



The Reformation
Messenger

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“Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without the Father’s notice. Satan’s hatred against God leads him to hate every object of the Saviour’s care. He seeks to mar the handiwork of God, and he delights in destroying even the dumb creatures. . . .

“It is only through God’s protecting care that the birds are preserved to gladden us with their songs of joy. But He does not forget even the sparrows. ‘Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.’” – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 356–357

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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Back Cover Photo:
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Inside Cover:
Wendy Eaton, Philippines
(Rice Field)

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- Tel: 905-876-2518
- E-mail: ismessenger@yahoo.com
- Internet: www.ismessenger.org



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Partakers of the Divine Nature

Jesus, being Divine, came to this earth and clothed His Divinity with humanity. He came to live a sinless life and die the perfect sacrifice in our behalf.

This is where many Christians stop. They see it as a business transaction. Jesus did His part on Calvary, and therefore we now have the opportunity to obtain eternal life if we only believe (passively). The world focuses on Jesus' birth. Christmas is a time when almost the entire world feasts in celebration of the birth of Jesus. Then Easter is another opportunity for feasting as they celebrate His death, burial and resurrection. What about His life in between? We do not hear as much emphasis on this portion. Yes, His miracles are made mention of, but what about His overcoming of sin? Did He have a struggle or was it easy? After all, He was God, so the common belief is that He could not sin.

Since it is well known that Jesus did not sin, the question is, How did He do it? Was it simply because He was God—so it was an easy task?

By reading the account of the struggle in the wilderness after His baptism and also the experience in the Garden of Gethsemane we are given a glimpse of the great struggle He went through. This struggle is much greater than any man will ever have to endure. But if you ask most Christians (even some in God's church), they do not believe anyone has to go through such struggles to resist sin. It is not possible to ever overcome sin because Jesus was God, and we are not, so we do not have to worry, or concern ourselves with overcoming sin because it will not happen in this lifetime. The false belief that we have a sinful human nature and will never be able to overcome sin in this life is rife in the Christian world.

JESUS

Although He is God, He took on humanity. He did it to give mankind an example of obedience. "Christ brought men and women power to overcome." —*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 226. He did not use any of His own strength to overcome sin. He relied on His heavenly Father. Humanity and Divinity were combined. "Christ did not exchange His divinity for humanity, but combined humanity with divinity; and in humanity He lived the law in behalf of the human family." —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 492

How low did He condescend to lower Himself? Think of Jesus, the baby in a manger, the Son of God. What a contrast from the King of Glory who created the heavens and the earth. "How wide is the contrast between the divinity of Christ and the helpless infant in Bethlehem's manger! How can we span the distance between the mighty God and a helpless child? And yet the Creator of worlds, He in whom was the fullness of the Godhead bodily, was manifest in the helpless babe in the manger. Far higher than any of the angels, equal with the Father in dignity and glory, and yet wearing the garb of humanity! Divinity and humanity were mysteriously combined, and man and God became one." —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 48. This great God, lowered Himself to become one single cell.

Yet this condescension, rather than showing weakness, shows what a great and loving God we serve. "In Christ, divinity and humanity were combined. Divinity was not degraded to humanity; divinity held its place, but humanity by being united to divinity withstood the fiercest test of temptation in the wilderness." —*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 408

LINK

Why did He do it? Because of love. Love to you and to me. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. "As the Son of man, He gives us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey." — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 24

This taking on of humanity was not just something He did for 33 ½ years. No, this is for eternity. "He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken." — *Steps to Christ*, p. 14

"For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren." Hebrews 2:11. What a wonderful Saviour and Redeemer we have. He is willing to call us brethren. All our sordid past life He is willing to forget when we repent, and He then considers us one of His family members. "He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:9

"Then tell the people that **Christ came in human form, that His humanity might touch humanity, and that His Divinity might lay hold upon Divinity.** His servants are to be linked together." — *Christ Triumphant*, p. 66

"Christ laid aside His royal robe and kingly crown, and stepped down from His high command, in order that He, Divinity and humanity combined, **might make Himself a stepping stone whereby man might reach heaven.** This He did that men might stand on vantage ground with God. His holiness imbues the life of everyone who eats the bread of life and drinks the water of salvation. He who receives and practices the words of Christ has eternal life. This life is in him, because he is in Christ." — *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, p. 199

A PARTAKER OF DIVINITY

The main purpose of Christ taking on humanity is for the purpose of reconciling mankind to God once more; making this reconciliation possible. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Romans 5:10 "He who created all things in heaven and in earth, and by Whom all things hold together, is the head of the church, and that by His power

we are reconciled to God." — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 288

The question can be asked, Can man be a partaker of Divinity? How do we explain the union of humanity and divinity in mankind? "The parable of the wedding garment opens before us a lesson of the highest consequence. **By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with Divinity;** the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding." — *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 307. We are one in Christ. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in Me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in Us." John 17:21. "**Divinity needed humanity; for it required both the Divine and the human to bring salvation to the world. Divinity needed humanity, that humanity might afford a channel of communication between God and man.**" — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 296



If you come to Christ He will accept you as you are, today. Just come. "The Bible does not teach that the sinner must repent before he can heed the invitation of Christ, 'Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.' Matthew 11:28. It is the virtue that goes forth from Christ, that leads to genuine repentance. . . We can no more repent without

the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ." — *Steps to Christ*, p. 26

"**He clothed His divinity with humanity.** . . ." What does this now mean for us? What are you willing to give to Jesus in return? ". . . are you willing to deny self and follow your Saviour? Oh, do not trifle away the few moments left you by seeking worldly honor and thus lose the precious boon of everlasting life!" — *Christ Triumphant*, p. 65

Jesus says, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24. He actually laid it out for us when He said, "Be ye therefore perfect." Matthew 5:48. We can also read that, "There is no excuse for sin or for indolence." — *Faith and Works*, p. 49. "Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not." 1 John 3:6. It is plain and simple. Christ never asks something of us that is not possible to perform when our humanity is connected to the Divinity of Christ, and in Christ, we can overcome every sin. . . yes, every single one, even in this life.

This is where a true understanding of the blending of faith and works is important. "He who is trying to reach

heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. Man cannot be saved without obedience, but his works should not be of himself.” – *Faith and Works*, p. 94 This is the key, “his works should not be of himself.” While we are told to, “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” let us remember that it is, “God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12, 13

“God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ’s character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, **the Saviour showed that through co-operation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God’s assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory.**” – *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 531

Those who teach that it is impossible to keep the law of God are not receiving their messages from God. “Satan had claimed that it was impossible for man to obey God’s commandments; and in our own strength it is true that we cannot obey them. **But Christ came in the form of humanity, and by His perfect obedience He proved that humanity and divinity combined can obey every one of God’s precepts.**” – *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 314. “Christ took upon Himself humanity for us. He clothed His Divinity, and Divinity and humanity were combined. He showed that that law which Satan declared could not be kept, could be kept. Christ took humanity to stand here in our world, to show that Satan had lied. He took humanity upon Himself to demonstrate that with **Divinity and humanity combined, man could keep the law of Jehovah.** Separate humanity from Divinity, and you can try to work out your own righteousness from now till Christ comes, and it will be nothing but a failure.” – *Faith and Works*, p. 71

And if you feel you cannot overcome sin, just come to Jesus. You do not need to struggle alone. You just have to be willing to work with Him. “The Saviour took upon Himself the infirmities of humanity, and lived a sinless life, that men might have no fear that because of the weakness of human nature they could not overcome. Christ came to make us ‘partakers of the divine nature,’ and **His life declares that humanity, combined with divinity, does not commit sin.**” – *Temperance*, p. 107. He is our Pattern. He proved that It can be done, by connecting humanity with Divinity; through Christ alone. “Genuine faith appropriates the righteousness of Christ, and the sinner is made an overcomer with Christ; for **he is made a partaker of the divine nature, and thus divinity and humanity are combined.**” – *Faith and Works*, p. 93. “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and pre-

vious 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 “Men may have a power to resist evil—a power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master; a power that will place them where they may overcome as Christ overcame. **Divinity and humanity may be combined in them.**” – *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 409

And He means forever, “**With humanity and divinity combined you can accomplish a work as enduring as eternity.**” – *Faith and Works*, p. 27. “For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” Hebrews 13:5. Never, no not ever.

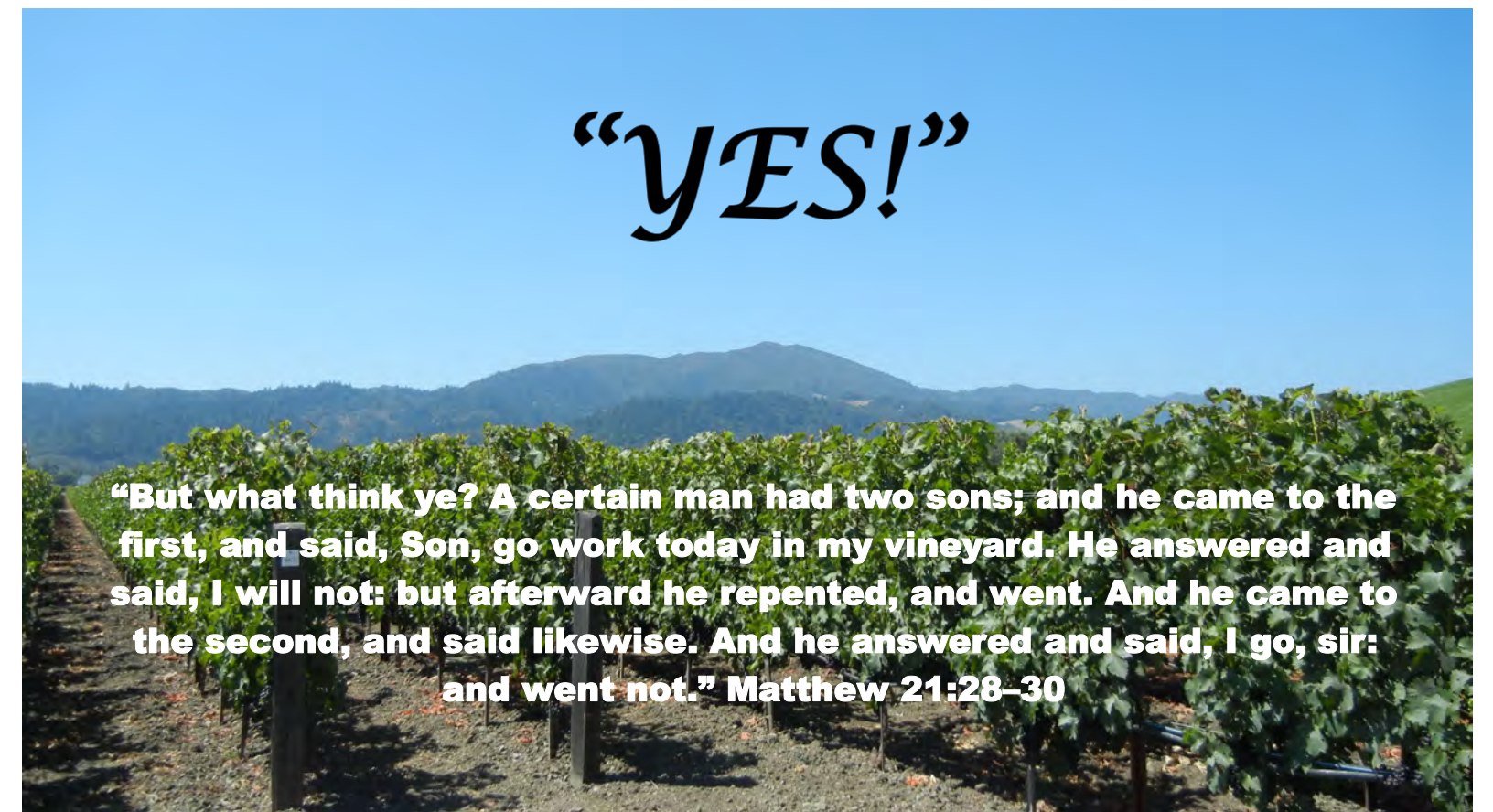
How happy we should be when we consider all the efforts that the Heavenly Host is making for the salvation of lost man. How honoured, but more importantly, how humble we should feel. Are we worthy? These wretched human beings that have lived many years in rebellion against God, do we deserve this? We who crucified His beloved Son? No, no. We will never be able to explain this love. Not in all eternity. Once we truly understand the love of God, we will happily lay aside every weight of sin that gets in our way. “The work of overcoming is not a joyless work; no, indeed. It means communication with Heaven. You can go to God in prayer; you can ask, and receive; you can believe, hanging your helpless soul on Christ. It means that humanity can work the will and ways of God. Humanity and divinity are combined for this very purpose.” – *In Heavenly Places*, p. 279

“The soul temple is to be sacred, holy, pure, and undefiled. There must be a co-partnership in which all the power is of God and all the glory belongs to God. The responsibility rests with us. We must receive in thoughts and in feelings, to give in expression. The law of the human and the Divine action makes the receiver a laborer together with God. **It brings man where he can, united with Divinity, work the works of God.** Humanity touches humanity. Divine power and the human agency combined will be a complete success, for Christ’s righteousness accomplishes everything.” – *Faith and Works*, p. 26

May God help us to contemplate these solemn thoughts and to lay hold on His Divinity that He is offering to unite with our humanity—what a blessed, a high and holy privilege we have. Let us take these promises to heart and let Him live out His life within us. Then we will be guaranteed to be a complete success.

For, “Christ’s Righteousness accomplishes everything.” – *Faith and Work*, p. 26. Amen. (All emphases in quotes added by the author). Amen **Wendy Eaton**

“YES!”



“But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.” Matthew 21:28–30

RELIGIOUS OUTCASTS!

As Christ instructed the disciples by parables, which made the instructions the more easy, so sometimes He convinced His adversaries by parables, which bring re-proofs closer and make men, or ever they are aware, to reprove themselves. Reproving parables are appeals to the offenders themselves, and judge them out of their own mouths. This, Christ designs here, as appears by the first words (verse 28), “But what think ye?”

Thusly, Nathan convinced David by a parable (2 Samuel 12:1), and the woman of Tekoah surprised him in like manner (2 Samuel 14:2). The parable spoken at this time, however, was primarily evoked by the Sanhedrin’s opposition to Jesus’ authority.

The parable of The Two Sons is interpreted by Jesus, furthermore, as depicting the conflicting responses of the religious outcasts and their leaders toward the ministry of John the Baptist, which was preparatory to His own. The scope of the parable, therefore, is to show that they who know not John’s baptism to be of God, were shamed even by the publicans and harlots, who knew it, and owned it!

But, how interesting, therefore, that in this parable about two sons who were asked by their father to work in his vineyard, Jesus prefers the response of the son who flinched and first says no. “I will not,” and as the parable turns out, we can see why. The son (actually, child) was being honest. He did not want to spend the

day in the hot sun picking grapes—a natural response. It’s understandable, as I have picked grapes in Greece which can be drudgery, and tedious, but yet noble and blessed—a rhapsodical work, filled with singing workers, rewarded by a leisurely lunch in the field of feta cheese and grapes.

CHARACTER!

Ah. But, the “yes” of the other son was dishonest. He did not want to work either, but his “yes” put off his father’s disapproval. But, this story is not about picking grapes, and its benefits, or about procrastinating on your chores. It is about living as God’s children, filling our place in God’s family. Being in God’s family usually involves doing chores, but the issue is whether we are willing to be God’s people? Nevertheless, the parable represents two sorts of persons; some that prove better than they promise, represented by the first of those sons; others that promise better than they prove, represented by the second son.

They both had one and the same father, which signifies that God is a common father to all mankind. There are favours which all alike receive from Him, and obligations which all alike lie under to him: “Have we not all one Father?” Yes, and yet, there is a vast difference between men’s—characters!

They both, moreover, had the same command given them, “Son, go work today in my vineyard.” Parents should not breed up their children; which not only im-

plies procreating or merely raising them, but with good social conduct and acceptable manners—and not in idleness! Nothing is more pleasing, and yet nothing more pernicious, to youth than that “It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.” Lamentations 3:27. God sets His children to work, though they are all heirs. This command is given to every one of us. The work of religion, which we are called to engage in, is vineyard work, creditable, profitable, and pleasant.

By the sin of Adam, we were turned out to work upon the common and to eat the herb of the field; but by the grace of our Lord Jesus we are called to work again in the vineyard. This requires present obedience; “Son, go work today,” while it is today, because “the night comes when no man can work.” We are not sent into the world to be idle (Hebrews 12:5). Ah. Yet for the reticent or, ehh—slovenly, it is a command “to work,” of a Father, which carries with it both authority and affection, a Father that pities His children, and considers their frame, and will not over-task them (Psalm 103: 13–14); a Father that is very tender of His son that serves Him (Malachi 3:17).

CONDUCT!

One of the sons did better than he said, proved better than he promised. His answer was bad, but his actions were good. Here is the untoward answer that he gave to his father: he said, flat and plain, “I will not!” Can you see to what a degree of impudence the corrupt nature of man rises, to say, “I will not!” to a command of a Father—yet? Such a command of such a Father; they are impudent children, and stiff-hearted!

Those that will not bend, surely they cannot blush; if they had any degree of modesty left them, they could not say, we will not! (Jeremiah 2:25). Excuses are bad, aren’t they, but downright denials are worse; yet such peremptory or haughty refusals to the calls of the gospel often meet with:

Firstly, some love their ease, and will not work; they would live in the world as leviathans in the waters to play therein (Psalm 104:26); they just do not love working!

Secondly, their hearts are so much upon their own fields that they are not for working in God’s vineyard. They love the business of the world better than the business of their religion. Thus, some by the delights of sense, and others by the employments of the world, are kept from doing that great work which they were sent into the world about, and so stand all the day idle!

CHANGE OF MIND!

But here is the happy change of his mind, the first son, and of his way, upon second thought: “Afterward he repented, and went.” There are many who, in the beginning, are wicked and willful, and very uncompromising, who afterward repent and mend, and come to something. Some that God has chosen are suffered for a great while to run to a great excess of riotous and rebellious conduct. Such were some of you (1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 Timothy 1:16).

Repentance is (GR: “*metanoia*”—an after-wit; and *metameleia*—an after-care). Ah. Better late than never—ehh? When he repented he went; that was the “fruit-meet for repentance.” The only evidence of our repentance for our former resistance is, immediately to comply and set to work; and then what is past shall be pardoned, and all shall be well. See what a kind Father God is? God wants to be gracious, and not withstanding our former follies, if we repent and mend, will favourably accept us. Blessed be God, we are under a covenant that leaves room for such a repentance.

BAD ACTIONS!

Now the other son said better than he did, promised better than he proved; his answer was good but his actions bad. To him the father “said likewise,” (verse 30). The gospel call, though very different, is, in effect, the same to all, and is carried on with an even tenor. We have all the same commands, engagements, encouragements, though to some they are, “a savour of life unto life,” to others, “of death unto death.” This son said, “I go, Sir,” He gives His father a title of respect, “Sir.”

Now, it becomes children to speak respectfully to their parents. It is one branch of that honour which the fifth commandment requires. He professes a ready obedience, “I go”; not, “I will go by and by,” but, “Ready, sir, you may depend upon it, I go just now!” This answer should give from the heart heartily to all the calls and command of the word of God (Jeremiah 3:22) (Psalm 27:8). But he failed! He went not! The son who said “I go,” but went not describes the religious leaders who first gave an aloof sort of approval to John (John 5:35) but never followed through (Luke 7:29–30).

There are many that give good words, and make fair promises in religion, and those from some good notions for the present, that rest there, and go no further, and so come to nothing. Saying and doing are two things; and many there are that say, and do not; it is particularly charged upon the Pharisees (Matthew

23:3). Many with their mouth show much love, but their heart goes another way. They had a good mind to be religious, but they met with something to be done, that was too hard, or something to be parted with, that was too dear, and so their purposes are to no purpose. Buds and blossoms are not fruit!

WHICH ONE?

Which one of them, therefore, did the will of his father? They both had their faults, one was rude and the other was false. Parents experience this variety of exercises in the character of their children, and they have need of a great deal of wisdom and grace to know what is the best way of managing them. But the question is: which was the better of the two, and the less faulty?

Ah! Resolved! The first, because his actions were better than his words, and his latter end than his beginning. This they had learned from the common sense of mankind, who would much rather deal with one that will be better than his word, than with one that will be false to his word. And, in the intention of it, they had learned from the account God gives of the rule of his judgment (Ezekiel 18:21–24), that if the sinner turns from his wickedness, he shall be pardoned; and if the righteous man turn from his righteousness, he shall be rejected. The point to understand here is that those are accepted as doing their Father's will, who, wherein they have missed it, are sorry for it, and so do better.

YES AFTER NO!

Part of the analogy in Jesus' parable is to the religious leaders who had committed themselves to doing God's will, yet when Jesus came, they rejected Him. They had first said, "Yes I will go to work in the vineyard," but then did not go! On the other hand, the prostitutes and tax collectors, who had been living, what all agreed were godless lives, accepted Jesus. They at first said, "I will not," but later they went into the vineyard. The yes of the prostitutes and tax collectors was better than the initial yes of the religious leaders. The yes after saying no is more believable than the yes before saying no. Is this clear? It's the yes after saying no that has validity.

Most of us said **yes** to being God's children before we

discovered that we had any "no" in us! Our motives were right. We were taught that we belonged to God and we tried to think, act, look and talk like it. Right? But, as time and our experience in our life journey in a raging world went on, we discovered some of our no. When we were told we should do things we did not want to do, we found ourselves saying, hmm—no! The Apostle Paul understood this; "Oh wretched man that I am!" (Romans 7:23–24).

QUESTIONING GOD

Being naughty, in essence, may at least, at first, appear to be more honest than being good! Let's elaborate further. When we were taught doctrines of the church that we could not understand, we might have ignored or discounted them. Honest doubt is better than gullibility. When we heard the reasons we should believe in God, we may not have been convinced, focused, engaged—in the Spirit. Questioning God for some is better than believing in God the way children blindly believe in make-believe-figures—Santa Claus, the Good Fairy, etc.

Yes, when bad things happen to us (and they do to all), or to good people we dearly love; terminally ill with cancer, demented (Alzheimer's disease), Parkinson's disease, diabetes, feeble, sick and aged parents, addicted, maimed, suicidal, cantankerous, widowed, separated, unemployed, etc.; many may not want to have anything to do with a God who

would permit such "evil." Rejecting God altogether seems better, consequently, for some than accepting a God who does "evil things."

"No! No!" No is a good word to say. We must say no to silly, mean, ironic, vengeful portrayals of God and our place in God's family, if we are at all serious about God. It may take us a good long time to figure out what God is not! But, our honest "no's" clear our vision to see the promise of God in Christ.

WELCOME!

Jesus seems to have spent most of His time with people who had said no the loudest—tax collectors who were basically embezzlers, and prostitute's who were de-praved and perverted. He came not with moral platitudes and scolding, nor with arguments to validate His



role as the Messiah. Rather He came with acceptance of those people whom no one else would accept! Christ “ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 7:25. Christ’s continual prayers sustain us through critical problems in a continuing intercessory ministry for our salvation. God constantly reads our hearts and registers our thoughts.

Do you understand what is going on? These prostitutes and tax collectors were not first accepting Jesus; rather, Jesus was accepting them! The **yes** they gave to Jesus was not approval of Him, but acceptance of His approval of them!

After we have said no to all attempts to make us accept God, God comes to us and says **yes** to us. God accepts us as God’s people. God invites and welcomes us into His family. God’s acceptance of us, God’s **yes** to us, we call “**grace**.” One of the marvels of God’s grace is that He loves us even though He knows all about us.

Living as God’s children is about accepting God’s **yes** to us. And when we accept God’s **yes**, then we find that God’s **yes** makes it possible for us to accept each other.

As I was carrying my one son, a mere toddler, in my arms one hot summer day, we passed an ice cream vendor. My son lustily shouted, “daddy, daddy, buy me an ice cream!” I quickly said “no!” He incessantly asked again, “daddy, daddy, please!” I repeated again, “no!” Unrestrained he resounded louder with his tiny voice, and said, “daddy, daddy, **say—yes! Say—yes daddy—please!**”

Hmmm. Without vacillating, I surrendered, feebly succumbing—said—“**yes!**”

Say YES to Jesus’ YES after you say NO! Please!!

Amen<><

**John Theodorou
U.S.A.**

“Victory in Christ”

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God's church on earth today is His agency for the salvation of men. Its divine mission is to pro-claim the good news of Christ to the whole world.

From the beginning of its existence to the very end of time, Christ's servants who compose the church are the watchmen and guardians of truth. They have always given a testimony to the generation in which they lived. Zealous, courageous, Spirit-filled warriors of righteousness, they brought a message of warning to those living in sin.

The pure, unadulterated doctrines of truth have always unfolded within the confines of the church. Error on the other hand, always comes from the followers of Satan. "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

The Rock of Ages, the sure, strong foundation that God's people are built upon, is Jesus Christ—the Source of light. Our Redeemer Himself established and ordained the disciples for a world-wide commission. He Himself spoke the gracious words of life and hope to His first followers. They, in turn, animated by love, carried further the commands of God.

Ever since the early church was instructed in the divine principles, the people of the Most High have been vehicles in manifesting to men the love of the Father in heaven. How important it is, then, for us to understand the responsibilities and the saving truth of the first church.

THE CHURCH'S PURPOSE

The Lord has given the church the task of remaining

faithful and upholding the banner of truth. Not one point of faith is to be weakened to accommodate the opinions of men. "Never, never seek to remove one landmark that the Lord has given His people. The truth stands firmly established on the eternal Rock—a foundation that storm and tempest can never move." — *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 162

One reason for the growth of many churches is their lowering of the high standards of the word of God. But teaching falsehoods, even if it is only one error, results in eternal destruction. There are many strong, delusive theories on the religious market that are available to the unregenerate and unwary. Teachings such as the secret rapture, communism as the antichrist, a millennium of peace on earth, once saved always saved, natural immortality of the soul, the false Sunday rest day, and we could go on and on, are widely accepted by the Christian churches. These errors, once accepted, prepare the mind for the last great deception, when Satan, impersonating Christ on earth, will pronounce a blessing on the false Sabbath.

Because God's church teaches men the whole truth, it is very unpopular in the eyes of the world. Presenting a straight, decisive testimony that requires sacrifice and striving to enter the "narrow gate" causes it to be unacceptable to the majority of people. Too many want an easy ride to heaven, so they cling to the traditions and fables of men, which give a false hope of security. It takes moral courage, firmness, perseverance, and much prayer to step out on the unpopular side.

The gospel commission given in Matthew 28 is to ". . . teach all nations. . . to observe all things whatsoever I

have commanded you." Matthew 28:19–20. Great responsibility rests upon the ser-vants of Jehovah to instruct who-ever will hear all, not merely a few, of the requirements for salva-tion.

At this point you may ask, "What are God's requirements?" We read in Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His command-ments: for this is the whole duty of man." And Revelation 14:12 reiterates in the New Testament: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." In both of these texts taken from the Old and New Testaments we find that the keep-ing of the commandments of God is essential for Christian maturity and salvation. Merely knowing what the Ten Commandments are is not enough; it is necessary to keep them through Christ's strength.

Having the Bible and the sacred writings but not putting them into practice is a grave error. It is even worse when a church upholds error or sanctions the willful trans-gres-sion of God's divine precepts. By tolerating and condoning open sin, the church fails in its mission and becomes "a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Revelation 18:2. God has drawn a clear line between falsehood and truth. It is up to the church to declare its position for truth, not an undecided, faltering standard.

THE CHURCH'S GUIDELINES

How thankful we should be that God's guidelines are revealed to us through the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White, which harmonize perfectly. Let us study diligently, especially as the end approaches. The truth revealed in these writings is to be sacredly guarded by the church from being polluted by unbalanced minds. Truth dimmed or misinterpreted causes souls to be lost. The enemy tries to introduce ideas that have no semblance of truth but confuse and contradict the simple words of Jesus. God's church has been entrusted with the basic tenets of faith and is "responsible for teaching the divine

precepts faithfully. Not just any-thing that is pleasing to the unsanctified heart can be accepted as truth.

"Were men free to depart from the Lord's requirements and to set up a standard of duty for them-selves, there would be a variety of standards to suit different minds and the government would be taken out of the Lord's hands. The will of man would be made supreme, and the high and holy will of God—His purpose of love toward His creatures—would be dishonored, disrespected." — *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 51–52. "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:19


Over the centuries, Satan has been active in trying to undermine the strongholds and pillars of the pure gospel faith and place in its stead the commandments of men, rather than a "Thus saith the Lord." Genuine Christianity will counter-act his work by leading the people toward Christ, not away from Him. It is appalling, and frightening to see how much spiritual darkness exists in the nominal Christian churches today.

By searching the word of God we can come to a firm conviction and decision in regard to God's true church on earth. The Spirit of God will lead us into all of the truth. Satan succeeds in confusing the masses by establishing hun-dreds of organizations, all claiming to have the truth. Could all be right and claim the blessings of God? "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is be-cause there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. In keeping God's moral law, His true church is distinguished from all false reli-gions.


May God help each of us to stand by faith with the few who honour His law, no matter what the cost. Rich blessings are in store for those who follow truth.

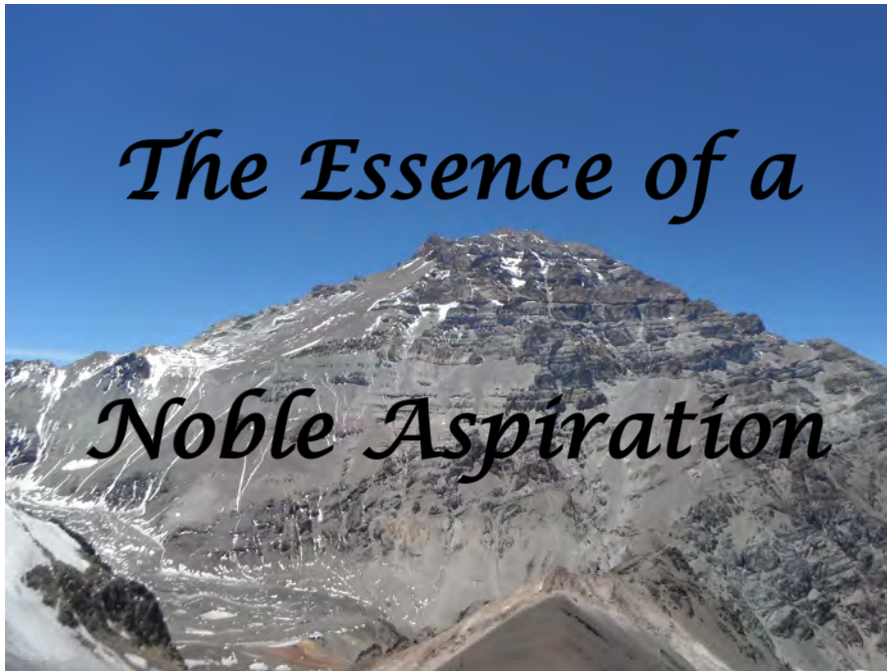
Henry Dering





Our Dear Sister Mary Bescec, mother of John, Robert, Susan and Michael Bescec, passed away at the age of 82, on March 11, 2013. We ask for your prayers for the family who will miss their mother dearly. In the next issue, we will share some more details about the life of this faithful soldier of the cross who died in faith, awaiting the resurrection morning.





The Essence of a

Noble Aspiration

I remember as I was growing up, the things which caught my attention and I was really concerned about, especially regarding my future career—what would I do? Where would my place be in society? I had so many questions regarding my future life. I never thought

about the idea that Jesus needed me in His vineyard and that He had a better plan for my life. This thought came after my conversion when I began to study the Scriptures. Then Jesus opened my eyes and put before me a noble aspiration. I have seen that Jesus needs young people to be instructed and prepared for His service. At that time I had so many aspirations to fight for, but none of them were appointed for me by God. The Bible says in Isaiah 55:8, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord." Also, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12.

Appearances and first impressions are not always accurate. The following illustration will help us think about this. My mind goes back to an episode of my life while I was a teenager. I used to go with my friends to play hockey in winter time in Romania. Back then we didn't have arenas in which to play hockey, as you have here in Canada. So, we went to a frozen lake which was our playground at that time. Now, one of my friends who was older and bigger than I, was skating to place the puck into the goal, when, all of a sudden, the ice began to break and my friend fell into the cold water. Finally, he was rescued and safe. You see, my friend thought the ice had a strong surface and we thought that it would hold us. But in the end there was a disaster. Some things are not what they seem to be. And this bit of truth is something we must bear in mind, as touching morals and religion. Some forms of entertainment may seem to be right, they may appear to be right, but, upon further investigation, they turn out to be harmful and dangerous.

Let us consider some questions you and I should ask

ourselves:

How can I know that God has a plan for me?

What should be my attitude when God calls me?

Can I trust enough in God's plan to give up mine?

What will be the result?

The goal in life for a spiritual man is

to be saved through the grace of Jesus our Lord and Saviour who died for us. This is the gift of God for those who believe and accept Him. Let us go to the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy to answer our questions. First of all I want to bring you references from the Scriptures about our first question: How can I know that God has a plan for me? "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV). One of the reasons Jesus came to this earth that He mentioned was that He came to give us life, and to give it more abundantly. Do you want a more abundant life? Only Jesus can give it because He said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." In coming to Jesus we receive an abundant life, full of meaning, a life that is desired by many if they would know the source of life.

God's servant Ellen White wrote, "God desires us to make use of every opportunity for securing a preparation for His work. He expects us to put all our energies into its performance, and to keep our hearts alive to its sacredness and its fearful responsibilities. Many who are qualified to do excellent work accomplish little because they attempt little. Thousands pass through life as if they had no great object for which to live, no high standard to reach. One reason for this is the low estimate which they place upon themselves. Christ paid an infinite price for us, and according to the price paid He desires us to value ourselves. Be not satisfied with reaching a low standard. We are not what we might be, or what it is God's will that we should be. God has given us reasoning powers, not to remain inactive, or to be perverted to earthly and sordid pursuits, but that they may be developed to the utmost, refined, sanctified, ennobled, and used in advancing the interests of His

kingdom.” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 192

We have thousands of choices to make every year and if they are not done with Jesus, they fail. We should set high goals in this life, because Jesus has promised to help us reach and fulfill them when we put Him first. The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy in his first epistle, chapter 3:1, “If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.” Here Paul encourages an aspiration which is often considered by many Christians with suspicion, but we should consider this question: Would it not be dangerous to entrust a spiritual office to someone desiring supremacy? Normally just a desire for a spiritual office is not enough. On the contrary, it requires self-denial, self-renunciation and a complete surrender. In Paul’s time, only when a soul had deep love for Christ and a living connection with His church could one aspire to this position. In order to understand God’s calling we should first acknowledge our total dependency on God. We cannot trust ourselves and our abilities when such an important call is made.

There is a danger when someone is not spiritually aspiring for the office. In this context is related Jeremiah’s counsel to Baruc in Jeremiah 45:5 “And seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not. . .” Here Jeremiah does not warn against a correct aspiration, but against a selfish aspiration, when he says “great things for thyself.” Here the reasons for the office are very important. Jesus Christ Himself is our perfect example. He says in Matthew 20:28, “Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.” Every one of us has the duty to make the most out of our life and develop the strengths and abilities entrusted to us by God. Does God have a plan for my life? Yes, certainly He does. What should be my attitude after being convicted that God has a plan for me and is calling me?

How do we know when God calls us? He first changes us and through the power and conviction of the Holy Spirit opens to us our calling. Take for example Saul of Tarsus, a Jewish Pharisee. We saw how that prior to his conversion he persecuted and killed God’s people. But

some time later by the grace of God he was remarkably changed and instead of a persecutor, under the influence of the Holy Spirit he became one of the greatest soul winners in the history of God’s church. This great apostle, later called Paul brought the good news of salvation to three continents,



planting dozens of churches in the places where he preached, and writing most of the epistles in the New Testament. His message was a blessing for the people in his time and they are blessings for us today. This man, when he heard the voice of Jesus, didn’t hesitate in answering, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” This should be our attitude every morning as we start a new day, coming before the Lord and asking His guidance through that day. I believe all heaven rejoices when we come in faith before the throne of God. As we come, He sends us His Holy Spirit to empower us in order to accomplish the tasks He gives us.

One Sunday afternoon as I studied the Bible with my neighbours, Donald and Wilma Campbell, their daughter joined us for a couple of minutes, and she came up with a very interesting question: How do we know we are forgiven? Well, I pointed her attention to Bible verses such as 1 John 1:9. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.” Also verse 7 of the same chapter, “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin.” You see, my friend, in order to receive forgiveness or be forgiven we must first confess our sins and forsake them, just as we have read in these two Bible texts. The person called by God is in a continuous relationship with our Saviour Jesus Christ. He should experience forgiveness for himself and should have a personal experience in this important matter. In order to become a soul-winner this is the issue when God calls somebody—that we know we have a new life. He calls us to make Him known to others and this we call missionary work, which must be guided by the Holy Spirit.

When the psalmist David prayed, “Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.” Psalm 51:9–13. David saw that before he could be a soul-winner, before he could teach transgressors the way of the Lord and convert sinners, in order to do that, first he must have his sins blotted out and have a personal encounter with Jesus. He must have a clean heart and a right spirit. In order to bring people to Jesus, he himself must be brought to Jesus. Before speaking to others about Jesus, he must personally know Jesus. That is why David, the author of Psalm 23, speaks that the Lord is **his** Shepherd; he does

not speak about someone he just heard about, but he speaks about the One he knows personally. This should be our attitude, also. We can only speak about what we saw, heard and felt, said the Disciples.

What about us, my dear friends? Is Jesus and the plan of salvation only a simple theory for us? Maybe some of us learned about Jesus in some missionary seminar, or some inherited this faith just because their parents are members of the church; others can say, well, I came to Jesus myself just because I heard that Christians are nice people, ready to help and give support. Or they say, “you know I am an Adventist because I like these people who help me. There are young people that come to the church just because there is a girl or boy that she or he likes and wants to marry. We can bring

lots of arguments regarding the reasons why people come to church, but if there is not a sincere desire to know Jesus better—to be acquainted with Him and allow Him to change us from within, then there is no way to bring others to Jesus. You can speak about Jesus from a theological point of view, you can know the truth by heart—even entire chapters in the Bible—you can memorize

and be able to tell others, but unless you have a personal encounter with Jesus and His salvation that has been offered to you, unless there is a constant relationship through prayer and study of the Bible, you and I will not be able to represent our Saviour in a powerful and convincing way which will bring people to take a stand for Jesus and be prepared for His returning.

Can I trust in God’s plan enough to be ready to give up mine? At the surface of this question we may all say, yes. But wait a little. When does a person give up his plan in order to achieve something better? From a worldly perspective you may say, when he knows and studies the plan until he is convinced that there is no failure in it. From God’s perspective, many times, even if the plan God has for me is not understood completely, we accept that plan and we call that faith. Faith is what we need in order to accomplish God’s plan in our lives. Faith makes possible the impossible. Faith is not always the logical way, which so many people in the world are guided by. Faith sometimes cannot be ex-



plained; it only can be experienced, and those people, who, by faith, accept God’s plan and are ready to give up their plans, these people God can use. I believe that then they will understand the essence of a noble aspiration in this life.

We have many examples in the Scriptures where God has called people: Abraham, Noah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and so many others that understood when God called them. Do you feel God is calling you? Do you see the necessity of the gifts God has entrusted you with in the church where you are a member? Do you feel that people around you are in need of a Saviour? Oh, my friend, only eternity will reveal to us things we neglected while we could have done something. We have an individual work to do to

prepare for the great events that are before us. Oh, parents, there is a warning for us. Will we take heed to it? “The children of Sabbath-keeping parents, who have had great light, who have been the objects of the tenderest solicitude, may be the ones who will leave a heritage of shame, who will sow to the wind and reap the whirlwind. In the judgment the names of those who have sinned against great

light will be written with those who are condemned to be separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. They will be lost, lost, and will be numbered with the scornors of the grace of Christ. I would rather see my children laid in the grave than see them taking the path that leads to death. The terrible fact that I had nurtured children to fight against the God of heaven, to swell the ranks of apostates in the last days, to march under the black banner of Satan, would indeed be a thought of horror to me.” – *Messages to Young People*, p. 87

The Bible says in Mark 8:36, “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” When I found the meaning for my life, when I first became a Christian and let Jesus guide my life I could only say, “what a great, loving, compassionate and tender Savior I have.” Today, 15 years after the time I wanted to gain the world as a young man, but was in danger of losing my soul, I can say with all my heart, “Lord, You are wonderful. You are wonderful,

Lord, revealing to me such a great love, giving me such a great opportunity, Lord. I will go in Your Holy Name and let people know You. What amazing love, amazing love!”

My dear young brother, my dear young sister, do you have plans you want to commit to Jesus? Do you really love your Saviour who showed such infinite love on the cross, who paid such an infinite price on the cross, who made provisions for your salvation? What’s your attitude when He calls to you? Fifteen years ago, for the first time in my life I heard Jesus calling me from my wicked ways. I heard His tender voice saying, “Will you accept Me? Will you listen and obey Me? Will you give up your plans to accept Mine? Looking back these years, I have had one question for which I haven’t received an answer yet. “Lord, why me? What do You see in me? Are there not so many other people?” I can only think about the time when Jesus will come to take us home to spend eternity with Him, and I can ask him that question.

I think each one of us will be completely satisfied with the answers that He will give us then, answers we don’t have for now. Right now we don’t have answers to many of the things which happen in our lives, but we should accept them by faith, trusting completely in our Saviour. One day, not too far away, one day, Jesus will take each one of us individually and He will give us an answer to the problems we face today. There are people who love Jesus and still die; there are people who love His appearing and are still sick; there are people who love Jesus and are still broken-hearted, going through a trauma of divorce, or having to lead a son or a daughter to the grave. Why do all these things happen? The Bible has the answer. We know Satan is the author of all these horrible things and we know also that Satan tries to destroy our faith in God because his end is near. He gets too much ground just because we sometimes lose the true meaning of life.

The essence of a noble aspiration consists of a close relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Do you want me to let you know what will be its result? Well, I tell you from my personal experience that there is no better choice you can ever make on this earth than the following: accept Jesus as your personal Saviour and then ask Him what plan He has for your life. This is not as simple as it seems to be, because many times as we go through this life there are circumstances that can take us from the path God has appointed for us. Unless there is a continual connection with heaven, we will not be able to fulfill God’s task. The Bible and

the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the Spirit of Prophecy, given to the remnant church, is to help us to stand forth and resist all of Satan’s deceptions and temptations, and is the foundation of our faith. There is power, my dear friend, in Jesus. There is power in the study of God’s word. The Bible is not just a book, but, rather, I can say that the Bible is the book above all books, because it has been proved to change people’s lives.

In the pages of the Bible I find answers to the problems we face as we go through this life; I find peace, security, happiness, joy, guidance and meaning. We should take God’s word daily and dig deeply for the pearls of truth. I just want to encourage you to follow Jesus, to take life seriously, because on this your life’s destiny will rest. This life is given to us as a test for the eternal one prepared by Jesus. I want you to meditate upon what we have studied in this message and act in faith, giving the opportunity to our Lord Jesus to fulfill His plan in your life. This is what I did, and now I let Jesus draw me closely to Him every day; I am learning to depend and rely on Him because there is no better choice in this life than to accept and serve Jesus with all your life.

I want to conclude with a statement from the Spirit of Prophecy. “All who profess godliness should feel the danger of those who are out of Christ. Soon their probation will close. Those who might have exerted an influence to save souls, had they stood in the counsel of God, yet failed to do their duty through selfishness, indolence, or because they were ashamed of the cross of Christ, will not only lose their own souls, but will have the blood of poor sinners upon their garments. Such will be required to render an account for the good that they could have done had they been consecrated to God, but did not do because of their unfaithfulness. Those who have really tasted the sweets of redeeming love will not, cannot, rest until all with whom they associate are made acquainted with the plan of salvation. The young should inquire, ‘Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? How can I honor and glorify Thy name upon the earth?’ Souls are perishing all around us, and yet what burden do the youth bear to win souls to Christ?”
—*Messages to Young People*, p. 204

May our loving Father give us power from on high, as well as joy and happiness as we go out in faith to search for the lost sheep and bring them to the fold is my wish and prayer for this time. Amen

In Christ,

Nicholas Anca



Walk With God

Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and God took him to heaven. We also are invited to the company of Jesus, to walk with Him on our life journey. Jesus knows the way, therefore with Him we do not get lost. Our destination is New Jerusalem; many Christians will not reach the destination because they do not have the right companion to lead them.

Also, Noah walked with God and he was saved from the flood that destroyed the world. Moses walked with God and now he is already in heaven. From these examples, we learn that it pays to walk on our life journey with God. But sadly, so many people do not want to walk with God. Even Adam and Eve went into hiding when they saw Jesus coming towards them.

When Jesus came to His people, to His church with the purpose to save them, they did not want His company, but hated Him and finally put Him to death. For this reason, terrible destruction came upon Jerusalem and the surrounding area soon after.

We have two choices. We can walk with God and end up in heaven, or we can walk with Satan and end up in the lake of fire.

If we want to walk with God, we must forsake our own way. We read, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7

We must forsake our own way, and even our thoughts, and then let Him lead us in the right way, because our own way means to go astray. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." Isaiah 53:6

This is where many fail. They do not ask God what to do, where to go, what to speak, and what to think. They want to make decisions themselves for their lives. If you decide to watch a vain show on television, God will not

stay with you to watch it. If you decide not to go to the church meeting, then God will go and you will be left alone.

David asked the Lord, "See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:24

Sister White writes, "Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of humanity. He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is 'not ashamed to call them brethren.' He is our Sacrifice, our Advocate, our Brother, bearing our human form before the Father's throne, and through eternal ages one with the race He has redeemed—the Son of man. And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness." — *Steps to Christ*, p. 14

The happiest people, those who are full of joy, are the ones who walk with God daily. The most miserable people are the ones who are religious but do not walk with God, rather they go on their own way. They do not enjoy the joy of holiness, neither the pleasure of sin. Without God in our company we walk in darkness, not knowing where we will end up. Jesus is the light of the world, and He came to His own people, shining the light of salvation, but we read, "And this is the condemnation, that the light is come into the world, and the men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:19

To walk in darkness will not lead us in the right direction. In the darkness we cannot see God, neither can we see how terrible sin is. Worldly treasures only are visible in this condition. Being blinded by Satan we lose interest in doing missionary work, and the spirit of sacrifice for others is lost. Also, we will lose the fear of the Lord; then we see no difference between sacred and common, and the life purpose is lost. God has given us time to reach the perfection that our heavenly Father has, but so often

this precious gift of time is wasted in unimportant things.

So important to God is our salvation that He is offering to be our life companion, to walk with us and to guide our steps in the right direction. He is also offering to us the Holy Spirit, to direct, to strengthen, and to comfort us. The angelic host will help and protect us from dangers. With all these celestial helpers it is possible to be restored to the original condition of God's creation. We will not just have an occasional visit by these heavenly beings, but will daily walk together with them as did Enoch. He was tempted by Satan, the same as we are, but he gained strength from God to resist the devil.

Enoch was shown to Sister White in vision, "Then I was taken to a world which had seven moons. There I saw good old Enoch, who had been translated. On his right arm he bore a glorious palm, and on each leaf was written 'Victory.' Around his head was a dazzling white wreath, and leaves on the wreath, and in the middle of each leaf was written 'Purity,' and around the wreath were stones of various colours, that shone brighter than the stars, and cast a reflection upon the letters and magnified them. On the back part of his head was a bow that confined the wreath, and upon the bow was written 'Holiness.' Above the wreath was a lovely crown that shone brighter than the sun." —*Early Writings*, p. 39

What was given to Enoch we all will receive if we decide to walk with God as he did.

When we walk with God we will see Him also as Moses did. We see Him, although He is invisible. Eve lost sight of God and she saw only the forbidden tree and the serpent. To see God and feel His presence is a safeguard against temptation and sin.

In the company of God, divine grace is given us. This grace is also called Christ Our Righteousness. This grace is more valuable and more precious than the whole world altogether. To walk with God is happiness and fullness of joy. And this relation with God is not for a time, but for eternity.

Even one day without the presence of God, we hurt ourselves. The parents of Jesus lost Him in one day, but it took three days to find Him again.

When you decide to walk with God, the whole of heaven rejoices. God wants to be your friend and companion. He wants to walk with you daily and help you into eternal life. Let us not disappoint Him. Amen

Timo Martin

What is Jesus to You?

To the artist, Jesus is the One altogether lovely;

To the architect, He is the Chief Corner Stone;

To the baker, He is the Living Bread;

To the banker, He is the Hidden Treasure;

To the biologist, He is the Life;

To the builder, He is the Sure Foundation;

To the doctor, He is the Great Physician;

To the educator, He is the Great Teacher;

To the farmer, He is the Lord of the Harvest;

To the florist, He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley;

To the geologist, He is the Rock of Ages;

To the jurist, He is the Righteous Judge and the Judge of all men;

To the jeweler, He is the Pearl of Great Price;

To the lawyer, He is the Counsellor, the Lawgiver, the Advocate;

To the horticulturist, He is the True Vine;

To the newspaper man, He is the Good Tidings of Great Joy;

To the Oculist, He is the Light of the World;

To the philanthropist, He is the Unspeakable Gift;

To the Philosopher, He is the Wisdom of God;

To the preacher, He is the Word of God;

To the servant, He is the Good Master;

To the statesman, He is the Desire of All Nations;

To the student, He is the Incarnate Truth;

To the theologian, He is the Author and Finisher of our Faith;

To the traveller, He is the New and Living Way;

To the toiler, He is the Giver of Rest;

To the sinner, He is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world;

To the Christian, He is the Son of the Living God the Saviour, the Redeemer and Lord!

He is the Worthy One!

Submitted by Franziska Pedersen

Climbing Higher Heights



In December, 2012 my father and I attempted to climb Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, South America, which is the highest mountain outside of the Himalayas in Asia. The height of this mountain is 6,961 metres or 22,837 feet above sea level. It would prove to be an exciting and gruelling time for the both of us and an experience that I will never forget. I thank God for taking care of us and bringing us safely back to Canada.

We had many experiences and learned many important lessons during our time climbing, including the importance of teamwork, eating properly to stay healthy, listening to our guides and trusting in God for strength.

Upon arriving in Mendoza, Argentina we met our fellow climbers. They had come from different parts of the world, all ready to attempt to climb one of the toughest mountains in the world. More people die trying to climb Aconcagua than they do climbing Mount Everest. The guides met us at the hotel and we spent some time getting to know each other. We were all asked why we wanted to climb this mountain. Each person had a different reason but all of us were prepared to endure the hardships and make the sacrifices that were necessary to be able to make this journey. From the beginning each team member helped each other out. Everyone worked together. Our first task was to work together to load and later unload the trailer of all the equipment. No one stood idly by. We became like a family, helping each other out.

The following day we travelled about four hours to Puente del Inca where we spent the afternoon and night acclimatizing to the higher altitude. The next morning we began our journey to climb Aconcagua. It would be a long, cold and difficult 16 days on the expedition. The weather was not very pleasant. Although it was summertime in Argentina, it was a very cold hike to the first camp, Confluencia. The lead guide said that this was the worst weather he had ever experienced in his twelve years of leading expeditions. The temper-

ature was already well below 0 degrees Celsius, with winds so strong that it was hard to walk and even stand straight. We had to put on our warmest clothes right at the start of our climb and I wondered how much colder it could really get. Once we arrived at camp and had a little break, we were shown how to set up our tents, which would be our homes for the next 15 days. We each had to learn how to set up our own tents very quickly so that we would get out of the cold as quickly as possible and not get frost bite. The guides told us that if we worked together, we would be able to build the tents faster and then crawl into our sleeping bags and get some rest.

On our trek up the mountain we had many long days of walking to new camps, carrying heavy packs on our backs. I thought of Christian from the book *The Pilgrim's Progress* who carried his burden on his back until he got to the Celestial City. There weren't many distractions on the mountain but I had a lot of time to think while I walked and walked. We continued to climb higher and higher and it continued to get harder and harder to breathe especially as the air got colder and colder. As soon as we would get to a new campsite everyone would immediately help each other set up the tents so that we all could get out of the cold wind as soon as possible. I thought how good it would be if all Christians were like that, helping each other out. We helped each other out on the mountain because we wanted to. It was like a family. I think that is how Jesus wants us to be, to care for one another so that no one suffers.

As we got higher up on the mountain, the climb got more dangerous since the path we were walking on kept getting steeper. There was so much loose rock that it often got very dangerous and we had to keep warning each other whenever we would see rocks coming down the mountain. People on the expedition team walking in front would yell out "rocks, rocks" so that people in the back of the group would be aware of the danger and would get out of the way. It was



important not to get hit and get hurt and have to end one's climb up the mountain.

As we got even higher up the mountain the climb got even more tiring since we were using more energy just to do simple things like tying our boots which would leave you exhausted and needing a break! When we arrived in the last high camp, Colera, I was so tired but also very excited that the next morning we would start out for the summit of the mountain!

We were up at 4:00 a.m. the next morning to get ready for the summit. By now, there were only ten of us from the original twelve that had started the journey. Only a few would make it to the top. Many would have to give up as they would not be able to go on. We left early in the morning and began a long day of climbing. The guide would say to keep moving, to keep climbing, no matter how tired or how cold we were. We had to keep climbing and moving towards our destination. We had to use all our efforts, all our will power and strength, to keep going. It was dangerous to stand still since you could very quickly get hypothermia and die. It was difficult to breathe but we still had to keep moving.

After only two hours a lady collapsed and could not go on. A short while later one of the guides told my dad that he could not go on and that he had to return to the camp. The guide had not yet told us how long the day was going to be in order to not discourage us, but he knew that my dad would not be able to make it. This was very disappointing for me since I wanted to summit with my dad, but I kept on going.

A short time later one man said he didn't feel good and that he wanted to turn back. A friend of his went down with him and then the majority of the group became really sick and returned as well. Then only five of the team remained. Two of those five would also not reach the summit. After eleven hours of walking up steep slopes sometimes up to 70 degrees, on scree and shale rock, two others and I finally made it to the top!

Many had started the journey but only a few would make it in the end. It is like many people who hear the



truth and start following it, only to give up along the way. Although it was sad to see people turn back, the three of us continued to help each other out and encourage each other along the way. Sometimes we need encouragement from others so that we will keep moving towards our goal and so we do not get discouraged and give up. On our journey to heaven we need each other, to

help each other, as we are all trying to reach the same destination. We kept on going until we reached our goal, the summit of Aconcagua! The tallest mountain in South America was a very difficult climb, but we did it.

In 2011, my father and I were on the top of Mount Kilimanjaro together, but on Aconcagua he was not able to be there with me. It was a little sad not to be able to share that special experience with my father, but I knew that he was thinking of me and was waiting to hear back that I made it to the top. This was now the highest point that I've stood on in my life. It was an incredible view of the clouds below and the Andes Mountains, as far as my eyes could see. Although I was so tired after having climbed a very difficult mountain, I felt at peace. At 16 years old, I was able to reach my goal! I had made it. God had taken care of me the whole way there. It felt very special to be there. I made it to the top and there I stood, physically the closest to heaven that I've ever been while standing on this earth.

This experience really made me think of the journey to heaven that many people begin but only a few will reach. It is not an easy journey and many people will give up for different reasons. We need to prepare very well for this journey. If we don't properly prepare we won't make it. Let us encourage each other not to give up or to get sick, fall down or even look back, but to be strong and keep going till we all make it to heaven. Let us help each other when we need help. Al-

ways remember to carefully follow your guide, Jesus, and you will make it to your destination.

As we continue to journey on life's path to our final destination of heaven, I hope that my experience inspires you to keep going and to never give up, no matter how difficult things may be. Amen

James Bessec



HEALTH MATTERS:



WHAT IS SALT?

The mineral that we commonly know as salt is a combination of two compounds, sodium and chloride. It naturally occurs in many parts of the world as the mineral “halite”, in vein underneath the ground imbedded in rock. Oceans and many lakes also consist of salt. Salt makes up 2.7% of sea water, which is equivalent to 26 tons of salt per cubic kilometer. Some salt sits on the surface of the ground because of dried-up residue of ancient seas. Salt also arrives on the earth from space, contained in the meteors that enter the earth’s atmosphere. We will never run out of salt. It is the most common non-metallic mineral on this earth.

There are over 14,000 uses for salt. Only 6% of all salt produced goes into our food. In food, salt is used to enhance flavours. It is also used as a preservative because it inhibits the growth of bacteria. Salt is found in all bread recipes because salt strengthens the gluten in bread dough, allowing bread to expand without tearing. In baked products, it slows down the rate of fermentation.

THE HISTORY OF SALT

Salt’s ability to preserve food was the foundation of civilization. It helped eliminate dependence on the seasonal availability of food. It allowed people to travel over long distances. In ancient times, salt was difficult to obtain. It was a highly valued commodity, and often was used as a form of currency. The technology needed to mine salt from underground was not yet discovered. The only salt sources were oceans. Inland communities had no easy access to salt. Those areas that were bordering on the oceans became rich from the production and sale of salt. Many trade routes were established from areas that produced salt. These routes crisscrossed the globe, where sometimes caravans of up to 40,000 camels would transport salt 4,000 miles through the Sahara Desert to bring salt to inland markets. In particular, the Romans established the Via Salaria, a road that was built to provide salt to the Romans from the Adriatic Sea. The Roman Empire controlled the price of salt, raising it when needing to raise money for wars, or lowering it so that it was readily available, even to the poorest citizen. Roman soldiers were partly paid in salt, which is where the phrase, “a soldier worth his salt” came from. In those days, salt and gold were traded on an ounce for ounce ba-

sis, hence salt was “worth its weight in gold.” The Romans also used salt in their health practices, as an antiseptic. The word “sal” refers to the Roman goddess of health, Salus. Today, salt is almost universally accessible and relatively cheap.

SALT (SODIUM) AND THE HUMAN BODY

Sodium is one of the main electrolytes in the human body, along with potassium and chloride. Sodium and chloride are both elements of table salt. The cells of our body swim in a salt (saline) solution. Fifty percent of the salt in our body is contained in our blood and outside the cells. Human blood contains 0.9% salt. The body’s salt to water ratio is critical for all the functions of the cells of our body that keep us alive. Our body cannot manufacture salt, therefore we must get salt from our diet, either from salt that naturally occurs in our food or by adding salt to our food. Salt controls the volume of fluid in our body. We need salt to maintain the elasticity of our blood vessels. This, along with salt’s ability to balance the amount of fluid in our blood vessels, helps to regulate blood pressure. In the next issue we will have a more in-depth discussion regarding the role that salt plays in regulating our blood pressure, and will address the concerns that many people have about high blood pressure and salt.

Salt is also needed for the proper balance of sugar levels in our blood, which is vital to diabetics. Every cell in our body needs salt in order to produce energy. Salt is also needed for our brain cells to communicate and process information.

Salt makes the structure of our bones firm. Twenty-seven percent of our body’s salt is contained in our bones. Reduced salt in our body can cause osteoporosis. Because it is critical for our health to maintain a very precise level of salt in our blood, with low levels of salt, our body will take salt from our bones to maintain that vital level of salt. Our stomach acids contain high levels of salt, therefore salt is necessary for our ability to digest our food. Low salt levels will affect our sleep. Salt also prevents varicose and spider veins. If you have excess saliva production, especially when you sleep, it is because your body’s salt levels are too low. Salt is a natural antihistamine, which helps our body fight infections and reduces inflammation. It also prevents muscle cramps. As you can see, salt is vital to many processes of

the human body, and absolutely vital to life.

Imbalances of salt, whether it be too little salt in our blood (hyponatremia) or too much salt (hypernatremia) can lead to death. Drinking too much water without salt to accompany it can lead to water intoxication, which actually causes water to become a poison. This situation can occur when you lose a large amount of salt through sweat when working or exercising vigorously, and replacing fluid without replacing salt. The resulting hyponatremia causes fluid to shift into the cells to increase the percentage of salt in our blood. The cells begin to swell from excess fluid. In our brain, this increased pressure in the cells can lead to seizures, brain damage, coma and eventually, death.

Hypernatremia is often caused by dehydration; the concentration of salt in our blood is increased due to lack of fluids. Symptoms of hypernatremia include muscle cramps, irritability, confusion, and vomiting. Death can occur if you ingest a large amount of salt in a short time.

The elderly are more susceptible to having electrolyte imbalances. Because the kidneys are less efficient in retaining sodium, it is easy to lose too much sodium from our bodies. On the other hand, the elderly can also easily develop high sodium levels from lack of drinking enough fluids. As we get older, our sense of thirst is not as efficient, and it is more common to become dehydrated without realizing it.

Pregnant women can also be at risk of the effects of low salt. In the past, women who were pregnant were told to cut down on salt to avoid excessive weight gain during pregnancy. However, low-salt diets causes an increase in stillbirths and low-birth-weight babies, therefore women are now told not to decrease salt intake during pregnancy.

SALT AND IODINE

Over the centuries, the soil has become depleted of adequate amounts of iodine, and this, in turn, decreased the levels of iodine in our food. In the early 1900's doctors had noticed that many people were suffering from a form of thyroid disease which caused people to have massive "goiters" on their necks. Scientists in North America made the connection between low iodine levels and the development of thyroid problems, which caused these goiters. A plan was made to increase the amount of iodine in people's diets. In the 1920's, it was decided to add iodine to salt to combat this growing problem with thyroid disease.

Salt is used readily in most diets, therefore it was an easy way to introduce iodine to the general population. Later, it was also discovered that even mild deficiencies of iodine in pregnant women and infants can cause lower IQ levels, leading to learning problems and mental retardation. Nearly 2 billion people in the world suffer from an iodine deficiency due to a lack of access to iodized salt. Thirty-eight million children a year are not protected from brain damage caused by this deficiency. Thirty percent of households

around the world do not have access to iodized salt. In North America, 70% of salt has iodine added to it. However, processed foods do not contain iodized salt, and our reliance on processed foods mean that table salt is not used as readily, and there has been a decrease in iodine consumption in North America. We need to ingest at least 150 mcg of iodine a day. One teaspoon of iodized table salt contains 380 mcg of iodine.

For lacto-ovo vegetarians, iodine can be found in dairy foods. But, for vegans, iodine deficiency can be a problem. Iodine is only found inconsistently in plant foods. Iodine content in foods depends on the iodine content of the soil. Food grown near the oceans tend to be higher in iodine. Iodine deficiency is not as much a problem in North America as it is for European vegans whose food naturally contains less iodine. Studies have shown that vegans in Europe, where salt is also not typically iodized and who do not supplement have indications of abnormal thyroid function. Vegan foods which have a higher iodine content include: potatoes, beans, cranberries, bread, and tortillas.

Seaweed, especially kelp is a good source of iodine. In fact, most iodine supplements are tablets made from kelp. Be careful not to over-supplement with iodine, as it can cause iodine toxicity. A supplement of 75mcg every other day is sufficient.

TABLE SALT VS SEA SALT

Regular table salt is mined from underground sources. It is highly refined, which removes most of the other essential minerals, such as calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, potassium, and zinc. Salt takes on moisture and clumps easily. Therefore, table salt also contains additives to prevent clumping, including aluminum, which has been shown to have many negative health effects. Over 80 additives have been approved for use in table salt.

Sea salt, on the other hand, is produced by the evaporation of ocean water, with little processing, therefore it still contains all the other minerals that assist with proper electrolyte balance in our body. Both table salt and sea salt have the same amount of sodium. Even though sea salt is much healthier for us, the problem is that sea salt contains virtually no iodine and most sea salt that is available has not been iodized. A teaspoon of non-iodized sea salt only contains 2 mcg of iodine. You can find iodized sea salt in some specialty stores. If no other salt is used, you must either supplement your diet with iodine tablets, or eat a sufficient amount of iodine-rich foods.

SALT (SODIUM) INTAKES

Our bodies are very efficient in maintaining a proper balance of sodium. Our kidneys are designed to either filter out too much sodium or prevent sodium from exiting the body if we have too little. The majority of people in North America ingest approximately 2,700-4,900 mg a day, with an average of 3,500 mg of sodium a day. Although higher in

salt than in many other countries, the North American diet and the level of salt consumption is still considered safe in terms of overall health effects

No one seems to agree on what is a healthy amount of salt in our diet, however studies prove that salt does not give you high blood pressure. In fact, our body works to retain a certain level of sodium, so recommendations below 2,700 mg a day are difficult to maintain.

Many health agencies recommend much lower sodium intakes without actual proof that these lower doses benefit health. The problem arises in that a severe reduction in salt consumption can also have negative consequences for our health. As we learned, sodium is vital to most of the processes that occur in our body to keep us not only healthy, but alive. The question, therefore, is whether the beneficial effects of sodium restriction on health concerns such as blood pressure will outweigh its hazards. Unfortunately, there is very little data that links sodium intake to health outcomes, and that which is available is inconsistent. Without a proper knowledge of the sum of the multiple health effects of a reduced sodium diet, no single universal level for sodium intake can be scientifically justified.

COUNSELS ON THE USE OF SALT

In the Spirit of Prophecy Sister White was given light regarding the use of salt. "I use some salt, and always have, because from the light given me by God, [salt], in the place of being deleterious, is actually essential for the blood. The why and the wherefores of this I know not, but I give you the instruction as it is given me." *—Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 344

"At one time, Doctor---- tried to teach our family to cook according to health reform, as he viewed it, without salt or anything to season the food. . . . I became so reduced in strength that I had to make a change. . . . Food should be prepared in such a way that it will be nourishing. It should not be robbed of that which the system needs." *—Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 203

As in all things, we are taught to be moderate, even in our salt intake. In another quote she advises, "Do not eat largely of salt." *—Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 51

YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Matthew 5:13

The properties of salt are used as lessons to teach us about our influence to the world. As salt is useless without its ability to flavour our food, so we are nothing if we don't reflect God in our lives. Our influence to bring others to the gospel is "for nothing" without the saving grace of the gospel.

In the sanctuary service, every sacrifice had to have salt added to it as salt symbolized the righteousness of Christ. "And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt." Leviticus 2:13

"The savor of the salt represents the vital power of the Christian—the love of Jesus in the heart, the righteousness of Christ pervading the life." *—Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 36

"When Christians do not reveal Christ, of what value are they? Are they not like savourless salt, 'good for nothing'? But when they reveal in their lives the saving properties of the truth, poor, sin-hardened souls are not left to perish in corruption. Good works are seen; for the living principles of righteousness cannot be hidden. The gospel acted is like salt which contains all its savour. It is powerful in the saving of souls." *—This Day With God*, p. 25


The ability of salt to preserve is also used as an object lesson. "God requires those who claim to believe the Bible, the standard of Christian character, to bring the Christ-likeness into all their service, that not one particle of the salt shall lose its preserving influence. The Christ-likeness is ever to be preserved. The mind and heart are to be cleansed from all sin, all unlikeness to Christ." *—This Day with God*, p. 201

"In many different ways His grace is also acting as the salt of the earth; whosoever this salt finds its way, to homes or communities, it becomes a preserving power to save all that is good, and to destroy all that is evil. True religion is the light of the world, the salt of the earth." *—God's Amazing Grace*, p. 124

As salt needs to be added to food to be able to work, we must go into the world, among sinners, in order for them to experience the power of saving truth. Salt must be mingled with the substance to which it is added; it must penetrate and infuse in order to preserve. So it is through personal contact and association that men are reached by the saving power of the gospel. . . . We must come close to those whom we desire to benefit." *—Christian Service*, p. 119

"It is not God's will that we should seclude ourselves from the world. But while in the world we should sanctify ourselves to God. We should not pattern after the world. We are to be in the world, as a corrective influence, as salt that retains its savor. Among an unholy, impure, idolatrous generation, we are to be pure and holy, showing that the grace of Christ has power to restore in man the divine likeness. We are to exert a saving influence upon the world." *—God's Amazing Grace*, p. 97

It is my wish that we would all be like salt, to bring people to the preserving power of the gospel. Amen



Evangelistic Outreach in London, Canada

January 12-19, 2013

“Organization of Companies Called For. God says, ‘Enter the cities. Give the inhabitants of these cities the call to prepare for the coming of the Lord.’ . . . Many in the cities are still without the light of the gospel message. Those who neglect to sound forth the last message of warning will in the future suffer deep regret. My message is, ‘Let companies be organized to enter the cities. Seek proper locations for holding meetings. Circulate our literature. Make earnest efforts to reach people.’ –Letter 106, 1910.” –*Evangelism*, p. 96

I greet you, dear brethren, in Christ. By the help of the Lord we were able to hold a successful evangelistic outreach here in London. I want to thank God for this event, and



also thank the brethren that came to help us to encourage people to follow Jesus. They came and were been blessed by the Lord as they answered the call. Now, the work ahead of us is to take care and look after those interested people that came to the meetings. Because of this, I ask you to pray for me and the souls that I am working with, that the Lord may grant me wisdom from above and to give me the right words that they are in need of. The



names of those new people who joined us are: Jeremiah, Josh, Marlene, Oscar, Damian, Alex, Agnes, and Margi. The Lord bless you richly for the support you give, and the encouragement and the prayers you offer.

In Christ,
Nicholas Anca



CHILDREN'S CORNER



Listen to Your Conscience

The light of a beautiful Sabbath was fast fading, and the last golden gleams fell softly upon the form of a light-haired girl who sat by a cottage window, her head leaning upon her hand as if in deep thought.

The sun had departed like a grand old monarch, leaving behind him a glory of purple and gold more beautiful than his own full splendour. Yet the little girl saw nothing of all this beauty. She was thinking of the story in the Sabbath school book she had been reading—the story of a child's life; and she wondered if all that happened in the story could be really true.

Jennie was pondering in her troubled brain a question which the reading of the book had brought. What could it be? Evidently it was not to be answered easily, for her face only grew more clouded, until at last she resolved to ask the help of some wiser mind.

Fortunately, Jennie knew that she had but to make her perplexities known to her mother and they would all be explained in the clearest way; so, seating herself in her rocking-chair by her mother's side, she said:—

"Mamma, I want you to tell me something."

"Well dear, what is it?"

"I've just finished my Sabbath school book, you know, and it's just perfectly lovely; all about the sweetest little girl; only she was always doing so many kind things for everybody; and I've been trying to think what's the reason little girls in books always have so many chances for doing good, and little girls like me, who are out of books, don't have any at all."

"Not any at all?" questioned the mother. "Is that really so?"

"Well, no, not quite, I suppose," said Jennie, "but then they are just nothing but the tiniest little bits of things. There's never anything big and splendid for little girls like me to do."

"Now, Susy Chrystie, in the story, took her little sister

May out for a walk, and just while they were crossing a bridge, May pulled her hand away from Susy's, and tried to walk on the edge, just as close as she could; but in about one second her foot slipped, and she would have fallen off into the water if her sister hadn't jumped right to her, and caught hold of her dress, and pulled her back all safe.

"Now just think, Mamma," said Jennie, her blue eyes opening widely as she spoke, "Susy Chrystie saved her little sister's life; wasn't that a splendid, big something to do?"

"Yes, my dear, that was a brave thing for a little girl to do, for even an older person might have been too frightened by seeing the danger May was in, to act quickly; but if my little Jennie will always try to keep quite still, and never scream when any sudden fright comes to her, she too may be able to think quickly of the best way in which to help herself or others."

"But, Mamma, you know that nothing ever does happen to me; and besides, I haven't any little sister or brother."

"Never mind, my child, if you will do carefully everything you do understand, and obey cheerfully even when you cannot see why you should, you will please your heavenly Father and give me comfort and pleasure, and perhaps some day you may have a chance to do something brave."

Jennie's face grew brighter, as it always did when she had confided her griefs to Mamma, and for many days she watched and waited anxiously, thinking that at any time something might happen.

And so it did; for one day a letter came from Jennie's aunt, Mrs. Graham, saying she would come and spend a few days with her sister, and bring with her little Willie, a boy about two years old.

Of course they were very welcome, and Jennie greatly enjoyed playing with her cousin. He was a charming fellow, but very fond of having his own way; and one of his

great enjoyments was to plunge two chubby hands into Jennie's thick, light hair, and pull it with all his might.

Of course this was a short-lived pleasure when any older person saw him, but when they were alone, Jennie would endure the pain patiently until she could coax the little fellow to let go.

She never gave him a cross word, and when the nurse would say impatiently, "Indeed, then, Miss Jennie, it's a wonder you don't just slap his hands!" she would answer gravely, "Oh, no, he's so much littler than I am."

Yet Jennie was not perfect, and though she generally tried to do what was right, sometimes, like the rest of the world, she wanted to do what she knew was wrong.

One bright afternoon, when she was playing in the yard, her mother called her:—

"Your aunt and I must ride to the station directly, to meet uncle and your father, and I would like to have you go quietly into the nursery and sit there until Maggie returns from an errand; it will not be long."

"But Willie is sound asleep, mamma, he doesn't want me," said Jennie, who was anxious to stay out of doors.

"Yes, dear, I know it, but we shall feel safer to have someone in the room, even if he is asleep; something may happen if he is alone."

Jennie, however, was so unwilling to sit quietly in the house that even these familiar words did not attract her, but with slow steps and a sullen face, she obeyed her mother's wishes.

She knew quite well how slight a thing she had been asked to do, and although at another time she would not have objected, just now, when she wanted to do something else, it seemed very hard to give up her own will.

Her conscience was so disagreeable, too, for it would keep saying all the time, "I am ashamed of you, Jennie Browning! Can't you do this for your kind mamma, even if you do want to do something else?" How tiresome it all was, and how she wished she could "just do as she liked!"

Thoughts like these were filling Jennie's mind as she stood looking out of the nursery window; but all at once

she was aroused by the strong smell of burning wool.

Turning quickly, the child grew almost rigid with fear as she saw, just in front of her, a small flame burst out from the rug before the fire, and not far from the crib where Willie lay sleeping. In an instant, however, the thought "What shall I do?" was followed by the remembrance of what her mother had often said, "If in any way your dress should ever take fire, you must try to smother it at once; never run away, but throw yourself down, or wrap yourself in anything to be found."

Remembering this, she hastily caught up the other end of the rug, which was large and heavy, and threw it over the flame. This quite extinguished it, for it had only just started into life when Jennie saw it; but in her zeal she tore off the bedspread and blankets, topping all with two large pillows upon which she seated herself, for by this time the child was so confused that she hardly knew whether it was the rug or her own dress which had taken fire.

Now she wanted to see somebody, and, not daring to move, she began to scream. This wakened Willie, who added his voice to the uproar, and soon brought the bewildered nurse to the rescue.

In less than an hour the carriage returned, and Jennie was kissed and praised more than she had ever been in all her happy life, by her parents and her aunt and uncle; for they saw quickly what had happened, and trembled to think what might have been.

That night as Mrs. Graham bent to give Jennie her good-night kiss, she whispered, "May God bless you, my thoughtful little niece, for you have saved your

cousin's life today!"

"Why, did I really?" thought Jennie; "how glad, how glad I am; for if I hadn't been there, the fire would have caught the crib, and oh, that would have been awful!"

Then, as memory brought the scene more clearly before her, and she recollected how her conscience had fairly pushed her into the room, her little face grew red with shame, and she softly said, "I will never fight with conscience again, for if I had had my own way, I could never have saved poor Willie's life."





BELIEVERS IN PANGASINAN, PHILIPPINES

In the month of February, the Lord opened up the way for my husband and myself to take our vacation to the country of the Philippines. I was looking forward to meeting, in person, my dear friend Jeannie Manago, with whom I have been corresponding with for over 30 years. What a blessed time we spent together. The kindness of the Filipino people is difficult to describe. We were made very welcome, not only by Sister Jeannie and her family, but by all the Filipino believers with whom we had the privilege of fellowshipping with. We spent two Sabbaths



FAMILY OF JEANNIE AND PETER MANAGO

in the Philippines. The first Sabbath was in the small village of Tabayoc, in the province of Pangasinan, where Sister Jeannie's husband, Peter, is working as a minister of the gospel. The second Sabbath we travelled to Angeles City and spent the Sabbath with the believers there. The kindness and hospitality we experienced by the believers will always be remembered. The gospel unites believers in a manner that nothing on earth can compare. We met many believers for the first time, and being invited into their homes, we felt we had known them for years and were treated as close friends. It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to unite His believers around the world and prepare us for the coming of the Latter Rain. It was with sorrowful hearts that we departed from our dear new-found friends, but look forward to the day when we can spend eternity together again. **Wendy Eaton**



BELIEVERS IN ANGELES CITY, PHILIPPINES



Sister Dolorita Benita celebrated her 100th birthday on December 31, 2012. She was the instrument God used to bring the reformation message to the island of Curacao. She is pictured here with Sister Leila McTavish.



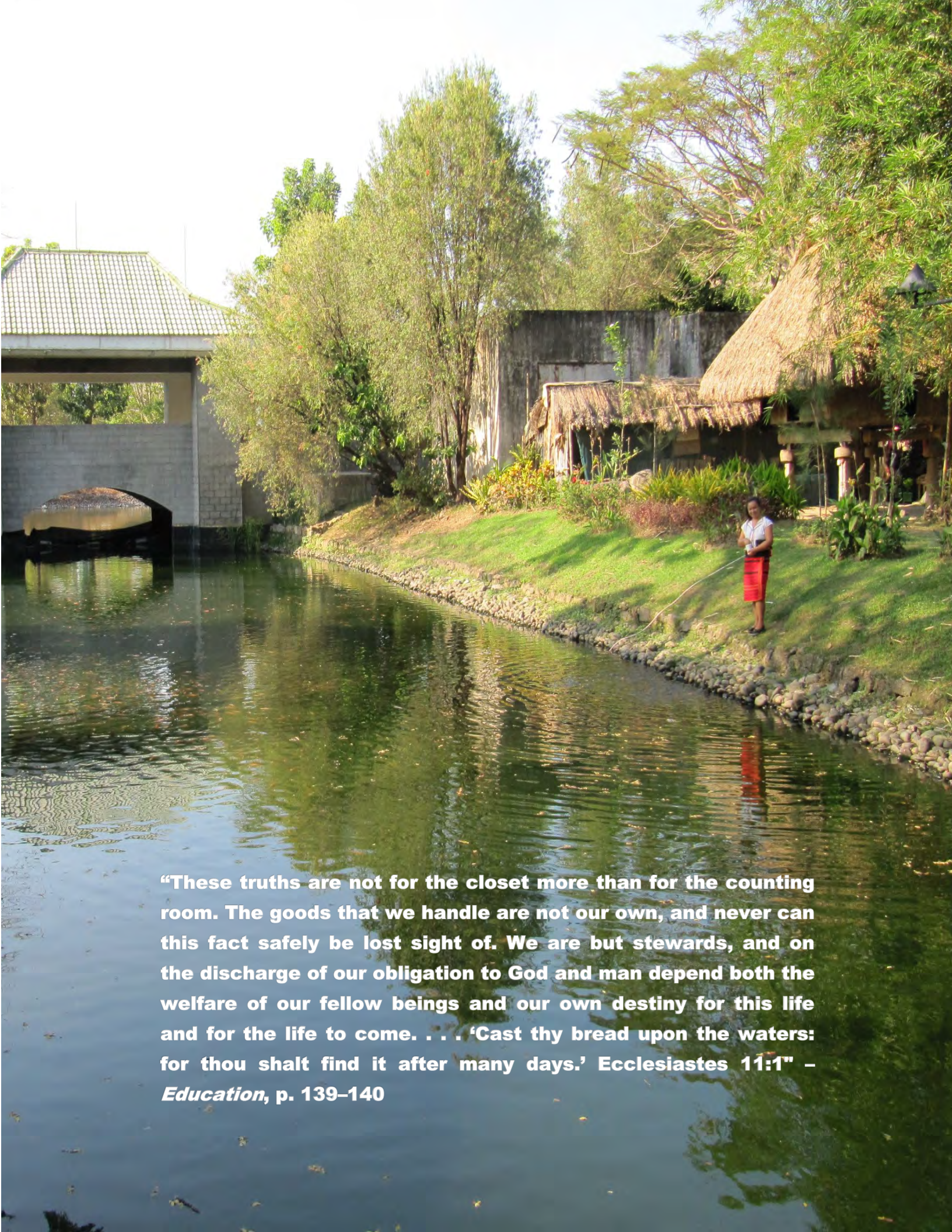
A NEW CHURCH IN BENGKOL, MANADO, INDONESIA



**BROTHER YUNUS
KANALUNG**



**CHURCH MEETING AT OUR NEWLY ORGANIZED
CHURCH ON SABBATH, FEBRUARY 2, 2013**



“These truths are not for the closet more than for the counting room. The goods that we handle are not our own, and never can this fact safely be lost sight of. We are but stewards, and on the discharge of our obligation to God and man depend both the welfare of our fellow beings and our own destiny for this life and for the life to come. . . . ‘Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.’ Ecclesiastes 11:1” – *Education*, p. 139–140