


# *The Reformation* **Messenger**

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 1, JANUARY 2010

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



“It is a fearful thing to fall into  
the hands of the living God.”  
Hebrews 10:31

*Our 17th Year!*

**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

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Jupiter-size extrasolar planet, HD 189733b, being eclipsed by its parent star. Credit: ESA, NASA, M. Kornmesser (ESA/Hubble) and STScI

**Inside Cover:**  
Photo by: John Formosa  
Winter Reflections, Humber River  
Toronto, Canada

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## The Reformation Messenger

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

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# REFORMATION MESSENGER

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“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:1-3

## Promises!

Hard times are here; erratic, volatile, and uncertain! “The wicked are growing stronger in stubborn rebellion.” (RH, Dec. 10, 1908). Yet, we often and favorably hear, today, much regarding **change**. Politicians, environmentalists, the media, economists, the pulpits, stirring speeches and sermons promising change – but **no change!** We hear, furthermore “thus saith the Lord, when the Lord hath not spoken.”(Ezek 22:28). Yet, the world has not been made anew! Rogues and tyrants abound, driving mankind into a labyrinth of greed and fear, adding to the grim weight of history.

Many, furthermore, change locations without thinking, hopefully seeking employment but sadly return, having not made provisions for employment; tensions, conflicts, divorces often follow, and children become aggressive, and underperform in school; fatherless and motherless homes are spiraling upward. Crime, wars, drug addiction, alcoholism, pestilences, accidents, food purchasing problems, hunger, etc., are escalating. Furthermore, some global warming proponents speak of climate change; warming trends, others contrarily, of cooling trends; some see flawless skies, others see menacing skies and signs and wonders. The vigorously debated topics continue; prophesy and bemoan change – but **no change!** Many more want to change their images; to make-over their images – men and women.

## Everlasting Life

On the other hand, attitude, behavior, and communication are still important factors in life, but one’s spiritual awareness, however, is the most important; in work places, home, school, with spouses, relationships, parents, neighbours, and with brethren. Ah! But, many overlook the benefits of an **everlasting life** because they are accustomed to their present lifestyle. They cannot cope with or see the challenges of the mind, body, and soul; so – **no change!** In essence, their lifestyle conflicts with these **new-found horizons**. But no matter whoever, whatever and wherever you are does not mean you cannot be comfortable and enjoy life to the fullest. But, for some, this might be interpreted as being an extremist. It is better to try new things, to progress rather than remain in a hopeless condition, and waste away; “these bones are the whole house of Israel.” They indeed say “Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts!” Ezekiel 37: 11 You see, real **change for an everlasting life** is what we want! The Lord said, I “shall put my

No  
Change!

spirit in you, and ye shall live.”(v-14). Yes, the “dry bones can live again!” “For in Him we live.” (Acts 17:28).

## Flesh And The Spirit

### The Must's Of Life

Ah! But being “born again” has been preached over and over again, and pondered over by preachers, theologians, students and believers. Is there more? Yes! John chapter 3 gives us the challenging and true facts and the formula for this “new birth.” He “sparks” the way for believers. Ezekiel chapter 37, the prophet and priest, presents vital factors that are important to us all too, dramatizing God’s message to His people. Although they were like “dry bones,” God reassembled them and brought life into them once again. Simply, one cannot enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born again!

There are three must’s of humanity, not just for you but of humanity! What are they?

- 1. One Must First Die!** – “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” Heb 9:27
- 2. One Must Stand Before God** – “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Cor. 5:10
- 3. One Must Be Born From Above** – “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, from and wither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8

### The Not's Of Life

Ah! But, there are also the not’s of humanity and the new birth! What are they?

- 1. Not Social Changes:** This means having new friends, acquaintances, new neighbors, work ethics.
- 2. Not Physical Changes:** This can mean a change in stature--height, growth, development; condition--plastic surgery, augmentation, reduction, face creams, tattoos, styling, etc.
- 3. Not Religious Changes:** Changing churches, religion, beliefs.
- 4. Not Moral Changes:** Although necessary, they are to still be creditable, and uncompromising.
- 5. Not Intellectual Or Learning:** Institutional, seminary, university; training, degrees, tutoring.
- 6. Not Political:** That means changing political parties or support, participating, or aspiring as a prospective candidate.

The must’s and the not’s of life are to be essentially understood as they are part of the process of being born again. You see, the new birth is a spiritual change in which one must believe in Jesus Christ first and foremost. It is merely the beginning of the new birth. Confession and true repentance of sins, of necessity must precede this.

Nicodemus was not born again--unconverted. He was, however, religious, moral, but not born from above. He was not merely a member of the church, but he attended church regularly. You see, religion itself cannot bring on a new birth! Jesus only, through the power of the Holy Spirit can bring about the new birth.

Nicodemus was lost! Yet he was a political member of the Sanhedrin, a master in the realm of social etiquette and rules of his religion; in fact he was a religious model of the Pharisees. He not only belonged to a group but was a ruler of the Jews. He, furthermore, had the light of religious tradition, the knowledge, and all the facts. Yet, he could not understand Jesus’ words. He was satisfied only in keeping the law! He was blind concerning divine things that one has to be born again from above. Nicodemus, however, took to heart the warning and the challenge (John 7:50, 51; 10:39, 40)

We can clearly see the necessity of understanding this, as Jesus said, “that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:6 Many are merely interested in attending church services and keeping the law. You see, man born of the flesh is at enmity with God. One may be educated, religious, intellectual, but still remains flesh, and cannot please God. Man has a tendency to drift away from God. Therefore, the “natural man” must be destroyed. No matter how hard he tries he is still natural, carnal man and loves the things of the world (Rev 8:5-8). Flesh has fatally and cruelly separated us from God.

### Who Are You?

There are two types of people in this world in the eyes of God: **1)** Those who belong to God and **2)** Those who do not belong to God. In the eyes of Sis. Ellen G. White, there are two classes in this world who will be recognized in the judgment: **1)** Those who violate God’s Law and **2)** Those who obey it. All these classes will become clearer in the end times. Without the Holy Spirit, one is not born again and is not one of His children. “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” Eph 2:1

God does not judge a life led by the flesh or spirit based on color, religion, gender, age, race, and talent, but in the relationship one has with Him and not these distinctions. In fact, God knows who are His and who are not His! A person either focuses on the Kingdom of God or the world. Ah! But, what is the Kingdom of God? “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” Rom 14:17. Sis. Ellen G. White said, “those who take no pleasure in thinking and talking about Jesus Christ in this life will not enjoy heaven where God is with His people.” Man is, however, prepared through the power of the Holy Spirit from above to enter. “To be or not to be, that is the question.” – William Shakespeare.



## How To Be Born Again

**How can one be born again?** What, again, is the natural new birth? Well, by the Word of God, to believe and obey. But, “being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” (John 3:5; 1Peter 1:23). He washes you and makes you clean! God, in His creation speaks and it is done. He recreates you! He reveals the sinner’s need and the remedy through the power of the Holy Spirit. He convicts one of sin; convinces us of our sins. He regenerates the soul who believes. So, you see, without the Holy Spirit, one can never know God and taste of God and be born again. The Word without the Spirit, therefore, makes one dry, dry, bones! The Holy Spirit and the Word must work together. (John 16:8-13; 1:11-14; Isaiah 53:5)

Well, how is all of this possible? Because of a “**substitutionary**” – Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ died so I don’t have to die an eternal death! He suffered the eternal death on the cross. Moses lifted up the serpent that we might lift up Jesus (Num 21:8; Rom 8:3). The allusion is to the cross (John 12:32, 33). When we accept Jesus Christ, we then believe and He becomes through the Word and the Holy Spirit my Saviour, and through Him we are born again!

**Who must be born again?** Well, the religious, moral, and sincere, like Nicodemus who followed the rules of the Jews. He was well educated like the Apostle Paul. Who else? The thief on the cross, the moral, the profligates; the lax in morals, reckless, wasteful persons – all people irrespective of race, color, creed whosoever – you and me! (John 3:16).

**Where must one be born again?** Do we need to go to heaven? NO! We can experience the new birth here on planet earth! For after death it is too late! It’s over! “The dead know not any thing.” (Eccl 9:5). “A Righteous Judge will lift up His voice and declare it is too late.” (GCB Apr. 6, 1903). When one believes the gospel and trusts in the Saviour, the laborious process begins of the new birth. “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.” Eph. 1:13 But, again, you must believe and obey before you receive the Holy Spirit in a step-by-step process.

**What time must one be born again?** When is the “appointed time?” Young or old, there is only one time -- NOW is the time! “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” 1Cor. 6:2 “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” Proverbs 27:1. “While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.” Heb 3:15. “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” James 4:14. Yes, even one second ahead of us we do not know when the end comes!! Make no plans, therefore, for the future is in His hands; the whole

“...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” James 4:14.

world is in His hands. "He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise." Job 5:12.

Where would you like to be in ten years? Five years? One year? Tomorrow?! Well, how would you like to rearrange your plans? But, plan very lightly, for He likes to erase our plans. He **knows** what is good for you. But, what is the danger of procrastination? "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Heb 2:3. We can't! If we put off decisions we miss opportunities altogether! There is no time like the present to receive God's forgiveness. Don't let anything hold you back from God. Don't turn your back to God so that you would be a problem to Him...and others.

**What are the results of a New Birth?** – Simply, there is a lifestyle conversion. Ah! There is a **change of mind**, but often this is... worse! Repentance is followed by Godly sorrow from sin. You see, when you hear the voice of God, He says: "your healing is all wrong, your place is all wrong, your diet is all wrong, your thinking is all wrong; you are on the path of destruction!" So, again you listen to the voice of God and you make a U-turn. A U-turn points to a sacred life. Your thoughts become repentant. "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17). You then **change your mind**, the way you are living, and your heart "regenerates." "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

When the Word of God enters your heart and soul, it washes your life, and you see life in a different perspective. You astonishingly **change**; you "turn over a new leaf." "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17

Furthermore, there is a **change in family relations**. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Rom 8:15. Many in a fragmented society today, say "I wish to leave my family, to change my name. My family members have not heard of the Law." Ah! By a miracle, God can **change the family!** People can love you no matter who you are. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Rom. 5:1, 2. Here is a **change of state!**

Again, here is how it works in our lives: when we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and confess our sins. He puts the righteousness of the Son of God into you. You have a new start in life as if you never sinned. The past is cleaned and one becomes like a "new born baby." He declares you righteous! By faith you are accepted as righteous. Your miserable past is wiped out and your **behavior changes**. "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those

days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." Heb 10:16,17. This **change is sanctification!** Christ's death perfects the sanctified. You see now this is a daily step by step process, day by day believing in what you believe and walking in what you believe! Justification is to believe – sanctification is to behave!

In fact and practice we **change places!** Jesus desires that we be with Him. "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." (John 17: 24; 14:1-3). **We are to stand in the presence of God – glorified. This is what "born again" means!** This is genuine **change you can believe in**. For, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever."(Heb 13:8). This is a **change you cannot change!** It tells you to believe in **change for everlasting life; the change we want!**

## Birth Column

In the daily newspapers we find a "death column" and a "birth column." What column are you in?

Mark Twain wrote, "The report of my death was an exaggeration." – Mark Twain after reading his own obituary, June 2, 1897. What do you read? We are eternally separated from God – a withering corpse! Ah! But God takes our name and puts it into the "**birth column.**" Now you are a child of God! Would you like this **change?** A **change** you'll never regret? You are given a new life, a new birth, God will never regret. When you serve God there is nothing to regret. This is a **change** that is not political, veering, shifting, disguised, vacillating, warped, uncertain, vindictive, or fearful, but a **change** that is momentous, amazing, miraculous, stupendous, divine and eternal!

## Rx

In closing, there is the story of a very poor man who went to a druggist for cold medicine. The druggist asked him, "do you have a prescription?" The poor man answered, "no, but I brought my cold with me." That is exactly the way God wants us sinners to come to Him. God wants no prescription, but just to bring our sins as they are and He will save you and – cure you! This is the prescription for **change, a change you can believe in**. Do you want that **change?** But, remember, that **change comes slowly**. But, when it comes it will be a startling, lightning-like, remarkable **change!**

"We must become the **change** we want to see in the world" (Mahatma Gandhi).

Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. You'll be surprised at yourself – and the **CHANGE! Amen. John Theodorou, U.S.A**

# Time Out



In the sporting world, when we think of the words, “Time Out”, it is often a short period in the game where the players get a very brief rest at the request of the coach. If a team is losing, and it is nearing the end of the game, often the coach will call a quick “time out” to relay a late minute strategy to the players in the hopes of winning the game.

In raising children, the term is also used as a disciplinary measure. When a child has been misbehaving, rather than physical punishment, some parents and teachers resort to using “time out”. During the “time out” the child is to sit somewhere away from the rest of the students and is not permitted to play, read or participate in any activities. The child has time to think of their misbehaviour. It is hoped that they will reform their behavior from this “time out”

The first example above is a voluntary and positive “time out”. The second one is a negative “time out” with the hopes of achieving a positive outcome. A person can take “time out” from any activity, whether physical or mental. To take a “time out” is to either rest, or to change activities for a short while.

The person with a physical job takes “time out” to sit down and rest. The person with a mental job takes “time out” to go outside and exercise.

There is a time to rest and a time to be active.

## *Spiritual “Time Out”*

In a spiritual sense do we need time out? Perhaps, but some get the wrong idea of what spiritual “time out” is. What do we do with our spiritual “time out”? I’ve seen people reading worldly magazines stating that they can’t read religious material all the time; they need “time out.” Does being spiritual so much sap our mental energies that we need to leave off with spirituality for awhile and rest our mind with worldly books/magazines/TV shows? How would these people ever survive in heaven where, for eternity, they would be surrounded by spirituality? No “time out” to rest in the world.

It takes mental energy to be spiritual; to pray without ceasing. To relax the mind is to give loose rein to the devil; to drift along in the current of the world. We need to train our mind to “swim upstream.”

No, spiritual “time out” is NOT to forget about spiritual things temporarily. Spiritual “time out” is a change of activity from physical to mental and vice versa. It is to rest in Jesus; to sing and work rather than study all the time; to go out and help the needy, etc. Enoch had the true understanding of what spiritual “time out” meant.

## *Enoch*

“In the midst of a life of active labor, Enoch steadfastly maintained



his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. He continued to exclude himself, at certain periods, from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart. Communing thus with God, Enoch came more and more to reflect the divine image. His face was radiant with a holy light, even the light that shineth in the face of Jesus. As he came forth from these divine communings, even the ungodly beheld with awe the impress of heaven upon his countenance.” PP 86

## Jesus

Jesus understood the need for “time out”. But you don’t see him picking up a football, baseball bat or golf club, during His “time out.” He called His disciples, “And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.” Mark 6:31

“The disciples of Jesus needed to be educated as to how they should labor, and how they should rest. Today there is need that God’s chosen workmen should listen to the command of Christ to go apart and rest awhile. Many valuable lives have been sacrificed, that need not have been, through ignorance of this command. . . . Though the harvest is great and the laborers are few, nothing is gained by sacrificing health and life. . . . There are many feeble, worn workmen who feel deeply distressed when they see how much there is to be done, and how little they can do. How they long for physical strength to accomplish more; but it is to this class that Jesus says, ‘Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile.’—

“The Christian life is not made up of unceasing activity, or of continual meditation. Christians must work earnestly for the salvation of the lost, and they must also take time for contemplation, for prayer, and the study of the Word of God. It will not do to be always under the strain of the work and excitement, for in this way personal piety is neglected, and the powers of mind and body are injured.” RH, Nov. 7, 1893

Jesus also recognized the need of rest and personal “time out.” He took respite from active labour for Himself. Whatever a person’s occupation, occasional change not only brings relaxation, but imparts new vigour. Jesus was very active and His “time out” was often spent in prayer.

“No other life was ever so crowded with labor and responsibility as was that of Jesus; yet how often He was found in prayer! How constant was His communion with God! Again and again in the history of His earthly life are found records such as these: ‘Rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a

solitary place, and there prayed.’ ‘Great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. And He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed.’ ‘And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.’ Mark 1:35; Luke 5:15, 16; 6:12.

“In a life wholly devoted to the good of others, the Saviour found it necessary to withdraw from the thoroughfares of travel and from the throng that followed Him day after day. He must turn aside from a life of ceaseless activity and contact with human needs, to seek retirement and unbroken communion with His Father. As one with us, a sharer in our needs and weaknesses, He was wholly dependent upon God, and in the secret place of prayer He sought divine strength, that He might go forth braced for duty and trial. In a world of sin Jesus endured struggles and torture of soul. In communion with God He could unburden the sorrows that were crushing Him. Here He found comfort and joy.” DA 362. Jesus was found spending much time in prayer as His “time out” from His busy schedule. He also went into the desert with His disciples for a “time out” from His labours.


## Be Still

“An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in moneymaking, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ Psalm 46:10.” Ed 260. Take “time out” from your busy schedule of activities.

“Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ’s loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.” Ed 260. Are you in too much of a rush for proper worship in the morning? Wake up earlier.

“These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. **They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power.** They need the uplifting influence of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed, the burdened heart will be lightened.” Ed 260

“All who are under the training of God need **the quiet hour** for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God. In them is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and they need to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must



“Be still, and know  
that I am God.”

individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and *in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ This is the effectual preparation for all labor for God.* Amidst the hurrying throng, and the strain of life’s intense activities, he who is thus refreshed, will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. He will receive a new endowment of both physical and mental strength. His life will breathe out a fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men’s hearts.” MH 58.

### SOMETIMES GOD IMPOSES A “TIME OUT”

Why? For several reasons:

The first reason is because people get too busy with the cares of this world and all their duties, that they have no time for God. (As we read above)

Secondly, some run ahead of the Lord and the Lord wants to slow them down. They have difficulty waiting. As soon as they have an idea, they wish to carry it out.

We talk too much, and listen too little. We lack Christian dignity, and steadiness. Sometimes God will change the course of a person’s life in order to have them in a position where they will “be still” and listen. It is often before a large task that they are to perform. Moses spent 40 years in the land of Midian, Paul, three years in the desert and Jesus, 40 days in the wilderness in preparation for the future divine call. This is the only way to become acquainted with God. Joseph was two years in prison before being exalted to be prime minister in Egypt.

God finds many ways to impose a “time out” on people He is working with. They may lose a job, break a leg, become sick or simply have their sleep disturbed; are awake for hours during the night. Sister White often mentions in her writings of how she was awakened at 3:00 in the morning and got up and started to write. They would have more time to be at home in quietness. If we don’t make the time, He may do it for us. Why? Because He loves us and has many blessings He wishes to share with us, but we, often, are too busy to listen. So God, in His mercy, imposes a “time out” for us.

### Wait

“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.” Ps 27:14. During our “time out” we are told to “wait.” Don’t rush off before you hear the answer.

“Not a pause for a moment in His presence, but personal contact with Christ, to sit down in companionship with Him--this is our need.

“Calmly, yet fervently, the soul is to reach out after God; and sweet

and abiding will be the influence emanating from Him who sees in secret, whose ear is open to the prayer arising from the heart. He who in simple faith holds communion with God will gather to himself divine rays of light to strengthen and sustain him in the conflict with Satan.

“If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend. He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet, joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. . . . Prayer turns aside the attacks of Satan.” FLB 225

### “IN QUIETNESS AND IN CONFIDENCE SHALL BE YOUR STRENGTH”

How do we gain spiritual strength? In the same manner that we receive physical strength – by exercise. Spiritual exercise is putting the mind to the stretch, by studying into the deep things to be found in the Word of God; not in anything that we possess of ourselves. It is in quietness and confidence in God. Taking “time out” with God.

“Take this with you through the year. The strength of every soul is in God and not in man. Quietness and confidence is to be the strength of all who give their hearts to God. Christ has not a casual interest in us, but an interest stronger than a mother’s for her child. Says the prophet, ‘Can a woman forget her sucking child? . . . yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.’ Our Saviour has purchased us by human suffering and sorrow, by insult, reproach, abuse, mockery, rejection, and death. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. He will make you secure under his protection. Through His servant He says, ‘Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.’ ” HM, June 1, 1897

“One day alone is ours, and during this day we are to live for God. For this one day we are to place in the hand of Christ, in solemn service, all our purposes and plans, casting all our care upon Him, for He careth for us. ‘I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.’ Jeremiah 29:11.” MB 101

“In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength...” Isaiah 30:15. This verse ends with, “but ye would not.” To trust in God brings peace, calmness and strength... unfortunately many today, as with Ancient Israel... the sad truth is... “ye would not.” God has a storehouse of blessings... His hand is mighty to help and to save... “but ye would not.” Ye would not take “time out” with Jesus.

We may lead busy lives and be on the go alot, however, we can still take mini “time out’s” with God during the day. A few minutes here and there communing with the Master throughout the day will help us to have a more manageable day. “Upon the right improvement of

our time depends our success in acquiring knowledge and mental culture. The cultivation of the intellect need not be prevented by poverty, humble origin, or unfavorable surroundings. Only let the moments be treasured. A few moments here and a few there, that might be frittered away in aimless talk; the morning hours so often wasted in bed; the time spent in traveling on trams or railway cars, or waiting at the station; the moments of waiting for meals, waiting for those who are tardy in keeping an appointment--if a book were kept at hand, and these fragments of time were improved in study, reading, or careful thought, what might not be accomplished. A resolute purpose, persistent industry, and careful economy of time, will enable men to acquire knowledge and mental discipline which will qualify them for almost any position of influence and usefulness.” COL 343

### Mary – sitting at the feet of Jesus

“Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:38

“The ‘one thing’ that Martha needed was a calm, devotional spirit, a deeper anxiety for knowledge concerning the future, immortal life, and the graces necessary for spiritual advancement. She needed less anxiety for the things which pass away, and more for those things which endure forever. Jesus would teach His children to seize every opportunity of gaining that knowledge which will make them wise unto salvation. The cause of Christ needs careful, energetic workers. There is a wide field for the Martha’s, with their zeal in active religious work. But let them first sit with Mary at the feet of Jesus. Let diligence, promptness, and energy be sanctified by the grace of Christ; then the life will be an unconquerable power for good.”--DA 525

“Like Mary, we need to sit at the feet of Jesus to learn of Him, having chosen that better part which will never be taken from us. Like Martha we need to be ever abounding in the work of the Lord. The higher Christian attainments can be reached only by being much on our knees in sincere prayer. . . . One fiber of the root of selfishness remaining in the soul will spring up when least expected, and thereby will many be defiled.”--TMK 351 Take “time out.”

### *Are We Sitting?*

Are we sitting at the feet of Jesus? How much time do we spend sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to His words of counsel?

If you find you are NOT sitting at the feet of Jesus as much as you should, you need to examine your soul to find out... What's holding you back? What are you too busy with?

From the parable of the great supper, we find many reasons that people are too busy to take "time out".

"Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one [consent] began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." Luke 14:17-20. They were offered a "time out," a dinner party; but they refused. They were too busy to take the time. Many people today are also too busy to come and have a spiritual feast with Jesus. They have very little time for personal worship; no time or interest in prayer meeting; missionary work is of secondary importance to their personal interests. Life is too busy for the "time out" that Jesus offers.

"All the excuses betray a preoccupied mind. To these intended guests other interests had become all-absorbing. The invitation they had pledged themselves to accept was put aside, and the generous friend was insulted by their indifference." COL 222

"So it is now. The excuses urged for refusing the invitation to the feast cover the whole ground of excuses for refusing the gospel invitation. Men declare that they cannot imperil their worldly prospects by giving attention to the claims of the gospel. They count their temporal interests as of more value than the things of eternity. The very blessings they have received from God become a barrier to separate their souls from their Creator and Redeemer. They will not be interrupted in their worldly pursuits, and they say to the messenger of mercy, 'Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.' Acts 24:25. Others urge the difficulties that would arise in their social relations should they obey the call of God. They say they cannot afford to be out of harmony with their relatives and acquaintances. Thus they prove themselves to be the very actors described in the parable. The Master of the feast regards their flimsy excuses as showing contempt for His invitation." COL 224

*Hold On... Stop... Rest... Sit...*

STOP what you are doing and take "time out". Take Spiritual "time out" from your busy round of daily activities and go to God in prayer. Take a much needed physical "time out" if you are a mental worker, especially a gospel worker who spends much time studying the Word of God every day. You can go outside and do some gardening, go for a walk in nature or visit the sick and discouraged.

Both are important. We must occasionally STOP what we are doing; change our activity for a short while so we can return with new vigour to our daily tasks.

Our lives can be in turmoil like the tempest tossed sea, and Jesus steps in and says, "Peace be still" "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." Mark 4:39. He can also speak peace to a troubled soul. Peace is found, not with weapons of war, as the world is seeking to obtain, but in resting in Jesus.

"I saw how this grace could be obtained. Go to your closet, and there alone plead with God: 'Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me' (Psalm 51:10). Be in earnest, be sincere. Fervent prayer availeth much. Jacoblike, wrestle in prayer. Agonize. Jesus, in the garden, sweat great drops of blood; you must make an effort. **Do not leave your closet until you feel strong in God;** [Don't rush – STOP - wait and listen], then watch, and just as long as you watch and pray you can keep these evil besetments under, and the grace of God can and will appear in you." AG 318. Take time out with God.

"But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him." Hab 2:20. Jesus is in the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary performing a very solemn and serious ceremony... the investigative judgment. How much more important it is today than ever before in history for us to be silent; to take "time out;" to listen to God's voice... before we act. Consider your ways. How can we know what to do, which way He wants us to go, if we do not listen? How much time do you spend in your prayer closet?

May God help us to be found to be in much prayer... much listening. We need to Hold on ... stop... rest... and take "time out." Then act as He directs. Like Enoch you CAN walk with God. **Amen.**

*Wendy Eaton, Canada*

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# A Royal Invitation

## PART 1

Imagine this!—A certain king of a certain country sends out a contest for anyone to participate, and the winners will be invited to visit his kingdom and at the end to enjoy a gala dinner with the king at his palace!

Imagine—you would be one of the chosen ones! To meet a real monarch in person—who would take interest in you and speak with you! There is, of course the contest to make the event possible. This contest is not so much based upon a range of sophisticated skills and knowledge, but how one follows the instructions given, how one conducts himself to carry out the task. But imagine—you would be chosen!

You will then be notified through letters from the king's palace when to get ready to leave your country. Everything will be provided for your journey, all carefully prepared for. A specially appointed person will pick you up to make purchases in the finest stores to outfit you from head to toe for the event.

The most important visit will be to an exclusive haute couture salon to select the garment for the royal banquet--a tuxedo for the gentlemen and an evening robe for the lady. The fashion designer will determine the most suitable material and style that would best suit your figure and enhance your personality. All other essentials and accessories will be selected to make your look the most elegant.

Then comes the day you will fly to the king's country to meet, on arrival, the other winners from other nations. You will be welcomed by designated people from the royal office who will take care of your welfare and every other detail on the journey.

Now you are going to be together for the next ten days, traveling in special provided limousines to visit the most beautiful places of the realm, dining in fine restaurants, and sleeping in exclusive resorts. It is a journey beyond your dreams!

The highlight after these unforgettable sights and wonders will be your stay at the gorgeous royal palace. It is centered amidst superb manicured gardens, hosting varieties of graceful, exotic birds, giant, ancient trees, lush vegetation and exquisitely sculptured fountains.

Artfully laid out ponds revealing colourful fish invite the onlooker to pause and to admire the serene charm of delicate water lilies upon the surface of crystal clear water.

Every step and turn leads you to more treasures of natural beauty to feed the eye and senses, beholding the myriad of fragrant flowers, shrubs, and bushes, as well as the imposing creations of marble art and statues, enhancing with their sheer splendour, the magnificent scenery.

You are charmed, elated and fascinated by all and wish you would never have to leave this wonderful place.



At last the evening comes where you and the other invited ones meet the king in person to enjoy the grand banquet with him.

Expectation and excitement reach the climax! This is the day all have been waiting for with great anticipation. There is naturally a mixture of thrill and anxiety taking hold of everyone—for to how many people is granted such a privilege to meet a real king?

The selected garments have been delivered and skilled personnel assist everyone from hairdo to all necessary accessories, adding the final touch to bring out the best in each.

You look like a queen, or he like a prince; you can hardly believe it is you who is smiling at you in the mirror.

The dining hall is the most beautiful you can imagine. The magnificent chandeliers hanging from the richly adorned ceiling, the superb flower arrangements everywhere, the grand U-shaped dining table skilfully decked with finest lace, golden candlesticks, golden cutlery, exquisite china, sparkling carved crystal glasses, the intricate tapestry on chairs and sofas, the splendid artwork on the walls captivate your sight and mind. You are awed, overwhelmed, from the grandeur and atmosphere around you.

Finally comes the moment when the king enters. All stand in reverence and admiration at the sight of the dignified monarch, who welcomes the company with a kind smile, and with a gracious gesture bids his guests to the table. Now a host of servants in colourful livery serve the most delicious delicacies, refreshing drinks, choicest cuisine, etc.



The king is friendly, amiable, chatting with every guest to make them all feel at ease and comfortable. Everyone is happy and wishes this evening would last forever.

Then a long while after the grand, culinary feast, the king arises and calls the name of each winner of the contest. Your name is addressed and the king congratulates and honours you with words of appreciation for the successful accomplishment in carrying out the contest exactly as was required.

Many entered in hopes to win, but there was a clause included to which most have neglected to pay close attention and therefore failed. Only a certain number succeeded. And you are one of them. Now you will be rewarded with a special gift and a portrait of the king, and then with a photograph with him and the other winners together for a reminder of this extraordinary and unique evening.

But like all things in life, this fabulous event also will come to an end, and all what is going to remain of it is—memory!

Do you desire to be one of such chosen ones? Is it your wish to meet and be honoured by an earthly regent?

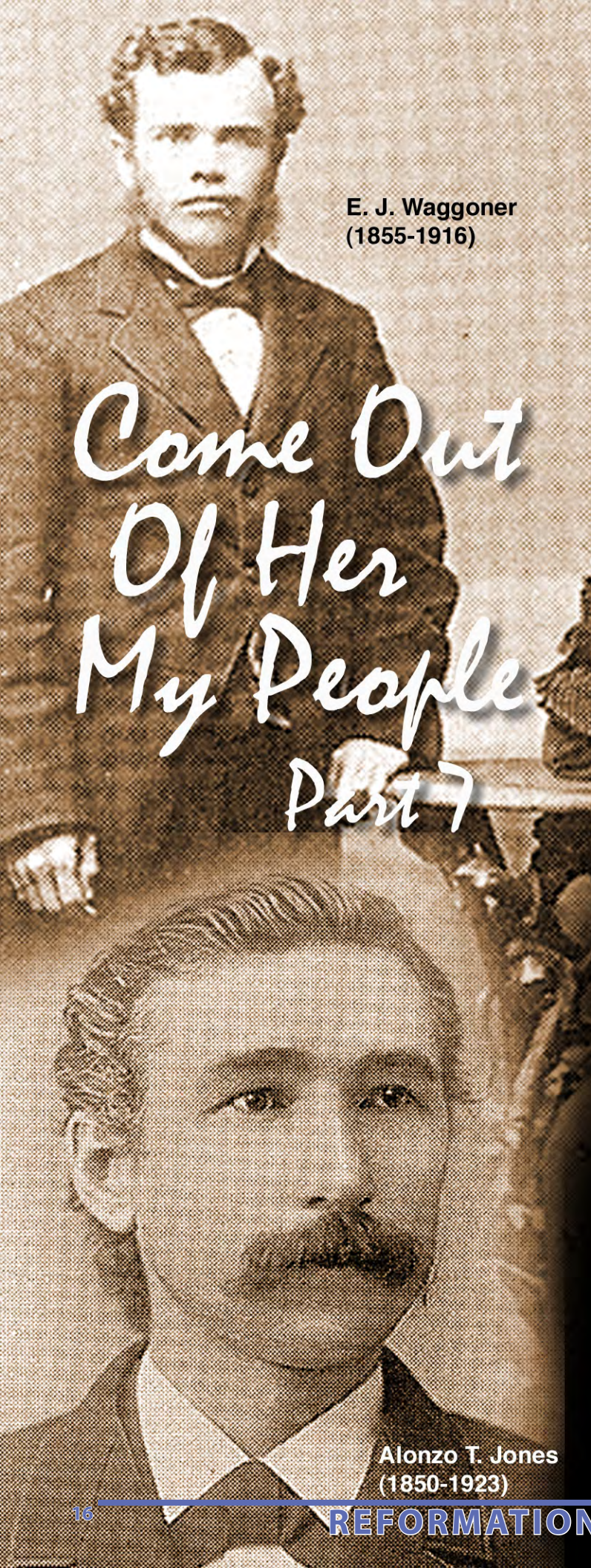
As for myself, I have no interest for this kind of honour, neither ought it to be yours if you consider yourself a child of the heavenly King and kingdom, which in no wise compares with any of those on earth.

## *Another Royal Invitation*

to be continued...

**Edda Tedford, Canada**





**E. J. Waggoner  
(1855-1916)**

# Come Out Of Her My People Part 7

**Alonzo T. Jones  
(1850-1923)**

*The condition of the church and a call for revival and reformation, continued.*

1888

## THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

“Spiritual death has come upon the people that should be manifesting life and zeal, purity and consecration, by the most earnest devotion to the cause of truth. The facts concerning the real condition of the professed people of God, speak more loudly than their profession, and make it evident that some power has cut the cable that anchored them to the Eternal Rock, and that they are drifting away to sea, without chart or compass.” COR 36

“SATAN TAKES THE CONTROL OF EVERY MIND THAT IS NOT DECIDEDLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD. Some have been cultivating hatred against the men whom God has commissioned to bear a special message to the world. They began this satanic work at Minneapolis. Afterward when they saw and felt the demonstration of the Holy Spirit, testifying that the message was of God, they hated it the more, because it was a testimony against them. They went on in their own spirit, filled with envy, jealousy, and evil-surmisings, as did the Jews. They opened their hearts to the enemy of God and man. Yet these men have been holding positions of trust, and have been molding the work after their own similitude, as far as they possibly could.” TM 79-80

“Yet many have listened to the truth spoken in demonstration of the Spirit, and they have not only refused to accept the message, but they have hated the light. These men are parties to the ruin of souls. They have interposed themselves between the heaven-sent light and the people. They have trampled upon the word of God and are doing despite to His Holy Spirit.” TM 91

## THE CALL

“The Lord, in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God.” TM 91-92

But there are those who despised the men and the message they bore. They have taunted them with being fanatics, extremists, and enthusiasts.

“LET ME PROPHECY UNTO YOU: Unless you speedily humble your hearts before God, and confess your sins, which are many, you will, when it is too late, see that you have been fighting against God.... Your turning things upside down is known of the Lord. Go



on a little longer as you have gone, in rejection of the light from heaven, AND YOU ARE LOST.” TM 97

“If you reject Christ’s delegated messengers, YOU REJECT CHRIST. Neglect this great salvation, kept before you for years, despise this glorious offer of justification through the blood of Christ, and sanctification through the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, and there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation.

“I ENTREAT YOU NOW TO HUMBLE YOURSELVES, AND CEASE YOUR STUBBORN RESISTANCE OF LIGHT AND EVIDENCE.” TM 97-98

**LET US CONSIDER A FEW POINTS BRIEFLY:**

1. In 1888, the Minneapolis General Conference Session was significantly, a turning point for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
2. The church’s spiritual condition before this conference was full of pride, hypocrisy, love of dress, frivolity, amusement and the desire for supremacy, etc.
3. Sister White compares the Adventists with ancient Israel, returning back to Egypt, etc.
- 4 The message was CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- 5 This message was emphatically endorsed by the Spirit Of Prophecy.
- 6 Was a change made for the better then?... NO, NO, NO.
- 7 What Angel visited this conference?... THE OTHER ANGEL OF REVELATION 18:1-5.
- 8 What work actually begun here?... THE LOUD CRY OF THE THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE.
9. Was the challenge accepted?... NO, NO, NO.

**WHAT WAS PREDICTED IF THIS MESSAGE OF 1888 WAS REJECTED, AND IN THE YEARS TO FOLLOW?**

1. If the Seventh-day Adventist Church continued in this state, God would reject them with abhorrence. REVIEW & HERALD, APRIL 4, 1893
2. That the Seventh-day Adventist Church would be BROUGHT DOWN TO HELL, and that it would be more tolerable for Sodom in the day of judgment than for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. REVIEW AND HERALD, AUGUST 1, 1893

“AND THOU, CAPERNAUM (Seventh-day Adventist Church) who have had great light, which art exalted unto heaven, in the point of privilege shall be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.” Matt. 11:23-24

John Warncken, Australia



## Building Of Okok Bethel School In Kenya

(If you wish to participate: [mctavishleila@hotmail.com](mailto:mctavishleila@hotmail.com))



# Satan's Deceptions



We have travelled in the sunshine for many years; we have travelled in the land of peace, but not for long anymore. The storm is arising around us. We can see dark clouds arising all around, as it was in the time of Noah. Soon our faith will be tested severely. This time the tares will be separated from the wheat. All who do not love the truth will believe a lie, and fall into the strong delusion which Satan is allowed to bring upon them.

The powers of darkness have never been as active as today. Satan is desperately trying to deceive the very elect. All who are not holding fast will be blown away. All who are not sanctified by the truth will be blinded and left in the darkness.

God has been patient with us for a long time, but suddenly the time is up, and all who have a little pride, or a trace of selfishness left, or dissatisfaction, and who still love the world and the things of the world, will leave the people of God and join with the enemy.

Do not underestimate the power of our enemy. Do not play with him. He does not come to you in his own form, but as a friend.

Satan came as a friend to the angels in heaven, offering them something that God did not give them, and millions of these angels believed that Lucifer really did love them and cared for them.

Satan came to Adam and Eve as a friend, offering them the forbidden fruit, which God did not give them. He said to them, "Ye shall not surely die, ye shall be as God knowing good and evil." Did Adam and Eve die? Yes, they surely did, and their children also died for the next 6,000 years. So easily was man deceived. One fruit from the forbidden tree, and the price they had to pay for it was great. They had to leave the paradise, and with sweat in the forehead earn their living, and sorrow and misery was their lot, until they turned to dust again.

Soon the whole world was deceived. Millions of people gave their allegiance to Satan, and the church of God was down to one family. The Holy Spirit had left everyone else.

Satan triumphed, once he gets this last family deceived, the whole world will belong to him, and the plan of salvation will be defeated. But he was wrong. This one family survived while 100 million perished.

After the flood, Satan again deceived the whole world. The church of God was down to a few people.

How did this happen? Did God do nothing to save the people? Yes, God did everything possible to save them. The Holy Spirit was striving with the people for many years, but they refused to obey the promptings of the Spirit, and finally God had to leave them alone. He said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with men."

Even that the church of God has been down to a few people, it is still

stronger than all the forces of evil and all the powers of darkness.

Later we learn that the salvation of mankind depended on one man. If He would have failed, all would have been lost. This Man was Jesus Christ. Satan consolidated all his forces against Him. The Roman Power joined with Satan to destroy the plan of salvation, by putting to death the children in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. Even the very church of God, the Jewish nation joined with Satan in his efforts to defeat the plan of God.

Also, His own disciples tried to discourage Him from completing the plan of salvation. If He had done one sin, even in thoughts, the whole plan of redemption would have been destroyed and Satan would have gained complete victory.

But this one man could not be defeated. When Jesus cried, "It is done," Satan knew that he had lost the battle.

Yet he did not give up the battle. He started to fight against the church of God more than ever. "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Rev. 12:12.

The plan of God no one can destroy. The great world nations have disappeared, but the church of God remains.

Jesus overcame Satan and his temptations. He overcame sin, and through Him we can also overcome and be victorious. If someone says, "I cannot be perfect," he makes God a liar, because the same power that Jesus had is available to us all.

"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

Do we believe this? The character of God is possible to every human being. The only time when God cannot save us, is when we sin willfully.

When the Christian Sabbath keepers practice even one known sin or one wrong habit, or one neglected duty, they become blinded, and start doubting the plain truth which they once believed.

In the beginning, Adam and Eve had garments of light, but the moment they sinned they lost them and darkness surrounded them. Their understanding was darkened and they started accusing others and defending themselves. Adam said to the Lord, "that woman you gave me deceived me, so you Lord are guilty of my sin."

They did not lose a little of their light, but a complete darkness was the result of one sin.

Christians who for years have professed religion, do sin against the Holy Spirit if they refuse to overcome every sin and be perfect. And as soon as we become blinded we become tempters to others, first

to the members of our family and to the members of the church.

Our influence and our example can lead others away from the truth. How many fathers and mothers have sacrificed their children to the altar of this world by their own example?

A new member in the church is progressing, learning, and changing his habits. He can see the truth clearly, and the Holy Spirit is leading him. But after a while if he stops progressing, his sanctification stops and he becomes blinded and starts doubting the truth, which he believed before.

If we love God, we will love His truth, and obey every part of it. But if we do not love the truth, then we will believe a lie.

"Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thess. 2:10, 11.

All who do not love purity remain unclean. All who do not love sacrifice will remain selfish. All who do not love the church of God will end up in Babylon. All who do not love righteousness will not receive it.

The storm is approaching. Satan is doing his utmost to deceive the children of God. There is one church he is attacking and is angry with. The rest of the churches belong to him. There are honest children of God in the fallen churches, but Jesus said that they will be called out of them.

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd." John 10:16.

The work of God will not fail. The church of God will be victorious; the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. There will be a little flock, faithful to God, who love the truth and are faithful, even unto death.

The greatest happiness is to live a life of Jesus; when the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, is with us, and when we are dead to self and live for Christ. May the Lord help each one of us to overcome the temptation and deception of Satan and reflect the image of Jesus fully. **AMEN.**

**Timo Martin, Canada**

# The Coming Kingdom Of Christ

“Jesus answered (Pilate), My kingdom is not of this world.” John 18:36, first part

The Prophetic Symbols of Daniel Chapter 7

“The Lord has said, “If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make Myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.” Num. 12:6.

He does not say that every dreamer is a prophet, but that He will speak to His prophets through that means. Now the Lord recognized Daniel as a prophet (Matt. 24:15), and gave him “understanding in all visions and dreams.” Dan. 1:17. Therefore the visions and dreams of Daniel, as well as his interpretations of the dreams and visions of others, are to be received as prophetic revelations.

In the second chapter of Daniel we have found in his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, an outlined history of this world’s governments from Babylon to the setting up of the Kingdom of Christ.

In the seventh chapter we come to visions given to the prophet himself. The date is given as the first year of Belshazzar, who was the last king of Babylon.

“Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” Dan.7:2-7.

Space will not permit elaborate exposition; the object of this article is merely to give a general idea of the meaning of the symbols used, hoping that the reader will be sufficiently interested to pursue the study more at length. By reference to Jer. 25:31-33, it will be seen that the wind is a symbol of tumult, strife, war. And in Rev. 17:15 it is stated that the sea, or waters, refer to “multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” See also Isa. 8:7. Thus the four winds striving upon the sea would indicate wars affecting all quarters of the earth, and consequently working great world-wide changes.

But what about the “beasts” which “came up from the sea,” or people of the earth? Verse 17 of the seventh chapter of Daniel



states plainly that they stand for kings; and verses 18 and 23 as well as chapter 2:37-40, show that the words “kings” and “kingdoms” are used interchangeably.

The conclusion is therefore inevitable that the “four great beasts” of Daniel’s vision, coming up in succession, indicate four successive kingdoms. We are also forced to the conclusion that they mean the same four kingdoms that are outlined in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great image given and interpreted in Daniel chapter 2.

We are led up to this latter conclusion by the fact that in both instances, the series of kingdoms reaches to and closes with the everlasting kingdom of God, which shall fill the whole earth. See Daniel 2:44 and 7:27. the lesson is the same in both instances, namely, that human government is a temporary arrangement, and sooner or later will come to an end, giving place to a kingdom of righteousness with Christ Himself as King.

As everything at all opposed to the righteous rule of the Most High is to be consumed and destroyed, it follows that all wickedness and every man dependent in a human character will be utterly annihilated.

“For all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.” Matt. 26:52.

“For, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” Mal. 4:1.

Sin has dominion here, and Christ has not come into the full glory of His earthly kingdom. “My kingdom is not of this world,” He declares. The pomp and vanities of earth form no part of it, and He has commanded us to pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Oh, this glorious coming of the kingdom of Christ, when the wicked shall no longer hold the rulership of the earth! Then the long night of sin will be ended, and the promise of God will be fulfilled, that “the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning.”

The psalmist gives us the full assurance that the morning is coming—the morning of the resurrection, when God’s children shall awake from the tomb triumphant over evil and rejoicing forevermore in the power of redeeming love. Then will His kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

“In the morning.” That means the dawn of a new day for this unhappy earth, one without a night, when the Sun of Righteousness shall shine forth with healing in His beams. It means a dawn bright with the love of our Father and the joy of His presence. The halo of immortal life will be about us, and sinless man will walk with God as he did in Eden.

That “morning” will come to every Christian who makes ready for it. And how is he to make ready for it?—by keeping God’s commandments and hasting for His coming. (extra study, Evangelism 696)

“Behold, I come quickly; blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” Rev. 22:7

And shall we fail to prepare our hearts for His coming? And the world also is to be made ready for the Lord’s appearance. Our duty is not done if we simply take thought of our own safety. We must have a care for others and awaken them to their need of preparation.

## *Behold the Bridegroom Cometh*

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” Matt. 25:1-13.

“In many parts of the East, wedding festivities are held in the evening. The bridegroom goeth forth to meet his bride, and brings her to his home. By torchlight he will bring her along the streets from her father’s house to his own, where a supper is prepared for the guests invited to the wedding.

“Lingering near the bride’s house are ten young women, in attire suitable for the occasion. Ten was the usual number who were chosen as bridesmaids. Each of the bridal attendants has a lamp and a small vessel for oil. Their lamps are lighted, and as hour after hour of waiting goes by, they grow weary of watching, and, one after another, they fall asleep. About midnight the sleepers are awakened with the cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh!’ They exchange their slumbers for life and activity. They spring to their feet. The wedding procession is in sight, with the brilliant torches shining, and they can hear the joyous music as they approach.

“The ten virgins seize their lamps, and begin to trim them to go forth; but five of the watchers have been wise and five foolish. Five

have neglected to fill their vessels with oil. They have not expected the bridegroom to tarry so long, and have not prepared for the emergency. They are in distress, not because they see that their lamps are going out, but because they know that there is nothing in their vessels by which to replenish them. They address a piteous appeal to those who have provided themselves with oil,--but they are denied, for the wise virgins have only enough to fill their own lamps, and they are bidden to hasten away and buy oil from the dealer. And while they are away on this errand, the bridegroom comes. The wise virgins, with lamps trimmed and burning, join the procession, and go into the wedding, and the door is shut.

“Soon after the door is shut, the foolish virgins come, knocking for admittance to the banquet hall, but they meet with an unexpected answer to their call. The Master of the feast says, ‘I know you not.’ There is no evidence given that the foolish virgins did obtain oil, but there is abundant evidence that they did not enter into the marriage feast, but were left standing outside in the empty streets in the blackness of the night.

“Jesus used the parable of the ten virgins to represent the condition of the church before His coming, and the question that concerns each one of us is, Are we among the five wise or five foolish virgins? Without going into details of the parable, we may ask ourselves, what is our condition before God? Those that were wise went into the wedding. We shall make it manifest what is our true condition by our conduct and conversation. Jesus has warned us as to what should be our position at this time. He says, ‘Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.’” Signs of the Times, August 6, 1894, p. 138.

“In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ’s second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ’s near approach, and confidently expect His appearing.” COL 408.

“The ten virgins are watching in the evening of this earth’s history. All claim to be Christians. All have a call, a name, a lamp, and all profess to be doing God’s service. All apparently wait for Christ’s appearing. But five are unready, five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall.

“At the final day, many will claim admission to Christ’s Kingdom... In this life they have not entered into fellowship with Christ; therefore they know not the language of heaven, they are strangers to its joy. ‘What man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.’ 1 Cor. 2:11.” COL 412, 413

The wise virgins are those who have faith and love and patience, whose experience day by day is nourished by the Holy Spirit. They do not conform to the world in careless inattention. They do not put

off their daily preparation, but follow Jesus wherever He leads the way. God is not pleased with a flickering faith. It is compared to a lamp that is going out. He is pleased with those whose experience is like that of a lamp that is burning brightly. His followers are to shine as lights in the world. Christ’s servants are to keep their lamps trimmed and burning, that they may add their light to the light of others who are following Christ.

Those who are not daily desirous of gaining a living, daily experience in the things of God, will not meet His approval, but will be found with those whose lamps are going out, and will not be prepared to go into the marriage supper of the Lamb.

We cannot be ready to meet the Lord by waking up at the last minute, when the cry is heard, “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,” gathering up our lamps, from which the oil has burned away and thinking then to have them replenished. Our only hope is daily to love God, to love the truth, not for the sake of its clear arguments, but for truth’s sake alone. We must bring the truth into our hearts and minds, and every day be living, shining lights, learning daily more and more of Jesus. Our conversation must be in heaven, from whence we look for our Lord Jesus Christ. We should talk much of His coming, then we shall be constantly receiving the grace which cometh from above, from the source of all spiritual power.

The time is far spent. It is too late now to sleep the careless sleep of indifference. It is time now to rejoice greatly because of the Bridegroom’s voice. It is time to sing of the marriage supper of the Lamb. The question for us to settle is, which class shall we be among, the wise or the foolish? God help us to be among the wise. Blessed are they that are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.” **AMEN.**

*Golden Hingabantu, Zambia*

## INDEX TO THE MESSENGER

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# Where Are You?

NJScott, flickr.com

I would like to consider the first sermon ever preached.

“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where [art] thou?” Gal. 3:8, 9.

These words, “where art thou?” I believe this question applies to every cool of the day. Where are you? Every evening. We should ask ourselves the question, “where am I?” Where are we? As the scriptures begin with this, the voice of the Lord is, “where are you?” “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” Rev. 22:20.

We have at the beginning of the Holy Scriptures, God asking, “where are you?” And at the end He says, “I am coming quickly.” God wants to know where we are. Why? So He can come. Why else do you ask someone where you are? If you made a garden, then placed some people into the garden, why do you ask, “where are you?” Because you want to go to them. The scriptures are about Jesus coming to us and asking where we are. For the whole human race He wants to know where we are and He wants to come. The voice of God was the voice of mercy, grace and love. The voice of condemnation was already in the mind of Adam and Eve. That voice made them run. The conscious, the inward conviction they had done wrong. Guilt and condemnation is nothing short of fear, as when someone is scared they hide.

This voice, “where are you” was not of condemnation, but mercy and love. Adam should have taken the place of the seeker in the garden saying, “my God my God, where are you?” As Adam had walked away from God he should have been the one coming back. The voice of God came and was saying to Adam and Eve, “where are you? I’m looking for you.”

The moment man is out of communion with God, man wants to run away. It’s the same as if you have a relationship with someone and it goes sour, you don’t want to talk.

For us to consider God’s position as God looking at man and what he has done against God, Adam sinned against God and yet God went and looked for him.

In the scriptures there is this voice “where are you?” and in the end, “I’m coming.” In the middle there is a lot that happens in between “where are you?” and “I’m coming”. There is much that takes place when God seeks man and man is restored.

There is none that seeks after God. None. No one seeks God.

“Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.” Luke 15:1.

Who is coming to Jesus? Sinners. Was Adam a sinner? He was. These crowds of people were coming to Jesus. What makes us want to go to Jesus? It is only by love that love is awakened. It was still this call originally, "where are you?"

Each publican and sinner has heard in their soul the words, "where are you?" Many an evening a soul says, "where am I? What am I doing?" Everyone at some point in their life asks, "where am I?" It is the voice of God wanting us to say, "here I am." We have to question ourselves "where am I" as that is the question God asks of us. Am I in His fold or far away? If we hear these words, "where am I?" "What am I doing?" If we consider what we are doing in life, at that point God is right near us, as He is the one that can generate those thoughts.

Jesus receives sinners but He seeks sinners also. As the Pharisees and scribes murmured:

As the "publicans and sinners" gathered about Christ, the rabbis expressed their displeasure. "This man receiveth sinners," they said, "and eateth with them." {COL 185.1} "By this accusation they insinuated that Christ liked to associate with the sinful and vile, and was insensible to their wickedness." {COL 185.2}

"It angered them also that those who showed only contempt for the rabbis and who were never seen in the synagogues should flock about Jesus and listen with rapt attention to His words. The scribes and Pharisees felt only condemnation in that pure presence; how was it, then, that publicans and sinners were drawn to Jesus?" {COL 186.1}

The Pharisees were accusing Jesus of being insensible to sin as He would eat and meet with them and He wasn't there to condemn them. As they saw no railing accusation with these sinners they thought He was insensible to their wickedness. Is Jesus coming to a sinner in love being insensible? Is being kind to a sinner ignoring sin? This is the accusation that the Pharisees had of Christ, and out of anyone they received the strongest rebuke. These were the thoughts of the Pharisees and they murmured as all these sinners came to Christ.

There are three parables in Matthew 15 and all teach the same lesson.

## *The Lost Sheep*

"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found [it], he layeth [it] on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together [his] friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one

sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find [it]? And when she hath found [it], she calleth [her] friends and [her] neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:4-10

The sheep went away because of lack of diligence.

The shepherd is leaving ninety nine sheep in the fold and he is going out and finds it and puts it on his shoulder.

## **Two Brothers and a Father**

One of the brothers leaves home. We know this parable. This parable of the prodigal son and the other parables came from the Pharisees saying Jesus receives sinners, and it agitated them.

The prodigal son becomes lost because of his own will.

## *The Lost Coin*

The understanding of the coin in today's terms is that it gets lost because of the slackness of the ministry.

This parable is about a lady who lights a candle and seeks diligently throughout her house to find the lost coin until she finds it. The word "until" is a process and it won't stop until it's found.

When you look at Genesis to Revelation, how many years? Six thousand years "until"? Seek diligently "until"? Behold I come quickly to get you all to seek that which was lost. The diligence of God in seeking those that have gone away from Him. The sheep that was lost--was it not part of the sheep, the 100 originally? Wasn't the lost coin part of the ten?

The prodigal son was the offspring of the father. We can conclude that Jesus is talking about back slidden people; people that have known God and then have gone. The prodigal son decided to leave the house. The sheep decided to leave the fold and go away. The prodigal son wanted to get away from his father's control; he was getting irritated with the household, and no doubt the sheep was the same. We have had people with us and the natural way to think is, "well, they knew. Look at what they missed out on, they knew."

## **The Older Brother and His Attitude.**

"Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto



him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and entreated him." Luke 15:25-28.

The father was seeking the older son also. This older brother, when his brother had left said, "Oh well, he knew what the father's house is like." This is the attitude that can come because the ones that stayed in the fold represented the Pharisees. They were there in God's church, in God's presence and one had left; and the Pharisees said these people need to be condemned. Jesus is eating with them, He is spending time with them.

"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost." Matt. 18:11.

What is God's one purpose? To save that which was lost. When He says to his disciples, "ye are my witnesses," that means you are witnessing of me. That means me. Our attitude should be that we are to save that which was lost.

"How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?" Matt. 18:12.

Here are God's people and one leaves. So often we think if they have left, well, they know the full light, they aren't ignorant, what can we do for them? They have seen and tasted it. But what do you think Jesus says?

"And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that [sheep], than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." Matt. 18:13-15. Moreover means coming to the point.

"But if he will not hear [thee, then] take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell [it] unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." Matt. 18:16, 17.

A what? A publican. What were the publicans like to Christ? He received sinners and publicans. Often we read this and think that when you have a problem with a brother first you tell him, and if he doesn't listen take more and tell him again. If he still doesn't listen you say, "see you later."

If you read the attitude of Matthew 18 it conveys God's attitude from Eden, "where are you?"

There was a problem between God and Adam and Adam runs

away. God is coming to him and He tells Adam his problem. God is not coming to Adam to condemn him but to say, "I really want to see you, I want to come to you," as he has come to see that which is lost.

The parable says, "how do you think about this?" If you have a problem with a brother, isn't it a problem like with Adam and Eve? The attitude is that, I'm not going to tell him his fault in condemnation. That is not the way. It is, "where are you?" Because you want to be with and eat with them. You want their person. Not their money or reputation, you just want them. God wants you and me. He doesn't want this world. He owns it. This whole world will burn. He just wants His people. God's heart craves over human beings. He wants to know us out of intense love. If you have a problem with a brother in the light of the parable of the lost sheep and prodigal son, go to your brother in the light of that.

Even if they leave the church treat them how? Like a publican ignored? We can think exactly like the Pharisees, once they are like the publican you don't greet but ignore them. However we read that Jesus receives sinners and publicans. Jesus was accused as He was mingling with them. The Pharisees thought He was insensitive to wickedness. But Jesus was seeking to save that which was lost. "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I [am] against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves anymore; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them. For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, [even] I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep [that are] scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:10-12

Here these shepherds had the attitude of the older brother. The class of the Pharisees. If the sheep left it didn't matter, they should come to us.

God is saying, "I am against the shepherds, I will go and seek my sheep." No one takes care of your business like the owner. Here God has put into the care of other humans the salvation of souls and they have failed him. They have not cared for the sheep; they have cared for themselves. They have not cared for God's heritage. "That is not my attitude," he says, "I will go and seek them out."

In the time of the Pharisees He came and did it; He ordained twelve to be His witnesses and they did, but every succeeding generation after many years did it wrong and God had to call another people to feed His lambs. We are to have the attitude to go to them and communicate with them not in condemnation but in love.

I even I will seek out my sheep. I will go down in the cool of the day and, "where are you? I want to be with you."



## *The Commission to God's people*

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into [any] city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matt. 10:5, 6.

Those that once knew the light and have left it, go to them first. God loves backsliders. He loves them. He doesn't like their backsliding. The Bible says, I will heal your backsliding.

Our planet is backslidden, as we were in the presence of God at creation and we removed ourselves from His presence. God loves us. He goes to every child of Adam and says, "where are you?"

He has given the gospel commission to those that love Him and says, go to the back sliders. Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Isa. 55:6.

God is seeking us. In the Garden of Eden God knew where Adam and Eve were but He asked, "where are you?" He came looking for them and if Adam had answered then there could be success. **We are not to go to people and drag them back as they are lost sheep, but we are to seek them, every soul is to seek and bring back as only by love is love awakened.**

In our attitude towards people it is the love of desiring their person in Jesus Christ, irrespective of what they have done. If they won't answer or seek the Lord, what can God do? Do you think God would have gone into the garden and grabbed Adam? He was seeking them.

He says, "I will seek the sheep, I will find them." We have a responsibility in our personal life when God calls us at the end of the day we are to respond. It doesn't matter what we've done or how bad we have been. We can be obedient even though we have been disobedient. We can come to Him with all our sins as that is being an obedient child.

We are to respond to His seeking by our seeking others. When we speak to others by God's grace they may respond to our seeking. If they don't, it is their choice, but we should always be seeking. We should not have the Pharisaical attitude.

The voice of Revelation is, "behold, I come quickly." Whether people sought Him or not, He would have gathered His sheep that are His. May we gain the spirit of Christ in all things, in our love to others despite their doings and that our love will respond to Christ. **AMEN.**

*Paul Godfrey, Australia*

# SAVING McCANN'S FARM



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

When people needed help, they seemed to turn naturally to Sister White for aid. In 1894 a Seventh-day Adventist neighbor named McCann came to see her about an embarrassing financial problem. The hard-working farmer—who had nine living children, the oldest a young woman of twenty-three—needed money badly.

McCann had bought a rocky ten-acre farm. Because a large well-built house stood on the property, the purchase price had been high. Like many other settlers in Australia, he had hoped to become a prosperous landowner. But a continual drought on the arid plains caused constant crop failures, and McCann, like thousands of others, could not pay off his debts. He obtained a mortgage to pay his bills. Yet no matter how hard he worked, he could not earn money to meet the installments on the loan. In fact, he couldn't even pay the interest due every quarter, and so in desperation he came to see Mrs. White.

"I have no one to help me—no one else to turn to," McCann said. His weather-beaten face, half hidden by his gray-streaked beard, reflected his worry. "I've come to you, hoping you might be able to do something. I need seven pounds ten each month for the next three months. With that I can meet the payments. The state railway wants to buy an acre of the farm for its right-of-way. From the sale I will return your money at the end of the quarter."

Sister White converted in her mind the seven pounds ten into U.S. dollars. It equaled about thirty-seven dollars. In the 1890's many people did not see that much money during several months—nor did Mrs. White have seven pounds ten. Because she wrote books that the denomination sold widely, people assumed that she was rich. They could never understand that she spent most of her royalties preparing other books. She had to pay the salaries of her assistants and have the type set and the printing plates made. What little money she had left she donated to various church projects. At the moment she was so poor that she did not have enough money to ship her furniture and other belongings from her former home in Melbourne to Sunnyside, her present country home near Avondale College.

Not wanting to send McCann away discouraged, she promised that she would do something. What it would be, she didn't know. First she tried to borrow money from the Adventist Tract and Missionary Society in Sydney. But it had a shortage of funds and could not lend her anything.

Banks were scarce then and sometimes not too trustworthy.

During the past century Adventists who had extra money often

turned it over to a denominational institution such as a publishing house for safekeeping. Sister White had deposited some money with the Echo Publishing House (now the Signs Publishing Company). Remembering this, she sent a telegram to the publishing company, asking to withdraw it. The treasurer sent back word that he could not return it because the company had used the funds for an emergency. He could not replace it until the book salesmen mailed the money from their sales.

When she met the neighbor next, she told him she would lend him the money if her son Willie, coming from Melbourne, had money when he arrived. She expected that he would. Despite the fact that she had hoped to use the money to buy a supply of fruit for the winter, she would let McCann use it. Willie arrived from Melbourne with less than five dollars in his pocket.

Unwilling to allow those holding the mortgage on McCann's farm to evict him and his family, Sister White tried to think of some other way to get the money. If they could keep paying the interest on the mortgage until the New South Wales state railroad bought a right-of-way through the property, they would be able to save the farm. The money from the railroad sale would wipe out part of McCann's debt. At the moment, though, Sister White saw no way of borrowing the monthly seven pounds ten.

Puzzling over what she should do next, she thought of a family she knew who might have some extra money. She visited them and asked for ten pounds—enough to meet the interest due on the loan, plus a little extra so that she could ship her belongings from Melbourne to Cooranbong. Without hesitation, the family gave her the ten pounds. They knew that she would repay it. She had a good reputation among her neighbors for honesty. On the following Sunday night, she and George Burt Starr, a minister and Bible teacher, drove to the McCann farm and gave the money to the happy farmer. Had he not gotten it then, the notice for him and his family to leave the home would have come a day or two later.

"If this large family had been bereft of a home," she reflected in her diary, "some of us, if Christians, would have had to help him more than seven pounds to relieve his distress. Now he hopes to sell out in a few months and get a cheaper place. He has a nice house, and we believe this will now tide over the difficulty."

There are many poor people in our church and I hope that we would be as self-sacrificing as was Sister White in trying to help those in need.

# The Soul Winner's Reward

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. Dan. 12:3.

When I think of those words of Daniel, I find myself waking up in the night and repeating them over and over: "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Look at the sun and the stars marshaled in the heavens, and known by their names. The Lord says, They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever.

In order to determine how important are the interests involved in the conversion of the soul from error to truth, we must appreciate the value of immortality; we must realize how terrible are the pains of the second death; we must comprehend the honor and glory awaiting the ransomed, and understand what it is to live in the presence of Him who died that He might elevate and ennoble man, and give to the overcomer a royal diadem.

The worth of a soul cannot be fully estimated by finite minds. How gratefully will the ransomed and glorified ones remember those who were instrumental in their salvation! No one will then regret his self-denying efforts and persevering labors, his patience, forbearance, and earnest heart yearnings for souls that might have been lost had he neglected his duty or become weary in well-doing.

Now these white-robed ones are gathered into the fold of the Great Shepherd. The faithful worker and the soul saved through his labor are greeted by the Lamb in the midst of the throne, and are led to the tree of life and to the fountain of living waters. With what joy does the servant of Christ behold these redeemed ones, who are made to share the glory of the Redeemer! How much more precious is heaven to those who have been faithful in the work of saving souls! "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars. . . ."

What is done through the cooperation of men with God is a work that shall never perish, but endure through the eternal ages.

In Heavenly Places, Pg. 364, Ellen G. White.