

The Reformation Messenger

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 9, SEPTEMBER 2008

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

CHILDREN AT CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE



"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not,
to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 19:14

WE BELIEVE: The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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Photo: H. Martinen, Children at Canadian Field Conference

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Messenger

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CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE



AUGUST 15-17, 2008

CONFERENCE MOTTO: EVEN AT THE DOOR

Friday, August 15

The Canadian Field Conference for 2008 was opened by Br. John Bescec with a welcome to praise and thank our Lord.

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.” Mark 13:28, 29.

Br. Bescec welcomed people from far and near. He said as you see the motto of the conference, may you keep it in your heart and minds that you would truly believe that we are really at the door of Jesus’ soon return.

He asked “are you getting excited about His soon return? Or perhaps does that make you apprehensive? How many more days do you then have? What happens if your name is called in judgment and you are not ready? Before you leave tonight you need to make things right with the Lord and one another.”

“Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return

from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.” Luke 12:35-40.

Br. Bescec told us that “Christ has sent us a warning message. He tells us we need to have our light burning; anything that separates us from God we need to put away. He wants us to be ready. We need to be separate in our life from the world.

Those are blessed who are prepared and are watching and waiting for Jesus!

The verses that Br. Bescec read talks about the blessed. Those are blessed who are prepared and are watching and waiting for Jesus!

Our number one interest should not be what kind of car we drive, what kind of home we live in, but rather, am I ready for Jesus to come? The time has come to open our eyes, to open the door now



Br. John Bescec



Br. Larry Watts



Hamilton Choir

when Christ is knocking.

Sabbath Opening Service

Br. Larry Watts then opened the evening service with 1 John 4:17 “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”

What if I were to tell you that this is the very last conference you were able to attend? We don’t know that for sure but shouldn’t we look at things that way? The text says that “as He is” we should be. And how was He? How was Jesus?

In Matthew 26:57 and on we see the absolute pinnacle of Christ’s life. We read how Jesus was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The most unjust trial ever held on this earth was held that night because Jesus was the only purely righteous man that ever lived. Did His accusers and judges care if He was innocent or not? No they didn’t! The judges who were the Sanhedrin were made up of different types of people. That night they had at least 37 judges present at Anna’s house. The priests were corrupt, depraved and involved in the merchandise and business in the Temple. The judges and High Priests according to the Old Testament were to be of high moral character exactly the opposite of who these judges were. These were the men who sat upon Jesus in judgment.

“Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:” Luke 22:67.

The first characteristic of these judges was that they were unbelievers.

“Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,” John 11:48-50.

The second characteristic is they cared about their own self-interest. They were also motivated by envy

These were the type of judges that convicted Jesus that night. The judges were required by their own law to be the advocate for the accused. That is who Jesus had to defend Him, the same corrupt judges who were to convict Him.

“And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?” John 18:22.

Jesus turned the other cheek. Remember what we asked ourselves, are we like Jesus? Right now we have this opportunity.

Why was Jesus convicted? Not because there were any credible witnesses of Him doing anything wrong, but because He said two words, "I am". Because when asked if He was the Messiah, He told the truth.

It is time for us to start serving God in truth and sincerity. Jesus is at your door. Will you not let Him in?

Sabbath, August 16

Sabbath School

Br. Eric Song led out the Sabbath School by welcoming all members and visitors to the conference.

For the Mission Period, Br. Timo Martin read in Isaiah 43:10, "Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me." We are all witnesses for Jesus. Br. Martin told us that many tracts must be produced to show the errors in the world. Our publications have a great work to do. Souls will receive the truth that way. Take these pamphlets and put them wherever you go. Ellen White writes that the work will be finished by the printing work. There were 107 souls present.

Sabbath Service

The Hamilton Choir entreated the Lord's presence with a special song entitled, "What A Day That Will Be." The congregation joined in for the last chorus.

Br. Idel Suarez brought greetings from many countries and said "We are happy to be back in Canada with my wife Linda and my children. It is amazing how this church is represented in over 100 countries."

I would like to share a story with you from A.T. Jones. He said there were two groups before the gate in Heaven. The first group knocked on the door. The response from heavens gate came, "what have you done to enter in?"

The first group responded, "We know Jesus, we have done many wonderful works, is that not enough?"

The answer came from behind the door, "depart from Me, I never knew you."

The second group then knocked on the door. The answer came, "what have you done that I should let you in?"

They answered. "We have done nothing, we are sinners. We are



Br. Eric Song



Br. Idel Suarez



Toronto Youth



Children Special Song



Mississauga Youth



Mississauga Choir

so blind that we could not see but Jesus gave us that eye salve that we could see.” Each one spoke and said that they had done nothing but Jesus had done everything for them. Then they heard the sweet melodious voice that said, enter in.

There are three things that we can do to enter Heaven:

“I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night. I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them? My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him. I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone.” Song of Solomon 5:2.

Solomon had fallen in love with a woman and when he came to her one night and knocked on her door. She replied that she was already in bed and she was too tired to answer his call.

This is a symbol of Jesus. Are we too tired to answer the door when He is there knocking? We must also close a door as the one to Jesus is opened. The door to the world must be closed.

“Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.” Gen. 13:12.

“And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.” Gen. 19:1.

Lot could not get his wife out and he lost his family. Where is your family today? We need to get out from the gate of Sodom. There are so many broken homes today. We need to close the door to the world, to the influences of the world. We must open the door to Jesus. Today the world has become like Sodom. Today our race has become so degenerate we need to close the doors to Sodom.

“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” Rev. 19:8.

The time in which this was written, it was the bridegroom that had all of the attention. But in this is prophecy here the attention is on the bride, just like today. We need to become ready, like a bride. Are you prepared?

“And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer

darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen." Matt. 22:11.

"That wedding garment is the righteousness of Christ; we obtain it through faith but we keep it through obedience. "There is but one power that can bring us into conformity to the likeness of Christ, that can make us steadfast and keep us constant. It is the grace of God that comes to us through obedience to the law of God." My Life Today, Pg. 101

Jesus is at the door and He is peeking in to see if you have on your wedding garment.

At The Door – Toronto Youth

After lunch the Toronto Youth had a multimedia presentation that clearly showed prophecies that are fulfilling all around us, including earthquakes, wars, pestilence, famine, greed, poverty and even changing the meaning of the words contained in the Constitution of the United States through recent decisions in the Supreme Court.

Health Meeting

Br. Suarez spoke about our five senses and how they are the avenues to our soul. Our appetite can either separate us from God or draw us to Him. What we eat affects the health of our blood, which goes to our mind and affects our ability to serve God.

Food has a moral value. It affects our ability to interact with God. What we put on our tables has very important moral value. We should eat as many whole foods as possible. They have phytochemicals, these God has put in foods to fight disease. We need to eat 5 to 9 servings of vegetables or fruits per day. We need two handfuls of nuts and seeds per day. We need to eat legumes. We need to drink water. If you see ingredients you cannot spell, do not buy it!

Br. Suarez closed the health meeting with Mat. 7:13, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat."

Ordination Service

Br. Watts conducted the Ordination Service.

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2 Cor. 5:20.

God has a people on earth that are to be examples and leaders. There is a special class that has been called just like in the priesthood of the Old Testament. They are to be undershepherds to the flock.



Br. John Bescec And Br. Morris Lowe



Br. John Bescec And Family



Br. Morris Lowe And Family



Br. Jerry Eaton Examines Brenda For Baptism

Br. John Bescec and Br. Morris Lowe were presented before the congregation with their families.

The Bible is very particular and strict about who can be called for ordination for the Ministry. A minister can not be made; it is a calling from the Holy Spirit. We only confirm that calling.

Br. Watts asked if the membership would support and love them and we promised that we would.

Br. Idel Suarez then continued with the service with 1 Timothy 3:1-7. "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."



Newby Family Sings A Special Song

Br. Watts asked if their spouses would accept that they would give all to the Lord? They answered yes!

Br. Kanagarajah, Br. Eaton, Br. Watts and Br. Suarez laid hands on the brothers and ordained them into the ministry. It was a wonderful, tearful service.

Woodbridge/Mississauga Youth Program

With melodies of praise the youth opened their meeting. Father I adore you, Jesus I adore you, Spirit I adore you, how I love you.

The youth brought to our minds once again poignant images of prophecy's fulfillment over the last 100 years and especially right now in the time in which we live. Brothers and sisters, the youth of the Canadian Field are asking you to pay attention to this day, the day in which you are living, the day in which the door of probation is still open. But can you not hear the voice as it announces the coming of our Saviour?

The event that the Universe has been waiting for is coming very soon... but are you ready?



Sister Rose Powell

Baptismal Candidate Review:

Br. Jerry Eaton conducted the baptismal review. Sis Brenda confirmed her commitment to enter the watery grave of baptism and she articulated her desire to live no more for the world but for her Master and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Praise Meeting

At the beginning of our praise meeting the Newby family praised the Lord in song followed by a group from London, Ontario who raised their voices and our spirit to Heaven.

Sister Rose Powell opened our testimony meeting where many thanked the Lord for the wondrous working in their lives. Very special was a letter of testimony from sister Kathy from Montreal who gave witness for the physical healing from the Lord who brought her from the brink of death. She thanked her brothers and sisters in the church for their healing prayers and support.

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Colossians 3:12-15.

Sabbath Closing

Br. Timo showed that even though we all see that the signs tell us all that Jesus will soon come, there needs to be first another focus in our lives, our judgment. We need to be watching when the book is opened and our name is called and our life is examined. Jesus says that it will happen when we think not. There are many that will have left their preparation too late. Then they will see the Sunday law enacted; then they like the foolish Virgins will realize that they have no oil in their lamp. Even though they entreat God’s people to give them some, it is too late.

Will you be like these foolish virgins and it be too late?

“In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God’s people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God. I heard voices of thanksgiving and praise, and there seemed to be a reformation such as we witnessed in 1844.” Testimonies Volume 9, Pg.126

Sister White said I saw “hundreds and thousands” that receive the latter rain and are saved.



Br. Timo Martin



Br. Kelly Schultz





Br. Chester Cosby receives a surprise baby shower



Br. Oscar Oviedo

Br. Martin said that all it takes is one neglected sin, one neglected opportunity. Look upon the life of Jesus, see and learn of Him. Then we can be like Paul who was sure that he had a crown of life waiting for him.

The greatest thing any human had been asked to do is to obtain salvation. Yet it cannot be done through our strength but only through Christ. We must reflect the character of Jesus fully in every respect.

Then Br. Edwin played a piece of music that he had written, and entitled it "At The Door."

Br. Adrian also played a piece of music that he had written as well.

Evening Service - Are You Eating?

Br. Kelly Schultz reviewed the day and said that we have had two core messages coming through today: Are you seeking? And, are you reading? He then posed another question--Are you eating?

Nothing in society is so fallacious as the theory of evolution. That being the case it is still a dominant view in our society, which is largely secular. The idea that Jesus is at the door is either the greatest lie in history or the most compelling truth that confronts modern man.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." James 5:7-9.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand;) Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains." Matt. 24:14-16.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20.

Jesus says that "I stand at the door of your life. If you answer I will come in and dine with you." Do you have a sin problem in your life? Jesus would like to dine with you. Let's eat together. God wants to know, are you eating?

So long as you are eating, it will all work out in your life, you will have oil in your lamp.

Sunday, August 17

Br. Kanagarajah performed the baptism on the shore of Lake Ontario. Brenda has given up the world and made a choice for Heaven.

He continued, "Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:4, 5.

Today Brenda has given her heart to God, has accepted the Faith and is ready to be baptized.

Br. Kanagarajah called forth the youth to the shore to witness her choice for a new life.

As the water closed over her she arose to life anew in Christ Jesus. The Angels and indeed all of Heaven rejoiced at the sight and many a tear of happiness was present here on earth.

Back at the church, Br. Eric ushered in the welcome service with a prayer in song in Korean. Br. Kanagarajah continued with the welcome service by extending the hand of fellowship to Sister Brenda. Sister Rose, her spiritual mentor, gave to Brenda Hosea 2:19, 20 as guiding verses for her life. "And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD."

Sister Brenda then gave a personal testimony of thanks.

Field Officers

Br. Watts introduced the new Canadian Field Officers with Numbers 14:21, "But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD."

Is that a promise from the word of God? Isaiah echoes that promise.

"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." Isa. 62:1, 2.

This is the commission that we give the new Field Officers. Br. Watts then sang the Lord's Prayer. Br. Watts introduced the new Canadian Field officers and asked the congregation if they would support them in the work. The congregation committed to their support and prayers.



Br. Kanagarajah Baptizes Sis. Brenda



Br. Kanagarajah Accepts Sis. Brenda Into The Church

Signs Of The Times

Br. Oscar then reviewed the signs of the times from Matthew 24 including people claiming to be Christ. He spoke of famines, pestilences, wars, deception and many more events that are coming to fulfillment today. We are only waiting for the sign that will show us the Abomination of the Desolation, the Sunday law to be pronounced. The religions of the world are already uniting under the banner of the papacy.

Sis. Brenda sang a beautiful song of praise and surrender.

Closing Message

Br. Evald Pedersen closed the conference with a review of what was presented during the conference. What is going to happen in our own personal future we cannot know, but what is important is what is our relationship is with Jesus and our fellow man.

Matthew 25:31-39 "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?"

This is my parable for today. Jesus is coming in the clouds of Heaven, a King of kings. He is coming to start His kingdom, which will never end. This is what needs to be our focus. He is coming with all of the Angels. Who would like to be there?

Br. Watts gave closing remarks that Jesus is our Shepherd and we shall never want.

Br. Suarez then closed with the scripture Isaiah 26:2 "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in."

Our little church is on this boat and Jesus is at the helm. The boat has two oars; one that is faith and the other is works. The oar of faith justifies us through God! Grace enables us to pick up and use the oar of works. Each is needed to move the boat.

After the closing hymn, Br. Suarez gave benediction over the

congregation.

With the conference picture and a delicious farewell lunch this event passed into the pages of history.

We would especially like to thank all of the visitors that attended, those that provided their homes for the visitors to stay in, the kitchen staff, those that made donations of food and other goods, and others that worked behind the scenes to make the conference a blessed experience. **Amen**

John Formosa
Canadian Field Secretary



Br. Evald Pedersen



New Canadian Field Officers



He said that there is a god in the temple of stone, whom his parents introduced to him from his childhood. He further said that he will follow the same stone worship. It was so sad for me and my wife. Amar started to hate us as a missionaries; he wanted us to leave the village soon. Because it was late we could not leave the village that same day and we stayed over for the night. In the evening we prayed for brother Amar, "God forgive this brother because he does not know you. Let him have your spirit and may he experience rebirth".

Early next morning I and my wife left the village. We were thinking about Amar and we still loved him. We continued to pray for him. After three months we got a message from the same village that they want more Bible studies. So I made plans and traveled to the village in April 2008. I met all of them with whom I had during the previous Bible study. I was little worried about Amar, thinking that he may again be angry with me. I was thinking about Amar the whole night.

When I woke up there was message that someone from another village wanted to see me. I was so curious about the stranger. When I saw Amar I felt surprised. He came and greeted me, saying sorry for what happened the last time. He said that after he rejected the message of God, he was having problems. According to his explanation I came to know that on the same day he was angry with our previous Bible study, he fell down from a tree and lay in a bed for two weeks.

During his difficulties, other brothers who believed in the Lord prayed for him. The Spirit of God started to work on him to change him. He realized that because he rejected God, he suffered the accident. He started to pray with God and slowly his wound was cured. He only wanted to see us and have Bible study with me. He explained everything to me with tears in his eyes. This incident brought a change in Amar. Now he has dedicated his life to Jesus for ever and he wants to be baptized in the Lord.

Every day he shares the love of Jesus with his friends. His intention is to build a new church in his village. He wants some evangelistic materials to distribute in the village. We are planning to print some literature in the Nepali language.

Brethren and sisters, By His grace God has opened the heart of this boy and likewise many young people are there without the truth who are to be brought from His vineyard. In this country we are in more need of work to be done among the young people like a Bible training centre, a children's Sabbath school, and most importantly headquarters for the country of Nepal. So, kindly please remember this important cause and open your hand so that the vital need can be fulfilled. May the Lord bless you all in your work abundantly.

Rakesh Lamichhan, President Nepal Mission

Amar realized that God had miraculously saved his life and now he dedicated himself to God. Now he became a lay reformer and light of the Lord in his Society, where there were no people who had even heard about Jesus. In the year of 2007 December, I and my wife reached the small village where Amar used to stay. Amar had a father, mother and his younger brother. The Lord had showed us in a vision to go and preach there. Many times we planned to go but were not able to arrange the time. Finally this time, according to the Lord's wish we could start a small Bible study in the village.

There was no electricity; we conducted Bible studies by kerosene light in the evenings. We could not give Bible study class in the daytime because everybody had to go to their work in the field. In the same Bible study group, Amar also joined. After finishing 3 days of Bible study, we asked a question to all: How many of them would like to accept the message and the true God as their personal Saviour? From the group of the people, Amar replied that he did not wish to accept the God about whom we were teaching.



In Name Only

“And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.” Isaiah 4:1

In this verse, it can be said that the seven women represent nominal Christians and the one man, Christ. These women take hold of Christianity, not in sincerity, but for personal advantage only. These women choose to “eat their own bread” rather than the “true bread from heaven” (John 6:32), to “wear” their “own apparel” – the “filthy rags” (Isa. 64th6) rather than the perfect robe of righteousness (Mat 22:11,12).

Here a comparison is made between the value of sincerity in religious life, as opposed to self-righteousness and hypocrisy. They have a “form of godliness”, but “deny the power thereof.” (2 Tim 3:5).

The women are nominal Christians. The word “nominal” means, “Being such in name only.”

In the days of Ellen G. White she used the term “nominal Adventists” to describe the “First day Adventists.” “I saw how busy Satan had been. He saw that the nominal [First-day Adventists] could not overthrow us;...” She tells us that Satan had no success in hindering their work through the nominal Adventists, so he then thought of a new plan. He began to try to use their own brethren in the church to bring division. “...so he began to put prejudices in the minds of our *dearest* brethren, so as to hinder the work and overthrow James, and also to cause the faith in the visions to be destroyed, but [fortunately] he failed in his endeavours. I saw that Satan’s darts were hurled at us more than at others so as to destroy the confidence of God’s children in the visions, and to get James down so as to stop his work on the paper.” 6MR 171. ¹ The devil did not want the work to progress, so he used, not worldly people, but rather Christians (their own *dearest* brethren), to fight against Ellen and James White. Could we not also call these *dear* brethren nominal Christians as their works did not follow their profession?

This term, “nominal Adventists” can be applied to the majority of the Seventh-day Adventists today as we see the lukewarm condition of the church. But what about Reformers? Is it possible to be a Seventh-day Adventist Reformer in name only? Is there such a thing as a “nominal Reformer;” one who wants their name on the church books, to be called a Reformer, but eat “their own bread” and wear “their own apparel”? It most certainly is possible. It is said about these people that “Through their misrepresentation of God they are worse than unbelievers.” DA 306

“Far too large a number of professed Christians are Christians only in name. They have no root in themselves.” Yes, we agree that in the Christian world there are many nominal believers, Now we need to look at our lives, have we become a nominal Reformer? Here is described some of the attributes of nominal believers in Christ. **Their hearts are filled with pride, impurity, unholy ambition, self-importance, and love of supremacy.** They may have an intelligent knowledge of the theory of the truth, and prove

their doctrines to be sound and Scriptural, but they hold the truth in unrighteousness. By their course of action they deny the Saviour. **Their hearts are not sanctified** through the truth. They are unholy in heart, and unchristlike in deportment.” RH, November 28, 1899. Have we met Reformers like this?

HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE ARE NOMINAL REFORMERS?

The Spirit of Prophecy gives a clear description of nominal believers and we can compare our lives with these statements in order to determine whether we are Reformers “in name only.”

SABBATH KEEPING

I want to bring out two important points about Sabbath in relation to this subject. Firstly, “We should jealously guard the edges of the Sabbath. Remember that every moment is consecrated, holy time. Whenever it is possible, employers should give their workers the hours from Friday noon until the beginning of the Sabbath. Give them time for preparation, that they may welcome the Lord’s day with quietness of mind.” The promise is that, “By such a course you will suffer no loss even in temporal things.” 6T 356

It does happen that some people get so busy on Friday since they did not plan well all week and left everything until the last minute, that they rush to get things done by the going down of the sun, and sit down exhausted to open Sabbath. Some are in the habit of going over a few minutes – being a few minutes late to open Sabbath. Is this how God would have it? Is God that strict about a minute or two? I remember how it was at home when I was growing up, when it was time for Sabbath to be opened, my father used to play one familiar hymn. We all knew that when this hymn was played it was time to gather for worship. On occasion, I heard someone yell across the house, “It’s not time to open Sabbath yet. There is still 2 minutes left – wait, I’m not ready.” Is this honouring to God? Would it not be preferable to get things done early enough that we can open Sabbath in a relaxed manner, with all of our work easily finished on time? Those that consistently begin Sabbath late or close it early, are not guarding the edges of Sabbath, they are Christians in name only. The Sabbath is not revered and sacred as it was meant to be. We are told that, “*Before* the setting of the sun, let the members of the family assemble to read God’s Word, to sing and pray.” CG 529. We are actually told to begin our worship, *before* the sun has set. God is very strict with His time. If you would be one minute late for heaven, would Jesus open the door for you? No, it would be too late.

The second point is technicalities. Seventh-day Adventists that I’ve met over the years have justified their course of action, in frequenting restaurants on Sabbath by stating that they are not buying and selling. In fact they are just using the credit card, and will pay on another day that is not Sabbath, therefore they are in keeping with the Sabbath commandment. While it is technically true, they are not exchanging cash money on Sabbath, however in reality, they are breaching the Sabbath by making a financial deal on Sabbath. The use of a credit card for any other purposes,

[except genuine emergencies] like purchasing gas for a vehicle, is still a breach of the Sabbath Commandment. When people try to push the limits on Sabbath observance, and think of only the “rules” and how much they can get away with and still remain in keeping with the Sabbath commandment, these Christians are nominal. They are not focusing on Christ, but on the rules.

True Sabbath keeping is a delight. Those Christians and Adventists who are such in name only find it a burden. The children cannot play with their toys, or out of doors. The conversation cannot be on the worldly news events or sports. No worldly books can be read, no TV watched... so many ‘no’s’... is there anything positive about the Sabbath? Yes, it is a day of delight. It is a holiday. We get a holiday once a week, when we are free from any cares or worries. No work to do – just relax and rest in the Lord, enjoying Christian fellowship with believers and family.

PRAISE AND FLATTERY

There are rich men who give money generously why? While some may be genuine in their charity work, some do it to receive a tax receipt, for charitable donations. Others give to have either their name or a relative’s name put on the building. Many buildings are named after people – often the most generous contributor to the building.

The Bible is very clear about our giving of offerings. It is to be done in secret. “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” Matthew 6:1-4

“Christ’s own words make His meaning plain, that in acts of charity the aim should not be to secure praise and honor from men. Real godliness never prompts an effort at display. **Those who desire words of praise and flattery**, and feed upon them as a sweet morsel, are Christians in name only.

“By their good works, Christ’s followers are to bring glory, not to themselves, but to Him through whose grace and power they have wrought. It is through the Holy Spirit that every good work is accomplished, and the Spirit is given to glorify, not the receiver, but the Giver. When the light of Christ is shining in the soul, the lips will be filled with praise and thanksgiving to God. Your prayers, your performance of duty, your benevolence, your self-denial, will not be the theme of your thought or conversation. Jesus will be magnified, self will be hidden, and Christ will appear as all in all.”MB 80

True Christians do their acts of charity because they love God, while nominal Christians do their acts of charity because they love

themselves and the honour and glory it will bring to them.

LOVE OF WORLD

Nominal Reformers love the world. They try to hold on to as much of the world as is allowable to remain within keeping of the 'rules' of the church, in order to remain a church member. However, they are members in name only. Again, they are focusing on the 'rule's' and not on Jesus. They want to do as little as possible, sacrifice as little as is necessary to gain salvation. True believers will earnestly seek to do as much as possible for their salvation because they have fallen in love with Jesus and when you are in love, no sacrifice is too great for the one you love.

"The majority of nominal Christians, while they profess to be living for Christ, are really living for the world. They do not discern the excellence of heavenly things, and therefore can not truly love them. Many profess to be Christians because Christianity is considered honorable. They do not discern that genuine Christianity means cross-bearing, and their religion has little influence to restrain them from **taking part in worldly pleasures.**" MYP 374

"Many of these professed Christians **dress, talk, and act like the world**, and the only thing by which they may be known is their profession." Could Reformers dress and act like the world? "Though they profess to be looking for Christ, their conversation is not in heaven, but on worldly things" Just listen to the conversation of people after the church service and in the afternoon and it will be apparent that some are only nominal believers. Is their conversation in keeping with the Sabbath? Or on worldly interests?. "But it is evident that many who bear the name of Adventist study more to decorate their bodies and to appear well in the eyes of the world than they do to learn from the Word of God how they may be approved of Him." EW 108

The love of fashion is creeping into God's church. If people take notice of your clothing and make comments of admiration, perhaps you are dressing 'to be seen of men.' Do you plan your dress according to what others can admire so as to attract attention to yourself? Or do you dress for Jesus – plain, simple, but becoming?

"And the absence of self-denial in His professed followers, God regards as a denial of the Christian name. Those who profess to be one with Christ, **and indulge their selfish desires for rich and expensive clothing, furniture, and food**, are Christians only in name. To be a Christian is to be Christlike." CS 54. These people are not building for eternity. They are building for this earth.

"Many feel that they must make some concessions to please their irreligious relatives and friends. As it is not always easy to draw the line, one concession prepares the way for another, until those who were once true followers of Christ are in life and character **conformed to the customs of the world.** The connection with God is broken. They are Christians in name only." MYP 432

LACK OF UNITY

"There are among us **more** who are merely nominal Christians than many suppose. These are not connected with Christ, are not one with Him, and therefore do not feel that it is incumbent on them to answer the prayer of Christ that His followers may be one. But some who are real believers catch the **spirit of contention.** Some are ever seeking to be original, to bring out something new and startling, and they do not realize as they should the **importance of preserving the unity of the faith** in the bonds of love." 14MR 177

There are people who love contention. Doesn't matter what the issue is, they always try to take the opposing side. Those that seek to cause division in God's church are Reformers in name only.

MAKING NO ADVANCEMENTS IN KNOWLEDGE

There are many wise and talented men in God's church. They are in grave danger of becoming self-righteous or complacent. They can easily become proud also. They are special targets of Satan's attacks. If he can "smite the shepherd,...the sheep shall be scattered" Mark 14: 27 Another danger that leaders face is that they have reached a plateau in their religious experience. They believe they have enough knowledge and they cease to make earnest study of the Bible and spirit of Prophecy for new truths. They believe they have sufficient knowledge as they have more knowledge than the average member. These men in this condition have become nominal Reformers. We are instructed to "grow in grace, and in the *knowledge* of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18. We will never know all there is to know about God.

"Those who profess to serve God, and yet make **no advancement in knowledge and piety**, are Christians only in name." MYP 66.

HARSHNESS

"There are those who are driven away from Christ by the harshness of professing Christians. They might have done a good work in saving souls, but they have been stung to death by the inconsistency of those claiming to follow Christ, those who are Christians in name only. These weave into the web of life unsightly threads of selfishness, but their eyes are not anointed with the heavenly eyesalve, therefore they assert that the pattern is correct. But the threads of selfishness are there." 14MR 351. To have a harsh spirit – means you are a nominal Christian. "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt," Col. 4:6. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Eph. 4:29

Many other unconverted temperaments, such as lack of patience, anger and slothfulness may not necessarily lead to a person's being disfellowshipped from God's church. They may still retain their membership today, however they are, in reality, reformers in name only. When the final crisis comes to this earth, they will be shaken out because they have not overcome every sinful character trait and planted their feet on the Rock, Jesus Christ.

"We are in a world of imperfection, and on every hand is the image of false Christs,--Christians who are Christians only in name; for they are retaining objectional attributes of character, that mark them as subjects of the enemy, rather than subjects of the Prince Emmanuel. Were they under the control of Christ, they would bear his image and superscription; but they are false Christs, misrepresenting Jesus, denying him every day in character, although professing to believe on his name. Christ expounded the precepts of the law in his sermon on the mount; for he knew that some who were departing from it, would return to allegiance, and become representatives of the Son and the Father." ST, October 17, 1895.

FANATICISM

Here we see the exercise of kingly power manifested in the days of Ellen G. White.

"At this time there was fanaticism in Maine. Some refrained wholly from labor and **disfellowshipped all those who would not receive their views on this point**, and some other things which they held to be religious duties. God revealed these errors to me in vision and sent me to His erring children to declare them; but many of them wholly rejected the message, and charged me with conforming to the world. On the other hand, **the nominal Adventists charged me with fanaticism**, and I was falsely, and by some wickedly, represented as being the leader of the fanaticism that I was actually laboring to correct. Different times were repeatedly set for the Lord to come and were urged upon the brethren; but the Lord showed me that they would all pass by, for the time of trouble must come before the coming of Christ, and that every time that was set and passed by would only weaken the faith of God's people. For this I was charged with being with the evil servant that said in his heart, "My Lord delayeth His coming." EW 22

These nominal Adventists, disfellowshipped those for what reason? For falling into apostasy? No, simply because they would not receive their point of view. They also accused Sister White as being a fanatic because she brought them reproof from the Lord. These leaders are the **real** fanatics..Adventists in name only.

CONCLUSION

The nominal reformer lives a legal religion. There is no love in his heart for God or for his fellow man. He lives a life of selfishness. Religion has become a round of ceremonies and traditions, while the meaning is lost sight of as with the Jewish people in the time of Christ.

"Christ will have nothing to do with pretense. He will welcome to the heavenly courts those only whose Christianity is genuine. The lives of professed Christians who do not live the life of Christ are a mockery to religion." HP 318

"In these days, persecution and reproach for Christ's sake, are scarcely known. But very little self-denial and sacrifice is necessary

in order to put on a form of godliness, and have the name upon a church book. But to live in such a manner that our ways will be pleasing to God, and our names registered in the book of life, will require watchfulness and prayer, self-denial and sacrifice on our part.... Right actions are unmistakable fruits of true godliness. The Judge of all the earth will give every one according as his works shall be. Children who follow Christ, have a warfare before them. They have a daily cross to bear in coming out from the world and being separate, and imitating the life of Christ." {4bSG 147.1}

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" 2 Corinthians 13:5

If, after examination, we find we've been living the life of a nominal Reformer, all is not lost. Today, there is still time to repent. We have a loving and merciful High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary who is, "touched with the feeling of our infirmities;" Hebrews 4:15. "But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matthew 9:13. "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts," Heb. 3:15.

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Ezekiel 26:25-27. **Amen. W. Eaton , Canada**

(Endnotes)

1 The statement from 6MR p.171 was written on May 18, 1851. The publishers added the word "First-day Adventists". Although E.G. White did not use the term here, the publishers understood she was referring to this group. The SDA church adopted the Sabbath truth as a doctrine in the church in 1848. Sister White and others had been keeping the Sabbath for some time prior to this date. The Sabbath keepers then received opposition from those Adventists who rejected the light of the Sabbath truth and continued as First day Adventists. For this reason, the publishers believed that the opposition to the work that came from the outside was from their former brethren, the First-day Adventists, and Sister White referred to them as nominal Adventists. When this did not work, Satan began to work within the church amongst their own brethren.

Our Kingdom

Many kingdoms we find in this world; all different from one to another. For this reason people move from countries where they live to another, trying to find a better to place to live. But often they are disappointed. The new country where they moved was not a perfect place to live and some have even returned to their original home countries.

Yet there is one perfect kingdom that is eternal, and Jesus, who is the King of that kingdom has appointed it to us.

“And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as My Father hath appointed unto Me; That ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” Luke 22:29, 30.

Jesus included in His model prayer, “Thy kingdom come.” Millions of people have repeated this prayer in the past 2,000 years.

The kingdom of God has been the expectation of God’s children since the beginning. Abraham was looking for it. Isaiah wrote much about it.

Peter writes, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:13.

The world is divided really into only two kingdoms: The kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. Every person belongs to one of these kingdoms. Sometimes it is difficult to know to which of these two kingdoms a person belongs to, because Satan imitates the kingdom of God so far that people think that they are in the kingdom of God while they are under Satan’s control.

We can change our citizenship from one kingdom to the other. This is Satan’s purpose, and he puts out a great effort to draw people out of God’s kingdom to his own. He managed to get Adam and Eve to his side, and later on, the whole world were citizens in his kingdom, except one family.

On the other hand, God has citizens in His kingdom, whom He sends out as missionaries to Satan’s kingdom to call people out to join the kingdom of righteousness.

There are conditions that a person must fulfill before he is eligible to be a part of God’s kingdom. There are laws that he needs to learn and obey. This is the only way to maintain peace and unity in the kingdom.

The kingdom of God is truly a kingdom of love. This is the main principle that all must learn. To demonstrate His love to His citizens, the King Himself came down and offered to suffer the penalty of the crimes and sins that His people had committed. No other king of any other kingdom has ever made such a sacrifice for his subjects. Yet, sadly, people who claimed to be citizens of God’s kingdom hated Him and put Him to death. This is Satan’s deceptive

**“Take My yoke upon you,
and learn of Me”**

way to work against God's kingdom, by putting his own men into it, to cause divisions, and to introduce false doctrines into it. For that reason, God has to purify His church by a shaking from time to time.

Further conditions required by all, if they want to join the kingdom of God are humility, meekness, and lowliness; and who can teach this to us?

The best teacher is our King Himself. He said, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 12:29.

He will also teach us lessons of faithful obedience of the law, for He kept it perfectly. Also, He teaches us lessons of forgiveness. When they nailed Him to the cross, He prayed for them, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Then there are people who cannot inherit the kingdom of God. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Cor. 6:9, 10.

Everyone in the kingdom of God is active. There is work for everyone, according to their talents. And the most important work is missionary work, to invite people into God's kingdom and to teach them the laws and doctrines of the kingdom.

When Jesus asked Peter to become a worker in His kingdom, He put him to a test to find out if he was qualified to do the work, and to find out what he had learned in the past three and a half years. Jesus asked him only three questions. "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these?" Peter answered this question correctly. The next question was, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?" Again Peter gave the correct answer; and the third question was, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?" Again, Peter gave the correct answer and now Jesus found him qualified to feed His lambs and sheep. Other talents are useful, but love to Jesus is the most important qualification for the missionary.

Our Father is the great King of the whole universe, but He has made us to be kings and priests also with Him. "And has made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." Rev. 5:10. now our work is that of a priest.

When the Lord is asking, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Shall we then answer as Isaiah, "Here am I; send me." Isa. 6:8.

And what kind of work does He want us to do? The answer is, "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of

sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:18.

By saving others we save ourselves. This way we will be sure that we will have a part in the everlasting kingdom.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:10, 11.

Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

Today, in this sinful world we make our calling and election sure, that when Jesus comes we enter into His kingdom of glory.

Our future kingdom is very much different than the kingdoms on this earth. There will be no sin or wickedness. Love will reign everywhere, and no more tears, nor sorrow. There will be no sickness nor death.

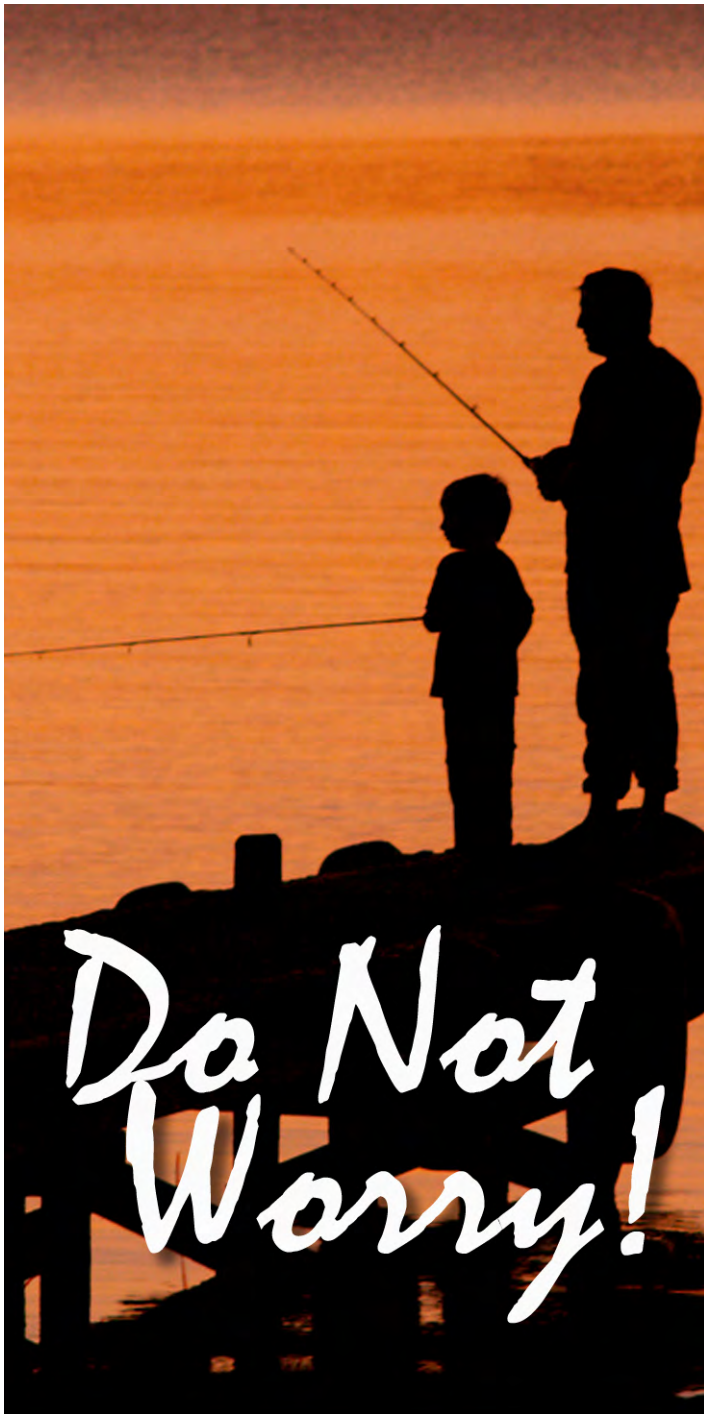
Sister White saw heaven in vision and said that it spoiled this world for her. She was homesick for the better country.

A few months ago I saw heaven in a dream at night. I felt very happy that finally the world of sin is over and we are in heaven. But when I woke up I was disappointed to still be in this world of sin. This dream made me homesick for heaven.

But it will not be long till Jesus will come and take us to heaven. The prophecies have been fulfilled and it may be sooner than we realize that Jesus will come.

Our time is running out, and many will be unprepared for His coming. Now only one thing is important; and that is our preparation for eternity, which means our character development. Pray to God that He will reveal to you all that may be still lacking in your character and do not delay even one day. May the Lord help each one of us to be faithful to the end. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada



Often worry leads to fear, synonymous with fear; dread or alarm; an unpleasant emotion caused by coming evil or danger. One of the fear centers in the brain, the amygdala, the size of [Greek for] almonds, can respond to upsetting stimuli in 12 milliseconds, or 1/25th the time it takes to blink your eye. When these brain cells fire at any unpleasantness, or attack, your blood pressure instantaneously rises, the output of your sweat glands and the tension in your muscles increase. Stress hormones then flood your blood stream. Your eyes will widen, your nostrils flare, making you hypersensitive to any further danger. All this occurs automatically, involuntarily, and unconsciously! This worry-fear syndrome can fire up the amygdala merely by witnessing someone else's pain, or glancing into another person's frightened eyes.

Because worry-fear is as contagious as the flu, "quarantine" yourself from such; computer, TV, newspapers, negative influences or people, etc., and meet with friends or family with spiritual strengths that can benefit one's emotions and character while in a crisis.

In fact, therefore, "worry clouds the **mind** and the **brow**"(7T298). Thereby, "become more intelligent in worship" (2T582). Furthermore "be a pleasure" (SC103). Act out of patience, courage, in prayer, and do not panic. Sleep can be a soothing remedy before any decision making until the next day; but, first cleared through Jesus. The Apostle Paul tells us, further, to avoid divisive persons, "now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned and **avoid them.**" (Rom 16:17).

A favorite remedy in Greece for worry is the strange and common use of "worry beads;" a string of colourful beads of glass, silver, or wood that, when played with supposedly relieves nervous tension. It's practiced by people at all ages, at all levels of society, young and old;(men only); students, professional men; doctors, lawyers, judges, politicians, etc., in all cafes, buses, trains, clinics and hospitals, courtrooms, even the priesthood! It may, for some, have a palliative effect, but its mythical and ancient beginnings are only a groping for a remedy in worrisome times that's engulfing the world.

SHARING THE SPIRIT

After seeing the multitudes, Jesus and His disciples went up to a mountain in which He taught the disciples. In Christ's Sermon on the Mount He then says, "you cannot serve two masters" (God and riches)(v-24), and "do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."(v- 19, 20).

"If you lay up treasures in heaven, you do it for yourself; you are working for your own interest. Your treasure, my dear brother, is laid up on the earth, and your interest and affections are on your treasure. You have cultivated a love for money, for houses, and lands, until it has absorbed the powers of your mind and being. And your love for worldly possessions has been greater than your love for your Creator and for the souls for whom Christ died. The god of this world has blinded your eyes so that eternal things are not

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? (Mathew 6:25).

WORRY BEADS

Firstly, how can we define such an abounding word as "worry"? It has long been an abused and misunderstood word, yet so many, needlessly and desperately, worry without understanding why. Consequently, they continue to neurotically and miserably fret, vex, and in essence... worry! By worry, we mean anxiety, over-concern, trouble, pester, harass self and those in their environment.(Greek-stenohoria-narrow, closed space; skotizomai –darkened mind).

valued. The love of the world had taken entire control of your being. The very best of your days are past. Your vitality and power of endurance, as far as physical labor is concerned, are enfeebled; and now, when you should be able to look back on a life of noble effort in blessing others and glorifying God, you can only have regret, and realize a want of happiness and peace. You are not living a life which will meet the approval of God. Your spiritual, your eternal interests, are made secondary. Brain, bone, and muscle have been taxed to the utmost. Why all this expenditure of strength? Why this accumulation of cares and burdens for your family to bear? What is your reward? The satisfaction of laying up for yourself a treasure upon earth, which Christ has forbidden and which will prove a snare to your soul.”(4T827). “To gain the treasures of this world, and use them as you have done to separate your affections from God, will be to you in the end as a terrible curse.”(4T831).

“A young man came to Christ and said, ‘Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?’ Jesus bade him keep the commandments. Christ showed him his true character. His selfish love of riches was a defect, which, if not removed, would debar him from heaven. ‘If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me.’ Christ would have him understand that He required nothing of him more than He Himself had experienced. All He asked was that he should follow His example. Christ left His riches and glory, and became poor, that man through His poverty might be made rich.”(4T829). All He left was His robe and sandals at His crucifixion.

In fact “worship God only” (EV33), “because He is the Creator.”(GC 437-38). By a living faith let us strive to do things that are important and can last forever! Moreover, share the Spirit of God. But, how? Ah! By our attitudes, our conduct, example, our words and thoughts, our treatment of others, and works. It’s “**heart-work!**” Paul and Barnabas were thundering examples of this Spirit.

FOOD, DRINK, AND CLOTHING

We opened with, “Therefore, I say to you...” (v-25). “Therefore” is used for emphasis, namely as a consequence of the sayings that preceded this, and... that being so, let’s proceed! Proceeding, because of this; because living for God in a blessed life, because God’s our Father and He cares, because our hearts are set on Heaven and not on earth. And so, therefore, Jesus tells you, “do not worry about your life” (v-25). Jesus Christ, in essence, is saying that the problem of the people in His day were the worrisome thoughts of food, drink, and clothing; “what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is life more than food and the body more than clothing?” (v-25). Every day life in those times was tough. One worked all day just to fill his stomach for the day. They had to pay for the water from the well. Clothing was very expensive. If a tear occurred it was mended over and over to last for years! This was a natural, worrisome daily occurrence. Then Jesus added to their woes by a negative command; “do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy

and where thieves break in and steal.”(v-19). He is saying, do not worry about the most essential things of life; worldly things. But, to seek deeper things, and trust the Father of Heaven who provides all your needs.

DEBIT OR CREDIT?

But, in essence we are much the same as the people in the days of Jesus. But, we do not have that gnawing worry regarding food, drink, and clothing... yet. Or, do we? The consuming desire, however, is securing more and more; an insatiable abundance. The ancient Israelites were provided with the essentials; a survival existence, although they still murmured in the wilderness, yearning to return to Egypt. Although ancient Israel had great light and exalted privileges, they did not live up to the light and appreciate their advantages. They complained and murmured “yielded to intense craving, saying who will give us meat to eat?”(Num 11:1-6)

But, similarly our worries today are magnified by cascading debts in ordinary living costs, and other factors; housing, food, drink, clothing, travel, health, scarcer food, changing diets, medical, education, security, etc. We are, Ellen G. White says, “stupefied by the world. The history of the children of Israel was written for those who live in the last days that they may avoid following their example of unbelief.”(4T827). Yet, corruptible man continues to drive the world into oblivion!

Supporting the above, a recent news article (W.St.Journ.7/11/08) entitled, **U.S Consumers Trade Down As Economic Angst Grows**, states, “Spurred by economic worries, American shoppers have quickly decided that cheaper is better, trading down for the anxiety-ridden consumers. Forty percent of U.S. revenues come from food; the staples being eggs, milk, and flour. The combination of historically high fuel prices and soaring food costs have combined with falling housing and stock values and tightening credit to severely dampen the spending habits on which the U.S. economy has long thrived. Consumers are moving away from availability to affordability; deciding they can live without old favorites. The financial situation has worsened; the worst since 1946.”

“This year the soaring cost of food has triggered street demonstrations in 30 countries, some of which tipped over into riots. The forces behind the price hikes are; demand for grain, foundation of human food chain is rising rapidly (grains). It is driven not only by a growing population, but also by **rising meat consumption among increasingly prosperous people in developing countries** (emphasis-mine). Demand for bio-fuels, degraded water and soil resources, climate change, droughts, and deluges, price hikes, and fungus, is adding to the pressure. The crisis is not over; the situation is serious. Scientific application in R&D, and productivity stopped years ago. Food production, therefore was outpaced by demand; by man, livestock and bio-fuel. People, on average get their calories from eating grain directly--that’s 45% of their total intake. The rest comes from milk and eggs from animals that themselves were fed grain. The three main shortages in crops of grain are: rice, wheat,

and corn. Rising demand for meat is gobbling up more and more of China's grain. The ancient scourge of famine is the most urgent message of our time." (**New Scientist**, "What Price More Food?" June 14-28, '08, pg 28-33).

"God has been teaching that abstinence from meat is best" (3SM291:1).

LITTLE APOCALYPSE

So, you can clearly see... it is here, and will soon fearfully escalate into greedy hoarding, rioting, pilfering, and consequently martial law to control the hordes! When a hurricane warning is issued in Florida, the stores are emptied by shoppers of all food and water **within hours**, and **without warning**. Hoarding becomes rampant, and commonplace! In Isaiah's "little-apocalypse" (24-27); "the earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant" (Isaiah 24:4, 5).

"When the judgment shall sit, and everyone shall be judged out of those things written in the books, how will your case then appear? You will look on this one and that one who would have walked in the way of God's commandments, if you had not surrounded them with the atmosphere of unbelief, if you had not perverted the Scriptures by misinterpreting their meaning, and led them away from strict obedience to God's Holy Law. Can you then look on their countenances with pleasure?" (5T 133).

"Storms, earthquakes, whirlwinds, fire, and the sword will spread desolation everywhere, until men's hearts shall fail them for fear and for looking after those things which shall come upon the earth. You know not how small a space is between you and eternity. You know not how soon your probation may close." (4T 831).

NATURE PATH

What does all this mean? God's wrath on unrighteousness and ungodliness will be soon manifested in full. But, a loving God is now pointing us to nature. Why nature? Because, this is the character of Jesus. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Rom 1:20). Take the time to enjoy the flowers and birds. Are the birds hungry, or the flowers poorly dressed? God provides for these creatures. You, too, are provided with all of your provisions. But, "laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger" (Prov. 19:15).

If, however, you work for God and serve Him diligently, He will provide you with all your worldly needs; "not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord" (Rom 12:11). "But, Martha was cumbered with much serving..." (Luke 10:40). Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled with many things" (v-41).

WORK, WORK, WORK!

But, people are entangled in the spirit of the world; a rebellious generation and dumb generation! Too busy, too little time, "tarnished and sullied by the pollutions of the world" (4TC829). Furthermore, the Spirit of Prophecy speaks to one who is exacting and at times impatient. "At your house it was work, work, work, from early morning until night. You have talked upon business, for business was primarily in your mind," and, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (4T 829).

Ask anyone today, and they will usually respond, "too busy"! They're caught up in the false idea that business (busied) connotes "value, productive, security, worthiness, fame, success"! They, however, mistake its importance. What's life all about? Is it to be born, work, some joy, and then die? If so, then man is not much more than a foraging animal. Man was created for greater things than this. But, for many life is a struggle, fighting merely to get ahead! Human existence is more than just piling up worldly goods. The Early Church called business (busied); "moral laziness." What does this mean? Well, business (busied) can be an addictive drug! What does excessive business (busied) do? Well, it buries our inner personal fears, anxieties, and insecurities. For many it's an escape from reality, from others, pending responsibilities (like raising a family) (serving the Lord). For some it's a pompous display of image, importance, fame, show, power!

We are, however, to be an outward people, not inward and secluded – monk-like, but Christ-like; meek, kind, gentle, humble. So, you see, there's many character stances of those in their relations to man. Some are entranced with their possessions; others for the respect of men by striving for position, influence, and power. But, "it is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep." (Ps alms 127:2). "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." (Eccl. 1:2).

LET GO!

Many push themselves hard; beyond their limits and suffer the consequences of ill health, family strife, and unhappiness. I have for years fell into this inescapable cauldron of the Calvinist American work ethic – pushing hard because "I had to"! Listen now, as the lesson for us is, "if God wants it done it will be done with or without me....or you!" Ah! But, still do your best, and realize always that the world's in God's hands. Now, if you do your best, and it's not done, the sun will still rise in the morning and set in the evening tide. God's work of salvation will still continue with or without you or me! God's love, however, for you or me is still there.

So, what are you working for? Killing yourself, and needlessly burdening friends and family? In essence, "in a tizzy over"? Excessive work is "bad for children, the strain of work causes mistakes, some mothers grow old and die prematurely, and moral energies are enfeebled. Ministers are cautioned against excessive work." (GC 462; 5T 91; 2TT 48; 1T 487-48; Ev 661). Ah! But, the

“greatest work in which men can engage is to point sinners to Christ, and is to glorify God by living Christ’s character.”(GW 18; 6T 439).

Maybe you and I would be best to just stop and let the world turn without our supervision?! We are not indispensable! But, often we realize that we couldn’t get everything done God wanted us to do. So, we need to **let go and let God!**

There’s a story of an experienced young mountain climber who nearly reached a mountain summit after hours of grueling obstacles in his climb. A violent, howling snow storm, however, stopped him in his tracks. He fought to find shelter, but fell into a dark, steep crevice. As he plummeted to a certain death, a rope mysteriously appeared before him which he clutched tightly. His fall was suddenly stopped! As he helplessly hung there, a deep strange voice beamed out, saying, “cut the rope”! He was fearful, and did not abide by the command. The next morning rescue workers found the climber frozen dead, but still clinging to the rope in a “death grip,” but his feet were only six inches from the bottom of the crevice and to safety. **He refused to let go!!**

Maybe you and I would be best to just stop, and let the world turn without our supervision?! We are not indispensable! But, often we realize that we couldn’t get everything done God wanted us to do. So, we need to **let go and let God!** Do what you humanly can, but realize it’s up to God’s hand!

SIT DOWN – BE STILL!

How did Jesus live? “Christ never engaged in worry. He was patient” (TDG 262:3) He obeyed His Father in Heaven, communing with Him, following His will. How are we to live? First, “He invites you to withdraw your affections from the world and place them upon heavenly things. In order to know the will of God, you must study it, rather than follow your inclinations and the natural bent of your own mind. ‘What wilt thou have me to do?’ should be the earnest, anxious inquiry of your heart.”(4TC831). The only worry Jesus had in the Garden of Gethsemane was His separation from His Father, and not the cares of daily life. Do you feel that way? Well, we all have our Gethsemane. We all pass through the Gethsemane of trials and decisions. But, we all need to live in the leisure and freedom of Jesus Christ’s life; slowly, unhurried, securely. He blessed little children, healed each one’s sickness, and patiently answered the confusing questions of many.

A rich industrialist was upset upon seeing a fisherman sitting lazily by his boat. So, he asked him:

Industrialist – Why aren’t you fishing?”

Fisherman – I caught enough fish for today.

Industrialist – Why don’t you catch more than you need?

Fisherman – What would I do with them?

Industrialist – Earn more money, buy a bigger boat, go deeper, catch more fish, buy more nets, catch

more fish, make more money, buy a fleet of boats,

and be rich like me!

Fisherman - Then what do I do?

Industrialist – Exasperated, he said, sit and enjoy life!

Fisherman - Well, what, do you think I am doing now?

You see, we can enjoy life now, find it minute by minute, day by day, and rest in God’s provisions. Jesus in essence says, “the cares and worries of this life, distracts us from what life is all about.”(Luke 21:34).

Jesus is not only talking about the last days which we are living in now, but also our personal last days. We are focusing on the wrong things at the wrong times, in the wrong places... unprepared for eternity and His imminent coming!

The Apostle Paul tells us, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”(Philippians 4:6). The Apostle Peter also advises, “casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you” (5:7).

Jesus was unhurried in His life, no business (busied), trusting always in His Father above. We can see it in His prayer, “Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name...”(Math 6:10). When Jesus prayed He knew He was praying to the One who cares for His needs. You know this! Do you believe this?

Did you know also, that Jesus never answered many questions in His ministry? Why? Because they came out from fear, false worries, insincerity, prestige, influence, power, control; namely from the likes of Pilate, the Pharisees, the rich young ruler, a lawyer, and others.

Jesus’ life was always a life of worship, always focusing on God the Father, like a child’s faith who loves us like the Father. When we worry we cannot faithfully worship. They cannot live in the same heart!

Moreover, if you’re worrying and wondering, and wailing, you’re not worshipping! How can you? It’s not true worship. Furthermore, if you’re worrying you fall for the false idea, if something is going to be, it’s going to be up to me; “Worrying over matters that should be left in God’ hands.”(TM201)

Worrying often puts us in impossible situations, with not enough means, support, money, capabilities, and our lives become mired in complexities and frustrations... causing further worrying, until our lives become a mess of perilous hair-raising experiences. “Life is stormy” (SD142). What did Jesus say? Don’t be like that!! If we focus our lives on our physical needs, like unbelievers, then we have no faith in the Heavenly Father. “We fall out of Christ’s arms” (DA301). Our life is one big, busy race, running, trying, pursuing, striving to get things we need – “the impossible dream.” Someone once said, “It’s a rat race. But, the trouble is, even if you win, you are still a rat!” There’s an old African proverb, “Lord Jesus make my heart sit down.” The Psalmist says, “Be still and know that I am God.”(46:10). It’s just what we need; to **sit down and be still**, and

from worrying about what we cannot do to resting in **who God is!**
That's it!

MURKY PIT

We have hearkened to the Word, and come thus far in our perilous, homeward journey. So, if we no longer fear, stop lamentably worrying, what more should we be doing? Jesus said then, and is telling us now, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Math 6:33). What is Jesus Christ telling us? Well, that this is to be our very first **priority in life – God's Kingdom and His righteousness!** It's to be reigning in our hearts, walking in His will, making Godly choices, being Godly examples in this immensely reckless world. What else? Well, we can try to help and lead others to do the same thing – "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," and before any decision. Not our's but His righteousness! (2 Corinthians 5:21). But, again, how? By a firm relationship with Jesus (Rom 3:21-24). Him and only Him; first and foremost! Yes, Jesus is urging us to seek this relationship more than any other thing in life! If you do, then all the necessities of life will be met. Ah! But, our priorities are not straight – they're entangled in worldly things and its cares. The lingering pressures of life divert us and we're not focused anymore – and consequently fall into the murky pit of worry.

Jesus tells us in the end, "therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Math 6:34). Ah! Worry, the culprit, doesn't eliminate tomorrow's worry, but empties today's strength! We become weak, listless, encumbered, useless, and stressed!

BE A PILLAR!

But, "you can be a pillar to your church. You can come to the light and walk in it. God calls after you again. He seeks to reach you, girded about with selfishness as you are, and covered with the cares of this life." (4T831). How often we could have been a light to some distressed one, but we were too wrapped up in our own little, petty worries! Even so, therefore, believe, "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:19).

Prayer is the battle – again, again, and again! Let your prayers be fervent, passionate, effusive, and humble. It means, furthermore – unrestrained outpouring--but not chanting, weak, masticated, long-groaned, or reluctant. Come boldly in front of the throne of grace, but, kneeling in awed reverence. Begin your prayers, "In this manner, therefore, Our Father in Heaven. Hallowed be Your name... (Matt. 6:9). Many worries will vanish, if you do and "before" asking for your daily needs. I repeat and reemphasize the point that **worry is lack of faith in our Holy Father!** Subsequently, will you see God for **who He is, and be still before Him each day, and walk in the Spirit of God?** If still in torturing doubt, fainting, and desperate for a life of peace.... then, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8).

Furthermore, medical scientists and researchers have repeatedly uncovered data that religion – meditative measures, church-going, fellowshiping, social interaction have in fact been the best solution for reducing stress; lowering blood pressure, increasing longevity, etc., for worry affects health – "Then cease to complain as though you were bond servants under a hard taskmaster. Jesus is good. Praise Him. Praise Him who is the health of your countenance, and your God" (5T 315).

But, best of all manifest and emulate the **attainable and genuine** example of the life of Jesus Christ. The Christian life demands diligence in pursuing moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, Godliness, brotherly kindness and selfless love. By contrast, the false teachers are sensual, arrogant, greedy, and covetous. They scoff at the thought of future judgment and live their lives as if the present would be the pattern for the future! In fact, Peter reminds the believers that although God may be longsuffering in sending judgment, ultimately it will come!! **(It is here!)** "Therefore, brethren be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble" (2 Peter 1:10). But, if you're unconverted, there's no controversy; but, if converted, **the war begins!**

In the miracle of Jesus' cleansing of the ten lepers, "Jesus answered and said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" (Luke 17: 17, 18). "Will Jesus find faith on His return? Are you clinging to Jesus in faith as your burden grows heavier?" (OHC317:2)

"Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord; let us lift our hearts and hands to God in Heaven" (Lam 4:40, 41). "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord, thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 3:13).

Oh dear Lord, make our hearts **sit down**, that we might be able to see the needs around us and live in your **HOLY LEISURE!**

Finally, "**choose flowers not thorns as EGWhite saw in a dream**" (2MCP807:3).

This is the answer to **DO NOT WORRY**, and a sluggish soul!
Amen.

John Theodorou, U.S.A.

JAMES WHITE FINDS A WAY— A DEAD WOLF HELPS



CHILDREN'S CORNER

As told by Arthur L. White

Everyone likes vacations. This story is about a time when the White family were taking a vacation in the Rocky Mountains. There were Elder James White and Sister Ellen G. White and Willie who was eighteen years of age, and a close friend of the Whites, Mrs. Hall. Brother and Sister White had been working very hard, going from place to place attending meetings and speaking and helping the people for years, and they needed a change. Both Elder and Mrs. White had a great deal of writing they wanted to do and they could not get to it at home in Battle Creek or when they were traveling, so they decided to spend the summer of 1873 in Colorado, resting and writing.

Sister White had a niece who lived in Colorado. The husband of this niece was Mr. Walling and he ran a sawmill. The Wallings had a cabin that could be fixed up and Elder and Mrs. White could stay there. Part of the time they would write and part of the time they would relax.

And so the Whites went to the Walling home and got settled in the cabin and then had a wonderful time. They enjoyed climbing the mountains and watching the rushing streams. They gazed at huge granite rocks and they watched the beautiful sunsets. They enjoyed picking wild berries that they found here and there.

One day, late in the summer, Mr. Walling asked Elder and Mrs. White if they would like to go up to Grand Lake in Middle Park for a couple of weeks and camp by the lake. Of course they would like to go! So they got their clothes ready. They got their food ready. They took some candles for light. They planned that they would be camping by the lake for about two weeks.

At eleven o'clock Sunday morning everything was loaded into two wagons, and they started driving way up into the mountains, past the timberline where no trees grow because it is so high. They got through the pass and started down the narrow winding road and camped for the night. Monday morning, they started out again. Elder and Mrs. White and Willie were riding horses. Soon they were called back, for an axle on one of the wagons had broken. Now they would have to camp a few days here while Mr. Walling

went back home to get the axle fixed. It was a week later that Mr. Walling sent one of his hired men with the repaired axle, and to take the Whites on to the lake.

Grand Lake is quite a big lake, but in those days, no one lived there. During the summer months, two fishermen stayed there in a cabin and caught fish for the market. When they got to the lake, they chose a good site for the camp and the hired man helped the Whites pitch their tents. With his horses, he hauled in dry logs which could be used for firewood. Soon they were all nicely settled, but already their supplies were running low. After spending Sabbath with them, the hired man said goodbye and drove up over the pass and back to the saw mill, promising to send supplies soon or to have Mr. Walling come and get them and take them back to the cabin.

How the Whites did enjoy this beautiful place! It was so quiet and the lake was so beautiful. They went boating and they went hiking. They rested and Elder and Mrs. White did quite a lot of writing. Mrs. White was just at this time writing on the early part of the life of Jesus.

Willie especially enjoyed watching the otters in their play. They would slide down into the lake. The Whites became acquainted with the two fishermen. Their little cabin was right by the lake. They would catch their fish in nets and keep the fish alive until a man came up from Black Hawk with horses and saddlebags, and then that evening they would take the fish out of the water, clean them, leave them out in the frost and the next morning they put them in the saddlebags and took them to the market in Central City and Black Hawk.

Brother and Sister White expected that Mr. Walling would soon come and get them. But for some reason, he was delayed. It seems that Mr. Walling was a man who couldn't always be depended upon. Elder White was working on the revision of a tract which was printed at our publishing house in Battle Creek. He had promised them that the copy would be ready by a certain time. If Mr. Walling delayed too long, he would not be able to keep his promise, and the much-needed tract would be seriously delayed.

Mr. Walling did not come. Soon the candles were all burned up, so when it got dark, they went to bed, and when it got light, they got up. But the big problem was food. It was going fast and this really troubled them. They asked the fishermen to sell them some of their supplies, but they did not have much to spare. They found that there were wild berries here and there on the mountainsides, and they picked these berries and used them, and some of them they made into pies and traded them to the fishermen for other food. As each day went by, the food was getting more scarce.

Elder White spent some time writing on his tract. As he and Willie came home to their camp after a hike one Tuesday afternoon, Elder White discovered that the men had come for the fish and would be leaving early the next morning for Black Hawk. He decided that he must finish his work on the copy for the tract and send it to the post office by these men. He had given his word that the tract would go out by a certain time, and this was his opportunity to keep his word. So he hurriedly got his Bible and his concordance and continued working on the copy for the tract. He looked occasionally at the sun and he saw that it would soon be going down behind the mountains. When it got dark, he would not be able to write any more because, you remember, they had no candles. What could he do? As he wrote, he thought. He must find a way to get that tract finished.

Elder White was a man who didn't give up easily. If one way seemed closed, he would try to find another way. He would stick to it until the job was done. As he thought, he remembered that that very afternoon as they were out for their walk, some distance from the camp they had seen the body of a wolf. There was a hunter who had set traps on what they called a trapline. He had a trail and he would set traps here and there in likely places where he might catch the animals. He did this because he wanted the fur. And about every week or ten days, he would come through and if he found an animal in the tray, and leave the carcass there because he had no use for that. And that very afternoon, they had seen the carcass of a freshly-killed wolf. Elder White thought perhaps—perhaps, they could get some fat off the body of that wolf and he could use that fat to make a light. He called his boy, Willie.

"Willie, Willie, come here! I have got to have a light," he said, "to finish this tract tonight. I have promised it and it must go at six o'clock in the morning when the men take the fish to Black Hawk. Do you remember the body of that wolf we saw out there on the trail?"

"Yes," Willie replied.

"Do you think you could find it?"

"Yes. I am pretty sure I can."

"All right," Elder White said, "I want you to take your knife and a pan and go to the body of that wolf, scrape off all the fat that you can. I must have a light." And as Willie was leaving, James White called after him, "Don't forget the shotgun." There were brown bears up in that valley;

So with a double-barreled shotgun over his shoulder, and a pan and the knife, Willie started back over the trail to see if he could find the body of the wolf. He just hoped that a coyote hadn't gotten it between the time when they saw it and the time when he hoped to find it. But when he came to the spot, there it was. He knelt down by the side of the carcass. He scraped a little yellow fat from here, and he found a little more yellow fat from someplace else, and then he cut the body of the wolf open. He found some fat here and some fat there, especially around the liver. As he told the story to his children many years later, he said that he never saw such a skinny wolf in all his life! When Willie had gotten about all the fat that he could from that wolf, he had just about a cup and a half full. It was getting dark now and he hurriedly walked back to the camp. Elder White took the pan and put it over the fire and the fat turned soft and melted into oil. Then he poured it into a dish, and he tore up some pieces of rag. He put them in the oil and twisted them and dipped them in the oil and twisted them until they took shape. Then he laid them up on the edge of the dish. He lit it. It sputtered a little bit and then it flared up in a nice flame. Elder White had his light;

And so he went on with his work of writing, writing, with the light given from the oil which came from the wolf. Ten o'clock came, and he was still writing. Eleven o'clock came, and he hadn't quite finished. He looked into the dish. Yes, there was plenty of oil. Twelve o'clock came and he looked again. He had finished the tract now and there was still some oil left. But he had the copy for the tract and his letter ready to go. He pinched out the flame and went to bed.

Early in the morning when the men took the fish to Black Hawk and Denver, they took the letter to be mailed to the publishing house, and the copy for the tract. Elder White did not let them down. He had promised and he kept the promise. He found a way to do what needed to be done.

We think that the pioneers did some great things, and they did. But they were prepared to do difficult things because when they were boys and girls, they had learned to do the hard things. We do not find them, when they found some difficult task saying, "I can't do it, I can't do it!" Now I know that you boys and girls never say that, but sometimes boys and girls are tempted to, when they are asked in school or at home to do what seems to be some very hard task. Elder and Mrs. White found a way to do what needed to be done. About a week later, Mr. Walling came. How glad they were to see him! He brought some food with him too. He explained that he had had some trouble at the saw mill and it just wasn't convenient to come. He hadn't realized that Brother and Sister White were suffering actual hunger there in the mountains.

But be that as it may, Elder White "stuck to it." He found a way to do what needed to be done. He didn't give up.

This story is based on the Ellen G. White diary account and on William C. White's memories as told to his children.



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