

# The Reformation *Messenger*

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 12, DECEMBER 2009

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



“As cold waters to a thirsty soul,  
so is good news from a far country.”  
Proverbs 25:25

**MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL  
DETAILS INSIDE**

**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:**  
Church group in Vancouver, Canada

**Inside Cover:**  
Martin LaBar, flickr.com CC  
Dogwood fruit, Cornus florida,  
Virginia, USA

Volume 16, Number 12 , December 2009

**4 Not Under The Law**

**6 Come Out Of Her My People: Part 6**

**9 One Hour Without Prayer**

**11 The Unfathomable Ways Of God**

**14 Youth Conference In India**

**16 Witnessing - Distinctly And Decidedly!**

**20 The Church of God and its Role in Our Lives**

**25 Children's Corner: The Way Of The Cross**

*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**

Official Publication of the International Missionary Society of the Seventh Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field.

- Tel: 905-876-2518 Fax: 416-252-6625
- Email: timom@sympatico.ca
- Web: www.ims messenger.org

**IMS**  
PUBLISHING

RR 3  
7899 15th Side Road  
Milton, ON  
Canada  
L9T 2X7

#### SUBSCRIBE TO THE REFORMATION MESSENGER

**Order By Mail: Please Fill In**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### No. Of Annual Subscriptions:

\_\_\_\_\_ Black & White x \$20.00 each per year

\_\_\_\_\_ Colour x \$25.00 each per year

*(Price includes 12 issues, one per month, including shipping & handling)*

**Purchase All 14 Years of the Messenger For \$200.00**  
*(Price includes over 158 issues, including shipping & handling)*

Amount of cheque: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payable To: IMS Publishing

**Or Order Online: [www.ims messenger.org](http://www.ims messenger.org)**

# REFORMATION MESSENGER

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

If you have not already done so, it is time to renew your subscription for the Messenger for 2010. Everyone who wishes to receive the Messenger in the New Year must send in a renewal form. It has come to our attention that people have moved, addresses have changed, so we need to keep our mailing list current. If you do not have a renewal form, please send us an email.

**If we do not hear from you, this will be your last issue.**

[timom@sympatico.ca](mailto:timom@sympatico.ca)

### **NEW PHONE:**

905-876-2518

### **NEW ADDRESS:**

IMS PUBLISHING  
RR 3  
7899 15th Side Road  
Milton, ON  
Canada  
L9T 2X7

### **RENEW ONLINE:**

[imsmessenger.org](http://imsmessenger.org)

## LOOKING FOR YOU!!

If you are interested in submitting an item for publication in the Reformation Messenger, please submit them to:

#### **By email to:**

[timom@sympatico.ca](mailto:timom@sympatico.ca)

#### **By Mail to:**

IMS Publishing  
RR 3  
7899 15th Side Road  
Milton, ON,  
Canada  
L9T 2X7

#### **SUBMIT:**

- ARTICLES
- POEMS
- PHOTOS
- DRAWINGS
- ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Send All Photos & Illustrations To:  
[imspics@yahoo.com](mailto:imspics@yahoo.com)

**ims**  
PUBLISHING

# Not Under The Law

There is misapprehension in the minds of some as to the meaning of the words found in Galatians 5:18, "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law." The text is thought by some to teach that those led by the Spirit are under no obligation to keep the law.

In the eighth chapter of Romans there are expressions which will aid in the determination of the meaning of the expression "not under the law." The apostle in this chapter contrasts those who follow the Spirit with those who follow the flesh. Verse 7 reads, "Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." To be in subjection to the law of God, then, is to be at enmity against God.

By comparing verse 7 with the marginal reading it is seen that "the carnal mind" is the same thing as "the minding of the flesh;" and in verse 5 we are told, "they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh." Then, substituting for the expression, "the carnal mind" its equivalent, we may paraphrase Romans 8:7 "they that are after the flesh are not subject to the law of God."

And Galatians 5:18 may be read, "They that are after the Spirit are not under the law of God."

The inferences from these statements are plain:

1. If they are after the flesh they are not subject to the law of God, and if this constitutes enmity against God (Romans 8:7); they that are after the Spirit are subject to the law of God.

2. If they "that are after the Spirit are not under the law, those not led by the Spirit - those after the flesh - are under the law, for "These [the flesh and the Spirit] are contrary the one to the other" Galatians 5:17. Then we may say of the two classes: those after the flesh are not subject to the law, but are under the law; those after the Spirit are not under the law, but are subject to the law.

The word "subject" means obedience, submission. "Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear." 1 Peter 5:18. "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers." Titus 3:1. Luke 2:51 speaks of Jesus being subject unto His parents. Then those after the flesh are not obedient to the law, do not submit to the law, but are under the law. Being "under the law," according to Paul (Romans 6:14) means to be under the condemnation of the law (Romans 8:1). to have the penalty of sin (Romans 6:23) hanging over one for having broken the law. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. And those after the Spirit (Col. 5:22-25) though not under the law, are obedient, or submissive to the law.

This may be illustrated by two persons, the one a criminal with a heavy reward for his capture, and the other a good citizen. The one is not subject to the law - not submissive, not obedient, but is under the law, under the ban or condemnation of the law. The other is subject - submissive or obedient to the law, but is not under the law - not under its condemnation.

Galatians 4:4, "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law."

Christ was made under the law – under its condemnation – and suffered its penalty to redeem them that are under the law, or under its condemnation.

Galatians 5:23 explains why those led by the Spirit are not under the law. The person so led will manifest love, joy peace, etc. "Against such there is no law. That is, there is no law against love, no law against joy, etc.

"I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Ezekiel 36:27.

To those who knowingly violate one of God's commandments and claim to be led by the Spirit of God, we would earnestly recall the words of Christ in Matthew 7:21-23. "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."

1 Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"

John 15:10. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

John 15:14 "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

The gospel of Christ's salvation must be proclaimed because God's law has been broken. Sinners are guilty before God. If no law had been broken, no gospel would have been necessary. The law and the gospel go hand-in-hand. They do not exist apart.

## Tell What The Lord Has Done

1 John 2:1-2 "if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins:"

"The sinner may err, but he is not cast off without mercy. His only hope, however, is repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the Father's prerogative to forgive our transgressions and sins, because Christ has taken upon Himself our guilt and reprieved us, imputing to us His own righteousness. His sacrifice satisfies fully the demands of justice." 6BC 1070

"God does not give us up because of our sins. We may make mistakes, and grieve His Spirit; but when we repent, and come to Him with contrite hearts, He will not turn us away... Come to Jesus, and receive rest and peace. You may have the blessing even now... If you have sins to confess, lose no time. These moments are golden." 1 SM 350,352

Luke 8:39 "Return to thine own house, and show how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him."

"The first works of the church were seen when the believers sought out friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and with hearts overflowing with love, told the story of what Jesus was to them and what they were to Jesus."--TM 167.

Acts 22:15 "For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard."

Psalms 67:1, 2 "God be merciful unto us, and bless us; [and] cause his face to shine upon us; That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations."

### **Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia**



One of the Oldest Known Copies of the Ten Commandments



## The Condition Of The Church And A Call For Revival And Reformation

1882

### THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

“As Jesus views the state of His professed followers today, he sees base ingratitude, hollow formalism, hypocritical insincerity, pharisaical pride and apostasy.” (5T 72).

“I have been shown that the spirit of the world is fast leavening the church. You are following the same path as did ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God’s peculiar people. You are having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Your concord with unbelievers has provoked the Lord’s displeasure...

“...I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. But few know what our churches are to experience.” (5T 75-76)

“When God shall work His strange work on the earth, when holy hands bear the ark no longer, woe will be upon the people.” (5T 77) “It is our sins that have separated us from God. The church is corrupt because of her members who defile their bodies and pollute their souls.” (5T 78) “But they separated from God, yielded to the influence of the world, and the Lord rejected them.” (5T 82)

“The church will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. If her moral character and spiritual state do not correspond with the benefits and blessings God had conferred on her, she will be found wanting. The light has been shining clear and definite upon her pathway, and the light of 1882 calls her to account.” (5T 83-84)

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders. The church has turned back from following Christ her leader and is steadily retreating towards Egypt.” (5T 217)

“The professed people of God have compromised with the powers of darkness.” (5T 222) “The deadly lethargy of the world is paralyzing your senses. Sin no longer appears repulsive because you are blinded by Satan.” (5T 233)

## THE CALL

“But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor...

“...Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view.” (5T 80-81)

There must be a revival of the straight testimony. The path to heaven is no smoother now than in the days of our Saviour. All our sins must be put away. Every darling indulgence that hinders our religious life must be cut off.

“Are we willing to renounce our own wisdom and to receive the kingdom of heaven as a little child? Are we willing to part with self-righteousness?” (5T 222)

“I am deeply solicitous that our people should preserve the living testimony among them, and that the church should be kept pure from the unbelieving element.” (5T 229)

“Again and again has the voice from heaven addressed you. WILL YOU OBEY THIS VOICE? Will you heed the counsel of the True Witness to seek the gold tried in the fire, the white raiment, and the eyesalve?” (5T 233)

# 1886

## THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

“We are far from being the people God would have us to be, because we do not elevate the soul and refine the character in harmony with the wonderful unfolding of God’s truth and His purposes... The people claiming to believe the truth will not be condemned because they had not the light, but because they had great light and did not bring their hearts to the test of God’s great moral standard of righteousness.” (2SM 76-377)

## THE CALL

“Let the sin of pride be put away, let all superfluities of dress be overcome, and repentance toward God be exercised for the highhanded robbery toward Him which has withheld money which should flow into the treasury to sustain the work of God in its mission fields.

“Let the work of reformation, of true conversion, be set before and urged upon the people. Let our works, our deportment correspond with the work for this time, that we may say, FOLLOW ME AS I FOLLOW CHRIST. Let us humble our souls before God by humiliation, fasting and prayer, repentance of sin and putting it away.” (2SM 378-379)

# 1887

## THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

“What is our condition in this fearful and solemn time? Alas, what pride is prevailing in the church, what hypocrisy, what deception, what love of dress, frivolity, and amusement, what desire for the supremacy! All these sins have clouded the minds, so that eternal things have not been discerned.” (COR 32)

## THE CALL

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessings upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it... There are persons in the church WHO ARE NOT CONVERTED, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, talk less.

“Iniquity abounds, and the people must be taught not to be satisfied with a form of godliness without the spirit and power.” (COR 31)

BRETHREN, We come now to a very important and significant chapter in our history, 1888, forty-four years on from 1844, when the investigative judgment started, and Jesus as our only great and most High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.

The message of RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH as brought by Elders Waggoner and Jones to the General Conference at Minneapolis in 1888 was the beginning of THE LIGHT OF THAT OTHER ANGEL OF REVELATION 18:1-5.

**His mission was to present the counsel of the true witness to the Laodiceans.**

I will, in part seven continue to explain the condition of the Seventh-day Adventist church, and in closing part six I will give you a little back ground knowledge of what the leadership did, and the role it played in why Sister White wrote, “But the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel; although many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking.” 5T 210

No wonder that the presence of God had departed from Israel. Israel always means "God's people."

Those who begun this satanic work at Minneapolis were the men who held positions in the church of trust. They were the leading brethren.

One among them, M.L.R. Conradi, not only opposed the message and mocked the messengers but openly rejected the light. Because Sister E.G. White supported the message that Elders Waggoner and Jones brought to the Conference Session in 1888, Conradi rejected also the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.

In spite of this, he was elected Vice-President of the General Conference in 1903. He was one among the others who was moulding the work after his own ideas and led the church (in Europe) to trample upon God's Holy Law in the crisis during World War I.

The lord's servant, Sister E.G. White prophesied that already in her time the work had taken on a different shape and mould:

"But Conradi was not the only one responsible for treachery against the kingdom of Christ." (TM 17) i.e., A.G. Daniells stated (in protocol 79-80) "We must permit every citizen to act toward the authorities according to the dictates of his conscience."

Contrary to this granting of liberty, God's warning sounds:

"God has given men no liberty to depart from His requirements. The Lord has declared to Israel, YE SHALL NOT DO... every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes; but ye shall observe and hear all these words which I command thee." (PP 634) (Proverbs 21:2)

"In disregarding the will of God, they are placing themselves on the side of Satan, the enemy of God and man." (MB 82-83)

**John Warncken, Australia**

"Those who seek to remove the old landmarks are not holding fast; they are not remembering how they have received and heard. Those who try to bring in theories that would remove the pillars of our faith concerning the sanctuary or concerning the personality of God or of Christ are working as blind men. They are seeking to bring in uncertainties and to set the people of God adrift without an anchor.

Those who claim to be identified with the message that God has given us should have keen, clear spiritual perceptions, that they may distinguish truth from error. The word spoken by the messenger of God is "Wake up the watchmen." If men will discern the spirit of the messages given and strive to find out from what source they come, the Lord God of Israel will guard them from being led astray." Manuscript Release 760, pp. 9, 10. YRP 235, Ellen G. White.





We normally have our morning worship and also in the evening we send our prayers to God, but Sister White wrote, "No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer. Especially should we entreat the Lord for wisdom to understand His word. Here are revealed the wiles of the tempter and the means by which he may be successfully resisted." GC 530

Apostle Paul counsels us to "pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5:17.

All through the day we make decisions where to go, what to do, what to speak, what to eat, what to think and so on. Unless we have divine wisdom from God we can make mistakes. We can speak wrong words, think worldly thoughts, and do wrong things.

Jeremiah writes, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jer. 10: 23.

Man in his limited wisdom has invented thousands of ways how to live, but they all lead to destruction and eternal death.

There is only one way that leads to life and happiness, and it is the way of God. David says, "As for God, His way is perfect." Ps. 18:30.

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

Destruction came upon the people in the time of Noah because they did not follow the way of God.

"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Gen. 6:5.

"Should they become boastful and self-confident, neglecting to watch and pray, they would fall into grievous sin, calling down upon themselves the wrath of God." AA 316

"Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, you lose your hold on God." GW 255

"If we pray even when our hands are employed, the Saviour's ear is open to hear our petitions. If we are determined not to be separated from the Source of our strength, Jesus will be just as determined to be at our right hand to help us. That we may not be put to shame before our enemies." CH 424

"The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin; and it is all because they do not make use of the privileges that God has given them in the divine appointment of prayer. Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the

key in the hand of faith, to unlock the heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of the Omnipotent? Without unceasing prayer and diligent watching we are in danger of growing careless and deviating from the right path." SC 94, 95

"Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks." GC 519

From these quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy we understand how important it is to pray without ceasing.

But then what shall we pray in our unceasing prayer?

First, we should begin with thanksgiving. "Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people." 1 Chron. 16:8

David said, "To the end that my glory may sing praise to Thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee for ever." Ps. 30:12

Next we need to ask forgiveness for our sins. This Jesus added to His model prayer, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Matt. 6:12.

After we have received forgiveness then we pray for power not to sin anymore. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

For this cleansing we need divine power.

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12.

Pray for others; especially for the ones who are in the valley of decision, who have received Bible studies but have not yet made up their minds to serve the Lord. Pray for your relatives and friends, the ones with whom you are in contact. Also, daily prayer is needed for your children that they would not be deceived by Satan.

Those who are sick especially need your prayers. "The divine Healer is present in the sick-room; He hears every word of the prayers offered to Him in the simplicity of true faith. His disciples today are to pray for the sick, as verily as did the disciples of old. And there will be recoveries; for the prayer of faith shall save the sick." GW 215

Pray earnestly for a spiritual revival. "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them

that ask him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer."

Do not forget to pray for missionary work, that it would produce a harvest of souls.

"Through much prayer you must labour for souls, for this is the only method by which you can reach hearts. It is not your work, but the work of Christ who is by your side, that impresses hearts." Evan 342

It was shown to Sister White the difference between earnest, sincere Christians and careless, indifferent ones. "I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them... Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones." EW 269, 270

When we realize the importance of prayer, and how necessary it is for the salvation of our souls, we would not dare to let even one hour to pass without prayer. Eventually it becomes a habit to pray without ceasing and miracles start happening in our lives. Then reasons for prayer will increase that we cannot stop even for a moment, but continue to send our petitions to God.

May the Lord help each one of us to live a prayerful life, and see how our faith will increase at the same time. **AMEN**

*Timo Martin, Canada*

## MESSENGER ONLINE

Read all of the back issues and current ones online at:

[www.imsessenger.com](http://www.imsessenger.com)

**ims**  
PUBLISHING



# The Unfathomable Ways Of God

The situation of the world is chaotic. Whole nations suffer due to hunger, violence, unrighteousness. There are natural disasters here and there that leave people homeless. Serious diseases spread over the whole world. Criminality increases and there is no more security. "Where is God? What does He do?" many people ask themselves.

The prophet Habakkuk, in his time, also asked God, "O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! [even] cry out unto thee [of] violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou show me iniquity, and cause [me] to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence [are] before me: and there are [that] raise up strife and contention. Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth." (Habakkuk 1:1-4)

The Bible tells us, "The Lord [is] nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them." Psalm 145:18-20.

Everything that is written in the Bible is true, and here it says that the Lord is near to all who call upon Him. We have all certainly called upon the Lord many times and felt His presence very near us. If that was not the case, if we had called upon Him but there was no echo, it may be that something was not quite right in the way we called. It can be that we were not serious enough, we did not quite mean what we said, that we did not call "upon Him in truth".

We should present our plea before the Lord from the bottom of our heart; we should take every step towards God quite seriously. Our prayer coming from our heart ascends to God's throne and His eyes and ears are open to our needs. "He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?" Psalm 94:9. The Psalmist says further, "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, [and] seek God." Psalm 14:2.

Parents can be bothered when their children ask them constantly for something that maybe they cannot give them, but our heavenly Father is not at all bothered and He can give us everything we need. Let us call upon Him in truth, even if our faith is weak. Let us remember that man whose son was possessed and he brought him to Jesus; and when he was asked whether he believed that the Lord could heal him, he answered, "I believe, help my unbelief." What a wonderful trust in the Lord Jesus had this man! He knew very well that faith is a heavenly gift.

It is a fact that the Lord is near to all who call upon Him in truth. The verse says further, "He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them."

What is the desire of a person who fears God, to live for His honour, to reflect His character, to bear the fruit of the Spirit, to do the

Father's will? The Lord is more than willing to give us all this. He will also hear our cry when we are in danger or in need. God is love and He is ready to help us and take us out of any difficult situation. In this second verse there is also a condition in order to have our desires fulfilled or to be saved from difficulties; we should fear God, respect Him and bow before the almighty, omniscient Creator of the universe. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, says the Bible. Knowledge comes from books and experience, but wisdom comes only from God. How important it is to have fear of God, above all now, at the end of times, when there is so much deceit and lies.

It is wonderful to be reconciled with God through Jesus' sacrifice. It is wonderful to have an almighty Friend who can protect us and help us at all times.

Now, let us read John 11:1-6, "*Now a certain [man] was sick, [named] Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was [that] Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. When Jesus heard [that], he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.*"

It is very interesting what we read in this case. Lazarus, a friend of Jesus whom the Lord so many times had visited in his house was very sick. His sisters called the great Healer, who had worked so many miracles, to come and heal their brother. The messenger received the answer, "This sickness is not unto death but for the glory of God", a wonderful promise. In other words, "Do not worry." Can a disease be for God's glory?

The messengers returned with the good tidings, but Lazarus died. Four days later Jesus came to Bethany, and what happened? God's name was really glorified and praised as He resurrected His friend.

But let us put ourselves in the place of Martha and Mary, Lazarus' sisters who had called their friend when they were in great need and He did not come.

Are the verses we read at the beginning valid in this case? "*The Lord [is] nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him...*"

That was a serious call from people who had fear of the Lord and, as it seems it was not answered. But in the course of this story we should notice that it says that the Lord loved Lazarus, Martha and Mary, and in spite of it He did not come. But what a wonder He worked a few days later!

The sickness was not unto death, even though Lazarus died. No

sickness is unto death when we call Jesus. Sooner or later He will come and if we have already been put to sleep, He will get us out of the grave. For those who fear God there is no second, definitive death. That is the gospel of Jesus Christ. He did not sacrifice Himself in vain.

Let us read what happened in another case. "*Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephtholim.*" Matthew 4:12, 13.

Let us look at this situation with our human eyes. John the Baptist was Jesus' forerunner. He had announced the kingdom of God and had called people to repentance saying that One would come after him who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist was highly treasured in heaven and was chosen from his mother's womb to be a bearer of the gospel. Now he is in jail. Jesus hears about it and instead of going immediately to set him free, he goes to the sea. What did His disciples think about it? The one who had said to them "You are my brothers, I am your friend," behaved in such an insensitive way!

John spent difficult hours in prison. The devil tempted him and brought him to the point that he doubted whether Jesus was really the Messiah. He sent two of his disciples to ask the Master, "*Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?... Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised*" (Luke 7:19, 22). In other words, "I work miracles," but He did not work any miracle to save John, and the head of the one who preached, "*And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire*" (Matt. 3:10); was cut off. In what light would now people see Christianity? We can imagine how the teaching of John the Baptist was laughed at.

Jesus' teaching to His disciples at all times is that they should be ready to suffer for His sake, but that their reward would be great in heaven.

Our present life has a relative worth. The reason why God and our Saviour Jesus Christ has put the whole of heaven in motion is that we may obtain eternal life.

For John the Baptist, the verses we read at the beginning seem not to be at all valid. "*The Lord [is] nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him...*"

Are these verses valid in the case of Jesus Himself? In Gethsemane He cried, "*O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou [wilt].*" (Matt. 26:39). But the



Father did not want this, and the cup did not pass by. If it had been otherwise, we would have no hope. Thank you Lord Jesus that you drank the cup!

Jesus was crowned with a crown of thorns, so that we may receive a crown of gold. He was scorned and beaten so that we, in spite of our carnal nature, may be respected and appreciated by others. He was nailed on the cross so that we may be free from sin.

Although the devil used his instruments to tempt Him to come down from the cross, He did not do it and three days later He was resurrected. Now, let us read something very interesting in Matthew 27:52, 53, *“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”*

These people who feared God did not have to wait in the grave until Jesus' second coming on the clouds of heaven, but they were the first fruits that He brought to the Father. Can it be that John the Baptist, as some theologians assume, was also among them?

*“The Lord [is] nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.”*

We need a strong faith and trust in God in order to be able to feel secure that these verses are valid in all circumstances in spite of what we may see or appreciate with our carnal eyes. God sees everything different.

Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus. He loved John the Baptist. He loves you and me. Therefore, when things happen in our life that may bring us to the point of despair and we call unto the Lord in truth, let us not doubt if we see that we do not receive an answer or see a solution immediately. It may be that God's plan for us or our beloved one for whom we plead, is much more glorious than we can imagine.

The Lord is also not indifferent to what is happening in the world. He has control of everything and at the right moment His plan will be fulfilled. We know that hard trials await us, but if we fear God we should not worry, but only trust in the power of His love. His promise to those who have reached the state of the church of Philadelphia, who love their brethren and are even ready to give their lives for them is, *“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”* (Rev. 3:10)

May the Lord help us to see things in a spiritual way and may He strengthen our faith and our fear of God. **Amen.**

**Teresa Corti**

# Youth Conference In India

May the peace and grace of the Lord be with you all!

We held out biannual youth conference in India from September 25-28th. The Lord richly blessed the conference and all those who attended. We felt as if we were in heaven.

Our Pastors. S. Raj Israel, D. Jabapillai, and M. Samson John provided wonderful messages for our youth. All of the youth participated in the meetings, singing, praying or giving their witness. Nearly 60 brethren and sisters attended. Brethren. S. Ruban David, G. Dhivyanathan, S. Jayaseelan, S. Jobu, S. John Peter, P. Albert, S. Rajenthiran, G. Chandrasekar and M. R. Yesunesan all attended. Brother Charles gave a talk on natural medical treatments.

We are very thankful for all who are prayed for us from the General Conference, and from the Indian field, and those who helped financially. Thank you.

May The Lord bless you all abundantly.

Your brethren in the Lord,

S. Raj Israel      S. Ruban David  
Secretary      Youth Leader





# Witnessing - Distinctly And Decidedly!

“And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship.” Acts 8:27

“Are you witnessing more distinctly and decidedly than ever before?” (8T 55)

## Praxeis (Gr) - Acts

We find in the book of Acts the clearest evidence of witnessing based on an explicit example of the Holy Spirit manifesting itself in its profound work on the Apostle Philip. This, in fact is a gloriously beautiful example for us to emulate, and learn the principles the Apostle Philip applied so successfully through the Holy Spirit's influence.

But first, Jesus' last recorded words have come to be known as the Great Commission: “Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Men and women took that commission seriously and began to spread the news of a risen Saviour to the most remote corners of the known world. This command, specifying the geographical areas to be evangelized, was carried out in exactly the order prescribed here. The work of evangelizing began in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1); in Judaea and Samaria (Acts 8:5); and throughout the remainder of the earth (Acts 8:26). These were the First Century Missions, and the First Missionaries!

“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). It's like a favorite pastime of children; skipping stones across the surface of a smooth lake or sea shore. Inevitable ripples would flow from the impact of the stone and spread out in concentric circles. The evangelizing of the Apostles had a similar “ripple effect” on the lives of many.

The “Book of Acts,” or The “Acts of the Apostles,” has often been called “The Acts of the Holy Spirit” and rightly so, as the Holy Spirit is referred to more than fifty times (as the “Holy Ghost” and “the Spirit”), particularly in relation to baptism with the Holy Spirit, and being filled with the Holy Spirit, and being led by the Holy Spirit. In all the ancient Greek manuscripts and even in today's Greek Bible, “Praxeis” (Acts), was, and is commonly used in Greek literature as well, to summarize the amazing accomplishments of outstanding men.

Although written by Luke, the apostles are mentioned collectively at several points; “The Acts” really refer to Peter and Paul. But, for our purpose on the topic, **Witnessing – Distinctly and Decidedly**, we are focusing on the uniqueness of the Holy Spirit's influence on the Apostle Philip, a deacon of the first Christian church and a zealous



follower of Jesus Christ, and its succinct influence on us as follows:

## Five Basic Principles Of Witnessing

**1. THE SENSITIVITY PRINCIPLE.** This infers to our response to God's leading (Acts 8:25, 26). It's a sensitive response to the voice of the Holy Spirit and how you react to it! Ah! **This is the greatest need of the Church today!** Was the Apostle Philip sensitive to the Holy Spirit? Yes! How can we acquire this sensitivity? Simply, by praying and fasting. We know of the stupendous power of prayer.

But, why fasting? Well, what's here implied is not to eat too much, too often, too many combinations! By eating less you will hear the voice of God more distinctly. You see, by overeating, the blood is concentrated in the gastro-intestinal area, and the blood is deprived of the nourishment and oxygen it needs to properly function. The brain, therefore, cannot communicate with the voice of God! The mind is congested! Anoxia, atrophy ensues! Many of the old sages, philosophers, and religious leaders fasted. Jesus is the prime example. Just fast and see!

**a.) The Strategic Response.** Strategically the Apostles (and we) are to preach wherever we are and as we progress, reach out further and further; spreading the gospel's influence deep into "enemy territory!" Philip "preached in all the cities." (Acts 8:40). The apostle Paul, in exhorting the Ephesian elders, while serving the Lord, said, "how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you and taught you publicly and from house to house" (canvassing) (Acts 20:20). Again, it's much like the analogy of the still pond; when a stone is thrown into it, ripples begin to form and concentrically spread out into a picture-like pattern; growing in scope and beauty; and beholden in awesomeness! Such is the magnificent power and beauty of the Gospel.

**b.) The Spontaneous Response.** That means, in essence to continue working where you are, until the Holy Spirit calls you somewhere else. Furthermore, not to feel restricted by the progress, goals, or accomplishments being made; or to measure one's level of spirituality, thusly.

Ah! You see, to be "sensitive" again to the Spirit's leading! Apostle Philip "did not question or hesitate to obey," but learned of conforming to God's will. This was evidenced clearly, because Philip, unquestionably, went wherever God sent him; from Samaria, Jerusalem, Gaza, to Caesarea. The Ethiopian, who may have seemed like an unlikely candidate, was in fact open to the Gospel message. Follow therefore God's leading, even if a demotion occurs, a transfer to a bizarre place, moving, loss of job, separation, illness, etc. Questions may arise at first, but the ultimate results leave no doubt of the rightness of following God's voice wherever He leads. Oh! Undisputed patience, however, is required to experience it.

**2. PRINCIPLE OF OBSERVATION.** Keep your eyes and ears open! Be observant! Diligently seek for opportunities as people need to hear the Word of God. Many thirst, however, but know not where to turn to. We suffer, however, from spiritual dullness in our faith... not "distinctly and decidedly witnessing."

Philip, however, ran to the Ethiopian treasurer, who was reading from Isaiah, asking him, "understandest thou what thou readest?" "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."

The chariot was moving! "The Spirit said unto Philip, go near, and join thyself to this chariot." Philip did not want the opportunity to pass him up, but ran alongside the chariot. The Ethiopian besought "Philip that he would come up and sit with him." (the invitation). Philip then "commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:26-37).

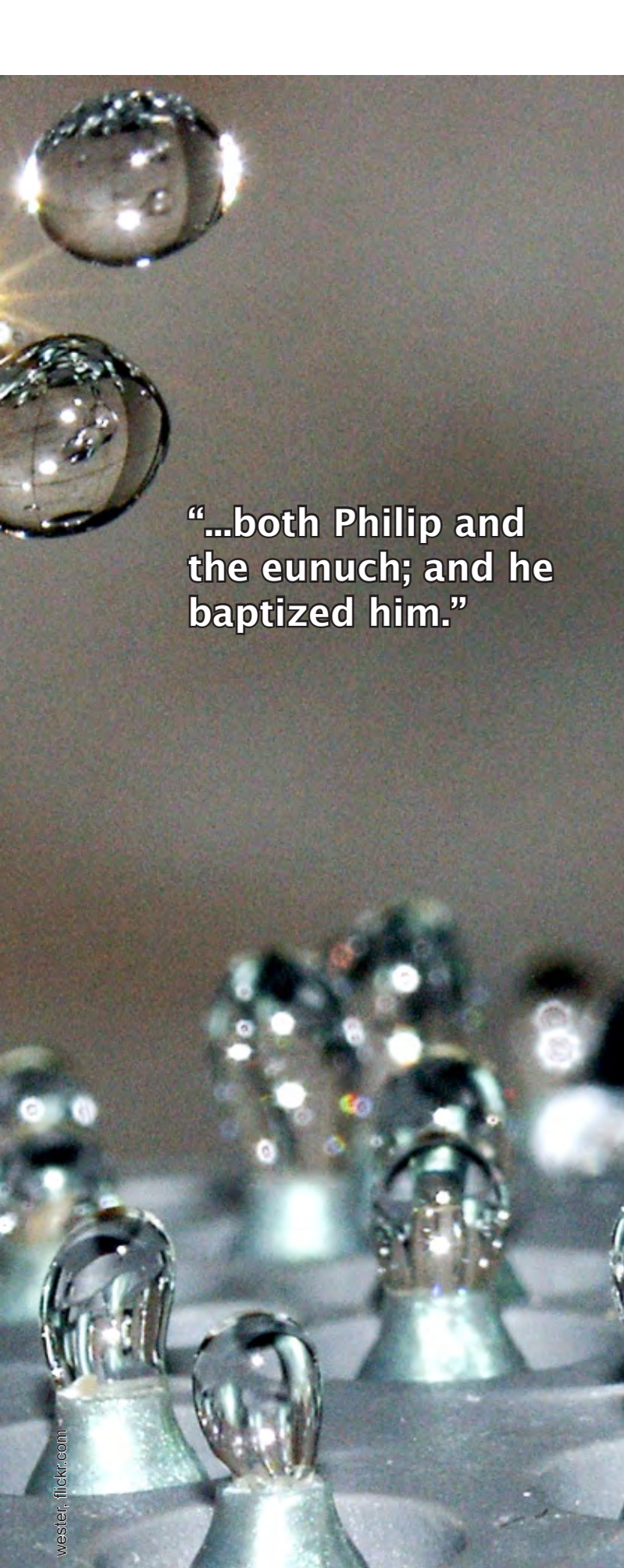
We need to "cling" to and "run" alongside interested souls, too, not letting opportunities escape our reach.

**3. PRINCIPLE OF SCRIPTURE.** "And he (the Ethiopian) said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him" (Acts 8:31). Note that Philip shared the Bible with the Ethiopian. The Scriptures must be central to any witnessing since it's the primary source concerning all spiritual reality. Don't use your own ambiguous or coined words. They can be elusive and... deadly! They have no creative power. The Word of God is what "recreates!" Otherwise, you might find yourself in a hindermost corner! When Jesus was tempted by Satan, Jesus answered, "It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4: 4). The "thus saith the Lord" cannot be embarrassingly contradicted or refuted!

**4. PRINCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST.** "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture (v-32), and preached unto him Jesus." (Acts 8:35). In any witnessing endeavor, the preaching of Jesus Christ is essential! As Philip so avidly did, always point people to Jesus Christ, and not to the church, a group, or you. It is completely pointless if you do otherwise. Preaching Jesus Christ, therefore, is essential.

Ah! But "some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds." (Phil 1:15, 16). Apostle Paul, however, preached Christ! When he preached philosophy to the Athenians on Mars Hill at the Acropolis, he miserably failed, and departed for Corinth. Like so many others, he missed the point! But, even Saul preached Christ after he spent some days with the disciples at Damascus after being healed of his sight, and was baptized by Ananias. "And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God." (Acts 9:20)

**5. PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSE.** Always encourage a response



**“...both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”**

to Jesus Christ. Attempt to elicit a reply or acknowledgement of some kind; an impression, emotion, or experience of some kind, related to what was read or said, even with a rebuttal or gesture of some kind; be prepared for any response. There must, however, be a warmth, a glow, or zeal elicited from entering into the spirit and catching the flame of the Holy Spirit's work. Stay on that narrow path!

**a.) Three Questions To Ask:**

i. **“Do You Believe What You Studied?”** “The eunuch said, “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:36, 37).

ii. **“Do You Understand What You Studied?”** “And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, “Understandest thou what thou reatest?” (Acts 8:30)

iii. **“Do You Believe and Understand Enough To Obey?”** “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: And they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” (Acts 8: 38). Ah! Here is the intricate and vexatious problem for many.... obedience! Obedience can come by faith, the working of the Holy Spirit and fervent prayer. But, confession, repentance of sin, and forsaking of sin is the strategic key on that narrow path.

## *Tests Of Fellowship*

The Ethiopian was instantly and opportunely ready to be baptized! “And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.” (Acts 8:39) You see, when you confess Jesus Christ, you are ready to be baptized just as the eunuch; immediately! You believe everything Jesus Christ says and does, so the final step is complete water immersion.... baptism, a confession of faith, a new covenant with God, a rebirth... a first love! Baptism is a decision in action underlining your belief.

The decision was opportunely made for the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away... he abruptly and mysteriously disappeared! There was no time for childish doubting or questioning. Here we have a demarcation, a subsequent separation between the heathens and the believers. Ah! Yes, but you might say, “there are many believers in Jesus Christ.” But, these are professed believers, pew polishers, part-time Christians; nominal believers in nominal churches. Belief requires a test... and agonizing trials!

The Ethiopian had a parchment scroll, as there were no Bibles at that time. Scrolls were dreadfully expensive. The Jews had scrolls, and also the Pharisees, and priests. But, the spoken Word, then, as now is still the link that binds souls to Jesus. You see, **Jesus is the test!** Some scrolls have been preserved and documented, that we might have the sure Word of Jesus, now for all to cherish

and read by the Holy Bible, written by men inspired by God. Today the **Sabbath is the test!** (Ex 20:8; Lev 23:3; Isa 58:13; Lk 6:5; Jam 2:10; 1Chron 16:15; etc.). These two **fiery tests** will be further broadened and analyzed:

## Testing Process

Fortified and “bathed” in the Truth, the Word, we need to encourage a response from those with whom we share the Word; to encourage those in the preliminary testing process to:

**a. Repentance-Confession of Sins** - Jesus Christ is our mediator, advocate, intercessor, and only Saviour; “Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12; 1Tim 2:5). “And call no man your father upon the earth; for one is your Father, which is in heaven” (Matt 23:9), etc.

**b. Faithfulness** - By assisting and pointing souls to understand the Sabbath question, and develop its importance by the Scriptures, Testimonies, and experiences. Delve into Sabbath experiences and changes in your life as a result. Speak of God's promises: “I have been young, and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” (Ps 37:25) “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” (Ex 20:12) “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). Psalm 23, etc.

**c. Baptism** – Baptism is a mere beginning, a stepping stone in the narrow path heavenward; an agonizing race, a continual process of sanctification until... the very end! One responds with this sacred act and oneness with God when the lessons studied are **believed in!** For, “the Spirit of truth... will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13)

**d. Church Status** - Throughout a world of greed and fear, mankind is wistfully looking to heaven for a glimmer of hope! A laborious effort is being undertaken by the heavenly hosts, the angels, to lead mankind to Jesus, and the truth; to the true church; the mother church, a Bible preaching church. “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” (Rev 22:17).

The entire church, however, is not to depend on the ministry only! For Jesus places you in the vineyards. (Matt 20:6, 7). Ah! But, why do so many not respond? Well, many think they're excused from standing in the pulpit! “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a **witness unto all nations**; and then shall the end come.” (Matt 24:14). Many take a spectator - listener position. Therefore, they assume they are excused from any responsibilities!

But, we have a commission to evangelize the world! “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be **witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8). You see, it will end the same way it began! When the Holy Spirit is poured out, Pentecost will begin again beginning in Jerusalem, Judea, community to community, country to country, continent to continent; from inside to the outside in concentric circles! (Rev 7:1-4; 14:1-20) After Jesus Christ returns, there will be no “clinging” to Him or one another, but, like Elijah who preached 3 ½ years, was sealed and taken above in a chariot of fire!

The first fruits always need to be presented to God. The 144,000 will be the first fruits; from the outermost parts of the living world; first fruits from men to the God of righteousness.

## Fight!

Are you, therefore, ready to make a fresh commitment to witnessing; engaging in a refreshing in faith and your relationship with God? Discard those stale attitudes – impatience, criticism, and selfishness – and not having enough longsuffering and kindness... gentleness, which are the fruit of the Spirit.” (Gal 5:22-23) Christ is your pattern. Model your attitude toward life as followers of Christ (Phil 2:1-8).

Lord, may the fruit of our lives be always “fresh and flourishing and still bring fruit in old age.” (Ps 92:14). So always make a fresh commitment, and carry the Word of God in a sound body and clear mind; eyes open wide, observing, listening, and being alert and sensitive to the needs of **others!** Ask God today for that newness of Spirit, a freshness of faith, and a renewed appreciation of Him in witnessing!

David prayed to God, “Restore in me a clean heart.” Then he petitioned God, “Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation.” (Ps 51:10-12). Also, in a self-centered world, where man is conditioned to look out for his own interests, “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (Heb 13:2)

Therefore, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many **witnesses**. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate **witnessed a good confession**.” (1Tim 6:12, 13). “We are almost home; we shall soon hear the voice of the Saviour richer than any music, saying, ‘Your warfare is accomplished.’” (RH Jan. 19, 1886).

This is **WITNESSING – DECIDEDLY AND DISTINCTLY!**  
**“Are you witnessing more decidedly and distinctly than ever before?” (8T55). Amen!**

*John Theodorou, USA*



# The Church of God and its Role in Our Lives

Why you are attending church today? What is your reason for being here and for being a member of this church? In Christianity in general there are many reasons why people want to become part of a church but the main reason is for social interaction. The human race is a web of human interaction and this is the predominant reason for church fellowship. In this respect, the reason for church is for a sense of well being. We like to have a lovely sense that we are Christians. But there is also another reason why people attend church. It is so that they can teach someone else something – they can teach others and this activity in itself becomes a missionary motivation. People also attend church because they want to provide a certain environment for their children or because they want to stand different to other people. Very few people are conscious of the real purpose for being part of God's church.

In Ephesians we find the real reason for attending church and being part of it. I place it before you carefully to see if this is the reason why you want to attend: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." Eph. 4:11.

## *The Church Leadership Is Being Identified.*

"For the perfecting of the saints, (this is the purpose) for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4:12, 13.

Did you pick up the reason for being part of this church?

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:25-27.

The real purpose for being part of God's church is that you would change. You can't remain the same person that you are at this present time. To be part of God's church requires you to become changed from the person you are now into a perfect person. This process requires cleansing and experiences that will change your personality. Are you happy being the kind of person you are right now? Some people are. They think to themselves, "I am very well just the way I am, thank you very much."

However if you are a person that is not happy with your present condition and you want to become changed, then that is the real reason for attending church. Every servant of God has been given the task of taking care of the church and if he does not understand this he will miss his calling. Every servant of God has been called

to proclaim the word in such a way that it will change other people's lives. I hope that all of you are dissatisfied with your current personality and character and that you are striving to change it.

"You should keep before the minds of patients the fact that in suggesting reforms of their habits and customs you are presenting before them that which is not to ruin but to save them; that, while yielding up what they have hitherto esteemed and loved, they are to build on a more secure foundation. (What you have esteemed and loved needs to change) While reform must be advocated with firmness and resolution, all appearance of bigotry or an overbearing spirit should be carefully shunned." Test. Vol 4, p. 568

You can be a reformer and yet not reforming.

"Christ has given us precious lessons of patience, forbearance, and love. Rudeness is not energy; nor is domineering, heroism. The Son of God was persuasive. He was manifested to draw all men unto Him. His followers must study His life more closely and walk in the light of His example, at whatever sacrifice to self. Reform, continual reform, must be kept before the people; and your example should enforce your teachings." 4T 568

What is to be kept before God's people in the church is continual reform and as God's people we must be an example of it.

"The case of Daniel was presented before me. Although he was a man of like passions with ourselves, the pen of inspiration presents him as a faultless character. His life is given us as a bright example of what man may become, even in this life, if he will make God his strength and wisely improve the opportunities and privileges within his reach." 4T 569

What is our work of reform? To keep the heroes of God's kingdom under the mind's eye.

"Daniel was an intellectual giant; yet he was continually seeking for greater knowledge, for higher attainments." 4T 569

Although Daniel was a great intellectual giant he still needed to change.

"Other young men had the same advantages; but they did not, like him, bend all their energies to seek wisdom—the knowledge of God as revealed in His word and in His works. Although Daniel was one of the world's great men, he was not proud nor self-sufficient. He felt the need of refreshing his soul with prayer, and each day found him in earnest supplication before God. He would not be deprived of this privilege even when a den of lions was opened to receive him if he continued to pray." 4T 569

We need to pray like Daniel. Even the threat of a lion's den did not deter him from prayer. We need to look to Daniel as our example in prayer.

"As the light of truth is received and followed out, it will work an entire reformation in the life and character of all those who are sanctified through it." 2T 60

The light of truth is to be followed and the church is to be the preacher of truth.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

Are we bound by our human deficiencies? As the truth is followed it will work an entire reformation through the character and this is what our association with church is all about. If you are here for any other reason you will be disappointed. Some of our pleasures and joys which only lead us into trouble will have to be changed. That is the purpose of reform. The fact that I have the reformation and reform means that I have to change my pride-filled spirit. I cannot be bigoted and overbearing. These are characteristics that need to be changed. If I am groveling around in the murk of the world and then I come to church – am I going to be able to change from all that?

Every man is occupied with the task of character change. As we travel along the path with God's people and His church, at no point can we say – I don't need to change any more. If this was the case then Jesus would be here already.

"Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own." COL 69

When Jesus sees Himself perfectly represented among His people then He will come to take them to be with Him. But Jesus hasn't come yet so we are not yet perfectly reflecting Him. We need to change in order to become like Him. We are already comforted that we are children of God, but does that mean that we are perfect?

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3:2, 3  
If I have this hope, what is my activity? I will purify myself even as He is pure. This is our allotted task.

Are you sick and tired of the human suffering that is escalating around you? Are you tired of the corruption and all the evil around you? Do you desire to see an end to it all? Then you need to do something about it – Change!

When Jesus comes He is going to make an end of it all but He can't come until we are changed. If He did come at this very point in time we would all be destroyed but He doesn't want to destroy us, He wants to save us.

Jesus says, I have given you My church and sent you ministers so that you will be brought to a condition that is going to change your character and then I can come. If you don't know how to change, the ministry of His church holds the answers.

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor. 3:17, 18.

What is the word Glory referring to here? It is the same glory that Moses saw on Mt Sinai. Most people think that glory is just the brightness of God but not the brilliance of God in His perfect character. It was actually God's character that Moses saw on Mt. Sinai. As we see the character of God and how He handles our sins – and as we behold His love demonstrated through the sacrifice of His loving Son – what will happen? It is a law that the mind gradually adapts itself to the subject upon which it is trained to dwell.

In the brain there is a law which says – what we behold affects us. We see this in the world today. The children mimic what they watch on TV. So it is that when we come into God's church and shut out the world by concentrating on Jesus this law affects us so that we become like who we dwell upon. That is why we come to church and study His Word – so that we may behold His glory and become changed even as by the Spirit of the Lord into that same glory.

I would like to spend the closing chapters of this article mapping out our experience in character change. I appeal to you to follow very carefully because what I am about to share with you we all need to understand if we are going to continue in this church. As we come from a life of self indulgence (many of us look back at how we indulged ourselves and did what we wanted) we suffer the consequences of those actions that we committed when we weren't under the direct counsel of God. The consequences affect us bitterly. As we suffer being tossed about by those consequences we wonder to ourselves – why am I going through this experience? The natural twist of mind is to blame others for our own circumstances. We justify ourselves by saying they are being horrible to me and they are doing horrible things. Or someone is upsetting me so much I get sick and stressed. But have you ever stopped to think that it might not be the stress as it might be something else that we are doing wrong?

Who created the stress in the first place? Do we blame someone else for that as well? When we finally come into this terrible realisation that we are the cause of our own problems, the ones in a desperate state – then God can come to our aid. Here is how God deals with this terrible dilemma of our own afflictions: "And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him. For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt

weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isa. 30:18-21

Like the Israelites of old when God was trying to lead them we say, "no thank you, I can do things better myself. I have my own set of beliefs, thank you very much." Then God responds by saying, "okay, then, enjoy yourself." So we enjoy ourselves in blissful moments but then comes the aftermath. We then become troubled here and God says, "okay, you are crying to Me now, thou shalt weep no more, I love you although I have given you adversity which was the consequence of your own actions, the water of affliction. Now I am going to show you your teachers. You shall not be removed of your teachers any more. This is the way you have been looking for, walk ye in it."

Although we might have been backslidden and tossed about by our own incongruent ways God has not given up on us. What is His cry now and how does He want to help? "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD." Jer. 3:13

Only acknowledge thine iniquity – what has caused the problem? Check it out. Your iniquity that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God. Just acknowledge that. "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jer. 3:14, 15.

This is how God does it. This is His way. I shudder when I hear people say, "I don't need a church. I can stay at home and do my own study." God says, "that is not my way. Yes, you will do your own study and you will do it for your own comforts sake but I will send you My pastors and give you what you need to understand, not what you want to understand. I will give you knowledge and pastors according to My own heart." Yes indeed, He passes us by the ministry of His pastors. What will these pastors communicate to our experience? How will this experience take place as I acknowledge my experience and place myself under the tuition of these ministers?

"My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass." Deut. 32:2. What will you get at the hand of God's teachers? My doctrine will drop as the rain. How does grass grow and produce its seed? By the rain. How will you and I grow and produce fruits to the glory of God? By the rain – my doctrine shall fall. As I shared this subject with the people at a place called Camp

Obadiah in NSW the leader stood up and said – I have always disliked doctrine but now I see what doctrine is. Therefore I am never going to say that I don't like it again.

Indeed the outpouring of latter rain is God's doctrine that will finish the work of the growth of His people. Doctrine means teaching. "Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life." Prov. 4:10-13

Teachings and doctrines are thy life; holding onto the instruction that is given to us. I have led thee in right paths, take fast hold of instruction. That is so uncomfortable to some people because they say, "I just want to do my own thing and enjoy myself but now I have to be told what to do. I thought those days were over when I was a child." This is why people don't like doctrine – they don't want to be told what to do.

"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men." Prov. 4:14.

Here God gives counsel to be old fashioned: "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Jer. 6:16. This is the experience of the change of a personality that is going to take place under God's tuition, but the people say, I will not walk therein. We stumble around and the consequences of our wrong ways we don't like, but neither do we like to be told to change our ways – so God says, please yourself.

Stand in the ways and see and ask for the old paths where you will find the good way – the old paths.

One example of an old path is in courtship. Don't hold hands, hug each other or kiss until you are married. That is the old fashioned way, isn't it? Any other instruction in regards to the way of life is to be God's old paths and that is old fashioned. That is the path by which you will find rest unto your soul. Older people – do you remember how you chafed under the instruction of your parents? But now you have relaxed those old ways over time towards your own children. Is it any surprise that the children of today are worse than you were? What has happened to the new generation? Well, if we didn't obey and do what we were told – how can we expect our children to do it? I have seen this in so many situations in the ministry. People attack the old ways that I have tried to communicate but God is saying, "follow the instructions that come from My servants."

Have a look at the different paths. Which one you going to travel? Choose the old path which is the good way and walk therein. We can say very simply, "yes, I can recognise the path, yes, I can see

it." Here are the right answers, the old fashioned church. Sis. White writes, we need old fashion ministers, old fashioned truths and old fashioned childlike humility and submission. Not this typical modern age attitude where children say, "I have my own rights," and they begin to raise their voice against their teachers, parents and ministers. We need to be small in our own eyes.

Submitting to instruction means that we have to become small in our own eyes. When you first become a Christian and come under such tuition you say – yes, I love the truth because it's right. You realise that you have to start all over again in order to become a Christian. But as you start to blossom and grow, people make comments about the apparent change and it makes you feel elated. Furthermore, as you learn about conquering self you begin to realise that you are elated and you forget that you can only walk safely as you stop to think about the Lord instead of yourself and how you are going.

A danger arises when we can see that we are changing. Because we have changed, we think, "I know a thing or two." This is a consequence. We are illuminated and we look about us and see others around us including the ministry doing things which we feel are wrong. We see imperfections in the church and full of zeal we venture into that which God has never given us to do. He has delegated His servants to do the job but we begin to do the job for ourselves because we feel that we have learned something and that we can step in and do a thing or two.

A powerful example of this is a man called Saul. There he was, a strapping tall man whom Samuel found and anointed to be the future king of Israel. It was written that Saul became a new man – born again. But as this young man led Israel in battle against the Philistines, things started to go terribly wrong. In order to help the battle, Samuel the high priest promised Saul that in eight days he would come to offer sacrifice to God. Now notice what happened. "And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and [that] thou camest not within the days appointed, and [that] the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast

not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.” 1 Sam. 13:8-14 Samuel was an appointed man of God who said to Saul – wait there until I come and offer the sacrifice. Follow Saul’s thinking, “Because I saw the people were scattered from me, there was great danger and you weren’t here. I burnt the offering.” Do you blame Saul for doing what he did? When you see things going wrong in the church – do you force yourself to do something because no one else is doing anything about it? Samuel did this and offered the sacrifice which was only the priest’s responsibility to do.

There are certain responsibilities that devolve upon certain people and not others and we step in to do things that are not our responsibility to do because we have become so aware and conscious of the need around us. As no one is doing anything to fix the situation we think that it is going to get even worse. “And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?” 1 Sam. 15:17.

Who does God want to be in positions of faithfulness? Those who are little in their own eyes and little in their own sight. The attitude is, “oh no, I can’t reach into another person’s life. That is not mine to do – I can’t do that because I know what my own weaknesses are.” Yes, those are the people that are going to grow in character development and God claims them not when they think that it is time to move but when they are little in their own sight. What a mess we create when we think we’ve made it.

Although we have done so, where do our mistakes come from? When we are enlightened we see and understand that our character is not so thoroughly changed, that we cannot rely upon our own judgement. When I am totally changed into God’s perfection then I will be able to make sound judgement. To walk safely in this character change I must remain meek and dependent no matter how long I have travelled the path of change. I must remain meek and dependent.

The following statement really brings this to our understanding. You want to walk safely in the character change procedure. “The very beginning of the evil was a neglect of watchfulness and secret prayer, then came a neglect of other religious duties, and thus the way was opened for all the sins that followed. Every Christian will be assailed by the allurements of the world, the clamors of the carnal nature, and the direct temptations of Satan. No one is safe. No matter what our experience has been, no matter how high our station, we need to watch and pray continually. We must be daily controlled by the Spirit of God or we are controlled by Satan.” 5T 102 We can only be safe if we watch and pray.

King Saul was in a lofty position and God chose him when he was little in his own eyes and in his own sight. Not until Jesus comes is our work of character building complete, because when He comes it is only a finishing touch. “None are living Christians unless they have a daily experience in the things of God and daily practice

self-denial, cheerfully bearing the cross and following Christ. Every living Christian will advance daily in the divine life. As he advances toward perfection, he experiences a conversion to God every day; and this conversion is not completed until he attains to perfection of Christian character, a full preparation for the finishing touch of immortality.” AG 291

We will go through the close of probation and the time of trouble until we meet Jesus face to face. Although I am righteous and although I am perfect, what will be my attitude of myself? “Whom, though I were righteous, yet would I not answer, but I would make supplication to my judge. If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse. Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul: I would despise my life.” Job 9:15, 20, 21

No matter how perfect and righteous we are we will never feel it. And we will never feel that we are capable of doing what God wants us to do. Unless someone is actually called of the Lord we will not plunge ourselves into those dangerous areas. I would not even try to justify myself. I would not do anything. I would quietly let the Lord reveal himself to me.

“Imperceptibly to ourselves, we are changed day by day from our own ways and will into the ways and will of Christ, into the loveliness of his character. Thus we grow up into Christ, and unconsciously reflect his image.” RH, April 28, 1891 par. 2

I will not be conscious of my abilities and achievements. I will only see an impure person and the reason why is because my sins are etched into my chromosomes and they will play before me. As the Psalmist says, my sins are ever before me and as Ezekiel says, I loathe myself. When Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven and we see His face – His eyes will seem like fire and they will search His people through and through and although they are perfect they will gather paleness because they will feel like melting into a state of hopelessness. They will say, who is able to stand? And then there will be a dead silence and the voice of Jesus will say, My grace is sufficient for you. His people will know who He is talking to and they will forever rejoice and walk in perfection with no more sin memories.

Yes brothers and sisters, we are becoming better people. God makes sure it will happen by concentrating on His character while ever being conscious of our frailties. His mercy and love for me as such a terrible sinner is that I can actually rejoice in a loving God who has given me so much that He would save a sinner as bad as me. I will walk, oh, so carefully not to fall and dishonour My Lord any more. This is the true Christian. This is the experience that we make when we are part of His church.

May God grant us a willingness to persevere unto the end. **Amen**

**John Thiel, Australia**



# The Way Of The Cross



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Vera was deeply troubled. True, her work for the overworked pastor of the rather shabby church was needed – but she was so tired of being poor! And now here came this wonderful offer, at more than twice the salary. Why not take it?

Vera typed the next Sabbath's sermon with trouble in her heart. The trouble was so acute that she was all but unconscious of the beautiful words that she was typing.

I really should take it, she told herself. If I stay here, it will be the same work year after year, and I'll die poor! I can't ever hope to get a raise in salary; they're paying the utmost limit already. I'm a good stenographer, too, and I deserve a chance. With one nervous finger she banged out the final period and paused to contemplate her work.

Yes, Vera realized it again as she surveyed the rows of neat and accurate typing, she was a good stenographer. She was far too great to be wasted in the dingy parish house of a poverty-swept, although busy church. Of course her work in the parish house was interesting. She copied sermons, such as the one which she was now typing, sent out bulletins, arranged meetings, took minutes, and visited throughout the parish.

"I don't know how I'd ever manage without you, Miss Franklin," the pastor had said hundreds of times; "you run the church and the congregations and me," he laughed gently, "in such a wonderful way. I don't know what we'd do if you left us. I only wish that I could pay you all that the job is worth."

Vera looked at the pastor. Looking, she saw a man verging into middle age, with kind tired eyes and a glowing smile. She had smiled in answer, and had said, "You pay me quite enough. Don't worry."

She had meant it then, too. Temptation in the shape of Commercial Products Incorporated had not yet come to her.

It happened one day when Richard Terry wandered into the parish

house at noontime when the girl's club was having a fifteen-minute meeting and a basket lunch. The church was across the road from the factory. Richard Terry was general manager of Commercial Products Inc. Although he was just shortly out of college, he had attained a large and important position there.

Richard was just curious one day as he was passing the parish because he had heard the sound of laughter and music inside and had wanted to see what had caused it. He was extremely embarrassed when he discovered he had stepped into a room which was teeming with chattering, sandwich-munching girls.

Vera Franklin had been busy with the girls, making them comfortable, arranging chairs, performing cordial introductions. She glanced up when a sudden hush fell over the room and saw the flushed young man in the doorway. Calmly, pleasantly, instantly, she left the girls and hurried to meet him. "Suppose you come into the study and I'll see if there is anything that I can help you with," she said with a smile.

She led Richard Terry into the safety of the pastor's study. "Is there anything I can help you with? I am the parish house secretary."

Richard tried to explain. "I heard music as I was passing and was just curious. So I came in and I nearly lived to regret it; but you can tell me one thing, now that I'm here. Have you ever considered another job? Any girl who can handle a crowd the way you do is too efficient to be wasted in church work. You see, I need a secretary. I'm Richard Terry, and I'm manager of Commercial Products. Our factory is across the street from you.

Vera nodded. "I know your factory," she said. "Incidentally, many of the girls who terrified you happen to be your own employees."

Richard laughed. "You see, It's just as I said! I need somebody who can manage my employees and point them out to me! Won't you come to my office and talk it over?"

Vera hesitated briefly before she answered, "Why, I've always been

quite satisfied here, Mr. Terry. I've never thought of changing."

Richard looked thoughtfully around the shabby parish house study. His gaze took in every threadbare spot. "Without knowing what they pay you, I think I can safely promise to double your salary."

That was the beginning of it all. Of course Vera did visit Richard Terry's office. Not that I want the job, she reasoned with herself; but I might as well see whether or not I could rate a position outside the church, in a real business organization. She went over to the factory in a spirit of mental defiance, defiance not against the church or against herself, but against some intangible thing. I belong in the church work, she argued, as she went in; it suits me and I like it, but still, a little idea nagged at her brain, I'd be interested to know if that man actually meant it when he said he'll pay me twice as much as I'm making now.

Mr. Terry's office was quite magnificent when seen after the parish house study. Vera was struck by the elegance of the deep leather chairs and the luxury of the walnut wall paneling. Her eyes went longingly at the latest model typewriter in the corner. She had used the old typewriter at the church for so long that it fairly wheezed with age. A few moments later she was sitting in a chair beside his desk and chatting away with him as though she had known him all her life. "You must think I'm crazy," he told her frankly, "offering to hire a girl whose work I know nothing about. But I could see at a glance that you've a genius for management, and the sort of tact that is a priceless gift in a private secretary."

"I think it's only fair to explain to you that I've decided I don't want to change. I'm very happy at the church; the minister is very kind and he depends on me in every way. It isn't that I think I'm indispensable – no one is. But I do feel that the church can't pay as much money for help, and that anyone else who is willing to take on the job at my salary, would be inefficient. I wonder if you understand what I mean?"

Richard smiled into Vera's earnest face. "Yes, I understand exactly what you mean," he said. "It makes me want to have you work for me even more than ever. One can buy efficiency, but loyalty is a rare gift. I'd be prepared to start you at –" he named a figure that took Vera's breath away.

Vera rose, desperately trying to express herself. "Oh, I feel like saying, 'Get thee behind me, Satan!' I shouldn't leave the church and I know it. Yet, when I think of all the things that I could buy and all the things I could do and all the money I could save, well, you are making it very hard! I'm going to run back to my work now."

Mr. Terry looked keenly at Vera's flushed face. "If you were any other girl," he said, "I'd think you were being clever and stalling, hoping I'd offer you more money. But somehow I don't think you are doing that; I merely think you are being honest."

With that Vera left his office. She walked back to the church with tumult in her heart. She went straight to the pastor's study and began to type the Sabbath sermon. Even the beautiful words of it left her quiet and without any sensation of thrill. I'm crazy, she told herself as she typed, I should take that job. I really, really should.

During the weeks that followed, Vera saw Richard Terry frequently. The meetings were casual ones which happened when she was hurrying out of the parish house to do an errand or when she was coming in, in the morning, or when she was leaving in the evening. Once or twice he walked beside her to the subway and they chatted of this and that. Always he managed to insinuate a word about the job that was waiting for her if she wanted to accept it.

"I don't want to take it," Vera answered him every time. "I'm going to stay where I am. Church work suits me better than any other sort."

Then one day she saw a coat. It was a beautiful fur coat that had been reduced after a hard winter in which sales had been few. It was luxurious and the kind of coat no sensible parish house secretary would dare to dream of owning. Yet Vera, looking at it, realized suddenly that she could do more than dream about it. She could possess it if she earned the salary that Mr. Terry was offering. She went into the store and tried on the coat. It fitted her perfectly and was very becoming. She knew that her resolutions were slipping. "I can't take it now," she said to the saleswoman, "But I'll think about it," she added weakly.

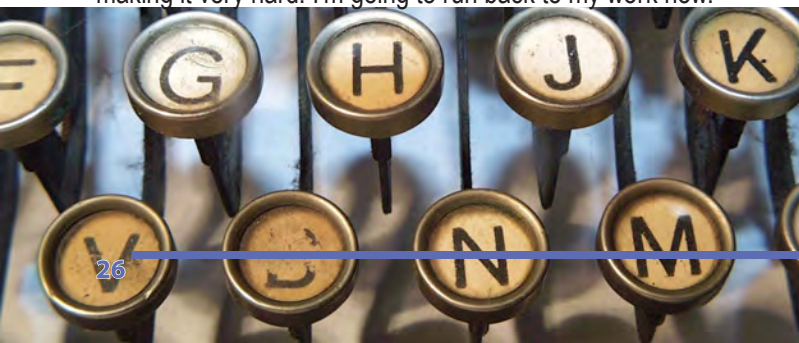
She arrived at the parish with a feeling of martyrdom and misery. The same old grind lay ahead of her – the girls' club, the boys' club, the mothers' meeting, the visits to sick people, the midweek sermon to be neatly typed and the minutes for the trustee's meeting to be put in order.

She settled down to the shabby wheezing typewriter and began her work. The pastor then walked in. He looked worried, harassed, almost ill.

"We have passed through such a desperate winter," he said, "Every once in awhile I'm tired, every so often I get discouraged. But you always seem a dynamo of energy."

This was too much for Vera; she sat back from her typewriter and folded her hands in her lap. "I'm not a dynamo of energy," she said simply. "I'm just a human being like the rest of you and I get tired too. Do you know that I've been offered a big job and I've half a mind to take it. The salary is more than double what I get here and the work is easier."

The minister was staring at her strangely. "Somehow, I've grown to think of you as a fixture here. I love you like a daughter and I



admire you as a helper. You've carried the cross with the rest of us in a gallant way. But if you want to leave, I won't stand in your way." All at once he sighed, and turned and walked out of the room. Vera was left alone with her thoughts, not knowing whether to be defiant or subdued.

In the midst of her thoughts the phone rang. It was Mr. Terry. "Miss Franklin, I've been promoted. I'm no longer manager of this factory only, but the whole chain of our factories and I want you to be the first to know, because I can offer you more now than I did in our first interview.

Wildly hysterical, Vera found herself thinking of that fur coat, and it was all tangled up in the minister's worried face and with Richard Terry's voice. "I'd like to talk to you again," she managed at last.

"Well, then, meet me at lunch and we'll get things settled."

When Vera met Richard at the tea room around the corner from the parish, she could not help noticing a tense sort of excitement about him. They ate their lunch and chatted about their childhood and about their future plans. Finally at the end of the meal, Mr. Terry spoke, "Well Miss Franklin, it's time for you to give me an answer. Have you any encouragement to give me? I need help now as I've never needed it before. I've a big job to do, and I don't think I can do it alone."

Vera had come to lunch prepared to accept the job. Now that the time had come, she found that she was hesitant. All at once she remembered the pastor's tired face and the faces of many other people who depended on her – the poor ones, the sick ones, and the lonely ones. If a cheap casual typist came in, one who was not in sympathy with the church work, who would help the pastor follow the way of the cross?

"Oh," she sobbed, "I came here to accept your offer, Mr. Terry. I really did. But I can't accept it, not now. I can't desert the people who need me. You can offer enough money to get the most efficient assistant in the world, but the church can't! With your future and your charm you can have anyone – and they can get only me."

She stopped, for all at once Richard Terry had pushed aside the dessert dishes and was holding her hand.

"I hoped you would say just that, Miss Franklin – Vera," he whispered, "because I knew if you did, that you'd have proved to be what I thought you – the grandest, sweetest girl on the earth! Say, I have another job to offer you! Maybe you'll accept this one, even though it's for life. Maybe –"

His tone faltered and was lost, but his eyes held those of the girl. As she smiled an answer, she had entirely forgotten about fur coats and material things.

## BUILDING OF OKOK BETHEL SCHOOL IN KENYA (If you wish to participate: [mctavishleila@hotmail.com](mailto:mctavishleila@hotmail.com))





# ALL WELCOME

DECEMBER 24-31, 2009

## Kenya, Africa

### International Youth Conference

Take a trip on a  
safari tour or to  
Mt. Kilimanjaro  
(additional Costs)

**8 Days for US\$100**

Per person, accommodation & meals

*Please Reserve Early*

For information and reservations contact:

Fred Ayunga - [ongerinfred@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ongerinfred@yahoo.co.uk)

Leila McTavish - [mctavishleila@hotmail.com](mailto:mctavishleila@hotmail.com)

[www.imsmessenger.org](http://www.imsmessenger.org)

