




The Reformation Messenger

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 4, APRIL 2010

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

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify
unto you these things in the churches.
I am the root and the offspring of David,
and the bright and morning star."

Revelation 22:16



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

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Youth at the Kenyan Youth
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The Reformation
Messenger

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Marriage was instituted by God in the beginning. It was to be a blessing to mankind. Jesus performed His first miracle at a marriage feast.

The home is to be the happiest place on earth. A home where Jesus is honoured, and where love reigns is a foretaste of our heavenly home.

But Satan is out to destroy this happy home life, and he has been very successful in it. There are millions of broken homes, and children live with only one parent. If the parents decide to stay together, there is still misery, unhappiness and constant arguments and fights.

The only chance for a perfect marriage is when both are truly converted and love God, and are filled with the Holy Spirit. To have a faithful Christian as a marriage partner can help us also to gain salvation and eternal life.

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward of their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." Eccl. 3:9, 10.

Therefore it is important to be very careful in choosing a marriage partner, because it will influence our happiness in this life and also to gain eternal life. But, often it happens that the marriage relation does break for many different reasons. Yet there is only one valid reason, which is adultery; but even in case of adultery, separation is not necessary. Sin can be forgiven and a life together can continue.

But if separation and divorce do occur, in the sight of God they are yet married. Jesus said, "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." Matt. 19:8.

Then Jesus explained further, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." Matt. 19:9.

This Bible verse has been understood and interpreted different ways. Jesus mentioned that a wife can be put away for fornication, but often it is done for other reasons, also. Now if anyone marries her which is put away for any reason at all, they commit adultery, whether she is guilty or innocent of adultery.

If we base our belief on one Bible verse only, then we might believe

eternal hell fire or an immortal soul. But we need to take the whole Bible as our guide, then the truth comes clear to us.

Jesus explained clearly this doctrine. "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." Mark 10: 11, 12.

"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband comitteth adultery." Luke 16:18.

Often wives were put away for trivial reasons. They had not committed fornication, yet their husbands divorced them and married another. Even then if anyone marries a woman that is innocent of fornication commits adultery. Paul agreed with this doctrine. He writes, "For woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress, though she be married to another man." Rom. 7:2, 3.

"And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." 1 Cor. 7:11, 12, 39.

The Bible is clear on this point.

Sister White wrote in private letters to some people to allow an exception, and marry again after divorce, but she writes clearly that, "do not take my private letters as correct counsel, only my books that I have written under inspiration. Even then if my writing differs from the Bible writing, then take the Bible as correct doctrine." Finally she said, "I will not answer any more letters about divorce and remarriage."

Until 1931, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church had a teaching that no second marriage is allowed, but then when they changed this teaching that the innocent party can marry again, there were many divorces in the church and all claimed to be innocent.

Apostle Paul gives a counsel, "Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife." 1 Cor. 7:27, 32, 33.

If your marriage is broken and you are left alone, do not feel discouraged; you have a friend who can satisfy your every need. He will take the place of your partner and fill you with His Spirit, which is also called Comforter.

"The soul that has given himself to Christ is more precious in His sight than the whole world. The Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one might be saved in His kingdom. He will never abandon one for whom He has died. Unless His followers choose to leave Him, He will hold them fast.

"Through all our trials we have a never-failing Helper. He does not leave us alone to struggle with burdens and sorrow. Though now He is hidden from mortal sight, the ear of faith can hear His voice saying, Fear not; I am with you. 'I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore.' Rev. 1:18.

"I have endured your sorrows, experienced your struggles, encountered your temptations. In know your tears; I also have wept. The griefs that lie too deep to be breathed into any human ear, I know. Think not that you are desolate and forsaken. Though your pain touch no responsive chord in any heart on earth, look unto Me, and live. 'The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.' Isa. 54:10." DA 483

In heaven and on the new earth the marriage relation does not continue, yet we shall live in perfect happiness and joy for all eternity. Whatever is your position, married, unmarried or separated, leave your life in the hand of God, and remember the Bible promise, "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. **AMEN**

Timo Martin, Canada





Keeping The Sabbath Day Part 2

How To Keep The Sabbath

1. REMEMBER - Remember! Don't forget! You hear? Again, who created the Sabbath Day? Why, Jesus Christ! (John 1:1-3, 10, 14). "Keeping the Sabbath recognizes the creation week." UL 76:1. Work only six days. As many say, "why not work seven days?" As for many each day is the same; not any significant difference. Or, one keeps one day holy, any day is holy during the week; but that one cannot specify which day! Don't work seven days, as that would violate the fourth commandment; "six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work." Ex. 20:8. "And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour..." (John 19:14). Ah! Preparation day is Friday. In Greek the sixth day of the week is "Paraskevi" (Friday) meaning preparation day. For what? For the Sabbath Day Worship! Think regarding this!

2. NOT OWN WORDS - We reiterate again from Isa 58:13 "...nor speaking thine own words!" The church is for God's fellowship with Him. A special blessing is received by your presence and holy worship. "Let all things be done unto edifying." 1 Cor. 14:26. **"Conversation on the Sabbath should be restricted to religious themes."** 2T 704.

Oh! But how often vain, private, gossip-riddled, and casual conversation pollutes the Church Sanctuary, and fidgety, pampered children are rollicking to and fro in the Sanctuary during the service as irresponsible parents allow such prankish behavior. Ah! This is intermingled with rustling, shuffling, and whining noises, and "out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants." **"Be still and know that I am God."** Ps 46:10. "There is a time to keep silence." Eccl 3:7. "Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time." Amos 5:13. But, oh! What an appalling scene! The heavenly host is grieved and offended! It ceases to be a Sabbath Day worship service; no longer a delight, holy, and honorable. "The Sabbath is violated by children's disorder; children playing, thus parents sin." 3SM 257. The "angels pass it by." The blessings are irretrievably lost! Jesus says, "My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves." Luke 19:46.

3. BAKING, BOILING, BROILING - (COOKING) - "And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day (manna, bread from heaven), and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none. See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day." Exodus 16:23, 25, 26, 29, 30. "The Sabbath was made after creation to meet man's necessities." 2T 582.

Cook, therefore, before sunset Friday. Food can be warmed on the Sabbath Day. Oh! Raw food in lieu of cooked, can be wonderfully and easily prepared, or to uniquely simplify.... um... fast! **Whatever the mode of food preparation, keep it simple, wholesome, uncomplicated.** Make it a special day with savory food, and a treat, especially for children. But, remember "Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons shames his father."(Proverbs 28:7)

4. DO NOT BUY – "And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt. Nehemiah 10:31. This is explicitly clear; **no buying (no selling) on the Sabbath; from sunset Friday to sunset Sabbath (24 hrs.).** It's comforting to know that you have "six whole days" of preparation, and as the Sabbath approaches – no hectic, frantic, "last minute shopping!"

5. PREPARATION - "And that day was the preparation (Friday, GR-paraskevi), and the sabbath drew on." "And rested the sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23:54, 56. The sun is never-hurrying, soul-expanding, and glorious as it sets. Be careful, however, in frequently peeking at its setting path; and anxiously measuring your time – **pressing, hurrying, jostling, rushing, impatience!** Rather it's a "welcoming time"...a delight; and "not merely kept as a legal matter."6T 353. The house and Sabbath clothes must be clean, mended, ready; bodies bathed, early to bed! Put away differences with believers and family, lay aside all secular work! "Do not put off until the Sabbath, little things that might be done before."(PP 296). Pray!!

6. DO GOOD – "How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days." Matt. 12:12. Reach out! Do good merrily and unflinchingly! **Auger good with the Sabbath Day... "a delight."** It pleases, rewards, benefits, as one prospers in the Holy Spirit. Endorse it, seek good for others – unquestionably! It will come naturally in time as it is **precisely blessed** by Sabbath Day worship.

7. SPIRITUAL REST--"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." Heb. 4:9, 10. This is a significant promise from the Lord. It is, moreover, an unbreakable promise once you enter this life preserving and perpetual rest! This is a promise – a rest, a change we can believe in and strive for. Furthermore, we can enter this Spiritual rest with our compassionate High Priest, so, "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. "It is not a day for useless idleness." 6T 361.

8. DANGER – BEWARE! – Ah! The most dangerous times of **Sabbath Keeping** are just before the opening and just before the closing of the Sabbath. Why? Satan knows very well you will not

deliberately defile the Sabbath Day by not observing or keeping it by worship. But, he wants you to merely **break the seal**; an angry, sharp or unkind word, or thought, shouting at children, a scornful retort, bitter, passionate utterance, cruel suspicious charge, an argument between spouses, dictatorial words, fretful scolding, hasty speech, murmuring, gossiping, agitation, an ill-kept house, shopping late, non-fueled car, unprepared Sabbath clothes and food, worldly conversation, arriving late to church, Sabbath School Lesson unprepared, wandering mind, desires, sleeping much on Sabbath, as Satan prods on and on and on; **just break the seal!** The Sabbath is thereby **defiled, desecrated – broken! God is dishonored! It invariably occurs just before opening and sunset closings**; be doubly careful just after the closings, too – as many desperately plunge into their worldly personal and business affairs; erasing all of the choicest blessings bestowed in the previous twenty four hours of the Sabbath. Therefore – **beware! Pray that such will not befall thee!**

9. DRESS BEFITTING THE SABBATH – Dress on the Sabbath is to be: modest, immaculately clean, tasteful, simple, but neat and good looking. "Acceptance by people is an important consideration in dress." 3SM 249. It can serve as an "index of the person." 3SM 242. **For Men** – needed for the service; preferably a special dark suit – black or dark blue; white shirts. **For Women** – "modest simple dress which can indicate and reveal appreciation for moral worth." 3SM 242. They appear as "ornaments in society when simple in dress." 3SM 254. "Neat, well fitting, and comely clothing worn on the Sabbath show a sacred regard for Sabbath." 2SM 475.

Ah! But, as the morning Sabbath Worship service ends, many hurriedly and merrily leave from church for home and immediately change from their Sabbath attire for common "broad road travelers," worldly street dress, abandoning the principles and requirements of soberness and reform in Sabbath dress. This laxness is caused by desires for doing one's own will and not abiding in the holy will of the Lord for Sabbath Worship in total reverence the entire day - no careless, irregular intermissions or changes! This common abandonment of sacredness in dress can lead to frivolousness and a cavalier attitude to the remaining hours of the Sabbath, conforming to worldly standards, worldly topics, occupied with casualness, food, playfulness of children, which without knowing to the naïve, leads to further defilement; desecrating the sacredness of the Sabbath, a reproach against the truth, and risking eternal interests! In fact, becoming undistinguished from the world! Moreover, "the first commandment may be broken by dress laxity." TMK 322.

Ah! But retaining distinctive Sabbath dress during the entire day, singing sweet hymns, instrumental music, honeyed testimonies, studying, praying, nature walking, canvassing, doing good, all helps one, furthermore, to "**Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.**" Exodus 20:8. Visiting the afflicted or entertaining visitors -strangers, (angels-Heb 13:2); furthermore, calls for Sabbath "perfection" in dress. Ah! But, it's another brilliant victory for Satan to "**break the seal**" of the Sabbath Day of worship; by innocent

appearing dress infractions and negligence on the Sabbath Day! Finally, "It's a battle at every step; storms lie ahead." 3SM 253.

Satan Worship

Lastly, but by no means unimportantly, Satan Worship has been reserved for the close for emphasis and a sober warning, as there is a massive interest and following in **Satanic and demonic worship, spiritism, and the supernatural**; one of Satan's last and most powerful deception the demonic spirits have perpetuated upon mankind; a potent weapon. Belief in life after death (immortality of the soul) in itself constitutes necromancy (GR worship of the dead). But, "the dead have no consciousness." (Eccl. 9:5, 6; 2Tim. 1:10; John 11:11-14). You see, such belief allows demonic spirits the opportunity to impersonate the dead, and leads people into idolatry by exalting Satan. This is an abomination before God. It is, furthermore, a blasphemous form of idolatry that robs God of the glory due His holy name. (Deut 18:10-12, Lev 20:26, 27, Job 14:1-21).

Demonic spirits, furthermore, established and maintain the belief in purgatory (hell) to turn the minds of millions away from Christ. They fill the minds with erroneous thoughts deceiving the whole world! Hell does not exist! It's a Catholic doctrine. Demonic spirits are divided into distinct groups; not only those impersonating the dead, but some sowing discord, hatred, violence, and others oppression, misery, and destruction of the human race!

"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. "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Rev 13:7, 8. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Pet. 5:8. Satan, "...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." Eph. 2:2.

Who - Where?

Who are you following? Where are you surging; to God or headlong with the enslaved, deceived masses? Are you being swayed by them? Living on the edge of life? Are you observing, following the spurious Sabbath (Sunday) – the beast – Satan worship? Are you in violation of the second commandment? "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Ex. 20:3.

"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. While death is always a distant

prospect, it is always imminent, lurking in the shadow of any instant. In the past 60 years – a mere flicker in the history of the Earth – we have had four of the most powerful earthquakes ever measured (Chile in 1960, Alaska in 1964, the Indian Ocean in 2004, and Haiti in 2010). It's easy to say that something awful awaits us in the near future, some awful natural event, but next to impossible to say **where and when.** (Rev. 16:17-21),

"The world is against us, the popular church is against us, the laws of the land will soon be against us. If there was ever a time when the people of God should press together, it is now." 5T 236.

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" 1 Pet. 4:17. "The only question asked in the judgment is, 'Have they been obedient to my commandments?'" GW 315. "We are now in the time of judgment." GC 490. But, KEEPING THE SABBATH DAY! "It's a test for this time, and a great test of loyalty to God." Ev. 213, 235. "The third angel's message calls attention to the Sabbath." EW 255-6.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." 1 Pet. 4: 12, 13.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12.

KEEP THE SABBATH DAY – HOLY! Amen and Amen!

John Theodorou, USA



The Cup Of Tribulation

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1

There was a wealthy man who had a servant, and one morning they both woke up and the master of the house wanted to go hunting; he wanted his servant to go with him. The night before, the servant was tempted by Satan, and he said to the master in the morning, "Satan is really trying to tempt me." The master laughed and said, "I'm never tormented by Satan, I never have problems like that, it must be just you."

They went off hunting ducks and the servant puzzled that it didn't bother his master. They shot the ducks and some died and hit the water, and some were only wounded. The master said, "let's go after the wounded ducks now and pick up the dead ones later."

The master told the servant to run quickly. As they ran the servant said to the master, "I know why Satan does not harass you. You're already dead; he can pick you up anytime." If you are scared of being harassed, don't be. Those who give up end up being dead. Satan doesn't worry with people who are dead, they are his already. It was once said that a tender father always seeks first to train his child by gentle means. So it is with our heavenly Father.

"But the land, whither ye go to possess it, [is] a land of hills and valleys, [and] drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God [are] always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give [you] the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them." Deut. 11:11-16.

This tender Father starts off training His children by gentle means, "I'm going to give you this land that will flow with corn, wine and oil which is the symbol of abundant blessing--the bread, wine and oil. I will give them to you, but be careful that you don't get deceived. I want to give you these things, but don't go and serve other gods. These are from Me." God sends favour after favour, blessing after blessing, He multiplies their good, He increases their store houses and blesses them like no other people on earth. For all the multitude of blessings He gave, Israel gave multitudes of iniquities in return. God gave rivers of goodness and Israel gave disobedience back to God.

"For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil,

and multiplied her silver and gold, [which] they prepared for Baal. Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax [given] to cover her nakedness." Hosea 32: 8, 9.

We have Israel's history. God started off as a gentle Father. "I love my child and want to give him all My good things." But, no child is benefited by abundance. If you have a child and give them all this abundance, they will turn out like Israel and expect that as their due. He says, "You have forgotten the corn, wine and oil; you are preparing it for Baal. You are using it for adultery." Israel spent the mercies of God in sacrifices to their idols. Israel used the goodness that was to lead them to repentance to bring them far away from God. Goodness was turned to evil. Mercy was responded to by sin and iniquity. In this dispensation, God said, "You've forgotten that I have given you these blessings."

"And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to [them which were] not my people, Thou [art] my people; and they shall say, [Thou art] my God." Hosea 2: 22, 23.

God is saying He is going to go to another people. "I'm going to take my corn, oil and wine and give it to another."

We today are just a picture of Israel of old. We have been given the truth as it is in Jesus--the corn, bread and the wine. We have been given the blood of the New Testament. The oil we have been given is the Holy Spirit, as a gift. All these gifts are given because God loves His children. We have received more goodness than Israel of old, therefore we shall receive more punishment than Israel of old if we don't appreciate His gifts.

Israel was punished--the horrors that went through Israel. The Father gave them all these good things but they did not turn to Him in repentance. The goodness did not wake them up to say, "my Father loves me," but instead drove them unto Baal.

Therefore, He turns over their cities and sends them into captivity. He hewed them with the prophets. In the early morning the prophets prophesied and preached until the going down of the sun. He hammered, squared and knocked them with the prophets. But still they didn't return to Him. These streams of mercy were only ever returned back by streams of sin.

The following scripture gives an overview of what took place over generations:

"When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt [yourselves], and make a graven image, [or] the likeness of any [thing], and shall do evil in the sight of the Lord thy God, to provoke him to anger: I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye

shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong [your] days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you. And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find [him], if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, [even] in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the Lord thy God [is] a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them." Deut. 4:25-31.

When your children have children and they have children, there is going to be an apostasy. You are going to forget God and corrupt yourself, so He will destroy you from this land and scatter you all over the place. When you are in your tribulation and sorrow, then you will seek after Me and call after Me with all your heart. This prophecy of Israel of old is still a picture of us today. When Christian parents have their children, and their children, right up to the end, I will punish you and in your tribulation you will seek Me.

God will take away the wine and give you the wormwood. Instead of honey will be bitterness. Gentle methods don't always work. In fact, gentle methods alone do not work. Harsh methods alone do not work. God has started with gentleness to show His character, and when the lesson is not learned, there comes the tribulation at the end.

There shall be a time of trouble such as never was. There will be a time of distress, suffering. He will take away the sweetness of the cup and He will make it bitter. God does this for a very good reason. Why does God give the bitter cup?

The Cup All Shall Drink

"Lift not up your horn on high: speak [not with] a stiff neck. For promotion [cometh] neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God [is] the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another. For in the hand of the Lord [there is] a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring [them] out, [and] drink [them]." Ps. 75:5-8.

Here is a cup. It is the same cup for everyone, but the wicked will drink the dregs. Is the Bible telling us that as Christians there is a bitter cup to drink? Is the Bible telling us that there is a real sour experience to make? We are asked to behold:

"Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God [that] pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup

of trembling, [even] the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again." Isaiah 51:22

Michael will stand up for whom? The children of Thy people. The God we worship today, what is He saying? "I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling."

Jesus is speaking to the disciples. Two of them have their mother wanting them to sit on His right hand in His kingdom on earth. He then poses the question, "Are you able to drink the cup that I will drink?" They say, "Yes, we can." He asks, "You will drink it? Are you able to be baptized with the baptisms that I am baptized with?" Peter tries to defend his Lord by picking up a sword: "Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" John 18:11 He said, "Don't try and save me. Am I not going to drink this cup that my Father has given?"

The Garden of Gethsemane

"He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." Matt. 26:42

Jesus, in His humanity did not want to drink it. It was too bitter. He asked His Father if there was another way. "But if that is the only way, then Your will be done."

We have this cup, and it is the same to everyone. Jesus drank this cup. You know the sufferings of Jesus. Do you? The agony of soul where your heart melts away like snow in the sun? When everything about you is wrong? Everything is a failure. Your family is a failure, everything is grey. Your friends have disowned you; but not only that, they have also betrayed you. Everything around you has gone wrong. This cup Jesus drank; we also need to drink this cup.

Here is a prophecy in Jeremiah similar to Revelation 16:

"For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me." Jer. 25:15-17.

Every single nation has to drink of this tribulation, and they cannot talk their way out of it.

"And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink." Jer. 25:28

In Matthew 24, Jesus speaks of a tribulation such as never was,

and that there will never be another one like it. He is speaking to the disciples. They ask about the signs of His coming and He tells them of the besiegement of Jerusalem; He says, "You need to run and flee." And then He says that there will be a time of tribulation such as never was. He has to cut it short or no flesh would be saved.

He speaks of the Christian massacres that will happen in the dark ages. Millions of Christians would be killed by the Papal church. The tribulation that Daniel writes of is a tribulation, not just to Christians or His church, but to every single person living on this planet. A time of trouble such as never was on this whole planet. The Papal church wasn't having tribulations; they were persecuting the Christian church. It was over a long period of time. The time of trouble that Daniel is writing about is not just a religious persecution, but a time of trouble that will come upon everyone.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Harken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, [and] not out of the mouth of the LORD. They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you." Jer. 23:15-17.

This is a picture of false religion today. It is talking about the church leaders in the fallen Christian churches. I will give you wormwood to eat, the gall is bitter. I will give it to you because from you have profane lies gone forth throughout the world. They say that you can walk in your own imagination; just believe and you will be saved.

"Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The Lord shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread [the grapes], against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come [even] to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them [that are] wicked to the sword, saith the LORD." Jer. 25:30, 31.

He will plead with all flesh. We want to ask the question, "How?" How will He plead with all flesh?

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from [one] end of the earth even unto the [other] end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground. Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves [in the ashes], ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel." Jer. 25:32-34.

Have you seen a crystal vase fall to the ground? If you see an earthen vessel fall it breaks into big pieces, but a crystal vase falls into a thousand pieces.

I would like to set the trumpet to the ear of all of those who teach that there is peace coming to this earth. There is no peace coming to the Christian. There will be a time of trouble and His people will be delivered out, they are in it but will be delivered out.

Howl, ministers, reverends, presidents of conferences, secretaries, treasurers, the leaders of false religion, because woe is coming upon the earth. Atheists, Christians, Muslims alike will drink a bitter cup such as never was drank before.

I would like to consider a time when our life gets utterly turned upside down, when we have had some bad experiences. I would like to draw our attention to the worst experiences we have had in our lives. When we go through these experiences there is no sleep, but an acute awareness of what is going on. This awareness brings suffering and pain to our lives.

This sometimes may surprise someone. Sometimes when there has been a good patch in someone's life, a disaster occurs, and they are startled up from their sleep. Perhaps it was the loss of a loved one, someone died; maybe something happened to their family, marriage, or to their physical health. The Lord is sounding into their ear drum all the sins they have committed, and it is loud. The conscience is awakened like a mighty man whose camp is being besieged. Each one of us have had bitter experiences.

Maybe some people are asleep. Even amongst us there may be people that are asleep. They are insensible to the tribulation going on in other people's lives. They are comfortable, warm and snug, and are having beautiful dreams. Sleeping. Wake up! If you keep sleeping, the voice of mercy will not wake you. If you keep sleeping, it will be the wrath of God that will wake you up to the tribulation. Every soul will be awakened to this tribulation. Some, when mercy is in the cup, and some, when there is no mercy left.

God has dealt well with us, The health He has given us, we waste by abusing our bodies by intemperate activities, and then a heart attack comes and we wonder what happened. We should be conscious and aware of what we are doing. Conscious of what we are sowing. God has blessed us with the oil, wine and corn. Many of the sheep aren't following Him anymore; they are wandering all over the place. He is being nice to the sheep. He is giving them grass and pasture.

"For I [will be] unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, [even] I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue [him]." Hosea 5:14.

What is God saying? I am going to be as a lion. I am going to come, disturb and destroy, and then I will leave you.

"I will go [and] return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early." Hosea 5:15

I will disturb your life, turn it upside down and then leave you to it. I will take away the corn, the oil, your health, possessions, house and your sound mind, and leave you to it, as you are not listening. As a child receives these good gifts and doesn't learn, the gifts have to be taken away in order for us to learn and to wake up. This is the bitter cup. Will you seek me early in your affliction or will you wait until there is no more mercy available?

Call upon Him while He is near. Return unto the Lord. If He has disturbed your life, return to Him. If He hasn't, wake up before He does. There is no time for carnal security. To come to church is our natural way; this is what we are doing this morning.

"Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight." Hos. 6:1, 2.

God will tear you, God will wound you. May I say that the best person to wound you is the Physician. I only ever want the Physician to wound me as He can heal me. If you allow God to hurt you and heal you again, praise His holy name.

What Happens When Your Life is Turned Upside Down

We will compare what happens inside the mind of the righteous and in the mind of the wicked when they go through tribulation, so that we can identify where we are. This cup is the same. Jesus drank it, His followers will drink it and the wicked will drink it; but the reaction is different. The reaction of God's people will be that they will be healed from its medicine. To the wicked, it will kill them. Will you come out of the great tribulation or will you never come out? Or will it absorb you like the depths of the ocean?

Cain

Cain came and gave an offering to God. God didn't respect it. The Bible declares that Cain was wroth. Cain was wroth and his countenance fell. God came and said, "Why are you like this? If you do well, it is good. If you don't, you have problems. I'm not saying what you have done is wrong, but if you do right it will be well." Cain, after the rebuke, which was to bring him to repentance and to the foot of the cross, went out and killed his brother, as he was angry. Then the Lord comes and says, "What have you done now?" Then he pronounces a consequence upon Cain for killing his brother. Like a child who does wrong, now there is a consequence. Cain says, "The punishment is too great for me." In other words, it is not fair. Cain gets disciplined, his life is turned upside down, a mark is put on him, and he is a vagabond on the earth. When he said that his punishment was not fair and became angry, he could not come

to repentance. The reaction to his disciplinary measure was his fall, and not because he had killed his brother. We have all killed Jesus Christ, our Brother, and there is salvation. But it is the reaction to the discipline of the Father that determines which side we come out on.

In your life perhaps nothing is prosperous and everything goes wrong. You have bodily and mental pain, you are depressed in spirit and you may think, "God if this is You, I don't want to know You. God is not loving anymore. This is not fair. God is a tyrant." Satan says, "Yes, He is." Your thought is, "Everything I'm doing is going wrong." Satan is saying, "Yes, hate Him. Set your teeth at Him. Be mad at God." That is what Satan is saying. Do you get angry with God and say, "This is not fair?" Whether you go and kill your brother or not is not the issue. It is your mental reaction to God's discipline. If you say, "God, this is not fair," and you have hatred towards the punishment, then you have the mind-set of insanity.

If a depressed person wants to kill himself by throwing himself into the water, and dashes to the river to drown himself, and then the person who is the keeper of this individual comes along, and prevents him from drowning himself--a struggle occurs and the keeper throws the insane person on the ground, what happens? This will make the individual angry towards his rescuer. The mental condition of this person will cause him to get angry at the person who saved him, when in a similar, yet sane circumstance, this person would fall at the feet of the rescuer and worship him for saving his life. But the insane person says, "No, I want to do what I want to do;" however the keeper says, "No, I won't let you." In this situation, the person has become mad. The cup will make the nations mad. But when the madness is gone and the sanity returns, the action of the keeper will make the person fall at his feet and worship him.

What God was doing to Cain was to cause him to come to repentance, but what did it do? It made him mad. I pray we will not get angry at God for the disasters in our lives.

Condition of Coldness

The condition of coldness. Because iniquity abounds, love waxes cold.

Great trials are tormenting people. They feel the pain as their life is being turned upside down. Numbness comes with the pain. When pain is present for a period of time, the body goes numb. With acute grief, social suffering in a marriage or relationship, an acute suffering, there is a tendency to go even more numb. Until they finally say, "I don't care anymore." Death loses its hold. "I don't care anymore if I die. I am going to cut my feelings off."

It is like a person in the winter of Antarctica with coldness chilling him, and it becomes so painful that he ceases to stop feeling and

he becomes numb, tired, and wants to lie down and go to sleep. What is the fate of the person that does that in the winter, when the pain of this coldness hits the nervous system and it shuts down? When they don't care anymore and are just tired? They lie down and go to sleep, and never wake again

Is this how you react to God's tribulation in your soul? Do you say, "I just want to lie down and die? I don't care anymore; death is not scary to me?" You may go numb, but don't allow it; your case will get worse. The condition of someone who stops feeling is very dangerous, to close off the heart to Jesus.

Your case may be bad, but it will be worse when you feel the pain of the second death. There is no numbness in the lake of fire until your whole being is consumed..

Doubt

There is another condition, that Thomas fell into, the tendency to doubt.

Circumstances have come upon you. The law of God has trumpeted in your ear and Satan says, "Your sin is too great. The sin you have done is too big, it cannot be forgiven." Satan will tell you that these sufferings are just the first drops of perdition and that you have the showers to come, so just get used to them. This is doubting. Satan says, "God's hand can save people, but you are too far out of reach. Others He can save, but not you." So you start to doubt God and say, "I'm too much of a problem child, He can't save me."

Satan is a liar. God can save each one of us. No matter how bad our life is, how bad the things we have done, how deep we are in grief and guilt, God can save to the uttermost. He can save you. Satan is a liar and a murderer from the beginning.

The World

Perhaps you say, "I've tried Christianity and it is a trial from day one. I've had a hard time with church people and I can't find happiness. And if I can't find it, I will go into the world and find it in the world. I won't go to church because when I come, my problems are enlarged. I will go into the world and have fun. I don't want to be around God's people; they always condemn me. This is not happiness. I want the happiness of the world." Satan says, "Friendship of the world is friendship with me." He lures the mind out.

Jesus did not get out of the tribulation; He got through it.

We seek in our human flesh to avoid tribulation. As soon as trouble is on the horizon, we start walking away. Where shall the sinner appear if the righteous be scarcely saved? The troubles that you have may be like the candle in the night which keeps blowing out.

You may think that you will never see again, and you despair; just before the sun rises and you don't need a candle, you come up too short and stop your prayers too short. You go so far, and then you say, there is no water here, and you go back. But if you saw the reality, you are only ten metres from the water. Never stop, as hard as the tribulation may be. Never stop.

The Smartness of Judah

"This tribulation is really bugging me. I'm going to manipulate everything so that it suits me. I'm going to try and change everyone around me so that they think like me. I'm going to deal with this tribulation so that it becomes something that profits me."

God takes away the oil, corn and wine so that you would come to a deep need. God says, "I am going to be like the lion and turn your life upside down and leave you to it."

Let us return unto the Lord. Whatever mind set we have had, whether wrath, or we killed our brother, or have been insane, or cold, and insensible to God, let us return unto the Lord for He is the one that wounded us and He can heal us.

A family had four children, three of them had died and the fourth was dying. Finally the parents came to the Lord. Blessed trial. Allow God to talk to you to correct you, and do not interpret His help like Cain did, or the person in the snow. Don't interpret it in the wrong way. God will turn your life upside down so that you will seek Him with all your heart. The person that is lost seeks Him. He has started with us, and He has given us bounties that we may give Him glory, but if we don't use them to His honour, they will be taken from us. Our reaction to this cup is what matters. This cup is to bring us to repentance. He will plead with all flesh. He will preach to every person. He will evangelise the world.

"And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds." Rev. 16:9-11.

Men will blaspheme God as He has power over these plagues.

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by [their] names." Ps. 147:3, 4.

God can bind your heart and wipe the tears from your cheek. The Bible says, "I will wipe away all tears." This is God's mercy. He made you cry; now He is going to heal you. The love of God is so great that it won't allow you to perish.

What is in the mind of the person who will be saved? Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Don't blame God, don't get angry at Him, don't manipulate circumstances, but say as did David:

"To the chief Musician upon Shoshannim, [A Psalm] of David. Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto [my] soul. I sink in deep mire, where [there is] no standing; I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God." Ps. 69:1-3.

"I'm tired of the crying, suffering; my life is a mess; I'm tired of it." "Thou hast known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonour: mine adversaries [are] all before thee." Ps. 69:19.

"You know my heart and my sins.

"But I [am] poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high. I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. [This] also shall please the Lord better than an ox [or] bullock that hath horns and hoofs. The humble shall see [this, and] be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God." Ps. 69:29-32.

I pray that you can see Jesus, what He suffered, and you can praise God that this is will also be our experience. When these things happen: "Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein. For God will save Zion, and will build the cities of Judah: that they may dwell there, and have it in possession. In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion." Ps. 69:34, 35; 71:1.

If you read God's providence incorrectly, you may get mad, doubtful, you may go to the world, and become manipulative. This is when you are confused and can't understand God's providence. But if you can read and know that there will be a time of trouble such as never was, believe it, wait for it, and expect it. Don't be surprised. Jesus says, "I have told you before that when it comes it is I." Praise His name!

Troubles cause repentance, however, not only repentance, but also patience. We are to repent when things go wrong and then we are to wait. While waiting, patience is being exercised and trust is building. God delivers us when we resign ourselves to Him, when we give over and say, "Into Thy hand I commend my spirit."

The 144,000 shall come out of great tribulation. They will have a sound mind and not be confused. I pray that we will wake out of our sleep.

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1 **Amen.**



Vietnam Trip 2010

Henry Dering

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

"At this time there should be representatives of present truth in every city, and in the remote parts of the earth. The whole earth is to be illuminated with the glory of God's truth. The light is to shine to all lands and all peoples." *Evangelism*, p. 407.

January 11, two days before brethren Joel Barnedo, Dan Tran and I were to travel to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, I went to the barber shop. That day the hair stylist who usually cuts my hair informed me that she had an appointment with another customer and therefore could not help me at the moment. Since my time was limited, I was willing to have my hair cut by another stylist. Interestingly enough, the hair stylist was Vietnamese—a very friendly and talkative person. Our conversation somehow touched on religious topics, especially what the Bible says about last-day events and the second coming of Jesus. Before leaving the barber shop, I promised to give her a religious book the next time I would see her.

The following day, Brother Dan Tran from Florida arrived in Sacramento, California. Incidentally, he was born in Vietnam and was willing to be our faithful interpreter during our three weeks in Vietnam. Since he hadn't had time to get a hair cut at home, he asked to have one here, before flying to Asia. You can already guess whom I recommended to him—Ann, the young Vietnamese lady that cut my hair the day before! I took the brother to the barber shop and by the time he was finished, she had given him her sister's name, address, and telephone number in Ho Chi Minh City so that we could visit her. He was, of course, delighted to receive this information about someone whom we could contact. So now we had names of two people whom we could visit in Vietnam—Ann's sister, and my wife's friend's adopted sister. I believe that it was God's providence, and not a coincidence, that led us to meet the Vietnamese hair stylist. She helped us build bridges in Vietnam.

It was the first time that the International Missionary Society entered Vietnam. A pioneer missionary work was to begin in a small way in this communist country. Religious freedom is very limited, not like in Western countries; therefore, churches cannot operate officially unless they are registered with the government. Since this is the case, many churches that are not registered, due to the very complicated process, assemble illegally to worship in homes or other buildings. Because Christianity is suppressed, printers are required to send all religious material to the government for screening purposes. Before leaving on our trip, my wife's friend, Tina was kind enough to translate several pages from the book *A Better Way to Health*, into Vietnamese. Once in Vietnam, we needed to print this tract. Providence again stepped in! As you know, the hair stylist in California, who cut my hair, has a sister who lives in Ho Chi Minh City. One day we invited the sister of Ann (the hairstylist) to the hotel where we were staying. She came on her motorcycle to visit us and in the course of our conversation, handed



us her business card. Guess what was written in large letters (in English)? "Design & Printing!" Also, her title was listed as "Director" on the card. Brethren Barnedo, Tran and I had been looking for a printer and now someone came right to our door to help us with this printing project. What a blessing from heaven! God works in mysterious ways to help His servants. We were also privileged to hold two Bible studies with this lady!

With a population of over 86 million, Vietnam is the 13th most populous country in the world. Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) is the largest city in Vietnam, and in 2009 its population was a little above 7 million.

One cannot imagine the countless and noisy motorcycles whirling around the city. It is just incredible to see and hear. Crossing streets by foot in this busy city is extremely dangerous. You need 360-degree vision to stay alive!

The markets are full of colorful and delicious fruits, exotic to our eyes and taste buds, endless varieties of vegetables, nuts, rice, and many other specialty items. The abundance of food in the markets was a sharp contrast to the scenes I had witnessed in my trips to African countries. It is interesting to observe that the Vietnamese people are generally very slim and fit. Diet is a key factor in controlling weight. It is a sad fact that in the United States there are too many junk food addicts which leads to obesity and sickness.

Here is a breakdown of the major religions in Vietnam: Buddhism 85%, Christianity 8%, Caodaism 3%, others 4%. Of the 8% of the population that are Christians, about six million are Roman Catholics, and fewer than one million are Protestants, according to the census of 2007.

With the Lord's help, we were able to make about 20 contacts with people of different religions in this large metropolitan city. In the hotel where we were staying, we were able to work for God and to be a positive influence on the personnel. Being friendly and reaching out to them opened doors for spiritual conversations and Bible studies. Some of them were very receptive to the Word of God. Witnessing to these souls was exciting and challenging. One of them was a Protestant and another was a Buddhist, both who were already acquainted with the Sabbath truth. The Protestant lady invited us to her Sunday-keeping church where Brother Barnedo was permitted to sing in the front of the church, but was not allowed to speak behind the pulpit. The government forbids foreigners to speak before congregations suspecting that it might be a front for political activism. Another person, whom we met at a fruit and vegetable market, invited and took us by taxi to a worship service in a spacious and beautiful hotel. There were about 100 people assembled on the second floor. After the service, I spoke with the minister about his message and the legality of the worship services that were being held in the hotel. He clearly stated that the meetings that were held there every Sunday were illegal and could

be stopped by the government. I thank the Lord that the police did not enter the premises while we foreigners were in attendance.

"Our ministers should seek to come near to the ministers of other denominations. Pray for and with these men, for whom Christ is interceding. A solemn responsibility is theirs. As Christ's messengers, we should manifest a deep, earnest interest in these shepherds of the flock." *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 6, p. 78. (1900).

Besides reaching out to Protestants, Catholics, Buddhists, we also met Seventh-day Adventists who sincerely wanted to know more of the third angel's message. In our hotel we were able to share the history of the Reform Church, as well as the health message. There was good interest in the subject of vegetarianism.

Now that we have returned home, a follow-up work has already begun. While in Vietnam, we promised several people to send them our free Bible correspondence course via e-mail. The first lesson of the Bible correspondence course has already been sent to two people. To several others we are sending material about vegetarianism and the present truth.

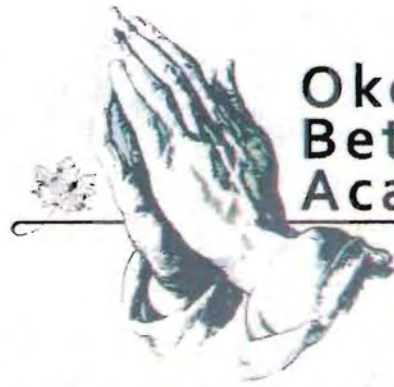
Thus, seeds of truth have been sown on this first missionary journey to Vietnam. What further follow-up work could be done soon to reach all those who were contacted? Again, a personal work is absolutely necessary. My prayer and great desire is for two brethren from Asia to visit the interested souls. May the work of God continue in this communist country. There are sincere people who are living in darkness and need to be directed to a living God. They need Jesus Christ as their Saviour. The wonderfully encouraging words below indicate that the heathen can be enlightened.

"The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Saviour. What blessed converse they will have with these souls! 'I was a sinner,' it will be said, 'without God and without hope in the world; and you came to me, and drew my attention to the precious Saviour as my only hope. And I believed in Him. I repented of my sins, and was made to sit together with His saints in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.' Others will say: 'I was a heathen in heathen lands. You left your friends and comfortable home, and came to teach me how to find Jesus, and believe in Him as the only true God. I demolished my idols, and worshiped God, and now I see Him face to face. I am saved, eternally saved, ever to behold Him whom I love. I then saw Him only with the eye of faith, but now I see Him as He is. I can now express my gratitude for His redeeming mercy to Him who loved me, and washed me from my sins in His own blood.'" *Gospel Workers*, p. 518.

"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.

May the Lord richly bless the work that was started in Vietnam. I would like to thank the General Conference for their moral and financial support, as well as brethren Barnedo and Tran for their wonderful cooperation and hard work. Finally, all praise and honour be to God for His guidance and His help in finding souls for His kingdom.

Brother Henry Dering
Director, General Conference Evangelism Department



Okok Bethel Academy

*New School
In Kenya*



1894

The Condition Of The Church

"What is it that constitutes the wretchedness, the nakedness, of those who feel rich and increased with goods? *It is the want of the righteousness of Christ.* In their own righteousness they are represented as clothed with filthy rags, and yet in this condition they flatter themselves that they are clothed upon with Christ's righteousness. Could deception be greater?" RH, August 7, 1894

The Call

"Jesus is going from door to door, standing in front of every soul-temple, proclaiming, 'I stand at the door, and knock.' As a heavenly Merchantman, He opens His treasures, and cries, 'BUY OF ME GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE, THAT THOU MAYEST BE RICH; AND WHITE RAIMENT, THAT THOU MAYEST BE CLOTHED, AND THAT THE SHAME OF THY NAKEDNESS DO NOT APPEAR.' The gold that He offers is without alloy, more precious than that of Ophir; for it is faith and love.

"The white raiment He invites the soul to wear is His own robe of righteousness; and the oil for anointing is the oil of His grace, which will give spiritual eyesight to the soul in blindness and darkness, that he may distinguish between the workings of the spirit of God and the spirit of the enemy. Open your doors, says the great Merchantman, the possessor of spiritual riches, and transact your business with Me. It is I, your Redeemer, who counsels you to buy of Me." RH, August 7, 1894

1895

The Condition Of The Church

"I do not find rest in spirit. Scene after scene is presented in symbols before me, and I find no rest until I begin to write out the matter. At the center of the work, matters are being shaped so that every other institution is following in the same course. And the General Conference is itself becoming corrupted with wrong sentiments and principles. In the working of plans, the same principles are manifested that have controlled matters at Battle Creek for quite a length of time." TM 359

The Call

"The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed. The righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is

Come Out
Of Her
My People
Part 9

our title to heaven; the second is our fitness for heaven." RH, June 4, 1895

"Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without. He who is righteous within is not hard-hearted and unsympathetic, but day by day he grows into the image of Christ, going on from strength to strength. He who is being sanctified by the truth will be self-controlled, and will follow in the footsteps of Christ until grace is lost in glory." RH, June 4, 1895

1896

The Condition Of The Church

"As things now exist in Battle Creek, the work of God cannot be carried forward on a correct basis. How long will these things be? When will the perceptions of men be made clear and sharp by the ministration of the Holy Spirit? Some there do not detect the injurious effects of the plans which for years have been working in an underhand manner. Some of the managers at the present time are walking in the light that they have received, and doing the best they can, but their fellow workers are making things so oppressive for them that they can do but little. The enslaving of the souls of men by their fellow men is deepening the darkness which already envelops them. Who can now feel sure that they are safe in respecting the voice of the General Conference Association?

"If the people in our churches understood the management of the men who walk in the light of the sparks of their own kindling, would they respect their decisions? I answer, NO, not for a moment. I have been shown that the people at large do not know that the heart of the work is being diseased and corrupted at Battle Creek. Many of the people are in a lethargic, listless, apathetic condition, and assent to plans which they do not understand.

"Where is the voice, from whence will it come, to whom the people may listen, knowing that it comes from the True Shepherd?" SPECIAL TESTIMONIES, THE WORK AT BATTLE CREEK, MAY 31, 1896

The Call

"The Lord is coming, but those who venture to resist the light that God gave in rich measure at Minneapolis, who have not humbled their hearts before God, will follow on in the path of resistance, saying, 'WHO IS THE LORD THAT I SHOULD OBEY HIS VOICE?' The banner all will bear who voice the message of the third angel, is being covered with another color that virtually kills it. This is being done. Will our people now hold fast to the truth? 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' This is our standard. Hold it aloft, for it is truth." STMW No. 6, p. 26

1897

The Condition Of The Church

"Warning, expostulation, forbearance, and patience, are about to cease. Mark the cursing of the fig tree, representing the Jewish nation, covered with leaves of profession, but no fruit to be found thereon. The curse is pronounced upon the fig tree, which represents the moral, thinking, living agent, cursed of God, living as were the Jews for the forty years after this event, yet DEAD." STMW, no. 7, p. 60

The Call

"Under whose banner are we standing? Where are we? and what is Christ to us? By our course of action we decide our own destiny. By the society we choose, we determine what influences shall mold our character. If we choose the world, earthly influences make their imprint upon our minds, and though we may not realize it, we sink lower and lower, for if we do not grow in grace, we must deteriorate." RH, March 16, 1897

"But I will address these lines to those who have had light, those who have had privileges, those who have had warnings and entreaties, who have made no determined effort to yield themselves in full surrender to God. I would warn you to fear lest you sin against the Holy Spirit, and be left to your own course, sunk in moral lethargy, and never obtain forgiveness. Why allow yourselves to be longer educated in the school of Satan, and pursue a course of action that will make repentance and reformation impossible? Why resist the overtures of mercy? Why say, "Let me alone," until God shall be compelled to give you your desire, since you will have it so? Those who resist the Spirit of God think that they will repent at some future day, when they get ready to take a decided step toward reformation; but repentance will then be beyond their power. According to the light and privileges given will be the darkness of those who refuse to walk in the light while they have the light." RH June 29, 1897

1898

The Condition Of The Church

"The church is in a Laodicean state. The presence of God is not in her midst." NL, Ed 6, p 3.

The Call

"The call must be made, Who will be on the Lord's side? let him come over with the loyal and the true. The law of God, which binds us to render firm and undivided obedience to our Maker, tolerates no easy fellowship with the careless, the lax, unconverted, who demonstrate that the truth has no power upon the heart and character, whose influence is not to gather with Christ, but to

separate from Him.

"Our churches must be purified from impiety, from many things that have accumulated to hinder the advancement of the work." RH Nov. 29, 1898

1899

The Condition Of The Church.

"I am afraid for our churches. I tremble before God on their account. We have light on the Scriptures, and we shall be held accountable for all the light not cherished. The works of many do not harmonize with the truth they have received. There is far too much of the human element brought into our plans. We do not depend on the Holy Spirit to work with its transforming energy upon the heart and life. We are deficient in faith, which is invincible and mysterious. The efficacy of truth is weakened by the course of those who do not purify their souls by obeying the truth." RH Feb. 28, 1899

The Call

"God calls for His people to reveal Him. Shall the world manifest principles of integrity that the church does not maintain? Shall a selfish ambition to be first be shown by the followers of Christ? Shall not the principles cherished by them be laid upon the true foundation, even Christ Jesus?" RH Feb. 28, 1899


1852-1900--That is 38 years we have covered over the past 9 months. Can it get any worse, brothers and sisters? I leave you with some thoughtful questions, which we will answer over the coming months in the year 2010... God willing, that is.

1. Did sister White foresee a much needed reformation in her time?
2. Did sister White prophesy a crisis looming in the not too far distance future?
3. Did sister White make solemn appeals for a decided reformation?
4. Would god's people be tested by fiery trials, and the greater number of them who appeared to be genuine ,and true, prove to be base metal? 5T 136
5. Are god's people any different today in the year 2010... appearing genuine and true, but are not?

John Warncken. Australia.

Cooking Class In Toronto, Canada





Part One:

Solomon and Rehoboam

When King Solomon died, he left the nation of Israel in a state of distress and discontentment. He had pushed a heavy yoke of taxation upon the people whom he once ruled with great wisdom in righteousness and justice. He had had peace with all other nations around his realm, so that "Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree" 1 Kings 4:25.

At the onset of his reign King Solomon was humble, faithful to God, earnestly desiring from Him wisdom to rule his people. God graciously granted him wisdom, also giving him riches and honour, (1.Kings 3:7-13), so that there never was a wiser ruler on earth before nor after.

He excelled for many years, gaining the admiration of all the kings and countries on earth who had heard about him.

They all travelled to see him, to hear and learn of his wisdom, his skill as a ruler and governor of his people. Desiring to be his allies, they brought with them droves of precious gifts. Thus Israel became a nation of great wealth and fame because of its godly monarch, blessed from above with all the heavenly graces poured upon him.

However, even from the early beginnings of his reign, Solomon had a passion for beautiful women, especially for those from foreign countries, many which were given to him as gifts, so that he would maintain a close relation with that particular nation.

The first was the princess of Egypt. Already this was a step against the commandments of God given to Moses in Deuteronomy 17:17. "Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away."

Though all went well for a long time, with prosperity, untold riches and praise, gradually but surely the lower passions were gaining ground, weakening Solomon's spiritual nature which had governed his mind in all his earlier enterprises.

He said in Ecclesiastes 1:17 about himself: "To know madness and folly," in that he sought out every pleasure and folly of life. (Eccl. 2:1-10)

This must have begun at the height of his reign, after the building of the temple and his palace, when all was peace around his borders and beyond.

At first he studied nature, discovering many secrets of science which he also taught at his fabulous court. But after some time his attention was drawn to the pleasures of the world; and by doing so, his great wisdom turned to folly. This resulted in a grave neglect of

his commitment towards God, from whom he had received all his wisdom, honour and prominence.

Besides his sensual appetite for women, there was the temptation of indulgence, gratifying the tongue with rich foods, set daily at his table with every possible delicacy available at that time. As a consequence, over time it crippled his discernment for spiritual matters and right judgment, beclouding his mental powers.

Then the climax of it all, in his old age his strange wives "turned his heart after their gods," unto which he cleaved in love to worship the heathen deities, even building altars for them, sacrificing to Ashteroth and Molech, the most abominable gods of heathendom (I Kings 11:1-9)

He became blind to his duties and responsibility before the true and living God and before his nation. By all this he caused the anger of the Lord to rise, who brought adversaries to him, to vex him.

First there was Hadad of the seed of the king of Edom (verse 14), who caused him mischief. Razon was another one, by becoming ruler in Damascus; he was a great annoyance to Solomon (verse 23-25). Also there was Jeroboam, to whom it was prophesied that he would rule over the ten tribes of Israel (verse 29-31). Because of this Solomon sought to kill him and Jeroboam had to flee (verse 40).

Then, for whatever reason, Solomon began to burden Israel with heavy taxes. The people felt this iron fist of oppression greatly so that everybody became disappointed, unhappy and despondent. Solomon lost his great name among them, for who wants to admire one who casts one tax after another upon his subjects?

All could have been different

Solomon failed in another great matter: he failed in preparing his son to be faithful to God, and in the skills needed to succeed him on the throne. Though Solomon, by the grace of God came to earnest repentance, confessing his grievous wrongs and evils, and writing precious counsels and warnings with great wisdom, his successor certainly did not adhere to them with all his heart.

From the lessons learned in his own life, Solomon could have instructed his son about the dangers of indulging in pleasures and passions, heavy feasting, drinking; and telling him how disastrous this is for the body and mind, benumbing the intellect for just dealings in matters of statesmanship. Would Solomon have kept faithful to God to the end, tutoring his son for his reign into a man of strict integrity and virtue, Rehoboam would have been a regent beloved by God and his nation.

The new king could have been the best prepared, educated and disciplined monarch, with strength of character to exercise kingly

authority for the admiration of his subjects and other countries.

The art of ruler ship would have been that of perfection, because it would have been taught by the personal efforts of the wisest monarch that ever lived.

The succeeding kings would have been trained through the righteous life of their forefathers, and the history of Israel could have been an entirely different one. But alas - it was not to be.

Another Solemn Thought

Solomon's life record would be different had he made the decision to "research" only, not to "search out" folly and madness, etc.; to just study the results of the giving in to worldly pleasures and stop right there, when realizing the grave consequences of such a lifestyle. But he plunged in with "all his heart" into worldly pleasures, going overboard, losing sight of his duty, especially by attaining many wives and concubines as well. Also, because of his great wealth, he could, like no other person, afford every pleasant thing under the sun.

Despite his great wisdom, he lived a life of folly, but at last, late in his life, he discovered that all this was not worth it. Therefore his regret was, according to his great intellect, very severe, and must have haunted him for the rest of his life.

For this reason he warns future mankind to follow the guide of life -the Commandments of God - right from childhood on. Because, either for good or evil, there will be a judgment, and no one can escape it. This was, at the end, the wisest counsel he gave to the world! The fool will not heed it, but the wise in heart will.

P. S. to Solomon:

Solomon died too early. Seventy years, at that time, without the pollution of air, pesticides in the soil, and toxins in the flesh of animals and fish as it is today, a person with temperance and good nutrition could live at least 20 to 30 years longer. Today there are people, right in our neighbourhood who are over 100 years old.

But, by loving so many wives and cherishing rich foods, Solomon's life-force abated much too soon. The same went for King David. He also had several wives and concubines, however David was "old and stricken in years" at seventy years of age, mostly because of the many battles and wars he fought. **Amen**

Edda Tedford, Canada

Part 2 in the next Messenger



Conference for the Hearing Impaired Maracaibo, Venezuela





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Helping The Sick



CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Oh, Ella, why did you clear the table?"

"I didn't clear it, Mamma. It was like this when I came in."

"Did you do it, Mabel? Tell me, is this a joke? Where did you put the tablecloth?"

"No, Mamma, I didn't touch anything."

"But I had the tablecloth on and the silverware out. Where is the silverware? And where's that loaf of bread I left on the serving table when I was called to the door? Who's been in the kitchen? Did you see anyone come into the house, Mabel?"

"No, but I saw a tall lady come out; and it looked as though she was carrying something under her apron."

"So that's what was going on while our neighbor lady was entertaining me in the front room! The two women were evidently working together. While one was so kindly telling me where I could buy the best strawberries, the other came in the back door and picked up whatever she could lay her hands on. That reminds me of what the groceryman told your father. He said, 'Be sure to lock your doors when you go out; for there's nothing too hot or too heavy for some people to carry away.'"

After that we were more careful about turning the key when we left the house. We watched the clothesline on washday. And we tried to remember not to leave anything of value in the yard. But even though we took the best of precautions, articles occasionally disappeared. At this time we were living in a rented house in Cooranbong, waiting for our cottage to be built across the road from Grandma White's home near Avondale.

One day when we returned from church, mother sent me to get a rice pudding from the cooler house, a small stone building by the kitchen door. But the pudding was gone, dish and all, and with it a pitcher of milk.

When we told grandma about it, she said, "Don't any of you say a word about this to anyone!" She made friendly visits around the neighborhood, even calling on the family suspected of the thievery. "We're

coming to live here among you," she told them, "and I trust you'll find us pleasant neighbors. We're establishing a school nearby where you can send your children to receive an education. We're ready to help you in any way we can."

Not long after this grandma had the opportunity she was looking for to help her neighbors. Although the surrounding country was sparsely settled and without telephones, word spread rapidly that Mrs. White had a nurse in her family, Miss Sara McEnterfer, from the famous Battle Creek Sanitarium. This was welcome news, for the nearest hospital or doctor's office was at Newcastle, twenty-three miles up the railway line. The first call for help came from a home where a little boy had scalded his leg by upsetting a pot of boiling tea.

When the "famous nurse from Battle Creek" reached the house, she found the six-year-old patient suffering from a very sore leg. It had become infected, and for some time the little fellow had cried day and night with pain. Every morning for nearly two weeks Aunt Sara, as she soon came to be called throughout the neighborhood, drove with grandma's horse and carriage to the home and treated the scalded leg until it was entirely healed. After that calls for help came thick and fast.

Soon the Avondale School was opened, though the buildings were not quite finished. Grandma and her family of helpers had settled at Sunnyside, and grandma was busy with her writing. Four typewriters were clicking away as everyone worked earnestly copying, duplicating, and addressing pieces ready to mail—articles, letters, and book manuscripts. Our family had moved into the new cottage across the road.

One day a man came riding up to Sunnyside on horseback. All in one breath he said, "We have a very sick boy at our house, and we don't know what to do for him. Someone told us that a nurse lives here. Could she help us?"

When Aunt Sara reached the house, she found a boy of nine lying on a cot. His head was hot with fever, and his eyes were red and swollen from crying. His mother was in bed with a new baby, and his aunt was doing her best to take care of all three.

"Now tell me all about what happened," the nurse said.

"About a week ago, when Willie was driving a calf out of the yard, he stepped into a hole where some broken glass had been thrown and cut a gash in his ankle an inch and a half long and as deep as the bone," the aunt explained. "His mother rubbed lard on the cut and tied it up, but it grew worse every day, and became so bad that his father took him to a doctor in Newcastle. The doctor cleaned and dressed the wound and sent some medicine for the boy to take, and said to apply bread-and-milk poultices every few hours.

"Then the baby came, and the boy's mother was laid up. I have to take care of Willie, but I don't know what to do for him. I don't even know how to make the poultices. His father didn't ask the doctor how they should be made. [Aunt Sara learned that they had been soaking the bread in milk and laying it on the wound cold.] The doctor said if the leg got worse to bring the boy back; he might have to amputate. Then we heard about Mrs. White and the Battle Creek nurse that lives with her, and so we sent for you; and we're so glad you've come to help us!"

Aunt Sara examined the patient. "It's blood poisoning, and a serious case," she said. "Put the kettle on and heat water immediately. We'll do all we can to save that leg." She had brought her flannel fomentation cloths, as she always did when called out on duty. For two hours without interruption she applied alternate hot and cold fomentations, then dressed the wound. Before she had finished, the patient was asleep. After telling Willie's aunt how to continue the treatments, the nurse left, promising to return the next day.

When she returned the following morning, she found that the aunt had slipped while carrying a kettle of boiling water and had scalded her leg from the ankle to the knee. She was in so much pain that she could scarcely get around. So the nurse had two patients instead of one. She decided to bring them to Sunnyside, where she could care for them both. Willie's father carried the boy to the carriage and then helped the aunt in.

All the way home, Aunt Sara was wondering where she could find room in the house for those two sick folks. The four upstairs bedrooms served also as office workrooms. The cook and a girl attending school occupied a room over the carriage barn. Overnight guests were in the parlor. But Aunt Sara was used to contriving. She managed to find a vacant spot where she could set up a cot for the aunt until the guests had left. She brought the boy across the road to our cottage.

It was my duty, as soon as school was dismissed, to stoke the kitchen stove and keep plenty of hot water ready for Willie's treatments. We gave him alternate hot and cold leg baths several times a day. Aunt Sara came over every evening and applied charcoal poultices. Once when she removed the poultice, a piece of glass the size of a kernel of wheat was lying on the surface of the wound. As the leg healed, the treatments were given less frequently.

At the end of ten days the patients were taken home, and Willie astonished the neighbors with his story about the wonderful cure "just with hot and cold water and charcoal." From that time on, Miss McEnterfer was frequently called to give help and instruction in caring for the sick. No charge was ever made, although at times she had to travel long distances.

The calls for help came so fast that she could not keep up with them and attend to her other duties. Mrs. Rodd, an Adventist sister who was a practical nurse, volunteered her services, and during the next two years, she, with the help of her husband, treated 240 people. They drove hundreds of miles with horse and buggy to homes scattered in surrounding villages and through the forest.

Most of the patients these two nurses treated made rapid recovery, but not all. One day when Aunt Sara answered an urgent call, she

found a young man with a raging fever. He was lying in a small room which had no window and only one door. The entire family crowded close around his bed, waiting for him to die, and—as Aunt Sara said—hastening his death by shutting out what little fresh air might otherwise have reached him.

She dismissed the weeping relatives and gave the patient treatments to reduce his fever. Then she had him moved into a more airy room. For several hours she worked over him, applying cold compresses and hot footbaths, and giving sponge baths and other treatments, until his fever was greatly reduced and he said he felt better. After giving instruction for his further care, she left for the night.

The family had already called a physician; when he arrived that evening from Newcastle, he examined the patient and approved the treatment given. Before he left, a member of the family asked, "Shall we give the patient spirits to keep up his strength?"

"A little if you choose," was the answer.

Other members of the family shared the bottle. With reasoning powers thus dulled by liquor, they began giving the sick man frequent drinks. That night he died in a drunken fit.

When Grandma White saw the great need, she said, "We must have a place where the sick in the neighborhood can be treated intelligently, a place where students in the nursing class can get practical experience. Caring for the suffering people who live around here will be the best sermon we can preach." She wrote letters to friends telling them of the need for a little sanitarium in connection with the Avondale School. The school gave a piece of land near the new church, which was only a ten-minute walk from the college buildings. Students cut down some eucalyptus trees, and then worked overtime transforming them into lumber.

A combined clearing bee and picnic was announced. The school was closed for a day so that teachers and pupils could help clear the building site. Families living on the school estate or nearby laid their usual work aside and brought their tools. The men grubbed out trees and bushes and piled them in heaps for an evening bonfire. Children raked leaves and cleared away rocks. At noon we spread our lunch on the ground. Every housewife had brought extra food to share with those who had none.

Nearly every mail brought gifts of money from friends far and near. When all was ready, carpenters, painters, and plumbers volunteered their spare-time services free of charge. Within a few weeks a twenty-five-bed hospital was ready to begin its healing ministry, but even before the rooms were finished and furnished, patients began to arrive. The building and its furnishings were modest, and the charges moderate. It is doubtful if any patient was ever refused care because he was too poor to pay.

WORKERS REVIVAL SEMINAR In NYANGENA KISII, KENYA



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