



Canadian Field Conference

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

JULY 23, 24, 25, 2010 IN

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

FOR ACCOMMODATIONS:

MORRIS LOWE

Phone: (905) 793-8044

Email: adjomarsh@rogers.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CANADIAN FIELD SECRETARY

Phone: (416) 239-3700

Email: canadiansecretary@yahoo.ca

OR

TIMO MARTIN

Phone: (905) 876-2518

Email: anjetmartin@yahoo.com

www.imsmessenger.org

The Reformation Messenger

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 6, JUNE 2010

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



“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!”
Isaiah 52:7

where does that music come from? Music created by a musician. We have to learn something. There was a musician in heaven that was one of the heavenly host. You can read about him in Ezekiel 28. What was the characteristic of this angel?

“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone [was] thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: **the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.** Thou [at] the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee [so]: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Ezekiel 28:13, 14

He was covered in glory and glamour. Here is this wonderful cherub. What has he got inside of himself? Music. Pipes. Have you ever heard one person sing in a quartet? That is what he could do. There was beautiful harmony that came from four different related notes. If you are a musician, if you know and feel music inside of yourself, doesn't it flow more from your person and you have a sense of music that you can put across to the congregation or concert hall? Indeed. Lucifer had that.

“Satan had led the heavenly choir. He had raised the first note; then all the angelic host had united with him, and glorious strains of music had resounded through heaven in honor of God and His dear Son.” SR 25

God said – I have put the workmanship of the tabrets in you. I have created the music in you. When Lucifer sang to the glory of God, it was what God had placed in him. When Lucifer fell, he was the father of sin. When he fell, the music in him did what? The perversion of this man with his goods included the perversion of music.

Sis. White makes a strong emphasis of this. We read something of the terrible fall of music in Lucifer. What is written in Ezekiel is amplified in the spirit of prophecy. Sis. White is talking of the condition of Lucifer and great men with God given talents.

“The Lord bestowed upon these men whom the world admires, priceless intellectual gifts; He endowed them with master minds; but they did not use their powers to the glory of God. They separated themselves from Him, as did Satan; but while they separated themselves from Him, they still retained many of the precious gems of thought which He had given them. These they have placed in a framework of error, to give luster to their own human sentiments, to make attractive the utterances inspired by the prince of evil.” CT 26 Can you see the horrifying subtlety of what God has put inside a person that can be turned for evil?

“It is true that in the writings of pagans and infidels there are found thoughts of an elevated character, which are attractive to the mind. But there is a reason for this. Was not Satan the light bearer, the

sharer of God's glory in heaven, and next to Jesus in power and majesty?” CT 26

“The greatness and power with which the Creator endowed Lucifer, he has perverted; yet when it suits his purpose, he can impart to men sentiments that are enchanting.” CT 27

Can Satan not come as an angel of light in music and just put a lilt in music to suit the enchantments to his deception? It has to be the tiniest lilt and it has an impact on you. It affects your emotional life as music accepts your emotions. Satan knows exactly what to do. He knows how to touch and seduce a Christian by music.

He plays the beautiful heavenly music and put s a lilt and you give him a finger and hand and he takes you down.

Old Fashioned Music

I saw it as a youth. When the HMS Richard's men were singing, they sang good old fashioned songs. Then came the Heritage singers and they too sang good old fashioned songs and then they began to put a lilt in.

I saw the Heritage singers when I was a youth and I thought there was something wrong here and I was perplexed and when I talked about it I was told I was old fashioned.

We know how old fashioned beautiful sacred music is. It's the ancient of days music. Do you want to be in harmony with the ancient of days? I do. I am happy to have old fashioned music and I will preach old fashioned sermons as the people of today have lost touch with that.

Lucifer comes and turns the hearts of the people by his subtle means. It comes as a seducing spirit. How capable is he to make music enchanting for us so that it will be a cause for a cringing for the angels of heaven? He is very capable. He knows what we enjoy and how to torment the angels of heaven.

Therefore, what are we to consider very carefully? Satan has the whole world in his control in the fallen churches right through to the ten tribes of Israel today. What are we to do with what we have been brought up with? It says, come out of her my people. What are we to do?

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2

What must happen to us? Don't be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Get those different vibrations and associated pleasure areas into the right chain, into the music and meditation that heaven enjoys so you can enjoy it. As we come to Him in song, in the preaching of His word and



Can Our Dead Speak To Us?

The Past

Satan's Fall

In the beginning, Lucifer (“the light-bearer,” who after revolting against God's government became Satan – “the Adversary”) was created perfect, noble, very wise, and holy, next in honor to Christ, the Son of God. But his envy towards Christ for not permitting him to know God's purposes and plans, which was a prerogative alone to Christ, caused his fall. Specifically, “when God said to His Son, “Let us make man in our image,” Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was filled with envy, jealousy and hatred.” (EW p. 145)

“Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy... he began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide. They were not beings that could bring dishonor to God; all their thoughts were holy... The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was

represented as an injustice to Lucifer, who, it was claimed, was also entitled to reverence and honor.” (PP p. 37). Furthermore, “he told them (angels), that henceforth all the sweet liberty the angels had enjoyed was at an end. For had not a ruler been appointed over them, to whom they from henceforth must yield servile honor?” (1SP p. 19). These were Satan's strong fascinating reasoning. Therefore, he was able to draw one-third of the angelic populace to his side. (Revelation 12:4).

“There was war in heaven: Michael (Christ) and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12:7-9).

After his fall, knowing that he, together with his followers, had forever lost and were shut up from heaven, Satan immediately summoned his associates and laid plans to destroy and cause the fall of man. In the garden, employing his medium, the serpent, then a creature of fascinating appearance, he twisted the Lord's express command and statement: “of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest

thereof thou shalt surely die," (Genesis 2:17) by saying, "Ye shall not surely die." (Genesis 3:4). In this statement he implied that man would not actually die. He virtually said, "You are naturally immortal! Don't worry, eat this! You will not die. God's words were lies. They only limit your freedom and happiness." Oh shameful mockery! Blasphemous deception! That's why, no wonder why we have the belief that as one dies, he's still conscious and can visit (magparamdam) us? But, are those spiritual manifestations really our departed loved ones? Or are they the spirits of Satan – the great deceiver?

In The Future

What Does Prophecy Tell?

Beware, the wily foe may be lurking around you, for it is written, "They are the spirits of devils working miracles" "and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles" which they have power to do. (Revelation 16:14; 13:14). This time the manifestations may not be so clear, well identified, and universally widespread. But very near in the future, as Satan's time becomes shorter, he will embolden this delusion begun in Eden; he will "bring before us the appearance of forms purporting to be our relatives or friends who sleep in Jesus. It will be made to appear as if these friends were actually present, the words they uttered, while here, with which we were familiar, will be spoken, and the same tone of voice that they had while living will fall upon the ear. All this is to deceive the world and ensnare them into the belief of this delusion." (EW p. 262).

Moreover, the apostles who wrote the Scriptures will be personified by Satan's angels, and make it appear that they contradict what they wrote by the dictation of the Holy Spirit when on earth. These lying angels will make the apostles to corrupt their own teachings and to declare them to be adulterated. But don't be deceived, "for such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness whose end shall be according to their works." (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). As a result, when the evil angels have misrepresented the apostles, that Holy Book, which cuts directly across his track, thwarts his plans, and is to judge him and his followers, he will be successful to put into the shade, just where he wants it; thus he may lead men to doubt its divine origin." (GC p. 557)

The people of God "must understand the state of the dead; for the spirits of devil will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved relatives or friends, who will declare to them unscriptural doctrines [such as the Sabbath has already been changed to Sunday, the Bible is no better than a storybook, Jesus has no divinity; He is no more than a common man]. They will do all in their power to excite sympathy and will work miracles before them to confirm what

they declare. [Ezekiel 13:6] The people of God must be prepared to withstand those spirits with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and they who thus appear are the spirits of devils." (EW p. 262). This delusion will spread very soon. As a result, the divine prophecy assuredly states "that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." (1 Timothy 4:1). Therefore, are you ready to contend with it face to face? Will you be one who will heed these seducing spirits?

The State Of The Dead

Here are the important Bible texts that you need to know concerning death, that you may not be deceived:

"His breath goeth forth: in that very day his thoughts perish." (Psalm 146:4). "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing... Their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished." "There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave." (Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10). "The dead praise not the Lord." (Psalm 115:17). "In death there is no remembrance of Thee (God)." (Psalm 6:5). Peter speaking through the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, said: "Men and brethren let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day." "For David is not [yet] ascended into heavens." (Acts 2:29, 34)

History And The Present

"The belief in communion with the dead formed the cornerstone of heathen (or pagan) idolatry. The gods of the heathen were believed to be the deified (worshipped) spirits of departed heroes. Thus the religion of the heathen was a worship of the dead. "Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor." (Numbers 25:1-3). "They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead" (Psalm 25:1-3); that is, sacrifices that had been offered to the dead.

The gods were believed to communicate their will to men, and also, when consulted, to give them counsel. Of this character were the famous oracles of Greece and Rome.

Modern spiritualism and the forms of ancient witchcraft and idol worship – all having communion with the dead as their vital principle – are founded upon the first lie by which Satan beguiled Eve in Eden: 'Ye shall not surely die; for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, ... ye shall be as gods.' Genesis 3:4, 5...

Maybe God would look upon it this way if we play music on instruments seeking to honour and worship Him:

"Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your God, which ye made to yourselves." Amos 5:23-26

What do you understand from this? The music that you make for yourselves, that is what you are worshipping. You want to entertain yourself with music that you have created to make you feel happy. But as for me, says the Lord, take away that noise. I don't want the harmony of your viols. It's annoying to Me.

Music is a sequence of vibrations that come to your ear drums and it sends vibrations through it to the cochlea; it picks up a nervous reaction and sends it to the brain. What does the brain do with those vibrations? It has to interpret.

Time Atlas of the Body p. 87 says, "To make the impulses reaching it meaningful the brain relies upon the stored memories within its millions of cell networks. Not just sound memories but visual memories. Memories of taste, smell and touch. By comparing and contrasting and rejecting information the brain forms an integrated mental picture."

When you look at physiology it takes away the spark of life sometimes. You are just a machine that is getting vibrations and it's just recording these vibrations and its putting together a picture that is meaningful by the way it sorts it out.

We examine the above statement and we get some sense out of it. I was brought up in Germany and music was played that was happy and joyful. I heard these sounds and I saw the adults enjoying it. We make choices about the meaning of life but we discover God is entirely different.

Jesus teaches us what is acceptable with God. What does Jesus teach us? You must be born again and when you are, all the pleasurable enjoyment of the past is gone as you have come to Jesus. The flesh will say, I enjoy that, but the mind says it's not right. That is the battle of the flesh and spirit. Jesus says, I will teach you what is pleasurable to God. The Holy Spirit will do its work.

"Young persons assemble to sing, and, although professed Christians, frequently dishonor God and their faith by their frivolous conversation and their choice of music. Sacred music is not congenial to their taste. I was directed to the plain teachings of God's word, which have been passed by unnoticed. In the judgment all these words of inspiration will condemn those who

have not heeded them." 1T 505

Some of the young people come together and play the music they are familiar with. Their choice of music is not God's sacred music because they have been brought up a certain way.

Plain Teachings

"The above statement said – I was directed to the plain teachings of God's word." 1T 505

There must be some plain teachings in God's word that people bypass and ignore. That is what we have to understand. What are the plain teachings of God in regards to music? The visions of Sis. White help us as people have lost their sense of the sacredness of heaven. I thank God for the writings of Sis. White as we can get a clear indication through her visions of how heaven regards the music that we are familiar with.

"Angels are hovering around yonder dwelling. The young are there assembled; there is the sound of vocal and instrumental music. Christians are gathered there, but what is that you hear? It is a song, a frivolous ditty, fit for the dance hall." Test. Vol. 1, p. 506.

When did she write that? Around 1850. What was the frivolous dance music of that day? Country and western folk music. Bear in mind when she is talking, remember time and place. Here they are singing this music of that time. Now mark the angel: "Behold, the pure angels gather their light closer around them, and darkness envelops those in that dwelling. The angels are moving from the scene. Sadness is upon their countenances. Behold, they are weeping. This I saw repeated a number of times all through the ranks of Sabbath keepers, and especially in _____. Music has occupied the hours which should have been devoted to prayer. Music is the idol which many professed Sabbath-keeping Christians worship." Test. Vol. 1, p. 506.

What were they worshipping? God? When we sing are we looking for the entertainment of music or are we looking for the pleasure of God in music?

"Satan has no objection to music if he can make that a channel through which to gain access to the minds of the youth. Anything will suit his purpose that will divert the mind from God, and engage the time which should be devoted to His service.–" Test., Vol. 1, p. 506.

Here we have a powerful understanding of how the angels felt of the sheet music of the 1850's.

An Angel of Light

If we are going to sing something that causes heaven to cringe,

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23, 24

The woman at the well came with a completely confused appreciation, but when Jesus spoke to her she was enlightened and she responded to the call.

“The Father seeketh such to worship Him.” Worship needs to be of the kind relevant to the one we seek to honour. Do you want to honour Him? That is what it means to worship Him. God is seeking such to worship Him in spirit and truth.

The True Jesus

I want to lay this at your feet, the sacrifices we come to bring to God in worship are identified as being required to be acceptable to Him. People don't understand the true Jesus anymore as they are always stumbling over Him. The way He appears to humanity is not attractive.

“To whom coming, [as unto] a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, [and] precious Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:4, 5

Many people read that and say, “God will accept us by Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter how I come to worship him, Jesus will make it acceptable.” But God says, “I know thy works and I know you are coming to Me by your own lukewarm manner and I can't place this before My Father. You are not worshipping Him the way it is through Me.

It is a mistaken view that God will make our worship acceptable when our worship is not pleasurable to God. It has to be made pleasurable through Jesus Christ to Him.

We consider the worship of God in regards to the beauty of holiness. We learn that there is a beauty which God enjoys, but beauty is only in the eyes of the beholder. We learn that we have to have a complete change of view of what beauty is in God's eyes. We learn that God dresses his people for beauty and holiness. God is particular and He has a preference in how we dress.

Today we want to worship the Lord with music. The entire chapter of Psalms 150 incites us to worship God not only with our words, not only with the doctrine of the truth but with the use of instruments and music:

“Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise

him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and (PIPE – see margin): praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.” Psalm 150:1-6

How do we praise him? With the use of instruments, with music, with singing. In this way we are bringing to Him an acceptable sacrifice. God wants us to worship Him with music and singing.

“Music should have beauty, pathos, and power. Let the voices be lifted in songs of praise and devotion. Call to your aid, if practicable, instrumental music, and let the glorious harmony ascend to God, an acceptable offering.” Ev 505

Good Music?

Music is also to be acceptable before God in worship. Music and beauty. Two very relative words; things that are very dependent upon your background. Beauty is only in the eyes of the beholder. Good music is only in the way you have learned that music is good. Who is to judge anything as good music?

If you go to Africa you will hear music different to Australia. If you go to Germany you hear music that is different. If you go to the Islamic world it is different again. What music is acceptable to God?

One man's music style is an unpleasant noise to another. I can't stand rock music, it's a horrible noise to me but I see young people enjoying themselves in it. I wonder how they can see something beautiful in that. What has gone wrong? Sometimes we are tempted to judge the young people for their enjoyment of that kind of music. If you are a capable musician, a good singer, if you are part of an orchestra and you travel the world to play music of different nationalities and wanted to play to the Mayor of Vienna, wouldn't it be the classical music that Vienna is known for to please them? If you were to travel to Hollywood, to please them, would you play that for them?

We are seeking to honour the Monarch of the universe. If we were to come with the waltzes of Vienna, or country and western, or Broadway, how would God feel? Would you be honouring Him? Does He have anything to do with the lifestyle of those kinds of people?

Would you be honouring Him to play that kind of music? If you were to take that music and put it to Christian words, how would God feel? Insulted. We are seeking to honour the Monarch of the universe. God regards it just how I regard rock music.

Entertaining Self



Note: “Spiritualistic traditions appear deeply rooted in shamanism [“religion phenomenon centered on the shaman, an ecstatic figure believed to have power to heal the sick and to communicate with the world beyond”] and, as such, are perhaps the oldest forms of religion. Mediumship is a modern form of shamanism.” – Wikipedia

“The belief in communion with the dead is still held, even in professedly Christian lands...” (PP pp. 684, 685). And now, it is the religion known as Modern Spiritualism in America. It is the latest development of the “**Ye shall not surely die**” doctrine of Satan, first preached in Eden. “Spiritualism is any theory that emphasizes the direct intervention of spiritual and supernatural forces in the everyday world. The term can cover phenomena as desperate as extraordinary perception, telekinesis, and various states associate with religious ecstasy, such as glossolalia (speaking in tongues, or making unintelligible utterances). In western societies, spiritualism commonly means the practice of communicating with the spirits of the dead through a medium in séances (spiritualists' meeting) or with a ouija board.” (The MacMillan Encyclopedia, 1994 edition). In addition, “Spiritualism declares that there is no death, no sin, no Judgment, no retribution; that ‘men are unfallen demigods:’ that desire is the highest law; and that man is accountable only to himself.” (PP p.688). Therefore, God said, “Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them;” “for all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord.” (Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:12)

Important Clarification

In the Bible, the words “spirit” and “soul” are not one. They don't mean the same. “Spirit” is the **BREATH OF LIFE**, while “soul” (in a strict sense) is a combination of **DUST** and **BREATH OF LIFE**. “The Lord God formed man of the **dust** of the ground, and breathed

into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and man became a **living soul**.” (Genesis 2:7). This is an important clarification for we often associate “spirit” with “soul” and vice versa. In death, “The dust return to the earth as it was: and the **SPIRIT** shall return unto God who gave it.” (Ecclesiastes 12:7). It is **NOT THE SOUL** that returns to God, but rather, the **SPIRIT** only – the life or the vital current – which He gave. The direct opposite of this is Satan's sermon – “Ye shall not surely die” – or what is known as the “doctrine of natural immortality of soul.” “The doctrine of natural immortality, first borrowed from the pagan philosophy, and in the darkness of the great apostasy incorporated into the Christian faith, has supplanted the truth, so plainly taught in Scripture, that “the dead know not anything.” (GC p. 551)

Implication

In The Philippine Setting

Spiritual manifestations (paramdam), spirit of the glass, coin, etc., white/black lady, white/black magic, aswang, dwarves, kapre, ingkanto, and many more depending upon how you call them, simply, are just Satan himself or his evil angels working directly or indirectly on them. Fortune tellers of today (believed to evolve from “witchcraft” – the means of explaining human misfortune, refers to harmful or beneficent magic such as that of healers and seers) are Satan's counterfeit of God's ancient prophets.

Note: All the references below are all authored by Ellen G. White. (EW) – Early Writings; (1 SP) – Spirit of prophecy Vol. 1; (PP) – Patriarchs and Prophets; (GC) – The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan. Amen

Edward John Timonera Jr., Philippines

The Past, Present And Future

The time that God has given us can be divided into three parts, the past, present and the future.

Some people live in the past, thinking of the great accomplishments they made years ago. Others live in the future, dreaming of great things they plan to do in the coming years. But often the present is neglected. Yet today is the most important time for us. Yesterday is gone, and tomorrow is not in our hands.

We are very wise when we think of the past. We know exactly what to do.

1. In the Garden of Eden we would not eat of the tree of knowledge.
2. In the time of Noah we would be the first ones to enter the ark.
3. In the time of Moses we would not murmur, nor join with Korah, Dathan and Abiram.
4. When the king of the Moabites invited the Israelites to their feast, we would not go, but remain in the camp.
5. We would not worship the idols as the old Israel did. We would remain loyal to the God of heaven.
6. We would not bow down to the golden image of Babylon.
7. In the time of Christ we would follow Him all the way and listen to every word He spoke.
8. In 1844 we would not feel disappointed but trust in God and continue to study the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation.

9. How wise would we be in the future? We would not obey the Sunday laws, but rather go to prison or death even for it.

10. In the latter rain we would leave everything and start to proclaim the Sabbath more fully.

11. In the shaking time we would remain with the faithful remnant.

12. In the time of persecution we would love our enemies and pray for them.

In all these twelve points we would be very wise and faithful.

But how is it today? Are we faithful in every point today?

The first one was, we would not eat of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Sister White writes, "Worldly books have led thousands where Satan led Adam and Eve—to the tree of knowledge which God has forbidden us to eat." Test. Vol. 6, p. 163.



The Worship Of God With Music

"For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8,9

When the heart is totally yielded to God it is possible to understand His ways. We need to discover another element of being in tune with God so that we can be submissive by understanding and knowledge.

The Worship of Today

Every time I worship God and when I'm asked to lead out in worship, one question that keeps me on the alert is – is my worship acceptable to God? There are many people that worship, but while they imagine that they are worshiping God they are in all reality worshipping self. They create an atmosphere in their worship time that is pleasing and entertaining to themselves.

This is the reason why the churches today say – look, times have changed and the way we worship God today is different to the way people worshipped in the past. People that worship God from their own ideas will believe worship has changed; but all who worship God in spirit and in truth do not ask whether they worship God in the way they enjoy it, but the way in which it is pleasing to God. We need to adjust our hearts as to what is a pleasure to God.

In Spirit and In Truth

The way of worshipping God in a manner that we think is worshipping Him correctly, but is not, is addressed by Jesus. Here is a dialogue that Jesus had with the woman at the well. She recognized that He was a prophet and she came directly to the point of the problem amongst the worshipers who claimed to be worshippers of God.

"Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father." John 4:20, 21

"You worship you know not what." Have you ever thought about these words? How many people worship, creating an atmosphere of worship but they are not in tune with the one they are worshipping but their own imagination.

Jesus said to the Samaritan, "Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews." John 4:22

God had raised Judah and the others went wrong, but they continued to worship but they know not what. Jesus also said that the same thing is going to happen to the Jews.

marriage you face many difficulties and adversities but in marriage you have to be patient and understanding and forgiving. Sometimes our husbands forget birthdays or anniversaries and we hope that the next year they will remember, because we love them. Marriage is to have someone say good night to, and someone to wake up to in the morning. Finding that someone is there for you, marriage is to grow old together and walk together. **Amen.**

Lucy Flores, Canada



Conference in Australia 2009



Television programmes, movies, and the Internet bring us the knowledge of evil which pollutes our minds and thoughts.

David writes, "He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil." Ps. 36:4.

Instead of abhorring evil he wants to watch it for entertainment, and so evil loses its sinfulness in his mind, and the process of sanctification stops and in the end he loses his faith completely.

The Bible is the bread of life, and worldly books and shows the forbidden fruit. Also, by eating unhealthy foods that God has forbidden, we commit the same sin that Adam and Eve did. For this sin they were cast out of paradise, and for the same sin we cannot enter in.

In the time of Noah we would be the first ones to enter into the ark. The ark separated the faithful family from the world, and saved them from destruction.

Today also God has provided an ark of safety, which is His church.

"The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world." AA 11

Many religious people perished in the flood because they were not inside the ark. Some may have had their own boats, but they also perished in the storm.

Today there are many who do not think that they have to be members of the church. They trust that God will save them being alone.

"By ignoring the authority of the church, they show contempt for God, who gave to the church its authority." AA 306

In the time of Moses we would not murmur like the people of Israel did. We would be like Joshua and Caleb, trusting fully in the protection of God.

Because they murmured they could not enter into the Promised Land. We are also traveling to the land of heavenly Canaan. God is leading His people. Every minute of our life is planned by God.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28.

Even trials and sorrows are in the plan of God in order to make us perfect. God tested Job. The Sabaeans came and killed his servants and took away his sheep. The Chaldeans took away his camels. Satan was behind these disasters, but Job said, "God gave and God has taken away." It was in the plan of God to send His people into captivity in Babylon. God planned for Paul to be in prison and

to suffer a martyr's death.

Nothing can happen to the children of God without Him permitting it. Somehow all trials have a purpose to develop our characters for heaven.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Tim. 3:12

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith being much more precious than that of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Pet. 1:6, 7

If we are dissatisfied with the leading of God, and complain, He will leave us alone. Then who can save us?

When the king of the Moabites invited the people of Israel to a feast, we would not have gone, but remained in the camp. But would we go to Christmas parties or celebrations when invited, where worldly conversation goes on and worldly music is played?

When old Israel joined in the feast of the Moabites, in one day 23,000 died.

"And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." 2 Cor. 6:15, 17

We would not worship the idols of heathen lands, but do we worship the idols of modern times? Money is an idol to many, also entertainment and television. One of the greatest idols is selfishness. People worship themselves. Whatever we love more than God is an idol to us.

We would not fall down before the golden statue of Babylon when everyone else worshipped it. But when we are in a company of people there is a great danger to fall to peer pressure, to follow others, and not to be different.

We sing in our gospel song, "Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone! Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known!"

In the time of Christ we would follow Him and listen to every word He spoke. But do we follow Him today? Jesus comes to every church meeting, including the Wednesday night prayer meetings, but do we follow Him to these meetings? Jesus did missionary work every day. Just how often do we follow Him in this work of soul saving?

In 1844, we would not be disappointed even that Christ did not come as was expected. Many times our expectations are not fulfilled and there is a danger to feel disappointed, but if we trust in God and His



leading then whatever happens we know is for our best.

We are very wise in the future also. We will go to prison and to death even, rather than obey the Sunday laws. Peter was very wise and said to Christ, "I am ready to go with Thee, both into prison, and to death" Luke 22:33, but that same night, three times he denied that he even knew Christ. If we love the Sabbath so much that we are ready to die for it, then it is so precious to us today that we would not speak our own words on that day nor spend it in sleeping.

In the latter rain we would leave everything and start preaching the last message of God to the world. This can be true only if we do it today. The latter rain will not give us the burden for souls, we must have it before.

In the shaking time we would remain with the faithful remnant, we would choose the right side. But this is not possible. We must choose today whom we will serve. The shaking separates people according to their choice today.

In the time of persecution we would love and pray for our enemies. It is possible if we can do it today. If someone bothers you and irritates you, and you still care for them and speak with them, and express your love to them now, then you can do it to your persecutors also, who are out to kill you.

All these twelve points are conditions for our salvation.

We may be very wise about what to do in the past and also what to do in the future, but are we wise in what to do today?

Paul writes, "Now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2

"Today if you will hear His voice, Harden not your hearts." Heb. 3: 7, 8

"Grieve not the Holy Spirit by delay." Test. Vol.8, p. 56

Our time is very short; we do not have even one moment to lose. Soon there will be silence, and Jesus will not call us any more.

Let us wake up from the sleep, and make our salvation sure, while mercy is still lingering. **AMEN**

Timo Martin, Canada



Marriage Is To Have Someone Beside You

Jo and Paul's plus, the room

On our 17th anniversary January 16, 2010:

In the Church Manual, on page 113 it says that the Creator of man Himself instituted the sacred marriage covenant; the Sabbath and marriage are monuments from Paradise. "The family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred, of any on earth. It was designed to be a blessing to mankind. And it is a blessing, whenever the marriage covenant is entered into intelligently, in the fear of God, and with due consideration for its responsibilities."

Ten years ago my marriage was falling apart; divorce was knocking at our door. But the love and mercy of God was there, and God in His mercy brought me from that terrible fire where I was burning. "Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" Zechariah 3: 2. How wonderful is the love of God. In difficulties and trouble God is always there looking out for us. I was so tired of the world, confused and scared and the only thought that I had at that moment was divorce; social workers and lawyers told me that it was the right thing to do. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matthew 19: 6.

We often say if you love something let it go, and if it comes back it is yours, but if it doesn't come back it never was yours. However I'm glad that we didn't let go of our marriage. What happened then seems like it was yesterday and now we are very close to our 17th anniversary. I am happy to see my children growing in a home with both parents; I'm happy that I put behind me the anger and the pain that I was going through. I'm glad that at that time I listened to the word of God and it was God that gave me the strength that I needed to keep going in my marriage. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13

Still sometimes there are troubles, struggles, ups and downs. Sometimes I see black and he sees white, and sometimes I see things full and he sees them empty; sometimes he wants to run and I just want to walk; sometimes I want to see far away and He sees very close; I'm a dreamer and he's a doer; I'm an optimist and he's a realist; He talks and I listen. Opposites are very common in marriage but with the love of God all things work together "For with God nothing will be impossible." Luke 1:37

When I had just gotten married I thought that we were going to live happily ever after, but now I know that this was only the beginning of living a different life, a life of sharing, a life of caring, a life of giving your best, a life to fight for what you believe, a life that you want to prove that you gave your heart, your love and your life.

Marriage is to have someone beside you, whom you can talk to, or listen to, or someone who can comfort you and that you can cry with, or wipe your tears away. In marriage, you share, give and provide and sometimes that sharing and giving and caring does not seem to be reciprocal but it doesn't matter, because it is a union of love. Thus, marriage is to have someone that you can call anytime, or write notes to; even if they forget to open them. Sometimes, in

pleasure. "Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them." "And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God." Ezek 20:12, 20. "The Sabbaths belong to Christ." (DA 288). "He calls you to reckon with your soul and see how you stand before God." (6T 356). "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb 4:16. We have a compassionate High Priest – so hold fast!

God Is In It!

Many, however, vacantly and mockingly look at the Sabbath as any other day of the week, but, remember – God is inside of it – it is Holy and Blessed! It sets us apart for Holy reasons, and Holy uses. "The first day of the week is not because of Christ's resurrection." (SBC 1113). Furthermore, the Sabbath is in fact and essence, an experience of sanctification. The Sabbath is set aside as property of God and allows the Holy Spirit to work within the believers. Ah! "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Matt. 24:20, 21.

But remember, "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." Mark 2:27,28. It is abundantly clear that man was created before the Sabbath and not after ... for man's benefit! It is the only day that God claims for His own; we have the remaining six days; it is God's sign of His love.

In the Roman invasion of Judea, in 66-70 A.D., and siege, the gates were closed. There was, however, a brief period in which the Roman soldiers strangely withdrew. At that precise sign, the Israelite believers at God's leading fled the city to safety. Those who ignored this warning sign and remained were unmercifully slaughtered when the Romans returned.

Habitual Custom

Although Jesus was rejected at Nazareth, "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read." Luke 4:16.

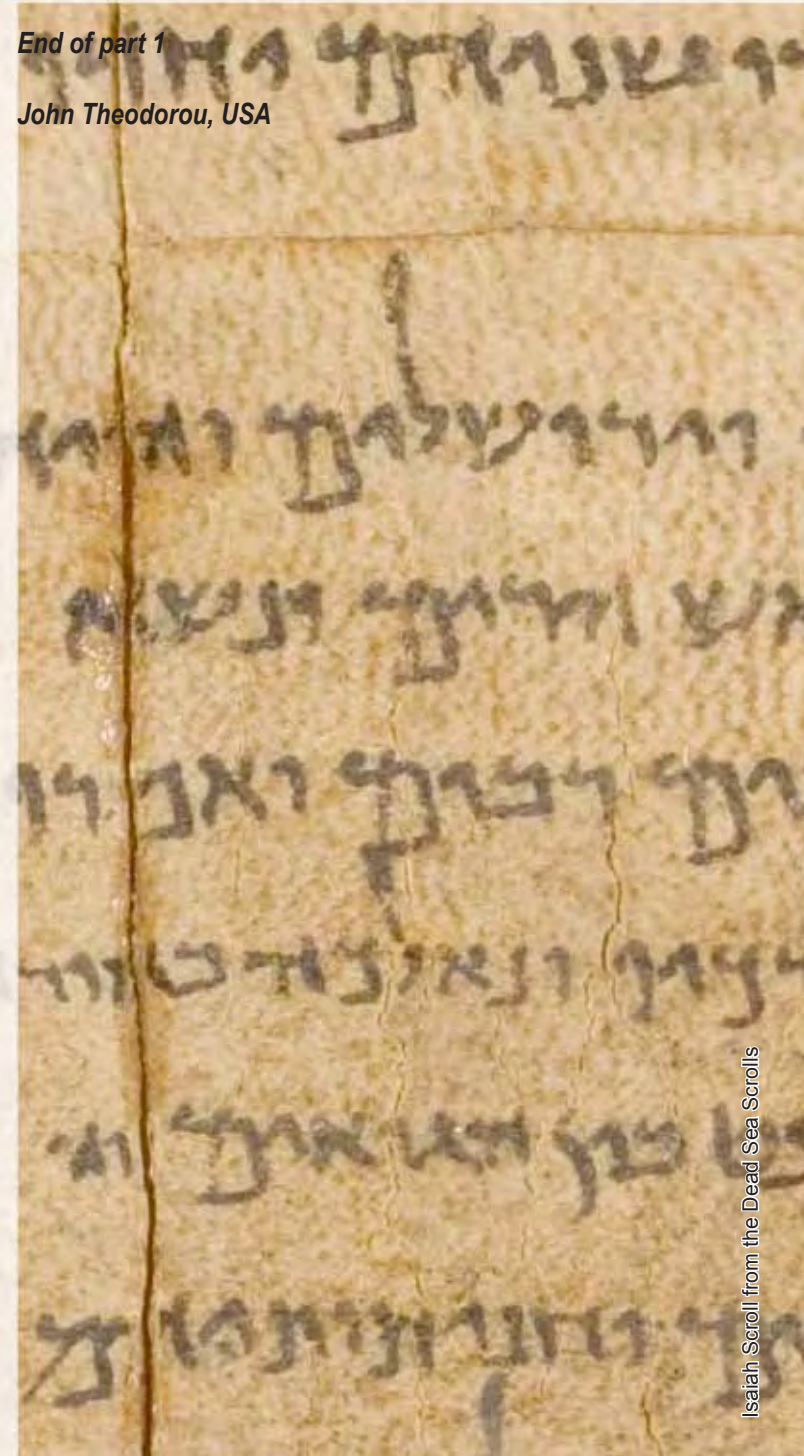
In the final words of Isaiah's prophetic ministry in his message of hope that the Messiah is coming as a Saviour and a Sovereign to bear a cross and wear a crown, the Sabbath is given prominence in perpetuity. "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one

new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD." Isaiah 66:22, 23. But, worship without obedience is unacceptable to God.

All things will be made new; the New Jerusalem will be coming down out of heaven from God prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, and the glory of the New Jerusalem will be manifested. That time is near, for the Lord said, "And, behold, I come quickly." (Rev 22:12). The faithful believers, followers, children of God, will have a home in the city and a home in the country! "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14:23. **AMEN.**

End of part 1

John Theodorou, USA



Isaiah Scroll from the Dead Sea Scrolls

To The Ephesians And To Us As Well

Apostle Paul worked intensely to take people to Jesus and to found churches. He worked during three years in Ephesus where he suffered much unrighteousness. The city was consecrated to a pagan deity and the craftsmen who made quite a profit thanks to the worship of idols rose against the man who brought a new doctrine. But the Lord rewarded Paul's courage and efforts and finally a church was organized in Ephesus. Even people who dealt with sorcery were converted and burnt their books publicly. Such a power has God's word to change the mind and life of a person!

In the Holy Scriptures we find two letters to the Ephesians, the one written by Paul and the other one sent by Jesus Himself through His servant John.

Paul mentions six important points in his letter to the believers in Ephesus to explain that the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ had blessed them richly. These points are valid for all believers in all times.

1. He has chosen us that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love (1:4)
2. According to the good pleasure of His will, He has predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ (1:5)
3. In Jesus, by grace, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins (1:7)
4. He made known to us the mystery of His will (1:9)
5. In Him we also have an inheritance (1:11)
6. In Him, after we believed, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise

These six points are six experiences with God's grace. He chose us before the foundation of the world. The Lord knew in advance what would happen on this planet and in spite of it He created it. Satan could not frustrate God's plan. The Lord knew in advance what would happen with each one of us, what sins we would fall into, what trials and sufferings we would go through and in spite of it He granted us life because He chose us to be testimonies of His grace. He loved the fallen planet so much that he gave His only begotten Son in order to save it, and thus turned it into a spectacle to the other worlds and to the angels. Each inhabitant of this planet should have a personal experience with God's love because only thus can he understand that he was chosen to lead a sanctified life with the power received from above and for the glory of God.

The psalmist who made this experience writes, "Blessed [is the man whom] thou chooseth, and causeth to approach [unto thee, that] he may dwell in thy courts." Psalm 65:4. The earth is the courtyard of God's temple, there, where the Son of God shed His blood for us as the Lamb of God. "Blessed is the man whom you choose." What can we say? Thank you Lord that Your ways are not my ways.

Before I understood that I had been chosen to lead a sanctified life, my ways, my plans, my life were completely different. My highest ambition was to live in the center of a polluted capital city having all

cultural events and gourmet centers within reach of hand; and from there, to travel in all directions to discover the beauties of this world. But the Lord had a completely different plan for me, and today I am happy with my simple life in nature and the vivid hope of eternal life in the Paradise of God.

Another important experience is that we have the privilege of becoming His children, something He has predestined all people to be. If through the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart we understand that we are carnal and incapable of leading a pure and sanctified life, then we fervently desire to have a spiritual birth, to be born from above and to have eternal life as a reachable goal. The Lord is always ready and willing to make man free from the law of the flesh and to give him a new heart where His law is written. Paul writes to the Galatians, *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”* Galatians 4:6. What do we say after such experience? What the psalmist said centuries ago, *“Whom have I in heaven [but thee]? and [there is] none upon earth [that] I desire beside thee.”* Psalm 73:25. Are we still not satisfied with our condition? Then we have still not known the Father. To have the Creator of the Universe as a living and loving Father is something that our mind cannot grasp; that is why we need to experience it.

Some years after my baptism in 1988, I once landed on my bed quite disappointed with myself, and on the verge of despair. Although I had left the world, was baptized and was even active in God's vineyard I knew that I had not experienced the new birth, the change of heart, the metamorphosis of the mind. It was a terribly painful period of my life in which I would have rather died than continue to lead such a pseudo-Christian life. The book of Job was my greatest consolation. The Lord, in His great mercy heard the plea of my soul and His Spirit gave testimony to my spirit that I was His child. What a joy!

The third experience that Paul mentions to the Ephesians is that through Jesus' blood we have forgiveness of sin and redemption. This is another wonderful experience that we all need to make: To be washed clean, to have the burden taken off our shoulders, to have the sickness of our soul healed! *“Blessed [is he whose] transgression [is] forgiven, [whose] sin [is] covered. Blessed [is] the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit [there is] no guile,”* writes David in Psalm 32:1, 2, after he experienced the depth of God's grace. The remembrance of his evil deeds tortured him day and night, but when he confessed his sins without trying to justify himself or to blame others, he was immediately set free. *“There is power in the blood”,* we often sing, and experience even more often. *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* John 8:36.

It was so difficult for me to be set free from my self-righteousness in spite of all the preaching I had heard and all the books I had read that the Lord, in His grace, revealed to me His flowing blood in a dream. Today, when my ego lifts up its ugly head, and my righteousness

takes the place that should be occupied by mercy and love, I feel a deep disappointment and soon comes the remembrance of this verse, *“I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?”* Song of Solomon 5:3. Jesus should be my Righteousness at all times.

The fourth stage of this Christian ladder is that God, in His great mercy reveals to us His holy will. His will is a mystery to a carnal mind that is why He gives us a new birth before He personally makes known to us His holy will. Paul tries to make the carnal Corinthian church understand the wonders that God has prepared to all who believe in Jesus and trust Him. *“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”* 1 Corinthians 2:9. How many times is this verse quoted, but how little longing does it arouse in the hearts of the majority of believers! Why? Paul explains it in the next verse, *“God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit...”* 1 Corinthians 2:10. We all have the privilege of having God's holy will revealed to us, of living on earth with our thoughts in heaven, of walking on the dusty roads of this world longing for the golden streets in the New Jerusalem.

When this marvelous mystery was revealed to my heart I lost all interest in visiting places on our lovely planet unless it were to tell others about what God in His gracious kindness has prepared for us. When we set our goal there where our heavenly Father wants to take us, then all the treasures of this world lose their glamour.

The fifth point that Paul refers to when writing to the Ephesians is that through Jesus Christ we have obtained an inheritance. Peter explains what kind of an inheritance that is, *“incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”* 1 Peter 1:4. Peter, as well as Paul had had a revelation of the mystery of God's will and with his spiritual eyes could see the inheritance the Lord had prepared for everyone that loves His appearing. In verse 3 he thanks *“God Father”* who *“according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again...”* which in other languages is translated as *“gave us a new birth”* so that we may have a living hope in what is reserved for us in heaven.

The nicest trips that I have taken in my life were the missionary trips I took after I gave my life to Jesus in which I told other people what the Lord has prepared for us. I cannot conceive of any other kind of trip for myself. *“Blessed [is] the nation whose God [is] the Lord; [and] the people [whom] he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”* Psalm 33:12.

The last point but not least that Paul wants us to remember is that from the moment we heard the good news and believed, we had been sealed with the Spirit of promise. When we accept Jesus Christ with our whole heart, the Holy Spirit is given to us to guide us in the whole truth and help us live according to the light. To be sealed with the Holy Spirit means that we belong to God, that we are His possession, bought at a high price, and He prepares us for

2. BLESSED – Blessedness is a virtue, a special gift and in favor with God. “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.” Psalm 1:1,2. A special blessing is pronounced upon persons who faithfully keep the Sabbath Day. Blessed speaks well of one; a favored one. It spoke well of Adam and Eve, as God spoke well of the Sabbath Day to them. They were refreshed. The Sabbath shows who are God's people; recognizing people, setting them apart, who keep it as His chosen people. “Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.” Psalm 118:26.

3. SANCTIFIED – (Holiness) For God's people the Sabbath is sanctification. “It was made sacred at creation.”(MM 215). And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.” Rev 11:19. This solemnly sanctified and holy event signaled the entering of Jesus Christ from the Holy place of the Sanctuary to the Most Holy. It was the prophetic stance of the 2300 year prophecy in which Jesus Christ began His judgmental ministry before the throne of grace in Heaven. “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” Rev. 11:15.

The Day of Atonement for man begins when the High Priest (Jesus) enters the Most Holy Place in the Heavenly Sanctuary, where our sanctity is being weighed in the “heavenly balances” as Jesus intercedes in our behalf before His Father at the throne of grace. We can assume this heavenly sanctity by approaching the Sabbath sanctity into perpetuity! “If the Word of God is cherished as an abiding principle in the heart, and held fast under all and every circumstance, man is brought with his entrusted capabilities, under subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ. His undivided powers, even his thoughts are brought into captivity to Christ. This is true sanctification.”(Heav.PI.190). The Sabbath too, is an outward sign or one test of our faithfulness; “pointing men to Him as Creator” (PP307).

Ah! But at the end of the 2300 prophetic days of prophecy Jesus did not return, and many were disappointed. John “ate the little book out of the angel's hand and it was sweet as honey but became bitter, as he said to John, “you must prophesize again.”(Rev 10:11.12). “For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” 1Tim 4:5. But, in hard times, we need to plea for purity. “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour.” 1Thess 4:4. What have you known? “He recognizes people who keep the Sabbath as His chosen people.” 6T 350. “He sanctifies His people.” PK 179. The Sabbath shows who are God's people; and serve God apart from the disobedient.

Measuring Reed

But how is this shown? “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.” Rev. 11:1. You see, the reed in measuring the temple is a standard, being the Ten Commandments, and with staff in hand is the standard of judgment. The reed measures the Temple and the reed is measured by the Ten Commandments in the Ark of the Covenant. The Ten Commandments are now in Heaven, but still valid and viable today; the first four regarding God and the latter six regarding man. They will never change. “Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.”Ps 119:89.That means, in fact, all Ten Commandments, the Sabbath commandment, is “legally” and unquestionably valid today!” “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” Jam 2:10. “The fourth commandment, the false and spurious Sabbath (Sunday) is exalted in and given the place of the true Sabbath.”6T 18. “The rule of judgment is God's Law.”PP 349.

“The worshippers of the beast are distinguished by efforts to tear it down.” GC 446. Furthermore, it clearly distinguishes His commandment keeping people from the world and those who serve God; and from those who are obedient from the disobedient to God. “For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.” (Heb. 2:11). “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith ; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height and to know the love of Christ, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph. 3:14-21).

Trampled!

The Sabbath Day, the charged Fourth Commandment, embellished with truth and purity, has been ruthlessly trampled on for centuries; trodden down by unholy feet! “Worshippers of the beast are distinguished by efforts to tear it down.”(GC 446). “The seven last plagues will fall on persons trampling the Sabbath.” (EW 65). It has, furthermore, been nearly forgotten, neglected and idiotically misunderstood. It is time that it becomes restored again to its rightful and sanctified place. It can, in fact, be faithfully revitalized in the hearts of so many troubled and stormy souls... but how... um?

The answer is simply by applying the following verses to your life:

“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD.” Isaiah 58:13,14. Take your feet off the Sabbath Day! Cease to trample on it, and stop treating it as a common thing! But, treat it as a delight, of intense and lasting

grapes are fully ripe... and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." Rev. 14:14-20.

Jesus' fiercest, but righteous wrath is finally manifested upon humanity in a foul and unspeakable blood bath in the end. "And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God." (Ezek 20:20). We need such a Lord; such a God; hallowed be His name!

Remembrance Commemorates

"The Sabbath points to Christ as our Creator, Sanctifier, and only True God." (DA288; 2SM107). He is truly worthy of worship! He says, "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). "Remember" – has to do with a "love relationship!" God does not force, or intimidate one into "remembering" or "KEEPING THE SABBATH DAY!" He is, however, continually reminding, inviting, urging us to relate to the Three Angel's Message and to remember this relationship and commemorate it on the Sabbath Day by virtue of the fourth commandment, the longest and brightest of all the commandments. Mankind's Creator is calling people to remember Him as the "Life-giver!"

J. N. Andrews, the inspiring author of "The History Of The Sabbath" (Chapter 27), and the first missionary to England, cites the "Memorial of Creation," which keeps at the forefront as the ever present and true reason for "KEEPING THE SABBATH DAY!" and therefore, why worthy and reverent worship is due God. The Sabbath is the foundation of such divine worship on His, the Memorial Day of His Creation." If we passionately worship God, we outwardly and faithfully keep the commandments of God, obey God and remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy; exalting in such worship weekly – lifelong! By reminding us that He is our Creator, we naturally enter into an intimate relationship of remembrance with Him.

The celebrated Taj Mahal of India is a shrine of remembrance exacting worship from millions of followers. The popularly visited shrine of the "weeping icon of Mother Mary" on the isolated island of Tinos, Greece is an immortalized shrine of remembrance to thousands of visitors yearly. Our worship is to a living God; eternal and powerful.

Who's Slave Are You?

Are you cynically or ignorantly bowing in idolatrous worship to the beast, honoring him, tithing and offering to the beast, defiling the Sabbath Day, or exalting the true God and renouncing the beast and the false prophet and its ritualized false worship? (Rev. 14:9,10). "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon (Satan), having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads (pagan Rome). And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven (angels), and did cast them to the

earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child (Jesus) as soon as it was born." Rev. 12:3, 4. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Rom. 6:16

God, the Father in Heaven is a living, faultless, unalterable God and Creator. He can be clearly recognized by His creation. He makes something, and then fills it! The earth was without light and He filled it with light. The earth and land was dry and void, and He filled it with water, fish and marine life. He filled the earth with birds, trees, plants, and living creatures. God said, "Let us make man," and He filled him with the breath of life. Six days He made, day and night, the sun, moon and the stars. Ah! But on the seventh day... He rested. God makes the day and fills it always with something... even rest! (Gen 1:1-31; 2:1-3). There's power and love in this rest! Inexhaustible rest!

Elements Of The Sabbath

1. RESTED – Does not mean incapacitated by exhaustion; (often as the Sabbath approaches); this also applies to undue spiritual exhaustion which can prostrate and diminish your effectiveness to serve the Lord and may ultimately destroy your physical health and salvation; a rest heavy-laden with burdens; family, personal matters, work, self-dependence, doctrinal confusion and unbelief, can lead to destruction.

A famous mountain climber was caught in a fierce snowstorm as he neared the summit. Blinded by the snow and winds, he slipped and fell into a deep crevice. As he plummeted to a certain death a mysterious rope appeared, which he quickly grabbed, stopping his fall. A "quiet -- still voice" then came forth saying, "Let go!" He was afraid, and clung even tighter in the cold darkness, refusing to obey the command. In the morning a rescue party found the climber – frozen dead, still clinging to the rope – only six inches from the earth and safety! He refused to "Let go." Obey that "quiet – still voice!" Let go – let God! There is merit in F.D. Roosevelt's quote, too, "when you come to the end of your rope tie a knot and hang on." Only stop trying to finish God's work on your own! God is trying to find people to finish His work. Let Him! I cannot, but He can if you let Him through you and I as channels of light! Be ready to submit to another "Authority," and work together.

"The Sabbath is a commemoration of God's rest." (PP 111). People can come out of the turbulent world to enter into that Heavenly rest. The Three Angel's Message grimly cries out. "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev 18:4. It's their choice, their decision... your choice, your decision! "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Heb 4:1.

the eternal home.

The Holy Spirit should be poured in its plenitude at the end of times, in our times, upon those who follow the Lord faithfully. The angel with the inkpot will soon or is maybe already flying in the midst of Jerusalem ready to place a mark upon those who grieve not only for the condition of the world, but of the Laodicean church. From the millions of Christians in the whole world there will come out only a remnant. In order to receive the definite sealing and be ready for translation, each one of us should have made the above-mentioned experiences: the repentance of his sins, a new birth, the revelation of the mystery of God's will, have a unique goal, and lead a sanctified life. I close with the verse in Matthew 19:26, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." **Amen.**

Teresa Corti



Chef @ General Conference Headquarters





My personal experience at the International Youth Conference in Kenya

By the grace of God, I was privileged to attend the first international youth conference in Africa. It was the first time in my life traveling not only to Kenya but also to the continent of Africa. The total travel time from Toronto, Canada to Nairobi, Kenya via Istanbul, Turkey was around 21 hours including 3 hours of delay. Regrettably, Sister Edda, who is also from Canada and who arrived a few days before I did, Brother Peter Omwoyo (Union Treasurer), and Brother Nashon Ouma (Union Secretary) had to wait for me for more than three hours from early morning at the airport to pick me up. Thanks to the brothers who had patiently waited for such a long time at the airport almost every day, everyone arrived safely to the conference. The weather in Kenya reminded me of early summer in Canada. I always thought that Africa was extremely hot and humid, and like a jungle. Unlike my imagination, the weather was fairly comfortable, neither cold nor hot. Besides, just before I left for Kenya, the temperature dropped down to -20C in Toronto, with the wind chill.

On the day I arrived, I was taken to the Union headquarters which is about a half hour distance from Nairobi. There I realized for the first time that water is very precious in Africa. Though the room on the second floor was well equipped with a bathtub, washstand, and toilet, no water came from the tap. According to what I heard, the city cut down water during construction of a road but they never restored it to its original state. Therefore, water had to be brought from a well outside to the second floor and stored in the bathtub for every day use. I pray God that the water supply may be reconnected as soon as possible.

Since I arrived there three days before the conference began, I had a chance to go to see the sights of the city of Nairobi. In downtown of Nairobi, there was a health clinic called Jared Omari's clinic that was run by our church members. I heard that many people in Nairobi are suffering from diabetes because of their improper diet and that there's good potential for medical missionary work. Brother Jadiel Githira Mwangi who works at the clinic as a medical missionary told me that they have many challenges. First of all poverty is hindering them from doing many things. Secondly, they need the Spirit of Prophecy books and study Bibles. And lastly, they also need electronics such as computers. I promised him that I would support the work whenever I became capable of doing so. I believe that God will provide means wherever there's necessity and faith.

One day Brother Fred Ayunga (Assistant Youth Director of Kenya Union) showed me around Kenyatta University from which he graduated recently. While we were having a good African vegetarian meal at the campus cafeteria, I was introduced to one of Fred's friends, Milton, who is an Adventist. He asked me about the difference between the SDA church and the Reform church. Due to the lack of time, I briefly explained to him how the separation came during the war in Europe in 1914, as well as the rejection of Christ's righteousness message in 1888. Later, Milton came one day to the conference, and had a conversation with Brother Giner. I hope that he continues his interest in the reformation and keeps in

heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb." Rev 14:6-10.

Thunderously Loud

Now, why is the first angel proclaiming this turbulent message in a loud voice? Why, so ALL HUMANITY can hear; "to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people." (v-6). It is to awaken and move souls to the urgency of it! In essence it's crying out to, "fear God, give glory to Him and worship Him." Ah! But the second angel does not exude its message in a loud voice! Why? Because it's merely a matter of fact statement of the repulsiveness of Babylon – a melting pot of obscenities: Papal power, wickedness, confusion, evil, false religions, faith arising from lies and errors, self-dependency, traditions, ritual, ceremonial, formalism, self-righteous pomposity, spiritualism, and all of these depicting its ultimate destruction because of its fornicating seduction of all nations. Its fall is imminent! But, the third angel again proclaims its message in a loud voice – another clearly implied warning, "if anyone worships the beast and his image, he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone."(v-10). Sober, compelling, frightful, message! Are you listening?

Love And The Law

But, isn't God the pinnacle of love? Yes! Yes! Yes! "We love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19. "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome (grievous-NKJV)." 1 John 5:3. Another blessing; "If ye love me, keep My commandments." John 14:15. You see, love is the foundation of the Law... that we thereby rejoice in it... His love. He cannot bless us if we are not attuned to His voice, His love, His Law, His warnings, as "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." Proverbs 28:9. We worship this God, the Creator, on the Sabbath Day – the fourth commandment, and not idols! "For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens." Psalm 96:5. Who is this Creator to be worshipped? "For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else." Isaiah 45:18. We rejoice, therefore, reverentially in worship of such a Creator... in love.

Beast Or Creator?

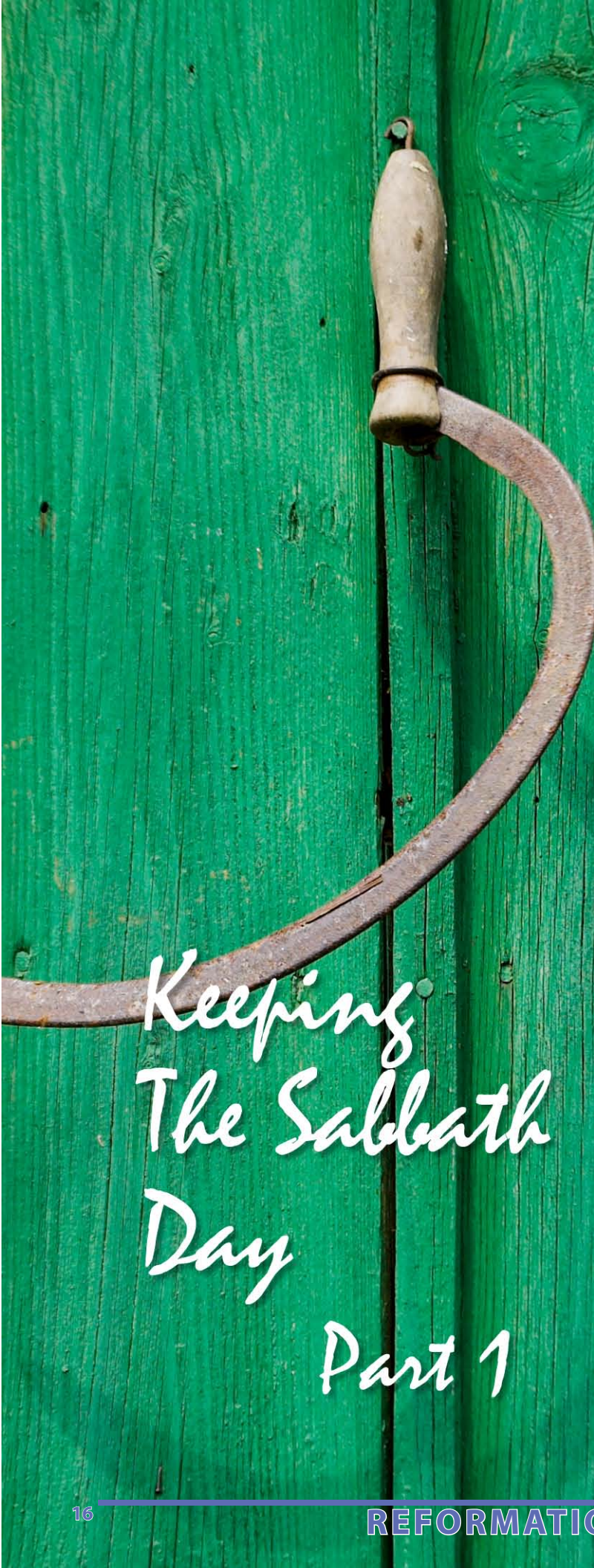
We need this kind of God, a powerful God who created us and "recreates us," into His image and can impart to us a new spiritual life. He is a Worshipful Master, worthy of worship, who can recreate us as we approach Him and the throne of grace in worship. He therefore, lovingly calls us to worship, "to remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." In essence we are entering the throne room of Heaven when we give honor and glory to Him on the Sabbath Day, as His Holy presence and Spirit descends and pervades the earthly sanctuary, the church, and congregation on the Sabbath Day. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Rev 4:11

Ah! But "whoever worships the beast and his image and whoever receives the mark of his name, the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."(Rev 14:11). The dragon (Satan) gave him (the beast) his power, his throne, and great authority. Whose commandments, therefore, are you worshipping, the beast or the Creator? "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Mark 7:7. You see, worship without obedience is not acceptable to God! "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Col 2:8).

Sharp Sickles

Ah! But a special group of people is presented here who are proclaiming the Three Angel's Message, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Rev 14:12). They are proclaiming the last warning message in the "Landscape of Humanity!" Ah! But only those who are prepared and ready to receive Jesus Christ; many groups assembling from the far corners of the extended world, proclaiming the Three Angel's Message, loudly and with fervor! John, the old sage of Patmos saw this awesome scene, which was divinely penned by his scribe for us to relish, abide, and... prepare to receive Him!

Yet, John, furthermore, saw another angel reaping the Earth's Harvest and the Grapes of Wrath with a sharp sickle! "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe... And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her



Keeping The Sabbath Day Part 1

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11

Landscape Of Humanity

Who created the Sabbath Day? Why Jesus Christ! (John 1:1-3, 10, 14). By worshipping God our Creator on the Sabbath Day, the seventh day of the week, we are blessed with an illuminating "Landscape of Humanity." Why do I say this? Well, in this rich "Landscape" is revealed an urgent message – the Three Angel's Message. One cannot separate the Sabbath from the Three Angel's Message; nor, in fact from the Ten Commandments. They all work together; beaming with promises, encouragement, and.... grim warnings. In essence it is a hard message, an unpopular message, a message not understood by many and pitifully ignored. It's a terse message that portends of disastrous consequences, and faint hope for doubting unbelievers. The nominal churches do not preach this message. The SDA church, the presumed guardian of the Law and the Three Angel's Message scantily preach it from the pulpits. For many souls it is too hard to bear. Ah! But upon this message and the Law precariously hangs the destiny of humanity! So, why a cloak of darkness?

But first, angels mainly function as messengers of God; announcing births and deaths, as guardians, and can appear to people in time of need, comforting, in unseen presence, in almost any form. Although they dwell in heaven their earthly visits are not always benevolent. Biblical angels not only comfort and heal, but they can also wage warfare, lay siege to cities, and kill people! The Archangel, Michael (Jesus Christ) is the leader of God's army, destroying armies with His awesome powers and flaming sword, reaping and wielding with a sharp sickle the wrath of God. Ah! But another angel, the most infamous being Satan, was cast out of heaven. In Greek mythology, Satan started his own "outfit" just across the river Styx! So what then is this solemn Proclamation of the Three Angels? What is their mission; their warning cries to humanity? What is the connection to the Sabbath Day in commemoration of God's rest? We'll see. Proceed.

Three Angel's Message

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God (Heb-reverence), and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made

contact with our brethren in Kenya.

The conference was held in a modern university called Nazarene. Overall, the facility was very comfortable and the food served by the university was delicious and much better than I expected. Since I myself love listening to music and singing, one particular thing I was looking forward to seeing in the conference was the African choir. I remembered listening to the ministers from Africa singing a few years ago in Mexico at the General Conference. I was very impressed by their harmonious melody. Thus my expectation was that the African youth would also present beautiful harmony with songs of praise to God. And indeed they were amazing. From Tanzanian Choirs to little children, I was blessed with their praises. Although I couldn't understand what they were singing about as most of them sang in Swahili or their local language, they sounded so beautiful that it gave me goose bumps. Not only were they good at singing but also were orderly and well-behaved as they were presenting.

"Singing is a part of the worship of God, but in the bungling manner in which it is often conducted, it is no credit to the truth, and no honor to God. There should be system and order in this as well as every other part of the Lord's work. Organize a company of the best singers, whose voices can lead the congregation, and then let all who will, unite with them. Those who sing should make an effort to sing in harmony; they should devote some time to practice, that they may employ this talent to the glory of God." – Evangelism, pg. 506

Another impressive point I noticed from the African youth was that their standard in dress reform was very high and well-kept, which all other youth should follow. They were the best dress reformers I have ever seen since I came to this church. Regardless of weather, time and place, they were wearing clothing like Christians, modest, neat and decent. Both men and women, their bodies were covered appropriately following the counsels in the Spirit of Prophecy. They were truly good examples for others including myself. In Kenya, as I walked along the streets, I noticed that people in general have a much better moral standard on dressing than people in the developed countries. I could hardly find people wearing shorts or sleeveless shirts in the city.

"The words of Scripture in regard to dress should be carefully considered. We need to understand that which the Lord of heaven appreciates in even the dressing of the body. All who are in earnest in seeking for the grace of Christ will heed the precious words of instruction inspired by God. Even the style of the apparel will express the truth of the gospel." – Evangelism, pg. 269

Unlike their youthful vigor, their attitude, behaviour and conversation were very mature. They were prudent in their conversions. Neither silly jokes nor rash actions were heard or seen among the youth. Even little children were very well-behaved during such long meetings. I could feel reverence manifested in every meeting.

"God wants something in return for this great sacrifice He has made in your behalf. He wants you to be Christians, not in name alone, but also in dress and conversation. He would have you be content to dress in modest apparel, not in ruffles and feathers and unnecessary trimmings. He wants you to make your manners attractive, such as Heaven can approve. Will you disappoint his expectations, dear youth?" – Messages to Young People, pg. 346

I have many other things to share including breathtaking wildlife scenes in the national parks, delicious tropical fruits, exotic souvenirs and many others. And if every one of them were written down, there won't be any space for other writings.

Lastly, I'd like to say that we truly need a revival and reformation among the youth, especially in the developed countries. We often don't appreciate the privileges we have. I'd like to encourage anyone to visit Africa to ascertain the great needs there and realize how blessed we are. The more we are blessed with means and talents, the more we are responsible for others. Dear fellow youth in Africa and all over the world, let us remember that we are given a great mission for the future and that we don't have any time to waste. Let us utilize every available medium to prepare ourselves for the great tribulation that is before us. Let us help and pray for one another. May God bless the youth all over the world. **Amen.**

Eric Han Beom Song, Youth in Toronto, Canada

LOOKING FOR YOU!!

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

By email to:
anjet@yahoo.com

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

- SUBMIT:**
- ARTICLES
 - POEMS
 - PHOTOS
 - DRAWINGS
 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Send All Photos & Illustrations To:
imspics@yahoo.com





Conference in Australia 2009