

The Reformation *Messenger*

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 8, AUGUST 2009

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



"Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."
Deuteronomy 5:16

WE BELIEVE: The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. 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.

ABOUT THE COVER

Cover Photo:
Sis. Bescec and son Br. John Bescec at church picnic in Toronto, Canada
Photographer: Sis. H. Marttinen

Inside Cover:
Flowers in Ontario, Canada
Photographer: Sis. H. Marttinen

Volume 16, Number 8, August 2009

- 3 "MAILBOX" MISSION IN FINLAND**
- 5 A PERSONAL TESTIMONY**
- 8 NO ROMANTICISM IN CHRIST**
- 13 MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN!**
- 19 OUR CONSCIENCE**
- 21 COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE PART 4**
- 23 WHO'S THE BOSS?**
- 24 SHOW YOUR COLOURS**
- 26 CHILDREN'S CORNER: JOHN FOXE**

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Messenger

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"Mailbox" Mission In Finland



Finally the day arrived to fly again to Helsinki. For four years Birgitta Jeltsch and I had to wait for "mail-boxing" the three angel message flyers once more in this northern country, because always something came in between.

Even so, on our side, after everything was calculated and planned, we had absolutely no confirmation for any of the arrangements where to stay and go, as we received, up until the last day, confusing messages from the believers in Finland. Nothing was sure. But we believed everything will go well at the end. And so it was. The most important concern was the brother with the car who would drive us. His complicated situation was solved and he was free to go. The other situation about our stay at a certain sister's place suddenly cleared itself miraculously too.

I very much looked forward to this trip. This time it was spring, and Finland is at its most beautiful. Everywhere, flowering lilac shrubs accompanied us on the roadside, and their lovely fragrance literally "filled" our nose, as many mailboxes are placed right beneath them. Dandelions blanketed the vast meadows with their striking golden color everywhere.

The roads are good. We ventured from the highways off onto many side roads, through field roads, forest roads, gravel and sand roads, to reach the far and isolated hamlets, farm houses, forest dwellings and single houses deep in the country. Those were places we especially wanted to distribute the flyers, because these areas are normally not worked in because of the great distances from the main travel routes.

It was a great joy for us to put the flyers about the last warning in the faraway mail boxes with the prayer in our hearts, that these

remote people would give heed to the heavenly message and accept it; that the readers may realize there is more to life than eating, drinking, working and entertainment; that there is a living God who loves them and wants them to come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved.

The daily trips had us working from 9AM to 5PM, then the long way back to the several places for the night, took us through the beautiful Finnish landscape with its countless deep blue lakes, the lovely birch forests and other trees. Blueberry and cranberry shrubs in the woods, lupines, dandelions and other flowers adorned the sides of the roads. The fresh, invigorating green of the already high winter rye covered the fields like a velvet carpet. The sweet, carefree songs of many birds cheered our hearts with gladness and gratitude to the Creator for all these wonders around us.

The first days were the most beautiful, especially the Sabbath, which we spent with brethren north of Tampere. We sat for hours singing and talking in the grand, most pleasant Finland's "very own" swing, enjoying the peaceful, summery day.

Then came a change in the weather and it became cool. At times it began to rain, but we could distribute just the same amount of flyers, by going to the high rises in the towns. There we had to pray a lot beforehand to find the entrances unlocked, because many, especially in new buildings, doors are locked permanently, having code numbers to enter. We found most of them open. In some we could use the elevator which was very helpful, but in the 3-4 storey high ones we had to climb a lot of stairs to reach the doors with the mail slot.

Our dear driver, brother, Veikko, had to park the car (he also helped

us sometimes in the high rise buildings) while working through a town section. On the first day, when Birgitta and I returned to the car, we saw him eagerly talking on the parking place, with somebody in the car. When he came to us he told us with a happy grin on his face that he had spoken to two different people in their vehicles on how important it is to know the future and God's plan for the world; he also gave them flyers. One of them asked for another one for his son who is in prison in Sweden, and has lots of time there to read. The other had been in many different churches and made his experiences asking people what they actually believe. Nothing satisfied him so far, so he was quite interested to take the paper. May the Lord bless these souls.

In certain towns where we distributed flyers, we also visited isolated believers who were happy to see us. And then we stayed at the home of dear sister Anja, who took us in also four years before, and had spent some nights there. Anja is most hospitable and had delicious meals ready for us for which we were very grateful. From there we took our route for most of the Southwest of Finland, then up north to Tampere and Turku besides the remote areas. In the nine full working days we distributed 12 000 flyers and traveled nearly 2000 km. After hours of jumping in and out of the car we were tired and hungry at the end of the day. For lunch we always had fruit and typical Finnish rye bread. The sauna, another special feature of this northern country was also always available for us on our returning.

The second Sabbath we spent with the believers in Toijala, where

they have a beautiful new house of worship, equipped with an office, kitchen, dining room, etc. We could enjoy nice music from a very talented family, with violin, harmonica, the grand organ and a very special instrument, a real wood saw, specially conditioned, on which the father produced most extraordinary melodies.

Sunday we were accompanied by the wife of our driver and she helped us "mail-boxing" till we reached Helsinki where our ways separated.

Well, this was the end of our task. I was really a bit sad that this wonderful time together and the work came to an end and we had to say good-bye. We are most grateful to Veikko, who with such dedication sacrificed his time and vehicle. Without him, this undertaking would have not been possible. The Lord bless him and his dear wife abundantly!

Then we had to go back to Germany. It was such a blessed occasion, also. The car was always in top condition, the Lord protected us most wonderfully, and we are very grateful for this unforgettable trip. We pray that the Spirit of God may work on the hearts of men who received the flyers, that a harvest of souls may be ready for the second coming of Christ Jesus. The name of the Lord be praised for ever and ever! **Amen.**

Edda Tedford, Canada



Church In Toijalaa Finland



A Personal Testimony

Greetings from 1 Peter 2:2. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby." With this I want to share my experiences as a newborn baby in the IMS.

My name is Christian Danboyi, from Nigeria, Plateau State, Nyango village, Sabon Barki. I was born in the village; my parents are Mr. Danboyi Dalyop Chong and Mrs. Rifkatu Danboyi Dalyop. My mother is the first wife of my father; she is a farmer while my father works with the government.

My father didn't always go to church, but my mother took us to church all the time and she always spoke to us about the Word of God. Her plan was that we should not be like the children of the world. Many times my father would do something that would hurt us and she would tell us that it is the devil, not my father. She would tell us to love our father and not be angry with him. My mother told us not to talk bad things no matter what happened.

My experiences as a Christian:

I was dedicated in the Assemblies of God Church in Nyango Gyel when I was born. I grew as a Christian in that church. I was baptised. I was also in the choir and was the leader of the youth department in the church. However, I was reading a book that my father bought before he married called *Bible Readings for the Home*. I studied that book with a friend that was also baptized in the church and when we came to the point about the Sabbath, we were shocked. At that time we thought we were the first people to know about this. From that time we began to worship in my room on the Sabbath day, thinking that there were no people that were worshipping on Sabbath anywhere on the face of the earth. My friend and his parents then left my place and I was alone.

At that point, my church started to ask me why they were not seeing me in church anymore. I told them about the Sabbath. I then began facing trials from the pastors of my church and the church in the village and the District areas. At that time my father was the District leader and they told him that his son has joined a secret society and that they should pray for him (me).

One day a pastor of the Assemblies of God Church that was in Jos Town heard about me, and he came to see me. He told me that he knew that the SDA church had tuned my head. I was very happy that there were people who worship on the Sabbath. After he left I immediately began looking for the church in the town. At long last I found the church. I asked the pastor of the church that I want to know their doctrine. He gave me books about their doctrine and I asked him to take me around the church to see it, because I thought about what the pastor had said about them being a secret society. I wanted to know if it was true, so that is why I asked him to take me around. I wanted proof that the Sunday pastors were wrong.

From there I became a member of the SDA church. I was baptised and became the assistant Men's leader as well as the Leader of the

National Association of the Adventist Students (NAAS). I continued to study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and found out that the SDA were not doing what they were teaching.

My experiences as a Seventh-Day Adventist:

I was in the University of Jos studying statistics (math) and computer science. I knew full well what I believed about the Sabbath and had decided I would not do anything for myself on the Sabbath. My 100 level lecture, test, and examination were all on the Sabbath day, but then I read these words in the Spirit of Prophecy:

Sabbath Hours Not Ours but God's.--*God has given us the whole of six days in which to do our work, and has reserved only one to Himself. This should be a day of blessing to us--a day when we should lay aside all our secular matters and center our thoughts upon God and heaven. {CG 529.2}*

When the Sabbath commences, we should place a guard upon ourselves, upon our acts and our words, lest we rob God by appropriating to our own use that time which is strictly the Lord's. We should not do ourselves, nor suffer our children to do, any manner of our own work for a livelihood or anything which could have been done on the six working days. Friday is the day of preparation. Time can then be devoted to making the necessary preparation for the Sabbath and to thinking and conversing about it. Nothing which will in the sight of Heaven be regarded as a violation of the holy Sabbath should be left unsaid or undone, to be said or done upon the Sabbath. God requires not only that we refrain from physical labor upon the Sabbath, but that the mind be disciplined to dwell upon sacred themes. The Fourth Commandment is virtually transgressed by conversing upon worldly things or by engaging in light and trifling conversation. Talking upon anything or everything which may come into the mind is speaking our own words. Every deviation from right brings us into bondage and condemnation. {CG 529.3}

I had to tell my lecturer about my faith and he told me that if I am ready to study, I should study. But if I am not ready I should go home with my faith. They were not ready to do anything about it. I then met with some of the SDA lecturers to ask them to help me to talk to my lecturer, but they told me that there is nothing they can do because that is what the government has set in the country. I continued with my faith, believing that God will work a miracle. The test, lectures, and exams were not done by me on the Sabbath and I became a laughing stock in the campus by both students and lecturers. My parents became very angry with me and asked me what is wrong with me. My lecturers said, "your SDA lecturers are setting exams on the Sabbath day, so who do you think you are?"

I was in my 300 level but with my credits and still a lot to complete, when I heard the message of the S.D.A.R.M. ('51 Movement). I decided to leave my school in the 300 level because most of my lectures, tests, and examinations were done on the Sabbath. I tried

to soften the situation while in school, but it was getting worse and I felt pressured. Seeing that no one had time to listen to my complaints, I decided to leave my school.

That brought confusion to my family. My parents insisted that, "If I should continue with my worship with the Sabbath, there will be no financial support from them and I should hope that the church will sponsor my education." Now I am a drop-out in school because of the misunderstanding I am having with my parents, lecturers and even some of my friends.

My father said he would consider supporting me, only under the condition that the church look for a suitable school for me, but he did not accept the idea of me being out of school.

My experiences with the '51 Movement:

I was in the '51 movement (SDARM) and found out that they also were not doing what they were teaching. I asked myself, "What is wrong with me that I have to change churches three times?" I was praying to God to help me. I then went to the cafe to do an internet search for SDARM and I found the IMS SDARM. I printed everything I could find on the internet on the IMS SDARM to show the brethren of the SDARM to tell them that they are in the wrong place. Some of them listened to me, but others took me as a person that would destroy their church.

From there I called the GC of the IMS SDARM to send all the material they could send to my email for me to study, because I do not want to join a church today and leave tomorrow. After the studies I called them (IMS SDARM) to come and baptise me and the others (SDARM '51 movement), that I have been studying with.

The words in the Spirit of Prophecy state:

"Trial is part of the education given in the school of Christ, to purify God's children from the dross of earthliness. It is because God is leading His children that trying experiences come to them. Trials and obstacles are His chosen methods of discipline, and His appointed conditions of success. He who reads the hearts of men knows their weaknesses better than they themselves can know them. He sees that some have qualifications which, if rightly directed, could be used in the advancement of His work. In His providence He brings these souls into different positions and varied circumstances, that they may discover the defects that are concealed from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to overcome these defects and to fit themselves for service. Often He permits the fires of affliction to burn, that they may be purified." {AA 524.2}

Editor's note: [This brother emailed a sister in the church with his testimony. This clarifies the next comment]

Dear sister, as God has led me to know you, I consider you my mother in the Lord; one who I can seek counsel from and with

whom I can tell my plans and ask advice.

The Words of the Spirit of Prophecy state:

Confide in Godly Parents.--If you are blessed with God-fearing parents, seek counsel of them. Open to them your hopes and plans; learn the lessons which their life experiences have taught. {AH 73.2}

If children would be more familiar with their parents, if they would confide in them and unburden to them their joys and sorrows, they would save themselves many a future heartache. When perplexed to know what course is right, let them lay the matter just as they view it before their parents, and ask advice of them. Who are so well calculated to point out their dangers as godly parents? Who can understand their peculiar temperaments so well as they? Children who are Christians will esteem above every earthly blessing the love and approbation of their God-fearing parents. The parents can sympathize with the children and pray for and with them that God will shield and guide them. Above everything else they will point them to their never-failing Friend and Counsellor. {AH 73.3}

Sister, My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus... The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Adopt this as the rule of life. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:8, 6, 7. {CH 630.1}

Christian Danboyi, Nigeria



Stephen Newby

Church Picnic Toronto, Canada



Matthew Romero



**Christina McTavish & son
James Bescec**



"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matt. 7:21-23.

In my travels I was listening to the verbal rendition of Testimonies to the Church Volume 5 by Ellen White, and I heard something that made me think, and prompted me to share with you this message.

"We are living in a time when even greater earnestness is needed than in the apostles' day. But among many of the ministers of Christ there is a feeling of unrest, a desire to imitate the romantic style of modern revivalists, a desire to do something great, to create a sensation, to be accounted able speakers, and to gain for themselves honor and distinction." {5T 132.3}

The phrase that captured my attention was that the ministers try to capture the style of modern revivalists. A romantic style of modern revivalists. What does the spirit of God mean with this phrase? Romantic style?

We have grown up under an atmosphere in these modern times that excites emotions. Old fashioned religion is unsatisfying. I have also heard it called boring. It is the old fashioned religion that causes people to go to sleep in the congregation. We ask ourselves, why is this the case? Were there times in the old days when people were animated with the story of Jesus, and the deep things of the Bible animated them, and today it is a weariness? What has caused this? We are living in an era of excitability.

Television with its entertainment continually excites the attention of people with its stories in living representation. We also see this in films and novels with all their romantic stories. As we have grown up in this atmosphere, notice what the spirit of God helps us to understand with regards to what effect it has had on the human race including the church;

"I counsel the youth not to devote to the reading of story books or fictitious tales the precious moments now given them in which to make preparation for eternity. Such reading will surely unfit the mind for the enjoyment of solid reading, which strengthens the intellect and improves the morals. Story-book reading creates an appetite for exciting stories, leads the mind away from the Scriptures, and disqualifies for duty; it makes the precious words of God, which should be of the highest value, dry and uninteresting. The mind must be fed with pure food if the heart be pure. The moral taste is perverted by fictitious reading." {YI, August 3, 1887 par. 10}

As I read that, it was written in the days when there was no TV; but in those days there was the theater and that was written of as being the hotbed of iniquity. Today the living theatre has been

transformed into film going. As a story is played out in front of the people's minds, as a picture it creates an appetite for exciting stories; it leads the mind away from scriptures. It disqualifies for duty.

"You know not the deceptions of the human heart. You know not the devices of Satan. Some who have drawn largely upon your sympathy have a sickly, diseased imagination, are lovesick, sentimental, ever eager to create a sensation and make a great ado. Some are dissatisfied with their married life. There is not enough romance in it. Novel reading has perverted all the good sense they ever had. They live in an imaginary world. Their imagination creates a husband for themselves such as exists only in romances found in novels. They talk of unrequited love. They are never contented or happy, because their imagination pictures to them a life that is unreal. When they face the reality, come down to the simplicity of real life, and take up life's burdens in their families, as is woman's lot, then they will find contentment and happiness." {2T 302.1}

What has romance done to people? Women's liberation, that is what it has done. It has given them the sense that the home, training the children and running the home is menial. They want something more romantic than that. It has come from novel reading and theatre going and today it is rampantly displayed for those who have been brought up with television, looking for those fantastic live stories. It has romanticized life and removed it from reality. Is not this mentality rampant in the churches of today so that when people have a need, and the ministers sense there is a need of reviving the spirituality of the church, how do they reach the minds that have become so affected? How best can they do it? By a romantic style of modern romanticism because if it is done any other way, they lose their congregations. Old fashioned religion has lost its power. The mind has been deceived and perverted. What do the Scriptures have to say in reference to old fashioned religion?

"By many man's wisdom is thought to be higher than the wisdom of the divine Teacher, and God's lesson book is looked upon as old fashioned, so much so indeed as to be thought tame and stale. But by those who have been vivified by the Holy Spirit it is not so regarded. They see the priceless treasure, and would sell all to buy the field that contains it. In the place of bringing into our schools books containing the suppositions of supposedly great authors, they will say, Tempt me not to disrespect the greatest Author and the greatest Teacher the world has ever known, who gave his life for us, that by his death and resurrection we might have everlasting life." {RH, July 3, 1900 par. 19}

The Bible, the lesson book of God is looked upon as old fashioned in the minds of those who have been so educated in the romantic realm of modern living. Do you find sometimes is it easy to listen to the preaching of God's word without any embellishments to thrill you with some sort of story that wakes you up? We are surrounded today by preachers who are captivating listeners with anecdotes that charm the minds who have been looking for excitement. To

be an ordinary preacher of the old class is old fashioned and stale. Those who have been vivified by the Holy Spirit don't find that. They find treasure worth pursuing.

"The Lord desires His servants today to preach the old gospel doctrine, sorrow for sin, repentance, and confession. We want old-fashioned sermons, old-fashioned customs, old-fashioned fathers and mothers in Israel. The sinner must be labored for, perseveringly, earnestly, wisely, until he shall see that he is a transgressor of God's law, and shall exercise repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. --Undated Manuscript 111." {Ev 179.5}

What do we want? Old fashioned. That is what the spirit of God says is what we need. For a true revival to take place, not a modern revival, a true revival, we read what it means:

*"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive Godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that **time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word.** Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming."* {GC 464.1}

Just as John the Baptist did back in Jesus' time. If this is what is going to take place, old fashioned preaching, a revival of that, what is the counterfeit? This so called romantic style of revival. What is that? Let us think about this. The romantic style of revival. It is exactly the same as modern courtship that leads to marriage in modern times. Courtship and marriage today carries a method of romance doesn't it? I have an interesting quote which brings it perfectly, "When a young couple fall in love." They fall into a romantic experience, don't they? Then under that romantic experience, they really believe they love one another. When the romantic experience takes a 2nd place, when they have to face living and making life together, all of a sudden something happens.

"As life with its burden of perplexity and care meets the newly wedded pair, the romance with which imagination so often invests marriage disappears." {AH 105.3}

You wonder why there are so many divorces and remarriages these days. Because modern courtship has done the exact same as modern revivals have done. It brings people to a decision from a romantic source but when the realities strike, romance is gone.

"Husband and wife learn each other's character as it was impossible to learn it in their previous association. This is a most critical period in their experience." {AH 105.3}

Romance is not reality. Modern Christianity with its romantic

style of revival. Have you listened to revivals of the modern style? Remember the days of Billy Graham, how thousands of people were there hearing these messages? And from those crusades have come into existence where people are thrilled for an emotional love for Jesus? Very heart wrenching; the romance of those people make them Christians. These are the modern revivals. Notice what it is and how it is the romance that enters people into marriage.

“Popular revivals are too often carried by appeals to the imagination, by exciting the emotions, by gratifying the love for what is new and startling. Converts thus gained have little desire to listen to Bible truth, little interest in the testimony of prophets and apostles. Unless a religious service has something of a sensational character, it has no attractions for them.” {GC 463.2}

As they are stirred emotionally to give their hearts to Jesus Christ they have in their imagination a sort of romantic appreciation of Jesus Christ. How is it, what sort of music do they play, what sort of songs do they sing? Are they the same sort of melodies the world around us is using for their courtship? The same melodies and courtship mentalities. This is modern revivalism.

“But many of the revivals of modern times have presented a marked contrast to those manifestations of divine grace which in earlier days followed the labors of God’s servants. It is true that a widespread interest is kindled, many profess conversion, and there are large accessions to the churches; nevertheless the results are not such as to warrant the belief that there has been a corresponding increase of real spiritual life. The light which flames up for a time soon dies out, leaving the darkness more dense than before.” {GC 463.1}

What a letdown when you thought that you were married to a person that you love; and then when you discovered the romance is gone you felt absolutely bereft.

So it is with people who have been brought to Jesus Christ on a romantic style. For a period of time there is excitement and joy and starry love for Jesus. When I hear these people speaking, I tremble as I love my Jesus Christ very much. But give it another year or so and they will go into darkness, because the realities of following Jesus come home and the romance is over. Like they say, when the honeymoon is over, that’s it. Many hold an imagination that Jesus is my Lord and I express it with deep feeling for my Lord in a romantic imagination. When confronted with the real Jesus, our scripture reading comes into focus. The real Jesus stands before them, and what were the words? They will come to him, saying, “Lord, oh Lord, don’t you know me?”

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matt. 7:21.

What was that? You see, when they wake up, they weren’t told in

the revival that they are going to really have to do what God wants them to do and it will cut across their comfort zone. When the rubber hits the road, things are different. Yes, Jesus said, they that do the will of the Father.

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matt. 7:22, 23.

This is serious, isn’t it? There is no romanticism in Christ. Only reality. Notice how scripture describes this scene. There are people who are very emotionally and romantically wrapped up with the preaching of certain preachers and the preaching of Jesus on the level of romanticism. God knows exactly what is happening.

“And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee [as] my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, [but] their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou [art] unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.” Ezekiel 33:31, 32

Can you see romanticism? You can dream of those beautiful words, you can dream those thoughts of the beautiful concepts coming from the lips of the eloquent speaker, and you can be so transported, but when it comes to doing what God wants them to do, they don’t want to.

With their mouth they show much love, you know how it is in a romance. People say, “I love you darling.” How many a person has said that to me, yet that person doesn’t love me. Wonderful words of emotion that have no reality in them.

Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Isa. 29:13.

The mentality of man is that the fear of God is romanticism but the heart is not involved when it comes to the test. We who have grown up in this lovesick sentimental generation, it is a normal thing to us. We expect romance and imaginary loveliness. We want to live happily ever after as in Beauty and the Beast. It is a big shock when people come to Jesus Christ on this earth, and then expect to live happily ever after, because the reality is not so. Jesus says, “If you follow Me you will suffer persecution. If you follow Me, you will feel badly about your sinfulness. If you follow Me you will feel a deep sense of your unworthiness.” The only sense you have is that you are walking in the right path.

“Some mingle with their religion a romantic, love-sick sentimentalism,

which does not elevate, but only lowers. It is not their mind alone that is affected, but others are injured by their example and influence.” {RH, March 12, 1872 par. 9}

“Lay aside all romantic imaginings and castlebuilding. The Master calls you to meet the stern realities of the time in which we live.” {RH, December 18, 1888 par. 18}

When we read the news, it brings to our minds the reality of the condition that the world is in. Stern realities? It's only going to get worse. People are going to be shattered. How can they survive in the stern realities that are laid out before us in Gods word? In the stern realities all romance withers away. As a properly matched couple survives stern realities, we must ensure that as we embrace Jesus there is an unmasking in the realities in the embracing of Jesus. When a couple courts they must not be romantically affected; they must see if they truly match, so that when the stern realities come, their marriage will survive. So it is in the Christian walk, we must know the real Jesus. We must know Him as He is in the stern realities of life. This is poorly known today.

“How many today see Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world as He is? How few know Him? How few know the Father? Everyone that knows Christ has a knowledge of the father. To see Christ as He is, is one of the greatest blessings ever come to the fallen humanity. The precious Saviour to see him as He is, how many have partial views of Jesus Christ. How many acknowledge Him as the world's Redeemer, but they know Him not as a personal Saviour. This is essential, the knowledge of God in Jesus Christ.” CT 258

How few know him. I've heard people say, “I just want to know Jesus because the Father is too austere for me. Jesus is a wonderful person but the Father makes me tremble.”

“Every man that hath this hope in himself purifieth himself. The living faith that lays hold of the arm of the infinite God, the living faith that takes Christ as a personal Saviour. Who knows Him as thus? All your casual views of Christ will not save a single soul. Do you know Him by the living connection of faith?” CT 258

The casual views of Jesus as they are conveyed in modern revivalism is this wonderful Saviour who saves us from the consequences of sin, but to save us from sin itself is another story. The casual view is rampant in the Christian world, but the real Jesus, the Jesus who unveils the realities of the sternness of the battle between good and evil who reveals to us the struggles it cost Him to save us from sin, and the struggles it will cost us to enter into fellowship with Him, that is hardly heard of. What does the real Jesus do?

“Jesus encouraged everything that pertained to the real interests of life. But he laboured to break up romantic and dreamy contemplations.” ST August 8 1896.

We saw it in the Scripture Reading. You who say Lord, Lord.

They are all praising the Lord with songs of praise and they get all transported into this emotional thing; you've seen them. He says, “You call me Lord, but I don't know you.”

Christianity has dressed up Christ's love to us in an unreal romance, while Jesus didn't mean it at all like that. Here is a verse that touches the heart of the emotions:

“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.

You can see the artist's romantic rendition, the typical picture of Jesus standing at the door of the house and He wants to go and spend time with the occupants. Sup with me. To sit down and sup together with Jesus. To recline on a comfortable chair with Jesus, and a luscious table filled with all kinds of delicious food, under the cool shade of some majestic oak tree. Companionship. Isn't that what the picture is portraying? What did Jesus mean when He said that? All you need to do is to read verse 19 and 21. What did Jesus actually mean when He said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock?”

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” Rev. 3: 19, 21.

Does this suggest a romantic scene? I love you. I'm going to rebuke you. I'm going to rebuke and chasten you. What are you meant to be doing? If you open the door I'm going to sup with you, in my love. You must overcome as I overcame. What did Jesus suffer? What did Jesus do to overcome?

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” Heb. 5:7-9.

What is the story? You need to overcome as I overcame. Knock, knock, can I come in and experience it with you? I am the Author with strong crying and tears, who pleaded with God to save you. You're going to have to overcome but you can't do it alone and I want to do it with you. Was Jesus rebuked and chastened? Not for His sin but mine. In Gethsemane, “Father if it be possible let this cup pass.” Can I join in with you? Will you let me participate with you? Even the mother of James and John had to be relieved from her romantic imagination. Notice what Jesus says:

“Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping [him], and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these

my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but [it shall be given to them] for whom it is prepared of my Father.” Matt. 20: 20-23.

What sort of an image did she have? A fairy tale image. He’s the prince, He’s going to sit on the throne, let my sons sit with Him.

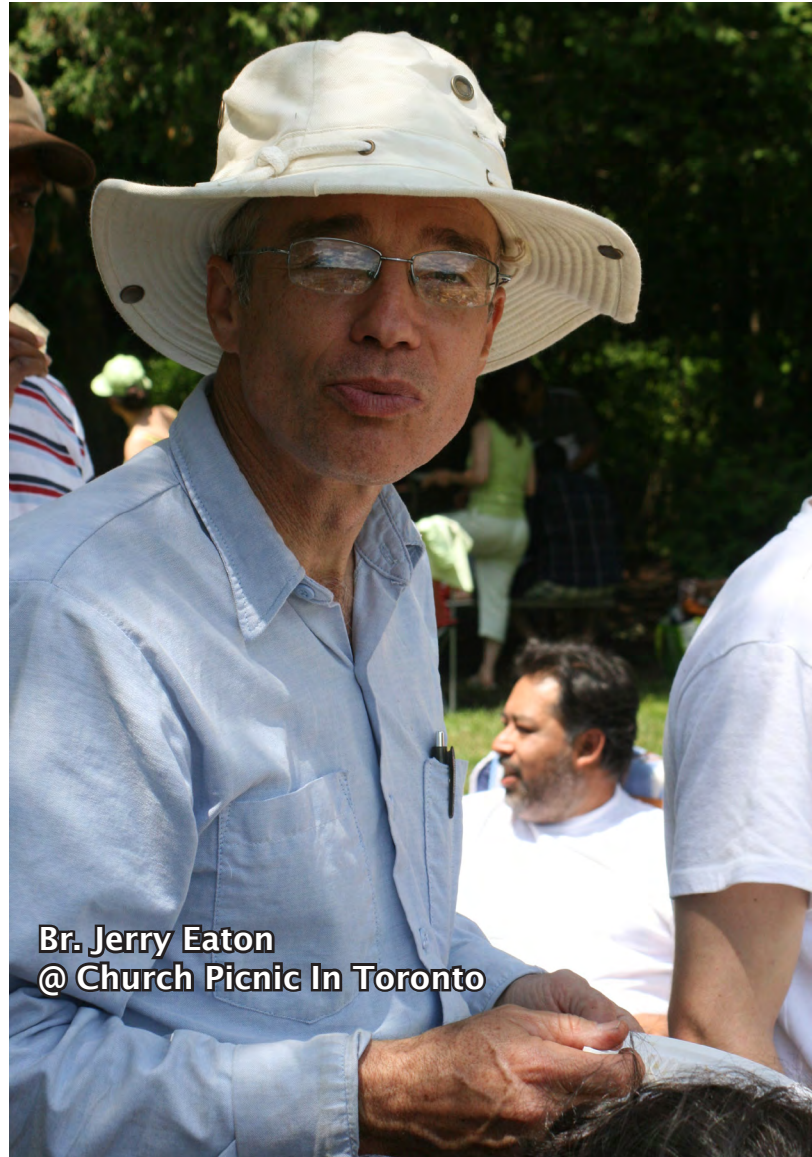
To be able to sit on the throne with Him, what happens beforehand? Behold I stand at the door and knock. If you will let Me in, you will indeed sup with Me. You will drink the cup that I drink. You will drink the cup that I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with. That is the precursor to sitting on the throne. He who overcomes as I overcome will sit with Me on my throne. Here is a direct connecting link with what Jesus said. The romantic concept is totally removed. There is not a romantic sitting at the table with Jesus; there is a real down to earth life reality in walking with Jesus. Indeed we all will sup with Him if we will overcome at last. If we refuse to let Jesus into our hearts, we will sup it alone and perish. The cup that we sup is the consequences of our own sins, and Jesus invites us to let Him in on the experience so that we may die with him and rise again.

“You are not to treat your life as a romance, but as a reality. You are to be a laborer together with God in forming a character that He can approve.” {TSB 51.2}

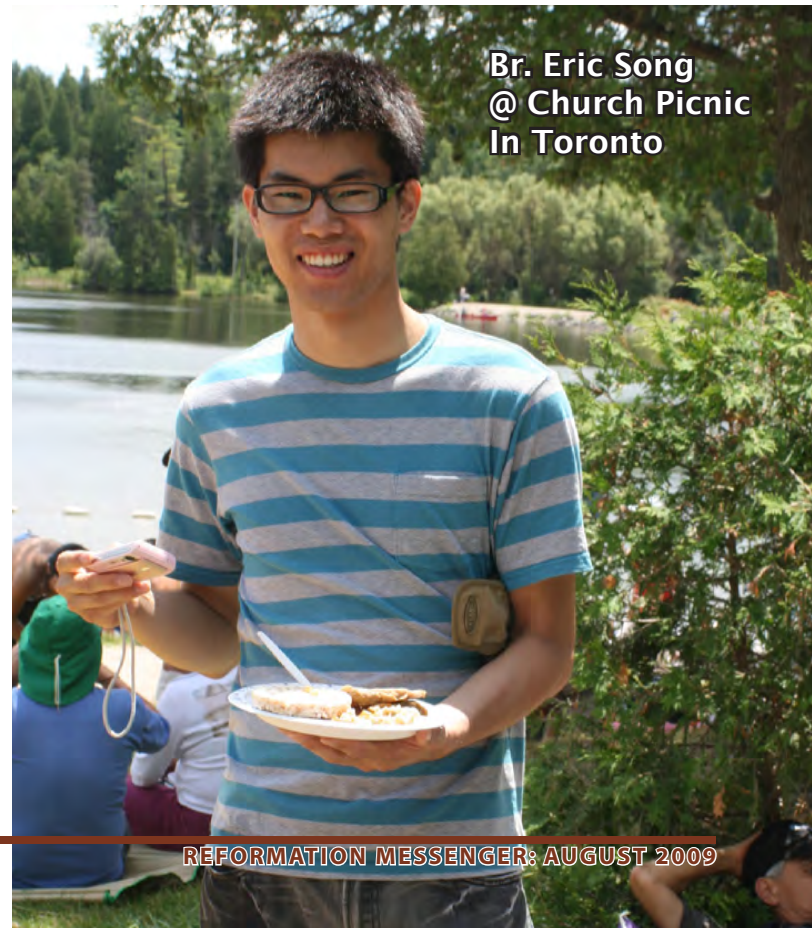
If we will not treat our life as a romance, but unembellished reality we will come forth unto eternal life. I praise God that we have this privilege. As I pointed out from scripture, if we dwell in an unreal world, in a romantic style of spiritual revivalism, we will be bitterly disappointed. May God grant us to appreciate the realities of the gospel of Jesus Christ and be prepared to let the real Jesus encourage everything that pertains to the real issues of life but breaks up romantics.

If you permit this to happen you will be the happiest person on earth. I’ve long given up romantic dreaming. As I do this, I enjoy a relationship with God that has to do with down to earth reality. As people around me are falling apart, the Lord is holding me. When things are going really bad you can still walk joyfully with your God. **Amen.**

John Thiel, Australia



**Br. Jerry Eaton
@ Church Picnic In Toronto**



**Br. Eric Song
@ Church Picnic
In Toronto**

"The writing reads, and the meaning of the words is this: MENE: God has measured your sovereignty and put an end to it; TEKEL: you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting; UPHARSIN: your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians." Daniel 5:24-28

GRAFITTI

Belshazzar, the unpopular coregent of the Babylonian Empire, son of the also unpopular King, Nabonidus, and grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, "the terrible of the nations," (Ezek28:7), shared kingly authority in his youth and in an unwise rule of successors, in his folly and weakness. Belshazzar's love of pleasure and self-glorification effaced lessons that he should never have forgotten. It was a season of fear and destruction and for Belshazzar, a night of mad folly. He fearfully watched, however, as these four words were supernaturally written on the palace wall the very night his kingdom fell (probably October 13, 539 BC). He pronounces divine judgment against Belshazzar (verse 24). It must have been a traumatic and frightening experience for him and his festive guests. It was Belshazzar's "last feast;" a licentious and blasphemous celebration. The mysterious writing on the wall (v-5-9) turned the feast into a nightmare of terror!

Throughout the ages of human history, public walls have been used to communicate various ideas from political dissent, to love messages, to purely artistic endeavors. In our own culture we call it "graffiti."

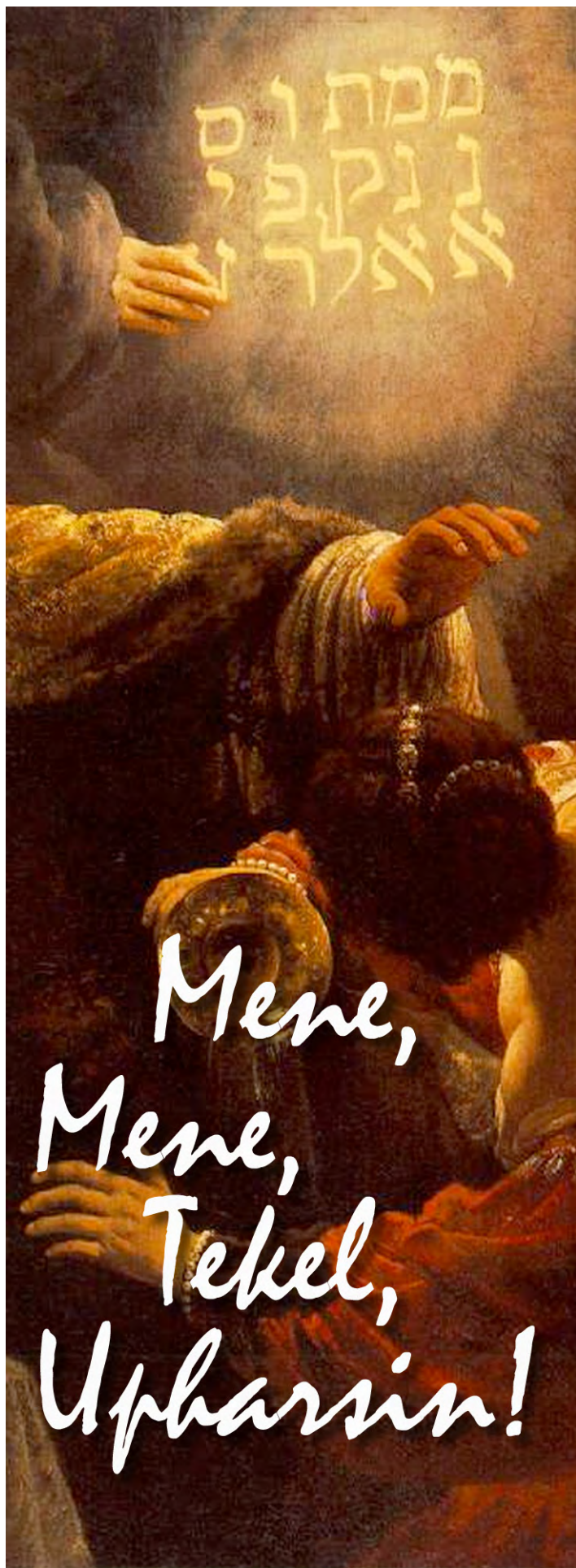
We find its ancient origin in Rome, the plural of graffito, which means "to scratch." Graffiti is now a world-wide phenomenon. The Berlin wall in 1990, as it tumbled down was filled with graffiti on its western side; messages to the world of a long hoped for freedom. Subways are littered with graffiti.

But, we must go back beyond Pompeii and back beyond Rome. We find the original graffiti writer in the pompous banquet hall of King Belshazzar's palace, written by a "laser-like-finger." That finger was the finger of God! He had a message to communicate for all the people to see.

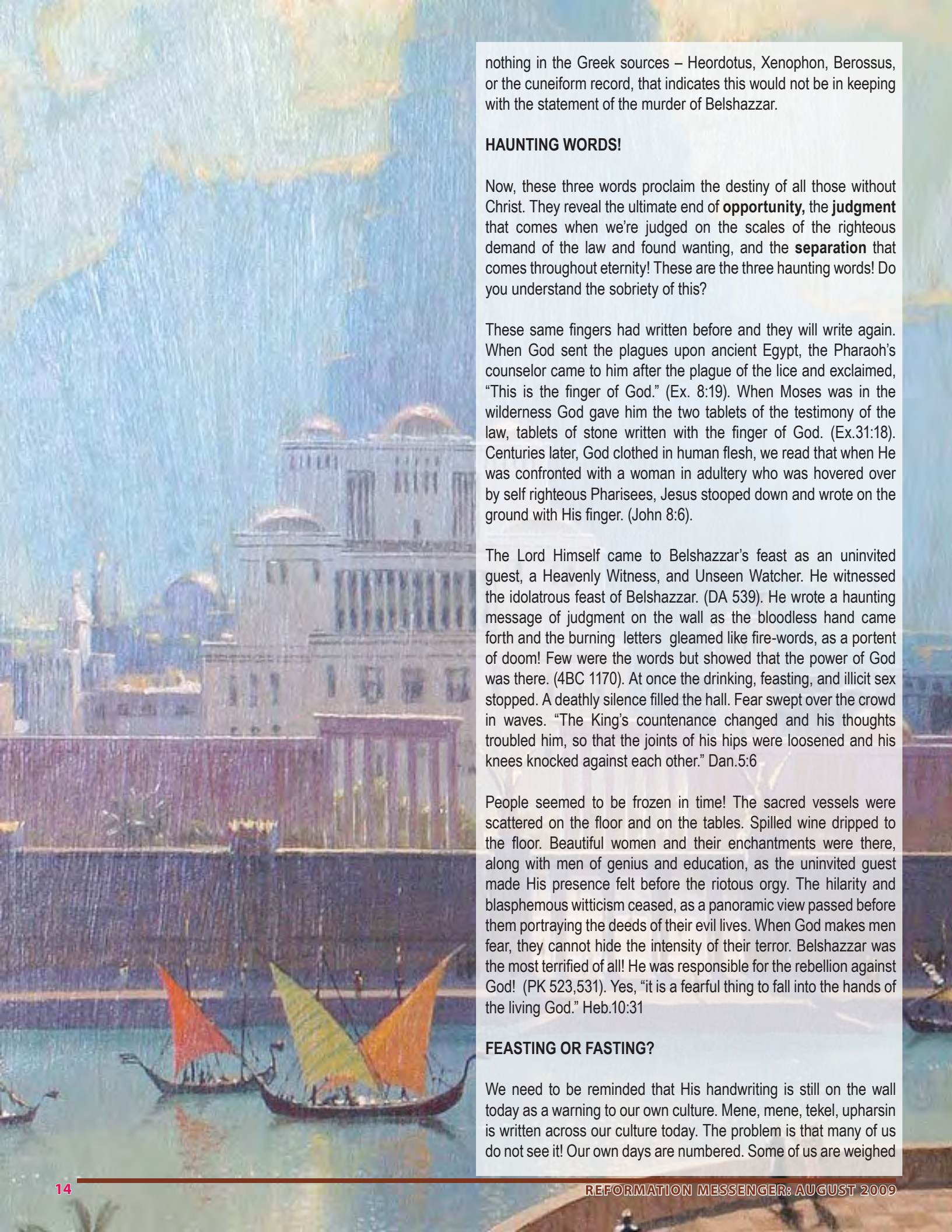
WEIGHED, DIVIDED, NUMBERED!

The words of the handwriting on the wall symbolize that God had "**weighed**" Belshazzar's kingdom and found it wanting. **TEKEL** is a noun from a verb meaning to weigh as one might weigh on a scale. Solomon reminds us that, "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits." (Prov 16:2). **UPHARSIN** is a noun from a verb that means to break into, to separate, to "**divide**." **MENE** is an Aramic noun from a verb meaning "**to number**." It means your number is up, you're finished, your time has run out, it's over, no more second chances!

Some critics attack the historicity of the narrative, but there is



Mene,
Mene,
Tekel,
Upharsin!



nothing in the Greek sources – Herodotus, Xenophon, Berossus, or the cuneiform record, that indicates this would not be in keeping with the statement of the murder of Belshazzar.

HAUNTING WORDS!

Now, these three words proclaim the destiny of all those without Christ. They reveal the ultimate end of **opportunity**, the **judgment** that comes when we're judged on the scales of the righteous demand of the law and found wanting, and the **separation** that comes throughout eternity! These are the three haunting words! Do you understand the sobriety of this?

These same fingers had written before and they will write again. When God sent the plagues upon ancient Egypt, the Pharaoh's counselor came to him after the plague of the lice and exclaimed, "This is the finger of God." (Ex. 8:19). When Moses was in the wilderness God gave him the two tablets of the testimony of the law, tablets of stone written with the finger of God. (Ex.31:18). Centuries later, God clothed in human flesh, we read that when He was confronted with a woman in adultery who was hovered over by self righteous Pharisees, Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger. (John 8:6).

The Lord Himself came to Belshazzar's feast as an uninvited guest, a Heavenly Witness, and Unseen Watcher. He witnessed the idolatrous feast of Belshazzar. (DA 539). He wrote a haunting message of judgment on the wall as the bloodless hand came forth and the burning letters gleamed like fire-words, as a portent of doom! Few were the words but showed that the power of God was there. (4BC 1170). At once the drinking, feasting, and illicit sex stopped. A deathly silence filled the hall. Fear swept over the crowd in waves. "The King's countenance changed and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other." Dan.5:6

People seemed to be frozen in time! The sacred vessels were scattered on the floor and on the tables. Spilled wine dripped to the floor. Beautiful women and their enchantments were there, along with men of genius and education, as the uninvited guest made His presence felt before the riotous orgy. The hilarity and blasphemous witticism ceased, as a panoramic view passed before them portraying the deeds of their evil lives. When God makes men fear, they cannot hide the intensity of their terror. Belshazzar was the most terrified of all! He was responsible for the rebellion against God! (PK 523,531). Yes, "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Heb.10:31

FEASTING OR FASTING?

We need to be reminded that His handwriting is still on the wall today as a warning to our own culture. Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin is written across our culture today. The problem is that many of us do not see it! Our own days are numbered. Some of us are weighed

in God's balance and if we do not exchange our own righteousness for the righteousness of Christ we too will be found wanting and separated forever!

What did King Belshazzar do? The blind, hysterical king cried out aloud to bring in his blind counselors: the astrologers, the Chaldeans, the soothsayers; and for all their worldly wisdom they are blind to the things of God, even His judgment! They can't even read His judgment when He comes! Those that claim to have the wisdom of this world do not have the answers for the heart of man when the handwriting is on the wall. The tragedy of our culture today is that so many do the same thing. They run to people who bring no real help. However, when the handwriting is on the wall, when the crisis comes, when all our worldly friends have failed, we want to bring in the preacher!

The queen, (probably the aged widow of Nebuchadnezzar) recalled the forgotten Daniel. The aged saint was called in. Ah! But, Belshazzar confessed that in Daniel dwelt "the spirit of the Holy God" or "Holy Deity!" **But, it was too late!** The writing, "mene, mene," means literally: "numbered, numbered," i.e., "thoroughly numbered," where the repetition emphasized the thought. It's over, finished, your time's up! Daniel became more than an interpreter of the handwriting. He was God's messenger of judgment and disaster upon Belshazzar with a **message of doom!**

The irony of the whole episode is that some of us know better and yet continue "**feasting**" when we should be "**fasting**" in our own culture when the handwriting is on the wall! Edward Fitzgerald, in the "Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," says this: "The Moving finger writes; and having writ, moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line, Nor all thy tears wash out a word of it." The kingdom was ended. Belshazzar was ended! John Knox once said, "Because nations do not have souls, God must bring all their judgment in this world."

Sooner or later the finger of God writes upon the wall and at that moment men and women don't want their immoral, worldly, pleasure-seeking friends. They want someone that can tell them what it all means, what God is saying. Daniel was the only calm one in the hall. He did what every preacher would do. He took the Word that came from God and without fear or favor just revealed to them all what God had said. This is the preacher's responsibility. Daniel did not coat it over like so many in our contemporary culture do today. Even Satan with his knowledge of the divine law would not dare to make the speeches which some law-hating ministers make from the pulpit; yet he exults in their blasphemy. (1TT 440). There's a constant danger of there being shams in the pulpit. Preachers, whose lives contradict the words they speak; but the voice of warning and of admonition will be heard as long as time shall last. (4BC 1170). Daniel took the Word from the finger of God and simply laid it out; no more opportunity, no second chance. Judgment had come! That's the way it happens... suddenly!

You may plan for merely selfish good, you may gather together treasure, you may build mansions great and high as did the builders of ancient Babylon; but you cannot build a wall so high or gate so strong as to shut out the messengers of doom. (COL 259).

“So, the King was greatly troubled.”(Dan.7:28). “That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain, and Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being 62 years old.” (Dan. 5:30-31).

GOLD FOR SILVER

Consequently, the empire of Belshazzar would be given to the Medes and the Persians who entered and captured the city of Babylon that same night. That same night in which Belshazzar was slain, the people of the city rejoiced. God was also about to punish Belshazzar’s realm. Furthermore, the fine gold head of Nebuchadnezzar’s image and statue was about to be replaced with a chest and arms of silver. (Dan.2:31-35). Furthermore, this shows us the type (Nebuchadnezzar) and anti-type (Babylon) and the fulfillment of one more of many Biblical prophecies (Daniel 4-5; Num.14:34; Ezekiel 4:6).

You see, God was patient with Nebuchadnezzar, waiting for him to learn the spiritual lesson; and moreover even a heathen king, that finally confessed the sovereignty of God. But against Belshazzar His judgment is swift. Ah! But Sinclair Ferguson says to us, “It’s a reminder that we dare not presume upon the grace which God has shown to others. To know that God is gracious and yet not to turn from our sin in the light of that grace is to fall under His righteous judgment. Such was the experience of Belshazzar.” That is one of the great lessons we learn in this, the book of Daniel.

TODAY’S LESSON

The aged Daniel (90), furthermore, made a valiant stand against Belshazzar, and is a word of encouragement for Christians today who are facing opposition for the Lord in their own lives, individually and corporately up against overwhelming odds, up against times which look **hard** and **uncompromising**, living in a fallen and broken world, and sometimes feeling overwhelmed by the powers of darkness. Yet, the Lord showed His faithfulness to Daniel when the hand of His providence was revealed. Remember, even though His servants may seem obscure and insignificant in the eyes of the world, they are, yet, used to deliver the blows of God; like an arrow in His quiver.

God repeatedly has shown His sovereignty over nations and individuals in the Book of Daniel. God shows His sovereignty by giving wisdom to His servant Daniel to interpret and to save the faithful servants.

God sees injustice and He deals with it in His own way and His own time. It looked to the captives that God had forgotten them. A wicked man was now on the throne. Daniel had been forgotten, and

because of his age, put aside. Belshazzar and his father, perhaps, have chosen young counselors and spurned the wisdom of age and have gone after young men who would tell them what they wanted to hear. Here is a king that’s not teachable and learned nothing from the history of God’s dealing with Nebuchadnezzar. What else can we learn from this episode?

Firstly, this king Belshazzar was arrogant and foolish simultaneously! Here’s a city already under siege, and by sheer folly and pride and arrogance, while the enemies of the kingdom are at the city gates, he’s feasting in drunkenness and debauchery with 1000 guests and nobles and concubines in his hall. He has blatantly disregarded his responsibilities as a monarch in defending his city. It’s not the size of the lavish feast as it is the motive behind it, to exalt himself, the center of attention, to show himself to be in complete control while the enemies are at the gate.

Secondly, Belshazzar is blatant and deliberate and public in his blasphemy. He not only misrules, but he blasphemes the living God! Those holy instruments of the temple, he uses them for wantonness and drunkenness. The instruments and the people who those instruments came from, the people of Israel, represented the presence and power of God most high on earth, and he used them for debauchery. “His heart was a factory of rebellion against God.” (Ferguson).

Thirdly, his sinful heart had caused his spiritual blindness. It wasn’t the wine that night that caused Belshazzar’s blindness. It was his own heart. He anticipated no judgment from God and no judgment from man, and yet it came!!

Daniel is still saying to us across the centuries today, “**Deliver God’s message!**” Never underestimate the power of one good and godly life with character, integrity, and courage to say that the handwriting is on the wall. Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin! Your days are numbered, you’re weighed in the balance and found wanting, you’ll be separated forever.

God is speaking to the culture of today at the point of our pride, at the point of our presumption, at the point of our promiscuity, and at the point of our perversion; speaking as He did to Belshazzar’s pride, presumption, promiscuity, and perversion. Yes, unless we repent it will be mene, mene, tekel, upharsin for us as well.

INSIDE!

As we see the fall of Babylon we cannot help but see some frightening parallels to our own culture. So many of us think we are impregnable, indestructible. We think we could never lose a war or a cause, although our principles of faith believe otherwise. Ah! But the tragedy is we may very well be losing on the **inside!** Why did Babylon fall? **Pride**- They were feasting when they should have been fasting! **Presumption**- They thought they were invincible. **Promiscuity**- While they were filled with wild, illicit,

and unrestrained sex, the end of their world was only hours away. **Perversion** –They blasphemed God and perverted worship by mocking God and rejecting truth.

We are living in a pluralistic culture that tells us there are many ways to God today. In the light of eternity, what is the kingdom of Babylon or the kingdoms of this world when compared with the kingdom forfeited by men and women without Christ, men and women who will be weighed in the balance and found wanting?

The handwriting is on the wall! God is weighing our hearts and speaking to us not only at the point of our pride, not only at the point of our presumption, but especially at the point of our promiscuity!

RESPECT

Ah! But, moreover, have we lost a sense of **respect**? Nothing was sacred to the Babylonians anymore. Because they lived with virtually no moral absolutes, it naturally followed that there would be no restraint and thus no respect for anything that was sacred. The moral decline of the nation is evident. In Daniel 5 we find “Belshazzar ordering the sacred cups be brought in to the feast, and when they arrived he and his princes, wives, and concubines, among the 1000 lords, drank toasts from them to their idols made of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood and stone”(Dan 5:11-5), drinking his wine from the holy vessels of the Jerusalem temple; desecrating, and profaning them by drunkenness, debauchery, and idolatry! But, God who was defiled was a witness of the unholy scene. (2TT 85-86).

“Let those who delight to trace words of calumny and falsehood against the servants of Christ remember that God is a witness of their deeds. Their slanderous touch is not profaning soulless vessels but the characters of those whom Christ has purchased by His blood. The hand which traced the characters upon the walls of Belshazzar’s palace keeps faithful record of every act of injustice or oppression committed against God’s people.” (2TT 85-86).

We, too, live in a culture that has lost its respect for the Holy things of God; the Bible, the Testimonies, prayer, worship, reverence in the church, music, dress, tithe, offerings, the Sabbath day. Where are the Daniels of our day saying to our world – **mene, mene, tekel, upharsin**?

TIME’S UP!

So, finally, and in retrospect, Daniel’s interpretation of each of the haunting words, firstly **mene**,- the time has run out, finished, no second chance, it’s over, rings out in a warning wale. It comes when we least expect it. We don’t hear any more of this truth of God’s from the pulpit. The work of the preacher is not to tell men and women what they want to hear but to take the message from the finger of God and lay it out before the people without fear or favor. It is to speak the truth in love. Daniel held the king’s sin up

before him showing him the lessons he might have learned but did not! (PK 531)

There have been a couple of generations raised in the churches of today who have heard nothing of the judgment of God and know nothing of the fear of God! The Bible says, “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this, judgment;”(Heb 9:27) and the Bible challenges us, “to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”(Ps. 90:12).

We just have so many days that can never be reclaimed! One day our number will be up. We may be old, middle-aged, or young. The handwriting is on the wall! There is coming a day when God will write on our wall... **mene**! The Psalmist challenges us to number our days.

OVERWEIGHT!

Next, the word **tekel**. Daniel presented the picture that they were weighed on a scale. God’s standard was on one side, our standard is on the other side. But, we are too light. We do not measure up. God’s righteous standard is the law. Who could measure up to the righteous demand of the law of God? Who of us has not been weighed and found wanting? Who of us has never broken a law? What a dilemma, a paradox! What shall we do? More appropriately, what did God do? He sent the Lord Jesus Christ to take our place on the scales of life. He kept the law. He met the righteous standard. **He balanced the scales!** He never sinned! He was not found wanting in anything. He went to Calvary and took our sin in His own body. He was found wanting for us that we might be free from the righteous demands of the law and be able to step on the scales of life and find favor.

You see, if you never receive Christ as your personal Savior you’ll be **weighed down** on the scales of God by your own life and your own merits. And, when placed alongside the righteous demands of the Word of God, like King Belshazzar, you, too, will be **weighed down** by lies and self-seeking, harsh words, unforgiving, sexual sins, pride, jealousy, envy, strife, hatred, emulations, heresies, seditions, wrath, adultery, drunkenness, etc. You see, all of this fills the scales and it comes crashing down! **Tekel! Weighed down** and found wanting; surely closing the gate of heaven against the guilty! God weighs our motives. God weighs our opportunities. His scales are perfect!

SEPARATED!

Furthermore, when the final word was written on the wall of Belshazzar’s Hall, **upharsin**, it meant to “break in two” to “separate or divide.” In Christ’s lifetime, He often used this concept. He divided the “sheep from the goats,” the “wheat from the tares,” the “godly from the ungodly,” those “with the mark of the beast, and those with the seal of the living God,” those who “honor the Sabbath Day and those who honor the Sunday.”

WHO KNOWS?

Ah! Who of us knows how close our own culture is to that word – **mene? (time's up!)** Who of us knows how close we may be to the finger of God writing on our wall -- **tekel? (weighed!)** Or worse yet, -- **upharsin? (separated!)**

You see, Daniel treated Belshazzar as a covenant breaker. Belshazzar was not a Hebrew, he was not a recipient of the covenants of promise, but all mankind is in covenant with God. Through that covenant of works made in the garden with Adam, **all mankind has an obligation to our Creator to honor Him as He is.** And Belshazzar hadn't honored his Creator and now his Creator was judging!

And so Babylon, the type of all rebellion against God, is humbled even before His judgment with not enough spiritual sense to know that it is being judged. **It's a picture of the world in rebellion and there are so many important things for us, yet, to learn from it:**

Firstly, we learn that we must **never fear**. When it seems like the forces of God and His kingdom and of our Lord Jesus, the forces of good in this world; when it seems that those forces are being trampled under we must never fear for the city of God remains. Belshazzar was not in control. God was!

Secondly, God **rules**, and He **overrules** nations and men, and He will bring His own justice in His own way and in His own time. Never doubt that the judgment of God will come!

Thirdly, this teaches us to **never presume** on the grace and the patience of God. Never trifle with God, just because He is gracious in showing patience and mercy, or that we can trifle with Him with our sin. Judgment falls on those who are presumptuous!

When Jesus Christ cried out "It is finished," the Holy Watcher that was an unseen guest at Belshazzar's feast, pronounced the Jewish nation to be a nation unchurched. It was the same hand that traced on the wall that recorded Belshazzar's doom and the end of the Babylon Kingdom that rent the veil of the Temple from top to bottom that all may come to God without priest or ruler. (5BC 1109)

Finally, "In these same societies what are the favorite subjects of conversation? What are the themes that excite interest and give pleasure? Are they not the gratification of the senses – eating and drinking and pleasure seeking? The presence of Christ is unknown in these gatherings. No reference is made to Him. His companionship is not desired. Do you forget that at all these pleasure gatherings there is a **Witness** present, as at the feast of Belshazzar?" (1SM 126).

Therefore, what are we personally doing about God and graffiti? Our days are **numbered**. We are going to be placed on the scales

of God and **weighed**. If we do not measure up, like so many before us, we will be **separated**. Is it any wonder we sing, "**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness?**"

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN! God and graffiti! The handwriting is on the wall! **Amen.**

John Theodorou, USA



"I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons." (Psalm 16:7). Even though the translation of this verse is faithful to the Greek version, let us use the Spanish translation that makes the verse more understandable since instead of reins or kidneys, it says conscience.

The psalmist says that even in the night hours his conscience instructs him and he blesses the Lord who speaks to his conscience and shows him the way to go, *"thou shall show me the path of life."* It is at night, when all activities are over, that we remain face to face with ourselves. Then, the remembrances of our life experiences are vivid in our mind. Our conscience can be our most terrible accuser if we have done something wrong, but if we humble ourselves before God and acknowledge our bad deed, we receive the blessing of forgiveness and with it a peaceful conscience.

In Psalm 32 David speaks about this experience. Day and night he was tortured by his conscience, but when he confessed his transgressions he found great relief since the Lord pardoned his iniquity.

The conscience is a mechanism that God placed in each man in order to guide thoughts, judgment and deeds. It is like a barometer that shows us whether the winds come from the north or from the south, whether our thoughts and deeds are inspired by a good or an evil spirit. The seat of our sense of discernment is our conscience.

Can everyone trust his own conscience? Have all people a sense of discernment that shows them what is good and what is wrong? *Grosso modo* they do, but God is not satisfied with general concepts; He goes into details. *"He desires truth in the inward parts."* (Psalm 51:16).

Apostle Paul writes, *"Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly."* (Hebrews 13:18). What counts for the apostle is not what may happen to him, but that he may not be accused by his conscience. An honest life is his top priority. Peter has the same goal and expresses it in the following way, *"...or this [is] thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully."* (1 Peter 2:19).

Our conscience is related to the free will with which God created us, with our privilege to choose.

Unfortunately, already at the beginning of the history of humanity, our fore-parents made the wrong choice and became slaves of Satan and of sin. We were born into that bondage and that is why our conscience is not capable to discern clearly between good and evil.

God, in His great mercy, sent His only begotten Son as our Liberator, Teacher and Example. But we cannot really follow Jesus unless something supernatural happens in our life: a new birth; until the Lord gives us a new heart with new principles. The Holy Spirit is given to us so that we may acknowledge the need we have of this



Norman Rockwell

Our Conscience

miracle in our life.

When we hear the good news of the gospel, faith is awakened. When we understand our real condition, that we need a Saviour, and we experience God's love and mercy for us personally, we take the decision to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Apostle Peter explains, "The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God." (1 Peter 3:21). In a clearer language, baptism does not clean us from the filthiness of our flesh, but gives us a good conscience toward God or like Paul writes to the Hebrews, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14). When the apostle Paul lived without God, although he was a religious man, he was an enemy and persecutor of the children of God. But when he had a personal encounter with Christ, his spiritual eyes were opened and he saw himself like God saw him and he despaired.

This terrible and at the same time wonderful experience made out of him a true Christian who acted under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. That is why he writes to the Romans, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost." (Romans 9:1). The Holy Ghost should direct our conscience so that we may appear before God without fault.

In John chapter 8 we read the story of the adulteress who was accused by the Pharisees who wanted to stone her. When Christ told them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7), we read, "And they which heard [it], being convicted by [their own] conscience, went out one by one, beginning

at the eldest, [even] unto the last..." (Verse 8.)

What do we learn from all this? First, that in the presence of Jesus our conscience is awakened and we are led to put aside our self-righteousness. That is why Paul tells the Corinthians to cast down "imagination, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God" and to bring "into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5). It is important to understand that only when our thoughts are in captivity to the obedience of Christ we are free indeed.

The second thing that we learn from this story is that when our conscience is moved by the Holy Spirit we turn our eyes upon ourselves and not upon others. When the Pharisees looked into their own hearts, they lost the power to stone the woman.

They were still in a situation in which the word of God could touch their conscience. It is very good when our conscience accuses us because it is a sign that the Holy Spirit still works in us. The Holy Spirit convinces us of sin, righteousness and judgment, tells us the Holy Scriptures. To come to the conclusion that our righteousness is only like filthy rags and that as we are we cannot stand before God, horrifies us and makes us terribly sad. But the Lord says to us, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee." (Isaiah 44:22). If we have lived the miracle of conversion, we shall do like Paul, "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and [toward] men." (Acts 22:16).

May the Lord help us to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to our conscience so that we may walk in the way of sanctification.
Amen. Teresa Corti



Tiffany Bescec & Elaine Romero
@ Church Picnic In Toronto

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH AND A CALL FOR REVIVAL AND REFORMATION.

1852

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"As I have of late looked around to find the humble followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, my mind has been much exercised. Many who profess to be looking for the speedy coming of Christ are becoming conformed to this world, and seek more earnestly the applause of those around them than the approbation of God. They are cold and formal, like the nominal churches from which they but a short time since separated. The words addressed to the Laodicean Church describe their present condition perfectly. (see Revelation 3:14-20) They are NEITHER COLD NOR HOT but LUKEWARM." EW 107-108

THE CALL:

"...And unless they heed the counsel of the faithful and true Witness, and zealously repent, and obtain gold tried in the fire , white raiment, and eyesalve, He will spue them out of His mouth." EW 108

1856

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"I saw many traveling in this broad road who had the words written upon them: DEAD TO THE WORLD. The end of all things is at hand. BE YE ALSO READY. They looked just like all the vain ones around them, except a shade of sadness which I noticed upon their countenances. Their conversation was just like that of the gay, thoughtless ones around them, but they would occasionally point with great satisfaction to the letters on their garments, calling for the others to have the same upon theirs. They were in the broad way, yet they professed to be of the number who were traveling the narrow way. Those around them would say: WE ARE ALIKE, WE DRESS, AND TALK, AND ACT THE SAME.

"Then I was pointed back to the years 1843 and 1844. There was a spirit of consecration then that there is not now. What has come over the professed peculiar people of God? I saw the conformity to the world, the unwillingness to suffer for the truth's sake. I saw a great lack of submission to the will of God...

"I saw that many who profess to believe the Truth for these last days think it strange that the children of Israel murmured as they journeyed, that after the wonderful dealings of God with them, they should be so ungrateful as to forget what He had done for them. Said the angel: YE HAVE DONE WORSE THAN THEY." (1T:128-129)

THE CALL



"From what God has shown me, there needs to be a scourging among the ministers, that the slothful, dilatory, and self-caring ones may be scourged out, and there remain a pure, faithful, and self-sacrificing company who will not study their ease, but will minister faithfully in word and doctrine, willing to suffer and endure all things for Christ's sake, and to save those for whom He died. Let these servants feel the woe upon them if they preach not the gospel, and it will be enough, but all do not feel this." 1T 130-131

1859

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"The message to the Laodiceans has not accomplished that zealous repentance among God's people which I expected to see, and my perplexity of mind has been great." 1T 185

"I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God's people at the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts. But God has given the message time to do its work. The heart must be purified from sins which have so long shut out Jesus. This fearful message will do its work. When it was first presented, it led to close examination of heart. Sins were confessed, and the people of God were stirred everywhere. Nearly all believed that this message would end in the loud cry of the third angel. But as they failed to see the powerful work accomplished in a short time, many lost the effect of the message." 1T 186

THE CALL

"...I saw that this message would not accomplish its work in a few short months. It is designed to arouse the people of God, to discover to them their backslidings, and to lead to zealous repentance, that they may be favoured with the presence of Jesus, and be fitted for the loud cry of the third angel. As this message affected the heart, it led to deep humility before God...

"...If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: They are joined to their idols, let them alone, and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have headed the counsel of The True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation." 1T 186-186

1860

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"I was shown the low state of God's people, that God had not departed from them, but that they had departed from Him, and had

become lukewarm. They possess the theory of the truth, but lack its saving power." 1T 210

THE CALL

"...The people of God should move understandingly, and should be united in their efforts. They should be of the same mind, of the same judgment, then their efforts will not be scattered, but will tell forcibly in the upbuilding of the cause of present truth." 1T 210

1862

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"...When I study the scriptures, I am alarmed for the Israel of God in these last days. They are exalted to flee from idolatry. I fear that they are asleep and so conformed to the world that it would be difficult to discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. The distance is widening between Christ and His people, and lessening between them and the world. The marks of distinction between Christ's professed people and the world have almost disappeared. Like ancient Israel, they follow after the abominations of the nations around them." 1T 277

THE CALL

"The Lord hath set apart him that is godly for Himself; this consecration to God and separation from the world is plainly and positively enjoined in both the Old and the New Testament. There is a wall of separation which the Lord Himself has established between the things of the world and the things He has chosen out of the world and sanctified unto Himself. The calling and character of God's people are peculiar, their prospects are peculiar, and these peculiarities distinguish them from all other people." 1T 283

"...The members of Christ are called to come out and be separate from the friendship and spirit of the world; their strength and power consists in being chosen and accepted of God." 1T 286

"...In this refining time these persons will either be wholly converted and sanctified by obeying the truth, or they will be left with the world, where they belong, to receive their reward with them." 1T 288

Just 8 years from 1844 the servant of the Lord, E.G. White discerned that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was neither cold nor hot but lukewarm. EW 107-108. As the years rolled on, we have seen that 10 years later until 1862, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's condition had worsened.

Brethren, does she get better? Or does she further separate from...
KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD AND HAVING THE FAITH OF JESUS?

In part five, we will continue examining and exercising our minds upon

the pages of history and prophesy to further understand why in 1903, the testimony of Jesus, the Spirit of Prophecy (REVELATION 19:10), uses the word HARLOT, when referring to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“CAN YOU NOT SEE HOW THEY HAVE PRETENTIOUSLY COVERED UP THEIR DEFILEMENT AND ROTTENNESS OF CHARACTER: HOW IS THE FAITHFUL CITY (THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH) BECOME A HARLOT?” 8T 250

“But Christ is at the door, the judgment is impending, the King is soon coming in to see the guests. HOW IMPORTANT THEN, THAT

SOME MESSAGE BE GIVEN US ADAPTED TO OUR CONDITION AND OUR DANGERS...” (synopsis of The Present Truth page 201, spoken by Uriah Smith) As commandment-keepers we are duty bound to go to our brethren in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and calling them out say to them with tears... “COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE, THAT YE BE NOT PARTAKERS OF HER SINS, AND THAT YE PARTAKE NOT OF HER PLAGUES, FOR HER SINS HAVE REACHED UNTO HEAVEN, AND GOD HATH REMEMBERED HER INIQUITIES.” REVELATION 18:4-5

John Warncken, Australia.

Who's The Boss?

I was thinking of my wonderful mother, today;
Remembering how she taught me to pray and obey.

She often said, “No,” and I would cry.
I Whined and pouted without changing her mind.

Today, our children have the upper hand.
They know just what to do their parents to give in.

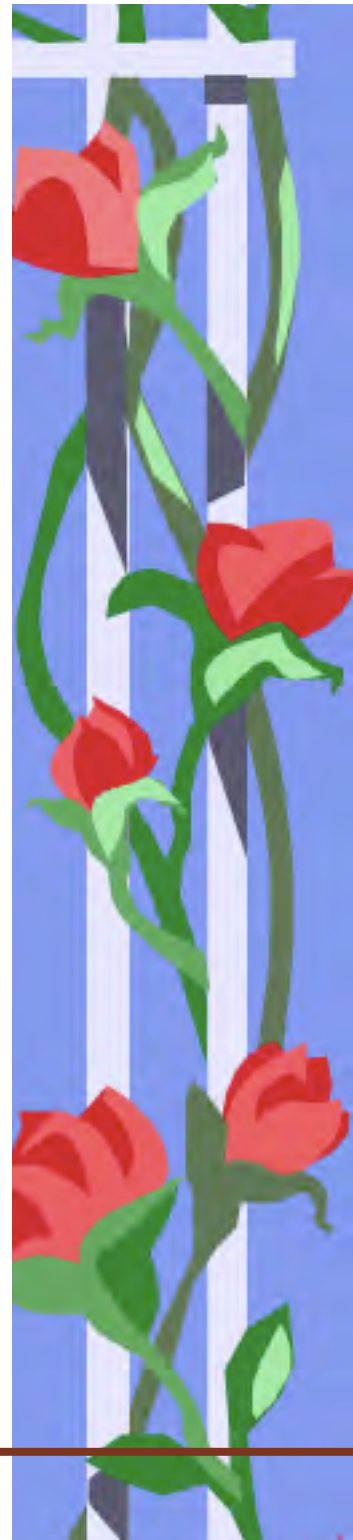
It is interesting to see who runs to show.
Thy children are the ones that tell the parents where to go.

Children, listen to your parents and do what is right.
They have been there and have seen the light.

I am so thankful that my mother was boss.
She was not afraid to discipline me, regardless of the cost.

Parents, you are the boss. If you do not stand firm.
IT WILL BE YOU CHILDREN'S LOSS!!

Dory A. Galicia, Philippines
dorygalicia@yahoo.com



Show your colours that all may see which side you are on. Cromwell in England dressed his soldiers in scarlet coloured coats, while in America they used blue coloured coats. That way all can recognize who is a friend and who is the enemy.

We are soldiers in Christ's army, and our enemies can be our family members, relatives, neighbours and the people we work with. Among these we must show our colours, that all can see to which army we belong.

Our battle ground is everywhere, there is no neutral ground. Also this war continues daily, as long as we live.

Daniel could have hidden his colours, and prayed to God silently in a closet. But no, he prayed with a loud voice, with windows open that all could hear him. He knew that he would be cast to the lion's den, but it did not make him hide the fact that he was a soldier in the Lord's army.

How different was he compared to an Adventist man who told me that he went to Northern Ontario to work in a lumber camp for three years and proudly he said that nobody there knew that he was a Seventh-Day Adventist.

Sometimes it happens that someone puts on a coat with the enemy's colour and mixes with the soldiers in the enemy's camp. They are called traitors, and if they are found out, they will be punished severely.

Enemies have often infiltrated the army of Jesus, with a purpose to destroy faithful souls. Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Matt. 7:15.

God loves His church very dearly. And anyone who works or speaks against it, is an enemy of God. "The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son." AA 11.

The fallen churches are enemies of God. They have, "become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. 18:2.

The world is an enemy of God. Their entertainment, amusements, their ambitions, and practices are powerful weapons in their hands to destroy God's people, the soldiers of Christ.

Lukewarm members in the church of God are enemies in disguise. By their influence they lead others into careless indifference. Also, self-righteous members in the church of God are working for Satan, and they are often hard to recognize.

The most dangerous enemies are the ones who do not show their



colours. They come to God's people as their friends. They may seem harmless, and they may even profess to love them. They may even be family members, yet working for Satan.

Eve tempted Adam into sin and caused his death. She did not realize how Satan was using her as his agent to make Adam fall.

How many wives and husbands and children are influenced by their family members to leave the church of God, and to join with false religious organizations.

When a friendly person comes to us who seems to care for our welfare, we tend to drop our defenses and easily become victims of the enemy.

"Satan is working with great power in and through the children of disobedience to exalt treason and apostasy as truth and loyalty." TM 16.

Millions of professed Christians are uniting with Satan in his rebellion against God.

"Errors will be presented in a pleasing and flattering manner. False theories, clothed with garments of light, will be presented to God's people. Thus Satan will try to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Most seducing influences will be exerted; minds will be hypnotized." Test. Vol. 8, p. 293.

When Doctor John Harvey Kellogg left the Adventist church, 4000 members followed him, including medical doctors. So strong was the influence of one person.

When three men started a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, 250 princes joined with them, and in the end, 14,700 lost their lives besides Korah, Dathan and Abiram, and the 250 princes.

Surely the wolves in sheep's clothing inside the church can do more damage than enemies attacking from outside.

When Tobiah, Sanballat and Geshem invited Nehemiah to meet with them, He replied, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it and come down to you." Neh. 6:3.

Satan wants to create friendships between his followers and God's people. When the Moabites and the Midianites invited the Israelites to their feast to make friendships with them, the result was that thousands of Israelites perished.

"The church is in need, not of burdens, but of earnest workers; not faultfinders, but of builders in Zion. Missionaries are really needed at the great heart of the work—men who will keep the fort, who will be true as steel to preserve the honor of those whom God has placed at the head of His work, and who will do their utmost to

sustain the cause in all its departments, even at the sacrifice of their own interests and lives, if need be." Test. Vol. 4, p. 194.

Loyalty to God must take precedence over friendships. If your friendship with someone endangers your loyalty to Christ and to His cause on earth, then break it—even if it is your best friend.

"The loyalty of the soul is alone of value in the sight of God." Test. Vol. 5, p. 73.

A Christian lady was engaged to be married to a gentleman, who did not confess religion. Trying to please her fiancée she offered to go to a dance with him. To her astonishment he declined to go with her, and broke their engagement, saying, "you have solemnly promised to obey and be loyal to Christ; if you are untrue to Christ, you will be untrue to me."

Who can trust an unfaithful Christian, who has made a solemn vow to serve his divine Master, and then become friends with the enemy of Christ.

"To the loyal heart the commands of sinful, finite men will sink into insignificance beside the word of the eternal God. Truth will be obeyed though the result be imprisonment or exile or death." PK 512.

Among all the confusion, His chosen ones will stand unmoved. And in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as God of god's, able to save to the uttermost those who put trust in Him.

God will not forget His faithful loyal servants. He was with Daniel in the lion's den, and also with his three friends in the fiery furnace.

We need to be loyal soldiers in Christ's army. We are to show our colours to the world, even among our enemies, and be faithful even unto death. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada

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JOHN FOXE



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Young John Foxe had proven himself such a bright young man since his coming to Oxford at the age of sixteen that he was chosen as a fellow of Magdalen College there in 1539, an honour seldom bestowed except in cases of great distinction. He soon made a mark for himself as a poet and writer, but his thoughts turned to the more serious issues of religion and the questions that had erupted from the writings of a monk in Germany named Martin Luther and John's martyred friend, William Tyndale. "Is it necessary for priests to act as mediators between God and man? Shouldn't people be able to read the Scriptures for themselves and not have them interpreted for them by someone else?"

John made a thorough study of both ancient and modern church history to see how these controversies had developed. He studied the works of the Greek and Latin fathers, the transactions and decrees of church councils, and acquired a very competent skill in the Hebrew language to study the Scriptures. It was not uncommon for him to work late into the night, often passing the entire night without any sleep.

He began going to a grove near the college that was frequented by the students in the evening on account of its isolation and quiet. On these solitary walks he would pour forth his prayers and questions to God with heavy sobs and tears. It was not long before he was overheard and reported to the college. These nightly retirements gave rise to the first suspicion of his alienation from the dictates of the state church.

Being pressed for an explanation of his conduct, he refused to deny his convictions and was, by the sentence of the college, convicted, condemned, and expelled as a heretic.

Upon leaving Magdalen College, John found employment as a tutor in the home of Sir Thomas Lucy of Warwickshire, which was within walking distance of Stratford on Avon, where William Shakespeare was born some years later in 1584. Here John married but soon fled for fear of the local church authorities. Though Henry VIII, king of England during this time, had broken with the Church of Rome for his own reasons, forming the Church of England with himself as

its head, he had not broken with the traditions that empowered the Roman church. Persecutions for "heresy" were still common, even though the accusation was used to eliminate political opponents than for any heartfelt religious convictions. People who were labelled as "Reformers" were seen as a danger to the structure of the Church of England and the crown and could not be left to spread their questioning teachings wherever they would like. John soon came to learn that his name was being discussed in the local church hierarchy as someone who may have to be dealt with.

So John and his wife fled for a short time to the home of his in-laws but soon headed for London in the last years of Henry VIII's rule. Here, being unknown, and finding no employment, he and his wife nearly starved to death.

Yet one day as he was sitting in St. Paul's Church, exhausted with hunger, a stranger took a seat beside him and courteously greeted him. John did not recognize the man, but before he could respond to the kind greeting, the stranger thrust a sum of money in his hand. "Cheer up," he said to John. "In a few days new prospects will present themselves to see you through." Then the man just walked away. John never discovered who he was.

Three days later he received an invitation from the duchess of Richmond to tutor the children of the earl of Surrey, who, together with his father, the duke of Norfolk, was imprisoned in the Tower by the jealousy and ingratitude of King Henry. This employment supported the Foxes for some time.

In 1547 Henry VIII died, and his ten-year-old son, Edward IV took the throne. Edward's short reign was friendly to the Reformers, but he died six years later. After Edward's death, Henry's eldest daughter (and Edward's older sister), Mary I, became queen, and the tide of opinion and political power swung violently back to the doctrines that had originated in Rome. In the next five years, nearly three hundred people were executed for "heresy."

During Edward's reign, John's outspokenness on the truth of the Scriptures and every person's right to read them for themselves

made enemies among those who still quietly supported the Church of Rome. Most notably among these was Dr. Gardiner, who became the bishop of Winchester when Mary I took power. Thomas, duke of Norfolk, who had been one of Master Foxe's pupils, convinced him to stay in England under his protection, but it soon became evident from the bishop's frequent visits and questions about John that it was not safe for him to remain.

John and his wife, who was pregnant at the time, attempted to sail for the mainland, but a vicious storm returned them to the port from which they left a day and a half before. During that time an officer from the bishop of Winchester with a warrant for John's arrest had knocked down the door at the place they had been staying prior to their initial departure for the mainland. Upon finding this out, John rode out of town, then sneaked back. He entreated the ship's captain to set out again as soon as the wind shifted, and two days later they landed safely in Nieuport, Belgium.

They then made their way to Basle, where, set to expose the evil behind the current church system, he published his book, known as Foxe's Book of Martyrs.

In 1558, Mary I, who had become known as "Bloody Mary" for the massacres during her reign, died and was succeeded by her younger half sister, Elizabeth I. John and his family returned to England, where he had freedom to preach once again. He spent much time correcting and verifying his book during his spare time. In 1563, when the Black Plague hit England, he stayed at his post (unlike many of his peers who fled for safety), cared for those who had no one else to care for them, and distributed money to the poor.

He became a unifying force in England, reportedly looking past the doctrinal differences and backgrounds of people to help anyone who came his way. He exerted his influence on Queen Elizabeth to put an end to the practice of executing those of opposing religious viewpoints. She held him in much respect and followed his counsel. By her order, copies of the Book of Martyrs were placed in common halls, colleges, and chapels, throughout the kingdom. Though John died in 1587, his book has continued to exercise a great influence upon the church ever since. In fact, until the last century, most Christians have a copy of the book, which was kept with the same respect as the family Bible.

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed: we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." 2 Cor. 4:8-10





Baptism in Japan



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