



Youth Sabbath in Nürnberg, Germany

Sis. Manuela
Di Franca, Germany

Sis. Jacqueline
Mößlacher, Austria



Youth Camping in Algonquin Park, Canada

The Reformation Messenger

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“Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel. At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 17:6, 7

Church is always correct), celibacy (the priests cannot marry), transubstantiation (the communion bread becomes the real body of Jesus, and the grape juice becomes the real blood of Jesus when the priest prays over the bread and wine), the confessional (telling a person your sins so you can be forgiven), the mass, relic worship, image adoration, burning candles and incense in front of a tomb, and the primacy of Peter.

One of the important activities on Iona was making copies of the Gospels. These scriptures were not only carefully reproduced but were beautifully decorated with artwork which had a Byzantine and Irish influence.

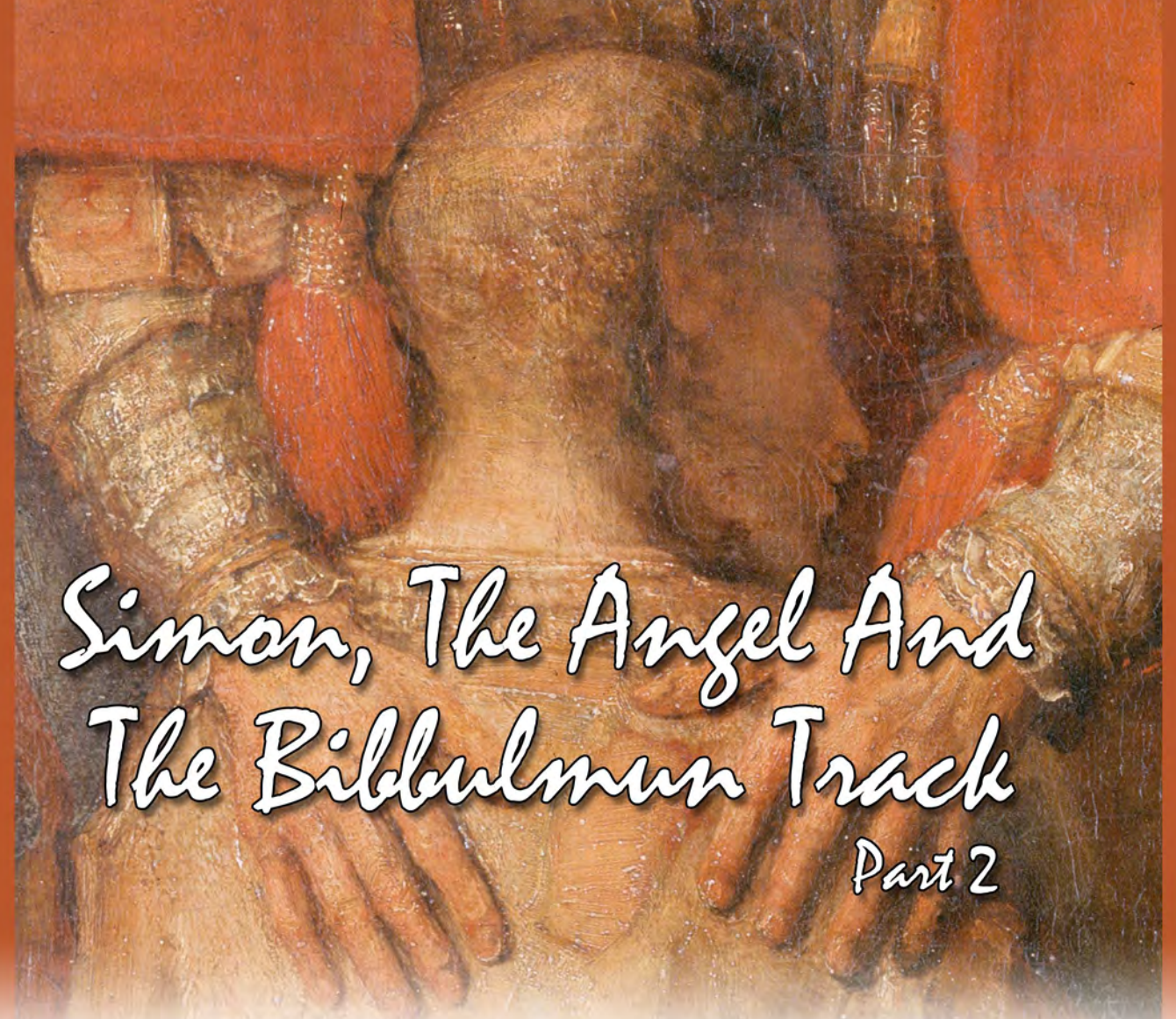
Iona, like the many other churches and schools that Columba had established, was well organized. Each school had a headman who was usually called the abbot. The spiritual leader of Iona was given the special name of "coarb" and he was looked upon as the spiritual successor of Columba. The pastors were given the name "Culdee" which meant "man of God."

Columba went back to Ireland and visited and taught at many of the schools and churches that he had built before going to Scotland. In a short period of time these missionary churches covered the British Isles as well as much of the continent of Europe with the truth of the gospel.

We know that the Culdee Church kept the seventh-day Sabbath as Patrick and the church in Ireland did. "It seems to have been customary, in the Celtic churches of early times, in Ireland as well as Scotland, to keep Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, as a day of rest from labour. They obeyed the fourth commandment, literally, upon the seventh day of the week." Truth Triumphant 114.

At the time of Columba's death it was recorded, "Having continued his labours in Scotland thirty-four years, he clearly and openly foretold his death, and on Saturday, the ninth of June, said to his disciple Diermit: 'This day is called the Sabbath, that is, the day of rest, and such will it truly be to me; for it will put an end to my labours.'" Truth Triumphant 108.

Bro Kenneth Dumandan, Ronel Igot, Mike Herald son Tibay, Levi boy Jastiva, Jemar Tibay, Arwin Jay Cortez, Sergie Tibay, Israel Dumandan, Wendeil Dumandan, Sister Jelo mae Tibay, Ailyn Grace Cortez, Mirasol Abajon, Myrrh Joy Tibay, Mary Jane Tibay, Michelle Tibay of the International Missionary Society Seventh Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Tagum Youth, Tagum City, Philippines.



Simon, The Angel And The Bibbulmun Track Part 2

After I finished my walk on the Bibbulmun track I returned to Perth and I began to study the Bible. I quickly discerned that the book is alive; it was speaking to me and I listened.

Revelation

I read the book of Revelation and immediately identified that the harlot was the papacy. I delved into the Internet and researched, and sure enough there it was on the Internet as common knowledge amongst serious and untainted biblical scholars, not to mention the fathers of the reformation. I was amazed. I read the Bible for months. Eventually I stumbled on a passage that said, "While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. Heb. 3:15

That tied in with the following verse: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20

Three months after the Bibbulmun track I was working at home on my house, as I had a few weeks off. I decided, in a spontaneous way to actually pray because of those two passages. I sat at my computer and I closed my eyes and I visualised myself walking

through a great hall. At the end of the hall was a door that had many locks and latches on it. The sound was echoing through the hall of a knock on the other side of the door. I walked across this vast expanse to this big door and I forced myself, although I was afraid, one by one to slide back the locks and bolts on the door.

Finally the last bolt was released and I opened the door. My body was filled with light and I was in the presence of God in that very moment. I felt Him in me and I felt light and warmth enter me and I felt overcome with emotion. The Bibbulmun track was my awakening but this was my moment of transformation from worldling to Christian. The Holy Spirit alighted upon me and from that moment I started to pray daily. There was nothing I really wanted. I didn't want money or success, it was not like I had a shopping list for God, but I asked a lot for enlightenment, knowledge and understanding.

The State of the Dead

I stumbled upon scriptures regarding the dead. "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten." Eccl. 9:5. "For in death [there is] no remembrance of thee: in the grave

who shall give thee thanks?" Ps. 6:5

I was beginning to realise the Bible is actually contrary and the exact opposite to what is taught by mainstream Christianity or in the common world perception of what Christianity is about. As I read and discovered more and more, the scales began to fall off my eyes and I started to realise, here was truth. There was no actual conflict within myself, it was easy to accept what the Bible said, but it was very difficult for me to accept eternal hell and an ethereal heaven (a spirit world of the dead). Those things always stuck in my craw, but here the Bible was telling me that the spirit world of the dead and the eternal soul of man were not correct. I began to listen to sermons online at YouTube from various Christian churches. I found it was a myriad of different teachings and I so stopped and carried on reading the Bible as there was so much confusion.

Sandal Wearing Freaks and Pious Self Righteous Loons

I decided after a point that I needed to go to church and commune with other Christians. The thought terrified me and I found that although I had surrendered to God, I didn't want to associate with Christians as I thought they were awful sandal wearing freaks and pious self righteous loons.

I looked on the Internet to try and find a church in Perth. I have always liked black American gospel music so I tried to find a church with a gospel choir, but there were none. Being a musician I thought I would join a church with a band and one with lots of nice young women and young people; and maybe I could play in the band and it wouldn't be so bad as I could play the guitar the whole Sunday morning and then go home. That was my criteria.

I found a trendy church in the city called Metro Church. It had a nice website with pretty young women on it and it had a band. I didn't even read their doctrine as to what they believed; I just looked at the photos and thought, "alright I'll go there." Although I had accepted the Holy Spirit and Bible truth, I was still a worldly totally world-focused not realising that I had to come in line with the Bible. I thought that was it.

One Sunday Morning

One Sunday morning I went down to Metro church and I walked in. I felt like the very devil himself, a fish out of water and a wolf among the sheep. I was shaking. I stood in the church and the band was playing and it was pumping out rock and roll. Then we sat down for the sermon. The sermon was entirely about why we should give more money to the church. That was it. I thought, "Oh boy, here we go. What have I got myself into? This is a big scam." Straight away I was thinking, this is awful.

Then the pastor said something quite remarkable. He said we have to pray for Fred because Fred's dad died this week; but although it's very sad, we can all rest easy in the knowledge that Fred's dad is now in heaven with Jesus. I got up and I walked out. As I got to the doors in the foyer it had been noted I was there and a couple of ushers came running up to me to stop me from leaving. I suppose she was a deaconess, but a woman asked me why I was leaving.

I said, "Fred's dad, he's in heaven with Jesus?" She said "Yes, because he believed in Jesus and so he is in heaven now with Jesus." I said "Fred's dad isn't in heaven with Jesus. Fred's dad is dead and he will be dead until the resurrection." She said "No, no, no, you don't understand." I said "Yes, I think I do understand and I'm going." With that I pushed my way past and I left.

Back to the Bible

I went home and I read the Bible alone for nine months. I started to research on the Internet if there were Christian sects that believed in the truths that I had discovered. I came across Walter Veith videos on YouTube and I started to watch them and they made a lot of sense. They added to what I already knew and clarified a few things such as the state of the dead and the non-existence of hell or the true nature of it.

Walter Veith mentioned the Sabbath so I started to research it. I found it was true and that no one was denying it. Naturally that led me to the Seventh Day Adventist church and the Seventh Day Baptist church. My inclination was to go to a Seventh day Baptist church but there was no such church in Perth. I then decided to go to the Seventh Day Adventist church so I googled the Internet and I chose the one that had a band and a bit swinging. I thought I'd go to the central city main church in Perth.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church

I rang the pastor before I attended and said, "I've discovered these truths in the Bible. I was an atheist and the Bible is telling me I need to have fellowship with other Christians, although it goes against my own will as I don't really want to go to church, but the Bible is telling me it's what I need to do. I want to come and see you before I attend to make sure your beliefs are aligned with mine." He said "Yes, yes I'll call you back," but then I never heard from him. A month passed by. My inclination was to think, "don't worry about it," but I rang him again, and again he said "Yes, I will get back to you, sorry," but he didn't ring back and another few weeks went by.

By this time I had made up my mind to observe the Sabbath and I decided to go to church anyway and not wait for him. I had a contract painting job in the city refitting offices over the weekend but I had decided to go to church on the Saturday. On Friday the shop fitting boss said "You will have to work on Saturday and do this job."

Columba & The Church In Scotland (521 - 597)



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Columba was born in Ireland in AD 521. When he was born he was given two names – Crimthann (which means "Wolf") and Colum (which means "dove"). Because of his love for God, and his kind and simple life he was best known as Colum (a dove) rather than the fiercer Crimthann. He was of royal blood but, like Moses, he chose to give up his claims to a throne and instead became a servant of God.

The most famous schools in Ireland at that time were the ones built from Patrick's work. Columba attended the schools at Moville, Leinster, and Clonard. It was at Clonard that he studied under Finnian, who was so famous and well respected that enrollment at his university was said to be 3000 students. It was here that Columba learned the art of copying and illustrating the Bible. Columba is said to have copied 300 New Testaments himself. Remember, there were no computers or printing presses in those days – each copy was done by hand. He is known to have used the Itala Bible, which was the version favoured by Patrick.

One of the events to affect Columba's religious beliefs was the Council of Constantinople that took place in AD 553. "At that council, the churches of the Roman Empire surrendered their freedom to the papacy. Offended at the unscriptural [changes]... four large communions in the East – the Armenian, the Coptic, the Jacobite, and the Church of the East (often falsely called the Nestorian Church) – separated from the western hierarchy. The news of these revolutionary happenings had come to the ears of the Celtic believers throughout the British Isles." Truth Triumphant 100, 101. The church in Ireland knew that they would have to prepare themselves to meet a similar confrontation with the Roman Church.

Columba finished his schooling when he was twenty-five and went to Northern Ireland where he built a school and church at Derry. This place is now known as Londonderry. After establishing this training center, Columba spent the next seven years setting up as many as three hundred churches and many church schools throughout Ireland. He helped the sick and poor and was respected and loved by all.

Yet Columba had plans to become a missionary. Scotland was the land he chose for spreading the gospel. Much of Scotland was

pagan, and since one of his relatives had won a kingdom in what was then called Caledonia, Columba decided this would be a good place to establish a center of education that would train young people to go as missionaries with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The island that he was given permission to build on was named Iona. On this small island, Columba began to build a school that would become world-famous. For 641 years the followers of Columba lived on this island until they were driven out by the Benedictine monks in 1204.

Here on Iona the students received the highest Biblical training, studied the sciences (such as astronomy), learned Greek and Latin along with gaining knowledge in agriculture, baking, mechanics, music, and architecture. The students learned how to build simple churches, homes and other buildings. Both students and teachers spent time in a work program in addition to their studies. Much of their day was spent in working the large orchards, meadows, and gardens that supplied food for those living on Iona. Others helped in the bakehouse, worked at mechanical pursuits and other manual labour.

It has been said that it often took eighteen years of training at this school before students were ordained. They finished with a thorough knowledge of God's Word, which made them powerful leaders and preachers. They were able to reproduce large portions of scripture, and had the capabilities needed to start their own school and churches.

Columba taught his followers that their beliefs and practices must be based on the Bible and the Bible only. They were taught never to accept as truth any doctrine not found in the Bible. The students were required to memorize much of the Scriptures, and the songs they sung were often Psalms set to music. For an example of an eighth century Irish hymn you might want to read the words for "Be Thou My Vision."

The young people of Iona were taught the basic doctrines of Christianity such as the divinity of Christ, baptism, the atonement (what Christ is doing in the heavenly sanctuary today), inspiration of the Scriptures, and the prophecies connected with the last days. They rejected the papal doctrines of infallibility (that the Roman

There were no angels, no nothing (sorry, double negative, but effective); just people! Beautiful people! He found brethren! When Paul saw them, “he thanked God, and took courage.” Acts 28:15.

MEETING GOD

The Ethiopian, a eunuch of great authority, had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was reading from the Book of Isaiah while sitting on his chariot. He wanted to meet God – to know God. (Acts 8:26-39). So, how did God meet him? He brought Phillip, who “ran to overtake the chariot, climbed up into the chariot and preached Jesus to him. He commanded the chariot to stand still, went down into the water and baptized him.”

“Cornelius a centurion of Caesarea, was a good man, a devote man, who feared God.” He wanted to meet God – to know God! (Acts 10:1-8). Two angels came (not one); one went to Cornelius, and another went to the Apostle Peter! Why not just one angel going directly to the Centurion? Not seemingly ‘economical’- a waste? Well, He could have. But, God did not want to do that! And if no one is there to help you, God will do it Himself. God has options, too.

Some of you in the sleepless lonely hour of the night may have been wondering or distressed – nobody was there by your side or could come to you. Ah! But you were persuaded, comforted by God! You met Him! Ordinarily, ordinarily, He does it with people; a loved one, friend, brethren, a message, a call. God works in very mysterious and sundry ways.

Yes, I believe in angels – God’s messengers, too. I recall an encounter when traveling with a friend of my son’s who was driving me to Kennedy Airport in New York from Long Branch, New Jersey, on the busy freeway, to take a flight to Greece. I was talking about spiritual topics to the young man. Suddenly the car lurched and stopped – no gas! No time to call for Roadside Service. We prayed, and before our prayer was ended, an unshaven young man in a black leather jacket and cap knocked on our window, asking, “Need any help?” “Yes, of course, we have no gas and are short of time.” He simply answered, “No problem,” and pulled his car alongside ours and attached a hose from his tank to ours. After several minutes we asked him to stop as he poured more than we really needed. Asking him “what we owed him” he answered, “nothing.” Pressing further for his name and address he simply said, “It is not important, I just like to go around helping people.” He quickly departed. I easily arrived in New York in ample time to board my flight to Greece. A year passed and the young man that drove me to the airport and experienced this encounter, reminded me, saying, “Do you remember what that man who helped us said before departing?” I answered, no I can’t recall, I was so enthralled by it all. What did he say? Well, he said, “don’t forget to tell everyone you meet what happened here today.” I was virtually shocked! For certain it was an angel! He wanted us to know it – that God had sent him. “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Heb. 13:2.

So, you never know what God is doing or thinking. It can be a suspenseful – but glorious life, knowing He is in control. Again, it is the people that God ordinarily uses in our lives; those walking the streets, neighbours, colleagues, friends, relatives, brethren – total strangers!

THE FACTS

Now, what is it that God wants us to know? To remember facts! Well, what do I mean by this? To remember the facts: the grace, mercy, love, victory of Jesus. Now the Apostle John says, “I remember the fact that Jesus Christ died for me and that He was resurrected and conquered death.” Then God wants John to know the fact that he is not alone in life. Also, John needs to know the fact that “his churches are not alone!”(I love this one!) What churches? “The seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.” Rev. 1:20. The seven churches of Asia are: Ephesus (loveless church); Smyrna (persecuted church); Pergamos (compromising church); Thyatira (corrupt church); Sardis (dead church); Philadelphia (the faithful church); Laodicea (lukewarm church).

When people are dying they can undergo peculiar thoughts at times. I have talked to some; seriously afflicted, dying, and terminally doomed throughout the years. I found that they are really not concerned about themselves, but concerned about the ones they love most. At an International Salvation Army convention, the founder was to be the featured speaker. Thousands waited for him to appear and for his inspirational message, but he was suddenly taken very ill and could not attend. He sent a telegram to the convention chairman who brought it up to the pulpit to be read. The message was simply one word – OTHERS!

When praying with one that is critically ill, pray that God will bless this one first, and then – go on; “Oh Lord bless the ones that this brother, sister, relative, or friend loves most.” (By name if possible).

In every war in the past; but particularly in the most recent ones, since they have testimonial evidence and concerns, that when a young soldier is mortally wounded, or being in a helpless situation, surprised, and in a direct confrontation with the enemy and under attack, they cry out, “Mom!” (i.e. a soldier in a fox hole and the enemy is about to bayonet him.)

So, help those really sick or dying individuals to know (the fact) that Jesus Christ is walking among the seven candlesticks! And He is! He is among them and their loved ones. They need fear not. John needed to know this; we need to know this. The Lord assured John; the Lord can assure us, too.

Then John needed to know that the One among the seven candlesticks reigns; has the royal power and authority; that Jesus is Lord of Lords, and King of Kings.

Finally, John got to know that Jesus loved John’s churches in spite of their diverse characters. And that is why Jesus put His hand on John’s shoulder.

Brothers, sisters, and friends; you are not alone! These are the facts. You need to know that! **Amen.**

John Theodorou, USA

I said, “I can’t, it will have to be Sunday.” His eyes changed and he said, “If you don’t work Saturday you can forget about working for me ever again.”

I went into work and I set everything up and I started painting. I had a change of clothes in my bag and when no one was looking I snuck into the toilet and changed and then snuck off to church. I knew that if I didn’t go on that day that I had chosen, that fate would conspire that I would never go. I knew that in my heart. At that stage I didn’t trust God enough to defy this guy and lose the contract so I compromised.

I pulled out onto St. George’s Terrace to go to church and I looked to the left and the road was clear. Suddenly there was a beaten up old car behind me. It appeared out of nowhere. The man inside put his hand on the horn in a continuous blast and I could hear him screaming and yelling expletives. I looked in the mirror and this face was a picture of rage and he was surging the car forward, just missing the back of mine. It was right outside the Catholic Church. This guy was just insane so I stopped my car and I got out. It was a one-way single lane and I went to talk to him and I said “Look I’m sorry mate, I didn’t see you.” He was literally foaming at the mouth and he opened his door and he slammed it into my legs. My worldly instinct was to drag him out of the car and beat him up. That’s what I would have done before my conversion, but something smoothed me out and I just smiled at him and said, “I’m not interested in a confrontation.” I looked into his eyes and I saw pure hatred, rage and anger and I realised that this guy was there to prevent me from getting to where I wanted to go.

I got back in my car and I drove to the church and this guy followed me all the way, yelling expletives, honking his horn and shaking his fist at me. He was a maniac. I got to the church and he screamed off. I walked into the church and there I was at the Seventh Day Adventist church and there I stayed for one year.

A Friend

I had a friend who is a sixteenth degree Free Mason. He was so close a friend that he lived in my house for a while. We had a falling out during the period when I was reading the Bible after I got back from the track. We didn’t see each other for a long time. Our fallout happened just as I started attending church. He rang me up one day and I invited him to come around and have a beer with me. He is a rabid atheist, very anti-Christian and I told him, while we were having a beer, that I had become a Christian He put down his beer and he said “don’t ever call me again, don’t ever come around to my house, I don’t want to know you!”

I laughed. It broke the spell. It deflated his anger and he said, “what are you laughing about?” I said, “I’m laughing at your extreme reaction to what I just said. Do you think I’m a different person or something? I’m the same person but I’ve found out some things.”

He said, “don’t you try and convert me and don’t try and preach to me!” I said, “I’m not interested in doing that, I know I’d be wasting my time.” He calmed down and he stayed. We had a couple more beers and we were talking about stuff and he started to interrogate me about the Bible. He was very confrontational and said, “so you don’t want to convert me then?” I said, “no.” “So you want me to go to hell then?” I said, “there is no hell.” I explained to him that everyone gets what they want. If you want to die and stay dead, that’s what you get; if you want eternal life, that is another path. Everyone gets the fruit of their life so it’s not up to me to tell him what to believe but if you ask I will tell you.

Spiritual Warfare

The evening wore on. Then something strange happened. He put his face right up to my face and he commanded me to yield to him. He ordered me to abandon my folly. As I looked into his eyes I saw the man in the car; I realized that I was looking into the eyes of Satan himself. I saw the absolute indignation and the pure hatred in those eyes. They were not the eyes of my friend. All of a sudden we were standing there outside of time and outside of reality and I was confronted with the enemy and he was commanding me to yield. But I said to him, “I have the truth and I will not yield to you.” And that broke the spell. My friend then began to weep tears of frustration.

I realised at that point that this is spirit warfare and this wasn’t going to be an easy ride and this was going to be a hard road to travel. This involved me making changes.

Amongst the things that my friend was telling me was, “you can’t be a Christian, you are a scoundrel, and you are a reprobate, you are evil, Simon!” He said that to me. I began to realise that my accuser was right. My character had to change. I couldn’t just be going to church on Saturday and be justified by my observance of the Sabbath, but I had to take on the demons that dwell within me.

The things that I was doing wrong I started to get caught for. I was driving an unregistered vehicle. I got caught by the police and I was praying feverishly and they said, “get your car registered,” and they let me go. I then thought I was under grace and I kept driving it for another week and I got caught again. All this after getting away with it for two years, caught twice in the space of two weeks. My prayers fell on deaf ears the second time and I realised that God wanted me to clean up my act. He is not there to protect me from my evil doing and this was an example.

There were many, many more examples. The water pump in my car broke and I had no work. I phoned scrap yards to try and find a water pump. I only had \$50. A second hand one was \$100 and a new one was \$150. I rang the scrap yard in Midland and he said, “we only do new ones and they are \$150.” I was driving around with a watering can and would keep filling up the radiator.

I rang a place in Midland on the Friday afternoon chasing a second hand one. The guy said “You are not going to get one for fifty bucks.” Then as the sun was going down he rang me back and he said “Listen, you sound like a nice guy. I have a new water pump and I will let you have it for \$50. It is coming on the courier and you will have to come pick it up on Saturday morning.” I got on my knees and I asked the Lord “Will it offend You if on the way to church I go and get this water pump, so that I can fit it Sunday? Please give me an answer because if it does offend You, I will chance my luck and drive my car in its condition till Monday.” I prayed this knowing that the only work I had was on the Monday that could not be postponed and also knowing that the car wouldn’t make it there in its condition.

As soon as I stopped praying, the very instant I said, Amen the phone rang again. It was the guy and he said “The courier has arrived, it’s here come and get it.” It was 5pm and the sun was setting about an hour later. I drove to Midland and I got it and the sun was going down. As I was driving to back through Hazelmere, the radiator ran out of water and I pulled into a factory. I went into the office and asked for some water.

I had no work apart from the Monday and was desperate for money. The guy asked me if I was a painter as he had some transportables that needed painting. He asked me if I would be interested. I got a week’s work that week and they paid me in cash as soon as I was done. This is just one small example of how God was working to protect me in my daily life. Daily these events were happening that were bringing my life out of chaos into order. I sympathised greatly with David when he said, “I called to you from the mire and you heard me and you pulled me out,” because that was my experience.

“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.

A Gentle Correction

I realised that God was in my life now and that I was trying to operate within the will of God; but also operating in my own will and trying to co-exist with His and my will. I started to feel this gentle correction and being shepherded in a direction that was against my nature. Then something else started to manifest in my psyche that was foreign. I started to feel terrible about myself. Before when I had woes in my life, I felt it was external, that I had been put in this position because of external forces but that I was alright as I’m a good guy. I felt that I was okay and all these other things are happening that are making me miserable. This was a different kind of misery I was starting to experience.

It was becoming evident to me that I was really, really bad. I felt wretched, naked and miserable and in a condition that was awful. The devil was whispering in my ear constantly, “You are not good

enough, you have not got a chance,” and in my heart I was saying, “Yes, Satan, you are absolutely right, I am not good enough, I am awful, I am terrible and I don’t deserve anything.” But following the example of Jacob I clung and continued to cling to the leg of God, and I said to Satan, “I will not let go of Him until He kicks me off, shakes me off like a bad dose of fleas.” I won’t be the one to say “This is where you and I part company, Jesus.” If I am not good enough, it will be Jesus who says “depart from Me”, not me. “Yes, I am unworthy but it’s not up to you to decide my level of worthiness Satan, it’s Jesus who decides who’s worthy, not you!”

Nonetheless, what a miserable, wretched condition I found myself in. The end result in the fullness of time I have found is a slow imperceptible move away from sin because I don’t want the result of it. Sure, I do sin and I fall, but I TRY to walk the narrow way.

Like a Flower

Slowly as a flower unfolding, self dissipates and the character of Christ rises but it is a war! It is a war where battles are fought and lost and ground is gained and then yielded and then taken again on a daily basis. Just because one battle is won decisively one day, it doesn’t mean the war is won; because if you sleep, the enemy will take it again and it will be as though you never had any victory.

Five Lane Highway of Destruction

This evolution of growth is the narrow path. It is the difficult way, it is the narrow gate, it is the pain of going against your natural will and yielding to the will of God. This is the reason that so many will fall away. So many will yield to their own wisdom and their own pride and their own sense of self worth; they will think that they are on the narrow path but they are on the five lane highway to destruction and fire.

Why Do I feel This Way?

Armed with this knowledge of my own self unworthiness and carrying around this hot rock of my own condemnation that sat squarely inside my chest, feeling the weight of my guilt, knowing there is no way to hide my true character and that I am worthy of contempt, it was in this frame of mind and spirit that I was standing worshipping at the Seventh Day Adventist church.

Standing there with all the happy people who were safe in their knowledge of their own personal salvation. The people of God, God’s chosen people, who were without condemnation for themselves because they knew that they were worthy because they keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. This only added to my misery because I thought, “what is wrong with me?” Why don’t I feel like I am saved? Why do I feel like

Orthodox monastery. Monks, priests, nuns, seminary students, are all over the place garbed in black; from the mountain top down to the sea port village of Scala!

ALONE

Yet, John was in total isolation, no friends or brethren to comfort him as did Paul on his arrival to Rome – but alone! Living in a dismal, rocky cave, (6.60 X 5.50 meters), some fifty feet down into the cold barren mountain. But, God comforts and encourages him. Has this ever happened to you in an hour of sorrow, grief, loneliness? In spite of this, John was told to write “to the seven churches which are in Asia,” and “from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,” and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth, to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.” (Rev.1:4, 5).

You see, John was told to write and remember these things that “he heard and saw, and write it in a book and send it to the seven churches.”(v-11); the Good News of the Bible; positive things – not negative things – the enemies. Yet he was precipitously alone. It is good to be alone. Why? Because you remember great truths! God speaks! God’s Word! God’s Spirit! Jeremiah, the prophet, said, “I will remember the faithfulness of God.” (Lam. 3:23). Shouldn’t it behoove us to “remember” as did Jeremiah every morning upon arising?

God knows us very well. He knows how we function, our thoughts, our motives, and our afflictions. He made us! But, one thing, too, He knows we should not be alone too long. Prisoners dread solitary confinement the most! Yes, sometimes a little bit of “aloneness,” but not too much. It can help us clear our minds, step back, clarify our thinking – time to think – improve our memory! But, God saw man and realized and said, “[It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:18).

Martin Luther, the first Reformist, was always battling with another theologian named Eck. Ah! But Luther wrote, “Eck made me wide awake.” They were still friends, but not alone. They, in fact, helped one another. In Acts 28:14, the Apostle Paul’s destination was Rome, but as a chained prisoner in a squalid prison ship. Although he was closely guarded, and alone, he was exceedingly encouraged. Why? Because on arriving in Rome he was surprisingly welcomed by brothers and sisters. We can see in our daily, changing lives that God sends us people to encourage us. We, also, enter into peoples’ lives to conversely encourage them. God wants us to know this! But, what does God, in fact, really want us to see and know? That God is the First Encourager!

REMEMBER

John, in his greeting to the seven churches was not, however, alone but did as Jeremiah did, “I will remember the faithfulness of God.” (Lam 3:23). John starts to remember the goodness of God. “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” He remembered further truths, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” He remembered the words of Jesus, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the

ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” Rev. 1:5-8.

John, in his vision of the Son of Man continues to remember, “I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, (GR-intense pressure), and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.” Rev. 1:9,10. When John was “in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day” – it means he was alone, no friends or brethren worshipping with him.

CANDLESTICKS

John, moreover, saw candlesticks, “And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.” Rev. 1:12-15

In other words John, in essence, is saying, that Jesus is walking among you! This is beautiful! When people are alone and worried, their minds are filled with pondering questions; “what are my children doing? Are they all right? Jesus is among the seven candlesticks. He is there, among them. If you have seven children, he is among them, taking care of them. He is with your children, your loved ones – among them. God wants you to know this!

John, at seeing all of this in vision was terrified at these frightening images which lead him to write of the prophecies in the Book of Revelation “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” Rev. 1:17, 18. These are great truths to know and remember! John saw the power and kindness of God. John may even have said, “I have this power in front of me and God says tenderly to me, – ‘Don’t be afraid, for I am with you.’” That’s encouragement.

PEOPLE

The big question now that may be pressing on your mind is: “If God can be with John on the remote island of Patmos, why can’t He in some dramatic way be with me or on some other island of my life? Heaven knows for certain – we all need it! Maybe some of you already have had that experience in your lives, or most likely haven’t. You ask, “Yet why does He not do it?” He can if He chooses and if you need Him! The Bible is often clear on this; what did the worshipping leper say? “Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”Matt. 8:2, 3.

The Bible can help you and assure you. Ah! But how? By people! If He can’t find any people, He will do it Himself! It is that fundamental! And He will! I can almost hear someone saying, but, how is that possible? Prove it! Well, when Paul arrived in Rome, he was thrillingly comforted. Paul, the hero of the Book of Acts! He weathered a tempest, shipwrecked on Malta, and a viper attack.

What God Wants You To Know

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel unto his servant John." Revelation 1:1

THE LAST BOOK

Just as Genesis is the book of beginnings, Revelation is the book of consummation, or fulfillment, – the end – the last Book of the Bible – the last warning message to the last generation of the world! Revelation in the Greek text is "Apokalypsis Ioannou;" Revelation of John – a transliteration of the word meaning "unveiling," "disclosure," or "revelation." The revelation came from Christ, and is about Christ.

The Apostle John was a fisherman of Galilee. He and his brother Jacob were both among Christ's disciples. He is the author of the Fourth Gospel which bears his name, three Ecumenical epistles, and the Book of Apocalypse. He was named Theologos (he who speaks the word of God). He often referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." He was the youngest of the Twelve Apostles, the closest witness of Jesus' secular life and the only one present at His death on Mt. Golgotha. He was entrusted with the care of His mother, staying true to the Lord's directive.

PATMOS

After the Lord's resurrection, John emerged as one of the pillars of the first Christian community of Jerusalem. He then traveled with his disciple and scribe, Prochorus, a deacon, one of seven appointed by the Apostles, and who recorded John's apostolic work, his visions, and miracles. They went to Asia Minor in order to preach the gospel. John was subsequently exiled from Ephesus by Emperor Domitian (for preaching Jesus Christ and the Christian faith), to the rocky, barren, desert island of Patmos (94 AD -96 AD). Here John envisioned the Apocalypse and wrote the Book of Revelation, as dictated to Prochorus. He was now an old man, 100 years of age, blind and deaf – and virtually alone.

Patmos Island (named "The Jerusalem of the Aegean") also ("Pure Heaven") is a narrow strip of land, 34.5 square kilometers, (13 sq. miles), 16 kilometers (10 miles) long and 10 kilometers (6 miles) wide, with a population of 2,663. When observing it on a map it resembles the enigmatic sea horse, yet has an age-old aura. It is 161 nautical miles (257 kilometers) from Piraeus – S.E. of Athens, 14 hours by ship today, the northernmost island of the Dodecanese islands, and in the Aegean Sea near Turkey. It is a mountainous, rocky (volcanic outcroppings), arid, remote island, without water, or rain (still is today). The Romans well knew it would make an ideal site for political prisoners; a place of banishment – a virtual solitary confinement – forced hard labor in the quarries. When ships arrived, the prisoners rushed down to them begging for bread and water!

Yet, an intense religious aura is apparent throughout the island today. The Patmos cave of John is sensationally impressive. Patmos is considered hallowed ground being reconsecrated throughout the centuries by the erection of over 300 churches; one for every nine residents! The Book of Revelation was written over 1900 years ago and was commemorated in 1995. Near and above the cave on the mountain top is the Castle of the Knights of St. John; now a Greek

I am burning in an oven? Why do I smell the stench of death oozing out of my pores? Why do I feel like a dead man? A stinking bloated corpse standing and singing songs among the redeemed. **Amen.**

Congress and I was in charge of the VIP lounge. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw there the same woman sitting there! It turned out that she is the personal interpreter for the Romanian Secretary of Commerce. She recognized me right away and gave me a warm smile!

This experience showed me that sometimes it's a little gesture in your life that causes great effect! **Amen**

"The only important things in life are the traces of love that we leave behind when we have to leave unmasked and say farewell." (Albert Schweitzer)

Manuela Di Franca

Small Cause, Big Effect

I was on the train on my way back to my hometown of Ansbach; and a woman was sitting on the train, facing me. I noticed her eyes filling with tears while she was observing some children frolic around in the cabin. For a short moment, as I struggled with myself whether to say something or not, it became quite clear to me that I just couldn't look the other way.

So I asked her if I could help her, but she just shook her head. I had the deep desire in my heart to comfort her. I moved to sit next to her and hugged her.

I knew this was kind of unusual because we were strangers! The woman was deeply moved by this gesture. Thanking me several times, she commented that she'd never experienced such warmth and compassion from someone she'd never met.

While I listened she told me her story. She was living separate from her husband and was allowed to visit her children only every two weeks. Every time she saw children playing and laughing she was reminded of her sorrow. I reassured her that there was always a ray of hope despite all the misery. Soon I started talking about God and the power of prayer. Her face lit up and she told me that she believed in God and was praying every day as well.

Soon we arrived at the terminal stop and we went our separate ways. Before saying goodbye she expressed her gratitude again: "You must be sent from up above!"

After a while I happened to meet this woman again and she reassured me that she hadn't forgotten me and my words. Some months passed before we met again on the train. Overjoyed she told me that the custody of her children was awarded to her and they were living now with her!

But the story doesn't end here. To earn some money every now and then I work as a hostess at the fair and exhibition center in Nürnberg. In July 2009 I was working at a European Economic



Bitter Cup



We all want to see Jesus and listen to His teachings, and to be with Him for all eternity. His disciples had this desire to be close to Him in His kingdom and they asked Him for it.

The mother of James and John presented a request to Jesus. "Then came to Him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping Him, and desiring a certain thing of Him. And He said unto her, What wilt Thou? She said unto Him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on the left, in Thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto Him, we are able. And He said unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on My right hand, and on My left, is not Mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of My Father." Matt. 20:20-23.

These disciples had no idea what the cup of Jesus was, and what was the baptism that He was baptized with. Yet they were willing to go through anything, just to be with Him.

Did Jesus really mean it that to sit with Him on His throne, they must drink of the bitter cup of which He drank, and be baptized with the same baptism that He was baptized with? Was there not an easier way to be with Jesus in His kingdom? The cup which was trembling even in the hands of Jesus we all must drink if we want to be with Him in His kingdom and sit on His throne.

"Then said He unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me. And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me, nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt." Matt. 26:38, 39. Three times did He repeat these words, but always He added that the will of the Father be done.

His Father had given the testimony, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:17. Yet He, the loving Father gave to His Son the cup of suffering and death. He loved His Son, but He also loved the lost human race. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

All who want to belong to the 144,000 must drink the cup of Jesus.

"These are they which follow the Lamb withersoever He goeth." Rev. 14:4.

They must follow Jesus to the garden of Gethsemane and to Calvary.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." Rev. 3:21.

on the way of salvation. She left the corrupted city together with her husband, but her unconverted heart remained there where her treasure was. Perhaps she thought she would miss the pretty clothes in her wardrobe, perhaps her jewels or the nice house where she lived so comfortably; maybe a couple of friends with whom she met now and then to talk about trivial things--who knows. The fact is that she belonged to the lukewarm members of the Laodicean church in the city of Sodom of that time and she was spewed out of the Lord's mouth. What a terrible fate! How could that be? She did not value the gift of salvation. Her spiritual eyes were not open to see the glory of the world to come because she had allowed her carnal eyes to rest upon too many things that shine, but are not gold. Her ears had not been opened to hear God's voice and not being familiar with it, she could not realize of the solemnity of that moment. She belonged to the group of the foolish virgins.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou were cold or hot." (Revelation 3:15). Who said that God does not like extremes? "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil." (Deuteronomy 30:15). There is no in-between stage in God's scale of values; we either pass or fail the test; we either live in the flesh or in the Spirit; we either walk by faith or by sight; we are either faithful or unfaithful; we are either saved or lost. There is no purgatory for the lukewarm.

When I read the story of ancient Israel (and I do not know why we say "story" when it is actually history), I am always very impressed by what is written about Caleb, "he hath wholly followed the Lord" (Deuteronomy 1:36), and I tremble. The same was the case of Joshua, the only two souls that entered the land of Canaan from among the great multitude that had left Egypt. Had the majority of the people actually left Egypt or were they carrying it in their hearts, just as Lot's wife did with Sodom? Can it be said of us that we follow the Lord wholly? Maybe we have crossed the Red Sea, but are we ready to cross the Jordan?

In the Spirit of Prophecy we read, "When probation ends, it will come suddenly, unexpectedly – at a time when we are least expecting it. But we can have a clean record in heaven today, and know that God accepts us; and finally, if faithful, we shall be gathered into the kingdom of heaven. There is not a second probation for anyone. Now is the probationary time, before the angel shall fold his golden wings, the angel of mercy, and shall step down from the throne, and mercy is gone forever." 7BC, p. 989.

Maybe we have accepted Jesus by faith, but our faith is not strong enough to resist the fiery trials that come across us; maybe we are still wearing our filthy rags and have not even once tried on the wedding gown that is being woven in the loom of heaven for us. Maybe our vision is blurred and we keep on trying on different types of glasses because we are afraid that the eye-salve that the Great Physician wants to apply to our eyes may burn. No matter what the side effect may be, it is absolutely necessary to receive the baptism of the Spirit in order not to follow Lot's wife's example.

The Holy Spirit convinces us of sin, righteousness and judgment. This conviction is like an arrow that hits the target of our heart and all of a sudden we see ourselves as we really are in God's eyes, "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked", hopeless sinners condemned to perpetual death by the righteousness of God's law of love and freedom and that same moment, as we surrender to the appeals of the Spirit, we are justified and set free indeed. It only then that the process of sanctification begins.

There are no "liberals" among God's real children, but (and let me say it in Spanish) only "libres", free people. There are no open or narrow-minded, but Christ-minded people, with the law written in their hearts. There are no fanatics, but people who live responsibly, according to every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God manifested both in the Bible and the Testimonies. "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20.

As new creatures in Christ we shall not look back; we do not want anything to do with our past vanity, pride and ambition. We have eyes only for the bright future ahead of us "which God has revealed unto us by his Spirit." (1 Corinthians 2:10).

Only if we remember Lot's wife now, while there is still time to make this experience, shall we remember the Sabbath day when the great tribulation comes.

May the Lord help us not to procrastinate. The door of grace may be closed any moment "for the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." 1 Peter 4:17. **Amen.**

Teresa Corti

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Let Us Remember Lot's Wife

There are many things we need to remember in order to live a life in agreement with God's expectations: in the first place, Jesus' sacrifice for us personally, our experiences with Him as He tries to teach us meekness and humbleness so that we may one day be partakers of His glory; but as we approach the end of times, besides remembering to keep the Sabbath Day holy, we need to remember Lot's wife.

When Luke makes reference to the conversation our Saviour had with His disciples regarding His second coming in glory, he, as well as Matthew, refers to the comparison the Lord made of our times with the days of Noah in which people went about performing their daily routine without being aware that the door of grace was closed, and that the judgments of God were about to fall upon an impenitent race. But Luke adds one more example the Lord gave and that is the one of Lot and his family. It is maybe wise for us to review that story and apply it to our own life and circumstances in the times in which we are living.

Lot had chosen the most promising region as a dwelling place with the hope of having a prosperous life, which he did. But he paid a high price for having allowed his material interests to prevail over his spiritual ones. He lived and raised his children in an atheistic and depraved society which lowered the moral standard of his whole family; his own soul was constantly afflicted by what he saw and experienced.

If we ever tend to doubt God's faithfulness and care for us as His children, we only have to read this story and see how our loving Father does not forget any soul whose heart beats for Him, no matter where this one may be and what his/her past errors may have been. But, since everything written in the Scriptures is for our admonition so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past, we should also learn to live by faith that leads to obedience to all of God's precepts; and not be presumptuous and think that we can go against our best knowledge of God's word and still be saved by His infinite grace.

Jesus does not mention every details of Lot's life, not even the fact that his sons-in-law laughed at the angels' warning and as a consequence he lost some of his daughters, but He says, "Remember Lot's wife."

When we read the epistle to the seven churches in Revelation, we find an invitation to some churches to remember from where they had fallen or what the principles of God's kingdom are and to repent. God's concern is for those among His people who are still trapped in sin or not living up to the high standard of the faith they profess when the time of probation is about to close.

Lot's sons-in-law were lost in their carnality and worldliness; they were cold and insensitive to any offer of grace, and thus they put themselves beyond the reach of God's saving hand. But Lot's wife had been taken out of the city by the hand of an angel and put

Sometimes the way seems too hard, that we may be ready to give up the struggle. Often discouragements came upon the men of God, when their burden seemed too heavy for them.

Moses had patiently led the people out of Egypt and had gone through many trials, sorrows, and painful experiences. Yet finally, even he was overcome with discouragement.

"And Moses said unto the Lord, Wherefore hast Thou afflicted Thy servant? And wherefore have I not found favour in Thy sight, that Thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? ...I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. And if Thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray Thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in Thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness." Num. 11:11, 14, 15.

Moses drank the bitter cup. God loved Moses, but in His love He had to make his character perfect by suffering and trials.

Job was a perfect man. God Himself gave witness of Him. "There is none other like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil." Job 1:8.

Also to him God gave a bitter cup to drink. Because of this cup, Job wished to die and cursed the day when he was born.

"After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day. And Job spake, and said, Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived." Job 3:1-3.

Job said further, "Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter in soul; which long for death, but it cometh not; and dig for it more than for hid treasures; which rejoice exceedingly, and are glad, when they can find the grave?" Job 3:20-22.

David passed "through the valley of the shadow of death." Ps. 23:4. He was alone, friendless, hated by the king, fleeing as a fugitive. Yet he survived this bitter cup and wrote, "For His anger endureth but a moment; in His favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Ps. 30:5

There were dark moments in the lives of all the faithful men of God, when death seemed better than life. But these fiery trials lasted only a moment and after they praised God and gave thanks to Him even for those bitter moments in their lives.

These trials are necessary. We all need to drink this cup of Jesus and to be baptized with the baptism of fire, by which Jesus also was baptized with. This bitter cup and the baptism of fire come to us from God. He gives them to us. John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." Matt. 3:11.

From the first human family, when Cain killed Abel until now, the hatred and persecution has continued by followers of Satan against the children of God. Sister White writes, "Of all persecution the hardest to bear is variance in the home, the estrangement of dearest earthly friends." DA 357.

We are expecting hatred from outside, but when it comes from our loved ones, it is harder to bear.

This is what Jesus had to suffer:

"And one shall say unto Him, What are these wounds in Thine hands? Then He shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends." Zech. 13:6. Jesus was hated and killed by His own church, for whom He had cared for throughout the centuries. Also for whom He came to give salvation.

One-sided love hurts the most. Often parents who love their children do not get a response from them. The Jewish people put the love of Jesus to a severe test. Would He still love them when they crucified Him? The answer is, yes, He prayed for them asking His Father to forgive them.

We are tested and purified as silver and gold in the fire. "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Mal. 3:3

"Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected." GC 621

Terrible is the struggle that we must go through. But yet this story has a happy ending—eternal joy in heaven and in the new earth. But even now while we are still on this earth of sin and evil, this bitter cup can be sweetened and made even enjoyable. The love of Jesus will do it. The disciples of Jesus were rejoicing that they could suffer for Jesus. "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for His name." Acts 5:41.

Sister White writes, "Of all the gifts that heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honour. Not Enoch who was translated to heaven, nor Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honoured than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon." MH 478.

Jesus asks you today, are you willing to drink the cup that I drank, and be baptized with the baptism that I was baptized with?

In these last days, there are 144,000 who do drink the bitter cup and are baptized with fire, and you can be one of them. And if you love Jesus, this love will make the bitter cup sweet and even enjoyable. In heaven one day you will be glad that you gave Jesus the right answer. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada



Believers In Calgary, Canada

this not practically seen? The small house we had as a shelter had filled completely; others even returned only to come back in the afternoon. The people there are humble; imagine they had to sit on the wet ground since the grass thatched house had leaked quite a lot! May the following promise be to their uplifting:

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14.

As was said earlier on, every lesson was Christ-centered. At the end of a short sermon, a question was posed as to how many people were ready to receive more lessons next time and to also continue to study with Brother Macheso. All of them raised their hand in agreement. Then it was stressed that they were supposed to raise their hands with sincere hearts. They again raised their hands in agreement; then the divine service was closed. How many people gathered with us this time?

There were above fifty-five.

Sabbath Afternoon

After sharing with each other the meals previously prepared, people were happy to participate. As we were resting, we held a separate meeting with different individuals who asked us several questions on doctrinal matters including the perpetuity of the Ten Commandments and marriage. Around 3 pm, we began another session, which happened to be our final one on this trip. Meanwhile, we received a message from another village [Mtiza] that they needed us at the same time; we decided to deal with the ones that had already come for lessons. After answering several questions that afternoon, our concentration turned to point out to the people about God having a Church in this sin stricken and revolted world. Many had been asking us what our Church was. We explained, of course, not in too much detail, considering also the level of understanding on the part of the congregation. With the same questions that were asked during the divine service, the Sabbath was closed, marking the end of the work there in Mulanje.

The church has planned further visits to this area as soon as possible so let us pray for the work there.

Missionary Work at Chileka International Airport.

The second part of the article takes us to yet another place; this time in the very city of Blantyre, known as Chileka. If you come to Malawi by plane and to this city, you touch down at this place. The church we visited is located just about 600 m from where the plane leaves the ground.

On Friday, 20 August 2010, we left for Chileka, which is about a 20 minute drive from where we live. This time I was with Brother

Stanley Chelewani. Brother Chilewani had witnessed to one of the leaders of an independent group which had separated from the large Seventh day Adventist church. They consequently invited us to teach at their church. This was the opening for us to meet them.

Sabbath's Experience

The group that we met separated from The SDA church on the grounds that women are preaching in their church.

Surely the downfall of the Seventh day Adventist church is revealed unto us through prophesy and confirmed in the history of the Church. It is when the church met face to face with fiery trials, that it repudiated the most basic truth that made up what Adventists were since 1844. And that verily by trying to cover up that great apostasy from its members, many have grown ignorant over the issue, let alone getting frustrated by later sins of the church. They are left without direction, not knowing it had ceased to be called the Remnant Church sometime back. The truth of the Reform Movement is not known to many--that genuine reformation which took its legitimate stand since the year of rebellion in 1914.

The above message was given to this particular group, with emphasis on comparing the old Israel with the modern. God will assist these people, since they are quite receptive to the message and invited us to come again and give other lessons. They do not have a particular name by which they are called. Some have already asked for materials that they can read on their own. As we go there the next time we hope the Lord will call them to His side.

In conclusion, my prayer is that the God of peace continue to instill the spirit of missionary work in every member of His church both young and old to work untiringly for Him, thereby hastening His return. **AMEN.**

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called for help, as he is alone in this place. At this point, one Brother asked: "Given that transport is there, who can go to Mulanje for evangelization?" Then that is when I saw God, through the Brother, fulfilling my cherished dream. It was not long before I discovered that I was not alone in volunteering to go. Two other brethren offered themselves also to support the work.

Thursday-The Journey Begins

On Thursday, July 29, Brother Samson Gondwe and I left from Blantyre to travel to this area, to the far South East of Blantyre City. Thanks to the brother who dipped into his pocket for my transportation. There are few who choose to take something from the little they have and invest in the bank of heaven. May God richly bless this brother! Whereas I was assisted in this way by this unnamed brother, Brother Gondwe had financed himself from his personal resources. May the Lord bless him richly as well for this special sacrifice! Meanwhile, one of the brethren we planned to go together with failed to come due to some engagements that had arisen which he had to attend to.

There arose some uncertainty as we were on our way. As we started out, we were provided with some phone numbers that we were to call as soon as we arrived there. Yet both of them were not available, leaving some doubt as to how we were going to trace the home of the brother living there who was to be our host. Despite this, we trusted in God as our guide, continuing our journey and praying for God's total intervention. It was not long before our prayers were heard! As soon as we arrived at the tiny marketplace we saw the brother rising to welcome us. He had patiently waited for us since the late hours of the morning. It was a wonderful experience as we rode on bicycles to his home about 3 km away.

It is important to acknowledge that Mulasa village, where the brother lives, is a fertile ground for missionary work! Upon arrival we became overwhelmed; the response we got from the people was indescribable. We had arrived at the house just before sunset, but at around 6:30 pm (local time) we were surrounded by people--close to 25, many of whom were women (in a culture where women are the ones that dominate in most affairs). We also had the attendance of many children. This was an opportunity for us to give our first message to them. All of our messages were pointing to our Lord and beloved Savior Jesus Christ - "the sacrifice that brought salvation to the lost world" (DA. 485). During this time we had a meeting for close to 3 hours. This session included answering several questions that were asked of us. This is the part that took a substantial time. Questions pertaining to diet were discussed. We explained that if we want to know the exact diet that God gave man, we have to go to the beginning. Gen. 1:29; 3:18 (last part). Many said they had understood and were willing to learn more.

Friday: Inside Missionary Labors and Sabbath Preparation

It was Friday 30th July. In the morning we woke with the plan to visit several homes that had been visited before by Brother Macheso.

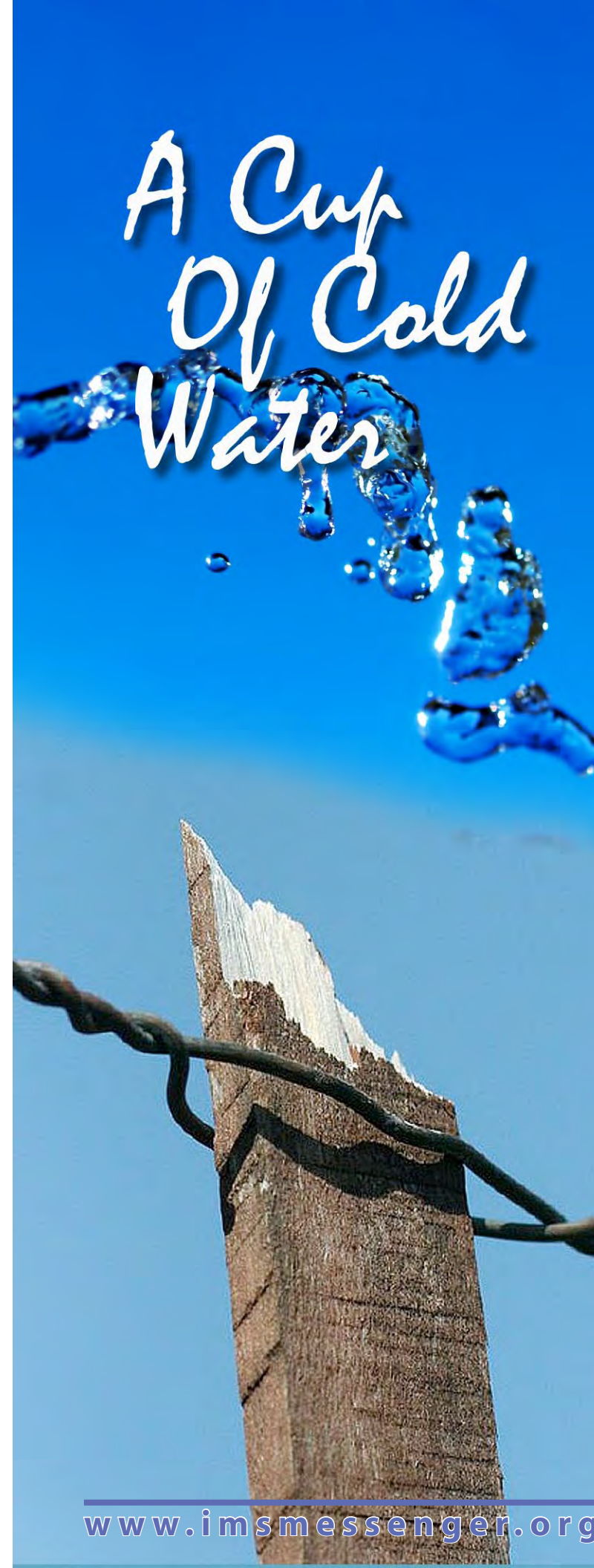
But before we could do that, we counseled on how best to prepare for the coming holy hours. Again thanks to the help of some funds we received from the missionary department for our upkeep there, we bought everything that was required for Sabbath preparation. We really felt the need of setting a good example in this, as it was part of our missionary work. Due to more questions from the people we met, we only managed to reach three families on this day. Being conscious of the advice given through the inspired writings, that we need to guard the edges of the Sabbath more strictly, we resolved to go back home and make sure everything was ready before sunset. Many neighbors assisted in this part, though it was not that easy to complete this task in good time because it was raining heavily and the fire was constantly going out, but with the help of God every thing was done in time. We really thank God for this.

Sabbath Opening and Hours Later.

The Sabbath opening had just finished and the people told us they were not going home and then have to return for other lessons, so they asked that we should sing with them in the interim. A few left and came back later. We enjoyed the music session and soon we went onto the divine word of God. About thirty people also gathered for this session. This time around we dealt with the issue of the Sabbath. Many had questions lingering in their minds relating to what happened during the preparation time. Many were surprised to learn that the Sabbath day was changed by man and also that this institution was not for the Jews alone; the Bible evidently shows that it is older than the Jews. We also prayed for the sick that were among us (including a young child that was specifically brought to us for this purpose), always trusting in God's healing power. God is a God of miracles! As if that is not enough, we had a meeting with one Islamic family for close to an hour right in the house in which we were lodging. Thanks to God for softening the hearts of these two souls. Let us pray that they finally make a decision for the true God of Israel.

Sabbath School and the Divine Service

The message that some evangelists had arrived in the village had been spread near and far. Many whom we visited promised to come as well. But on the Sabbath day we were clouded by uncertainty as to whether anyone was going to turn up. If one looks in the atlas for Africa and specifically for the well-known Mountains, Mulanje Mountain cannot be passed unnoticed. How is this related to the uncertainty being spoken of above? The implication is that since this area is close to the mountain, it almost always rains in these months and is extremely cold. The Sabbath day was not an exception; it was raining even more heavily than the past days, and was also cold and muddy. This was the cause of the worry. But as it has always been the case where it sounds impossible for man, in the hands of God, it is a possibility. Where the wisdom of man ends that is where the wisdom of God begins. Where man sees no opening that is where God opens wide and clears the windows! [Compare these with 1 Cor. 1:25 and 2 Kings 7:2] Was



"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water... verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Matt. 10:42

Why have I chosen this topic?

Early in 2009, I was posted to a secondary school in the deep rural part of the Rift Valley province in Kenya. In my simple capacity as a teacher, I encountered an experience which I cannot forget. It touched my heart.

The area is classified as a hardship area. Why is that? Sometimes it rains and at times it does not rain for quite long period of time. Last year, 2009 was such a year. Most of the farmers farm for subsistence due to small farms and a low level of mechanized farming.

Farmers had prepared land for planting. They had bought maize and beans seeds. They had planted in the hope of having a plentiful harvest. Those who had insufficient funds to cultivate and buy planting materials had an option to borrow from banks.

Many people were enticed to take loans. Consequently, the majority of farmers took loans. Even the herders who depend on livestock rearing did the same. Having planted, they waited for the rain to fall on the land. Even though there were signs of rain in January, yet it had not rained by March.

What happened afterwards cannot be comprehended. The ground turned into a "Sahara desert". The dry winds blew, carrying dust like smoke drifting from a burning dry forest. Leaves of oaks faded. The nearby ranch where elephants and buffaloes inhabited was not spared either.

At that time elephants used to wander out of the ranch at night into the nearby inhabited villages. They broke fences and searched for the barns that had some corn left. In search of water dams to quench their burning thirst, they strayed far and wide.

You can recall that, there have been debates for addressing the global warming and its effects. In our country, the debate was advanced to the political arena. In a nutshell, conservation efforts were put in place to secure water catchments like forests and mountains from where rivers and streams form. This was done in the hope of attracting rain. The science behind it I do not comprehend.

Hunger struck three quarters of the population in our country. Not less than 100 people died of hunger. Turning to wild roots and tree barks did not quench thirst or hunger. Relief food from the government was distributed to the schools around, mine included. Feeding programs targeted the school pupils and students. It was not unusual to see parents accompanying their children for the same share.

It had not rained for one year. Two years were remaining for the disaster to be equal to that of Elijah's time in the Old Testament. Herders narrated stories of their loss. Others committed suicide for the loss of their wealth. One student told me they lost 200 head of cattle and only two survived.

The government's intervention of buying the weak animals to slaughter at considerable prices did not bear much fruit. A lot of animals died on transit to the slaughter house. I cannot estimate the loss exactly. It was so enormous!

Day by day, the sun rose and sank without a sign of a cloud. The sun sank with the hope of the coming rain. If you were lucky to get water, it was saline and yellow, not fit for drinking or cooking.

Water levels in most of the boreholes had gone deep down. We would wait for the levels to rise for 5 hours before we drew 100 litres. It was not unusual to carry back home your empty vessel from the borehole.

Most of the homes were left desolate. Most of the people had migrated to distant relatives. I vividly remember how many dogs turned ferocious. You could not scare away a fragile skinny dog as usual. It could turn its anger toward you and make a good bite on your juicy flesh.

Let me take your attention to my class. Normally, a teacher has to say "hello", or "good morning", or "good afternoon", depending on the time of the day. Take for instance that it is the morning and you say, "good morning". What response do you get?

Is it not an irony to hope that your students woke up well when in reality you know their adversity? Is it not ridiculous to require them to be happy? I have witnessed most of our salutations in the church. During the Sabbath is the time the pastor says, "Happy Sabbath." The congregation is expected to respond "Happy day". Another new salutation, "God is good." We respond in chorus "All the time."

Why can't we help our needy neighbors or church members so that they may praise God, so that they may have strength to respond to our salutations? Unfortunately, our pastors are needy too. They are as needy as ourselves or are slightly below our average living standards.

A story is told of an elderly man who liked chicken very much. After members of his household assisted in slaughtering it, he cooked it himself and sent the same members away for a while. He ensured that there was nobody around the homestead before he closed himself in his hovel to consume it.

The elderly man was "clever" to keep his body fit. He could not run after the hen. He gave instructions to the children and the mother to give a chase to the hen which he could eat himself. He loved

himself so much that he bought good things for himself because he considered himself the custodian of everything. I ask you: can you trust this elderly man to protect his family in times of famine as our story goes? The judgment is left with you.

Here is a lesson we are to learn.

One day you prayed to God to help you to pass your exams in college, or you prayed to God to help your business grow and develop, or you prayed to God to give you an opportunity to serve Him in the Holy temple. And the Gracious Lord granted your prayer. Are you thankful to Him through your offering?

He has helped you climb the hills and successfully cross the valleys of this life. What do you have in return? Do you think you can sustain your own life? Do you believe that you will live forever in pleasure?

I plead to those who read this article to reconsider the decisions they have made in the past. Some have used their privileges to deny the deserving a cup of cold water, because you have seen them as undeserving, very little, and lazy beggars. In the Holy Bible, we read of two people who caught my attention.

One of the two fared sumptuously every day. That means he ate a balanced diet, lived in a comfortable house, had servants, kept animals as pets. Allow me to imagine that his dogs were also well washed and fed. They were fed special food. If the dogs fell sick they could be taken to the doctor for treatment.

The latter man was a beggar who lay at the rich man's gate where dogs could lick his sores. This latter man is sick. "...and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table." Luke 16:21

I can see that these crumbs which fell from the rich man's table were sufficient for a meal for the sick and desiring man.

Permit me to mention about what financial analysts call "economic crunch" or a period of recession which results in loss of jobs, declining currency or inflation. To an average person this situation translates to low living standards. Or a steady rise in the general level of prices of commodities.

Comparing such rates from country to country, from continent to continent, you will learn that some developing countries were hit hard by inflation. Even so, the developed countries recovered quickly and kept on advancing grants and loans to the developing countries.

What suitable example do we need here as members of the body of Christ?

If you were the rich man and saw Lazarus day by day at your gate,



In Mulanje and Chileka, Malawi

Christ is Sending You Out to Preach!

The Lord Jesus Christ, while He was about to leave this sin stricken world said: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen." Matt. 28:18-20.

When we read in the Desire of Ages, we are told that Christ repeated these words now and again. Why was this so? The reason is given: for the disciples to grasp their significance! Let us read this paragraph together:

"Standing but a step from His heavenly throne, Christ gave the commission to His disciples. 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth,' He said. 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations. 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' Mark 16:15. Again and again the words were repeated, that the disciples might grasp their significance. Upon all the inhabitants of the earth, high and low, rich and poor, was the light of heaven to shine in clear, strong rays. The disciples were to be co-laborers with their Redeemer in the work of saving the world." DA 818. [Emphasis mine]

Do we grasp the significance today, brethren and sisters? I hope we do; if we don't then let us without delay, seize the little chance that we are left with, to gather people for the heavenly garner.

Responding to God's Call

On Sabbath July 24, 2010, I responded to God's call to evangelize a certain area of Mulanje. The people there were, and still are in great need of our message! Mulanje is a district in the southern part of Malawi and partly borders with Mozambique. In the area where we traveled, there lives an interested soul by the name of Brother Macheso. We hope that soon he will be confirming the covenant with God through baptism. Several times this brother had come to gather with the brethren in Blantyre where the Reformation is mainly established. It is interesting to note, that we had frequently been told of his missionary efforts to build a bastion of truth in this part of the district. I, for one had always cherished the hope that, should resources be found, then likely I would visit this place to help the brother in his missionary work. On the above mentioned date, the time had come for the fulfillment of my dream. On this day the brother paid us a visit, and as usual he narrated the story of how he was trying to uplift the God of heaven in his area, and

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

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

"What is done through the cooperation of men with God is a work that shall never perish, but endure through the eternal ages." In Heavenly Places 364. **Amen**

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Africa



The Work In Malawi

if you were the rich man and saw Lazarus desire the crumbs falling from your table, if you were the rich man and saw your dogs lick Lazarus' sores, what could you have done?

What you could have done, do it now. Do it now, please. Lazarus is at your gate. Please, do not drive past your gate. Lazarus is in your own church. Identify him and accord him the necessary care. Do not send servants whom you cannot trust. At times servants can lie to you that there is no Lazarus at the gate. Or the same servants may keep what Lazarus deserves and report back that Lazarus has got enough and so he is comfortable. At the end you will not be excused for your ignorance.

Wake up to your duty and identify Lazarus. Pray earnestly so that you can recover your sight to see his sores being licked by your dogs.

You will not be protected from tormenting. Even if you request Lazarus to "dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool the tongue" (Luke 16:24); you are tormented.

Help that is brought in time is like a cup of cold water which quenches the thirst. Jesus is compared to the water of life. He also says that He enables us to be the sources of that water of life. "... whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14

Let us not wait until it is too late to get it, or let us not withhold that water of life for ourselves. Let none obstruct his or her friends from reaching the well of that water.

Allow me to bring this study to a close by pleading to you, dear reader. Let us drink the water of life which is freely given. In return, we become wells springing up with that water. In this study water symbolizes spiritual water (the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ that bringeth eternal salvation) and the physical or ordinary water. Lastly, I have used it as a symbol for the basic needs for human survival.

It is my sincere hope that the reading will be a Blessing to the dear reader of this article. I thank the reader for taking his/her time to read and meditate on this article. **Amen.**

*Charles Mogunde, Kenya.
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Camp Meeting In Nairobi



Go Ye Also Into The Vineyard



"For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard." Matt. 20:1-7

"But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you." Matt. 21:28-31

"The history of Israel as represented in the parable should be studied by all who would practice the teachings of Christ. The vineyard represents the church. The two sons are the two classes of men and women in the world. The Lord calls every member of His church to work in His vineyard." MS 127

"To everyone who becomes a partaker of His grace the Lord appoints a work for others. Individually we are to stand in our lot and place, saying, "Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8. Upon the minister of the word, the missionary nurse, the Christian physician, the individual Christian, whether he be merchant or farmer, professional man or mechanic--the responsibility rests upon all. It is our work to reveal to men the gospel of their salvation. Every enterprise in which we engage should be a means to this end." MH 148

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

In Our Master's Joy

In a parable about talents, Jesus talked about the welcome He will give His children. "Well done," He will say. "Enter in the joy of your Master." Matt. 25:23.

What is that joy? "The Saviour's joy is in seeing, in the kingdom of glory, the souls that have been saved by His agony and humiliation. And the redeemed will be sharers in His joy, as they behold, among the blessed, those who have been won to Christ through their prayers, their labors, and their loving sacrifice." GC 647

Paul, too, calls the people he helped lead to Christ, his joy. He wrote to the Thessalonians, "For what is our hope or joy or crown

of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy." 1 Thess. 2: 19, 20.

"Every impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God is noted in the books of heaven, and in the day of God everyone who has given himself as an instrument for the Holy Spirit's working will be permitted to behold what his life has wrought.

"The poor widow who cast her two mites into the Lord's treasury little knew what she was doing. Her example of self-sacrifice has acted and reacted upon thousands of hearts in every land and in every age. It has brought to the treasury of God gifts from the high and the low, the rich and the poor. It has helped to sustain missions, to establish hospitals, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and preach the gospel to the poor. Multitudes have been blessed through her unselfish deed. And the outworking of all these lines of influence she, in the day of God, will be permitted to see. So with Mary's precious gift to the Saviour. How many have been inspired to loving service by the memory of that broken alabaster box! And how she will rejoice as she beholds all this!" 6T 310

"Wonderful will be the revealing as the lines of holy influence, with their precious results, are brought to view. What will be the gratitude of souls that will meet us in the heavenly courts as they understand the sympathetic, loving interest which has been taken in their salvation! All praise, honor, and glory will be given to God and to the Lamb for our redemption; but it will not detract from the glory of God to express gratitude to the instrumentality He has employed in the salvation of souls ready to perish." 6T 310, 311

"The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Saviour." 6T 311

Here is a paraphrase of some actual thank-you's that will be given in the New Jerusalem.

"'I was a sinner,' 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 the 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 worshipped 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.'

"Others will express their gratitude to those who fed the hungry and clothed the naked. 'When despair bound my soul in unbelief, the Lord sent you to me,' they say, 'to speak words of hope and comfort. You brought me food for my physical necessities, and

you opened to me the word of God, awakening me to my spiritual needs. You treated me as a brother. You sympathized with me in my sorrows and restored my bruised and wounded soul so that I could grasp the hand of Christ that was reached out to save me. In my ignorance you taught me patiently that I had a Father in heaven who cared for me. You read to me the precious promises of God's word.'

"'You inspired in me faith that He would save me. My heart was softened, subdued, broken, as I contemplated the sacrifice which Christ had made for me. I became hungry for the bread of life, and the truth was precious to my soul. I am here, saved, eternally saved, ever to live in His presence, and to praise Him who gave His life for me.'

What rejoicing there will be as these redeemed ones meet and greet those who have had a burden in their behalf! And those who have lived, not to please themselves, but to be a blessing to the unfortunate who have so few blessings--how their hearts will thrill with satisfaction! They will realize the promise: "Thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." 6T 311, 312

Thou shalt delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 58:14.

Fear not: ... I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." Genesis 15:1.

"I am thy part and thine inheritance." Numbers 18:20.

"Where I am, there shall also My servant be." John 12:26.

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

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

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