

A close-up photograph of a swallow bird sitting in its mud nest. The bird is dark brown with a white patch on its forehead and is looking directly at the camera. The nest is made of light-colored mud with a rough, textured surface. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 11, NOVEMBER 2011

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

**“When you have a knowledge of God's will, you will follow Christ in all things, and He will hide you in a cleft of the rock, and cover you with His hand, that you may lose sight of self, and behold His glory.” – *Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers (1897), no. 10, p. 9***



**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:** Smoky Mountains, Manuela DiFranca

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# TAKING AN INVENTORY OF THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

*Nearer our Home than when we believed! (Romans 13:11)*

In our day, the pace at which the signs of the times are being fulfilled is alarming. The media is full of stories that speak for themselves in this line. As we see these signs, I reasoned within myself that in any way they cannot be taken for granted. By August 9, 2011 I finally resolved to take a stock of them by viewing them in light of the beginning of eternity.

Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke so emphatically that "heaven and earth shall pass away, but [His] words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35. So never, ever be tempted to doubt His words about His soon coming. For He further says, "Behold, I come quickly." Revelation 22:12. In mercy to His children, He (and through His servants) gave several signs to them (His children), that would be the last tokens of His imminent return. Are these signs all in the future? No. As this article will show, most of them have already been fulfilled in the past while others are on the stage of fulfillment right now in our day. Little is still remaining to bring us to the final end.

## SIGNS IN NATURE

"The sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven. . . ." Matthew 24:29. There will be "earthquakes, in divers places" (vs. 7). See also Revelation 6:12-13.

The sun was darkened already on May 17, 1780. On that day it became so dark that chickens went to roost (other animals too) thinking it was night time. "And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind," on the night of November 12-13, 1833. The Lisbon earthquake, as it is termed, marked a clear fulfillment of Christ's words on November 1, 1755. Actually it shook such an enormous area outside of Lisbon alone such that it is inappropriate to call it by such a

name as some writers have maintained. Yet, more is evident in our day also as reinforcement to it. We may remind ourselves about the following:



- The Haiti earthquake with its effects still being felt now.
- The earthquake in Chile which happened soon after the one in Haiti.

- The Japan earthquake coupled with a tsunami having disastrous effect on many lives in Japan.

Regarding floods and landslides, recall the:



- massive floods in Australia not long ago, which according to BBC radio covered an area more than France and Germany combined.
- landslide in Brazil which killed about 400 people and left about 1000 homeless.

([www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/.../brazil-landslides-death-toll-rises](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/.../brazil-landslides-death-toll-rises))

## SIGNS IN SOCIAL/HUMAN PHYSICAL CONDITION AND BEHAVIOUR

"There shall be famines, and pestilences. . . ." Matthew 24:7. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, de-

spisers of those that are good, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.” 2 Timothy 3:2–4

- Consider the critical famine currently in Somalia, attracting the attention of the world to act to save lives.



- Pestilences: HIV and AIDS with many other chronic diseases – cancer, TB, etc.
- Legalization of same-sex marriages by many governments including some states in the USA and South Africa standing out in the matter just shows how far lawlessness has gone.
- Immorality is the order of the day beginning all the way from Hollywood to the rest of the world being drunk with it (only God’s people have been immune).

### SIGNS IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24. (This is spoken of three times in this chapter alone. See also verses 5, 11.)



- On this matter little may need to be listed as everyone can see the rapid increase in the number of churches, ministries, independent movements, and so forth. Here we see for ourselves in many countries across the globe these false prophets, preachers, and Christs rising. Notable are the Pentecostal movements being seen emanating from Nigeria, just to

mention one country.

- Consider also ecumenism coupled with the union of church and state.

### POLITICAL SIGNS

“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars. . . .” Matthew 24:6

Here the list may be longer, but efforts to exhaust everything may not be fruitful because the world is too big. Also as I was writing each day, I kept hearing more with the result that space eventually became limited.

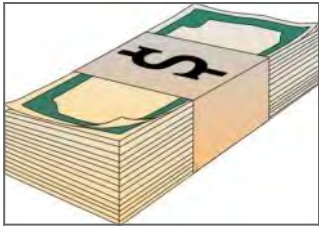


What has been called the September 11 attack on the Twin Towers in New York and in Washington may be a good starting point.

- the relatively old wars of Iraq and Afghanistan are worth mentioning as they are still on the stage for observation and reminder.
- the Kenyan election violence of 2007 which had its roots in the desire for supremacy left many people killed by hacking or torching, among others.
- the Tunisian protests demanding reforms and regime change.
- the Egyptian revolution which remains current.
- the Libyan conflict which has involved many nations in the war.
- The Syrian revolution currently in progress.
- Malawi, July 20–21, demonstrations and rioting demanding good governance which saw 18 people dead. The situation remains fragile as it is being said these demonstrations will resume.
- Somali militants are shedding blood everyday under the shield of what they call a “holy war.”
- The war in Abyei region, the border between South and North Sudan.
- The protests in Yemen.
- Demand for independence in Papua New Guinea.
- The UK/London unprecedented violence—very unbelievable in its nature to happen in such a country (the cause of which has left leaders speculating).
- Suicide bombers in various parts of the world such as Pakistan.
- Ugandan protests against rising cost of living with soaring food prices.
- Botswana (a country ranked among the first in the whole world in peace index) has had civil strikes demanding higher pay.
- In Kenya protests against high fuel prices.
- Strikes in South Africa.
- In Saudi Arabia rumours were spreading—the people needed a revolution and only one was bold enough to start it, but the rest were threatened and remained in their homes.

- A similar situation was reported about Swaziland.
- In Guinea there was an attempted coup to take power from President Conde.

### SIGNS IN THE ECONOMY



“Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.” James 5:4

- What is reported of America’s economy today? By downgrading its debt rating, many world stock markets have continued to respond negatively, with some analysts predicting that America is heading towards another recession.
- What about the Euro zone debt crisis? Well, it speaks for itself.
- Swaziland recently had no money for operations and was only bailed out by South Africa through loans, after long negotiations; with South Africa maintaining that the debt be given in exchange for change.

### SIGNS WITHIN SCIENCE

“Even to the time of the end: . . . knowledge shall be increased.” Daniel 12:4



• Now people have reached the moon. Recently, Atlantis (America’s space shuttle) safely touched down in Florida, with shuttle commander Chris Ferguson pledging that America will continue to explore.

We as the people of God, let us not be blind as others would be. When they are asked, they only take them as usual matters with no link to the nearness of our Lord’s return. When we see these signs, we must always view them in light of eternity, for they are tokens of our deliverance. As we come closer and closer to that glorious event, the more we shall see. “So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at

the doors.” Matthew 24:33

I would like to end with the following statements from the pen of inspiration with the hope that they will entice me and you to renew our commitment to God. If we do this before then, then at that time we may happily stand by His side in glory:

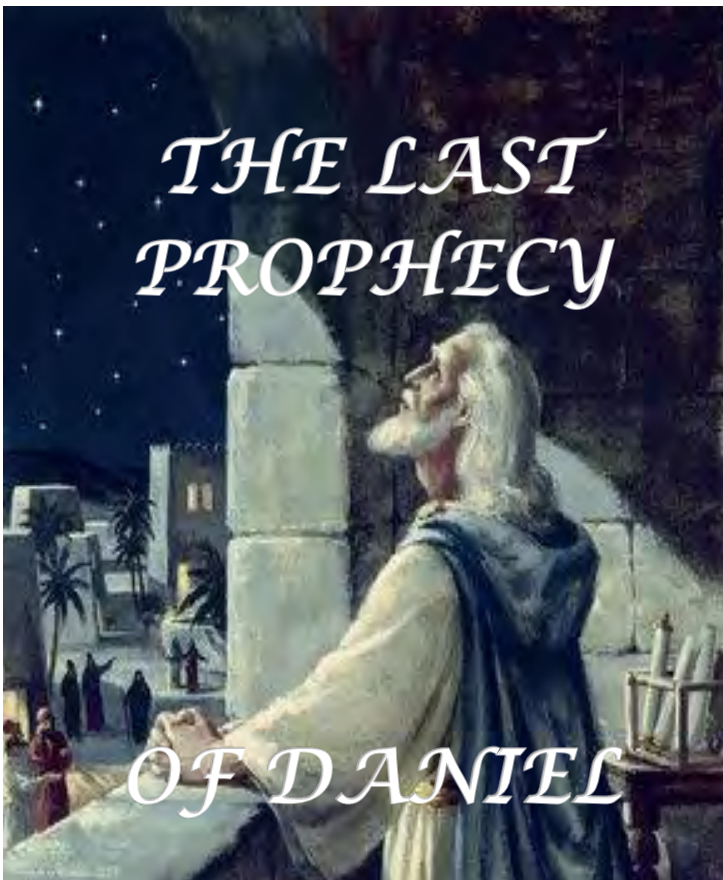
“Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth, and calamity follows calamity by sea and by land. There are tempests, earthquakes, fires, floods, murders of every grade. Who can read the future? Where is security? There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly. Rapidly are men ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen. Restlessly are they waiting and watching the movements of their leaders. There are those who are waiting and watching and working for our Lord’s appearing. Another class are falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. Few believe with heart and soul that we have a hell to shun and a heaven to win.

“The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation’s hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut.

“Solemnly there come to us down through the centuries the warning words of our Lord from the Mount of Olives: ‘Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.’ ‘Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.’” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 636. AMEN.

**Joel J. Msiska,  
Malawi**





One of the most important and interesting prophecies in the Bible is the prophecy in chapter 11, continued in chapter 12, of the book of Daniel.

This prophecy was shown to the prophet Daniel more than 2500 years ago and covers world history beginning from that time and continuing beyond our present day into the future. This prophecy helps us to see the things of the present time in the light of eternity. Its focal point is the church of God. The great nations have a role to play in the events of the world and at the same time they fulfill the plan of God in the world's affairs where His church is existing among these nations. Sometimes the church of God is recognized and appreciated, other times it is hated and persecuted. Because this chapter is not history, but it is prophecy and therefore it does not begin with Babylon which at that time was history; thus it begins with Medo-Persia and future kingdoms after that.

The great world nations have risen and fallen, yet the church of God remains. The gates of hell have not been able to prevail against it.

The prophecy of chapter 11, in the book of Daniel, begins with the mighty world kingdom Medo-Persia in verse 2. Verses 3 and 4 refer to the kingdom of Greece and its ruler Alexander the Great.

Verses 5-13 bring out the King of the South and the King of the North—their agreements and their wars. These kings were Egypt as the King of the South and Syria as the King of the North. Between these two kings existed Judea, Jerusalem and the people of God. They got trampled underfoot as the armies passed through their land.

In verses 14-30, the Romans enter into the picture. The Jewish people were under their rulership. It was the Roman power that crucified Jesus and persecuted the early Christians.

In year 161 B.C. the Romans made an agreement with the Jews and had much control over them. In year 63 B.C., Judea was conquered by the Romans and became part of their kingdom. In year 70 A.D. the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and killed over 1 million Jews.

In verses 31-35 the papacy is prophesied along with the 1260 years of persecution of the Christians, when over 50 million martyrs lost their lives. They took away the daily, the pagan Rome and put in its place the abomination which maketh desolate, the Papacy.

Verses 36-39 bring us the prophecy of the French Revolution in the year 1789. Four years later all religion was banned in the country. In the years 1793-1797 all who professed any religion were killed.

In verse 40 the prophecy returns to the King of the South and the King of the North. The title, King of the North was not used when speaking of the Roman power or the Papacy either, when referring to the French. The territory, north of Palestine was now the kingdom of Turkey. As the world entered into the time of the end in 1798, another war broke out between Egypt and Turkey.

Other nations were helping them—France with Egypt, and England with Turkey. Many ships there mentioned came from England, and some from Russia, to help the Turks.

Verse 41 shows that they passed through Palestine and some other countries. Some of the Arab countries escaped the war. They were out of the way when the armies passed through.

Verse 42 was fulfilled when the Turkish army conquered Egypt in the year 1801.

Verse 44 said that tidings of the east and north troubled the King of the North. Persia in the east and Russia in the north troubled the Ottoman Empire. In 1853 the Crimean War started, and continued the next three years. Later during the war England and France came to help Turkey and they gained victories over the enemy, Russia.

Verse 45 is also partly fulfilled. The Muslims have planted their tabernacles right in Jerusalem. There are seven Muslim temples; one is right on the spot where the temple of Solomon used to be. The most important temple is the mosque of Omar.

The second part of the verse is still in the future. The countries along the river Euphrates will dry up during the sixth plague, making the way for the kings of the East to come to the Battle of Armageddon. When the King of the North comes to his end—the nations along the river Euphrates—that time Jesus is still in heaven, according to Daniel chapter 12:1. Same as the other prophecies also, this prophecy ends with the Papacy in Daniel 12:11. The abomination that maketh desolate is being set up. Revelation 16:14, “The Kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

The river Euphrates has dried up, and the kings of the earth are gathering to the battle of Armageddon, and Jesus has not come yet.

Finally in Revelation 16:19, “And great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.”

During this great Battle of Armageddon, Jesus comes.

“The derisive jests have ceased. Lying lips are hushed in to silence. The clash of arms, the tumult of battle, ‘with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood’ (Isaiah 9:5) is stilled. Naught now is heard but the voice of prayer and the sound of weeping and lamentation.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 642

The prophecy of Joel is also fulfilled at that time. “Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up; Beat your plowshears into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen and gather yourselves together round

about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehosephat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.” Joel 3:9-12

Where are God’s people at that time? “The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 635

Dear brothers and sisters, can we not see clearly that the end is right upon us? The Sunday Law will be enacted very soon. Catholic and Protestant churches are urging the governments to enforce Sunday-keeping. When the King of the North has been defeated and the way prepared for the kings of the East to come, the churches, along with governments will bring the time of Jacob’s trouble upon the people of God.

When will the great Mystic Babylon be revealed and receive the anger of the people? After Jesus has come and the people of God are delivered. Then we read in *The Great Controversy*, p. 655: “The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they had led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. ‘We are lost!’ they cry, ‘and you are the cause of our ruin;’ and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses on them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God’s people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed.”

Let us study the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation with new interest, and make sure that the covering of the Lord will protect us during the Sunday Law and the Time of Trouble. This is my wish and prayer. AMEN.

**Timo Martin**



# JESUS' LAST WISH WHILE HE WAS ON EARTH

The messenger of the Lord to the remnant church has told us explicitly that unless we press together, we will be destroyed in the storm that is coming (See *The Signs of the Times*, October 31, 1900). **Unity** is not something that is just nice to study about; it has to do with your survival.

“Our only hope of reaching heaven is to be one with Christ.” —*Upward Look*, p. 141. Therefore, the most important unity that we need to seek is to be one with Jesus. Unless we are one with Christ, we have no chance of being saved. If we are one with Jesus, Ellen White continues, “Then, in and through Christ, we shall be one with one another.” —*Ibid.* As we come closer to Christ, we come closer to one another.

The Christian world today is seeking for unity, but they do not know how to find it. One of these days very soon, they will believe they have finally achieved it and that the whole world is in unity (See *Maranatha*, p. 209). The whole world is going to think that they are in unity, but their harmony will be with the Antichrist.

Unity is a primary subject of Jesus’ prayer in John 17; how we might be one with Him. If I am not in harmony with Jesus on something, who do you think should change his mind? The Bible is crystal clear on this subject. “For I am the Lord, I change not.” Malachi 3:6. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” Hebrews 13:8. What Jesus said when He was here almost 2,000 years ago is still what He thinks; it is still what He believes; it is still what He is like. He is the same; His character has not varied. So, if I want true unity with Jesus I must study what He is like, as recorded in His word. Then, as we come into unity with Jesus, we will come into unity with each other. You cannot imitate or emulate someone if you do not know what they are like. Therefore, we want to study to understand what Jesus is like. Though I do not spend a lot

of time giving my opinions when preaching, I am going to share one of my personal opinions with you. As I have studied the life of Jesus, it does not appear to me that there are very many who know what Jesus is really like. In Hebrews 1, we see a text that graphically tells us in just a few words, something about what Jesus is like. “But unto the son He saith [This is the Father speaking to the Son and He addresses Him as God—One equal in authority with the Father.] Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness.” Hebrews 1:8–9. Jesus loves what? Righteousness! We cannot generate love. Love is a precious gift that we receive from Jesus (See *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 358). If we are to become like Jesus, coming into unity and harmony with Him, we must learn to love righteousness just as He does.

A few years ago I read a story of a beautiful young lady who experienced an automobile accident. Not having her seat belt on, she was thrown through the windshield of her car. Though she survived, her face was badly disfigured. As a result of her change in appearance, her husband divorced her. He had married a beautiful face and when that face was no longer there, there was nothing to hold the marriage together. What is called love in the world today is often nothing short of selfishness. There are many people who have been married for years but who have never really loved each other. They have gotten married because of what the other person could do for them, and that is not godly love at all. It took me a long time to learn that I did not have the ability to generate love of any kind, not even for my wife. But, Jesus’ heart is full of love, and He wants you to have that love. His final request in His last prayer, recorded in John 17, is that He would be in His followers and that this love would be in them. Jesus loves righteousness, and if we ask Him for this precious gift of love, He will give it to us (See Romans 8:32)



What is righteousness? Sometimes the easiest way to explain an idea is to express it in opposite terms. What is unrighteousness? In 1 John 5:17, we are told that all unrighteousness is sin. And what is sin? “Sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:4. Then what is righteousness? It is being in harmony with the law. Did you know that there are things Jesus hates? Though there are some people who do not seem to believe this anymore, Hebrews 1:9 (last part) tells us that Jesus not only loves, but that He hates as well. So, if you are really going to be like Jesus Christ, you are not only going to have love in your heart, but you also have hatred there. Notice what it says in Hebrews 1:9: “You have hated lawlessness” (NKJV). Another text that also reveals this hatred is Psalm 97:10: “Ye that love the LORD, hate evil.”

Some people think that they should just put up with everything, but Jesus is not like that. Jesus and His father have decided that lawlessness is something that they are going to obliterate because they hate it. If you love Jesus, you will also hate lawlessness, especially when you realize that it was this lawlessness—this sin—that caused Jesus to go to the cross. You cannot love Jesus and also something that caused Him to go to the cross.

### THE FIRST ANGEL’S MESSAGE SAYS TO FEAR GOD

What does it mean to fear God? For one thing, it means to hate evil. “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil.” Proverbs 8:13. This idea that we can just live a good life, setting a good example, is not enough. If we are really going to be Christ-like, we must not only love righteousness, but we must hate lawlessness. We will never achieve Christian unity until we hate lawlessness as much as we love righteousness. So, what are you to do in a world of evil, among people who profess to follow the Lord, but are not living righteously? The first step that must be taken before we can have Christian unity is that someone is going to have to stand up and attack



the evil. It is not enough just to teach the truth; not enough just to set a good example. It is not enough to be loving and kind; you must attack evil. Now we will

see the evidence for this from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Criticism has been terribly condemned far and near in sermons, articles, conventions, institutes, camp meetings and conferences. Honest protest has been stifled and suppressed by branding it “criticism” and then condemning it. A distinction must be made between “**protest and criticism.**” For if not, no voice can be raised against wrong! Pernicious criticism is a wicked thing, and ought to be confessed and forsaken. Criticism of men is that bad. But there is another side to this question of criticism. If men have gone so far in criticism that they criticize the work of the Spirit of God and the messages from the Spirit of God and denounce those who are maintaining those messages as having the spirit of the devil, that would come terribly close to being a sin against the Holy Spirit and would call for alarm and utter humiliation and abasement before such men should dare lift up their heads and ask God for the gift of His Holy Spirit in the latter rain. This criticism of the work of the Spirit of God is more heinous and disastrous to ourselves and to the work of God than is criticism of men. If leaders so criticize the Spirit of Prophecy that men are moved by the Spirit of God to protest against such apostasy, there must be a distinction made between such protest and evil criticism. When men are in the wrong and do not see it and God sends brethren to counsel them and they persist in denouncing such counsel as unjust criticism, they are indeed in a great delusion, and it is most difficult for God to reach them. According to Inspiration, there will be various voices in the church from this time forward till after the shaking is over. There will be false reformations that will sweep in thousands; there will be great worldliness and there will be those who “sigh and cry” over the condition of the church as God sees it, and these will reprove and warn and “will not hold their peace to obtain the favour of any” (See *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 58–59, 209).

Ellen White here describes two groups of people. One group of people put a cloak over the existing iniquity, but another group will not hold their peace for anyone. They are going to protest. Now, if you would like to know who is sealed and who is not, you need to read the rest of the chapter. There have been times in the past when God has sent people to attack evil. Concerning these people, Ellen White says that they “have ever been received with distrust and suspicion.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 261. Anciently,

when Elijah was sent with a message from God, the people did not heed the warning. They thought him unnecessarily severe. Is there to be an Elijah message to the church just before the end?

There is a time when a rebuke must be given; and when God's people are in apostasy, if God's messengers do not stand up and rebuke it and reprove it, we will lose our own souls.

There was a time in the New Testament when there was perfect unity. It says in Acts 2:1 that they were all of one accord in one place. That is going to happen again. I long for it and want to be part of it, but do you know that that unity which they enjoyed would never have come to pass without the cross and the resurrection? Now the cross and the resurrection would not have done what it did for the disciples if they had not been acquainted with Him first for three and a half years and gotten to know what He was like. But, they would never have gotten acquainted with Jesus and found out what He was like if it had not been for the ministry of John the Baptist. The ministry of John the Baptist was the initial step that finally brought that unity three and a half years later. What we are studying now is one of the initial steps that finally results in unity.

When John the Baptist came, the angel told his father that he would come in the spirit and power of Elijah. So, what did John the Baptist do? "John denounced the corruptions of the Jews, and raised his voice in reproofing their prevailing sins." —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1089

We want to have unity. Who in the last days is going to have unity? Well, let us consider what took place at the first advent of Christ, which is a type of our day, and find out who came into unity then. It was the people who listened to John the Baptist, accepted his rebuke and reproof, reformed their lives and followed Jesus. Three and a half years later they were in a condition of perfect harmony. Do you think there is any parallel between then and our time?

Before Gethsemane, one of the last things Jesus told His disciples was that when the Holy Spirit came, He would reprove, that is, rebuke (See John 16). If you are receiving the Holy Spirit into your life, you will be rebuked; but if you persist in rejecting that rebuke, you will eventually lose the Holy Spirit. Who today is going

to come into unity? Is it those who are fighting the messengers that God has sent to denounce the apostasy and make a call to repentance? Will it be the people who are following the New Theology, who are stepping off the platform of truth, or is it the people who are listening to the messages of rebuke from the Spirit of Prophecy and reforming their lives? The people who are going to come into unity today are the people who allow the Holy Spirit to rebuke them in any way God chooses. Here are those who stand on the three angels' messages and accept all of the Spirit of Prophecy, who believe the fundamental truths that the Lord revealed to our spiritual forefathers. These are the only people who are going to come into unity. You can trust the One who loved you enough to be nailed to the cross for you, that He will not rebuke you more than you need.

Sometimes we meet someone who says, "I know that there are problems and that there is apostasy, but you are never going to get reformation by talking about the problems all the time. You should talk more about positive things."

Ellen White says, concerning the rebuke that was given to the children of Israel, "This firmness was essential; in no other way could the existing evils have been rebuked. . . . The messengers of the Lord are never to fear the face of man, but are to stand unflinchingly for the right." —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 202. Inspired writings tell us that when Elijah rebuked Israel, he was angry. Yet, he was filled with the Holy Spirit when he was angry. He was also Christ-like when he was angry. "Never seek to cover sin; for in the message of rebuke, Christ is to be proclaimed as the first and the last, He who is all in all to the soul." —*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 380

Friend, are you going to be one of those who come into unity? If you are, you will have to be humble enough to accept rebuke from whomever God chooses to send. Anytime God sends anyone to reprove the evil, people do not like it and the messengers of reproof are accused of being the cause of the division. Have you ever heard anyone accuse historic Adventists of being the cause of the division? Elijah was accused of being a troubler of Israel. "God's plan for the salvation of men is perfect in every particular. If we will faithfully perform our allotted parts, all will be well with us. It is man's *apostasy that causes discord*, and brings wretchedness and ruin." —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 999 (emphasis mine)



So, what is the real cause of the lack of unity among us today? It is not the people who are calling for repentance, but the apostasy that is responsible for the discord; and the only people who will ever have unity again are those who will fight apostasy. Brothers and Sisters, we will never have unity until we are willing to stand up and fight the apostasy. What is the purpose of rebuke? When we look at the preaching of John the Baptist and the early preaching of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 3 and 4, we see that the burden of both Jesus and John the Baptist was repentance (See Matthew

4:17). The purpose of the rebuke is that we may repent, and it is only when people are willing to repent that they are able to come into perfect unity.

So, may God the Father helps us achieve that unity described in John 17, for which Jesus prayed. This is my wish and prayer for you. AMEN!

In Christ,  
**Nicholas Anca**

## THE SKY IS RED

**An embassy of sheep  
Marching through the city streets,  
Highways, byways, and lanes  
With sword in hand,  
Eyes, tongues, feet aflame  
Speaking mightily in Jesus' name  
To rich and poor, bond and free,  
For all are guilty, that all might see  
The sky is red and lowery.**

**Behold, the days are cloudy and dark  
As in the days Noah built the Ark  
Prophecy spoke of explicitly.  
The heart thinketh evil continually  
Of the enmity, adultery,  
Greed which is idolatry,  
Hypocrisy, insanity,  
Nudity covers many;  
Humanity marrying Sodomy.**

**Like in the day Abraham prayed,  
Three souls the angels saved—  
Lot, his daughters too;  
Pray, for the laborers are few  
To reap the tares and the wheat;  
Blood the goats drink,  
Eating diseased flesh meat  
Grown genetically;  
Their god, their belly.**

**Defiled mind, soul, and body  
Weeping like a raging sea.  
Sorry? No, no sorrow.  
Not today, yesterday, nor tomorrow.  
Seeking peace, liberty, and prosperity;  
Finding misery, slavery, and poverty  
In the earth, war and hate.  
Faith is dead, Justice trembles and shakes  
Like the Tower reaching unto heaven**

**Building again, resurrecting nine eleven;  
Destroyed by twisted winds,  
By the wisdom of foolish men.  
In honor are like the perishing Beast;  
His mark—the exaltation of his decree,  
The abomination of desolation.  
(The ingathering of all nations)  
Godspeed, to the mountains flee,  
Or to the mountains, “Fall upon me.”**

**Like the fig tree having only leaves,  
Man's fall is nearly complete,  
Changed into the same imagery;  
Iniquity will reign tyrannically,  
The end of God's mercy. Amen.**

**Chester Cosby**

# ARE YOU WAVING?

**“Now when the even was come, He sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, He said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray Me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto Him, Lord, is it I?”**

**Matthew 26:20-22**

## ISRAEL'S BIRTHDAY

We have here an account of Christ's keeping the Passover. Being made under the law, He submitted to all the ordinances of it, and to this among the rest; it was kept in remembrance of Israel's deliverance out of Egypt, the birthday of that people. It was a tradition of the Jews. The time when Christ ate the Passover was the usual time appointed by God, and observed by the Jews (Matthew 26:17). The awful scene of the seventy weeks were determined; transgression must be finished, reconciliation made, and an everlasting righteousness brought in (Daniel 9:24, 26)

The disciples took it for granted that their Master would eat the Passover, although persecuted by the chief priests, and His life sought, that He would not fulfill His duty, either by frightenings without or fears within. Those that do not follow Christ's example, who make it an excuse for their not attending on the Lord's Supper, our gospel Passover (The Lord's Supper replaced the Passover. —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 300), that they have many troubles and many enemies, are full of care and fear; for, if so, they have the more need of that ordinance, to help to silence their fears, and comfort them under their troubles, to help them in forgiving their enemies, and casting all their cares on God. It should behoove us, therefore, that this be read with reverence and holy fear.

## BETRAYAL!

Before solemn ordinances there must be solemn preparation. The preparation was made by the disciples (Matthew 26: 19). The celebration of the Passover is something the disciples understood full well as part of their religious experience and tradition. But, instead of speaking the traditional words associated with the Feast of Passover, Jesus made a startling new proclamation concerning the meal they were sharing. He made an even more startling prediction—that He would be betrayed by one of the disciples—treachery will be among them- (Psalm 41: 9)—and deserted by all! As the night proceeded, these predictions came to pass. The disciples' faith seemed to unravel, cave. . . . waver! (unsteady, hesitate). They were sorrowful, troubled! This grieved them! Gracious souls grieve for the sins of others especially of those that have made a more than ordinary profession of religion (2 Corinthians 11:29).



They were uncertain who it was and each of them was afraid for himself lest, as Hazael spoke, he was the dog that should do this great thing (2 Kings 8:13). They were not apt to suspect Judas, though he was a thief. Such a thought never entered their minds. It is possible for a hypo-

crit to go through the world, not only undiscovered, but unsuspected, like bad money so ingeniously counterfeited that nobody questions it. The heart of Judas desired only money and to be the greatest (*This Day with God*, p. 189). Christ knew of the imperfections of Judas yet accepted him to learn (*That I May Know Him*, p. 182)

To avoid coming under the suspicion of guilt by his si-



lence, he knew very well it was he, and yet wished to appear a stranger to such a plot. Many whose consciences condemn them are very industrious to justify themselves before men, and put a good face on it, with, "Lord is it I?" He could not but know that Christ knew, and yet trusted so much to His courtesy, because he had hitherto concealed it, that he had the impudence to challenge Him to tell; or perhaps, he was so much under the power of infidelity, that he imagined Christ did not know it, as those who said, "The Lord shall not see" (Psalm 94:7), and asked, "Can He judge through the dark cloud?" Job 22:13

Christ soon answered this question; "thou hast said," that is, "it is as thou hast said." It was enough to convict him, and, if his heart had not been wretchedly hardened, to have broken the neck of his plot, when he saw it discovered to his Master, and discovered by him. They who are contriving to betray Christ, will, at some time or other, betray themselves, and their "own tongues will fall upon them."

Those that know the strength and subtlety of the tempter, and their own weakness and folly, cannot but be in pain for themselves, when they hear that "the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:12. We know not how strongly we may be tempted, nor how far God may leave us to ourselves, and therefore have reason not to be high minded, but fear.

Our Lord Jesus, just before He instituted the Lord's Supper, put His disciples upon this trial and suspicion of themselves, to teach us to examine and judge ourselves, and so to eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. All this time Jesus remains calm. In this and more He shows Himself to be the Lord of our wavering!

## PROFESSIONS

The Lord of our waverings hears our genuine professions of faith. Let faith now mean our belief in the Lord's words, our trust in His promises, and obedience to His commandments. His disciples had ample opportunity to express their faith in Him, and did so nearly every time an opportunity arose. We have equal opportunity to confess our faith and, like the disciples, we are ready to do so on most occasions that present themselves. Each time we testify the Lord gladly receives our professions of faith. He hears our professions in the hearty singing of a hymn, solemn declaration of our allegiance to Christ at the high moments of baptism, or ordination. He hears us witness to the power of prayer,

the surety of comfort, the goodness of God's will, and the nearness of God's presence. But, profession is worthless without daily practice (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 356) and without following Christ (*Maranatha*, p. 54).

In whatever way we genuinely profess our faith in Jesus, the Lord hears and with favour. He hears our professions without correction; professions that are not fully formed and still farther from accurately describing spiritual truth in all its dimensions.

So, the Lord hears our profession of faith that makes us feel comforted. Instead of scolding us for the faith we do not have He rejoices in the faith we do have, and He works to build on it so we become strong and able to receive more.

## FLICKERING FLAMES

God not only hears our genuine professions of faith. As



Lord of our waverings He also knows our times of weakness and doubt. The disciples' faith was but a flickering flame easily affected by the draft of circumstances. Jesus predicts it both in the Upper Room and at the Mount of Olives. One of the disciples will betray Him. Just as we know the facts concerning the disciples, so we know the truth about ourselves—

"know thyself" (Socrates). "Faith is . . . simply taking God at His Word." —*This Day with God*, p. 9

Many of us will not honour Jesus perfectly in every way on every day! Their flame of faith will flicker and even go out in time of weakness and doubt. The bad news is that they will waver; the good news is Jesus understands why.

## WHY MANY DO WAVER:

### 1) SUBTLETY OF TEMPTATION

Jesus knows that many will waver because of the subtlety of temptation. The tempter knows that they would never try to put a candle in a gale, so He lets the breezes of temptation be gentle. Peter professed to have an unflinching devotion to Jesus. "If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise." Mark 14:31. Ah! The other disciples joined in saying the same thing. But, temptation did not come to Peter first through some magistrate who put him on formal trial for his

faith. It came through a maid on Caiaphas' patio (Matthew 26:69–70). So the tempter always sneaks into our lives. We must be ready for the big temptations and also the small ones. Yet the small ones are more common, and they are sufficient to make us waver, to make the flame of faith flicker, by accepting temptation at the peril of our souls (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 254). The good news is that Jesus understands.

## 2) MYSTERY OF TRUTH (GODLINESS)

Jesus knows that we can waver also because of the mystery of truth (Godliness). A young carpenter built a table with the help of some assistants, equally young and unskilled. It was a fine table given the abilities of the carpenter and his assistants, equally young and unskilled. They know what a table would need and what a table was supposed to be like. They had the right materials and worked in the right direction. But they did not have the proper dimensions. The right materials were not cut to the right size.

The table was wobbly. Like the carpenter and his assistants, we have the right materials for religious faith, but if we do not have the proper dimensions of religious truth (Godliness), our faith may look in the right direction, but if we are too small to encompass the whole of it, our faith can be wobbly. The flame of our faith may flicker. We can waver because of the mystery of truth (Godliness). For the answer to the "mystery," read 1 Timothy 3:16; Revelation 10:7. But Jesus understands.



## 3) THE PERPLEXITY OF SIN

The Lord understands that we can waver also because of the perplexity of sin. Many of us are ready to say with Paul, I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do (Romans 7:19). Wherever we may be in our journey of faith, we can identify with Paul as he tries his best to be faithful, but still wavers. Paul puts us in touch with our own struggle with sin. As much as we want to be rid of it, sin clings often to everything we do. Avoid sin by acting from reason rather than impulse (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 197). And the Lord understands.

## RESERVED TABLE

Let us go further and see that all the while the Lord

hears our genuine professions of faith and understands our time of weakness and doubt, the Lord of our wavering invites us to the table of fellowship and forgiveness. Although the Last Supper which we celebrate in Holy Communion, are all meaningful and deep, one of the most marvelous is that the paragraph describing the Last Supper follows the one discussing the betrayal. What this means is that the betrayer is at the table. We tend to think that Christ maintains holiness by keeping sin and sinners away when in reality even the betrayer of Christ has a place at the table of the Lord!

He invites sinners to this meal; He invites those whose faith wavers and falls. Even if we have betrayed our Lord He still welcomes us to His table. Neither our wavering and doubt nor our inability to completely grasp the mysteries of God's truth and our sin can erase the fact that by Jesus Christ's forgiveness and redeeming life, we are a part of His family. You are the one who belongs here. You are the one who has a place at this table and to this meal. You are still part of this family.

## THE RIGHT PATH

Jesus' invitation is a witness to true direction. We need to understand the mystery of Holy Communion. We need to explore the depths of its meaning. As a sacrament its function is to point to Jesus. It points to Him as the one who is true and faithful. It points to Him as the right way. In fact, when everything seems to get complicated and confusing, Holy Communion points to Christ. In doing so, it speaks the promise of the right direction, the right path. Through Holy Communion, Jesus Christ steadies us in our wavering.

Instead of denying our wavering, instead of despising ourselves because of it, let us learn to look upon Jesus as the Lord of our wavering. Let us set aside any brava-do or false pride by which we are tempted to boast that we are unwavering in our faith and completely steady in our devotion. Let us set aside, as well, contempt for ourselves because of our wavering—wavering which we despise but cannot steady on our own.

Moreover, be encouragers instead of becoming impatient or scolding others for the faith they don't yet have. Respond to others by growing in your own profession of faith. Be grace-filled toward each other, and practice grace with yourselves.

We don't need to practice denial or give in to self-hate, self-deceit, or false pride. Instead, trust in the One who



understands. Christ alone can place us on the right path (*That I May Know Him*, p. 67). Remember, Jesus already understands why.

The Saviour is indeed concerned about our wavering. But He is still more concerned about ourselves. Jesus loves you. Jesus loves me. He receives with joy all our faith, imperfect as it might be or seems. He knows all about our wavering and its causes: The Subtlety of Temptation, the Mystery of Truth (Godliness) and the Perplexity of Sin. Jesus invites us to His table which

witnesses to His love, to our identity as His beloved, and to true direction in a confusing, insane world.

Jesus is ready to reign as the Lord of our wavering and steady us with His grace-filled acceptance in our journey of faith.

**Are You Wavering?** A hearty Amen!

*John Theodorou,*  
USA

# THE PRAYER OF SOLOMON

*1 Kings 3:5-10*

"In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what shall I give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before Thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with Thee; and Thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that Thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. And now, O LORD my God, Thou hast made Thy servant king instead of David my father: and *I am* but a little child: I know not *how* to go out or come in. And Thy servant *is* in the midst of Thy people which Thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this Thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing" (emphasis mine).

I would like very much to share with you some thoughts from the Bible regarding Solomon's prayer. Although he was a king, we find him humble before God. He said, "Lord, I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in." How good it will be when we also come before the Lord asking the same thing; and we can imagine how willing our heavenly Father is to give us those things. An understanding heart should be our request. How beautiful these words are to Jesus. David said in his Psalm, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD: and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance." Psalm 33:12. In verses 4-5 he said, "For the word of the LORD is right; and all His works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord."

May our Father in heaven show us His will and act according to it. This is my wish and prayer for you and for me.

"Let all the earth fear the Lord." Psalm 33:8

Your sister in Christ,  
**Alina Anca**

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

**Luke**  
**11:9 (niv)**



## THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

Alcohol, the greatest detriment to human nature, is the ruination of life to many people. As a Zambian, our citizenship provides for all our freedoms, as in other countries: freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech, grateful of heritage and conscious of the obligations of citizenship. It seems that our freedoms are not enough to satisfy some people, and they waste away their lives by the use of alcohol.

The effects of alcohol are many. First of all, it reduces digestion by causing contraction of human organs. As for digestion, none of the digestive organs and juices will break down alcohol. It enters the body as pure alcohol; goes to the stomach, as pure alcohol; into the bloodstream as pure alcohol; to your brain as pure alcohol; and so on. Finally when it is passed off it is still pure alcohol. It takes one hour to eliminate the alcohol present in one glass of liquor. **YOU ARE NEVER INTOXICATED IN THE STOMACH.** It is when the alcohol gets into your bloodstream and goes to your brain that you become intoxicated.

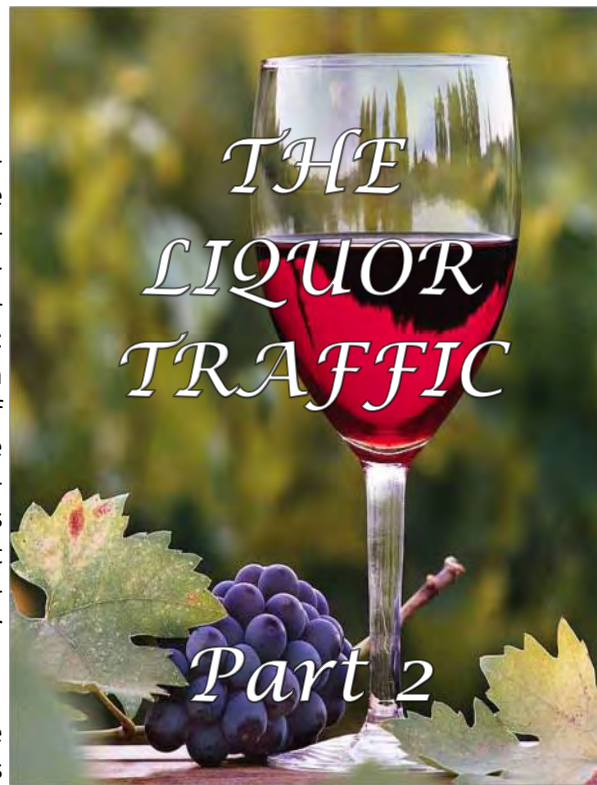
When alcohol reaches the cerebrum one's willpower is lost. You have no sense of reasoning or judgment, nor do you have memory. When it strikes the mid-brain you lose your source of conduct, sight and hearing.

## ROAD ACCIDENTS

Nobody who has read police reports attentively can doubt that the principle cause of accidents is not heavy traffic, defective cars or the faulty condition of the streets and roads, but rather the unfitness of many persons to drive high-powered speedy automobiles.

## DIVORCES

The use of alcohol is the reason for the break-up of many homes. Over two million delinquent boys and girls come from broken homes. From 1882-1906, the divorce rate was one to every thirteen marriages. Today the rate has been increased to one divorce to each four marriages. About half of these divorces give liquor as a contributing cause.



## ATTENTION: KINGS, RULERS AND GOVERNORS

"Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness." Ecclesiastes 10:17.

REMEMBER – BELSHAZZAR, Daniel 5:13–23, 30. "A wise son heareth his father's instruction; but a scorner heareth not rebuke." Proverbs 13:1

"Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; . . . That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermilion. Shalt thou reign, because thou closest thyself in cedar? . . . Thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it.' Jeremiah 22:13–17

"This scripture pictures the work of those who manufacture and who sell intoxicating liquor. Their business means robbery. For the money they receive, no equivalent is returned. Every dollar they add to their gains has brought a curse to the spender. . . .

"Every year millions upon millions of gallons of intoxicating liquors are consumed. Millions upon millions of dollars are spent in buying wretchedness, poverty, disease, degradation, lust, crime, and death. For the sake of gain, the liquor seller deals out to his victims that which corrupts and destroys mind and body. He entails on the drunkard's family poverty and wretchedness. . . .

"Houses of prostitution, dens of vice, criminal courts, prisons, almshouses, insane asylums, hospitals, all are, to a great degree, filled as a result of the liquor seller's work. Like the mystic Babylon of the Apocalypse, he is dealing in "slaves, and souls of men." Behind the liquor seller stands the mighty destroyer of souls, and every art which earth or hell can devise is employed to draw human beings under his power. In the city and the country, on the railway trains, on the great steamers, in places of business, in the halls of pleasure, in the medi-



cal dispensary, even in the church, on the sacred Communion table, his traps are set. Nothing is left undone to create and to foster the desire for intoxicants. On almost every corner stands the public house, with its brilliant lights, its welcome and good cheer, inviting the working man, the wealthy idler, and the unsuspecting youth. . . .

“More terrible still, the curse is striking the very heart of the home. More and more, women are forming the liquor habit. In many a household, little children, even in the innocence and helplessness of babyhood, are in daily peril through the neglect, the abuse, the vileness of drunken mothers. Sons and daughters are growing up under the shadow of this terrible evil. What outlook for their future but that they will sink even lower than their parents?

### **LICENSE LAWS**

“The licensing of the liquor traffic is advocated by many as tending to restrict the drink evil. But the licensing of the traffic places it under the protection of law. The government sanctions its existence, and thus fosters the evil which it professes to restrict. Under the protection of license laws, breweries, distilleries, and wineries are planted all over the land, and the liquor seller plies his work beside our very doors. . . .

“Licenses are granted on the plea that they bring a revenue to the public treasury. But what is this revenue when compared with the enormous expense incurred for the criminals, the insane, the paupers, that are the fruit of the liquor traffic! A man under the influence of liquor commits a crime; he is brought into court; and those who legalized the traffic are forced to deal with the result of their own work. They authorized the sale of a draft that would make a sane man mad; and now it is necessary for them to send the man to prison or to the gallows, while often his wife and children are left destitute to become the charge of the community in which they live. . . .

### **PROHIBITION**

“Must this always continue? Will souls always have to struggle for victory, with the door of temptation wide open before them? Must the curse of intemperance forever rest like a blight upon the civilized world? Must it continue to sweep, every year, like a devouring fire over thousands of happy homes? . . .

“The honor of God, the stability of the nation, the well-

being of the community, of the home, and of the individual, demand that every possible effort be made in arousing the people to the evil of intemperance. Soon we shall see the result of this terrible evil as we do not see it now. Who will put forth a determined effort to stay the work of destruction? As yet the contest has hardly begun. Let an army be formed to stop the sale of the drugged liquors that are making men mad. Let the danger from the liquor traffic be made plain and a public sentiment be created that shall demand its prohibition. Let the drink-maddened men be given an opportunity to escape from their thralldom. Let the voice of the nation demand of its lawmakers that A STOP BE PUT TO THIS INFAMOUS TRAFFIC.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 337–346

### **INFLUENCE EVEN AFTER DEATH**

When Reheboam forsook the law of the Lord he took all Israel with him (2 Chronicles 12:1)

“No man liveth unto himself. None perish alone in their iniquity. Every life is a light that brightens and cheers the pathway of others, or a dark and desolating influence that tends toward despair and ruin. We lead others either upward to happiness and immortal life, or downward to sorrow and eternal death.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 94

You can't be lost alone. Achan is another example. He didn't perish alone (Joshua 22:20). Neither will you or I if we say “no” to Christ. “If you choose to turn from the truth, you will not go down alone.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 47

“There are few who realize how far-reaching is the influence of their words and acts. How often the errors of parents produce the most disastrous effects upon their children and children's children, long after the actors themselves have been laid in the grave. Everyone is exerting an influence upon others, and will be held accountable for the result of that influence. Words and actions have a telling power, and the long hereafter will show the effect of our life here. The impression made by our words and deeds will surely react upon ourselves in blessing or in cursing. This thought gives an awful solemnity to life, and should draw us to God in humble prayer that He will guide us by His wisdom.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 556

There is never a Christmas or New Year's celebration without an appalling death toll from drunken brawls

and drunken driving. Men still die aping Belshazzar's feast.

"I would rather lose my right hand than sign a document to perpetuate the liquor traffic. Liquor may have defenders but no defense." —*Abraham Lincoln*

### SIGNS OF THE TIMES—"ONE OF"

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? . . . 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 24:3, 37–39

Strong drink is one of the signs of the times. "Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant." Isaiah 56:12. We will go deeper into pleasure-loving. But Christ says, "Behold, I come as a thief." Revelation 16:15

"He that keepeth the law," wrote Solomon "happy is he." Proverbs 29:18. "Man's happiness must always be guarded by the law of God. . . . The law is the hedge which God has placed about His vineyard. By it those who obey are protected from evil." —*My Life Today*, p. 163

### GO, STAND AND SPEAK

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." Revelation 1:7

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in

the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:9–10.

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:34

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:12, 14

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD." Galatians 5:19-21 (emphasis mine) "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." Revelation 22:7

"In many of the large cities of the East the first and second angels' messages were proclaimed during the 1844 movement. To us, as God's servants, has been entrusted the third angel's message, the binding-off message, that is to prepare a people for the coming of the King." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 98

"We are fast approaching the close of our probation. Let every soul inquire, How do I stand before God? We

know not how soon our names may be taken into the lips of Christ, and our cases be finally decided. What, oh, what will these decisions be! Shall we be counted with the righteous, or shall we be numbered with the wicked?" — *Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 125–126

"The Lord is coming. Lift up your heads and rejoice. Oh, we would think that those





who hear the joyful news, who claim to love Jesus, would be filled with joy unutterable and full of glory. This is the good, the joyful news which should electrify every soul, which should be repeated in our homes, and told to those whom we meet on the street. What more joyful news can be communicated!" –*Evangelism*, p. 218

The book of Daniel contains four lines of prophecy which unfold world history from Daniel's day to the time of the end. These are the four great lines of prophecy:

1. Daniel 2: The great image.
2. Daniel 7: The four beasts, little horn, and the judgment.
3. Daniel 8. 9: The ram, he goat, little horn, and 2,300 days.
4. Daniel 11, 12: The king of the South, king of the North, and the time of the end.

"The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 14

Soon the trouble and deliverance mentioned in Daniel 12:1 will take place; we don't have much time left. Before long, Jesus will say, "It is done" (Revelation 22:11; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 613-614).

We are to put everything we have into winning people for Christ. There is no greater joy than to see people accept our Saviour and be baptized. It is a joy that cannot be described.

"Follow Me," Jesus invited, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19. Today He needs you and I that we enroll ourselves in His wonderful work of saving souls. Do you accept the invitation? If "yes", "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." Isaiah 60:1-3

"When God's people so fully separate themselves from evil that he can let the light of heaven rest upon them in rich measure, and shine forth from them to the world, then there will be fulfilled, more fully than it has ever been fulfilled in the past, the prophecy of Isaiah, in

which the servant of God declared of the remnant church in the last days: "The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." –*The Review and Herald*, March 31, 1910

Many promises given to the Hebrew people were never fulfilled because of unbelief. These same promises now belong to modern spiritual Israel – God's remnant people of today. "To them will be fulfilled all the covenant promises made by Jehovah to His ancient people." – *Prophets and Kings*, p. 714

"Ask, and it shall be given you," Jesus said. Luke 11:9. He especially urged us to pray for the Holy Spirit" (Luke 11:13).

When the latter rain comes, just before the close of probation, thousands will be converted, and the work will be quickly finished. Pray that God will fill you with His Spirit so that you can be a part of the fulfillment of these prophecies.

The grace of the Lord be with you all. AMEN.

**Golden Kayawa Hingabantu,  
Zambia**

## LOOKING FOR YOU...

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

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ismessenger@yahoo.com

**By Mail to:**

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Milton, ON L9T 2X7  
Canada

**Submit:**

ARTICLES  
POEMS  
PHOTOS  
DRAWINGS  
ANNOUNCEMENTS



# THE YOUTH— GOD'S SERVICE PROVIDERS

"I have a deep interest in the youth, and I greatly desire to see them striving to perfect Christian characters, seeking by diligent study and earnest prayer to gain the training essential for acceptable service in the cause of God. I long to see them helping one another to reach a higher plane of Christian experience.

"Christ came to teach the human family the way of salvation, and He made this way so plain a little child can walk in it. He bids his disciples follow on to know the Lord; and as they daily follow His guidance, they learn that His going forth is prepared as the morning.

"God wants the youth to become men of earnest mind, to be prepared for action in His noble work, and fitted to bear responsibilities. God calls for young men with hearts uncorrupted, strong, and brave, and determined to fight manfully in the struggle before them, that they may glorify God, and bless humanity. If the youth would but make the Bible their study, would but calm their impetuous desires, and listen to the voice of their Creator and Redeemer, they would not only be at peace with God, but would find themselves ennobled and elevated. It will be for your eternal interest, my young friend, to give heed to the instructions in the word of God, for they are of inestimable importance to you.

"I entreat you to be wise, and consider what will be the result of leading a wild life, uncontrolled by the spirit of God. '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 corrup-

tion.' (Galatians 6:7). For your soul's sake, for Christ's sake, who gave Himself to save you from ruin, pause on the threshold of your life, and weigh well your responsibilities, your opportunities, your possibilities. God has given you an opportunity to fill a high destiny. Your influence may tell for the truth of God; you may be a co-laborer with God in the great work of human redemption. —*Messages to Young People*, p. 15, 21

## THE CALL TO ENLIST

"Christ is calling for volunteers to enlist under His standard, and bear the banner of the cross before the world. The church is languishing for the help of young men who will bear a courageous testimony, who will with their ardent zeal stir up the sluggish energies of God's people, and so increase the power of the church in the world. Young men are wanted who will resist the tide of worldliness, and lift a voice of warning against taking the first steps in immorality and vice.

"But first the young men who would serve God, and give themselves to His work, must cleanse the soul temple of all impurity, and enthrone Christ in the heart; then they will be enabled to put energy into their Christian effort, and will manifest enthusiastic zeal in persuading men to be reconciled to Christ. Will not our young men respond to the invitation of Christ, and answer, 'Here am I; send me?' (Isaiah 6:8). Young men, press to the front, and identify yourselves as laborers together with Christ, taking up the work where He left it, to carry it on to its completion." —*The Review and Herald*, June 16, 1891





## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CHARACTER

“God does not bid the youth to be less aspiring. The elements of character that make a man successful and honored among men—the irrepressible desire for some greater good, the indomitable will, the strenuous exertion, the untiring perseverance—are not to be crushed out. —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 602

## COMPLETE SURRENDER

“There are youth who have only common faculties, and yet by education and discipline under teachers who are actuated by high and pure principles, they may come forth from the training process qualified for some position of trust to which God has called them. But there are young men who will make a failure because they have not determined to overcome natural inclinations, and they will not listen to the voice of God in His word. They have not barricaded their souls against temptation, and determined to do their duty at all hazards. They are like one who in a perilous journey refuses any guide or instruction whereby he may escape accident and ruin, and goes on in a certain course of destruction. —*Messages to Young People*, p. 31

## CLEVERNESS, NOT PIETY

“There are youth who have a certain kind of cleverness, which is acknowledged and admired by their associates, but their ability is not sanctified. It is not strengthened and solidified by the graces and trials of experience, and God cannot use it to benefit humanity and glorify His name. Under the guise of godliness, their powers are being used to erect false standards, and the unconverted look to them as an excuse for their wrong course of action. Satan leads them to amuse their associates by their nonsense and so-called wit. Everything that they undertake is cheapening, for they are under the control of the tempter, who directs and fashions their characters, that they may do his work.



“They have ability, but it is untrained; they have capaci-

ty, but it is unimproved. Talents have been given them; but they misuse and degrade them by folly, and drag others down to their own low level. Christ paid the ransom for their souls by self-denial, self-sacrifice, humiliation, by the shame and reproach He endured. This He did that He might rescue them from the bondage of sin, from the slavery of a master who cares for them only as he can use them to ruin souls. But they make the love of the Redeemer in their behalf of no avail to them, and He looks with sadness on their work.



“Such youth meet with eternal loss. How will their fun and frolic appear to them in the day when every man shall receive from the Judge of all the earth according to the deeds done in the body? They have brought to the foundation wood, hay, and stubble, and all their life work will perish. What a loss!” —*Ibid*, p. 43–44

## HEIGHTS THAT MAY BE ATTAINED

“Workers of this character are needed now. Those who are men in the sight of God, and who are thus recorded on the books of heaven, are those who, like Daniel, cultivate every faculty in such a way as best to represent the kingdom of God in a world lying in wickedness. Progress in knowledge is essential; for when employed in the cause of God, knowledge is a power for good. The world needs men of thought, men of principle, men who are constantly growing in understanding and discernment. The press is in need of men to use it to the best advantage, that the truth may be given wings to speed it to every nation, and tongue, and people.” —*Ibid*, p. 34

It is my sincere wish and prayer that the youth of today may rise and take up the challenge, and see themselves as those that God is calling, to provide a service for the finishing of His gospel work, to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people (Revelation 14:6, last part). AMEN.

**Sevith Moyo,**  
**Zambia**  
**Director, Berea Adventist Missionary Institute, Kenya**



# GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

## 2011

The camping trip we took was truly a spiritual and physical journey of discovery. At the base camp meeting point, we met our “family” for the coming days. Then there was a frenzy of activity as we packed everything that we would need for the next six days and five nights into our hiking backpacks.

We started off the first night in a wooden shelter. We proceeded to retrieve the canoes the next morning and excitedly packed all our gear into them. Then we set off into the bright sun and paddled towards our camping spot for the weekend. Arriving Friday afternoon we had plenty of time to enjoy a refreshing swim at the beautiful campsite. We enjoyed a delicious dinner and had worship around the campfire before settling in for the night.

The next day we enjoyed Sabbath services outdoors, and focused on the topic, “The fear of the Lord.” In the afternoon we were challenged to write our personal testimony, leaving the others and finding a secluded spot for an hour to do so. This was a great blessing, spending personal time with the Lord in His wonderful creation. We trooped back to camp and had a testimony meeting to share what we had written. Tears were shed and personal discoveries were made as we drew closer to each other and to the Lord. Later many in our party expressed blessings gained from this time because knowing that the others went through similar experiences was faith building indeed.

The next day the rest of the party went on a 31-kilometre hike, from which they arrived back at twelve midnight. Their goal was to reach a bear shelter along the Appalachian Trail, which they accomplished by encouraging each other along the way. I myself enjoyed a relaxing nap and swim at the camp during this time, as I

could not hike because of an injury which occurred the previous month. Manuela also was injured so she stayed behind, and my father was there to protect us.

At nightfall we grew concerned about the others on the hike, and started to pray for them. Our main worry was that they would not have many flashlights, and sure enough only three of them decided to bring them along. Three flashlights between ten people turned out to be just enough. We sang, prayed, and had worship; and I struck upon the idea of going down to the beach where there were no trees to look at the stars. What a blessing that turned out to be! Because of the lack of light pollution, the whole Milky Way was visible; it stretched like a white rainbow from horizon to horizon. We stayed there for some time thanking and praising God for His wonderful love in creating something so beautiful for us.

Upon returning to camp, we realised that the others had food, soap, and toothpaste which we would need to find and hang if we were going to sleep. Just earlier that day the ranger had come by to tell us that they were having a bear problem, and that we should hang anything with a scent in the trees at night. So we went on an hour-long hunt through all the tents, ransacking the other’s belongings. I was just drifting to sleep in my tent when ten ravenously hungry and exhausted hikers returned. There was no sleeping then; our travelers were back! Excitedly we exited our tents and welcomed them home.

The next day we packed up camp and reentered the canoes for our longest canoe trip yet—it was at least five hours long. Luckily we stopped halfway there on a picturesque beach for a break, a swim, and lunch. Upon arrival at our next camp, we were peppered with ex-



citement about the night's dinner: burritos! Continuing on with our "Fear of the Lord" topic, we got more in-depth as we related the topic to every area of our lives, including at home, what we eat, and in dress reform. Discussion was lively and pretty much everyone had something to add.

The next day we took a not so strenuous hike along a lovely creek, stopping to poke around in some old buildings. Apparently the area was once a booming town due to a nearby mill that created jobs. Our campsite was in the middle of what was once the baseball diamond.

On the last day Reyna, who was the earliest riser, was enlisted to sound the alarm at 6:30 am, so that we could make it back in time to shower before dinner at the conference grounds. She awoke Andriana and Manuela, and they started singing songs loudly outside our tents. Soon Richard joined in, and even though I was so tired, the hilarity of their voices soon made me join in a joyful rendition of "Kum bay ya, my Lord."

We packed camp and canoes in record time and had our last and final worship next to them. Each individual shared what they had gained from the trip. When it came to myself, I mentioned how I really believed that the world was ending so soon that we had no time, and that seeing Br. Christian Nelson's faith in the same area was very strengthening. Then I broke down in tears because of the response of Br. Nelson, because he said how I was a different Sharon altogether from our first trip of this nature, which was now two trips ago. Everyone enjoyed this time of sharing and had something different and insightful to point out. Then we bundled into the canoes and took off for the marina, making it there in plenty of time to enjoy a quick hot shower before a wonderful dinner at the conference! Altogether the journey was very strengthening—spiritually as we journeyed through the topics Br. Christian had prepared, and physically as we took a physical journey. I would recommend such a trip to anyone!

*Sharon Eaton*



**Back Row: L to R, Jerry Eaton, Sharon Eaton, David Moreno, Eric Song, Danny Ramirez, Richard Eaton, Andy Seely, Pablo Hunger. Front Row L to R, Christian Nelson, Manuela Di Franca, Debbie Conde, Reyna Conde, Damaris Hunger**





It was recess at Miss Capron's school. The girls stood together in one large group, talking very earnestly.

"I think it was a shame," said Marcia Lewis, "for her to make me face the corner for an hour, just because I spoke half a dozen words to Nellie Jones."

"I think so, too," chimed in a half dozen other voices.

"She delights in showing her authority," said Lottie Barnes.

"So she does, or she wouldn't have kept Anna Mory and me in after school for missing one or two questions in arithmetic."

"Don't you think she is dreadfully cross? I guess if we should try to keep account of all her cross words and looks, we would have to be pretty busy."

"Wouldn't that be a nice idea? Let us make a mark on our notebooks every time she is cross and see what a long string of marks we get."

"Oh yes! Let's do it! Yes! Yes!" chimed in a dozen voices in full chorus.

Poor Miss Capron! With a sinking at her heart, she saw the unloving looks in her scholars' faces as they entered the schoolroom after this stormy consultation. She had a severe headache that afternoon, so that, altogether, she did not wear nearly so smiling a face as usual; and the girls, prejudiced as they were, found ample occasion for setting down their cross-marks.

Pretty soon Lottie Barnes held up her notebook to view, displaying a long row of marks. Anna Mory imitated her example; then Lottie Jones; and in less than two minutes the whole school followed suit. This, of course,

called for a reprimand from Miss Capron; and then there was a terrible clicking of pencils. Soon Marcia Lewis dropped her notebook on the floor, and the next instant every notebook was on the floor.

"Girls! Girls!" said Miss Capron sternly, "You seem to have banded yourselves together to trample on the rules of order. I shall proceed no further with our reading lesson until you have become quiet and orderly."

But even this seemed to fail of producing the desired result. The girls were quiet only a few minutes. Nellie Jones remembered that she had in her pocket a bottle of talcum powder for her grandmother, and in ten minutes the schoolroom was resounding with sneezes. Next, little paper balls began to fly mysteriously from all sides, and every girl appeared intent upon her lesson. Presently, a half-suppressed titter from Marcia Lewis awakened an answering one from Mattie Lee, and one after another joined, until at length there was almost a deafening peal of laughter.

"The very spirit of mischief seems to have made headquarters here this afternoon," said Miss Capron. "It is useless to try to proceed with the reading lesson, while my whole attention is needed to keep you in order. I will give you another recess of fifteen minutes, and if you do not succeed in getting rid of your excess of fun and frolic, I shall take very prompt and decisive measures to help you."

The girls felt some little twinges of conscience, but, after all, were delighted with the success of their experiment.

"I tell you what it is," said Marcia Lewis, "Miss Capron has no business to be so cross. Only think what a large amount of marks we got. Let's act just as bad when we get into school again, and she will have to dismiss us,



and then we'll all go down to the falls and have a nice time."

"Wouldn't it be grand," said Nellie Jones.

"Splendid," replied Mattie Lee.

"Why! What is the matter?" said Mary Paine, who had been absent from school during the day until then and was surprised to find her usually pleasant companions so excited. When she had heard the whole story, she looked very sad: "Poor Miss Capron! How could you treat her so?"

"It is just what she deserves for being so cross," said Lottie Barnes.

"Oh, you have been looking at the wrong side, girls. I have heard a story of a lady who began to find faults in her son's wife. The more she looked for them, the more she found, until she began to consider her daughter-in-law the most disagreeable person in the world. She used to talk of her failings to a very dear friend.

"Finally her friend said to her one day, 'No doubt Jane has her faults, and very disagreeable ones, but suppose for awhile you try to see what good qualities you can discover in her character. Really, I am very curious to know.'

"The good lady was a little offended at her friend's plain suggestion; but finally concluded to try it; and long before she had discovered half of her good traits, she began to regard Jane as a perfect treasure. Now you have been doing just as this lady did, in looking for faults. Let us be like her the rest of the afternoon in looking for pleasant things. Let us see how many smiles we can get from Miss Capron."

Mary Paine was one of the oldest girls in the school. She gave the girls subjects for their essays and helped them out of all their troubles. So being a favorite they consented, half reluctantly, to do as she said.

Miss Capron dreaded to ring the bell. The fifteen minutes passed, and she felt compelled to call her

scholars. They entered in perfect order. Each took her seat quietly and began studying in real earnest. Frequently, however, a pleasant smile would seek an answering one from the teacher, and then one would be added to the rapidly increasing row of smile-marks. The good order and close application to study, and the winning looks, soon caused a continual smile to lighten Miss Capron's face, till the girls finally rubbed out the marks, saying it was of no use to try to keep account.

Marcia Lewis wrote in her notebook, "It's smile all the time."



Before Miss Capron dismissed the school at night, she said:

"My head ached sadly before recess, and I fear I was impatient with you. Your good conduct since has convinced me that I must have been in fault. I thank you, my dear girls, for your love and kindness, and I hope you will forgive my faults as freely as I do yours. School is dismissed."

Instantly she was surrounded by all the girls and showered with kisses.

"We have been very wicked," said Marcia Lewis, "and it is not your fault at all."

Little Libbie Denny then related the whole story of the conspiracy, and when she told the part that Mary Paine had taken, Miss Capron put her arm about Mary and, kissing her, said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

"Well, my dears," she added, "which was best, looking for frowns or for smiles?"

"Oh, the smiles," said they altogether.

"I wish you might learn a lesson from this to remember all through your lives. Overlook the bad and seek for what is good in everybody; and so you will help to make both yourselves and others happier and better. What is the lesson, girls?"

And each voice responded, "We will overlook the bad, and seek only for what is good in those around us."



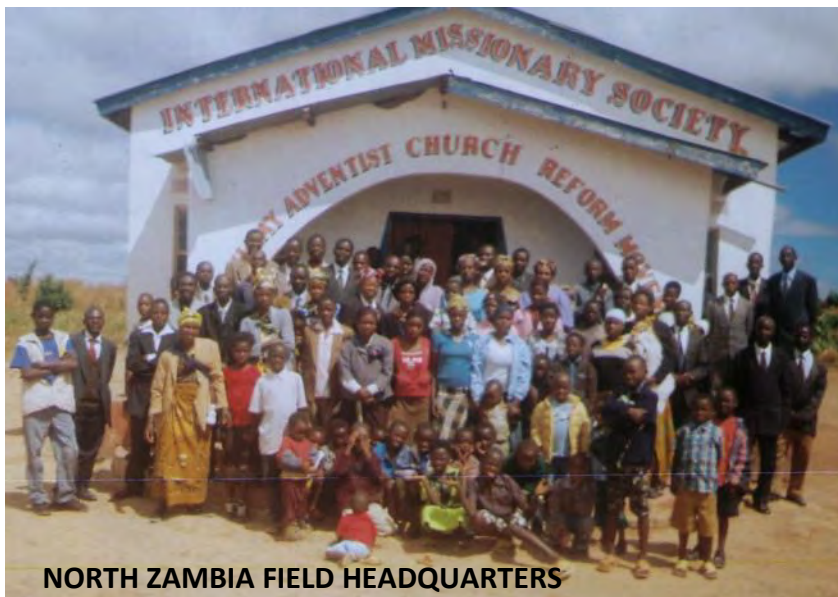
**South Central African Union  
Missionary Report - 2010 (Zambia)**

Zambia is a landlocked nation, in the tropics of Southern Africa between the Atlantic and Indian Ocean; it is at the northern edge of the region referred to as "Southern Africa." While sharing similarities with its neighbours in East and Central Africa, Zambia is divided into 74 districts and nine provinces. The official language is English; the local languages are Bembe, Nyanja, Lozi, Tonga, Kaonde, Lunda, Luvale and 65 more. The population of Zambia in 2010 was approximately

10:17

But what are twelve, even seventy-two, witnesses compared with the great harvest of the world? Truly it is a limited number. For this reason, on another occasion, Jesus observed, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Matthew 9:37. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest." Matthew 9:38

the happy news of the gospel of salvation. The message of liberty needed to be followed with providential healing and even miracles, and so it was. In time the number of disciples increased to seventy-two, and they were also sent to preach in cities and towns. Going in the name of Jesus and with His blessings, their mission had good results and they returned joyously, exclaiming "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name." Luke



**NORTH ZAMBIA FIELD HEADQUARTERS**

13,000,000. Immediately after Jesus began to preach the gospel of repentance, He proceeded to call his disciples in order to prepare them to become His coworkers. While walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers working, and He called them to follow Him and become His witnesses. One after another they heeded His call until the disciples were twelve in number. These were to be prepared for the gospel ministry. They had to follow Him, work with Him, and learn from Him.

They had to go from village to village and from house to house to preach the nearness of God's kingdom with

The Zambian Union fields are ripe for harvest, but there is a great lack of workers in the fields. There are 52 out of 72 country districts where we have no workers at all, not even members; these districts are in total darkness regarding the Reformation message. During committee meetings this topic is constantly the object of our discussions. In the 14 country districts, we have 23 churches, 20 companies, and eight branches. There are 689 baptized members, and more than 2000 interested souls from a total country population of 13,000,000. There were 2085 souls who attended our 2010 Union camp meetings in our four fields. Nine companies have been opened in two years with a very good number of interested souls in these fields: South-west Zambia, North Zambia, and Southeast Zambia. There are three companies in each Field.

Sincerely,  
Your brother in Christ,  
**Golden Kayawa Hingabantu**  
*Zambian Union President*



**BROTHER GOLDEN HINGABANTU (RIGHT) WITH BROTHER H. MULANG**





The Eight-month Missionary Seminar opened its doors on September 28, 2011 in Cedartown. We ask your prayers for the students as they study so they can receive the necessary knowledge to be prepared to take up the challenge that the Lord is placing before them and enter His service, either full-time or as volunteers. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2

**Part-time students**

Andrianna Seely, Damaris Hunger, Rocio Zapata

**Below: Brother Timo with daughters, (L to R) Wendy, Lynne and Helen, and granddaughter Alexandria**

**Full-time Students**

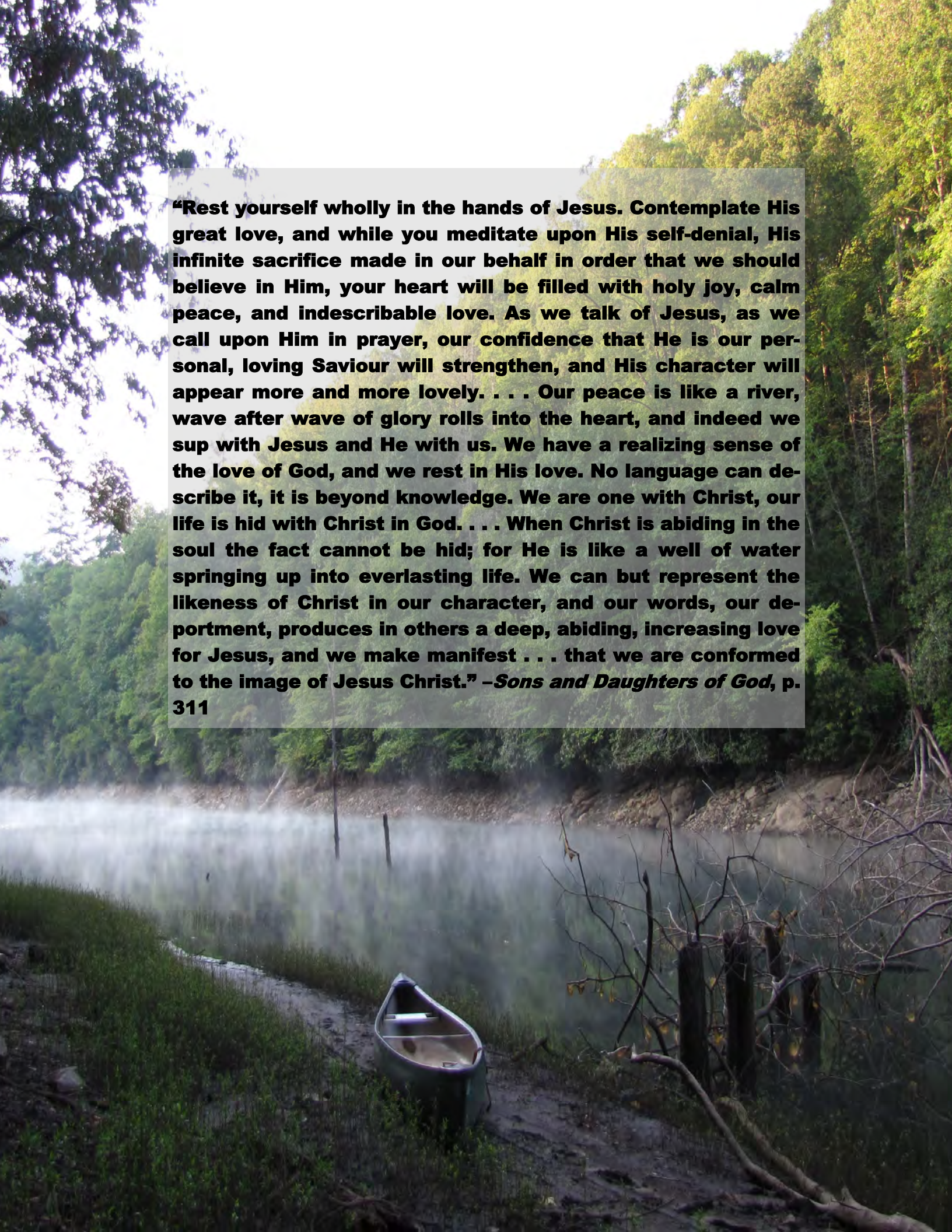
- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Leone Chiatto  | Adrian Lowe          |
| Jorge Espinoza | Emelina Garcia       |
| Brenda Alonzo  | Eric Song            |
| Sharon Eaton   | Danny Ramirez        |
| Richard Eaton  | David ß              |
|                | Mark Anthony Barnedo |
|                | Josalin Liberatchi   |



Surrounded by family and church friends, Brother Timo Martin (leader of the Canadian Publishing Department) celebrated his 80th birthday. Brother Timo grew up in the SDA Reform Church and was baptized at the age of 14. He has been a pillar in the house of the Lord for his entire life, sacrificing much time and means in missionary work and in the support of the cause of God. He remains strong and in good health. Let us pray for Brother Timo that in the final years that God is granting him he can continue to be productive in the church of God —the church that he has loved and sacrificed his entire life for.





A serene landscape featuring a misty river or lake. In the foreground, a small, light-colored boat is beached on a sandy shore. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding greenery. The background is filled with dense, lush trees, creating a sense of a secluded natural setting. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

**“Rest yourself wholly in the hands of Jesus. Contemplate His great love, and while you meditate upon His self-denial, His infinite sacrifice made in our behalf in order that we should believe in Him, your heart will be filled with holy joy, calm peace, and indescribable love. As we talk of Jesus, as we call upon Him in prayer, our confidence that He is our personal, loving Saviour will strengthen, and His character will appear more and more lovely. . . . Our peace is like a river, wave after wave of glory rolls into the heart, and indeed we sup with Jesus and He with us. We have a realizing sense of the love of God, and we rest in His love. No language can describe it, it is beyond knowledge. We are one with Christ, our life is hid with Christ in God. . . . When Christ is abiding in the soul the fact cannot be hid; for He is like a well of water springing up into everlasting life. We can but represent the likeness of Christ in our character, and our words, our deportment, produces in others a deep, abiding, increasing love for Jesus, and we make manifest . . . that we are conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 311**