry Eaton then opened the Sabbath:

How do you think that we have or can stand for Jesus? It takes courage sometimes to stand for Jesus. How can we do this? We mustn't try to go forth in our own power!

Br. Eaton challenged us, "How have we stood for Jesus?"

Many Brothers and Sisters shared their experiences.

Sister Edda Tedford shared, "various times in my travels God has put me in the exact time and place where there was a person that needed witnessing to, or ministering to a need."

Sister Linda Suarez shared, "sometimes they can just notice the expression on your face and that often brings inquiries from people in need."

People often judge you outwardly by the way you dress so it is important that we look like true Christians.

Stand Up In Your Personal Life

Br. Idel Suarez brought to us the Divine Sabbath Service:

Come with me to the 1850's; there was a law passed in the United States called "the great compromise". In this law the 17

northern states outlawed slavery. The law said that you had to return any runaway slaves that escaped from the southern states back to their owners. You had to report any runaway slaves. This was the time that the Seventh Day Adventist church was just coming into existence, what would they do? This was a great test, whom should they obey? Well, of course they should obey God. But it was a great test for the church at that time. And that time is to be repeated.

What did the northern states do in response to this new law? They built a railroad, an underground railroad to provide a way for slaves to be free in the promised land of the north. This was not a railroad made of iron but one made up of people.

Many Quaker families protected slaves that escaped from the south until they could be transported to freedom. And where was that Promised Land in the north? It was here in Canada. It was their heavenly Canada, where they would be free. The last station on the Underground Railroad was in Niagara Falls. After that station they had to cross the great Niagara River.

What did slaves go through in the 1850's? They risked their lives for freedom.

What about ancient Israel? They were a nation of slaves, uneducated; they had forgotten the law of God.

What about us? "Out of Egypt I have called my son." We are called out of Egypt, out of the world, to a heavenly "Canada".

The river we have to pass is wider than Niagara.

Ephesians 6:13
 "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."

We wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places. We need the whole armour of God to stand in the battle that we are engaged in.

We need to run away from sin, we need to give of the best of our life to Jesus, not what is leftover, if we are to reach our Heavenly Canada!



Mississauga Youth Program

The Mississauga Youth presented the passion of Christ through songs and readings.

The program examined the life of Christ, His life on earth and His sacrifice for us as witnessed through the gospels--the gospels which show the deep experience of Jesus' life and His unsearchable love for us. The gospels show us the setbacks and eventual triumphs of Jesus' disciples. The disciples went from accepting the call, learning from Jesus then rejecting Him when Jesus was

taken to be crucified.

We learned about the penalty that Jesus paid for you and I and the victory over sin.

The program particularly focused on the final events of Jesus' life, the trial, crucifixion and victory.

Stand Up in Your Community

Br. Oscar Oviedo then spoke to us:

1 Thessalonians 2:4
 "But as we were allowed of God to be put

in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

We have been put in trust of the gospel as a gift. We are entrusted with the gospel, this is something important.

Paul realized that he was entrusted with the gospel. He felt he was completely unworthy but God still gave him this message and opportunity

What is the gospel? It is the good news. It has to show us our condition. It needs to show us the price or what it costs, Jesus' sacrifice. It is good to know Jesus works in our lives, He is our high priest and advocate. It is good to know our names are written in the book of life! This is good news indeed! But is it good news to you?

There are two other words given to the "gospel" - the truth and my word. We have to go beyond a theoretical understanding of this. We need to appreciate and live it on another level. Did Jesus say that we should keep this good news to ourselves? No we need to give out the good news. It is a commission!

"Whom shall I send?"

In 2 kings 5:2-5 we are introduced to a





little maid, a small person, unimportant, but look at what she accomplished simply by standing up! She stood up in her community where she lived. Because of her influence she got one of the great rulers of her day to go to see a prophet of God in Israel; the result was a tremendous witness for God.

Paul says in 1 Thessalonians “not as pleasing men.” We don’t stand up for men, for pleasing people, but pleasing God. Do not live by what others think of you, minimize it in your mind. Do not live by what you think of yourselves, some have a high or low self esteem. Live with only God’s esteem, what God thinks of you!

Children’s Program

We were uplifted by the children’s program, which witnessed of Jesus living in their lives. They spoke about Jesus’ resurrection and the eyewitness accounts of the event. Tell me the story of Jesus!

Stand Up In Your Church

Br. Henry Holmstroem brought the next service:

Many of us in our Christian life need to make a u-turn. Many people, when they know we are Christians they are aware and take notice of how we look, dress, speak and conduct ourselves. We are ambassadors



for Christ. Ambassadors represent their respective nations and what they do reflects on that nation. In the same way what we do reflects on our Lord. Let us look at a couple of examples of people that made a u-turn in their lives.

John 1:40-42

“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.”

Peter was a businessman and a fisherman. I am sure that Peter was surprised to be called a stone by Jesus. Nevertheless Jesus saw that potential in Peter even though he did not see that in himself. Through his relationship with Jesus gradually Peter made a u-turn in his life and became the strength that Jesus saw in him that first day.

Paul was an apostle that persecuted the Christians but he made a u-turn in his life. From persecutor he became one of the most influential leaders of the early Christian church. Similarly we must have a u-turn in our lives that we may become a powerful force within our church through the grace



of our Lord.

Toronto Youth Program

The Toronto youth blessed us with personal testimony and song in different languages. God’s family is comprised of people from different cultures and languages and yet He has room for all within His kingdom.

Br. Richard Eaton gave a personal testimony of how Jesus had worked in his life and though he had not yet committed fully to Jesus through baptism, that it was his intention to do so. He spoke of feeling a strong need to be accepted within his peer group at school, yet he felt a desire to change this relationship and instead find acceptance within God’s family.

Sister Emelina gave a personal testimony of her past battle with giving up smoking and how each time she would throw the package away after smoking one cigarette, fully intending that to be her last one. Yet she found herself repeating this over and over. Finally she decided that she would fast and pray and ask God to take this desire away from her and God did!

Testimony and Praise

Br. Timo Martin led the testimony and praise meeting. Many people praised God through song. There were many who



witnessed to the work of God in their lives and thanked Him for His patience and unwavering love. Many recommitted their lives to Jesus and pledged to stand up more for Him in the future.

Stand Up for the Faith

Br. Thomas D'haiti led out in the next service. Br. D'haiti recounted his meeting with Samuel from Haiti with whom he started to study with by phone. He then visited him in Florida. After which Samuel finally decided to join the church. Br. Samuel wanted to be accepted as a member in Canada, as a witness to his friends, as to where he had originally heard of the reform.

This witness then led to studies over the phone to his other friends in the Dominican Republic. The same young man went to Haiti and had a week of revival. Many Adventists went to his house to study; the truth then spread like wild fire among the Adventists in Haiti. Many have now accepted the truth of reform there and this despite threats of death from their former brethren and pastors.

These people in the Dominican Republic and Haiti are real life, present day examples of people that are standing up for the faith of Jesus. We need to take a lesson from these brethren; we need to stand up for the faith in every aspect of our lives.

Sabbath Close

Br. Kelly Schultz led out in the next service:

Evangelicals say that Jesus fulfilled the Sabbath and so it was done away with. But we know that it is not the truth.

We are looking for that eternal rest that we can all take part in throughout eternity with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! But first we must stand up for Him today!

Sunday Morning Baptism

On the shores of Lake Ontario, the sun shining in a clear sky, its reflections shimmering on the waves as they gently caressed the sand of the shore, Br. Idel Suarez and the young lady who chose to make her stand with God's remnant people, Sister Irene, stood by waiting to enter the

watery grave. Br. Suarez brought forth the message:

Colossians 2:11-13

"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses."

Here we have biblical proof for baptism by full immersion. Baptism has to be a burial. When you go to a funeral, do they just sprinkle dirt on the body? No, you have to dig a hole in the ground and bury the body fully. We must be "buried with Him in baptism". Luther and Zwingli didn't understand it but the Anabaptists did. The person has to be dead in sins to be buried, not still living, but dead. Then He can quicken you.

After Sister Irene went in to her watery grave we continued at the church. Br. Suarez noted that this is a time of celebration, Heaven is having a party, and so it is proper for us to sing when we are happy.

Galatians 3:27

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Br. Suarez told us, "Little girls love to play dress up; they will change costumes several times a day. My little girls love to dress up like princesses. When we are baptized we dress up like Jesus, on the inside and outside, but it has to start on the inside. People need to say when they look at us that we look like Jesus.

Closing Service

Br. John Formosa closed the conference with texts from Joshua 24: 15-27. After Joshua asked Israel whom they would serve, the people all said that they would not forsake God. How could they after what the Lord had brought them through? How surprised they must have been when "Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins." Israel had been poisoned by the

presence of false gods within their homes and worship service. Joshua told them that they could not worship God in such a state. God would not accept this kind of worship because God is a holy God.

The same is true for us today. We may say that, of course we choose to have God, look what He has done for us in our lives. But the reality is that unless we are a holy people it is impossible for us to serve the Lord. We must raise the standard far above what we are currently doing if we are to serve the Lord. Just as in the case of ancient Israel, we must put away all of the false gods and habits that pollute our lives if we are to be a holy people fit to serve a holy God. How can we raise the standard if we remain seated and still in our lives? We must stand up for Jesus if we are to raise the standard.

"So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD."

Joshua put a great stone to remind Israel when they saw it of their covenant they had made to be holy with God. Similarly we can look to our own baptism as a visible sign and witness to the same covenant we made with God to put away strange gods from among us and become a holy people for a holy God.

With a special benediction by Br. Idel Suarez the 2007 Canadian field Conference came to a close.





REVIVAL TIME?

*“You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, shall revive me again, and bring me up again from the depths of the earth.”
Psalm 70:20*

We hear a great deal about revival these days, but one has the feeling that many of those who talk much about it really know very little about it! Revival is defined as “coming back to life; with vigour. A religious fervor.” We are going to approach this absorbing subject in depth with three points:

1. What Is Revival? “A quickening of the powers of the mind and heart.” (1SM128)

A. It is not evangelism – even though many may be saved as a result of it.

B. It is not emotionalism although there may be emotional manifestations connected with it.

C. Modern times revivalism – a lot of interest is spread and many profess conversion; a large number may join the churches.

D. “Counterfeit revivals allow Satan to be introduced into the Church.” (GC464) “Many cry fanaticism but not all. (GW170).

Desire

But, unfortunately, results don’t show any increase or growth in spiritual life and awareness. The light flames up for awhile, then soon dies out and darkness becomes greater than before. They are “temporary effects.” “Popular revivals appeal to imaginations, too often, exciting the emotions, and satisfy a love for something new, startling, eccentric, odd.” (GC 463)(4T74). These converts, once gained this way have: a. Little desire to listen to Bible Truths. b. Little desire in the testimonies of the Prophets and Apostles. c. Little desire for the Old Testament and the Law (Ten Commandments) d. Little desire to change their diet. e. Little desire to keep the Sabbath rest day.

Halleluiah

Furthermore, they cannot always be reasoned with; there’s no response; there’s no awakening. Unless the religious service has something sensational in character, it has no attraction to them. God’s plain warning in His Word, relating and speaking to their eternal interests and life are not listened to – no interest whatsoever! When a soul is truly converted, the relationship to God and eternal things will be great topics of life – isn’t that so?

Missing

But, where is there in the popular churches today, the spirit of Holiness, the spirit of Consecration to God? Where are the Holy ones? The Holy people? Holy people are ones with attractive, beautiful personalities, and smiles, a whole person, whole minded, whole hearted, whole spirited, and generous. Holiness means completeness, dedicated to God, and content, because they trust in God – have peace.

Perishing

The converts, by counterfeit revivals, however, don’t renounce their pride, their carnality, the love of the world, and worldly things. They are not more willing to deny self, to take up the cross, and follow the meek and lowly Jesus, than before their conversion. Religion has become a sport, a game with infidels. Why? Because they are ignorant of its principles. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the Law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” (Hos. 4:6).

It’s like having a severe headache. You don’t like it, but you don’t want to lose your head over it! In fact, the power of Godliness has left many churches. But, still there are true followers of Christ in these churches – remnant churches. Before God’s final judgments upon the earth, there will be, among the people of the Lord, such a revival that has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The spirit and power of God will be poured out upon his children – those that are sealed and receive the Latter Rain. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which love of the world has replaced love for God and his Word. Many, both ministers and people, will accept gladly those great truths, which God is proclaiming at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming.

Enemy Attack

The enemy, however, desires to hinder and stop this work before such a movement comes. He’ll introduce a counterfeit revival full of sensationalism, eccentricities, and in a romantic style. He will make it appear that God’s special blessings are poured out – and an appearance of great religious interest; Charismatic, and Celebration Movements, with rock music, deafening-jarring drums, twanging guitars, and sweaty preachers. Furthermore, there will be a mixing of truth and error presented with emotional excitement and stimuli.

Watch and Pray

Yet, no one needs to be deceived. In the light of God’s Word, one can clearly see the true nature of these bizarre movements. When man neglects the testimony of the Bible, turning away from the plain truths and the Law, which require self-denial and renunciation of the world and worldliness, God’s blessing is withheld. “Ye shall know them by their fruits.” (Matt. 7:16, 20). Clearly then, in fact, we can see that these movements are not the work of the Spirit of God. In the truth of His Word, God has revealed Himself to mankind. The neglect of these truths, however, opens the door to the enemy and evilness, which are rampantly spreading in the religious world.

God’s Law has been lost sight of, its standards, holiness, and permanency. The wrong concepts, character, obligations of the law, have led to a lowering of its standards and holiness in the Church! Here, therefore, is the secret of the lack of the Spirit and power of God in revivals of our time!

2. When Is A Revival Needed?

A. Whenever the love of God’s people wax cold. Lukewarmness: A professed believer is not really disturbed at hearing heretical teachings and is not vigorous or strong in defense of the truth. (Remember the reaction of Jesus with the money-changers in the Temple). This is the most tragic thing happening to the Church today!

B. Symptoms – A sickness in need of a cure

- i. Spiritual complacency--“Ye who are spiritual restore such an one.” (Gal 6:1)
- ii. Lack of concern for the lost and confused--“Like lost sheep.” (Jer. 50:6)
- iii. Hiding secret sin--“Out secret sin.” (Psalm 90:8)
- iv. Anger–animosity towards other Christians: “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matt 24:12)
- v. An unforgiving spirit: “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” (Matt 5:38).
- vi. Worldliness: the love of the world. “He has set the world in their heart.” (Eccl 3:11)
- vii. Growth of pride. “Pride do I hate.” (Ps. 8:13)
- viii. Self-righteousness--“Be not righteous overmuch.” (Eccl 7:16)
- ix. Any condition of spiritual standing in which we are in a state less than we were before. “Thou shalt love thy neighbor.” (Lev 19:18)

c. Dangers In Our Need For Revival

- i. Deteriorating, slow change, which often comes without awareness – imperceptible, subtle onset. Much like a rising temperature in an illness; colon, pancreatic, breast cancer, coronary – heart disease. “Slow of heart.” (Luke24:25)
- ii. Often the spiritual condition of our hearts is such that we are, also, not aware of our need at the very time it is the greatest. “O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!” (Luke 24:25) (Ezek 18:31).
- iii. The flesh tends to fight revival. If the

flesh is carnal, one cannot please God. “The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” (Mark 14:38).

3. How Can We Have A Revival?

A. God is sovereign in starting or bestowing a revival.

- i. Ultimately, it comes when He, God wills it, not man. “A baptism of the Holy Spirit will lead to a revival of true religion.” (Psalm 71:20) (2SM).
- ii. There’s no set pattern which will surely bring it to fruition; no church picnics, church bazaars, fairs, socials, pot-lucks, concerts, bake sales. etc. can quicken a revival.
- iii. It’s impossible to schedule a revival, or make such a resolution; e.g. “A revival is scheduled for the first of the year!”

B. There are certain conditions to first meet to bring about the kind of situation into which God sends revival.

- i. Prayer – praying that God will send a revival to His people and to His work. “Expect a revival only in answer to prayer” (ISM 121). “Quicken me according to thy Word.” (Psalm 119:25).
- ii. Facing of spiritual realities:
 - a. Facing ourselves for what we really are: “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” (Rev 3:17) (The Lukewarm Church).
 - b. Facing the nature of God: “Turn from your evil ways and keep my Commandments... but they would not and stiffened their necks.” (2 Kings 17:13,14).
 - c. Facing the true nature of sin: “sin is the transgression of the Law.” (Rom4:15).
3. Confession of sin: confession means to agree with God concerning sin. (John 1:15; 4:2; 1 John 1:9). It’s not freedom of conscience!
- iv. Seeking of life on a higher plane than we have known it – heavenward – upward. “But rather seek ye the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Luke 12:31). “You can walk on water, fly like an eagle, and move mountains!”
- v. God calls for a revival of health reform: “your body is the temple of God.” (1Cor 6:19).

C. The problem of desire.

- i. Usually we don’t want it (a revival) badly enough to make any difference.
- ii. God, sometimes, has to bring us to the end of ourselves before we desire to really know it. Jesus said, “I have trodden the

wine press alone.” (Isaiah 63:3)

Revival – More Than Wishing

To be sure, “Revival will not come with the efforts on the believer’s part.” (ISM 190). Also, “the whole church will never be revived.” (SM 122). You see, revival cannot be turned on or off like a water fountain, but there are conditions of His promises which we must meet if a sovereign God is to bestow revival. Then we can be transformed and revived. Certainly God is sovereign. “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8). Ah! But, let us beware, however, of making the sovereignty of God the scapegoat of our own sinful, worldly and careless living. “For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.” (Rom 14:9). A “revival” of Jesus! A “revival” for us through Jesus.

Presence

True revival is always marked by an overwhelming sense of the presence of the Lord. When a church is touched by revival, its members act just as they would if Jesus were physically present in the sanctuary Sabbath after Sabbath. If you are hungry for the presence of God in your life, develop an appetite for worship; study the Word of God, listen to worship choruses, look for evidences of His care, lessons on His character, and take an active part in the church’s worship service--then offer thanksgiving or praise for them. Hebrews 13:15 says, “let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise.”

In Genesis 3, we find that the Garden of Eden and the ingredient that made it so beautiful and the real hallmark of Paradise was the presence of God. What we have not mastered is walking with the Lord “in the cool of the day.” (Genesis 3:8).

During the Great Awakening in 1735, the earliest widespread revival in America, Jonathan Edwards wrote, “The town seemed to be full of the presence of God. It was never so full of love, nor so full of joy.”

Reformation

Moreover, in the O.T., God’s people experienced a marvelous national revival under Hezekiah, a twenty five year old king, who urged his people to “serve the

Lord your God, so that His fierce anger will turn away from you. He will not turn His face from you if you return to Him.” (2 Chronicles 30:8,9). In second Chronicles 29-31 is described the people’s repentance from sin, the purification of the temple, a great celebration of worship and the nation’s return to the Lord... a stupendous revival of an entire nation! “Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for His people, because it was done so quickly.” In your prayers, begin asking God for a rapid spiritual turnabout in your life, your family, your church, your community, your city, your nation! Even so, “a reformation should accompany a revival;” for “a reformation and revival are two different things.” (ISM 127-128). “God’s people will not endure the test without a reformation.” (7T 285). Reformation means – improve, abandon evil practices!

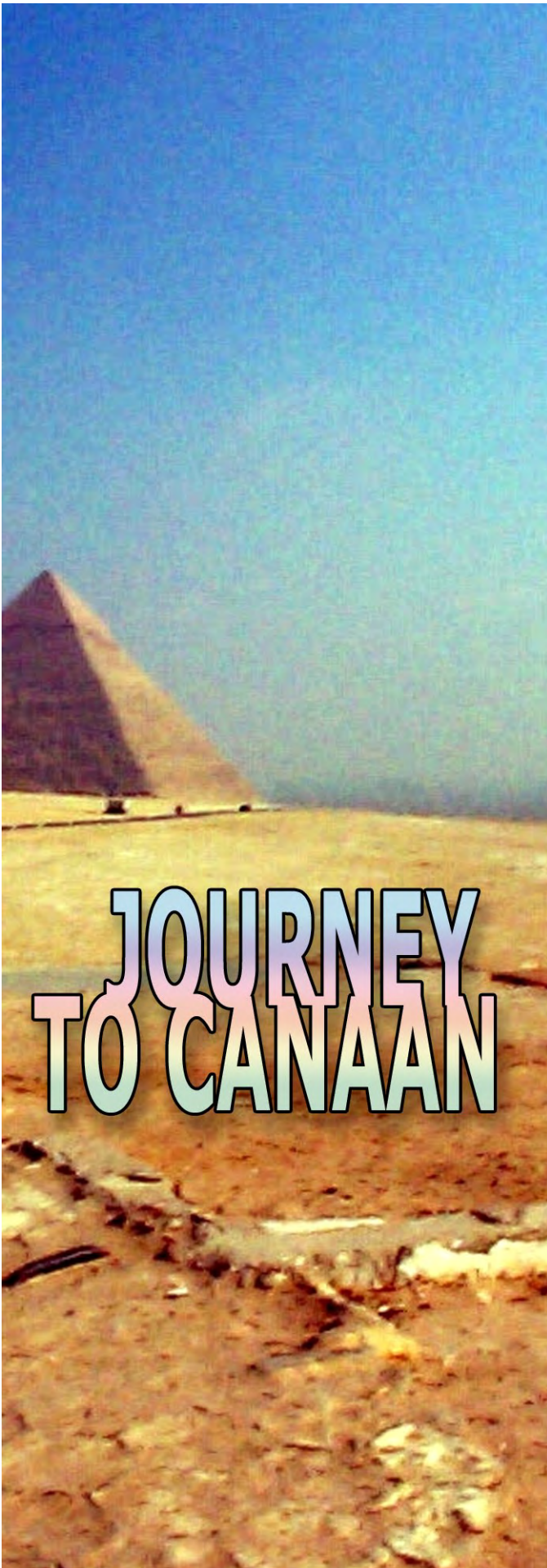
First Love

Matthew 1:23 tells us, by definition, that Jesus was Immanuel, which means, “God with us.” Jesus stated His purpose for being on earth in John 10:10: “I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full.” That’s what revival is all about! “It’s the renewal of the spiritual life.” (ISM 128).

David appealed to God in Psalm 51:12, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation,” Revival is what David is asking for after a tragic spiritual fall; adultery, and murder. Revival is not something strange or mysterious. If you want to return to a “first love” relationship with the Lord, you’ll be thrilled to discover that God has desired that for you all along. What David knew, you too can know. The freshness of your spiritual life can be restored. Your Revival Time is now! **Amen. John Theodorou, U.S.A.**

Canadian Conference Memories





“And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.” Ex. 13:20-22.

By His strong hand the Lord freed His people from the slavery in Egypt. Clearly the heavenly Father indicated to them that He had chosen them to be His own people. Daily they saw great wonders. Daily the Lord walked with them being hidden in the cloud during the day, and in the pillar of fire during the night. They had the shadow during the day from the scorching sun and light during the night.

The Almighty God opened them the way through the Red Sea and saved them from the Egyptian army. They realized that all things are possible to God. The Lord gave them bread from heaven, and water from the rock. Also it was a miracle that their clothes and shoes did not wear out during the forty year journey.

What was the reason that only two of the adults could enter into the Promised Land?

“And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: and the children of Israel said unto them, would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Ex. 16:2, 3.

“And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would God we had died in this wilderness!” Num. 14:1, 2.

“And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: and they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, the land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.” Num. 14:6-8.

Murmuring, unbelief and ingratitude were the reasons that most of them could not enter into Canaan’s land, and besides they lost also their eternal life.

The History of God’s People Repeats Itself

We as the new spiritual Israel are also on the way to the heavenly Canaan and Jesus is our leader. He has freed us from Satan’s slavery and leads us through the modern wilderness. Should we not keep the history of Ancient Israel in our minds, that we would not repeat their mistakes?

“Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither

let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10:6-12.

Our enemy tries to lead us back to the "slavery of Egypt." He is doing his utmost to keep us out of heaven. Therefore we need strong faith, because our trials are great.

We must forget Egypt and look forward and not back. The slower we travel, the longer our journey will last.

Can someone possibly say when tempted: "It is impossible to get to heaven, the way is too long, difficult and stony. I cannot get rid of my weaknesses, and I am not able to gain a Christlike character." But Ellen White saw the beautiful land of heaven and also she saw there Enoch, Moses, Elijah, and the 24 elders saved from this evil world. They are witnesses that it is possible to enter into heaven.

Jesus made it possible for everyone to return to the heavenly Father and to gain eternal life. The more we eat of the spiritual food, the stronger we become and the faster we will reach our destination.

Only By Faith Can We Follow Our Saviour

"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb. 12:1, 2.

The way is difficult, but Jesus is walking before us and smoothes the way for us. Our part is to trust and follow Him. If we believe that He can help us to be overcomers, it will happen. When we let Him do His work in us by His Holy Spirit we will change and become prepared for the companionship with the angels.

Like Enoch we find it difficult to live in this world of sin and our desire is to move to the holy city of God.

"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints." Rev. 15:3.

Dear fellow traveler! Our journey is almost over. Gather all your strength, do not give up, soon we will enter into eternal rest. Then we can rest from our long and severe struggle. Then we will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, which is also the song of our experiences. Then our dear Saviour will present to us dwellings where we can live eternally.

"Then we began to look at the glorious things outside of the city. There I saw most glorious houses, that had the appearance of silver, supported by four pillars set with pearls most glorious to behold. These were to be inhabited by the saints. In each was a golden shelf. I saw many of the saints go into the houses, take off their glittering crowns and lay them on the shelf, then go out into the field by the houses to do something with the earth; not as we have to do with the earth here; no, no. A glorious light shone about their heads, and they were

continually shouting and offering praises to God." EW 18.

"There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find home." GC 675.

"The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all flow life and light and gladness throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed and perfect joy, declare that God is love." GC 678. **AMEN.**

Vladimir Marinov



CHURCH & CONFERENCE ELECTION



In view of the responsibilities of church officers and the character of work required of them, the electing of church officers is an important work. This duty should be entered upon in prayer, well-ordered, and serious manner. Only such persons should be chosen who fully expect to fulfill the specific duties of the office for which they have been elected.

Choosing officers for the church or conference is an important matter. The prosperity of the work depends largely upon its leadership. The greatest care should be exercised in calling men and women into positions of sacred responsibility. The following qualifications should be earnestly sought in those who are nominated for church office.

THEIR QUALIFICATIONS

Moral fitness. “Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.” Ex. 18:21.

“Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.” Acts 6:3.

“Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” 1 Tim. 3:7.

“The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” 2 Tim. 2:2.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES

“He God has so arranged matters that chosen men shall go as delegates to our Conferences. These men are to be tried and proved. They are to be trustworthy men. The choosing of delegates to attend our Conferences is an important matter. These men are to lay the plans that shall be followed in the advancement of the work and therefore they are to be men of understanding, able to reason from cause to effect.” Test. For the Church, Vol. 9, p. 262.

“Every member of the Church has a voice in choosing officers of the Church. The Church chooses the officers of the state Conferences. Delegates chosen by the state Conference choose the officers of the Union Conference, and delegates chosen by the Union Conferences choose the officers of the General Conference. By this arrangement every institution, Church and individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice in the election of the men who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference.” Test. for the Church, vol. 8, p. 236-237.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is customary in the Church for the officers to be proposed by a Nominating Committee. Only members in good standing who are faithful, possessing good judgment should be elected as members of the Committee. If possible, former officers should not be elected to the Nominating Committee, but rather neutral, spiritual brothers and sisters who make proposals in an unbiased manner.

The Committee must impartially propose the brothers and sisters for offices as will best serve for the blessing and progress of God's work.

This Committee brings its report to the church which then acts on the names presented. This procedure enables the Church to give careful study to each name prior to election, and avoids the public competitive element that may arise when nominations are made from the floor.

The Nominating Committee shall study the needs of the Church and make careful inquiry into the fitness of members to serve in the different offices. "It will be far better to criticize the man before he is put into office than afterward, better to pray and counsel before taking the decisive step than to labour to correct the consequences of a wrong move." Test. for the Church, vol. 5, p. 618.

DUTY OF DELEGATES

"In carrying forward the Lord's work at home and abroad, those in positions of responsibility must plan wisely so as to make the best possible use of men and of means." Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 524.

"Wise planning is needed to place each one on his proper sphere in the work, in order that he may obtain an experience which will fit him to bear increased responsibility." Letter 45, 1889 (E.V. p. 95)

A delegate to a Conference Session or Constituency meeting is not chosen to represent merely the Church or Conference electing him. When he is seated he should view the work as a whole, remembering that he is responsible for the welfare of the work in every part of the field. It is not permissible for Church or Conference delegations to organize or attempt to direct their votes as a unit. Nor is it permissible for the delegates from a Church or Conference to claim preeminence in directing affairs in a Conference Session. Each delegate should be susceptible to the direction of the Holy Spirit and cast his vote according to his personal convictions. Any Church or Conference officers or leaders attempting to control the votes of a group of delegates would be considered disqualified for holding office. Nothing of a political nature should be allowed to come into this work.

Acts 1:21-26. (v.24-26) "And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of men, shew whether of these two Thou hast chosen, that he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots, and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles," by the working of the Holy Spirit. "When the Holy Spirit works the human agent, it does not ask in what way it shall operate. Often it moves in unexpected ways." TM 64.

"Never educate men to look to men, to trust in men; for man's wisdom is not sufficient to decide as to their right to engage in the Lord's work. When God lays a work upon individuals, men are not to reject His sanction." TM 95.

"Ministers, do not dishonour your God and grieve His Holy Spirit, by casting reflections on the ways and manners of the men He would choose. God knows the character. He sees the temperament of the men He has chosen. He knows that none but earnest, firm, determined, strong feeling men will view this work in its vital importance, and will put such firmness and decision into their testimonies, that they will make a break against the barriers of Satan." TM 412, 413.

"God is at the head of the work, and He will set everything in order. If matters need adjusting at the head of the work, God will attend to that, and work to right every wrong. Let us have faith that God is going to carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port." 2 SM 390. AMEN.

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu

Canadian Conference Memories



Work For A Teenager



CHILDRENS CORNER

WORK FOR A TEENAGER

“ELLEN! ELLEN! Are you ill?” There was no answer.

“Has she fainted? Or is she—“ Anxiously four women bent over the prostrate form of a seventeen-year-old girl.

“She’s not breathing!”

“I can feel her pulse beating.”

“There are signs of life. Her eyes are open, but she doesn’t seem to see us.”

The four women waited and wondered, but they had no cause for alarm. Ellen was completely under God’s control at the moment she neither saw them nor heard what they were saying. She was listening to an angel speaking to her, and she was looking at a scene passing like a motion picture before her eyes. She was in heavenly vision.

Ellen Harmon had been visiting the home of a friend, where she and four other women were praying together. Nearly two months earlier people of many faiths, who were called Adventists because of their belief in the second coming, had been disappointed that Jesus failed to return to the earth on the day set by them. Many little groups, like this one, had been studying their Bibles together and praying that God would show them where they had made their mistake in interpreting the prophecies

The Saviour was looking down in love upon these brokenhearted people who had been so sure He was coming on that day in October, 1844, to take them to heaven. Now He had sent His angel to assure them through that vision that He really was coming to get them, but not just yet. They must patiently wait a while longer.

What was the scene that Ellen had seen? In her vision as she described it afterward, she seemed to be rising higher and higher. She turned to look for her Adventist friends

but could not see them. An angel said to her, “Look again, and look a little higher.” She did so and saw the Adventist people moving along a narrow path high above the world towards the Holy City at the end of the path. Jesus led them and those who kept their eyes on Him were safe. A bright light at the beginning of the path shone all along the way to keep their feet from stumbling. The angel who had come to show these things to Ellen said this was the “midnight cry.”

The “midnight cry” was a much-used word during the late summer of 1844. It came from Christ’s parable of the ten virgins in which a cry was heard at midnight. “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.” The virgins represent Christ’s waiting church, and the cry at midnight was the announcement that Jesus was coming. It was a call to get ready to meet Him. So in those days when people spoke of the midnight cry, they were referring to the great awakening, when hundreds of ministers in many parts of the world were telling people that Jesus would come in the autumn of 1844.

In her vision Ellen saw some of the travelers on the path grow weary. They said that the city was too far away and that they had expected to enter it sooner. Then Jesus raised His right arm, and a light spread over the band of pilgrims.

Some rejected the light, saying it was not God who had led them out so far. For them the light went out, leaving their feet in darkness, and they stumbled, lost sight of Jesus, and fell off the path. But many of the travelers continued along the heavenly path. On their foreheads was written “God” and “New Jerusalem.”

They heard the voice of God announce the day and the hour Jesus would return, and saw a small black cloud in the sky. Silently they watched as the cloud came nearer and nearer the earth, becoming brighter and more glorious until it shone like fire. Around it were thousands of angels, and over it a rainbow. The angels were singing

the most beautiful music ever heard.

And there sitting on the cloud was Jesus with many crowns upon His head. In His right hand He held a sharp sickle, and in His left a silver trumpet. As the waiting people looked at the glorious scene, their faces turned pale. It seemed that His eyes, like a flame of fire, searched them through and through. In fear they cried out, “Who shall be able to stand?” Is my robe spotless?”

The angels stopped singing, and a time of silence followed. Then Jesus spoke: “Those who have clean hands and pure hearts shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you.” At these words the faces of the waiting people lighted up. The angels sang again, while the cloud drew nearer the earth.

When the vision was over, Ellen told her friends what she had seen, and they were thrilled. She was happy, for she thought she had done her whole duty. But, about a week later the angel who has spoken to her in the vision appeared a second time, saying she must tell others what she had seen.

The band of Adventists at Portland often met at her home for prayer and Bible study. The leader of the group asked Ellen to relate the vision at their next meeting, but she was afraid they would not believe what she had to tell them. Instead of going to the meeting, she got into a sleigh and rode four miles to the home of a friend.

There, alone in an upstairs room, she spent the entire day praying that God would excuse her from telling the vision. But she was unhappy, for she knew that Jesus was not pleased with her. Even while she prayed, she felt alone and afraid, almost forsaken of God. At last, near night she surrendered and promised she would deliver the message.

By the time she arrived at the prayer meeting, the people had left. But the next time they met, Ellen told them the whole vision, and she was greatly surprised when everyone present gladly listened. They were happy, for now they were sure that Jesus was still

leading them and that the midnight cry was a bright light which would shine all along their way to heaven. And they began to see their mistake in thinking that the cleansing of the sanctuary meant that Jesus would return to this earth at that time.

One day Ellen's father asked, "Why do you look so downcast? What is the trouble?"

Without lifting her eyes, she answered, "You know father, that God has asked me to tell others what He has shown me. Why should He choose one as weak as I am to do this great work? How can I leave home and travel from place to place? If you could only go with me! But I know you can't leave your work."

Mr. Harmon was a poor man and supported the family by making hats.

"Sara can go with you," he answered encouragingly. Sarah was an older sister. "How can two girls travel from town to town?" Ellen asked. "Who would pay our way? Who would arrange the meetings for us? And if the people came together, how could I make them hear? They would only laugh at me." The difficulties seemed very great.

When Ellen was only nine years old, she had been badly hurt in an accident. Her head was injured and her nose was broken, making breathing very difficult. For three weeks she lay unconscious, and for many years afterward she suffered from the effects of that accident. Her lungs were so weak that it hurt her to breathe. Often she had to be propped up with pillows at night in order to get her breath. Her heart, too, was weak. The family physician said that she might live three months, probably not that long.

As Ellen spoke of the difficulties she was facing, her father drew her to him and said tenderly, "Ellen, if God has called you to do a work for Him, He will make you strong enough to do it, and He will open a way for you to begin. We will pray for you in our meeting tonight."

God sent a special blessing as they prayed for Ellen. She was given fresh courage so that she felt willing to go anywhere and do anything if only she could have the smile of Jesus.

A day or two after this Ellen's brother-in-

law from a little town fifty kilometers to the north drove up in a sleigh. "Will you come back with me, Ellen? He asked. "Mary wants you to visit her."

Ellen felt that God was opening the way for her to give His message and that she must go. It was midwinter in northern New England. Every breath of the icy air pained her lungs. But she dressed warmly, and sitting on the floor of the sleigh, she pulled a heavy buffalo robe over her head.

When they arrived, her sister said, "I'm glad you came; there's to be a meeting tonight at MacGuire's Hill. Will you go with us?"

At this time Adventists had no churches of their own. When Ellen reached the meeting place, she found a large room filled with people eager to hear her describe the vision. But when she stood up to speak, her voice was too weak and hoarse that she could scarcely be heard. For five minutes she tried, while her listeners leaned forward to catch her whispered words.

Then suddenly, to the surprise of all, her voice changed. It rang out clear as a bell. She spoke for two hours, describing the travels of God's people to the Holy City, the coming of Jesus, and their heavenly home. Many tears were shed, but they were tears of joy. Every heart was cheered. When Ellen sat down and tried to talk with those near her, her voice was as hoarse as before, and she could only whisper.

Some people have wondered why God chose one so weak to bring His messages to His people. There was a reason. When the company of Adventists saw Ellen stand up and try in her weakness to make them hear, and then when the power of God came upon her, enabling her to speak clearly, they knew she was not doing it alone – God was helping her.

That night as the company broke up, there were shouts of joy: "We are going home! We are going home!" Some who watched Ellen's friends support her as she went back to the sleigh were thinking of the Apostle Paul's words. "God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty... that no flesh should glory in His presence."

During the meeting a young man named Hazen Foss stood listening outside the door. Turning to a friend, he said, "That

vision is very much like the one God gave me." His friends knew his sad story. Twice he had been given the vision, and twice he refused to tell it. Then God told him that he was excused from the work, and that it would be given to one of the weakest of God's children.

This frightened him. He called the people together, but when he began to speak, he could not remember a word. "God has taken the vision from me," he cried. "I'm a lost man!" And he rushed from the place.

The day after he heard Ellen speak, he called to see her at her sister's home. "I want to talk with you," he said. "The Lord gave me a message for His people, and I refused to give it to them. Last night I heard you speak. Don't refuse to obey God. Be faithful in doing the work He gives you; and the crown I might have had you will receive." He had learned too late that it is a fearful thing to say NO to God.

At one time the Lord gave Ellen an urgent message for the believers in Portsmouth. The journey required a train trip, but there was no money for tickets. Nevertheless Sarah and Ellen prepared to go, trusting the Lord to open the way.

They dressed for the journey and were about to leave the house to walk the short distance to the station when Ellen looked out the window and saw a man who she knew driving very fast up to the gate. His horse was covered with sweat. He rushed into the house and asked, "Does anyone here need money? I was impressed that someone here needs money."

The girls quickly told him they were going to Portsmouth at God's bidding, but had no money for tickets. He handed them money for the round trip.

"Take a seat in my wagon, and I'll drive you to the station," he said

On their way to the station he told them that the horse had wanted to come the twelve miles from home so fast that it has been difficult to keep him from galloping all the way. Ellen and Sarah had no sooner taken their seats in the train than it started. They were on their way.

Ellen Harmon had launched on her lifework. Never did she hesitate when God sent her on His errands. In spite of seeming impossibilities at times, she knew God would provide the way.



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WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE CHURCH

Often questions come up in our churches, should the sisters preach sermons from our pulpits, because Apostle Paul writes, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." 1 Cor. 14: 34, 35.

But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." 1 Tim. 2:12.

At the time that Paul wrote these verses both Greek and Jewish custom was that women should be kept in the background in public affairs. Violation of this custom would be looked upon as disgraceful and would bring reproach upon the church.

Ministry of Women in the Old Testament

God chose women to be prophetesses, and even as judges of His people.

"Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah... and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment." Judges 4: 4, 5.

The Old Testament does not exclude women from leadership positions but only from the role of priests.

The story of Huldah, the prophetess shows the important ministry that women fulfilled in the life of Ancient Israel. The king Josiah sent the high priest and other notables to the prophetess Huldah to inquire of the Lord for him. (2 Kings 22: 13, 14) He could have sent these men to Jeremiah or Zephaniah who were contemporary prophets, but he decided to send them to a woman prophetess. This shows that women were considered equals to men in this office.

Ministry of Women in the New Testament

Women as well as men participated in the prophetic ministry of the apostolic church. Acts 2:19 speaks of the four daughters of Philip, "who prophesied."

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:28.

"Women also should be chosen who can present the truth in a clear, intelligent, straightforward manner." Ev. 472.

"Sister R and Sister W are doing just as efficient work as the ministers; and some meetings when the ministers are all called away, Sister W takes the Bible and addresses the congregation." Ev. 473.

"Teach this, my sister. You have many ways opened before you. Address the crowd whenever you can; hold every jot of influence you can by any association that can be made the means of introducing the leaven to the meal... intelligent women, if truly converted, can act a part in this work of holding Bible classes. There is a wide field of service for women as well as for

men." Ev. 473, 474.

"The experience thus gained will be of the greatest value to those who are fitting themselves for the ministry. It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, both men and women, to become pastors to the flock of God." Test. Vol. 6, p. 322.

"Ellen White would not stand in the pulpit to speak at the Sabbath morning worship service if James White was present. He would take the Sabbath morning service, and she would speak in the afternoon. Only when he was stricken with paralysis in 1865 and for some time could not take his place in public work did she depart from this procedure." Ellen G. White the Person, p. 20.

When a capable minister is not present, then sisters may have to stand in the pulpit and deliver a sermon. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin



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