



The Reformation
Messenger

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“Why, don't cross a bridge before you get to it. Don't make a time of trouble before it comes. You will get to it soon enough, brethren. We are to think of today, and if we do well the duties of today, we will be ready for the duties of tomorrow.” –*Mind, Character and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 470

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.

ABOUT THE COVER

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Inside Cover: Helen Marttinen. Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Volume 19, Number 7, July 2012

3 Are you Weary?

8 "Thy Kingdom Come"

10 Heart Disease

12 Are You Worthy to Escape?

15 Camp Meetings

16 ICHTHYS (ΙΧΘΥΣ)

20 Children's Corner: As Many as Six Children

22 Wayside Ministry

23 Evangelistic Outreach in London, Canada

24 The Hamilton Cooking Class and Health Seminar

25 Mission School Students' Experiences

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Messenger

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Are you Weary?

“Flee as a bird to your mountain . . .”

A popular Christian song reads: “Are you weary, are you heavy laden? Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus.” Yes, we can simply say that this is the answer to a weary soul. “Tell it to Jesus. He is a Friend that’s well known.”

What does the word “weary” mean? As an adjective it means physically or mentally exhausted by hard work, exertion, or strain. It can also be used as verb to describe the act of making another weary.

People can also become weary when they are discouraged or depressed. Just performing the normal duties of life can become monotonous for them. In order to perform their basic duties is a major undertaking. People without hope, without God, often can become very weary of life.

WEARY OF WHAT?

I am sure we have all had times in our lives when we have been weary. Ask yourself what it is that makes you weary. After a full day of hard labour some can be physically exhausted and weary. After a full day of Bible studies and canvassing you can be mentally exhausted and this can result in weariness. What is the solution? Although the song states, “tell it to Jesus,” the solution is as Jesus said, “Come ye apart and rest awhile.” Mark 6:31. It is a change in activity. The physically exhausted needs physical rest. The mentally exhausted needs mental rest which is often in the form of physical activity.

WEARY OF SIN

Can someone be weary of sin? In church as we sang the song, “Flee as a bird to your mountain,” the following words then struck me, “Thou who art weary of sin.” Then I thought, how many people are really weary of sin? Many people love their sin, but dislike the consequences. They love to be intemperate, but hate the

poor health that follows. The results are disagreeable. Many Christians love the world, but fear Hell Fire. They are not weary of sin, but the consequences of sin.

King David was truly weary of sin when he prayed. “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.” Psalm 51:10, 12. Esau, Cain and Judas Iscariot became weary of the consequences, not the sin itself.

In Jeremiah’s day, people not only deceived their enemies but their friends. Their ability to do evil only wearied them. They could not trust anyone anymore. “And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.” Jeremiah 9:5

Yes, sin causes weariness, “the people shall weary themselves for very vanity.” Habakkuk 2:13. “The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.” Ecclesiastes 10:15. “She hath wearied herself with lies. . . .” Ezekiel 24:12. Habitual lying is wearying. Ask those who have been in the habit of it.

Sin does not bring peace and lasting happiness. The end result is separation from God—weariness.

WEARY OF LIFE

Many in the world have become weary of life itself. Life on this earth offers little hope for the future. This has led many to end their lives in suicide. In Christ we are not offered much on this earth, but we do have the hope of an ever present Saviour and the hope of eternal life. Still, God’s messengers at times have become weary of life on this earth.

Elijah was one such person when “he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life.” 1 Kings 19:4. The Lord said “no.” He provided food and said, “Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.” 1 Kings 19:7. Elijah obeyed and stood steadfast to the end of his sojourn on this earth.

King David became weary of life. He stated, “I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.” Psalm 6:6. David was so weary of life he could not sleep at night. He wept over his sufferings. Not only physical pain, but mental anguish had exhausted him. And again, he found strength and solace in the Lord.

Job was weary of life. Seemingly forsaken of heaven and earth, yet holding fast his faith in God and his consciousness of integrity, in anguish and perplexity he cried, “My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; show me wherefore Thou contendest with me.” Job 10:1–2. But Job held on by faith and was rewarded. “According to his faith, so was it unto Job. . . . So it came to pass. By his patient endurance he vindicated his own character, and thus the character of Him whose representative he was. And ‘the Lord turned the captivity of Job. . . . also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. . . . So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning.’ Job 42:10–12.” —*Education*, p. 156

WEARY OF CORRECTION

Some people become very weary of correction and therefore Solomon wisely stated, “My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of His correction.” Proverbs 3:11. When the chastening comes, some people permit themselves to be driven farther away from God, because they think that He is cruel or indifferent. How far from the truth this is. Verse 12 tells us that “For whom the Lord loveth He correcteth: even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.” “Remember that hardships and trials are a part of the Christian legacy. Christ, the Majesty of heaven, came to our world to show us how to bear the world's rebuffs without fainting or without retaliation. Every trial borne wisely will be a blessing to those who have them. They will lift up, but not cast down. Those who are continually seeking to shirk the hard and stony places but are seeking an easier path, a pleasanter way, will ever meet with disappointment and adversity. But if they brace the soul for trial and for duty, march forward bravely in God, they will find the path of self-

denial and self-sacrifice will lead to honor and heavenly riches in the future, immortal life. . . . Pray much and exercise living faith, and you will surely sing the song of victory.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 139

WEARY OF WAITING

Many people are impatient and become weary of waiting. The most deadly impatience is on the part of those Christians that become weary of waiting for Jesus coming, and are described as such, “But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming.” What do they end up doing? A person in this situation is described as to “begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken.” Matthew 24:48–49. Being unconverted, and attempting to live a Christian life is toilsome. It is very wearying. Many give up from the long delay. It is too difficult to continue to live a Christian life without Christ.

JEREMIAH BECAME WEARY WHEN HE DID NOT DO GOD'S WILL

“Then I said, I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His name. But His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.” Jeremiah 20:9. His sense of frustration led Jeremiah to feel that his only recourse was to refrain from carrying out his commission as God's spokesman. However, he could not stand it. It wearied him to *not* do God's will as was required of him. “So strong was the opposition against Jeremiah's message, so often was he derided and mocked, that he said, ‘I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His name.’ Thus it has ever been. Because of the bitterness, hatred, and opposition manifested against the word of God spoken in reproof, many other messengers of God have decided to do as Jeremiah decided. But what did this prophet of the Lord do after his decision? Try as much as he would, he could not hold his peace. As soon as he came into the assemblies of the people, he found that the Spirit of the Lord was stronger than he was. The record is: ‘His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.’” —*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1156

SISERA—WEARY AND FELL ASLEEP

Although Sisera was an enemy of Israel, we can learn a lesson from his life. (Judges 4:13–24). “Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.” Judges 4:21. Sisera was physically weary and went to

sleep in the tent of someone he thought was a friend. However, giving into his weariness and falling asleep cost him his life. In our spiritual warfare and struggle, we must not allow ourselves to give in to our weariness and fall asleep spiritually. The Devil never sleeps and is “as a roaring lion. . . seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8. He will pounce on us and destroy us. Do not give up, “but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” Matthew 10:22. Don’t pause in the Christian race. Keep on going, gaining strength from above.

BE NOT WEARY IN WELL DOING

There is something we must *not* ever become weary of and Paul counseled the believers in several of his writings not to be weary in well doing. Why? Is there danger of people becoming weary of well doing?

If so, then why? Did Moses become weary in well-doing? Yes, he did, because he kept doing good, and all the Israelites did was murmur. There will be many who do not appreciate the good works you do and so this counsel is given. There is a book of remembrance written. God has it all written down. We do not need to promote our good deeds. They are all done through the power of Christ anyhow, so we have nothing of which to glory of ourselves.

Yes, God’s servants do become weary. “Those who are placed in the highest positions may be led astray, especially if they feel there is no danger. The wisest err; the strongest grow weary.” –*The Signs of the Times*, July 28, 1881

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9. Alt-



though we do, Christians should never become weary of bearing the “burdens” of their fellow men. Such service, prompted by love, never becomes monotonous. Christ is our perfect example and He never wearied to help others in need. Often it has happened in the Christian warfare that some soldiers of the cross have faint-

ed and given up the struggle. Overcome with temptation or disheartened in the way, they have turned wearily from their duties. Although the service of the Christian is prompted by love, there is still a reward promised at the end of time; at the harvest, when every man will receive the reward of the seed they have sown.

“But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.” 2 Thesalonians 3:13. Paul encouraged the believers never to become weary of well-doing from pressures whether they come from within or without. The fact that there are some who look to the church only for the “loaves and the fishes,” should not dry up the springs of Christian generosity. The church members need the blessing that comes from helping the poor. It is a privilege to share temporal blessings with those less fortunate. “Do not wait to be told your duty. Open your eyes and see who are around you; make yourselves acquainted with the helpless, afflicted, and needy. Hide not yourselves from them, and seek not to shut out their needs.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 29

DOES GOD BECOME WEARY?

While He does not become physically weary from overwork, He does become emotionally weary. This weariness comes from hurt; from unfulfilled expectations. He has given so much for His children and yet many do not appreciate what He has done or is doing. He becomes weary—sad. “Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before Me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread M courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto M; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts M soul hateth: they are a trouble unto M; I am weary to bear them.” Isaiah 1:10–14. These people were outwardly religious. They engaged in the ceremonies of religion because they thought in this way to earn the favour of God. But the Lord informed them that He was highly displeased with their course of action—He hated the observance of their appointed feasts, He rejected their worship, and resented their hypocritical pretense. They were actually defying God by refusing to walk in His ways, and no cloak of religious formalism could cover their sins. “And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for

you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?"
Isaiah 7:13

"Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied Him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?" Malachi 2:17 Divine patience does have an end. God bears long with the complaining and discontent of His people. The prosperity and glory that ancient Israel hoped would be theirs did not arrive, and so they questioned the justice and holiness of God, and even the certainty of the future judgment.

They became weary of waiting for God to do what they wanted Him to do, and the Lord became weary of their lack of trust in His leading. "But thou hast not called upon Me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of Me, O Israel. Thou hast not brought Me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured Me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense. Thou hast bought Me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled Me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made Me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied Me with thine iniquities." Isaiah 43:22–24. Some become weary of their religious duties. The Lord's requirements were never meant to be burdensome. In fact, what the Lord requires of His people was for their benefit, not His. He had not ordained the ritual law for *His* good, but for *theirs*, in order that they might understand the way of salvation more perfectly. Because man sinned, Christ must leave heaven and live life on this earth as the only way for our redemption. It is our sins that caused the King of Glory to become a servant among men. God's requirements are reasonable, and for the good of men, but they had been unwilling to do their part. It makes God utterly weary to see their hypocritical pretense at worship. Many Christians today also have a hypocritical form of worship. Ask yourself, "do I?"

HELP FOR THE WEARY

"For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul." Jeremiah 31:25. The Lord promises strength, peace and contentment for the weary travelers who walk in the ways of righteousness.

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth

strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:28–31. One of the most magnificent sights in the wild is an eagle soaring in the sky, higher and higher,



with seemingly little effort. Similarly, the child of God who draws his strength from above is enabled to go ever onward and upward, always reaching new heights of achievement. Day after day it is the privilege of the Christian to go on from grace to grace and from victory to victory. Strength is added to strength, and progress is constant. Higher and still higher goals come into view, and eventually the Christian attains to the goal set before him.

While Jesus is truly the one who is of real help to the weary, He has His under-shepherds to assist Him with the work. You and I are called to help the weary souls that we see around us. "The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." Isaiah 50:4 "Some with whom you are brought in contact may be rough and uncourteous, but do not, because of this, be less courteous yourself. He who wishes to preserve his own self-respect must be careful not to wound needlessly the self-respect of others. This rule should be sacredly observed toward the dullest, the most blundering. What God intends to do with these apparently unpromising ones, you do not know. He has in the past accepted persons no more promising or attractive to do a great work for Him. His Spirit, moving upon the heart, has roused every faculty to vigorous action. The Lord saw in these rough, unhewn stones precious material, which would stand the test of storm and heat and pressure. God does not see as man sees. He does not judge from appearances, but searches the heart and judges right-

eously.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 122–123

“CONSIDER HIM”

“For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” Hebrews 12:3. A glance at the burdens Christ bore will make our burdens seem light in comparison. If we will only look to Jesus and consider what He endured, every difficulty and disappointment we meet will be easier to bear. “The anguish that sin has brought was poured into the bosom of the Sinless; yet while Christ endured the contradiction of sinners against Himself, He was paying the debt for sinful man and breaking the bondage in which humanity had been held. Every pang of anguish, every insult, was working out the deliverance of the race.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 701

GAIN STRENGTH TODAY FOR TOMORROW’S TRIALS

Many of us are familiar with the prophecies in the book of Revelation. When we consider the people of God and what will happen in the near future when the world is in opposition to them, how will they stand? “If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?” Jeremiah 12:5. If we neglect the minor tasks of life today, how can we undertake the greater responsibilities tomorrow? If we succumb to the smaller temptations today, how can we overcome in the greater crises of life tomorrow? If we cannot endure the lesser troubles of life today, how can we withstand the terrible tribulations that will yet come upon us tomorrow? And, if we fail to meet the situations of the present day with faith and trust, how will we be able to stand the almost overmastering delusions that will come upon us in the “time of trouble”? The truth is that we will not be able to stand. We will become weary.

“Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved.” Isaiah 57:10. Yes, hope and life are in Christ. Although the way may look great, Christ has stated, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Hebrews 13:5. Therefore, “we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear.” Hebrews 13:6

IN CONCLUSION

“See the weary traveler toiling over the hot sands of the desert, with no shelter to protect him from the rays of a tropical sun. His water supply fails, and he has

nothing to slake his burning thirst. His tongue becomes swollen; he staggers like a drunken man. Visions of home and friends pass before his mind, as he believes himself ready to perish in the terrible desert. Suddenly those in advance send forth a shout of joy. In the dis-



tance, looming up out of the dreary, sandy waste, is a palm tree, green and flourishing. Hope quickens his pulses. That which gives vigor and freshness to the palm tree, will cool the fevered pulses, and give life to those who are perishing with thirst.

“As the palm tree, drawing nourishment from fountains of living water, is green and flourishing in the midst of the desert, so the Christian may draw rich supplies of grace from the fountain of God’s love, and may guide weary souls, that are full of unrest and ready to perish in the desert of sin, to those waters of which they may drink, and live. The Christian is ever pointing his fellowmen to Jesus, who invites, ‘If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink.’ This fountain never fails us; we may draw, and draw again.” —*The Signs of the Times*, June 26, 1884

The spiritual traveler is weary of life on this earth; weary of sin, but he accepts the help and correction of the Lord. This brings him new life. The journey is long and difficult. “We are to do all that we can do on our part to fight the good fight of faith. We are to wrestle, to labor, to strive, to agonize to enter in at the strait gate. We are to set the Lord ever before us. With clean hands, with pure hearts, we are to seek to honor God in all our ways. Help has been provided for us in Him who is mighty to save. The spirit of truth and light will quicken and renew us by its mysterious workings; for all our spiritual improvement comes from God, not from ourselves. The true worker will have divine power to aid him, but the idler will not be sustained by the Spirit of God.” —*Faith and Works*, p. 48

May God help us to find rest from our weariness in Him and go on from strength to strength in the battle of life. AMEN. “ *Wendy Eaton*



“Thy Kingdom Come”

In the prayer Jesus taught, we find the words: “Thy kingdom come.” Matthew 6:10. For a long time we have prayed for this kingdom to come. More than two millennia have passed since that prayer was taught but we are still here.

“God’s purposes know no haste and no delay.” For instance, “Through the symbols of the great darkness and the smoking furnace, God had revealed to Abraham the bondage of Israel in Egypt, and had declared that the time of their sojourning should be four hundred years. ‘Afterward,’ He said, ‘shall they come out with great substance.’ Genesis 15:14. Against that word, all the power of Pharaoh’s proud empire battled in vain. On ‘the self-same day’ appointed in the divine promise, ‘it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.’ Exodus 12:41.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 32

Soon God will fulfill His promise about the establishment of His kingdom.

To understand the nature of this kingdom and the time of its establishment, we need to consider its two natures or phases. These are the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory. Not a few during Christ’s first coming hoped that He would rise to the throne of David, and avenge their oppressors and their enemies. Contrary to that however, Christ came to establish on earth, first the kingdom of grace which would prepare the way and give place to that of glory.

“This kingdom is not, as Christ’s hearers had hoped, a temporal and earthly dominion. Christ was opening to men the spiritual kingdom of His love, His grace, His righteousness.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 8

“In vain had John the Baptist, with the heart-searching power of the ancient prophets, called them to repentance. In vain had he, beside the Jordan, pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.” —*Ibid.*, p. 2

“The kingdom of God’s grace is now being established, as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love. But the full establishment of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world. ‘The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,’ is to be given to ‘the people of the saints of the Most High.’ Daniel 7:27. They shall inherit the kingdom prepared for them ‘from the foundation of the world.’ Matthew 25:34.” —*Ibid.*, p. 108

God has given us the time in this kingdom of grace that we may prepare to live in the kingdom of glory. This is so because in heaven there will enter nothing that defiles. Christ wants “to present [us] faultless before the presence of His glory.” Jude 24

The first thing is for us to secure our personal salvation now. We need to cast off every pride, lusts of the flesh and all kinds of besetments. As God is adding days to our lives, it is important that they must be used for personal cleansing through the power of the blood of Jesus. This means true and sincere repentance from sin. Then, let us keep all His commandments and principles of His kingdom. As we do this we build the kingdom of grace.

Christ does not mention ceremonial purity as a condition for heaven. Rather He erects a high standard and says: “Be ye therefore perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48. Also, “every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:3. Let us strive with more effort than we have ever done before. Never to give up! Praying hard, we cry to Jesus to impart us strength daily and we will overcome.

We need then to work also for the salvation of others in order to help build His kingdom of grace. On the other hand also, we hasten His kingdom of glory. Remember that “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall

the end come.” Matthew 24:14

Those who compose the kingdom of grace are the ones that will make up the kingdom of glory.

When He began His ministry, “Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:14–15. He meant the kingdom of grace.

When He said “the time is fulfilled”, He was referring to the seventy weeks allocated to Israel, a proportion of the 2300 days as revealed to the beloved prophet Daniel. (Daniel 8:14, 9:24) The 70 weeks, when we calculate, we find that they come to 490 days or years as one day in prophecy is equal to one year (Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6). They started in 457 B.C. (the decree as completed by Artaxerxes Longimanus) and terminated in 34 A.D. However, a week (7 years) before this (27 A.D.) Christ was baptized and anointed by the Spirit, according to prophecy. It was not long after His baptism that He spoke those words in Mark 1:15, declaring the commencement of the kingdom of grace as based on prophecy.

“As the message of Christ's first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies. The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end. At that time, ‘many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.’ ‘The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.’ Daniel 12:4, 10. The Saviour Himself has given signs of His coming, and He says, ‘When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.’ ‘And take heed to yourselves,



Joel Msiska (right) with interested souls in Pharombe, Malawi

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.’ Luke 21:31, 34, 36

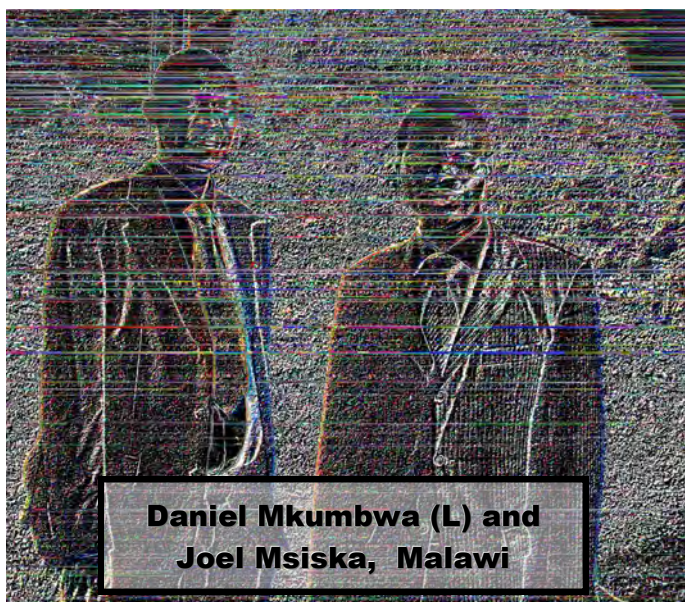
“We have reached the period foretold in these scriptures. The time of the end is come, the visions of the prophets are unsealed, and their solemn warnings point us to our Lord’s coming in glory as near at hand.

“The Jews misinterpreted and misapplied the word of God, and they knew not the time of their visitation. The years of the ministry of Christ and His apostles,—the precious last years of grace to the chosen people,—they spent in plotting the destruction of the Lord’s messengers. Earthly ambitions absorbed them, and the offer of the spiritual kingdom came to them in vain. So today the kingdom of this world absorbs men’s thoughts, and they take no note of the rapidly fulfilling prophecies and the tokens of the swift-coming kingdom of God.

“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.’ While we are not to know the hour of our Lord’s return, we may know when it is near. ‘Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:4–6.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 234–235

May the Lord help us to make the needed preparations. AMEN.

Joel Msiska, Malawi/ Tanzania



Daniel Mkumbwa (L) and Joel Msiska, Malawi



Yet people trust their foolish hearts. They follow the dictates of their hearts rather than the word of God. Their hearts go against their brains, even their better knowledge.

One of the biggest killers in our world is heart disease; not only physically but especially, spiritually. We read in Isaiah 1:5, “The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.” This was the spiritual condition of Old Israel. For this

reason the Lord said, “Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.” Isaiah 1:7

Their religious ceremonies and services were not accepted by the Lord, when there was a spiritual sickness among them.

“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts: and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before Me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread My courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto Me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts My soul hateth: they are a trouble unto Me: I am weary to bear them.” Isaiah 1:11–14

Every sin that people do begins in the heart. If our hearts are pure, then our lives are blameless and sinless. Again, if our hearts are polluted by the world, then our thoughts, words, and actions will be evil.

What can come out of the human heart, we read in Mark 7:21–23. “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders. Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

Jeremiah writes, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9. If our heart is not clean, we don’t need Satan to tempt us; our own heart will lead us into sin.

Of every person who is denied heaven it can be said: his own heart deceived him.

The heart is the seat of affections, it is the symbol of love, and love is stronger than death. Millions of martyrs proved it. They loved God and His word more than their own lives.

Love of sin is also stronger than death. A person knows that he will suffer eternal death because of his sin, and he commits sin anyway. He continues to disobey God at the cost of heaven and eternal life.

Often, love of sin and of the world is so strong that all the promises of heaven and the threatenings of hell fire will not turn a person away from it. Many times children and young people who have been brought up in the church, knowing salvation and the judgment upon the sinner, still choose a life in sin, a life away from God. They tell Satan, “give us a moment of pleasure in sin, and we give you our souls in return.” This proves that our hearts are stronger than our brains and knowledge.

How many people consult the Bible when they decide where to go to church? Did Judas consult the Bible when he decided to betray Jesus, or did he consult his own heart only? Did David consult the Bible when he wanted Bathsheba? So often the Bible is put away and the human’s deceitful heart tells him what to do.

Paul writes to us, “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” Romans 1:21–22

Now, what can we expect next? “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between

themselves.” Romans 1:24

Satan hypnotizes such persons and we can do very little for them to save them. Millions of Christians are only brain converted, their hearts are not in it. They are still in the old covenant and Romans chapter 7 applies to them. What they want to do, they do not. They do not love God, they only love themselves and want to give to themselves heaven and eternal life.

To save a person from perishing in sin, the heart must be converted. Brain conversion is not enough, and God has promised to change this deceitful heart. “And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 11:19

A new heart means new birth. We start our life all over. As we behold the scenes of Calvary, the suffering and death of Jesus, our hearts are changed. When Jesus spoke about watching and praying, He meant especially watching our hearts.

When Satan saw Jesus and His Father in a conference, he thought, “why not me? Why was I not invited to this meeting?”

Satan himself did not notice anything wrong in his feelings, but it was the beginning of his rebellion and war. There was just a little feeling of dissatisfaction and jealousy. The next step was to find fault in God the Father and Jesus, and then he had to tell the other angels about it. There was turmoil in his heart that he could hardly contain. The heart of Satan deceived him. All his knowledge and wisdom did not save him.

In Old Israel there was a man called Achan. He knew the commandment, not to take anything from Jericho.



But his heart deceived him. When he saw a wedge of gold and a Babylonish garment, he decided to take them and hid them in his tent. When a lot was cast to find who had committed sin, he remained silent, until the lot pointed to him; then he confessed, but it was

too late.

Do not trust your own heart. Do not listen to the voice of the wicked, deceitful heart that can be full of jealousy, pride, hatred, covetousness, and be easily offended. Can your heart guide you to heaven? Never, never. It is out to destroy you; it is your greatest enemy.

The only reliable guide is the word of God. God tells us, “My son, give Me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe My ways.” Proverbs 23:26. God can cleanse it and then a special blessing will come upon you. “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8.

“And if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.” 1 John 3:20. He can expel Satan out of your heart and fill it with His own Spirit. Then you will not die from spiritual heart disease, but live—eternally. Your brain and your heart will become united, be friends, and work together. You will receive power to move mountains and nothing will be impossible to you. A continuous miracle will happen; you can live a sinless life. You can walk on water and not sink like Peter. Let us all go to our divine Healer, and have our hearts purified so that they will no longer have heart disease, but be healthy in doing God’s will. AMEN.

Timo Martin

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Are You Worthy to Escape?

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:4

Picture with me—we are on the Titanic after she has struck the iceberg. And they are trying to figure out who is to go in the lifeboats. Beyond being a woman or a child—how did they decide who was worthy to go into that lifeboat? It wasn’t important if you had money—plenty of rich people drowned. Nor was it important if you had a high position, good looks, talent—so what was the criteria they used to decide if you were worthy to escape, to get into that lifeboat?

This text tells us of those who have already escaped the corruption in the world through what? Lust. . . . And what is lust? Misplaced desire. Wanting anything or anyone too much. It can be something good that you want, but if you want it too much, then it becomes unbalanced—something that will corrupt and even enslave. Of course, the worldly mindset is to not count yourself worthy to escape, but rather run toward the things of self-indulgence—even embrace them—but what do they cause? Did you catch it? Corruption. And then the whole list is given to us—called Peter’s ladder. Just like climbing the rungs of a ladder to get to a lifeboat, we have to climb this ladder, given to us in 2 Peter, in order to know salvation. What happens if you miss a rung on a ladder? You fall, don’t you?

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:5–8

Do you notice how temperance comes before patience? How can you be patient, if you have not learned temperance? If you eat the wrong foods, is it easy to keep your temper? When your stomach is upset?

Looking back at my Christian experience, I have known so many brothers and sisters that have not counted themselves worthy, and when the test came—maybe it was over money, maybe the things of the flesh—they didn’t count themselves worthy. Do you know what I am saying?

And of those who have fallen, hardly any have gotten back up again to the fight. It’s just like it says in Hebrews 6: 4–6: “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.”

A friend of mine’s case is really a miracle. For he is finally making his way back, after being so lost in darkness, unbelief, and asking the wrong kind of questions—he didn’t count himself worthy of escaping. But now he is once again finding his place in the lifeboat—praise God.

You see, the test comes on one point, and maybe we pass that one point, but when the test comes to us on another point, then we fail, and fall off the pathway.

Do you remember what Ellen G. White’s first vision was? I think it has much light to communicate to us on this point. Here it is: “While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I

turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, 'Look again, and look a little higher.' At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry. This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that



they might not stumble. If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe. But soon some grew weary, and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before.

“Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and from His arm came a light which waved over the Advent band, and they shouted, ‘Alleluia!’ Others rashly denied the light behind them and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below. Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus’ coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses’ did when he came down from Mount Sinai.” —*Early Writings*, p. 14

In another place, she describes how she and the others on the pathway would hear once in a while from below the dance song, or the war song, and some fell off the pathway because they got too interested in those songs. And here is the conclusion that I have chosen for that whole passage that began in our opening text.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an

holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9. The Apostle Peter is saying, “you don’t have to fall; this is your identity—believe it, because this is our high calling, which Jesus has paid an infinite price for us to obtain.

“God gives men the light, but many are filled with a self-sufficient, masterly spirit; and they strive by carrying out their own ideas to reach a height where they will be as God. They place their mind first, as if God must serve with them. Herein lies the danger in this: Unless God shall in some way make these men understand that He is God, and that they are to serve Him, human inventions will be brought in that will lead away from Bible truth, notwithstanding all the cautions that have been given.

“The Lord Jesus will always have a chosen people to serve Him. When the Jewish people rejected Christ, the Prince of life, He took from them the kingdom of God and gave it unto the Gentiles. God will continue to work on this principle with every branch of His work. When a church proves unfaithful to the word of the Lord, whatever their position may be, however high and sacred their calling, the Lord can no longer work with them. Others are then chosen to bear important responsibilities. But, if these in turn do not purify their lives from every wrong action, if they do not establish pure and holy principles in all their borders, then the Lord will grievously afflict and humble them and, unless they repent, will remove them from their place and make them a reproach. . . .

“God is not ‘worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed any thing’ (Acts 17:25). No magnificence of outward display can please God, when the heart is serving idols and the hands are polluted with iniquity. The Holy Spirit will unite with those in the church who, with contrition of heart, will walk humbly with God. To all who look to Him and walk in the footsteps of Christ, He gives sanctification, comfort, and victory over the world. The people of God, His chosen kingdom, are not as a stagnant pool. They are as a river, constantly flowing, and as it advances becoming deeper and wider, until its life-giving waters are spread over all the earth. Whenever the gospel of God is received, its grace heals the maladies that sin has produced. The Sun of Righteousness arises with healing in His beams. Light, strength, and refreshing come from the Lord, and the good fruit borne bears witness to a work of righteousness.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 131

This same principle works on the level of a whole church, family, individual—whatever—do you see? What is the key principle that we must make sure we take to heart? “But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” Proverbs 4:18. Light is progressive and we must keep pace with the light. We cannot afford to ever rest on our laurels, for this could be deadly. The moment we stop following the increasing light that is marching on, we start to go backward, even though we may not know it. God’s people are to continually be following and keeping pace with the light, world without end. Even in heaven, the 144,000 will continually be following the light and even be part of the light as they accompany Christ wherever He goes.

“But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.” Isaiah 45: 17

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20–21

The righteous will be counted worthy to escape all of the corruption in the world, even to the end of the world. Indeed, Christ has promised to be with His people even to the end of the world—and He will be with the righteous throughout all eternity. Those who have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust will be counted worthy to walk with Him in white.

God’s people are not to be a stagnant pool—how and why? What makes a pool stagnant? The water just sits there, it perhaps has an inlet, but has no outlet. Just

like the DEAD Sea. Why is it dead? It only has an inlet, but no outlet. But the Sea of Galilee has an inlet and an outlet—that is why it is a fresh body of water.

Do you remember our original question—what criteria did they use to determine who would get on those lifeboats on the Titanic—what do you think? If you had a good reason to survive—your human relationships (for example, one rich man grabbed a poor, apparently abandoned child and said that she only had him in the world), or if that lifeboat needed you—for example, someone to row, someone to balance out the boat, etc. (though many of the lifeboats were only half-full when they were launched). And how many want to get into the light of the truth? How many empty seats are there out there in your church every Sabbath? Now of course, we cannot use this as an excuse to not witness and not give others the opportunity to respond to truth and righteousness, or say that the people are not coming because of this, when the cause may be something in you or I.

How is the spiritual lifeboat that we have to get into any different? If we have a right relationship with Eternity, with our heavenly Father, then we will have a place in the boat of His choosing. Do you know and feel His love? Do you share that love with others? Those are the questions that He will be asking so that He can tell if you will be counted worthy. Are you helping others into the boat, making sure that you keep the boat balanced, etc.? May you and I be counted worthy to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust, is my prayer.

Jerry Eaton

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Camp Meetings

“It is important that the members of our churches should attend our camp meetings. The enemies of truth are many; and because our numbers are few, we should present as strong a front as possible. Individually you need the benefits of the meeting, and God calls upon you to number one in the ranks of truth.

“Some will say: ‘It is expensive to travel, and it would be better for us to save the money and give it for the advancement of the work where it is so much needed.’ Do not reason in this way; God calls upon you to take your place among the rank and file of His people. Strengthen the meeting all you possibly can by being present with your families. Put forth extra exertion to attend the gathering of God's people.

“Brethren and sisters, it would be far better for you to let your business suffer than to neglect the opportunity of hearing the message God has for you. Make no excuse that will keep you from gaining every spiritual advantage possible. You need every ray of light. You need to become qualified to give a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. You cannot afford to lose one such privilege.

“Anciently the Lord instructed His people to assemble three times a year for His worship. To these holy convocations the children of Israel came, bringing to the house of God their tithes, their sin offerings, and their offerings of gratitude. They met to recount God's mercies, to make known His wonderful works, and to offer praise and thanksgiving to His name. And they were to unite in the sacrificial service which pointed to Christ as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Thus they were to be preserved from the corrupting power of worldliness and idolatry. Faith and love and gratitude were to be kept alive in their hearts, and through their association together in this sacred service they were to be bound closer to God and to one another.

“In the days of Christ these feasts were attended by vast multitudes of people from all lands; and had they been kept as God intended, in the spirit of true worship, the light of truth might through them have been given to all the nations of the world.

“With those who lived at a distance from the tabernacle, more than a month of every year must have been occupied in attendance upon these holy convocations. The Lord saw that these gatherings were necessary for the spiritual life of His people. They needed to turn away

from their worldly cares, to commune with God, and to contemplate unseen realities.

“If the children of Israel needed the benefit of these holy convocations in their time, how much more do we need them in these last days of peril and conflict! And if the people of the world then needed the light which God had committed to His church, how much more do they need it now!” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 38–40

“As far as possible our camp meetings should be wholly devoted to spiritual interests. They should not be made occasions for the transaction of business.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 44

“There must be time for heart searching, for soul culture. When the mind is occupied with matters of business, there must necessarily be a dearth of spiritual power. Personal piety, true faith, and heart holiness must be kept before the mind until the people realize their importance.

“We must have the power of God in our camp meetings, or we shall not be able to prevail against the enemy of souls. Christ says: ‘Without Me ye can do nothing.’

“Those who gather at camp meetings must be impressed with the fact that the object of the meetings is to attain to a higher Christian experience, to advance in the knowledge of God, to become strengthened with spiritual vigor; and unless we realize this, the meetings will to us be fruitless.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 45–46

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ICHTHYS (ΙΧΘΥΣ)

“And Jesus said unto them, Come after me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” Luke 5:10

THE “GREEK” CONNECTION

The fish symbol’s first known use as a Christian religious symbol was sometime within the first three centuries A.D. Possibly around the 16th century, Christians began using the Greek word “Ichthys” for “fish.” “Ichthys” is the most commonly used word in the New Testament for fish.

Like the cross, the fish is evidence of God’s prefiguring to prepare humanity for the great sacrifice of Jesus. The Christian fish symbol is used by Christians because Christ, in choosing His disciples, chose fishermen on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, calling them to follow Him, saying He would make them “fishers of men.”

Only people knowing this story would know the meaning of the fish symbol (<>) so Christians used it when they were being persecuted in Rome as a secret way of signaling to other Christians that they were Christian.

The fish outline is a logical symbol for the early Christian church to adopt. Not only was fish a common food of the day, it was also used by Jesus during His ministry.

Furthermore, “Ichthys” consists of five letters from the Greek alphabet: **I-ch-th-y-s**. When these five letters are used as initials for five words, we obtain this Christian Declaration:

<u>Greek meaning:</u>	I (Iota) <u>Iesous</u>	X (Chi) <u>Christos</u>
<u>English translation:</u>	Jesus	Christ
Q (Theta) <u>Theou</u>	Y (Upsilon) <u>Yios</u>	S (Sigma) <u>Soter</u>
Of God	Son	Saviour

GONE FISHING

In our opening verse from Mark, Christ is preaching to the people out of Peter’s ship, for want of a better pulpit. The recompense He made to Peter for the loan of his boat, in a miraculous draught of fish, by which He intimated to him and his partners His design to make

them apostles, fishers of men (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17). The crowd flocked about Him and pressed upon Him. He was forced to draw them out to the sand, that they might be reminded of the promise made to Abraham, that his seed should be as the sand upon the sea shore (Genesis 22:17); and yet of them but a remnant shall be saved (Romans 9:27).

Jesus called to Peter to “launch out into the deep, and let down your nets into the sea.” (Luke 5:4). It was not the Sabbath day, and therefore, as soon as the sermon was over, He set them to work—Simon and Andrew; the other boat belonged to Zebedee and his sons (v. 2). Christ will launch out with Peter and his ship’s crew into the deep but with Peter saying, “Master we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing” (v. 4–5). The race is not always to the swift!

When we have rested all night, let us not forget those that have toiled all night long, as Jacob, when he kept Laban’s sheep (Genesis 29). Yet, these fishermen were industrious and Christ singled them out for His favorites with no assurance of any worldly success! We must do our duty and leave the event to God!

Although they had not taken any catch—nothing—if Christ asked them to “let down for a draught” they will hope to take something. Ah! We must not also quit abruptly the callings wherein we are called because we have no success in what we promised ourselves! The ministers of the gospel must continue to “let down that net,” though they may have perhaps toiled long and caught nothing—and a sign to continue unwearied in our labours, though we see not the success of them.

THE GOSPEL NET

The draught of fish they caught was so much beyond what was ever known that it amounted to a miracle (v.6); such a catch that their net broke, yet strangely

they did not lose their draught. It was such a draught that they had to call their partners, who were at a distance, to come and help them (v. 7); they were wonder-struck as was James and John who were partners with Simon (v. 9–10). Christ's recompenses for services done in His name are abundant, they are superabundant! All the boat's crew were astonished at the draught of fishes they had taken (v.9). They that were well acquainted with this sea, and it is probable had plied upon it many years, had never seen such a draught of fish fetched out of it, nor anything like it, anything near it, and could not diminish it as being accidental. Those that were best acquainted with Christ's miracles—most admired them!

Peter, above all the rest, was astonished and fell at Jesus' knees as he sat in the stern of the boat and said as one in ecstasy as not knowing where he was, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (v. 8). We must therefore fall down at His knees, to pray Him that He would not depart; for woe unto us if He leaves us, if the Saviour departs from the sinful man.

Christ thusly intended hereby to give a specimen to those who were to be His ambassadors to the world, Galilean fishermen mostly, of the success of their embassy, that though they might for a time and in one particular place toil and catch nothing, yet they should be instrumental to bring in many to Christ, and enclose many in the gospel net. His purpose was to make them His apostles and instruments in planting His religion to the world. Christ told Peter, "henceforth thou shalt catch men" by enclosing them in the gospel net (v. 10). "Although uneducated (humble, unlearned, or untutored) uncultured, they became men of refinement and ability (*My Life Today*, p. 96; *The Desire of Ages*, p. 249–250).

FISHERMAN'S FAREWELL

The fisherman's farewell was such that when they brought their ships to land, instead of going to seek for a market for their fish, that they might make the best hand they could of this miracle, they "forsook all and followed Him," being more solicitous to serve the interests of Christ than to advance any secular interests of their own.

They left all to follow Christ, when their calling prospered in their hands more than ever it had done and they had uncommon success in it. When riches increase, and we are therefore most in temptation to set our hearts upon them, then to quit them for the service of Christ—this is "thank-worthy!"

They not only left everything—their boats, nets, tackle, but an exceedingly large draught of fish which would yield extra money for their families! I wonder what the families responses were? "You left all the fish behind—remaining in the boat—to follow Jesus?"

SOUL FISHING!

Who did the catching here? Jesus caught these poor fishermen in His net; pulled right out of the water onto dry land! Jesus had a good day's fishing indeed, saying, I will make you fishers of men (v. 10). Just imagine if we really did use fishing as our model for evangelization! Imagine if we pulled in people "unwillingly!" Well, no fish is taken in willingly into a boat—invited into a fishing boat. No fisherman ever invited a fish into his boat.

But, isn't that what God had to do to save us—drag us in against our will? Think about it for a moment. You see, if it was up to us we would just as soon as stay in the water—stay in our old environment. We want to remain being our "old-man-selves!"

Let us look at Jesus, for a moment, catching Peter like a fish. Peter is kneeling in the stern of the boat, flipping, and flopping about—and finally realizes it's hopeless and. . . gives up! Look again. He's on his knees at the bottom of the boat, squirming about with the other gasping fish! He has lost control! He recognizes he is powerless! He blurts out in essence, "please let me go, You've beat me! I've lost! I'm a sinful man! Please go away and leave me!" (v. 8). This is proof that Jesus knew even more about fishing than Peter did, and the gift of fish, which more than compensated for the futile work of the preceding night.

Let us look at this grim but interesting picture of what salvation is really like. Ah! But look at God's passionate initiative that conquers our resistance in pursuit of this salvation first.

GAME FISH

Now, when you catch fish, you take them forcibly out of one world into another, out of their natural environment of water into a foreign environment or element, where they are not at home. Scientists have named and described more than 24,000 kinds of fish and more are being discovered regularly. Scientists that study fish are called "ichthyologists."

The foreign world of air is so close by. It is always there just above the water's surface. If it were not there, fish would suffocate from lack of oxygen. They breathe mainly by means of gills. Unlike land animals, almost all fish get their oxygen from water. Water contains a cer-

tain amount of dissolved oxygen. To get oxygen, fish gulp water through the mouth and pump it over the gills. They absorb oxygen from the water and replace it with carbon dioxide formed during the breathing process. But, as close as it is there and necessary as air is for fish, they can't live above there!



It is helplessness and death to them! They need water to survive; either in freshwater or saltwater environments.

So, that's exactly what you do when you catch fish. You take them out of one world into another bizarre world. So that's what Jesus did to Peter. He pulled him out of his own native environment or element into the foreign environment of "discipleship!" Now, isn't that what the mission of the church is? Isn't it to be "pulling" people out of one world into another? But, like Peter, we resist; "Oh no, God, don't take me out of here—I can't live there!" You see, we like to remain in familiar waters.

Ah! Then we have to surrender, submit, and trust that we can survive in this new environment and even. . . thrive in it! Yes, we are fish out of the water and dragged into the boat. Furthermore, it means we play by new rules—the rules of the "Fisherman!"

STEAL INTO HEAVEN

When you are on the ocean, what do you see? The water, of course, and the sky. When you are on the ocean you can see that the sky comes right down to the surface of the water! How far away is the sky? How high above earth does heaven start? Well, Mother Theresa once pointed to the ground and said that "it is heaven all the way up."

So, think of our world as the water and we as the fish. There is another world right above our heads pressing down on us all around. Sometimes the boundary and the surface are broken down. Heaven touches the earth. Eternity enters time!

What happened to Isaiah in Isaiah chapter 6? He was standing in the temple, praying to an unseen God. When suddenly the boundary was opened and he could see the unseeable, but always—but always true—how close heaven is. In fact, the earth was inside heaven, and the whole earth was one corner of God's colossal

throne.

There was God seated before him like a mountain, and His robe filled the temple. Isaiah saw the seraphim—burning ones—attending God! He then heard them calling each other and to each other, "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

Why do we sing this and pray this every Sabbath? Not just to remember the Sabbath but to acknowledge the divine reality—the unseen—but true! So that through our voice heaven should enter earth and earth touches heaven. We are in both worlds! Can you understand that? When we worship, when we pray together in church, we are standing in heaven and a Holy God is in our midst to speak to us and make us holy also.

Heaven is always pressing down on our lives, on our homes, on our church—and it is our "job" to live in heaven! In Greek, "Holy, Holy, Holy," is sung "Aghios, Aghios, Aghios"—a popular hymn.

Anywhere in the world can't people see that heaven is right there where they are? The church is the "indispensable" companion for us, wherever we travel or visit in this world.

GO TO THE HEART

That leads us to the question—what does it mean to be a Christian—to the heart of the question! Well, there are many definitions, **one who abhors evil** (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 171); **aim to reach highest attainments for doing good to others** (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 119); **a poor man's friend** (*Welfare Ministry*, p. 168); **stands firm as a rock** in testing time (*The Great Controversy*, p. 602); **whose first duty is obedience to God** (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 610); **holy and happy confidence in God** (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 377); **to bear fruit** (*Testimony Treasures*, vol. 2, p. 72). These are merely a sampling of a Christian, but does not relate to professed or nominal Christians—but to the true, genuine Christian.

Ah! There is a favorite one directly from the Bible that shows us something very differently and simply which can lead us to an acceptable answer as well for many; and which directs us to Isaiah chapter 6 again for reemphasis. Isaiah, whose name means "salvation of the Lord" shows us something very different; that we are standing in the midst of something vast and great, and with a stupendous holiness to make us "terrified!"

What does it mean to be a Christian?! **It means to always be in God's presence**—to live my life in terms of

what Isaiah saw; to be convicted, though I cannot see it, that I am daily living in the presence of the Lord! This does not mean just in church, but wherever I walk, or sit, or stand, or talk, or work, or sleep, or study, or shop, or throw a ball!! But, **“always in the presence of God!”**

Sometimes I am faced towards God. Sometimes I am faced away from God—toward the world. Sometimes I am faced sideways—toward my neighbour. However, whatever, and wherever—**I am in God’s presence!**

ELIJAH

Ah! My favorite definition of what it is to be a Christian was taken from a moving and powerful scene.

In the Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool (Great Britain) there was a performance of Felix Mendelssohn’s (a Lutheran Christian) “ELIJAH.” As the celebrated conductor stepped up to the podium, the orchestra was silent, the lights were dimmed, and a renowned baritone stood up and eloquently sang from “ELIJAH” (1 Kings 17:1), “As God the Lord of Israel liveth, before whom I stand there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my Word.” **“As God the Lord of Israel liveth, before whom I stand!”** That is it! Eureka! That is my current definition of what it means to be a Christian. That I am **always standing in the presence of the living God of Israel who is my God because of Jesus Christ!**

I am standing like one of the seraphims—praising God.

I am standing like a poet—gazing in God’s face.

I am standing like Isaiah—like a prophet, a messenger awaiting instructions and the message I must go out with.

I am standing like a butler—but serving God.

I am standing like a “lady-in-waiting”—waiting on the Lord.

I am standing like Peter in the bottom of the boat—kneeling down, then getting up—and following Jesus.

Again, what does it mean to be a Christian??!! **It is to walk in Holiness**—Holiness as close as Heaven, pressing down upon us—all around us.

I SURRENDER NOW?

Ah! But what does holiness demand of us? How much do we have to surrender? How much do we have to leave behind—to leave everything and follow Jesus—as the disciples did? To leave “everything” and follow Jesus? Isn’t it necessary that holiness means “removal” from the world—like being pulled up out of the water into God’s boat—losing our cherished freedom and our

right to life as we know and desire it??

We have been caught! God catches us—we don’t catch God. There is a new set of rules. Remember the Ten Commandments? (Exodus 20:1–17). Yes, most certainly we have been caught and we now belong to Him!

“We no longer belong to ourselves. He has redeemed us on the Cross. He who is truly converted begins in earnest. He must now work as Christ worked. He must not live any longer to himself, but wholly for the Lord. The world has lost him; for his life is hid with Christ in God; that means that self has no longer the supremacy.” *The Review and Herald*, October 6, 1891

But, look—after all our flipping, and flopping, and squirming, as we lie dying in the bottom of the reeking, fetid stench of the boat—Jesus gently grabs us, puts a tag on us, and throws us back into the cold dark waters.

Ah! Holiness now means returning to the world and living our lives within this world; the very same lives as everybody else, **ONLY** living our lives according to the pattern, instructions, and life of **“the living God of Israel before whom I stand.”**

Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord, “Whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me.” Isaiah 6:8)

Ah! But holiness is both wonderful and dangerous at the same time. Isaiah saw the danger of the burning seraphims; the hot coals on the altar; this burning passion of our God; the hot coals on Isaiah’s lips; hot coals to cleanse us and make us pure and fit to live in both worlds—simultaneously!

Many don’t know who they are or how to live. They don’t know God. Once we leave our old life behind we are breathing in the clean air of God’s kingdom. Of course we feel different as Christians. Well, we should—because we are different!

It is only when we accept Jesus as our Saviour that we know how different God makes us—that we are able to make any real difference in this world in our faith-walk!

The holiness of God is full of compassion for the world. This holiness is right here! God is right here!

Can’t you see?

Do you desire it? Amen and amen! <><

John Theodorou,
U.S.A. <><



As Many As Six Children

“They want you down in Australia,” said Brother Haskell to Sister White. “Our work is new there, and the needs of our people are many. If you would go and strengthen them in their faith by your courage and your counsel, they would love you and follow you, and it would be a wonderful blessing to the work of God.”

In 1885, Brother Haskell took a company of men and women and went to Australia. He went to New Zealand too, which is a thousand miles to the southeast of Australia. In both these countries he and his helpers taught the truth, and within a year there were 250 believers. One of them, Robert Hare, came to America to get training for the work. He went back in 1888, and had worked there ever since. The very first year after Brother Haskell and his company arrived, a young minister, Arthur G. Daniells, went down, first to New Zealand, then to Australia. By the time they called for Sister White, they had five hundred Seventh-Day Adventists down there. That was just a beginning.

Sister White said, “I will go.” And late in the year 1891 she did go, taking with her, her son, William C. White, Elder George B. Starr and his wife, and four helpers. For nine years Sister white remained in Australia. She gave great courage to the believers, who multiplied to more than two thousand. And she led them in teaching the gospel, in publishing, in medical work, and most of all in schoolwork. It was here that she got them to build their training school, or college, in the country, at Coorabong. She lived right there with them, and made that school the model for all other schools in the church.

And she did not forget the children. She knew that if we are to have strong and true men and women as workers, we must start with them young. So she said there should be Christian schools started for them, even “if there are no more than six children to attend.” She said this, and wrote this, down in Australia, and the

brethren and sisters there tried to do as she said.

But it was in America that her words took greatest hold. The first school was at Battle Creek, begun a quarter of a century before. And it was at Battle Creek College, in 1897, that what we now know as the elementary church school system was begun. The teachers in the college studied what Sister White had written, and they decided that they must start a movement to have church schools everywhere.

Professor Frederick Griggs was at the head of the training of teachers, and the President of the College was Edward Sutherland. They began to train teachers for the church schools. And almost before they began, God moved on the hearts of some of His people to call for teachers for their children.

Away up in northern Michigan there was a little church at Bear Lake. Elder Luther Warren, who when a boy was the first one to start young people’s societies, held some meetings which brought out this company of believers. And he taught them that they should not send their children to worldly schools but should have a Christian school for them.

One of the families he taught was that of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Alkire. In the spring of 1897 Brother and Sister Alkire wrote to President Sutherland that they wanted a teacher to start a school for their children. It was the first call that had come for a church school teacher, and there was no one yet ready to start such a school. During the summer, letters traveled back and forth, while down at the college, President Sutherland was trying to get some teachers ready.

Then in the fall, sad news came. Brother Alkire had died. But Sister Alkire wrote that still they must have the school. So Professor Griggs went up to see them. And there, as the cold winter began, the heart of the

church was warmed, and they decided that they would start the school. Professor Griggs came back and called for a teacher. By this time there were four other churches calling for teachers, and five young men and women offered to leave their college studies and go out to start the church school work.

Up to Bear Lake was sent a teacher named Maud Wolcott. It was a cold, white world to which she came. The snow piled up in drifts higher than the heads of children and grownups, and the lakes were frozen over. One time when it was too cold for the horses to go, Miss Wolcott, with her oldest pupil, Laura, walked five miles to Sabbath school, and over the ice on the lake. She froze her nose and ears, but she got to Sabbath school, where she was superintendent, and opened it on time.

This church school was held out in the country, in the farmhouse of Sister Alkire. It was not a big house. It had only two rooms and a shed on the first floor, and the upstairs was only partly finished, with a little room for the teacher and a big room for the family. The only heat they had was from the kitchen stove below and from a sheet-iron stove in the front room.

That front room was the schoolroom. They had tables and chairs for desk and seats. They had a homemade blackboard. And they had a parlor organ. That was the center of cheer, for on it the teacher taught the first lessons in music, and she played it to lead them in the songs with which they brightened the day.

Besides the five children in the Alkire family, other children of the church came, so that there were thirteen students in this first church school. It was a brave thing this dear mother undertook, to have this school.

They had many blessed times that year, that showed the Lord had His hand over them. Once, in the dead of winter, the roof of their house caught fire, and if it had burned down, that would have been the end of the church school, and the family would have had nowhere to live. But the children and the teacher put out the fire. Laura climbed a rickety ladder to the roof outside, and the children passed up buckets of water to her. Miss Wolcott and Alice went upstairs, and piled up chairs on which the teacher stood and dashed up dip-

pers of water that Alice handed to her.

The mother did not know of the fire, for she was out in the barn loft, praying for her children and the teacher and the school. She was weary and sad, because she had lost her husband, and she prayed that the Lord would not desert her, and her fatherless children. All without her knowing, the Lord was right then helping her children and the teacher save their home and school. When she came out she was astonished, for she saw that God had answered her prayer.

So the church school work was started, in November and December of 1897. Before the end of the school year there were fifteen of these schools, and every year the number grew. Every year things got a little better. More churches took hold, better schoolhouses were built, new textbooks were written, and more teachers were trained.



When Sister White learned of the church school movement in America, she was very glad. "This is just what should be done," she said, "and this is what should have been done long ago. God will bless this work, and make it pay, in souls saved and children trained up in the ways of God, to become workers in His cause." She wrote a good deal about how church schools should be carried on, what should be taught in

them, and how the teachers and the parents should work together in making them a success.

In 1900 Sister White came back to America. She bought a home in California, just below the St. Helena Sanitarium, which is built on the side of a mountain. And Sister White lived for the rest of her life in this home. She named it Elmshaven, because there were great elms arching over the house, and here was a harbour or haven to shelter her in her old age. Sometimes she took long journeys to teach in the conferences and in the churches. But mostly she wrote, preparing more books to teach the truth and to guide the church in the right way. And always on her heart was the loving burden for the children—the children in the home, the children in the church, the children of every nation and kindred and race, the children of the great family of God, whom Jesus loves.

Concerning missionary work, we need to understand what is required of us by the Lord, and whatever we do, one needs to dedicate oneself to the Lord, it being just doing the washing up after a meal (this is mentioned in the "Spirit of Prophecy") or cooking a good vegetarian meal for the family or friends, digging the garden to grow your own organic vegetables, planting fruit trees, preaching a sermon, visiting the sick, or house to house work, etc. All of our "wayside ministry" needs to be dedicated. Here are some suggestions that you may like to follow, and you can improve upon them if you wish.

It is recorded in Proverbs 11:30, last part; "And he that winneth souls is wise."

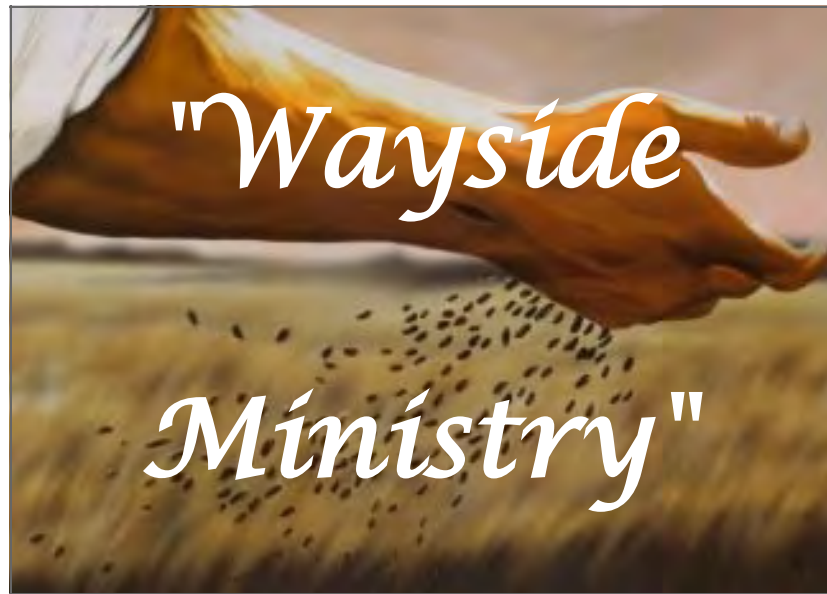
DIRECT APPROACH:

- Door to door visitation, selling books, etc. Tracts given out personally.
- Sign up students for the "Know Your Bible Correspondence Course."
- Visit rest homes, hospitals, prisons, etc.
- Visit ships in the harbour; go two by two in this.
- TV and radio message talks, contact stations.
- Vegetarian cooking classes.
- Offer labour on a donation basis for charity. Work in the community.
- Temperance talks to interested groups.
- Organize and open a welfare facility by renting a small shop or garage, etc.
- Visit family members, leave books, etc.
- Write articles for the "Messenger."
- Hotel visitation, talking to tourists and giving out tracts.
- Encourage Bible Students to become agents for the course.

INDIRECT APPROACH:

- Personal letter writing.
- Leave tracts, etc. anywhere, bus seats, etc.
- Sign up "Know Your Bible" students on the phone or Internet.
- Include tracts in business payments.
- Letters to editor's magazines and newspapers.
- Post "Ministry of Healing" to health professionals.
- Make up an appeal letter for support for a country health work to friends.
- Make use of free advertising in community newspapers.
- Send out time prophecy, i.e. new world order information to lawyers, politicians, doctors, fire department and police department.
- Leave message literature in public libraries (but ask first).

Ernie Gale, New Zealand



"Wherever you are, let your light shine forth. Hand out papers and pamphlets to those with whom you associate, when you are riding on the cars, visiting, conversing with your neighbors; and improve every opportunity to speak a word in season." – Our High Calling, p. 301





Evangelistic Outreach in London, Canada

Dear brothers and sisters, from April 6–15 2012, the church in London held an Evangelistic Outreach, preaching Jesus to the people.

I know that evangelism is the dynamic heartbeat of the New Testament Church and should be a motivation for us to do the same as the disciples did when they were filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In *Gospel Workers*, page 352, it says “The work of God in this earth can never be finished **until** the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers” We are called to the same work, and we should be motivated by love in doing that. I would like to suggest to you in the future to express unity by coming out as much as possible to the meetings. Jesus wants you to be blessed by the message delivered in these meetings.

I personally am thankful to the Lord Jesus and our mighty God, the Father, for the people that came and responded to the invitation of the Holy Spirit. We found new, interested souls with this event; I am in touch with them, giving Bible studies and leading them to the foot of the cross, with God’s help.

I encourage you to do the same in your local church. Have at least two evangelistic meetings a year, to bring

in prayer to God your plan that it may be approved by heaven; then follow it, because Jesus is going to bless your efforts as you do that. Church members should be the first to attend. Invite your family, your neighbours, friends, workmates, etc.

“Our work has been marked out for us by our Heavenly Father. We are to take our Bibles, and go forth to warn the world. We are to be God’s helping hands in saving souls—channels through which His love is day by day to flow to the perishing.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 150

So, our heavenly Father invites us to do missionary work from house-to-house; this includes canvassing work, Bible studies, prayer cells with family members or friends, etc. Let us try everything God placed before us and let His Holy Spirit bring fruits through us.

I pray that each one of you may do the work God entrusted us with and I hope in the future there will be more unity among us when God calls you to preach, or to come and listen to the message God has for you.

This is my wish and prayer.

In Christ
Nicholas Anca.

“And to be instant ‘out of season’ is to be ready, when at the fireside, in the field, by the wayside, in the market, to turn the minds of men, in a suitable manner, to the great themes of the Bible, with tender, fervent spirit urging upon them the claims of God. Many, many such opportunities are allowed to slip by unimproved, because men are persuaded that it is out of season. But who knows what might be the effect of a wise appeal to the conscience?” –*Evangelism*, p. 430. “We should cultivate kindness and courtesy in our association with those whom we meet. Let us . . . strive always to present the truth in an easy way. This truth means life, eternal life to the receiver. Study therefore to pass easily and courteously from subjects of a temporal nature to the spiritual and eternal. . . . While walking by the way, or seated by the wayside, you may drop into some heart the seed of truth.” –*Our High Calling*, p. 301



The Hamilton Cooking Class and Health Seminar

On Sunday, May 6, 2012, the Hamilton Church held their spring Cooking Class and Health Seminar. Brother Evald Pedersen welcomed the audience and expounded the virtues of vegetarian cooking. He explained that many people are searching for healthful living and better health. He informed them that vegetarian foods are the best way to a happy and healthy life. He invited the audience to stand and Sister Rose Powell offered up prayers for the gathering.

The session was given over to Br. Jerry Eaton, who gave a lecture on the dangers of stress, and its effects upon our overall health. Each participant was given a hand-out on the effects of stress and how to mentally, physically and spiritually overcome it. The audience learned how to recognize stress and some solutions in not becoming a victim of stress and stressful situations. He concluded his lecture by inviting the audience to purchase the vegetarian cookbook and health course booklet.

The first cooking demonstration was presented by Sis. Wendy Eaton, who showed us how to make Sunflower Burgers. The audience was impressed with her alternative to breadcrumbs by using ground oats. She talked about her Parsley Tofu Salad Dressing, and recommended to the audience to make their own dressing, since it is impossible to find salad dressings in the store without vinegar. Her second recipe was the Tofu Pizza Casserole. This easy recipe was appreciated by all.

Sis. Franziska Pedersen introduced her first recipe—Millet Patties /Balls. Everyone agreed that it was a very healthy and tasty recipe. She discussed the benefits of quinoa from her Savoury Quinoa, which was not demonstrated, but pre-cooked for us to enjoy.

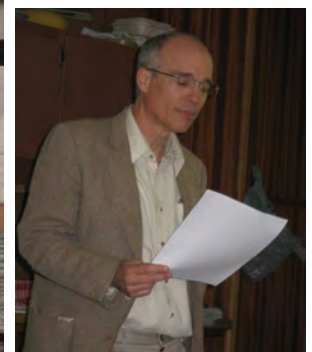
She informed the audience that quinoa was a complete protein and a good substitute for meat. Her second recipe was the Key Lime Pie. She distributed recipes for the various crusts that can be used for the pie. Sis. Pederson presented a pre-baked almond crust and demonstrated how to do the Key Lime Pie filling. The audience appreciated her demonstration.

Sis. Alina Anca explained how to prepare her pre-cooked Chick Pea Soup, and talked on how to make the Soybean Spread. The audience was pleased with her quick, efficient way to bake these recipes.

Br. Evald explained the benefits of juicing. He informed everyone that it is important to invest in a good juicer for optimum benefits. He explained that by cooking our food we destroy much of the vitamins and enzymes. It is recommended that we eat eighty percent of our food raw to get the most benefit from the food. He juiced some beets and carrots, as well as some celery, for the audience to sample.

Br. Jerry talked with the audience regarding the dangers of MSG (monosodium glutamate) and its effects on the body, particularly the brain. He then encouraged everyone to ask questions. The audience was well informed of the dangers of using animal products and the chemicals present in them. They also learned of the results it has on humans who eat them. After the question and answer session, all were invited to sample the

dishes prepared, which were enjoyed by ten visitors and twelve members.





Mission School Students' Experiences

The eight-month General Conference Missionary Training seminar has come to a close with graduation ceremonies being held in Toronto, Canada. The afternoon of Sabbath May 26th was devoted to the youth sharing their experiences following their practical work.

Brother Watts opened the meeting with Isaiah 6:8. "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." We have had some youth answer the call and the following are examples from their experiences.

Sister Nidia: (Montreal). After mission school, Nidia didn't think she could learn so much in so short at time; but here she was, one month later, stating she had learned a lot. Montreal was the hardest area for a practical; she felt like she was being kicked out of the nest and having to fly on her own. She was with new missionaries and Johanna was very pregnant. Her French language also was very basic. Thankfully Miguel, who had picked up the French language, went canvassing with her. He did all the French speaking and said, "Practice until you learn." She did. . . and finally she did get better and was able to go alone.

Although she sold no books, she made five positive contacts. Most studies are with Seventh-Day Adventist's. On occasion she was discouraged before going canvassing and told God she didn't want to do it, but each time she came back she was much happier. Before this she had never been present at a Bible Study and one day Renzo told her she was going to do the study. She asked, "How do I do it?" He told her to just pick a topic and talk about it. She ended up giving several Bible studies.

Another big part was speaking. There are really only 2 members in Montreal—Renzo and Johanna. So they wanted to use her; one Sabbath she gave the sermon, the afternoon meeting and Sabbath closing. . . and had to do translating also. Overall she realized she had been too reliant on family and friends when times got tough. She had to learn to rely on God for everything in Montreal. Although it was really hard, she was blessed to go there.

Adrian: (Calgary). Adrian stated that he had many experiences in Calgary; they really squeezed everything out of him. He got so tired that he got tired of being tired. He had learned to witness wherever he was and shared an experience on the airplane where he witnessed to a young woman about faith. He encouraged her to read her Bible and she shared her email address for follow up. Prior to mission school, there were many things that would make

him proud, but he sees that all flesh is as grass and that we should give all glory to God. You really have to rely on the Lord for everything in the mission field. He then shared his experiences, his visitations, canvassing, and Bible studies. Adrian was also able to encourage the youth in the church in Calgary. He was asked to preach two sermons and open the Sabbath on two occasions.

Brenda: (Cedartown). Brenda did her practical at the General Conference headquarters in Cedartown, USA. She shared an experience prior to the end of the mission school about a contact that was made of a person that she was giving piano lessons to. Now one sister is still working with this lady and she is taking cooking classes about three times per week. A lot of what Brenda did was working to get everything ready for South Africa. She helped Brother Hunger, Sister Orce and others. She helped send books to the mission school students in Vancouver who had run out of them. Although she wasn't going door to door, she was doing other things such as teaching in the children's Sabbath school. She was asked if she could be the regular earliteen Sabbath School teacher, and fortunately the subject matter was basically what she had just learned in mission school. She also taught in Cedar Christian school when a teacher was sick. Brenda really enjoyed working with the youth people and children. Now she is going back to Cedartown to be with Karola while everyone else is in South Africa.

Danny: (Vancouver). He stated that his experience in Vancouver was amazing. Initially he didn't want to go to Vancouver, but rather he wanted to stay in Toronto and start his career. Before Mission school he had just graduated from University and it was a hard decision to decide whether to go to mission school or Vancouver. He went to interviews but prayed that no job would come of it and since nothing happened, he went to mission school. In Vancouver, they canvassed for three hours every day. The first day was tough—going out and talking to people for three hours, when talking to people is not his forté. The first day all the doors closed and Danny had the wind taken out of sails. He thought—four more weeks? He told Brother Oscar that he was not sure he could do it. That night he prayed and after that every day he had some positive experiences. Most people were not interested in religion and so Danny started to canvass with the health message. The first day he did that, a man started talking to him about religion.

For the first time in his life, Danny got the chance to

preach. It was nerve wracking, but it was a blessed experience. He was very involved in the church in Vancouver. In the end Danny, enjoyed the experiences and developed good habits by having constant communion with the Lord. He is thankful for the time he spent in Vancouver.

Richard: (Edmonton). Richard shared many experiences which he had made in Edmonton, which began on his plane flight where he had a religious conversation with a Christian lady who sat next to him. In Edmonton, he went canvassing four to five hours per day. Although it was cold initially, he went forward by faith with Brother Clyve Russell. From his experience Richard states that nine out of ten people are interested in health and that is the approach he used. They went all over Edmonton, even in apartment buildings, where they were told in the end they could not be there without permission.

On Sabbath, Brother Russell and Richard spent the day sharing their experiences and studying the lessons since we do not have a meeting place in Edmonton yet. They stayed in the house of a relative of Brother Clyve's who travels a lot for his work. Richard shared the experience of how he witnessed on Sabbath to this man's young daughter. Richard also gave several Bible studies in Edmonton.

Richard then went on to Calgary for a week where he made a positive experience with the health seminar. Brother Elder told him that they would look at him as a health expert and would ask him lots of questions. He prayed to the Lord that he would be able to answer the questions. Richard thanked the Lord for all of his experiences.

Leo: (Toronto). Leo and Emelina did their practical with Brother Jerry Eaton. In their canvassing work, they made a range of experiences. Leo learned that health is a good way to start to lower the walls. Also, when speaking to a person, not to stand too far away, but close enough to connect. One gentleman asked us who we were, in a defensive way, and slammed the door. But it was ok. With Jerry there, it helped us and was a good experience. . . this way we learn how to cope in these situations and not to take it personally. In London, the people were very friendly. Emelina and Leo presented the afternoon

meeting and the Sabbath School. He shared the experience they made with making a courtesy visit to a church on Sunday. They learned how to work in this situation and to create an interest in people. Jerry shared with Leo some practical tips to improve his work. He had been speaking in a monotone voice. He needed more enthusiasm. Jerry said he was improving. We all have to learn to be a minute-man. Overall, Leo stated he learned a lot from his practical work.

Mark Anthony: (USA). He shared his experiences of how the Lord provided means for him to travel to visit his relatives in Ohio, then to Chicago, and finally to Canada. He had no job and no money for travel up until the day of his departure, but he went by faith and the Lord provided. He wanted to begin his practical with his family and then move on.

At the last moment someone gave him gas money and he went. He shared with us his experiences in Ohio and Chicago and how the health message was a blessing for those whom he met.

The Lord provided for Mark all along the way and he decided that he will just keep on planning. When people ask him how he will get to his destination, he said he didn't know but God will provide and God has provided. Praise the Lord.

Eric: (Vancouver). Eric stated that he was happy to be back in Toronto. He and Danny went to Vancouver. He also had wanted to stay in Toronto, but while in Cerdartown he was asked to go to South Africa to translate for the Korean delegates during the GC session, so he realized that this summer was for the Lord, so he went to Vancouver. The first few days of canvassing he could not sell a single book. Then he paired up with Brother Oscar Oveido and together with him they made some interesting experiences.

Eric learned three major things in mission school. 1) Only the Holy Spirit knows the truth. We should not judge people by their external appearance. Some people look holy and kind but don't accept the truth. Only God can read the heart. 2) He was discouraged and disappointed many times, but through these times he learned to trust God and let Him lead. We may be disappointed by our fellow



Back L to R; Danny, Adrian, Richard, Brother Watts, Mark, Eric , Leo. Front L to R: Brenda, Nidia, Emelina

brothers but we need to forgive and unite. 3) We need to call sin by its right name. We cannot tolerate sin, but meet it in the spirit of Christ. We should care about our brother's and sister's salvation. Eric said he learned he needed to be humble. Please pray for the mission school students.

Emelina: (Toronto). She shared that it was nice to have someone we know to teach us the "ropes" of canvassing. One of the things that God prompted her to do was to take these experiences to her workplace. Emelina went to her boss and a co-worker and shared with them all her mission school experiences. She is hoping to connect with an old school mate who is a Christian and with whom she shared a lot with spiritually. She hopes they can have Bible studies. The whole Mission School experience from beginning to end taught Emelina a lot. When you get



discouraged, you can turn to God and see that He is leading. One of the things she is thankful for is that God has shown her the purpose He has for her life. Although they finished the mission school, they still need to continue to learn from the elders in the church.

Brother Watts concluded by stating that the purpose of the mission school was to teach the students practical missionary work, how to study for themselves and also how to deal with difficult situations. He has seen the children mature into adults, and he prayed that all of them will be faithful to Jesus Christ.

Let us all go to work for the Lord. Let us put our shoulder to the work and work for the unity of the church. Let us build up each other and help bear each other's burdens. We must help others. With these words, Brother Watts thanked the Lord for the privilege of being here and the opportunity to conduct this mission school for the honour and glory of God.



“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.” Isaiah 57:20–21

**“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:7**



“Sin has destroyed our peace. While self is unsubdued, we can find no rest. The masterful passions of the heart no human power can control. We are as helpless here as were the disciples to quiet the raging storm. But He who spoke peace to the billows of Galilee has spoken the word of peace for every soul.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 336