

The Reformation
Messenger

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

**“Now when He
had left speaking,
He said unto Si-
mon, Launch out
into the deep, and
let down your nets
for a draught.”
Luke 4:5**



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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Back Cover Photo: Nova Scotia, Canada, Helen Marttinen

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Messenger 

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- Tel: 905-876-2518
- Email: anjetmartin@yahoo.com
- Web: www.imsmessenger.org

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“LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP”

“How broad and extended the command is, ‘Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world’! What honor is here conferred upon man, and yet how large a number hug the shore! How few will launch out into the deep, and let down their nets for a draught! Now, if this is done, if men are laborers together with God, if men are called to act in city missions, and to meet all classes of minds, there should be special preparations for this kind of work.”—*Review and Herald*, June 21, 1887.

“Brethren, pull away from the shore, launch out into the deep, and cast the gospel net again. In this important period of the work, ministers cannot be detained to prop up men and women who see and have once felt the force of the truth. They should fasten believing Christians to Christ, who is able to hold them up and preserve them blameless unto his appearing, while they go forth to new fields of labor.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 273

Fishers of Men Need the Divine Presence

“Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. . . . And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.” Luke 5:4-6.

“Everyone who in living faith follows Jesus, with an eye single to His glory, will see the salvation of God just as surely as these discouraged, despondent fishermen saw their boats filled by the miraculous draught. It was because Christ was in the ship that they were successful in their efforts to catch fish. The indwelling presence of the Saviour is equally necessary in the work of winning souls.” *Reflecting Christ*, p. 237

“In order to save humanity, Christ, the Majesty of heaven, the King of glory, laid aside His kingly crown and royal robe, clothed His divinity with humanity, and came to this earth as our Redeemer. For thirty-three years He lived the



H. Marttinen, Belize

life of a man among men, meeting the temptations that we must meet, and overcoming through the strength imparted from above. His divinity was not manifested in any display of pomp and royal power. He could have surrounded Himself with legions of heavenly angels, thereby inducing everyone to believe on Him; but this would not have been in accordance with God's purpose.” — *Reflecting Christ*, p. 237

“Christ came to stand at the head of humanity, and to demonstrate that through the power of the Holy Spirit it is possible for man to withstand Satan's temptations. With his long human arm the Saviour encircled humanity, while with His divine arm He grasped the throne of the Infinite.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 237

“We may endeavor to meet the enemy's temptations in our own strength, doing the best we can to overcome; but we shall meet with disappointment after disappointment. This was the condition in which Christ found the disciples, after their night of unrewarded toil. They were annoyed and perplexed. Directing them to ‘launch out into the deep,’ Christ said, ‘Let down your nets for a draught.’” — *Reflecting Christ*, p. 237

“Long had the fishermen toiled that night; often had they been disappointed in their expectations, as time and again the net was drawn up empty. When the Divine Presence was with them, and they, at His bidding, once more cast their net into the sea, what an abundance they gathered in! They were unprepared to handle so large a draught. . . . The sight of the miraculous draught of fish swept away the unbelief of the Galilean fishermen, and they were ready to respond to Christ's invitation to follow Him, and to learn to be fishers of men. . . . However long and faithfully we may toil in our human strength, we can hope for no real results; but as soon as we welcome Christ into the heart, He will work with and through us, to the salvation of souls.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 237

Let Down Your Net

“Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.” Luke 5:10.

“Jesus asks the use of Simon's boat. Although weary with his toil and disappointment, Simon cheerfully complies with the request of Christ. The unpretentious fishing boat is made the pulpit from which come forth the words of Christ. Surely the little craft of Simon's was never so honored as on this occasion. It had never been put to so profitable use by its owner. Jesus proclaims Bible truth; He speaks words of eternal life. The truths spoken in that sermon . . . [have gone] all over the world, and accomplished a work that eternity alone will reveal.” —*Upward Look*, p. 288

“When the judgment shall sit, and the books of record shall be opened, and the history of this effort is revealed, it will be seen that a light . . . [then] sprang up to be reflected all through the world through time and through eternity. This experience has been repeated to thousands of the messengers of the Lord Jesus, and has inspired hope and courage and faith.” —*Upward Look*, p. 288

“Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught” (Luke 5:4).” —*Upward Look*, p. 288

“The night was the most favorable time for the fishermen to work successfully, for in the clear water the fish would in the daylight see the net, and avoid it. Having toiled all night unsuccessfully, it seemed useless, according to human wisdom, to let down the net.” —*Upward Look*, p. 288

“‘Master,’ replied Simon, ‘we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net’ (verse 5).” —*Upward Look*, p. 288

“This was true obedience. Here is an instance of implicit trust in the words of Christ, in spite of an objectionable past experience. Our first lesson is to learn the will of God, even though we pass through trying circumstances, and then, knowing His will, to obey unquestioningly. Such obedience will always be rewarded.” —*Upward Look*, p. 288

“What was the result of Simon's obedience? ‘And when they had done this, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their nets brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink’ (verses 6, 7).” —*Upward Look*, p. 288

“Jesus designed this experience to be an encouragement

to these fishermen in their future efforts in fishing for souls. . . . What a powerful influence this wonderful transaction produced upon the minds of these humble fishermen! Christ's power had drawn the fish into Simon's net, but these honest-hearted men were themselves completely caught in the net that Christ has prepared for them. ‘They forsook all, and followed him’ (verse 11).” —*Upward Look*, p. 288

“Ministers to whom is intrusted the most sacred message of warning ever given to the world, have confined their labors too much to looking after the few who have embraced the truth, when their principal labor should have been for those who have not heard the message. There are those who think it is their duty to preach the truth, but they dare not venture from the shore, and they catch no fish. They will choose to go among the churches, over and over the same ground. They report a good time, a pleasant visit, but we look in vain for the souls that are converted to the truth through their instrumentality. These ministers hug the shore too closely. Let them launch out into the deep, and cast their net where the fish are. There is no lack of work to be done. There could be hundreds employed in the vineyard of the Lord where there is now one.” — *Signs of the Times*, September 4, 1879

“The very best way for ministers and churches is to let this fault-finding, crooked class fall back into their own element and pull away from the shore, launch out into the deep, and cast out the gospel net again for fish that may pay for the labor bestowed upon them. Satan exults when men and women embrace the truth who are naturally fault-finding and who will throw all the darkness and hindrance they can against the advancement of the work of God. Ministers cannot now in this important period of the work be detained to prop up men and women who see and have once felt the force of the truth. They should fasten believing Christians on Christ, who is able to hold them up and preserve them blameless unto his appearing, while they go forth to new fields of labor.” — *Signs of the Times*, September 4, 1879

“Were Christ on the earth now, he would say to such, ‘Launch out into the deep.’ Be not so self-caring. There are thousands whose lives are just as precious as yours. Then why do you wrap your coat about you, and hug the shore? Awake to duty and to usefulness! If you will launch out into the deep and let down your nets, the Master will gather in the fishes, and you will see of the mighty working of God.” —*Lift Him Up*, p. 326

Ellen G. White



God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee." Hosea 4:6. This has been repeated over and over for six thousand years.

In the time of Noah, the people heard the message of the coming flood, but they rejected it, and therefore only one family entered the ark and saved themselves. How many people repeated the words, "If I had only believed that the flood would come, I would have entered the ark," when the waters started to cover the earth?

How many times did Adam say, "If I had only known, I would not have eaten of the forbidden tree"?

Satan must have regretted many times his rebellion against God.

It was lack of knowledge that made Judas betray Jesus. The Jewish people did not know that Jesus was the Creator, the Son of God, the only One who could have saved them.

The persecuting powers during the Middle Ages did not know that they were fighting against the children of God.

The Seventh-Day Adventists did not know that the two percent of their members whom they disfellowshipped during the First World War were, in reality, the true children of God.

This lack of knowledge will be seen again in the time of the end. Jesus said, "But as 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 24:37-40

Many professed Christians will be lost for the lack of knowledge. Even that knowledge has increased in the last days to the point that the religious leaders say, "I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Revelation 3:17

Something they did not know, something they had ne-

glected to learn, and therefore they are in a lost condition.

God was trying to teach them the saving truth. In the 1888 Conference in Minneapolis, two young men, Jones and Waggoner presented Christ's righteousness message, which could have brought reformation into the church, but it was not accepted, neither put into practice. Sister White said that not even one accepted the message fully, no one joined in the proclamation to the people. (*The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, p. 1068)

The seven billion inhabitants of the world do not know what will happen to them very soon. The more than two billion professed Christians do not know that Sunday worship is the mark of the beast. More than one billion Catholics do not know that the Pope is the Antichrist.

Ancient Israel was put to a special school to learn the way of God. For forty years Moses taught them. They were kept away from all worldly influences, yet in the end only two of the adult men learned the lessons, and they were permitted to enter into the Promised Land.

Our salvation depends on the right choices we make in our life. Moses told the people to choose life. "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Deuteronomy 30:19

In order to choose life we need to make right choices daily. We choose what to eat and drink. We choose our companions, we choose how to spend our free time, we choose what to see and listen. Also, we choose what to think and speak. From the morning until the night we must decide what we will do, and if we choose a wrong thing we will suffer for it. Jeremiah writes, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jeremiah 10:23

God has given us His word to guide our lives. The Bible gives us counsel on how to direct our steps, how to make right choices in our daily life. Therefore we need to read it carefully, not just once but several times from the beginning to the end. And not only the Bible, but God has given us the Spirit of Prophecy books as additional counsel; especially the nine volumes of the *Testimonies for the Church* are important. After reading

them we will have very few questions in life, in not knowing what to do.

There are people who do not believe that the writings of Ellen White are inspired by God; they commit sin against the Holy Spirit by their rejection of them.

"Yet now when I send you a testimony of warning and reproof, many of you declare it to be merely the opinion of Sister White. You have thereby insulted the Spirit of God." –*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 27



"The testimonies of the Spirit of God are given to direct man to His word, which has been neglected. Now if their messages are not heeded, the Holy Spirit is shut away from the soul." –*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 46

There are people who have these testimony books in their possession, but they do not read them. Without reading these testimonies that God has given us we are not able to make right decisions and choices in life.

"Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 625

It may be only one thing that we lack knowledge of, and this one thing can destroy our faith and our salvation.

Therefore, let us start reading and studying the Scriptures carefully. Let us attend church meetings where the Word of God is taught, that not one of us will be lost for the lack of knowledge. This is my wish and prayer. AMEN

Timo Martin



MARRIAGES

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Genesis 1:28

“And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.” Genesis 2:20

Adam, the head of the human race, sensed his uniqueness—there was no other like him. God was sensitive to this lack, for He said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” Genesis 2:18

“And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.” Genesis 2:21,22

God did not make man after the order of the lower animals, but “in His own image.” Neither did He choose man’s companion or “help meet” from some other or-

der of things, but made her from man—of the same substance. And He took this substance, not from man’s feet, that he might have an excuse to degrade, enslave, or trample upon her; nor from man’s head, that the woman might assume authority over man; but from man’s side, that the woman might stand at his side as man’s equal, side by side with him.

“And Adam said, This [is] now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Genesis 2:23

THE TWO BECOME ONE

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

“Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” Matthew 19:6

God performed the first marriage, joining these two, the epitome of His image, to make them one. Marriage has been the foundation of the family, the foundation of society itself, ever since.

RELATIONSHIP OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the Head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body.” Ephesians 5:22, 23

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it... So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself... Let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband.” Ephesians 5:25–33

“Husbands love your wives, and be not bitter against them.” Colossians 3:19

“Likewise, ye wives, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation (manner of life) of the wives.” 1 Peter 3:1

“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with [them] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the

weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” 1 Peter 3:7

One of the most precious gifts in this world is a happy, close-knit family! One of the greatest joys in life is to have a successful marriage. Love is a true balm for the soul during times of great trouble and disappointment.

“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.” 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

Marriage is the fusion of two characters that come to be one. It is designed to prepare a couple for the journey of life. The wife will feel protected by her husband, and he shall feel helped by his wife, especially in times of sickness or other troublesome times. An intimate bond must exist in the marriage relationship that lasts an entire lifetime.

In marriage, in the family life, it is very important to realize that at your side is the wife given to you by God Himself. Marriage is not a means of getting an infallible person, but the way of receiving a fitting helper given by God.

When we want to get married, we should not ask for a husband or wife who will never err, but rather we should expect to receive from God a husband or wife whom He considers to be the “help meet” offered to us by grace, due to no merit of our own.

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.” Proverbs 18:22

“House and riches are the inheritance of fathers; and a prudent wife is from the Lord.” Proverbs 19:14

And any gift given personally by God cannot be other than good. “And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.” Genesis 1:31

The wife that God gives you is the best one, because she is the most suitable helper for you. Certainly there are plenty of other women who have fine qualities too. But they are not the specific helper designed for you. One person’s qualities do not involve the chance of fitness as well, because fitness means that what you are

missing can be completed by the qualities of your spouse.

THE SUBMISSION OF THE WIFE

By nature, women have a more affectionate heart; they are more sentimental, with a natural inclination to affection. But the Word of God does not tell the woman, first and foremost, to love her husband but rather sets aside her natural inclination and speaks to her in another way: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.” Ephesians 5:22

Whenever God looks upon the family, He does not consider the woman as the head, but rather the husband, because God is the One who has established that order.

This submission on the part of the wife is possible only where there is a certain consistent frame of mind. “Giving thanks always for all things unto God.” Ephesians 5:20. That means not only for some things, but for all, because “all things work together for good to them that love God.” Romans 8:28. And the one who loves God loves also the order established by Him in all of life’s aspects, including the home.

The inspired word underlines, “Wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands **as unto the Lord.**” Ephesians 5:22 (emphasis mine). This is an important aspect of submission, which may help those wives who doubt the need to submit themselves. The word says to submit yourself “as unto the Lord.” If you respect God, being convinced that He has authority and you are willing to follow His advice, then don’t forget that He is telling you: “Submit yourself to your husband as unto Me,” or, “Submit yourself to your husband, because he is My representative before you; he is your head, and I am His head.” If a woman does not see in her husband the ideal dream, she should seek the Lord in prayer. What grace and blessings would exist in the home if this divine order were taken into account! “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and He is the Saviour of the body.” Ephesians 5:23

Although this submission of the wife is part of the divine order in the faithful home, marriage does not destroy the individuality of the pair. The husband and wife become one flesh, but keep their own individuality. “We have an individuality of our own, and the wife’s individuality is never to be sunk into that of her

husband.” –*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 426

“Neither the husband nor the wife should attempt to exercise over the other an arbitrary control. Do not try to compel each other to yield to your wishes. You cannot do this and retain each other's love. Be kind, patient, and forbearing, considerate, and courteous. By the grace of God you can succeed in making each other happy, as in your marriage vow you promised to do.” – *Ministry of Healing*, p. 361

“But while you are to blend as one, neither of you is to

is to be as a Saviour in his family. Will he stand in his noble, God-given manhood, ever seeking to uplift his wife and children? Will he breathe about him pure, sweet atmosphere?” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 117

“When the husband has the nobility of character, purity of heart, elevation of mind, that every true Christian must possess, it will be made manifest in the marriage relation.... He will seek to keep his wife in health and courage. He will strive to speak words of comfort, to create an atmosphere of peace in the home circle.” – *The Adventist Home*, p. 228



Even in those cases when our wives may not be fulfilling the conditions by which to be loved, we as husbands should follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus was not looking at what the church was, but at what it could become in the future, through His love and sacrifice. “He gave Himself for it,” not because it was holy, but “that He might sanctify it”; not because it was clean, but “that He might cleanse it”; not because it was worthy, but to make it worthy.

The church is not perfect. It is Christ that will make it perfect.

True love does not look at existing virtues, but at those that could be.

lose his or her individuality in the other. God is the owner of your individuality. Of Him you are to ask: What is right? What is wrong? How may I best fulfill the purpose of my creation? ‘Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.’ 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. Your love for that which is human is to be secondary to your love for God.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, pp. 45, 46

THE HUSBAND’S LOVING ATTITUDE

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it.” Ephesians 5:25

“Husbands should study the pattern and seek to know what is meant by the symbol presented in Ephesians, the relation Christ sustains to the church. The husband

If you want your wife to have a quality that she does not possess, you have to love her, so that she will be empowered to attain that quality. If you say, “I don’t love her because she doesn’t have that quality,” then you have understood nothing from the example of the Lord Jesus, who is the Head. He loved the church and gave Himself for it so that it may become as He wants it to be: “A glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:27

This love does not constitute a mere declaration nor is it a mere feeling, but is the result of supreme sacrifice which through faith can achieve even that which is humanly impossible.

We notice that the husband’s love for his wife is placed between two guide markers: a heavenly one (“as Christ

loved”) and a human one (“as their own bodies”). “A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self, showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 46

The principle recommended in the Word of God to those who wish to establish a family, for a man to leave his father and mother and be joined unto his wife, has its origin in the love between Christ and His church. For the sake of those whom He loved “with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3), Christ left the heavenly family to rescue the human family “at the risk of failure and eternal loss.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 49

“Around every family there is a sacred circle that should be kept unbroken. Within this circle no other person has a right to come. Let not the husband or the wife permit another to share the confidences that belong solely to themselves.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 361

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.

“Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, [and] rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers’ with thee.” Proverbs 5:15–17

“Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.” 1 Corinthians 7:3, 4

“Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth . . . For the lips of a strange woman drop [as] an honeycomb, and her mouth [is] smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.” Proverbs 5:18, 3–5

“Marriage [is] honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” Hebrews 13:4

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

These are [the things] which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.” Matthew 15:19, 20

“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell.” Matthew 5:28, 29

“Jesus takes up the commandments separately, and explains the depth and breadth of their requirement... He declares that by the evil thought or the lustful look the law of God is transgressed. One who becomes a party to the least injustice is breaking the law and degrading his own moral nature.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 310

“When the thought of evil is loved and cherished, however secretly, said Jesus, it shows that sin still reigns in the heart... As a man ‘thinketh in his heart, so is he;’ for out of the heart ‘are the issues of life.’” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 60

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God... Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make [them] the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10, 15–20

“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfil] the lusts [thereof].” Romans 13:13, 14

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Galatians 6:7, 8

SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

“And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.” Mark 10:11, 12

“And unto the married I command, [yet] not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from [her] husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to [her] husband: and let not the husband put away [his] wife.” 1 Corinthians 7:10, 11

“For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to [her] husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of [her] husband. So then if, while [her] husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.” “...only in the Lord.” Romans 7:2, 3; 1 Corinthians 7:39, last part. See also Malachi 2:16.

“This vow links the destinies of the two individuals with bonds which naught but the hand of death should sever... Although the laws of the land may grant a divorce, yet they are husband and wife still in the Bible light, according to the laws of God.” *—The Adventist Home*, pp. 340, 344

POLYGAMY AND FIRST MARRIAGE

We believe that if those of native races accept the truth and are united by marriage to several wives, he must become free from these, except for the one to whom he was first married. This first wife is his rightful one. He is, however, duty bound by God to support the other wives. (see 1 Timothy 5:16; 2 Samuel 20:3; Malachi 2:14)

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27. AMEN.

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu
Zambia

GENERAL CONFERENCE MISSION SCHOOL

2011 – 2012

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Where: GC Headquarters
Cedartown, Georgia U.S.A.

When: September 20, 2011 to July 28, 2012

Who: The school is open to all qualified students (members in good standing) (Maximum 25 students)

“In the natural order of things, the son of Zacharias would have been educated for the priesthood. But the training of the rabbinical schools would have unfitted him for his work. God did not send him to the teachers of theology to learn how to interpret the Scriptures. He called him to the desert, that he might learn of nature and nature's God.” *—The Desire of Ages, p. 101*

We Will Meet Her Again at the Resurrection

*Teresa Corti Gutknecht
(September 12, 1944 - April 7, 2011)*

We mourn the passing of a dearly beloved sister, author, friend, and teacher, Teresa Corti Gutknecht, who quietly passed to her rest in the Lord Jesus Christ on April 7, 2011. She will be remembered especially for her many inspirational articles and letters, although she was also greatly appreciated for her language skills, teaching, mentoring, and spiritual support at the mission school in Albertirsa, Hungary. Her quiet wit and wisdom, her gentle spirit, and her generous heart will be missed by all who knew her.

Born in Uruguay of European parents, she lost them while still a young child and was raised first by one of her grandmothers and then by an aunt. She lived a life of minimal religious substance well into her middle years, only coming to know the Lord and His peace later in life. Perhaps that is why she valued the truth so much, for she had tried all the world had to offer (including working at the United Nations in New York City as an interpreter) and found no lasting joy in its enticements and promises. She was fluent in Spanish, English, Greek, and French, and called German her "worst" language.

Sister Teresita, as she was called, came into contact with the New Testament when a young student whom she was tutoring in the Greek language told her what he had heard at school about the number 666 of Revelation at the time of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. She had to confess that she knew nothing about the future as revealed in the Scriptures. This led her to begin to search God's Word with determination and joy. At the same time, a close friend of hers, Sister Elpida Tsouridou Teske, told her about the Bible classes she was taking. One evening she accepted an invitation to join the small group of believers to study the Bible. She then started to read the inspired writings whenever she had spare time and refused many invitations to parties, preferring to stay at home with the Book. With all her heart, she desired to know more about Jesus. After one year of Bible studies with Brother Benjamin Gramm,

who was at that time leading the group of believers in Athens, Greece, she was baptised in the Mediterranean Sea on June 3, 1988.

After some time, she was called to work as a translator at the General Conference in Germany. There she grew in faith and made many experiences with the Lord through contact with His word due to her personal interest and her work. She understood that she needed the new birth and struggled for a year with the Lord, who finally gave her the assurance of His love and forgiveness. She rested in Him when she found the promise in Romans 8:35-39: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* When she understood that she was living by grace through faith, she experienced great peace in her soul.

This experience made it possible for Sister Teresita to be able to guide many of her students to the foot of the cross while she was teaching them English in the mission school in Hungary for six years.

After the school closed, she went with Brother and Sister Siegmund Gutknecht to Germany (Brother Gutknecht had been headmaster of the school) to help take care of Sister Gutknecht, who had suffered a terrible accident in a gas explosion and became bedridden at the end of her life.

For a few years, Sister Teresita stayed in Kurhaus Elim, in Nonnweiler, Germany, conducting morning and evening worships; many patients remember the spiritu-

al studies she offered them. For several years, she was part of the Good Samaritan team and travelled to a few countries in Africa, where she was appalled by the poverty and squalor under which the people suffered.

After the death of Sister Gutknecht, she wanted to support and take care of Brother Gutknecht and to help him with some writings of his. He asked her to marry him, which she did. He encouraged her to write her autobiography, telling the story of her life. The title of her book is *I Am a Debtor to the Greeks*. It can be found in English and Spanish.

She wrote other books in English, Spanish, and Greek, including: *The Song of Love; Twelve Pearls from God's Treasure Trove; Is Death Really a Mystery? The Cross Calls Us; The Truth about Truth; The Revelation*, and some poems, etc. For many years, she was a faithful contributor to the Canadian magazine, the Reformation Messenger.

To do as much as she could with her means, she lived a very simple life void of personal possessions beyond what was necessary for day-to-day existence. She even regretted the simple gesture of receiving flowers which were given to her as something of an unnecessary extravagance, although, after expressing her thoughts, she would graciously receive them. While she never had children of her own, she always demonstrated marvellous parenting skills and great love and wisdom in dealing with her students. Her health began to deteriorate a few months ago, but she never lost hope in her Lord. Until the last moments of her life, she cared for the well-being of those around her. During some of her sleepless nights, she prayed and sang her favourite hymns. Sister Teresita will be greatly missed, but "*yet a little while*" and we will meet again before our King and Father's throne.



GIVE ME THAT KIND OF FAITH

Oh Lord, give me that faith as a grain of mustard,
To be able to move mountains,
So that I may see a broader horizon.
Oh Lord, give me that kind of faith

That enables me to see the invisible world,
That lifts me above all the negative things
My naked eye can see,
And through the prism of Your love
Reveal to me the hues of life.

Oh Lord, give me that kind of faith
That allows me to touch the hem of Your garment and
be healed,
That can make me feel the physical presence of Your
angels
Camping around me
And get hold of Your hand, not to let it ever go.

Oh Lord, give me that kind of faith
That sharpens my ears to hear the choir of angels
Around Your throne singing Holy, Holy, Holy,
And make me not aware of the strident noises that surround me.

Oh Lord, give me that kind of faith
That smells the fragrance of paradise
And leads me to offer You sacrifices
That You will accept as a sweet smell.

Oh Lord, give me that kind of faith
That can taste Your kindness and grace
And treasure Your word "*more than my necessary food.*"

Oh Lord, give me that kind of faith
That introduces me into Your sanctuary
And keeps me continuously before Your presence,
Acting as the priest You have chosen me to be,
Mediating for the sheep You gave me,
With the love of the Good Shepherd in my heart.

Teresa Corti

A photograph of a person with a backpack walking away on a path, with the text "WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?" overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

“WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?”

“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?” John 6:67

Why did Jesus ask this question of His disciples? Who is it that left off from following Him? The Jewish leaders were constantly out to get Him. They were never followers of Jesus, so it was not they who left His side because they never were with Him. To leave someone, you would have had to be with him at one point in time.

In John chapter 6 we read of Jesus speaking about Himself as the “Bread of Life.” After His sermon we read that, “From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.” John 6:66. It reads that many **disciples** (or followers), left Him. “With a yearning heart, Jesus saw those who had been His disciples departing from Him, the Life and the Light of men. The consciousness that His compassion was unappreciated, His love unrequited, His mercy slighted, His salvation rejected, filled Him with sorrow that was inexpressible. It was such developments as these that made Him a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 393

“Without attempting to hinder those who were leaving Him, Jesus turned to the twelve and said, ‘Will ye also go away?’” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 393

And these disciples who left, did they quietly go home to take care of their own business? Unfortunately not. “As those disaffected disciples turned away from Christ, a different spirit took control of them. They could see nothing attractive in Him whom they had once found so interesting. They sought out His enemies, for they were in harmony with their spirit and work. They misinterpreted His words, falsified His statements, and impugned His motives. They sustained their course by gathering up every item that could be turned against Him; and such indignation was stirred up by these false reports that His life was in danger.” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 392 – 393

Jesus did not soften His message in order to retain the following of His disciples. He spoke the truth. It was with sorrow that He watched His disciples leave.

This was a sad event; people who were disciples of Jesus, turning away from, and turning against Jesus because He spoke the truth and they could not tolerate it.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

Open Rebellion:

History has repeated this event many times over. People who appeared to be followers of Jesus, who were faithful, sincere believers and missionaries, have turned away.

Demas was a faithful supporter of the truth in the time of the Apostle Paul, but we read in 2 Timothy 4:10, “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.”

King Saul was very faithful to the Lord at the beginning of his reign, however he became proud and self-important. He went as far as offering a sacrifice that only the priests in holy office could perform. King Saul, rather than repenting of his wrongs, repented only of the punishment and he finally turned his back on the Lord. We read in 1 Samuel 15:11, “It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.” Samuel loved King Saul as his own son and now he was grieved when the king departed from the Lord. This is much the same grief that parents experience when they see their children departing from the Lord.

Jehoiada the priest in the temple provided a safe haven for little **Joash** from the anger of his grandmother

Athaliah, who killed all the rest of his family and would have killed him if she knew he was alive. Joash was made king at the age of seven, and how did he repay the kindness of Jehoiada? He was faithful to the Lord until the death of Jehoiada, but then things changed. He left off from following the Lord and turned to idol worship. When reprov'd by the son of Jehoiada, he had him stoned. Jehoiada the priest will be surprised to not see King Joash in heaven when he arrives there. (2 Chronicles 24)

Secret Rebellion:

Although the above-mentioned people openly apostatized from the faith, there are those who remain in the church, but are secretly living a life of sin.

These people are spoken of by Jesus in the parable of the two women who are grinding at the mill, the one being taken and the other one left (Matthew 24:40, 41). In God's church there have always been two types of worshippers. They are also described by Jesus as "the wheat and the tares" (Matthew 13:24-30). They look alike. They worship together, however, in a time of crisis, the "wheat" find strength from above to endure the difficulty because they have maintained a close connection with their Lord and Saviour. The "tares," lose their way and depart from God's people. "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." 1 John 2:19. They willingly depart because they could not stand the "heat" or pressure in the time of crisis. They chose to compromise their faith and to join with the majority in the world.

Lucifer was the first to leave off from following Jesus in heaven, even before this earth was created. He worked in secrecy while pretending to serve God. "Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 37. By his cunning, he managed to deceive one-third of the angels. When they were finally in open rebellion, together they were all cast out of heaven.

Judas Iscariot was thought of highly by the other disciples and appeared to be a true follower. "While the disciples were searching for evidence to confirm the words of the Great Teacher, Judas would lead them

almost imperceptibly on another track. Thus in a very religious, and apparently wise, way he was presenting matters in a different light from that in which Jesus had given them, and attaching to His words a meaning that He had not conveyed." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 719. Judas was secretly working against Jesus, however, he was not completely evil as we see the Holy Spirit striving with Him. "But Judas was not yet wholly hardened. Even after he had twice pledged himself to betray the Saviour, there was opportunity for repentance. At the Passover supper Jesus proved His divinity by revealing the traitor's purpose. He tenderly included Judas in the ministry to the disciples. But the last appeal of love was unheeded. Then the case of Judas was decided, and the feet that Jesus had washed went forth to the betrayer's work." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 720. When Jesus was taken, his true character came out. Up until the end the Holy Spirit was striving with Judas, and he almost surrendered, but in the last minute his pride held him back.

Ananias and Sapphira were church members who donated to the church, however, they lied. Not to any man, but Peter asked Ananias, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?" Acts 5:2 (Read Acts 5:1-10). They lost their lives.

In the year **1914**, a great shaking came to God's church. During the first World War, 98% of the church membership apostatized and left Jesus behind. Only a remnant remained faithful and this remnant was persecuted. Many young men gave their lives as martyrs rather than take up weapons and kill their fellow men. Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matthew 5:44. They would rather die than take up weapons to kill another person.

In the year **1951**, another shaking came to God's church. Again, a large number willingly left God's church and illegally organized another movement.

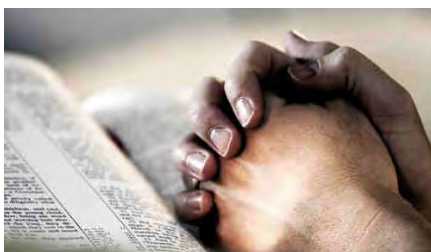
END OF TIME

History has been repeating itself over and over again. People who once loved the Lord, and loved the truth, have departed for one reason or another. We are now living at the very close of this earth's history and there will still be more shaking in God's church. It is time for God's people to press together and work together. A

time will come when many will, once again, depart from following Jesus.

Sister White saw a vision regarding the two types of worshippers in God's church at the end of time. The first sentence is interesting. "Before the throne I saw the Advent people—**the church and the world.**" *Early Writings*, p. 54 (emphasis mine). She describes the Advent people as "the church and the world." There are two classes of people in the church . . . "the church and the world." Then further in the vision, she is shown more details about these two types of people. They both look the same.

"I saw two companies, one bowed down before the throne, deeply interested, while the other stood uninterested and careless. Those who were bowed before the throne would offer up their prayers and look to Jesus; then He would look to His Father, and appear to be pleading with Him. A light would come from the Father to the Son and from the Son to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne. But few would receive this great light. Many came out from under it and immediately resisted it; others were careless and did not cherish the light, and it moved off from them. Some cherished it, and went and bowed down with the little praying company. This company all received the light and rejoiced in it, and their countenances shone with its glory." *Early Writings* p. 54 – 55



If we look closer at the above statement, firstly, there are two groups; one praying, one standing around

uninterested. When a bright light came from the Father to the Son, and on to the people, some of the careless resisted it and did not cherish it. A shaking occurred. They left the ranks and moved away from the serious ones.

There are hundreds of churches in the world and each church, while having differing beliefs, all



use the same Bible. This is a spurious deception of Satan. 99% truth is not enough for God. Many who have departed from the faith have used the Bible to justify their course. They say they have received "new light." People have also left God's church because of "new light," finding some verses in the Bible, taken out of context, to justify their course. "Men whom He has greatly honored will, in the closing scenes of this earth's history, pattern after ancient Israel. . . . A departure from the great principles Christ has laid down in His teachings, a working out of human projects, **using the Scriptures to justify a wrong course of action** under the perverse working of Lucifer, will confirm men in misunderstanding, and the truth that they need to keep them from wrong practices will leak out of the soul like water from a leaky vessel." *Last Day Events*, p. 178 – 179 (emphasis mine)

It is often more surprising to see ministers and leaders depart from the faith; those who have stood faithful upon the platform of truth. Yet it has been prophesied to happen. "Many will show that they are not one with Christ, that they are not dead to the world, that they may live with Him; and frequent will be the apostasies of men who have occupied responsible positions." *Last Day Events*, p. 179. "Ministers and doctors may depart from the faith, as the Word declares they will, and as the messages that God has given His servant declare they will." *Last Day Events*, p. 179

"Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness. Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness." *Prophets and Kings*, p. 188.

And those that depart from the faith in the end of time, we are told this of their conduct. "Then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." Matthew 24:10.

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They

become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them." *Maranatha*, p. 196

"The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who step by step have yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment and death. At this time the gold will be separated from the dross. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it." *Review and Herald*, November 20, 1913

WHERE SHALL WE GO?

When all those disciples left Jesus, He turned to the twelve and asked them also if they would leave. Peter's response was, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." John 6:68

If we are tempted to leave, we need to ask the same question: Where shall we go? Is there more happiness, peace and security in the world? Shall we go to another church that is teaching false doctrines? We need to think twice. The only peace and happiness is in the fold of Christ.

People have left the fold for the most simple reasons. The devil doesn't care what the excuse is, as long as he



manages to see that a person departs. Some are offended and harbor resentment. They cannot forgive and therefore they leave. Some find it too difficult to live according to God's standard. They try to walk the pathway alone, and miserably fail, and then give up, rather than connecting with Jesus, in Whom they can find victory. Some are deceived by other religious bodies whose teachings are very close to the teachings of God's church, but they find the people, the sermons, more pleasing to their ears.

If any of the above-mentioned people would have a close connection with Jesus and earnestly study their Bibles, yielding their lives to Christ, they would not be deceived. Jesus never leads people into error, only into truth. The truth is, as Peter stated, "And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:69. Yes, there is no other place of safety. May God help us to remain faithful now so we will stand firm when the times of trouble come upon God's people as the close of this earth's history rapidly approaches. There is safety only by remaining in the fold of Christ. Let us unite together in Christian love and unity. AMEN

Wendy Eaton

LOOKING FOR YOU...

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THE SAINTS

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

Revelation 14:12

WHERE?

Well, where are they? Yes—where are they “that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”? There is probably no Biblical text in the word of God more familiar to us as Sabbath-keeping people as Revelation 14:12. It is used by us in our publications, sermons, Bible studies, and conversations – and in reference to ourselves as a church.

Furthermore – God’s denominated people – who are these? Those witnesses to their loyalty – who are these? The answer is: Those “who kept the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17. Moreover, what is God’s sign? The Lord spoke unto the children of Israel, saying, “Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep; for it is a **sign** between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord who doth sanctify you.” (Exodus 31:12 – 17)

Now the second angel that John saw announces the fall of Babylon (described in Revelation 17 and 18), and the third angel utters a judgment upon all those who worship the beast and his image. The warning is to the churches to come out of Babylon, as idolatry has crept into the churches. It is by the preaching of the true gospel, attended by the Holy Spirit, that men are turned from idols to serve the living God, as the “Creator of the heaven, and the earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” (Revelation 14:7)

After fair warning given by the word of Providence, those who refuse to come out of Babylon when thus called, and resolve to partake of her sins, must receive of her plagues; and the guilt and ruin of such incorrigi-

ble idolaters will serve to set forth the excellence of the patience and obedience of the saints. These graces shall be rewarded with salvation and glory.

When the treachery and rebellion of others shall be punished with everlasting destruction, then it will be said to the honour of the faithful: “Here is the patience of the saints.” (Revelation 14:12). You have before seen their patience exercised, now you see it rewarded. Adventists believe that this is a promise that, in the last days, only those will be received who are acceptable to God; who “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12), and that this is a call to men to honour the true Sabbath of God, the seventh-day Sabbath of the Decalogue.

Ezekiel, the priest and prophet, was to sustain the faith of the Jewish exiles in Babylon. “And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a **mark** upon the forehead of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.” Ezekiel 9:4

WHY?

Ah! But it is not always easy to persuade others to accept the truths of the Bible. The public in general, friends, and relatives do not agree with us in our application of the opening text. And, why? Well, it is not difficult to explain. It might be because they do not see the characteristics referred to in that text, in all our members!

Some could say: You profess to keep the commandments, but where is the patience of the saints revealed in your people, the very first qualification of the text?

Moreover, where is the faith of Jesus manifested among you? And where are the mighty works which are natural for such a faith? (James 2:17). And brethren, we need to be able to say, "Here they are – behold them."

GOD'S WORK

Meanwhile, the world is rocking on its axis, both figuratively and literally. It is engulfed in a great flood of moral and spiritual darkness. Conditions have never been worse; in fact, they are appalling! Satan, the evil one, has come down with great power, knowing that he has a very short time, although he is still prince of this world. He knows he has lost the war, and consequently, is destroying as many souls as he can. We know that when God proposes to do a great work on Earth, it is Satan's plan to fight it with a vicious abandon!

God's work for this time must be done; He is waiting patiently for us to do it and the time is passing by very fast! Some have great expectations and plans for the future, but neglect their present duties.

But, we have to know the enemy's plans and movements! Satan is bringing rapidly to the front line of this battle his: **1. Deceptions, 2. Counterfeits, 3. Infidelity.**

God's great work, which is to shake the world and lighten it with His glory, is still, from outward appearances, in seclusion! Why? Why is it that God's work seems to be so far behind and "masked?" Well, the answer is very simple. Part of the reason is that the Lord can do little for His people if they have **limited faith**. "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matthew 17:20

The Lord Jesus took the occasion to show the disciples the power of faith, that they may not be as slow in faith in the future, as they were at the present time. It is good for us to be diffident of ourselves and of our own strength; but it displeases Christ when some distrust any power derived from Him, or granted by Him.

Prayer and fasting are proper means for the bringing down of Satan's power against us. Fasting is of use to put an edge on prayer. If you have an active growing faith, you will be able to "move mountains."

THE MESSAGE

The pastors, priests and ministers in fallen Christian churches have not presented Jesus Christ in His fullness to the people, but "masked" Him – presenting merely the Person and not **His message**. Consequently they do not have an intelligent faith but a whimsical, feeble, and dumb faith!

In summary, God's work is hindered by a failure of the ministers in the fallen churches to preach Christ in His fullness and the Law. The Apostle Paul's success in the work of God was in his determination to "know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:2). However, to these professing "sentinels on the walls of Zion," it is a too narrow and confining theme. Many go from one Christian church to another, seeking, being bewildered. Others try to broaden out into wider fields and greener pastures (e.g., praying for dead spirits, searching for something new and exciting, possessed with "itching ears," especially in the haunts of Africa or Asia).

And all of this is happening when the gruesome seven last plagues are about to come and God's people are preaching: "Get ready. The time is later than you think!" (Revelation 16). The first plague will come – noisome, grievous, foul-smelling, stinking sores! The suffering because of the plagues will be hard to bear – harshly severe! Again, why? People were busy with their personal affairs before – they had no time; taking care of their oxen, building houses, and having been newly married (Matthew 22). They have no interest in listening to the straight and cutting truth brought by God's people. They want to go the "easy" way to heaven that the modern-day Christian preachers are teaching them.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21. Also, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. Another favorite verse, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

The church, you see, "is as the gate of heaven." – *My Life Today*, p. 286. "Christ is the head of the church." Ephesians 5:23. The communion of saints is a great help and privilege, and a good means of steadiness and per-

severance; hereby their hearts and hands are mutually strengthened; and to observe the approaching of the time of trial and thereby be quickened to greater watchfulness and diligence.

FEEDING TIME

When we feed on the Word of God it becomes to us, like it did to Job, more than our necessary food; when we meditate upon it day and night as David did, when we pray as Daniel did. "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." Malachi 3:18. Then we shall begin to believe it in a way that will be **Faith!** Don't turn traitor – turncoat – but stand unflinchingly for **Faith**. Misery often brings a person to his knees and to **Faith**.

We shall receive it – not as the word of man, but as it is in the truth—the Word of God. "Thy law is the truth." Psalm 119: 142. "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17. And receiving it as His Word we shall be so burdened by its importance that we shall always be communing with Him about it. Understand?

**Then we shall talk it over with God until:
His message shall be our message.
His work shall be our work.
His faith in His Word shall be our faith in His Word.**

And that is the faith of God . . . and that is the faith of Jesus. And when we deliver this message of His in His way, He will be speaking directly through us!

And that is the testimony of Jesus Christ and that is the Spirit of Prophecy, which every one of the remnant seed will have, who keep the commandments of God. (Revelation 12:17; 19:10)

In closing, my fondest wish is, **"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."** Ephesians 1:17

These are – **THE SAINTS!** A hearty Amen!

John Theodorou
U.S.A.

BAPTISM



On Sabbath, April 9, 2011 the angels in heaven rejoiced as Brother Jose Avila and Sister Maria Garcia (Woodbridge, Canada) made a public confession of their faith by baptism.





JOHN WESLEY

Eighteenth-century England was ripe for an awakening. What was soon to be called “The Methodist Revival” brought warmth, piety, and zeal to a church mired in lethargy.

John Wesley, the leader and founder of the Methodist church, was the 15th child born to Samuel and Susannah Wesley. Brother Charles, the great hymn writer, was the 18th child in a family of 19. Both grandfathers had been involved in the Puritan reform movement of the 17th century. The father, Samuel, was a priest of the Church of England, and their mother was a spiritual tower of strength. Susannah was no doubt the most powerful religious influence in the life of all her children.

When John was six he was saved from a fire that destroyed his family’s home. Dramatically, a neighbour stood on the shoulders of a friend and grabbed John from a second-story window just moments before the building collapsed. Samuel Wesley called to all who were watching the fire. “Come, neighbours, let us kneel down. Let us give thanks to God. He has given me all my children. Let the house go. I am rich enough.”

As time passed John Wesley believed he had been saved for a purpose. Quoting the Old Testament book of Zechariah, he said, “I was a brand plucked out of the fire.”

At age 17, John Wesley enrolled at Christ College, Oxford. Four years later he was ordained a deacon. At Oxford he mastered Greek, German, French, Italian, and Spanish, and developed an appetite for knowledge that was never satisfied. Most significantly, however, John began to read devotional literature and developed a deep desire to lead a holy life. Through the writings of Thomas à Kempis and William Law he began to seek “purity of intention.” True religion, he believed, includ-

ed a significant experience of the heart, not just a confession of the lips.

In 1775 John went home for two years to assist his ailing father in his parish at Epworth. When he returned to Oxford, he became involved with a group formed by brother Charles. Initially the group existed for educational purposes. As John became involved and assumed leadership, the group, soon known as The Holy Club, began to concern itself with spiritual improvement. “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this,” wrote the author of James, “To visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” That pretty well summed up the activities of The Holy Club. In addition to continued prayer and praise in their meetings, the group regularly visited prisoners, particularly those under the sentence of death. With the exception of John Howard, the great prison reformer of the 18th century, John Wesley knew more about the inside of jails than any man of his time.

Though the term “Methodists” was coined by their detractors, it was a most apt description of the very orderly Holy Club members and their leader. Wesley is not only remembered for his remarkable God-consciousness but is hailed for his administrative and organizational genius. Every hour of the day had its allotted task in his life. Every program he began was tightly monitored. Even in the mundane things of life he could not stand to have anything at loose ends.

In 1735 John Wesley left for the American colony of Georgia with dreams of converting the Indians and establishing The Holy Club among the “noble savages.” The dream soon became a nightmare. In many ways the Georgia experience was a crushing failure, perhaps the low point of his life. Not only was he denied the opportunity to preach to the Indians by Governor Oglethorpe, he did not even relate well to the colonists.

Still, the Georgia trip was a turning point in his life. Wesley had long sought total devotion to God and felt as if he had reached his goal. On the trip to Georgia he came into contact with Moravian missionaries who seemed to possess the spiritual commitment he so desperately desired. He witnessed the serenity of the Moravian women and children in the midst of a life-threatening storm and was enchanted with their spiritual zeal.

Back in England, Peter Bohler, another Moravian, counseled the searching Wesley to “preach faith until you have it and then because you have it you will preach faith.” Wesley followed his teacher’s advice. On May 24, 1738, Wesley went, with some reluctance, to a meeting on Aldersgate Street where the leader was reading from Martin Luther’s Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. Wesley’s journals describe the evening. “About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust Christ, Christ alone for salvation.”

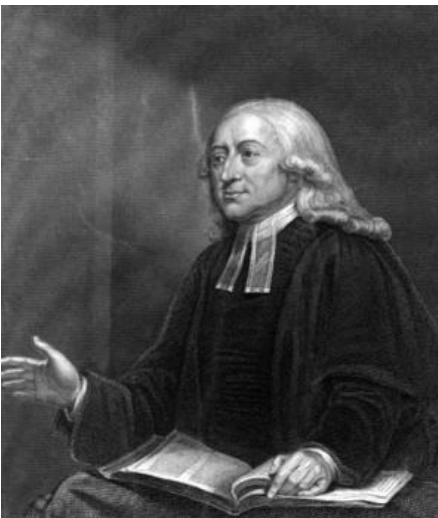
No one ever sought assurance of salvation more urgently than John Wesley. Finally, like Luther before him, when he stopped trying to do things on his own and simply accepted the gift of God, the very thing he sought—assurance—came. He discovered he was no longer a slave in the kingdom, he was a son. The Aldersgate experience marked another turning point in Wesley’s life. For the next 52 years he preached salvation by faith throughout the British Isles. His was a message announcing the pure grace of God in Jesus Christ. He seized every opportunity to help people discover the riches of God.

If the Wesleys were excited about their recent experience (Charles had preceded his brother in an “evangelical conversion”), the churches in England were not. Along with their friend George Whitefield, England’s most dynamic preacher, the Wesleys were denied access to English pulpits. However, if it seemed as if the Church of England had closed a door to the “Methodists,” it soon appeared that God was opening another.

Denied opportunities to preach indoors, George White-

field began to preach outdoors to miners as they got off work and to other common people. The response was so overwhelming that he invited John to join him. A new movement had begun. Soon the Wesleys and George Whitefield were preaching to enthusiastic crowds all over the London area. John felt he would never have a parish again. That was not so bad, for he discovered that, in his words, “The world is my parish.”

The outdoor preaching movement quickly grew. In June of 1739 an old foundry that could seat 1500 was rebuilt, and it served both as a preaching place and the Wesley headquarters for the next 38 years. When The Foundry no longer was sufficient to meet the needs of the organization, the City Road Chapel was built just 200 yards away.



Wesley was not a great innovator. He seldom developed a new idea on his own. He was a genius, however, at recognizing a good idea when someone else presented it. Still, most of his “Methodist” ideas developed out of necessity as he found one road after another blocked by circumstances.

In late 1739, a group of people asked Wesley to meet with them for weekly prayer and counsel. The group began with 12 men and soon grew to

over 100. From this group the Methodist Society of England developed. Soon a number of small societies sprang up.

When it was necessary to raise money to pay for The Foundry, men were divided into groups of 12 in order to collect a penny a week. This group of 12, called a “Class” was soon used as a means for special guidance and prayer. Wesley knew the groups needed leadership, so he met each Tuesday with one from each group to equip them for their meeting later in the week.

When Wesley could not find qualified ordained clergy from the Church of England to preach at all the places that requested speakers, he was forced to turn to “lay ministers.” What began with a single request from Thomas Maxwell turned into an entire society of over 700 who carried the message of salvation by faith throughout England, Ireland, Scotland, and later to the United States.

Not everyone welcomed the "New England Revival." Opposition from the established Church of England quickly surfaced, and the Methodist preachers often encountered hostile crowds in their open meetings. Occasionally people became violent and hurled both words and stones at the tiny preacher (Wesley stood five feet four inches and weighed 125 pounds). Many times John was hit, and once he was even left for dead in an alley.

Wesley became a master at dealing with the hostility. He learned to defuse the people's anger by looking them directly in the eyes and even walking into their midst and confronting their leaders.

Though faced with hardships and criticism, the movement spread beyond England to the colonies, where, under the leadership of Francis Asbury, it found fertile soil.

Nearly every minute of Wesley's long life was carefully planned. For 60 years he always rose at 4:00 a.m. and almost always went to bed promptly at 10:00 p.m. For 50 years he preached at 5:00 a.m. He learned to use every small piece of the day for learning and prayer. He read and wrote while riding horseback. How did he do it? "I rode with slack rein," he explained. In the more than 40 years he spent on horseback, Wesley

traveled more than a quarter of a million miles and preached 42,000 sermons.

His incredibly disciplined life allowed him time to write history books on England and Rome as well as volumes on logic and health. He prepared grammars on Greek, French, and English and completed an excellent English dictionary. He even wrote hymns, though brother Charles was the master hymn writer, penning more than 6000 hymns of beautiful poetry, often for an illiterate public.

At age 77, Wesley's vigor remained. He rode 100 miles in 48 hours, a feat he duplicated 10 years later. He complained at 83 that he could not write for more than 15 hours without hurting his eyes. At 86 he traveled throughout Ireland for nine weeks, preaching 100 sermons in 60 towns, often in the open air.

Though we will remember him for his writing and vigorous stands on social issues (he was very vocal in his opposition to slavery), Wesley will be best remembered for his organizational genius and his passion to know and experience the love of God. "We are saved by faith," he declared thousands of times. "God is gracious and loving." This message and his fervent desire for people to live righteous lives is a word that the church in our own day still needs to hear.



Canadian Field Conference *July 29 to 31, 2011*

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



American Union Conference

August 24 to 27, 2011. Cohutta Springs Campground in Crandall, Georgia. A youth retreat is being planned for several days prior to the conference. For more details see: <http://www.sda1914.org/page.cl/>

THE TRUTH GOES FORWARD IN PAPA NEW GUINEA



Greetings in the precious name of Jesus with Proverbs 11:30: “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”

Thank you so much for the little booklet loaned to us, called “Christian Leadership,” which we used at a seminar here in our little church last year. I want to say that we are so thankful because the Lord brought you over to us and used you to give us what had been missing in our lives concerning our spiritual journey and battle. It meant so much for me, a chief of sinners.

When Brother Jerry Eaton and another brother came for the first and second missionary visit, I saw and felt Jesus Christ which led me to repent of my sins. I can honestly say that I didn’t see, my dear brothers, but I saw Christ. This is what soul saving is all about. The food you brought is life; for my part, I am to eat and drink that I may dwell in Him and He in me, then I will have life and that life is eternal. Amen. (John 6:53–56)

That life is Jesus, and it is light. When imputed, then it will be imparted after being sanctified by the Spirit of Christ in us, which is to be improved in bringing souls to the Saviour. My life was miserable, wretched in what I had been into, but the Lord has a work for us and led you in such a way, by bringing you here to Papua New Guinea (PNG) for the people, especially me, by encouraging, nurturing and providing spiritual nourishment that I may be able to grow again.

I am now writing with tears rolling down my face. The work has just begun here in PNG with the IMS faith.

The booklet, “Christian Leadership,” is very helpful. I used it, did presentations on it for our leadership workshop and seminar in our little church and it was a blessing to us. Praise God “The Reformation Messenger”

you arranged for me is always inspiring. I am humbly still standing. I want to see this type of spirit in PNG among the leading brethren regarding soul saving. Maybe it will be shown; we will have to be patient. “Everyone in whose heart Christ abides, everyone who shows forth His love to the world, is a worker together with God for the blessing of humanity. As he receives from the Saviour grace to impart to others, from his whole being flows forth the tide of spiritual life.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 13

“Their love for their brethren and the cause they have espoused, was greater than their love of money and possessions. Their works testified that they accounted the souls of men of higher value than earthly wealth.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 71. Therefore, everyone of us will have to fulfill Proverbs 11:30, “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; he that winneth souls is wise.”

“These days of preparation were days of deep heart searching. The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 37. “We are to be channels through which His love is day by day to flow to the perishing. The realization of the great work in which he has the privilege of taking part enables and sanctifies the true worker. He is filled with the faith that works by love and purifies the soul.” *Letter 43*, 1902

I want to let you know how I am doing here. In 2009, on September 8th, ten members of the 1951 movement were fellowshipped into the International Missionary Society at Mini, in Jiwaka Province, up in the Highlands. Praise the Lord. On October 17th, 2010 last year three souls were baptized at my place. Those three souls are a sister from the Adventist Church and

my two daughters.

We now have a total of 20 members in the Reform church in PNG. Out of these 20 members, 17 of us were former 1951 movement members and three were former Adventists. God's church has set foot on the southern part and tip of PNG. In the nation's capital, Port Moresby, 14 souls made contact with me for the first time last year in November. I had a Bible study with them for a week, then left them for Madang. In Alotau, Milne Bay Province on the southern tip, and in the nation's capital are all Seventh-Day Adventist members and Independent Ministries.

My concern is that we must show them that we are an organized body by providing them with reading articles. The other thing is visitations. There must be regular visitations by means of two by two.

And in my area, the devil is working very hard to destroy us. In 2009, our church building was burnt down when two ethnic groups collided. Not one house was left standing, including our church. In the beginning of 2010 last year, a few members of the other ethnic group came over to my house to kill my daughter's husband by using spears, machetes, grass knives and sticks, but my wife and myself were shielding him from the

blows from them. All of us nearly got killed but it was God that intervened and kept us safe. Although our son-in-law was speared with a four inch deep spear wound, we were safe. Praise God.

Since our church was burnt down, we usually worship every Sabbath at my place under the mango trees, and if it rains, we worship in my kitchen. Then my wife helped me erect a small bush material house that can cater to 30 people for worship, which we are using, and have our fellowship under. However, we will relocate our place. It will take about \$2000 Canadian to build our house, and about \$1000 Canadian for a church building. The Lord provides.

I am enclosing some photos of the work here in PNG that you can print in "The Reformation Messenger" magazine. As well, you can see our church building before and after it was burnt down.

I praise the Lord that Brother Jerry Eaton started the work with the brethren in Australia and some of us will finish it. But because it is only a humble beginning, I pray that more support can come to finish the gospel commission in this part of PNG.

Your brother in Christ,
Peter Dakire (Picture Below)

**ADVENTIST BELIEVERS
STUDYING TO TAKE THEIR
STAND WITH THE
REMNANT AT WAIGANI
ESTATES, ALOTAU (BELOW)**



**MORNING STUDIES WITH HAGITA BRETHREN,
ALOTAU, MILNE BAY PROVINCE (ON LEFT)**



BOGIA GROUP, MADANG PNG



**ADVENTIST BRETHREN WHO ATTENDED OUR REVIVAL
MEETING FOR A WEEK IN 2010. BOGIA, MADANG**

**BROTHER INCENT GIGINAE POINTING TO OUR BURNT
DOWN CHURCH BUILDING AFTER THE FIGHT IN 2009**



**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR
IN 2010. BOGIA, MADANG**



Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago,
one day I saw a sign that read, "HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE".

As I got a little closer the door came open wide,
and when I came to myself I was standing inside.

I saw a host of Angels, they were standing everywhere,
one handed me a blanket and said, "My child, shop with care,
everything a Christian needs is in that grocery store,
and all you can't carry, come back the next day for more.

First I got some Patience, Love was in the same row,
further down was Understanding, needed everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of Wisdom, a bag or two of Faith,

I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost, it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some Strength and Courage to help me run this race,
but then my blanket was getting full and I remembered I needed Grace.

I didn't forget Salvation which like the others was free,
so I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
for I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw Prayer and had to put it in,
for I knew when I stepped outside, I might run right into sin.

Peace and Joy were plentiful; they were on the last shelf.

Song and Praise were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then, I said to the Angel "How much do I owe?"

The Angel smiled and said "Just take them everywhere you go."

Again I politely asked "How much do I really owe?"

The Angel smiled again and said,

"MY FRIEND, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG TIME AGO."

Submitted by Alina Anca



BELIEVERS IN THE KISII, KENYA CHURCH



MOZAMBIQUE



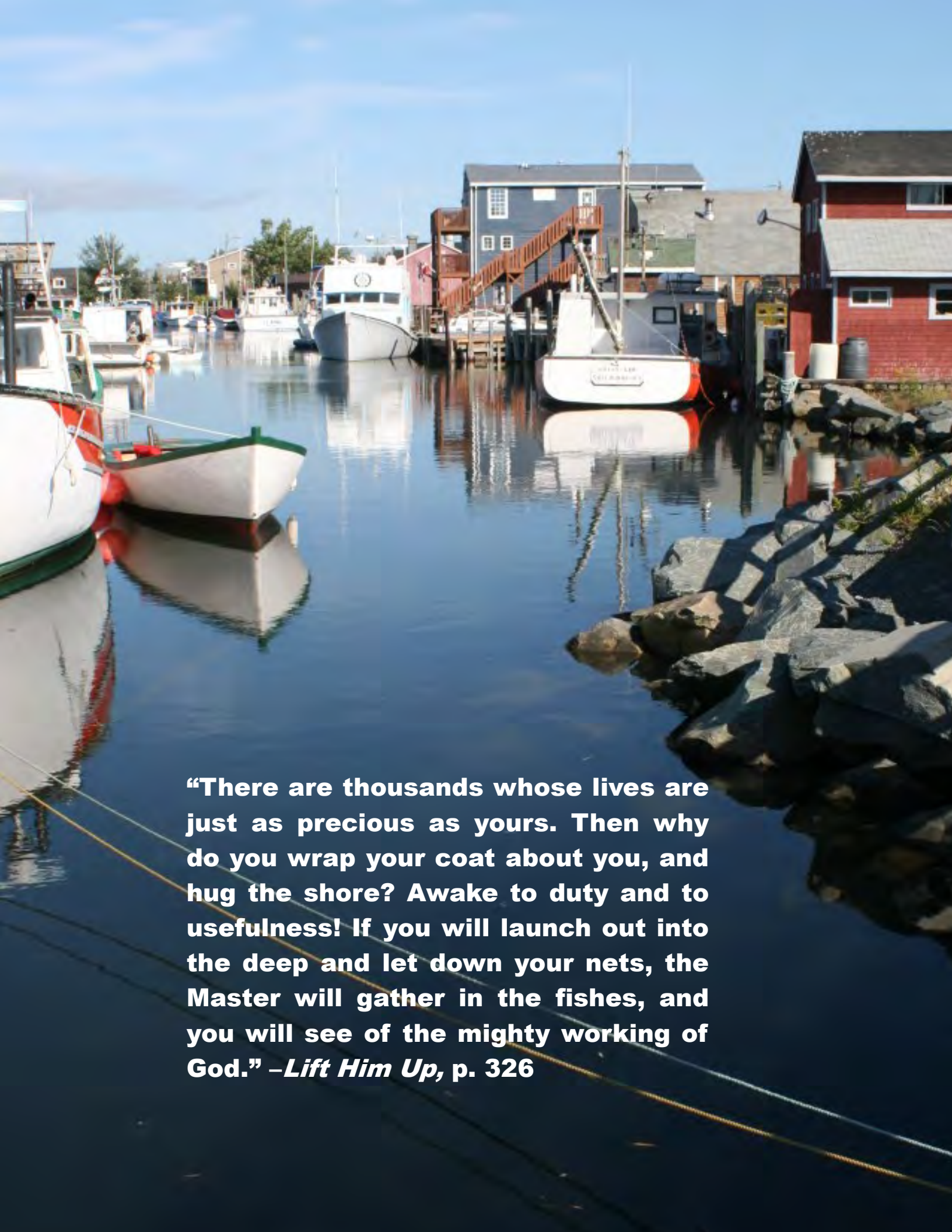
CONFERENCE IN MOUNT KENYA



CONFERENCE IN ETHIOPIA



**OKOK BETHEL SCHOOL, KENYA
STUDENTS (LEFT) CHILDREN (RIGHT)**



“There are thousands whose lives are just as precious as yours. Then why do you wrap your coat about you, and hug the shore? Awake to duty and to usefulness! If you will launch out into the deep and let down your nets, the Master will gather in the fishes, and you will see of the mighty working of God.” –*Lift Him Up*, p. 326