



The Reformation
Messenger
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 4, APRIL 2011

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

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalm 1:1-3

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

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Messenger

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

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AN OPPORTUNITY



Life is an opportunity. With the blood of His Son, God has purchased this opportunity for us. Every person has a chance of gaining eternal life and heaven if they decide to use this opportunity. Yet, so many neglect this great offer of God and pass through this life, unsaved. Others who decide to accept this offer often neglect to fulfill the conditions required for it.

As I passed through the military cemetery in Arlington, it gave me a strange feeling to see rows and rows of crosses as far as I could see, over the graves of mostly young men, and to think how many of them were unsaved. Their time is now over. They had made their choice in life and now it was too late to change their destiny. It is eternal life or eternal death--that is the choice.

In the time of Noah, every person had an opportunity to save themselves in the ark that Noah had built. Noah invited people in, but, other than his own family, no one came. They did not care about the opportunity to save themselves.

Jesus said, "As in the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." Matthew 24:37-39.

An opportunity has been given to us to live a perfect life, without sin, being filled with the Holy Spirit of God, full of joy and happiness.

If our life is not perfect, fulfilling, enjoyable, and Christ-like, it is not because we were lacking opportunities. No, the reason is that we have neglected to use the God-given opportunities and made wrong choices in our life.

Often people blame circumstances, and also other people for their misery and unhappiness, not realizing that it is their own neglect in taking hold of the salvation that was offered to them that is the cause of their misery.

We may not always have the opportunity to get a high education, to start a business, or to travel, or have many other things that people in the world value highly. But, we always have the opportunity to secure salvation, eternal life, and heaven. God has made sure that no one is lacking these things.

Satan also gives us opportunities, offering us enjoyment of sin. He gives us the chance to gratify our flesh and our appetite. He wants us to please our own eyes and ears with vanity, and satisfy all of our natural inclinations.

We must choose between these two offers, because we

cannot serve two masters; some people try, but in the end, they will be on the wrong side. Elijah's message was, "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow Him, but if Baal, then follow him." 1 Kings 18:21.

Moses said, "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil." Deuteronomy 30:15.

Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15.

This is a terrible choice that everyone must make, between Christ and Satan, between eternal life and eternal death, between happiness and joy in the Lord, and misery and depression. Daily we must be choose between serving God or Satan. We have a choice of reading the Bible or watching frivolous shows on TV, going to prayer meetings or engaging in entertaining activities, doing missionary work or wasting our time, eating healthy food or junk food. Constantly we must choose whom we will serve.

Adam and Eve had a choice to serve God or Satan, but, sadly they made the wrong choice. Cain and Abel had a choice of bringing the offering that God had asked them to bring, or to obey Satan and bring the wrong kind of offering.

Judas took hold of Satan's offer to gain 30 pieces of silver for very little work. Lot's wife had an opportunity to save herself but she disobeyed God and looked back.

Did any one of these people gain something by their disobedience? They used human wisdom, hoping to gain something, but ended up losers. Are we wise if we disobey God by neglecting our duty, by telling Him that, "We will not accept an office in Your church, we are busy in our own life, or in our own work"?

We also must choose what our minds are constantly thinking; we must choose very carefully, every word that we speak.

We have an opportunity to do everything right and, by so doing, secure eternal life. We also have an opportunity to take the cross that Jesus mentioned; to carry it and follow Him to Calvary.

Often people blame their human weakness for their sins, but this is not accepted in the judgment because the power of God is promised to us, even to move mountains.

It is surprising how few people are afraid of Satan. He is the worst monster that has ever existed. He is out to kill the whole world. Billions of people are deceived by him, and he is around us, the children of God, as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He wants to make sure that we will not use the opportunity of salvation that God is offering to us. His great deception is "later", not now; some day we will make a full surrender to God, but suddenly it will be too late.

Time is the great opportunity for us to secure our salvation. When our time is over, we cannot do anything then. How often people weep at the graves of their friends and relatives to whom they expressed so little



love in their lifetime.

Our time is our most important asset, and yet people invent amusements just to kill the time. We must not waste even one moment of our time, because our character building depends on the right use of it.

Sister White writes, "Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 342.

"There are many poor creatures, now miserable, disappointed and degraded, a curse to all around them, who might have been useful and happy men had they but improved their opportunities." *Testimonies for the*

Church, Vol. 4, pp. 654-655.

They were members of the church and probably did not do great sins, but they neglected their duty, did not use their time wisely, and this neglect made them miserable.

An artist made a picture of opportunity. It was a picture of a person with wings at his feet. Opportunities are elusive. They are here now and the next moment they are gone, and if not made use of, they will never return.

Many will have great disappointment in the end. "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jeremiah. 8:20.

"Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God." *Early Writings*, p. 71.

God has given us the talent of time for only one purpose, and that is to save ourselves. Time is a good fortune if we make right use of it.

Mordecai told Esther, "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14.

There is the story of the Good Samaritan. When an opportunity was given to the Levite and to the priest to help a wounded man, they did not use this opportunity. Then along came a Samaritan man who had mercy on this man and saved his life.

"As we have therefore great opportunity let us do good to all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10.

These opportunities are, to us, tests of faith. They show our love to God and toward our fellow men. If we make use of them, we will be richly paid for all our sacrifices by gaining eternal life. May the Lord open our eyes to notice the opportunities to do good. AMEN.

Timo Martin

Prayer Request

Our dear Sister Teresa Corti, who lives in Germany, is very ill. Teresa has been a faithful supporter of the Messenger magazine by contributing her enlightening articles for more than ten years. Sister Corti is also faithfully caring for our dear Brother Gutknecht as she has done for many years. Sister Teresa is very sick

we request prayers for her.



now and request prayers for her.

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TODAY'S ELIJAH

When we think about the history of mankind, we realize that there are many events that brought a great change in society, in politics, and in the planet itself. The invention of electricity was an event that changed the rhythm of life and allowed the development of technology, which we find it difficult to do without today. The discovery of America gave a haven of peace to the many persecuted Christians in Europe, besides setting the basis for a new kind of democracy. But the greatest event of all is still in the future: Jesus' second coming.

When we study the prophecies we understand that many things will still happen; many of them are already visible today while others are still ahead of us.

In the last book of the Old Testament, the book of the prophet Malachi, we read, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." Malachi 4:5

The prophet Elijah lived during the kingship of King Ahab; and here it says that he will come again. Elijah is in heaven. He was one of two people who were translated without seeing death. The description of his ascension in 2 Kings 2:11 is wonderful! Elijah was with his disciple Elisha, "And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

Shortly before Jesus' crucifixion, the prophet Elijah and Moses met Him on top of a mountain where the Lord was transfigured, and seen in His glory. How is it possible that he came again to this earth? But that is what the Bible records state.

When I used to live in Greece, about twenty years ago, there was a man who used to wander along the streets of Athens and say that he was the prophet Elijah. He had a long white beard and carried an executive bag with his name: Prophet Elijah. Sometimes I met him in the post office and he always had many letters to post. Could he really have been the prophet Elijah? What does the prophecy say that he will do when he comes?

"And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers." Malachi 4:6. He will perform a work of conversion and reconciliation.

What did the prophet Elijah do when he was alive on this earth? He lived at a time in which God's people were given over to idolatry; and his mission was to call them to repentance, to conversion. The king of the time was married to a woman who was an enemy of the prophet and of the true God. She was the daughter of a Canaanite king and had made the worship of Baal an official practice in Israel. She had the prophets of God killed. Only one hundred of them were hidden in caves and were provided bread and water. Is that not also a promise of the Lord to the faithful in the end of times? (Read Isaiah 33:14-16)

Jezebel, the spiritual leader of the people, is a counterpart of the whore in chapter 17 of Revelation, who rides on a scarlet beast and carries in her hand a cup full of the abominations of her false teachings and the blood of her martyrs. The beast in Revelation is the political power that is ruled by an unclean spiritual power, namely by a satanic power, that works through a church. The same thing happened at the time of Elijah. Ahab, the king, was the political power, but he was completely ruled by his wife who was a spiritualistic leader.

Because of their disobedience and immorality, the people separated themselves from God, and the Lord sent a terrible drought upon the country. When Elijah appeared before the king, he was asked, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and thou hast followed Baal." 1 Kings 18:17, 18

This situation will also repeat itself in the end of time. God's children, who remain true to the principles of heaven and obey the commandments, will be accused by the political authorities. They claim that the catastrophes that are happening, one after another upon the planet, are due to their disobedience to the human

laws. Elijah was badly persecuted and he thought that he was alone, although the Lord met him where he had hidden himself and revealed Himself to him, and told him that he was not alone, but that there were another 7000 righteous men who had not bent their knee to Baal. In Revelation it also speaks of such people, but they are not going to be 7000, but more than twenty times that number, from all nations, and people, and tongues.

In the New Testament we find a clue to the Elijah that will come, according to Malachi's prophecy that is quoted in Luke 1:17, "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Here it refers to John the Baptist. And it says that he is not Elijah, but will come in the spirit and power of Elijah--in other words, full of the Holy Spirit. John's mission was the same as Elijah's: to call a people to repentance. John called sin by its name and while many were touched and converted, many others hated the message, although it was an announcement of the kingdom of grace and forgiveness.



Like in the time of Elijah, the people were separated from God due to disobedience, and those who loved sin became John the Baptist's enemies.

The New Testament Herod was comparable to Ahab, and Herodias is compared to Jezebel, who through her daughter Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist. In the same way that Jezebel ruled over her husband and hated the prophet of God, Herodias influenced her lover and got rid of the faithful servant of the Lord. Murder for these two women with a seared conscience was no problem. Jezebel satisfied her husband's desire to own Naboth's vineyard by simply having him killed, after having dishonest people give false testimony against him. This is another example of what is about to happen to us if we are faithful to the Lord.

When John was in prison, Jesus spoke about him to the people and said, "For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath no

risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Matthew 11:10, 11

And on another occasion, "his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elijah must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elijah truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, that Elijah is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed." Matthew 17:10-13. So John the Baptist was Elijah in spiritual power.

But Malachi speaks about an Elijah that should come "before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." Malachi 4:5. Before Jesus' second coming, the Spirit of the Lord will be poured without measure upon his faithful children, who shall be but a bunch of sheep among a pack of wolves. Who will be this Elijah? Anyone of us who will be chosen by the Lord due to an unwavering faith; anyone, who like Naboth will tell the political authorities who will want to buy our vineyard, "The Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee." 1 Kings 21:3

The whore of Revelation 17 is already riding the beast although the time is not yet come in which the ten horns give their power and strength unto it. "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them; for He is the Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:14

We all have been called, but we all need to be chosen and found faithful. Let us strengthen one another in faith with the assurance that the Lamb who will overcome the sinners, has already overcome us to His side. "For many are called, but few [are] chosen." Matthew 22:14

Let us think of ourselves as the Elijah of the present time and do all in our power to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers and vice versa. Let's do everything possible and impossible to bring souls to Jesus. The Lord will water every seed we sow and bless every effort we make. "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God." 1 Corinthians 4:1 Amen.

Teresa Corti

THE FOUNDATION OF DIVINE WORSHIP

God's people "worship Him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24.

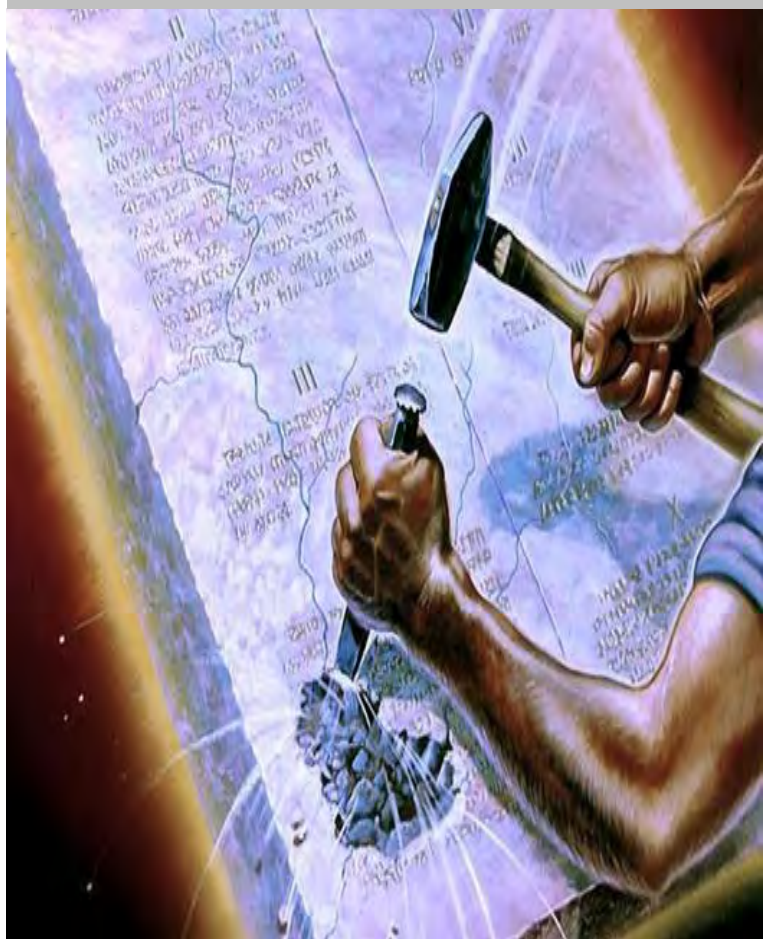
A World Confused by False Worship

For any building to last, the secret lies in its foundation. True religion or worship also has its foundation which, if removed "no worship can be pleasing to God." *Lift Him Up*, p. 342

Today the world is full of different religions. In the Christian world, people worship in diverse manners, and in the way that pleases them. To them the teaching is--the way that you worship, where, when or how, does not matter; but it is only important that you pray or worship in the name of Jesus. The reason for such teachings is that "with the open Bible before them, and professing to reverence its teachings, many of the religious leaders of our time are destroying faith in it as the word of God. They busy themselves with dissecting the word, and set their own opinions above its plainest statements. In their hands God's word loses its regenerating power. This is why infidelity runs riot, and iniquity is rife." *Desire of Ages*, p. 258

Through the religious leaders, Satan has confused the teachings of the Bible in such a manner that even the plainest statements are misinterpreted. Will Jesus accept just anything as long as it is called "worship"? In this matter it remains our God-given duty to clearly point out to the world the true worship that God desires of His children. The Bible teaches us of true religion and of the form of worship that alone is acceptable before God.

We should always bear in mind that whenever worship is taking place, the homage thereby paid may either be to God or to the prince of darkness, the devil. (1 Kings 18:21; Joshua 24:15). There is no neutral ground whatsoever. Therefore, it is very dangerous while striving for eternal life to ignore this very crucial fact, especially for us "upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Corinthians 10:11. Many spend huge amounts of resources for a religion that will not save them. They strive to advance the work of the archenemy. In view of this, let us then discover the very foundation of divine worship, and therefore come to know the acceptable form of worship, which is of the LORD. To do this, it is important to ask the question: Why do we worship God?



People in the world have their many gods, and place their trust in them, hoping that the gods will give them what they want. In traditional religions, people worship many gods, or what they call "spirits". They have bizarre beliefs and a multitude of ceremonies. For example, in Malawi they prepare alcoholic beverages and various kinds of foods; they go to the graves and offer these foods and beverages as a sacrifice, coupled with many rituals, to appease the supposed anger of the gods. They hope, in return, that rain may fall, or that they may receive something they have asked for. The worshiping of idols, or any other gods, is as old as sin itself; we find from the beginning, when self filled his heart, Lucifer rebelled in heaven. "He exalteth himself above all that is called God" (2 Thessalonians 2:4) (just as the 'man of sin'), and those whom he deceived he turned from the God of heaven to himself. So he became the first of the false gods, and from then on, the deceived angels worshiped him as their god; later man joined in the worshiping of this god.

The Reason for Worshiping God

The foremost reason why we ought to worship and give glory to Him is the fact that He "made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:7. He is our Creator. The other reasons all derive from this fact. It is this fact alone that puts Him above all other gods, as the other gods do not have the ability to create.

"The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power. 'All the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.' Psalm 96:5. 'To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things.' 'Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it: . . . I am the Lord; and there is none else.'" Isaiah 40:25, 26; 45:18. Says the psalmist: 'Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves.' 'O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.' Psalm 100:3; 95:6. And the holy beings who worship God in heaven declare why their homage is due to Him: 'Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things.' Revelation 4:11" *Great*

Controversy, pp. 436, 437

In the above testimony, the well laid-out verses clearly show the relationship between God and creation. In the present truth of Revelation 14, the apostle John presents a class that through "the threefold message, are keeping the commandments of God" *Great Controversy*, p. 437. Of these commandments, there is none that has been the centre of as much controversy as that which occupies the fourth place in the Decalogue. Numerous are the theories that have been advanced to explain away the validity of this commandment. For example, some have said it is Jewish and not Christian; others claim it is substituted by the jubilation of the resurrection of Jesus; still another class claim that the day does not matter, since counting from any day of the week it turns out to be the seventh day before the next week arrives; just to mention a few. These explanations have no biblical basis whatsoever and are themselves contradictory such that none of them can, in any way, satisfy the searching mind. Yet it is this fourth commandment (of the Sabbath) that tells us who God is to us--the reason why we worship Him. The other nine do not depict God as Creator. "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:11.

Sabbath – The Foundation

"The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God--because He is the Creator, and we are His creatures. ***The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship***, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten."--J. N. Andrews, *History of the Sabbath*, chapter 27 (*Great Controversy*, pp. 437, 438) (emphasis mine)

In the fourth commandment are three very important characteristics of the authenticity of the Lawgiver, according to Exodus 20:11: (a) His name – the LORD, (b) His title – Creator; none else can claim this title as presented in the verses above, (c) His territory – heaven and earth. Satan knows that if he can rid the law of the

fourth commandment, people will be in total darkness as to whom they owe their existence, and who is their God.

“It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel.” *Great Controversy*, p. 438.

The Sabbath truth strikes directly at Satan's government for what it really is, so he will fight against this commandment until the close of time.

The worshiping of God in spirit and in truth means we need to know why He ought to be worshiped, and then we must worship on, and keep holy, the right day (Sabbath – Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) which will remain or “stand as a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God.” *Prophets and Kings*, p. 678

Furthermore, Revelation 14:9, 10 presents those in Satan's camp who will receive the mark of the beast. The true worshipers will have the seal or sign of God as written in Exodus 31:17; Ezekiel 20:20. The Sabbath is the sign between God and His people.

How did the change come about? “Only by changing God's law could the papacy exalt itself above God; whoever should understandingly keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by which the change was made. Such an act of obedience to papal laws would be a mark of allegiance to the pope in the place of God.” *Great Controversy*, p. 446

There are also other instructions given concerning what is deemed as acceptable worship, but let us first begin from the foundation, just as one cannot build the upper part of the house without first building the foundation. Many churches speak about Christ as the very foundation of true worship, and hence, salvation, but in reality they deny Him. This article presents the fact that, as much as people may claim to worship Jesus, they actually deny Him by casting aside the very ordinance that He Himself instituted, that which points to Him as the Creator.

In the solemn hour of the judgment in which we live, we are called upon to “Fear God, and give glory to Him; ... and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:7 In order to understand and keep the Sabbath as it ought to be kept, we need to put aside all personal pride so that we may humbly worship at the feet of Jesus. Now we can worship God on the Sabbath, the special day of worship and holy rest, which He Himself dedicated. This is the foundation of divine worship and none other. AMEN

Joel Jungubawa Msiska
Malawi

SOME OF THE BELIEVERS AT THE NDIRANDE CHURCH - MALAWI





What is love? It is something that everyone wants. It is something that eludes many people. Love makes a person feel fulfilled and happy; lack of love makes one feel sad and empty. People are looking for love in many places. They want to have love... they think that love will solve all their problems.

Young people feel that if only they could find someone to love them, and then get married, they would live happily ever after. However, the current divorce rate in many Western countries shows that marriage is not the complete answer to finding love.

But what really is love? How can one find it? Many people think of love according to this dictionary definition, "a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person." And then they will be disappointed when they can't find someone who will have this passionate affection for them.

The one part of love that the majority of people overlook is found in the saying, "To have love you must give it away."

When we look at the life of Jesus, He came to demonstrate to mankind the meaning of the word "love." If you study His life and character you will find that the majority of the time He was busy giving love away. How often do you read of people giving love to Jesus? There are a few times. In the home of Mary, Martha,

and Lazarus, He was treated as an honoured guest. But these times were few and far between. Do we see Jesus lament this fact? Is it recorded that, at the end of His life, He was miserably recounting all the evil deeds that were done to Him; all the lack of love; all the times when He was mistreated, misunderstood? Even the leaders of the church turned their backs on Him. In His most trying hour, His best friends deserted Him. What was the response of Jesus? "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. Those who show true love do not think of themselves. They do not recount the slights that have been done to them. Love speaks no evil of others. Love is not largely a feeling or emotion that is centered in self and the desires of self. **True love centers its concerns in the interests of others and acts accordingly.** (This is the key phrase – read it again and apply it to your life)

You can read in 1 Corinthians 13 an entire chapter on "love." You may have faith to remove mountains, but what are you without love? Nothing. You can perform miracles, you can preach the greatest sermon, yet without love you will be like those who Jesus spoke about on the Sermon on the Mount. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:22, 23

It's not important *what* you do, but *the motive* you have for doing something.

Let's take a closer look at a part of 1 Corinthians 13

The Apostle Paul had just finished defining the place of the gifts of the Spirit in the church in Chapter 12, and now he proceeds to show that the possession of all of these gifts and other additional qualities does not make one a Christian if he does not possess the supreme gift of love.

Verses 1–3 "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed [the poor], and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

The first three verses give us an introduction to the concept of "love." Regarding the gifts of the Spirit that were mentioned in Chapter 12, Paul informs us that, without love they are useless. The word "love" here used is from the Greek word "*agape*." It is a higher type of love that recognizes something of value in the person or object that is loved; *love based on principle, not on emotion*. It is a love that grows out of respect for the admirable qualities in the person loved. This is the love between the Father and the Son. It is the love that God has for fallen man. It is the love that Christians have for one another. Proof of this kind of love is shown by conformity to God's will. This is the love talked about in this entire chapter.

A person may have great wisdom and a theoretical understanding of the relationship that should exist between man and God, and yet have no experiential knowledge of love. They will still be lost. A person may give his life as a martyr and still be lost.

You may do many good things in your life, but with the wrong motive. There are people who obviously do good things for personal gain, fame and recognition. Large donations are given so that a person's name can be immortalized on a building or monument. Many so-called evangelists do good deeds and preach wonderful sermons in order to receive greater donations. They live in mansions and drive expensive cars. Good deeds done for public relations purposes are frowned upon by God. "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." Matthew 6:3

People who have an incorrect understanding of love get married because they want a spouse to meet, and fulfill, their *own needs*. They have it backwards. They expect their spouse to give them love, and arguments arise in marriage when these needs are not met. Little thought is given about how they can meet *their spouse's needs*.

Some health care employees are in the business because it incurs a nice salary and have little sympathy for patients' feelings and emotions. They are there to heal the body only, when the health of the soul and spirit are also needed. Many deeds of kindness are a result of selfish motives. In the end, these are the ones Jesus will tell, "Depart from me." How can you tell? The difference between the sincere and selfish is often difficult to detect. Only Jesus can read the heart. "Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be

taken, and the other left." Matthew 24:41. They both look the same. They are doing the same work. One has the correct motive, and the other an incorrect motive. Nothing can take the place of love. It is the only service that God accepts.

In verses four to seven Paul analyzes love in a little more detail.

Verses 4-7: Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

Here we see love personified. Seven excellent characteristics are pointed out regarding love; and eight acts and attitudes are pointed out that are totally foreign to love. It is a sad fact that we see Christian fighting against Christian in the world. It has even entered God's church with brother against brother at times. The devil never rests. This cannot be so. These verses are directly related to how we should conduct ourselves with our fellow man and especially our sisters and brothers in the faith.

"suffereth long" This is a precious attribute in this day and age when impatience and intolerance exists. Everyone is in a hurry to go somewhere or to get something and often get very impatient and intolerant with those who stand in the way.

Love bears long with the faults, failings, and weaknesses of others. Love recognizes that all human beings are fallible and takes that into consideration in their dealings with their fellow believers. Love is not hasty, has no passionate expressions, and is not irritable. "Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person's life or character. Cultivate thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful love in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to think of our grievances. God calls upon us to think of His mercy and His matchless love, that we may be inspired with praise." *Ministry of Healing*, p.492

Here, also, is expressed the state of man when wrong-

fully accused, persecuted and oppressed. This is difficult to learn but is of utmost importance. It is easy to be calm when wrongfully accused by unbelievers, but try to be patient and longsuffering when a brother accuses you wrongfully. We can learn from Jesus “who did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to him that judgeth righteously.” 1 Peter 2:22, 23. Jesus was reviled by the church leaders, brothers in the faith, family members and friends. Yet He had nothing but love for them and let God do the judging. “Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:20, 21

“is kind” True love will be considerate and kind. This attribute is seen in one who is always seeking to show love and sympathy for the struggles and difficulties of others, one who is self-forgetful and helps others who are more needy. During all circumstances of life, whether in pain, sorrow, misunderstood, provoked, the person remains calm and shows love in return. “A soft answer turns away wrath.” Proverbs 15:1. True love will be kind and courteous and always seek to promote the happiness of others, not their own selves.



“envieth not” To envy is to have unpleasant feelings towards another person on account of advantages they may possess. These kinds of feelings give rise to contention, strife and division. This is not true Christianity. “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ... he that soweth discord among brethren.” Proverbs 6:16, 19. Only love can drive out jealousy and bring harmony.

“vaunteth not itself” Love does not sound its own praises and exalt self. “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” Philippians 2:3. A person who possesses true love will not seek to exalt self, but will esteem others better than themselves and seek to exalt Jesus. All that we have, and are, comes from Jesus.

“is not puffed up” This is similar to vaunting oneself. It

denounces any desire to inflate with vanity; no conceit and self-exaltation is to be found in love. Self-importance is lost in Christ.

“behave unseemly” To behave unseemly is to be uncivil, rude or unmannerly. Love will treat everyone with respect and politeness, and be ever mindful of their feelings no matter how they have been treated. It will always seek to build the best relationships with fellow believers, unbelievers and even open enemies. There will be no division, no ill-feelings, no feelings of exaltation, in fact, no negative feelings towards anyone. If you have any ill-feelings towards anyone, you have lost your love. Love will avoid anything that will disturb the happiness of others.

“seeketh not her own” Self-seeking. This is the most difficult for the unconverted heart to accept. Man is naturally interested, first and foremost, in themselves and often this interest over-shadows others. Love will not seek to take advantage of a fellow Christian.

I have seen it happen when a brother runs a business for their livelihood, for example, a car repair shop, and then their fellow Christians expect their cars to be repaired for free because they are fellow Christians. This is sinful, taking advantage of a brother. This is the brother’s livelihood and we should pay him for his labours. It is sin to expect free service.

We should be more willing to help out, and pay, a brother who is a tradesman, than a worldly tradesman. If the brother chooses to give free service or service for a reduced rate, that is his prerogative, but it should not be expected. We should be helping one another not seeking for our own gain only.

Or then a brother or sister borrows something from a fellow Christian, whether an object or a sum of money, and feels under no obligation to return, in a timely fashion, that which has been borrowed. They justify their actions in their mind, thinking that the lender is a Christian so they will understand. This is a terrible sin and God frowns upon it. We should be more diligent in paying back our brothers and sisters than we would a bank. “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” Loving and owing are opposite in this verse. They are mutually exclusive terms. Romans 13:8. “The Christian is to

pay all he owes." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 628

"Be determined never to incur another debt. Deny yourself a thousand things rather than run in debt. This has been the curse of your life, getting into debt. Avoid it as you would the smallpox.

"Make a solemn covenant with God that by His blessing you will pay your debts and then owe no man anything [especially brothers and sisters in the faith] if you live on porridge and bread. . . Deny self at least while you are walled in with debts. . .

"Do not falter, be discouraged, or turn back. Deny your taste, deny the indulgence of appetite, save your pence and pay your debts. Work them off as fast as possible. When you can stand forth a free man again, owing no man anything, you will have achieved a great victory." *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 257. (Emphasis added)

No one is a true Christian who makes the principle object of life to promote his own interests.

"is not easily provoked" Nothing can disturb the peace of a person who has true love in his heart. Love is not provoked; it will never display annoyance, impatience or anger. He simply turns everything over to God. All efforts of Satan to annoy him and make him angry is to no avail. "Never should we lose control of ourselves. Let us ever keep before us the perfect Pattern. It is a sin to speak impatiently and fretfully or ***to feel angry***--even though we do not speak. We are to walk worthy, giving a right representation of Christ. The speaking of an angry word is like flint striking flint: it at once kindles wrathful feelings." *Child Guidance*, p. 95 (emphasis added). Even to feel anger is sin.

"thinketh no evil" "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matthew 12:34. What you think, eventually becomes a part of you. It will come out in your words at some point in time. Satan may bring evil thoughts to you and, rather than harbor them, you need to get rid of them immediately. Give them to Christ and allow Him to fill your hearts with love in return. Thoughts lead to words, which lead to actions. A person filled with the love of God will think no evil of any other person. They will put the best construction on the behavior of others. Love will not be seeking to find fault in others or to impute wrong motives to others. If we start to think evil of others, we

will begin to act evil and speak evil of them.

"rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth"

The world rejoices in iniquity. Many Christians also rejoice in iniquity and see nothing wrong with some of the more "gentle" sins. Love finds no pleasure in unrighteousness. The unsanctified heart will also be glad when an enemy falls into sin, or when an opponent makes a mistake that will bring disgrace to himself. Love takes the opposite course. Love will find no happiness in sin of any kind or in the punishment meted out to sinners. Rather it finds pleasure in seeing the sinner liberated and brought into harmony with the truth.

"bewareth all things" The Greek word here implies to protect and cover closely. Love conceals and is silent regarding the sins of others. It is not desirous to inspect the weaknesses of others or allow them to be inspected by anyone else. "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." James 5:20. "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8. If we see a brother in error, we are to follow the example written by Paul, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness." Galatians 6:1. And then we have the counsels in Matthew 18.

"believeth all things" Love is disposed to put the best construction possible on the conduct of others. Love seeks to make others happy and will not believe anything that is detrimental. It will not seek to try to judge another's motives. Especially brother with brother, we need to believe and respect their words.

"hopeth all things" However dark appearances may be and whatever grounds there may be for questioning the sincerity of others, love still hopes that all will be well in the end. Love is based upon trust. Love is willing to face ridicule, strife and contempt in defense of others, hoping that in due time the truth will be vindicated.

"endureth all things" Love suffers quietly, all the slights, trials, persecutions and injuries from others. God often allows these things to occur to test our sincerity and our love. Can we love the person who has injured us? Or do we retaliate. It may appear that some people are out to hurt us; however, love will bear all insults patiently and show kindness in return. "We

should not allow our feelings to be easily wounded. We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls. As we become interested in the salvation of souls we cease to mind the little differences that so often arise in our association with one another. Whatever others may think of us or do to us, it need not disturb our oneness with Christ, the fellowship of the Spirit.” *Ministry of Healing*, p.485

From these verses in 1 Corinthians, it is clearly seen that love seeks to work in the best interest of others. It will look upon the unfavourable conduct of others with an understanding patience and sympathy that is inspired from God. Only in this manner will there be unity in the church. When this point is reached, the followers of God will be “of one accord” (Acts 2:1) as were the disciples in the upper room at Pentecost, and the Latter Rain will be poured out.

The Latter Rain will not be poured out on one person who does not have this kind of “agape” love for his family, friends, enemies and brethren in the church. If you have any negative feelings towards anyone, you will be excluded.

1 Corinthians 4:8 informs us of the strength of love. **“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.”** Although the world will pass away and the other gifts of the Spirit cease and fail, yet love will not fail. It will endure forever. You may have many other gifts of the Spirit but be unable to reach the unconverted hearts unless you have love. Love will pave a way where all sound doctrine and tongues have failed. Love is the foundation of the law of God. Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15. Love is eternal. Love can be relied on at all times to solve all problems.



CONCLUSION:

To be a Christian is to be like Christ, who went about doing good. True Christians then are those who, in the spirit of Jesus, go about doing good to all who need help. They do it with no self-interest, but because the love of God is in their heart it is impossible for them to

do anything else (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p.268). The true expression of love is the test that will determine the eternal destiny of all men. Self-denying love produces unity amongst believers and will convince the world of true Christianity. Love is demonstrated to be the greatest way of preaching the gospel and advancing the kingdom of God.

“Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. The power of wealth has a tendency to corrupt and destroy; the power of force is strong to do hurt; but the excellence and value of pure love consist in its efficiency to do good, and to do nothing else than good. Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God regards more with how much love one worketh than the amount he doeth. Love is of God. The unconverted heart cannot originate nor produce this plant of heavenly growth, which lives and flourishes only where Christ reigns.

“Love cannot live without action, and every act increases, strengthens, and extends it. Love will gain the victory when argument and authority are powerless. Love works not for profit nor reward; yet God has ordained that great gain shall be the certain result of every labor of love. It is diffusive in its nature and quiet in its operation, yet strong and mighty in its purpose to overcome great evils. It is melting and transforming in its influence, and will take hold of the lives of the sinful and affect their hearts when every other means has proved unsuccessful. Wherever the power of intellect, of authority, or of force is employed, and love is not manifestly present, the affections and will of those whom we seek to reach assume a defensive, repelling position, and their strength of resistance is increased. Jesus was the Prince of Peace. He came into the world to bring resistance and authority into subjection to Himself. Wisdom and strength He could command, but the means He employed with which to overcome evil were the wisdom and strength of love.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 135.

May God help us to possess this true love so that we will not miss out but will be ready when the Latter Rain will be poured out on God’s people. AMEN.

Wendy Eaton



CONTROLLING THE TONGUE

THERE IS ENABLING GRACE AND HELP FOR US

What is Grace?

Imagine yourself driving on the highway, and perhaps your tendency is to drive over the speed limit. You then notice a police officer behind you, signalling for you to pull over. The officer is justified in doing this because we all are under the law, correct? So you know you're in the wrong, but you still ask the officer for mercy. Then the officer says to you, "Fine, I'll just let you off with a warning; you're free to go," and shows you grace. So do you now push the gas pedal down to the floor, spinning your tires and flicking up gravel behind you onto the hood of the police car, because you're no longer under the law, but under grace? I must say, certainly not! We are all still under the law, yet at the same time God shows us abundant grace--grace which is there to help us, and the law which is there to correct us.

"Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." Psalm 34:13. The wild beast of the forest may be tamed, "but the tongue can no man tame." James 3:8. Only through Christ can we gain the victory over the desire to speak hasty, unchristlike words. When, in His strength, we refuse to give utterance to Satan's suggestions, the plant of bitterness in our hearts withers and dies. The Holy Spirit can make the tongue a savour of life unto life.

Gift of Speech

"Of all the gifts that God has bestowed upon men, none

is more precious than the gift of speech. If sanctified by the Holy Spirit, it is a power for good. It is with the tongue that we convince and persuade; with it we offer prayer and praise to God, and with it we convey rich thoughts of the Redeemer's love. By a right use of the gift of speech the canvasser can sow the precious seeds of truth in many hearts." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 337

Grace

"We owe everything to grace, free grace, sovereign grace. Grace in the covenant ordained our adoption. Grace in the Saviour affected our redemption, our regeneration, and our adoption to heirship with Christ." *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 54

"Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. There is no place for us to rest in a careless attitude.... By prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit." *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 220

"And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do." Exodus 4:15

God wants us to be peacemakers. "Blessed are the peacemakers." Grace and peace rest upon those who refuse to join in the strife of tongues. When vendors of scandal are passing from family to family, those who fear God will be chaste keepers at home. The time that is so often worse than wasted in idle, frivolous, and malicious gossip should be given to higher and nobler objects. If our brethren and sisters would become missionaries for God, visiting the sick and afflicted, and labouring patiently and kindly for the erring,--in short, if they would copy the Pattern,--the church would have prosperity in all her borders." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 176

"Are you without guile before God? Words exert a telling power. Satan will, if possible, keep the tongue active in his service. Of ourselves we cannot control the unruly member. Divine grace is our only hope." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 175

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**ANCIENT
WITCHCRAFT
REVIVED OR
MODERN
SPIRITUALISM**

This deception has appeared at different periods of the world's history under various names and forms. It has always manifested itself in such ways as would attract the attention of the people, and lead them to trust in it, rather than in God and His Word. The natural heart has always asked for a sign as proof of power, and Satan has been able to supply this demand, and thus lead men and women captive at his will.

At an early date, witches lived and practiced their craft. The Lord gave His people instruction that they should "...not suffer a witch to live." Exodus 22:18 And, again, they were to "regard not them that have familiar spirits." Leviticus 19:31

"The government of Israel was administered in the name and by the authority of God. The work of Moses, of the seventy elders, of the rulers and judges, was simply to enforce the laws that God had given; they had no authority to legislate for the nation. This was, and continued to be, the condition of Israel's existence as a nation. From age to age men inspired by God were sent to instruct the people and to direct in enforcement of the laws." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 603

Webster defines a familiar spirit as a "demon, or evil spirit, supposed to attend at a call." That this class of people have spirits which come at their call is shown by the case of the witch of Endor. Saul, the king of Israel, had been rejected by the Lord because of his rebellious ways (1 Samuel 15), and when in trouble he "inquired

of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her."

1 Samuel 28:6, 7

The witch of Endor was found and he went to her to seek consultation, even though the Lord had said, "The soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits... I will even set My face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." Leviticus 20:6 The result of this interview with this woman was that a familiar spirit responded to her call; and the Lord, true to His word, cut off Saul. "So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it. And inquired not of the Lord: therefore He slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse." 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14

The act of Saul is being repeated by thousands. "And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick; and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease. But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them. Is it not because there is not a God in Israel that ye go to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die." 2 Kings 1:2-4

"Having fallen 'through a lattice in his upper chamber,' Ahaziah, seriously injured, and fearful of the possible outcome, sent some of his servants to make inquiry of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether he should recover or not. The god of Ekron was supposed to give information through the medium of its priests, concerning future events. Large numbers of people went to inquire of it; but the predictions there uttered and the information given, proceeded from the prince of darkness." *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 207, 208

"During his father's reign, Ahaziah had witnessed the wondrous works of the Most High. He had seen the terrible evidences that God had given apostate Israel of the way in which He regards those who set aside the binding claims of His law. Ahaziah had acted as if these awful realities were but idle tales. Instead of humbling

his heart before the Lord, he had followed after Baal, and at last he had ventured upon this, his most daring act of impiety. Rebellious, and unwilling to repent, Ahaziah died, 'according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken.'" *Prophets and Kings*, p. 209

"God had cause for displeasure at Ahaziah's impiety. What had He not done to win the hearts of the people of Israel and to inspire them with confidence in Himself? For ages He had been giving His people manifestations of unexampled kindness and love. From the beginning He had shown that His 'delights were with the sons of men'! Proverbs 8:31 He had been a very present help to all who sought Him in sincerity. Yet now the king of Israel, turning from God to ask help of the worst enemy of His people, proclaimed to the heathen that he had more confidence in their idols than in the God of heaven. In the same manner do men and women dishonor Him when they turn from the source of strength and wisdom to ask help or counsel from the power of darkness. If God's wrath was kindled by Ahaziah's act, how does He regard those who, having still greater light, choose to follow a similar course." *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 211, 212

"The mother, watching by the sickbed of her child, exclaims, 'I can do no more. Is there no physician who has power to restore my child?' She is told of wonderful cures performed by some clairvoyant or magnetic healer, and she trusts her dear one to his charge, placing it as verily in the hand of Satan as if he were standing by her side. In many instances the future life of the child is controlled by a satanic power which it seems impossible to break." *Prophets and Kings*, p. 211

"Those who give themselves up to the sorcery of Satan may boast of great benefit received; but does this prove their course to be wise or safe? What if life should be prolonged? What if temporal gain should be secured? Will it pay in the end to have disregarded the will of God? All such apparent gain will prove at last an irrecoverable loss. We cannot with impunity break down a single barrier which God has erected to guard His people from Satan's power." *Prophets and Kings*, p. 212

The act of Saul is being repeated by thousands today. Another name has been chosen for those who claim to bring up the dead. Back then they were called witches, but now they are called mediums; and still the seeking for wisdom from the dead goes on. The Lord says,

when they are seeking those who have familiar spirits, "Should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?" Isaiah 8:19. And again, "The dead know not any thing." Ecclesiastes 9:5. If these Scriptures were accepted just as they read, many would be saved from this great deception against which the Lord has given us solemn warning.

All through the Bible we find traces of this same wicked system being practiced. Simon the sorcerer, "bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one." Acts 8:9. Paul and Silas met the same spirit of divination at Phillipi in a damsel who followed after them until it was cast out. (Acts 16:16-18). At Ephesus they found the "evil spirits" at work, but when the power of the Gospel was proclaimed, "many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them." (Acts 19:13-20)

The prophetic pen has declared that this deception will continue its work, and be especially active in the last days. "In the latter times some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1. The object of this seductive doctrine will be "to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect." Mark 13:22. Then where is our only hope? "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. Here is our refuge. We must flee to the Word of God if we would be saved from this delusion.

"And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, saying, When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, show a miracle for you, then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the Lord had commanded; and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents; but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods." Exodus. 7:8-12.

"It was by satanic aid that Pharaoh's magicians were enabled to counterfeit the work of God. Paul testifies that before the second advent of Christ there will be similar manifestations of satanic power. The coming of

the Lord is to be preceded by 'the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.' 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. And the apostle John, describing the miracle-working power that will be manifested in the last days, declares: 'He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do.' Revelation 13:13, 14. No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan's agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do." *Great Controversy*, p. 553

Not Everyone Who Heals is From God

"I have from time to time received letters both from ministers and lay members of the church, inquiring if I think it wrong to consult spiritualist and clairvoyant physicians. I have not answered these letters for want of time. But just now the subject is again urged upon my attention. So numerous are these agents of Satan becoming, and so general is the practice of seeking counsel from them, that it seems needful to utter words of warning.

"God has placed it in our power to obtain a knowledge of the laws of health. He has made it our duty to preserve our physical powers in the best possible condition, that we may render to Him acceptable service. Those who refuse to improve the light and knowledge that has been mercifully placed within their reach are rejecting one of the means which God has granted them to promote spiritual as well as physical life. They are placing themselves where they will be exposed to

the delusions of Satan." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 193 (for further study, read *Ministry of Healing*, pp. 242-244)

Miracles Are Not Evidence Either

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:22, 23

"Let none cherish the idea that special providences or miraculous manifestations are to be the proof of the genuineness of their work or of the ideas they advocate." *Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 48

"The man who makes the working of miracles the test of his faith will find that Satan can, through a species of deceptions, perform wonders that will appear to be genuine miracles." *Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 52

"God's Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ." *Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 53

Gospel Medical Missionary Work

"The way in which Christ worked was to preach the Word, and to relieve suffering by miraculous works of healing. But I am instructed that we cannot now work in this way, for Satan will exercise his power by working miracles. God's servants today could not work by means of miracles, because spurious works of healing, claiming to be di-



vine, will be wrought.

“For this reason the Lord has marked out a way in which His people are to carry forward a work of physical healing, combined with the teaching of the Word. Sanitariums are to be established, and with these institutions are to be connected workers who will carry forward genuine medical missionary work. Thus a guarding influence is thrown around those who come to the sanitariums for treatment.

“This is the provision the Lord has made whereby gospel medical missionary work is to be done for many souls.” *Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 54

“Some declare their unbelief in the work that the Lord has given me to do because, as they say, ‘Mrs. E. G. White works no miracles.’ But those who look for miracles as a sign of divine guidance are in grave danger of deception.” *2 Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, pp. 53, 54

“Through satanic delusions, wonderful miracles, the claims of human agents will be urged. Beware of all this.” *Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 49

“If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.” John 15:10

Jesus leads His sheep in the path of humble obedience to the law of God, but He never encourages them in the transgression of that law.

“And, behold, one came and said unto Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And He said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” Matthew 19:16, 17

The Master's Voice

Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd, and know My [sheep], and am known of Mine.” John 10:14. “The sheep hear His voice: and He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out... for they know His voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.” verse 3-5

“‘The voice of a stranger’ is the voice of one who neither respects nor obeys God's holy, just, and good law.

Many make great pretensions to holiness, and boast of the wonders they perform in healing the sick, when they do not regard this great standard of righteousness. But through whose power are these cures wrought? Are the eyes of either party opened to their transgressions of the law? and do they take their stand as humble, obedient children, ready to obey all of God's requirements? John testifies of the professed children of God: ‘He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.’

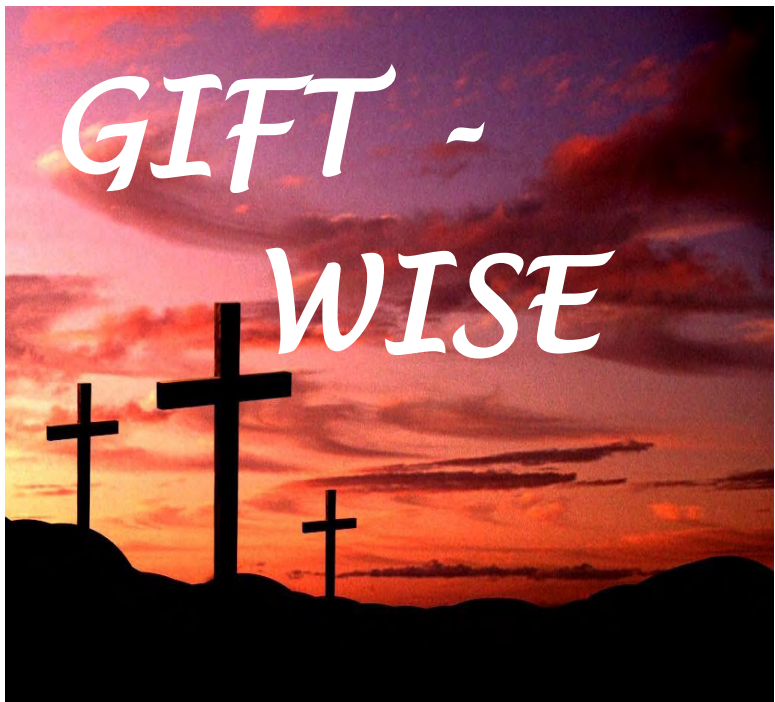
“None need be deceived. The law of God is as sacred as his throne, and by it every man who cometh into the world is to be judged. There is no other standard by which to test character. ‘If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.’ Now, shall the case be decided according to the word of God, or shall man's pretensions be credited? Says Christ, ‘By their fruits ye shall know them.’ If those through whom cures are performed, are disposed, on account of these manifestations, to excuse their neglect of the law of God, and continue in disobedience, though they have power to any and every extent, it does not follow that they have the great power of God. On the contrary, it is the miracle-working power of the great deceiver. He is a transgressor of the moral law, and employs every device that he can master to blind men to its true character. We are warned that in the last days he will work with signs and lying wonders. And he will continue these wonders until the close of probation, that he may point to them as evidence that he is an angel of light and not of darkness.

“Brethren, we must be beware of the pretended holiness that permits transgression of the law of God. Those cannot be sanctified who trample that law under their feet, and judge themselves by a standard of their own devising.” *Review and Herald*, November 17, 1885

“You know that Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the great medical missionary. He will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men to prove that he is God. We must stand barricaded by the truths of the Bible. The canopy of truth is the only canopy under which we can stand safely.” *Review and Herald*, April 14, 1903 AMEN

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu

Zambia



“For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”

Romans 8:38, 39

LOVE LETTER

I wonder how many reading this like to receive presents? I believe it is normal to enjoy receiving presents—something bestowed, or given. Yet, in spite of this, there is an expression which says, “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.” This expression has evolved from years past. A horse’s age is judged by its teeth; therefore, a buyer would look in the horse’s mouth to determine its age before committing himself to purchase the horse. The meaning of this phrase is that we must accept a gift gratefully; but often we are critical of the gift that is given to us. These gifts are often discarded, remain in the gift box, or are returned to the merchant for reimbursement. It happens often.

But we are not speaking of such gifts which are secular—in essence—worldly. However, a precious **gift** we can have in our hands today is the Holy Bible! It’s a profoundly precious **gift** that Jesus Christ gave to us from God the Father. Just think for a moment—the Almighty God Himself! **A Gift!** Inspired by God! A love letter from God!

There are many Bibles today—various translations, colors, sizes, shapes, and covers. For example, in Israel

covers are found in mother-of-pearl; in Greece are found covers of olive wood. One Bible is completely condensed into a period or dot, and can only be read by a microscope! Gideon Bibles are still found in most hotel dresser drawers but lie idle—replaced by the television, video games or films.

A favorite Bible is one with the passages in red when Jesus is speaking. The most popular and authentic Bible is the Authorized King James Version. Bear in mind, however, despite the abundance of Bibles today in hundreds of translations, one day we may be without a Bible as we approach the second coming of Jesus Christ.

LIFTED UP

But let’s talk about another **gift**—a greater one. What can that be? The most popular verse in the Bible—a verse translated, taught, and known in many languages of the world—**John 3:16! “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.”** Why is this verse so important that it is taught and memorized in Bible classes around the world, to both young and old?

You see, belief in the New Testament denotes more than intellectual assent to a fact. The word (Grk. *pistis*, noun; *pisteuo*, verb) means, “adherence to, committal to, faith in, reliance upon, trust in a person or an object.” This involves not only the consent of the mind, but an act from the heart of the person. “Whosoever believeth in him” is equivalent to “whosoever trusts in or commits himself to Christ.” Belief, then, is synonymous with faith, which, in the New Testament, consists of believing and receiving what God has revealed.

Here is God’s love in giving His Son for the world! Jesus was His only-begotten Son, the Son of God. This magnifies His love, in that He gave His Son for us. Jesus was always His delight. In order to secure the redemption and salvation of man, it pleased God to give His only-begotten Son. He gave Him up to suffer and die for us. What a God we have! Here is the reason why we should be lifted up, for it was determined and designed by the Father.

Here God has commended His love to the world—this guilty, rebellious, apostate world! Behold and wonder that the great God should love such a worthless world; that the Holy God should love such a wicked world with

a love of good will, when He could not look upon it with any complacency. Amazing!

God's design in sending His Son into the world was that the world through Him might be saved. He came to the world with salvation in His eye, with salvation in His hand. It shall be of benefit to all, who by faith accept this **gift**.

Moreover, God has given Him to be our Prophet, Priest, King, a witness to the people, the High Priest of our profession, to be our peace, our intercessor, to be head of the church and head over all things to the church, to be to us all we need. Here is the great gospel duty, which is to believe in Jesus Christ, whom God has thus given for us, to accept the **gift**.

GOOD NEWS

It was the greatest **gift** (Jesus) ever given to man. That **gift** can belong to you and me and everyone who believe—a **gift** to those who believe. "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12. This is the Good News! Those that "dwell on the earth" are exhorted to "fear God" and "worship Him." (Revelation 14:6, 7)

For a better understanding now, we learn that God loves us and cares for us. God loves the world and He loves the Church, regardless of different nationalities, races, colors and creeds. We exist and thrive on the planet earth as a "little bit of heaven."

Yes, "God so loved the world"--not only America, Greece, Switzerland, Peru, or Tanzania,--"that He gave His only- begotten Son," not to a nation or tongue, but to the world; Jesus preached to everyone at that time, and His voice is still heard today! Receiving the Word was not dependent on station, position, salary, education, background or home--nothing except to believe in the Testimony of Jesus Christ and to keep His commandments. What did He say? "If ye love Me keep My commandments." (1 John 4:21; 2:4, 5; John 14:15-17)

Do you believe? Well, if so, the **gift** is yours--a **gift** of love! He did something we didn't deserve.

REBELS

In the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul often spoke of

rebellious sinners. Jesus Christ died for us. He laid down His life for a friend. Would you lay down your life if you love someone? Would you do it for me? Oh! Hmmm! Wait; think seriously first! Ah! But it may be a test some day. What should we do with our enemies? Well, I have a solution for enemies--kill them! How? With love! They will soon be your friends. Has this ever happened to you? Experience it if you haven't. Jesus Christ died for us while we were yet enemies--rebellious!

The Spirit of Prophecy says that God gave His Son and that if only one would have received Him, He still would have come. I just cannot fathom it! Furthermore, in Romans chapter 6, the Apostle Paul writes about our union, condition, and relation with Jesus Christ and what Jesus Christ did for us--by the "grace of God"; that which we don't deserve, which we never earned, nor cannot buy! But, nevertheless, we can accept it as a **gift**.

FREE OR BONDAGE

A doctor was driving through a prairie desert in the western plains of America; and (as he was driving) he recalled the history of the early American pioneers and settlers, who crossed those plains in wagons and horses. With their wagons, they traveled only 100 miles in 1 month, but did so with such dedication and commitment. Many, however, died during this arduous trek. As he was dreamily reminiscing, he inadvertently exceeded the speed limit by a sizable number. A police officer stopped him and stated, "You were doing 45 mph in a 25 mph limit zone."

What is sin? Is there an excuse for sin? He was deliberately wrong--no excuse; guilty! But, the nice police officer put away his book and said, "Promise me one thing, Doctor, be more careful next time." You know what the officer did? Grace! It was not right, but do not do it again! He was forgiven for sin--law breaking!

That is what grace is! (John 3:16). "The wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. God wants us to have everlasting life. Ah! But shall we sin because we are not under the Law? God forbid! (Romans 6:14, 15). Whoever you serve, whether sin--Satan, you are his servant (money, sports, novels, pleasure seeking, alcohol, etc.)! Or, you are obedient unto righteousness. When you break the laws, divine or civil, you are no longer free. (Romans 6:15, 16). Either you follow the devil to utter destruction or follow Jesus Christ to everlasting life. The choice

is still yours! With Jesus Christ you are free; with Satan you are in devastating bondage.

SEPARATION

Once you are in Jesus Christ, you are no longer condemned! One needs to make a 180 degree turn from sin to righteousness--toward Jesus. This is our message for today in these tumultuous times. Claim His precious **gift** now! Become free from condemned sin and guilt. Hospitals and institutions are full of such suffering souls. But, remember, we are never free from the law of obedience.

You can have the spirit of life in Jesus Christ– now; free from sin and death! (Romans 8:37-39). What manner of

love is this! This speaks to those who accept Jesus Christ. Ah! But can anything separate us from Jesus Christ? Our opening text stated nothing “can separate us from the love of God.” Romans 8:38, 39

Yes! We can be separated from His love. How is that? **That is up to you!** God’s love is always there–forever! You can separate yourself–by sin: indifference to sin, apathy, giving into temptation, greed, jealousy, hatred, etc. It is our deliberate choice! Sin can separate us. So, why not claim that precious **gift** while there is still time? Accept it as your own. Then nothing can separate you! It can be yours forever.

Be **GIFT – WISE!** Amen! Maranatha!
John Theodorou, U.S.A.

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Karl Chernuska

Karl was born on September 4, 1922, in Kolonia, Poland

One Sabbath brother Karl came to our church in Toronto, Canada. He had been reading the Bible alone and found that the Sabbath should be kept on the seventh day of the week and not on the first day of the week. Therefore he started searching for a Sabbath-keeping church. He found our church and agreed to Bible studies with me. Weekly we studied the doctrines, prophecies and the practices of the church. His only difficulty was the vegetarian diet. One day he came to the study with a big grin on his face, and said that he had been a vegetarian



for one week. Later his wife also joined the studies which we conducted in the church building. After studying with me, he and his wife were baptized into the church, where he remained faithful to the end of his life. He passed away on March 11, 2011.

Timo Martin, Toronto Local Church Leader

REMEMBER ME

*Fill not your hearts with pain and sorrow,
but remember me in every tomorrow.
Remember the joy, the laughter, the smiles,
I've only gone to rest a little while.*

*Although my leaving causes pain and grief,
my going has eased my hurt, and given me relief.
So dry your eyes and remember me,
not as I am now, but as I used to be.*

*Understand in your hearts,
I've only gone to rest a little while.
As long as I have the love of each of you,
I can live my life in the hearts of all of you.*



FAITHFUL REFORMER IN RUSSIA

In the year 1975, with his neatly pressed suit, pink shirt and tie, Rotislaw Galetsky does not look like a fugitive. His ruddy features are suffused with a serenity that is rare for someone only 28 years old.

But Rotislaw Galetsky, an itinerant Reformed Seventh Day Adventist preacher, circulates among Soviet Christians who must worship underground because they have rejected the controls of the officially atheist state. He has distributed religious literature from hidden printing presses and collected complaints of religious persecution.

And this, Rotislaw Galetsky asserts has put him on the authorities most-wanted list. "The only thing that I am guilty of is that I want to serve God faithfully and will not accept this dictatorial system of coercion," he said recently. "The agents of the KGB know that I transmit this literature which they have found with dissidents. If they catch me I think they would accuse me precisely of that."

His calling allows him no permanent home. He said that he had not seen his wife and three children for many months. Yet like a New Testament apostle, he seems in perpetual joyful motion, spreading the Gospel to small congregations that gather together and fade afterwards into the texture of society.

Br. Galetsky declined to give details of the illegal Reformed Adventists who are believed to number into the thousands, but he said that they flourished throughout the country. His description of other aspects of his bootleg ministry provided an uncommon look as how illicit Christians lived in the Soviet Union 35 years ago.

An unpublished official report estimates that there are 30 million to 40 million religious believers out of a population of 258 million. Legal congregations are required to register with a Government watchdog agency, the Council on Religious Affairs, and accept constraints like not giving religious instruction to children. A militant minority, ranging from dissident Baptists to Pentecostals, has contended

that their faith is none of the state's business.

The Reformed Seventh Day Adventists, who observe a Saturday Sabbath and refuse military service, have in particular encountered reprisals from the state. Some have reported threats and attempts to take away their children. Others have been fined or harassed for unauthorized church services.

"Almost all the older members have spent time in prisons," said Br. Galetsky. The Reformed Adventists' white-bearded patriarch, Vladimir A. Shelko, 82 years old, has already served 23 years in jail and is being sought again by authorities.

Br. Galetsky credited his church's survival to a "spiritual fitness" honed by continuous religious indoctrination that includes lessons on how to outwit secular authorities. "Our people live moral lives, but they have also been trained to preach and to stand up for their convictions," he said.

The Reformed Adventists publish a variety of handsomely bound prayer books and manuals, complete with gilt titles. Br. Galetsky would not disclose how many illegal printing presses were working except to say confidently that "we can insure full availability of material to our congregations."

One green-jacketed book includes a code of conduct for "resisting KGB searches and interrogation. Among its eight points, the code stresses belief in one's innocence, readiness to suffer for the faith and awareness that informing on others is a grave sin. The code also calls for a "holy silence" on any questions from officials that amount to state interference in religious belief.

As for his congregations which are drawn largely from blue-collar and farm workers, Br. Galetsky explained that "the KGB says they are like mice—you can hear them but you can't find them."

The soft-spoken minister first ran afoul of authorities at age 13, when he started cutting school in his native Ukraine to attend Sabbath worship. He recalled that village officials threatened to pack him off to a reform school with common criminals, but dropped the idea after "I said that I would be very happy to go there so I could speak to them about God."

Pressure was put on his father to curb the boy's religious tendencies. But when his father beat him, the boy said, "I didn't cry out at all."

An antireligious caricature of Br. Galetsky and his mother was posted outside their home in Voinin. Finally the harassment forced him to leave his family at the age of 15, and begin supporting himself.

The trials tempered his faith. Br. Galetsky said that he and some other Reformed Adventist ministers now traveled

constantly among their congregations. "We are people who don't need a warm place," he explained. "In a 24-hour period, we can be on the move all the time."

His circuit riding nearly ended in the southern Russian city of Voronezh. For 13 hours, a score of plainclothes agents and police besieged a house where Mr. Galetsky and several other Adventist ministers were preaching. Finally at midnight, he said, the older worshippers in the congregation rushed outside and created a diversion that let the ministers escape.

Such brushes with the K.G.B. seem to have made Br. Galetsky only more determined to continue his ministry. "From the age of 13 there have been occasions when God delivered me from their jaws," he said. "It gladdens and strengthens us. We understand that if God allows it, it will be for our personal good."

Rotislav Galetsky

Conference Announcements

"It is important that the members of our churches should attend our camp meetings.... Some will say: 'It is expensive to travel, and it would be better for us to save the money and give it for the advancement of the work where it is so much needed.' Do not reason in this way; God calls upon you to take your place among the rank and file of His people... Brethren and sisters, it would be far better for you to let your business suffer than to neglect the opportunity of hearing the message God has for you. Make no excuse that will keep you from gaining every spiritual advantage possible. You need every ray of light. You need to become qualified to give a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. You cannot afford to lose one such privilege." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, pp.38,39

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE—GREECE

AUGUST 9 - 18, 2011

We will be visiting the land of Greece where the Apostle Paul walked, preached and established churches.

For more information and prices, please contact:

Jose Giner:
josevginer@yahoo.es

Stefano Salemi
dipartimento giovani@virgilio.it

American Union Conference



From **Wednesday, August 24**, through **Sabbath, August 27**, we will all have the privilege of refreshing our spirits at the Cohutta Springs Campground in Crandall, Georgia. A youth retreat is being planned for several days prior to the conference. The IMS American Union website has more information.

Canadian Field Conference July 29 to 31, 2011

3897 Bloor Street W.
Toronto, ON
(416) 239-3700

REPORT FROM HAITI

On February 18th, 2011. Br. Simon Beaubrun and I arrived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. We were met by members of Br. Simon's wife's family who delivered us to the domestic airport for our flight to Cap Haitian. While many problems still exist in Haiti, we were blessed to find some help to get us on a plane to Cap Haitian. Br. Simon witnessed to the man who helped us arrange the flight and will contact him for a follow-up.

There are many people still living in tents. The infrastructure is terrible which makes ground transportation difficult and slow.

Once in Cap Haitian we were met by Br. Simon's cousin, Pastor Beaubrun of the SDA Church, and some of his family. We ate a late lunch every day at his house; he also provided us transportation while we were in Cap Haitian, even lending us his car when he went to Port-au-Prince on church business.

By the time we checked into what seemed to be the only hotel in the city with any security, it was Friday evening, just in time for Sabbath opening. So the first thing we did was to thank God for His providences, for traveling mercies and for a safe place to stay.

On Sabbath morning we were met with joy and song at our little rented school, where we had our church services. We were also presented with the candidates for baptism. After lunch we confirmed those ready to make a covenant with the Lord. The next morning three dear souls were baptized in the sea. After the acceptance meeting, we received a report from the school. There are four teachers and approximately 65 students, ages 4 to 12, divided into four classes. Most of the students have parents who pay some of the cost of their education; the school is also subsidized by the Good Samaritan Department of the General Conference.

On Monday we went back to the school to take pictures of the students and teachers before leaving for the airport. Again we had difficulties with our tickets, but the Lord helped us and we were able to fly back to Port-au-Prince where we took the bus to Fond Michael.

Several things struck me about Fond Michael in contrast to Cap Haitian. First it is much more arid. In fact there are no ground water wells in the area. All the houses contain cisterns, provided by a foreign relief project. During the rainy season, these cisterns catch rain water from the roofs of the houses and store up to 20,000 gallons of water. When we were there this water had been used up,

and therefore each bucket of water had to be carried for approximately one mile to the house. Under these conditions a bath is a luxury. Another thing is the spirit of the people. People in the city seemed to be living in noisy desperation. Those living in the country were, for the most part, tranquil people, though some were feeling a kind of quiet desperation because of poverty or sickness. While the place was limited in water, they did farm and store their crops, so that food was available. I enjoyed sorting beans for one meal, cleaning and separating husks and foreign matter from the seeds.

Our primary purpose in Fond Michael was to take measurements of the ground for the building project there. Br. Dan Tran of Jupiter, Florida works in an engineering firm. One of the engineers there has volunteered to help design the building in his free time. We thank him for his cooperation. He needed information, such as the layout of the land, wind direction of strong storms, and general construction procedures in Haiti, before starting the design process. This all was accomplished and the information is now in their hands for the next phase of the project. All funds for making the blocks for the project have been provided by a donation from one sister in West Palm Beach, Florida.

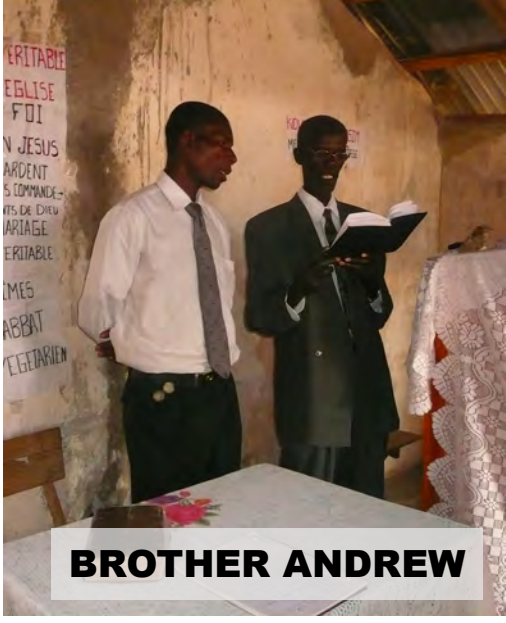
We were also privileged to pray for some of the sick. On Wednesday afternoon we met with some of the members from Fond Michael before heading back to Port-au-Prince early Thursday morning. We had no ride arranged to return us to the city. Finally after a 2-hour wait, a man gave us a ride in the back of his pickup truck. It was a wild 12-mile ride back to the city, through back streets and alleyways during rush hour. He left us at the airport without charging us.

The plane ride out of Haiti on Thursday was much better than the trip to the city, for which I praise the Lord. Br. Simon was able to contact souls in Leogone whom Br. Theodorou first contacted last year. Bibles were given to at least five souls and much instruction was given on how to conduct Sabbath services. They were also established as a branch Sabbath School.

There is much need but also much promise for the work in Haiti. We thank those who have donated to the work in Haiti, especially for the support of the children there, many of whom have either no father or mother or are orphaned. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27

Larry Watts, GC North America Regional Representative

FOND MICHEL



BROTHER ANDREW

BAPTISM IN CAP HAITIAN



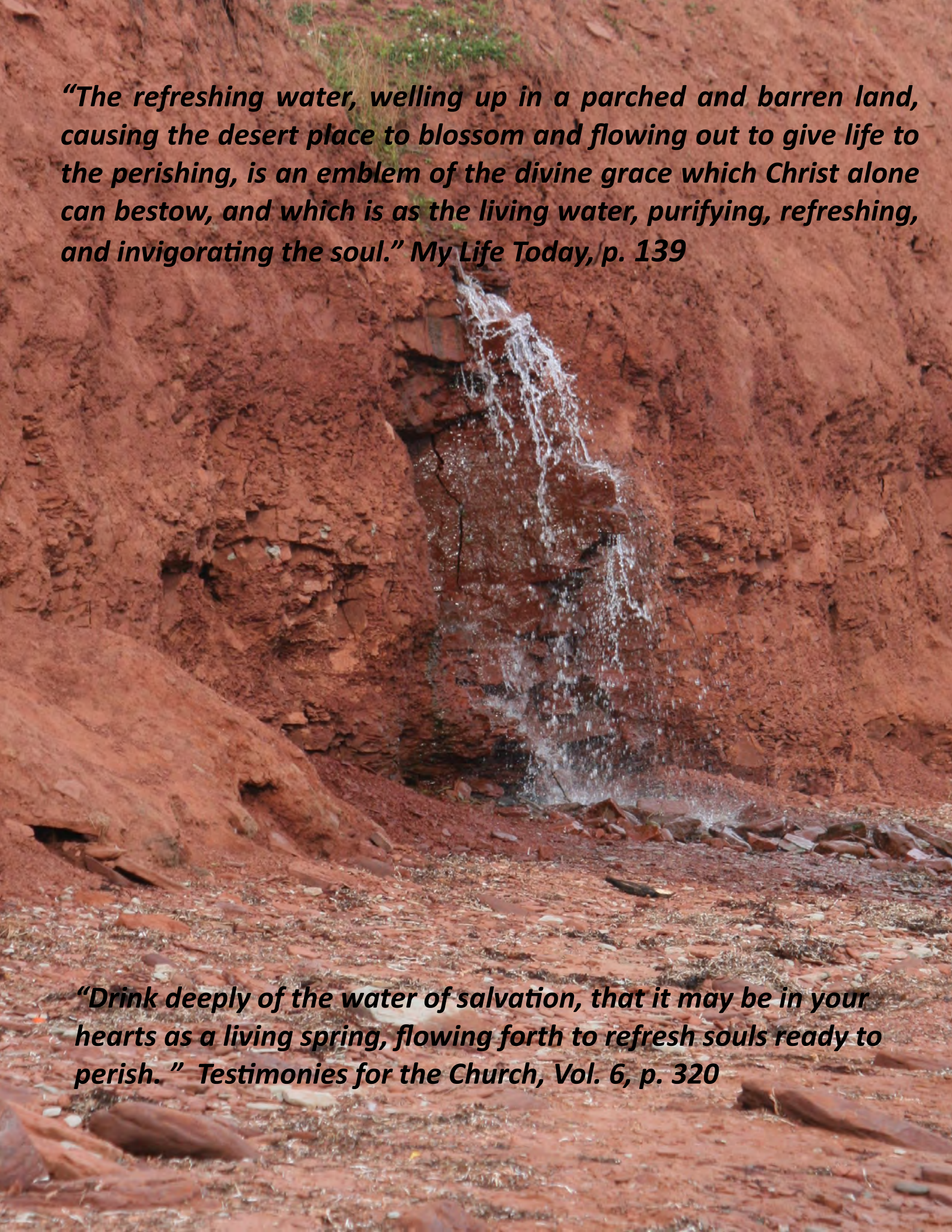
BROTHER MICHAEL AND WIFE IN CAP HAITIAN



STUDENTS IN CHURCH SCHOOL



PROPERTY THAT HAS BEEN DONATED TO BUILD A CHURCH OF OUR OWN

A photograph of a small waterfall cascading down a reddish-brown rock face. The water is white and frothy as it falls, creating a stark contrast with the dry, textured rock. The surrounding landscape is arid, with sparse green vegetation visible at the top of the frame. The overall scene is a metaphorical representation of life-giving water in a barren environment.

“The refreshing water, welling up in a parched and barren land, causing the desert place to blossom and flowing out to give life to the perishing, is an emblem of the divine grace which Christ alone can bestow, and which is as the living water, purifying, refreshing, and invigorating the soul.” My Life Today, p. 139

“Drink deeply of the water of salvation, that it may be in your hearts as a living spring, flowing forth to refresh souls ready to perish.” Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 320