VOLUME 20, NUMBER 12, DECEMBER 2013

"The world is represented in the apostate churches who are trampling upon the Word of God, transgressing His holy law. They know not what spirit they are of, nor the end of the dark tunnel through which they are passing. . . . But He who came to our world to seek and to save that which was lost has pledged His own life that men might have a second probation. He has pity, and compassion, and love that are without a parallel; and He has made every provision in behalf of men that none need perish." – *The Upward Look*, p. 285

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

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Front Cover Photo: Helen Marttinen, Canada

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Inside Cover: Helen Marttinen, Canada

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- Tel: 905-876-2518
- E-mail: imsmessenger@yahoo.com
- Internet: <u>www.imsmessenger.org</u>

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Angels of God in Our Service

It was a very hot summer day in the year 2005 in Spain. As we woke up in the morning we had our usual Bible meditation upon God's word for the day. After that, each one of us went to his work, knowing not that this day was to be a day in which Satan, our great enemy, was looking to destroy our lives. The Bible says that in 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." We have a great enemy coming after us, trying to destroy us in as many ways as possible. But praise be to God, we have on our side One who is greater than our enemy, One who defeated this foe—not only in heaven but also on this planet earth, and this is our loving and compassionate Saviour, Jesus Christ.

That day, as I and my wife went to work, we left our children, Edward and Patrick, in the care of my wife's grandmother. She came to help us with the children while we were working. Patrick was only a few months old at that time. We were living in an old-fashioned, rented house built in 1935-1936. As we came home from work I remember that evening, after so days of warmth, the rain had started to slowly fall. The roof of the house was not in good condition and so some small drops of water were coming through the roof into the kitchen. We did not pay much attention to that and so when night came we went to sleep, saying, well, when time allows, we will make an effort to repair the roof. Now Patrick went with my wife's grandmother to sleep downstairs where their room was. Edward was sleeping with us in our bedroom; he was about one year and few months old.

Now I will tell you what happened that night as we went to sleep. That night, I had a dream, a very important dream. In my dream I saw a large, white and majestic angel come into our room. It was about 3 o'clock in the morning. This angelic being with his two large, wide-open wings frightened me when I heard the noise he made as he came into our room. The white apparel and the brightness of this scene made me wake up and open my eyes. The angel disappeared but I, myself continued to hear that voice, urging me to wake up. I woke up and looked around me-my wife and Edward were still sleeping. Then I went to the kitchen. When I opened the door I encountered a wall of smoke and flames caused by a short circuit that occurred in the kitchen from the drops of water leaking in from the roof. I began working on quenching the fire that was spreading fast towards the roof because of some artificial flowers that we had there. I opened the door and window and finally after a few minutes the fire was extinguished completely. It was so fast with everything happening at once that I did not know what to do first, I just followed that voice which said; "wake up, wake up." Can you imagine if God had not intervened in sending an angel to protect us from the danger that was coming upon us that night? Just there, where the flames were spreading, was the gas connection which easily could have exploded, killing us all. The bedroom where Patrick and his grandmother had been sleeping was just below the kitchen and our bedroom was next to the kitchen.

The Bible tells us in the book of Exodus 23:20 "Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared." This is a wonderful promise my brothers and sisters, my friends. There is more; Jesus says in Revelation 22:16 "I Jesus have sent Mine angel." The precious Bible is the garden of God, and His promises are the lilies, and the roses, and the pinks. How I wish that we might all believe in the promises of God. That night indeed, Jesus sent an angel to protect us from the danger which was coming upon us. I knelt down that night, and I thanked God for His continual protection and care for us. As I entered our bedroom I looked at Edward and my wife as they were sleeping, I went to

Patrick and the grandmother's room and it was as if nothing had happened—they were all sleeping quietly. Morning came, (although I couldn't sleep the few hours which remained), and when my wife woke up I told her about what had happened. Both of us thanked God once again for His protection, love and care for us.

For me, this scene with the angel remains something very significant in my spiritual walk with God. It shows me how

much God loves me and cares for me and my family. It gives me confidence, that wherever we go, we have the help of God on our side. This strengthens me when I am down, telling me what God told Moses in Deuteronomy 7:9, "Know ye therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations." How beautiful are the words of encouragement,

my friends, that we find in this Bible verse: "He is God, the faithful God." He is not like man; He is faithful to His promises and fulfills them. That's why Moses tells us that God is consistent and faithful in each generation. Moses knew the hand of God and he could say those magnificent words about his Creator and Saviour. Moses, looking back over his life, said, "God is faithful, God is there in the sorrows and joys of life." Even more, Moses tells us in Deuteronomy 32:4 "He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He."

Do you feel afraid, unsure, and uncertain? Is there anything in your life that makes you feel alone as you go through the trials of life? Or are there moments in your life you saw God's intervening hand in the affairs of this life? I want to encourage you today, you are not alone. God is not a man, we have seen already, He is a mighty God, a faithful God, and He is the Rock, a solid Rock we are called to build upon. All the evil forces in the world cannot destroy God's plan for your life. They cannot. Satan wanted to destroy me and my family but he could not because God has a plan for us. God's plan is revealed every day in our lives, my friends. Do you see God having a plan for your life? Do you feel God's calling for you to do this or that? We should depend always on God, because this life is a dangerous life without God. It is like we are on a minefield, and it is ready to explode at any moment if Jesus is missing from our lives.

As I go through this life, I have met people who expelled Jesus from their lives choosing the pleasures for a moment instead of choosing Jesus. I see the danger in which these people put themselves, my friend, when they put



away the Bible and its promises, I see the sorrow and pain they go through when they reject Jesus, and I want to advise you: do not do that, follow the Lord and keep His commandments. I saw lives destroyed by the enemy of our souls just because of rejecting God's mercy and love.

I am not saying now, if you follow Jesus there will not be any trials, sorrow or death. I am not saying that at all. What I am saying is that in the sorrows of life, in the disap-

> pointments of life we can be overcomers with God's help. As we put our lives in God's hands, God never made a mess of anybody's life yet. God never failed anyone yet and if we come to Him and say, "Jesus, my life is Yours," not one good thing that He has for our life will fail. We have seen it in our lives, in Moses' life, and throughout the centuries in many people's lives. The promises of God are certain and sure.

Let us ask some questions here—what is a promise? How do we obtain the promises of God? Does God always keep His promises? First of all, to answer these questions we need to understand that God's promises are always related to a covenant or agreement. I like how in the Spanish language the word "El Pacto," which in English stands for "covenant". What is a covenant, according to the Bible? Do you remember when God called His people out of Egypt through Moses' leadership when Israel was at Mount Sinai before receiving the Ten Commandments? God called Moses from the mountain saying; "Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine." Exodus 19:3-5

This was in the Old Testament, people might say—but now come with me to the New Testament and we will notice the same covenant based on perfect obedience and complete surrender to God as a condition for our salvation (1 Peter 2:4–10). Disobedience has been and always will be the same before God's eyes as, say, a broken marriage certificate or contract between God and His people, between God and you, my friend. Throughout the Bible we find a wonderful God showing mercy and giving time to repent of sin. Sometimes people turned their back on God; these people rebelled until they perished. There are also wonderful examples in the Bible of people whom God talked with and who obeyed His voice and did His will. For example, God spoke about Abraham in Genesis 18:19, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD."

The Spirit of Prophecy states in *The Signs of the Times*, December 22, 1881 regarding a covenant in the following words; "A covenant is an agreement between parties, based upon conditions." Does this make sense? Yes, it does. For example, if I want to obtain a mortgage to buy a house, the bank will give me money with specific conditions. What happens if I do not respect that contract? Will that house be mine if I do not pay my monthly payment according to the contract? Of course not. The same with God; we are in a covenant with Him based on obedience, my brother, my sister, my friend. In fact, I will tell you a secret in terms of salvation. There is only one way toward heaven, and that is "The way of the Lord," as the Bible

calls it. There is another way in the Bible which we find in the book of Jude with a warning—"woe unto them!"— called "The way of Cain."

We can see there is only one way to salvation and at the end of time just prior to Jesus' second coming there will be only two sides, two kinds of people; namely, the saved and the lost. There is no middle way or middle ground where you may think to place yourself.

God's promises are always based on acceptance and obedience. For example, in the book of Deuteronomy 26:18, we find God's covenant with Israel. In Exodus chapter 20 God's wrote the Ten Commandments by Himself, making sure God's people would obey them in order to be His peculiar people.

"God chose Israel as His people, and gave them gracious promises on condition of obedience." –*The Signs of the Times*, October 15, 1896. There are many examples in both the Spirit of Prophecy and the Bible where we can read these. Here is another very important statement in *Prophets and Kings*, p. 293, "God's favour toward Israel had always been conditional on their obedience. At the foot of Sinai they had entered into covenant relationship with Him as His 'peculiar treasure. . . above all people.' Solemnly they had promised to follow in the path of obedience. 'All that the Lord hath spoken we will do,' they had said. . . . At the ratification of the covenant, the people had once more united in declaring, 'All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.' Exodus 24:3, 7."

Like Israel, God wants to bless His people today. Do you want to follow in Israel's footsteps in breaking God's commandments? Or do you want to follow Jesus and keep His commandments? I think the second option is a better one and a wise man or woman will always know how to make



a difference and make the best decision in this life. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 1:20, "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." Joshua said, "none of God's promises ever fail." God can do the impossible because Jesus said, "what is impossible with man is possible with God."

We have been promised new hearts and new desires, a new spirit within us, according to Ezekiel 36. God fulfills His promises because He is a faithful God—the same yesterday, today and forever, my friends. In God there is no change. He is perfect, His work is perfect. He is Righteous and Holy and if we come closer to Him every day, looking unto Him, we will be changed until we will become like Him. These are the people Jesus will take up to heaven when He comes in the clouds. Throughout the Bible we find the same God—a faithful God who will not be happy

> if you or I will not be in His kingdom. He has done everything in order to save us. He has given us His only begotten Son. Have you given up everything in order to receive Jesus and His gift of salvation?

> Unquestionably, the greatest revelation of the love and character of God was at the cross, where the Lord offered Himself in the person of Jesus Christ as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" asked

Paul, and so may that also be our wish and prayer just as Paul said, that there is nothing in between us that is able to separate us from the love of God.

I met a sister, a godly woman and follower of Christ, who was my English teacher during my training at the Missionary Institute; her name was Teresita. There at the Institute I spent much time with her in prayer. We told each other about our experiences with the Lord and encouraged each other from God's word. Prior to her death, just one day before she died God made it possible for me to have a small conversation with her. She was dying because of her cancer and I asked her, "How are you, sister, what can I do for you?" "Be faithful," she said, "until the end of your life, Nicholas; serve the Lord with all your heart, be a blessing to the Canadian Field." At the end of our conversation she wanted to encourage me with these beautiful words of Paul in Romans chapter 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." May God bless us with His Holy Spirit and empower our lives as we go testifying about Him is my wish and prayer. Amen!

Nicholas Anca

Forget Yourself

"Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24

SELFISHNESS

What really is self and selfishness and how is it manifested? We talk a lot about it, we hear sermons about it. "We have no enemy without that we need to fear. Our great conflict is with unconsecrated self." –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 21

Selfishness is when self is all-important and everything else is secondary. In the world there is a saying that goes, "looking out for number one." That "number one" is self. The implication is that all that you do must be for the good of self, primarily. In the Christian world it is supposed to be the opposite.

When we use the term "selfish religion", these words are mutually exclusive. Thus the term has come into use, false religion as opposed to true religion. The word religion has the connotation to make one think that the person who adheres to religious beliefs is a good moral individual – a cut above the rest of the population. However, sadly, false religion has been the greatest enemy of true religion, as it comes clothed in sheep's clothing but is a wolf inside; "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11:14

The greatest deceivers in the world are false Christians "Halfhearted Christians are worse than infidels; for their deceptive words and noncommittal position lead many astray. The infidel shows his colours. The lukewarm Christian deceives both parties. He is neither a good worldling nor a good Christian. Satan uses him to do a work that no one else can do." –Our High Calling, p. 384

Are there such people in God's church? Very possible. "The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth and to sacrifice for God and His cause." –*Early Writings*, p. 50. The Spirit of Prophecy is describing the members of God's church in this statement.

"I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, 'Father, give us Thy Spirit.' Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children." *–Early Writings*, p. 50

"If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties." –*Early Writings*, p. 119. The greatest curse to the church and for all problems in the world is selfishness and pride.

MANIFESTATIONS OF SELFISHNESS

There are many ways that selfishness is manifested. Here are just a few:

Offended: "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Psalm 119:165. "We cannot afford to let our spirits chafe over any real or supposed wrong done to ourselves. Self is the enemy we most need to fear. . . . No other victory we can gain will be so precious as the victory gained over self.

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

"What glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." 1 Peter 2:20. Those that get offended easily have not died to self. They are selfish, all they think of is "poor me, they have done me wrong."

Depression: Anti-depressant drugs are amongst the most widely prescribed drugs in the world. What kind of world is this when there are so many depressed people? Is there no happiness to be found? People who have an inner focus often can get depressed. They study their lives and see little good.

"As soon as one begins to contemplate his feelings, he is on dangerous ground. If he feels joyous, he is confident he is in a favourable condition, but when a change comes, as it will, for circumstances will be so arranged that feelings of depression will make the heart sad, then he will be naturally led to doubt that God has accepted him. It is not wisdom to look at the emotions, and try to test your spirituality by your feelings. Do not study yourself; look away from self to Jesus." –*The Signs of the Times*, December 3, 1894

Shyness: A shy person is one who is bashful and timid. They often show discomfort or lack of confidence in association with others. Can this be a manifestation of selfishness?

"A half service, loving the world, *loving self*, loving frivolous amusements, makes a *timid*, cowardly servant; he follows Christ a great way off." –*The Adventist Home*, p. 431 [emphasis mine]

To be shy is being focused on yourself and what others may think of you. Having said this, it does not mean that every person is outgoing and talkative in public settings. There are people who are meek and quiet in spirit and do less talking and more listening. This is a good character trait. These people will have no problem speaking out when called to do so, but will not be seeking to be the centre of attention in public settings.

Mid-life Crisis: When people age and see that they have passed the mid-way point, there is danger of looking back at their accomplishments and being disappointed. And they may worry that they will reach the end of their lives and not accomplish what they should have. It

is a crisis that may be experienced in middle age involving frustration, panic, and feelings of pointlessness, sometimes resulting in radical and often ill-advised changes of lifestyle. This person is focusing on themselves.

"It is not wise to look to ourselves and study our emotions. If we do this, the enemy will present difficulties and temptations that weaken faith and destroy courage. Closely to study our emotions and give way to our feelings is to entertain doubt and entangle ourselves in perplexity. We are to look away from self to Jesus." – *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 249

JUSTIFYING SELF

To justify self means to defend, or uphold, self. Have you met Christians who are unwilling to let go of self, and seek to defend or uphold it? They do exist in all Christian churches, even in God's church. This has been done from the days of Adam and Eve. "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." Titus 1:1

Have you ever been led by the Spirit to show someone their errors and, rather than repenting, they make excuses for their behaviour or character flaws? They have no desire to let go of self and when found out, they try to justify their behaviours. They defend self vehemently, and some will go as far as to claim that there is nothing wrong with their actions and give reasons that seem valid for their erroneous behaviours, such as why they are always angry, or why they are late to church every week. "Angels have been grieved and God displeased by the hours which have been spent in justifying self." – *Early Writings*, p. 119

"If the deceptive covering which is about you could be rent asunder so that you could see yourself as God sees you, you would no longer seek to justify self but would fall all broken upon Christ, the only One who can remove the defects in your character and then bind you up." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 573

"To be without the graces of the Spirit of God is sad indeed; but it is a more terrible condition to be thus destitute of spirituality and of Christ and yet try to justify ourselves by telling those who are alarmed for us that we need not their fears and pity. Fearful is the power of self-deception on the human mind!" *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 88. It is actually a denial of Christ, as grievous as when Peter denied Jesus. "We may deny Him by loving our own opinions and by seeking to maintain and justify self." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 332

We see the example of King Saul. He seemingly did a good thing by making a sacrifice unto the Lord, however, it was not his place

to do so. It was the priest's duty. He made the excuse that the people were scattered and that Samuel was late in coming (1 Samuel 13:9–11). And then again King Saul disobeyed the command of the Lord when he was told to go and destroy the Amalekites; everything, all people and animals. He had no problem



killing all the people, however, he allowed the animals to be spared. When confronted by his disobedience, he justified his actions by stating the people spared the animals for the purpose of sacrificing to God (1 Samuel 15:15). Saul had seemingly good motives—a desire to sacrifice to God. However, it was terrible disobedience. It is possible for self to be clothed with the garments of religion.

"Saul's stubbornness in persisting before Samuel that he had obeyed God, was an iniquity and idolatry. His love to carry out his own will was more desirable to him than to obtain the favour of God, or the approbation of a clear conscience. And when his sin was opened clearly before him, and his wrong definitely pointed out, his pride of opinion, his excessive self-love, led him to justify himself in his wrong course, in defiance of the reproof of Samuel, and the word of the Lord by the mouth of his prophet. Such obstinacy in a known transgression, separated him forever from God." –Spiritual *Gifts*, vol. 1, p. 366

"All are in constant danger. I warn the church to beware of those who preach to others the word of life but do not themselves cherish the spirit of humility and selfdenial which it inculcates. Such men cannot be depended on in a crisis. They disregard the voice of God as readily as did Saul, and like him many stand ready to justify their course." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 88 Here is one serious final statement in this section to read: "Those who are most ready to excuse or justify themselves in sin are often most severe in judging and condemning others." –*Patriarchs and Prophets,* p. 625. I am sure we have all encountered people like this—who are always judging and condemning others.

SELF DENIAL

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20

This is the sign of a true Christian and the focus of their lives. "Those who deny self to do others good, and who devote themselves and all they have to Christ's service, will realize the happiness which the selfish man seeks for in vain." –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 521. The cause of God is primary in their lives and everything else is secondary.

"Heaven will be cheap enough, if we obtain it through suffering. We must deny self all along the way, die to self daily, let Jesus alone appear, and keep His glory continually in view." –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 359

"The test question for every Christian to ask himself is, 'Have I, in my inmost soul, supreme love for Christ? Do I love His tabernacle? Will not the Lord be honoured by my making His sacred institution my first consideration? Is my love for God and my Redeemer strong enough to lead me to deny self? When tempted to indulge in pleasure and selfish enjoyment, shall I not say, No, I will spend nothing for my own gratification while the house

of God is burdened with debt?'" – *Gospel Workers,* p. 433



"Many think that because God has given them the

means, they may live almost above want, can have rich food, and clothe themselves abundantly, and that it is no virtue to deny themselves when they have enough. Such do not sacrifice. If they would live a little poorer and give to the cause of God to help forward the truth, it would be a sacrifice on their part, and when God rewards every man according to his works, it would be remembered by Him." –*Early Writings*, p. 123 What I have seen happen is someone purchases something new for themselves (like furniture or dishes) and then gives the old one for the church to use. It should be the other way around. Purchase new for the church and take the old for ourselves.

"Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:33

FORGET SELF

Addressing the title now, those only will be saved who live forgetful of self. This is not some sad and weary training process or initiation we need to go through before we enjoy the bliss of heaven. Rather those people are the happiest on earth who are forgetting themselves and helping others.

"Those who, so far as it is possible, engage in the work of doing good to others, by giving practical demonstration of their interest in them, are not only relieving the ills of life in helping them to bear burdens, but are at the same time contributing largely to their own health of soul and body. Doing good is a work that benefits both giver and receiver. If you forget self in your interest for others, you gain a victory over your own infirmities. **The pleasure of doing good animates the mind, and vibrates through the whole body.**" –Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, p. 102–103 [emphasis mine]

By forgetting self in every aspect of life, we find the greatest happiness. We can overcome every sin. "It is the daily dying to self in the little transactions of life that makes us overcomers. We should forget self in the desire to do good to others." –*Counsels to the Church*, p. 80

Even in issues such as our meals, "If you are in constant fear that your food will hurt you, it most assuredly will. Forget self, and think of something cheerful." –*Counsels on Health*, p. 53

And then you meet people who are so inner focused and always thinking that people don't appreciate them for who and what they are. "Instead of trying to elicit sympathy for ourselves by giving others the impression that we are not appreciated, we are to forget self entirely; and if we fail to do this, through want of spiritual discernment and vital piety, God will require at our hands the souls of those for whom we should have laboured. He has made provision that every worker in His service may have grace and wisdom, that he may become a living epistle, known and read of all men." – *Counsels on Health*, p. 560 We are all called to be missionaries for the Lord and, "A faithful shepherd will not study his own ease and convenience, but will labour for the interest of the sheep. In this great work he will forget self; in his search for the lost sheep he will not realize that he himself is weary, cold, and hungry. He has but one object in view; to save the lost and wandering sheep, at whatever expense it may be to himself. His wages will not influence him in his labour, nor turn him from his duty. He has received his commission from the Majesty of heaven, and he expects his reward when the work intrusted to him is done." –Gospel Workers, p. 92

"It is selfish to devote our precious time to mourning over disappointed hopes, indulging in useless grief that clouds the family circle. We should be cheerful, if only for the benefit of those who depend more or less upon us for happiness. . . . It is our duty to make the best of everything, and to cultivate a habit of looking at the bright side of things. Let the cloud that shadows us pass over, while we wait patiently till the clear blue sky again appears and the blessed sunshine is revealed. . . . Let us all forget self as much as possible, cultivate cheerfulness, seek to brighten the lives of others, and we shall then have less desire to complain of our own lot." –*In Heavenly Places*, p. 273

> "Those who labor hardest to secure their own happiness are miserable." —In Heavenly Places, p. 325

"I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily." 1 Corinthians 15:31

"Self, self, self—how it struggles for the supremacy! In all things the Word of the God of truth is to be our criterion. Study this Word. Constantly praying with meekness and reverence, constantly rendering obedience to a plain 'Thus saith the Lord', you will reveal to angels and to men that you are members of the redeemed





Charles G. Finney, a young lawyer, sat in a village law office in New York one morning. All alone, he seemed to hear a voice:

"Finney, what are you going to do when you finish your schooling?"

"Why, put out my shingle and practice law, I imagine.

"Then what?"

"Build a big, beautiful house and have a family after I develop my law firm, of course."

"What next?"

"Well, I'll grow old and retire."

"Then what?"

"I'll die."

"And then?"

"The judgment."

Finney recalled a text from childhood: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Hebrews 9:27. As he contemplated the solemn thought of a judgment to come, he surrendered his heart to God and a profound change took place in Finney's life.

Do you realize that you, too, must face the judgment? "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10. No one will be overlooked, and no one is exempt from this judgment. God will judge man, not men their fellow men. Think for a moment. Someday your whole life will be reviewed before the entire universe. Everyone will know what you really are. Does that make you feel uncomfortable, perhaps afraid? If so, do something before it is too late. Prepare now to be pronounced "not guilty."

When does the judgment take place? Well, one judgment precedes the second coming of Christ. It determines whether you will be saved or lost. "Wait a minute," you may say. "I thought the judgment takes place *after* Christ's coming." Let me explain. The judgment has three phases. The first phase, the investigative judgment, pertains to all who have ever professed

> to be followers of Christ and determines whether or not their names will be retained in the book of life.

> The second phase takes place during the millennium, the 1,000-year period after Christ has taken the righteous to heaven. During that time, the righteous will investigate the records of the unrighteous and pronounce sentence on them.

> The execution of those sen-

tences takes place during phase three of the judgment. "And fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.... And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." Revelation 20:9, 14. In this article I will focus on the judgment that pre-



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cedes the second coming of Christ, the deliberations that began in 1844 (as pinpointed in Daniel 8).

At this moment, then, the investigative judgment is taking place. Writing about our generation, John the Revelator urged us to "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." Revelation 14:7. Not "may come" or "will come" but "is come." What does this mean? It means that the investigative judgment is *now* in session in heaven. For 164 years, the judge, jury, witnesses, and defense attorney have been at work.

Come with me. Let's review this heavenly court scene. "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the An-

cient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the *books were opened.*" Daniel 7:9 -10 [emphasis mine]

Here we see God, the Judge, sitting upon His throne. Before Him are thousands and thousands of angels who serve as faithful witnesses. In today's earthly courts of justice, mistakes are made. A fact may be omitted or distorted, a jury bi-

ased. What would result? An unfair trial, in which an innocent man is convicted of a crime he did not commit, or a guilty woman is set free. This will not happen when God does the final judging. His ways are righteous and perfect.

The Bible describes the records used in the judgment. "The books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the *book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12 [emphasis mine]

The book of life, then, is one of the opened books. It is absolutely essential for a person's name to appear in this book in order to be saved. Any time anyone accepts Jesus as Saviour, that person's name is recorded in the book of life.

There is, however, very definitely a possibility of one's name being blotted out of the book of life. The Bible does not teach "once saved, always saved." Yes, you *can* fall away from grace if you are not faithful until the end of your life. "He that overcometh," wrote John, "the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life." Revelation 3:5

The investigative judgment began with the first name in the book of life—Adam. Next to his name is written "pardon." Although Adam sinned, he truly repented

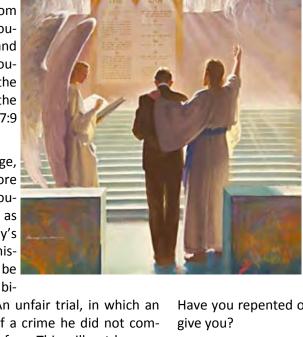
> and accepted the precious blood of Christ in his behalf. Adam's name remained in the heavenly record book. Abel's name was also called in the investigative judgment. Because he, too, trusted in God, Abel's name is still in the Lamb's book of life. Many centuries later, Judas became a follower of Jesus. Judas, however, lost his place in the book of life because he sold his Master for 30 pieces of silver.

> How sad, how terrible to have your name removed from such an important record! No longer eligible for eternal life, you are now doomed to eternal death. One of these days, very soon, my name will be called in the heavenly tribunal. If you believe in Christ, your case, too, will be considered.

Have you repented of every sin and asked Jesus to forgive you?

Malachi speaks of another heavenly volume, the book of remembrance (Malachi 3:16). This contains all the good deeds performed by the righteous. "There every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 481

Every time we yield to temptation, however, our sin is accurately recorded in another place, the book of sin (Psalm 51:1, 9; Isaiah 43:25). The holy angels sadly witness every wayward act. Not only do they record our visible actions, but our deepest thoughts are registered as well. God looks directly into our hearts. He sees our



envy, our lust, even when no one else guesses that such feelings exist—or realizes to what they may lead. "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her," Jesus clearly stated, "hath committed



adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:28

We cannot fool or deceive God. Not ever. "Sin may be concealed," wrote an inspired author. It may be "denied, covered up from father, mother, wife, children, and associates; no one but the guilty actors may cherish the least suspicion of the wrong; but it is laid bare before the intelligences of heaven. The darkness of the darkest night, the secrecy of all deceptive acts, is not sufficient to veil one thought from the knowledge of the Eternal." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 486

Long before, wise Solomon had written that "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:14

By what standard will each of us be judged? Our deeds will be measured by conformance to God's holy and perfect law, the Ten Commandments. As the apostle James warns, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the *law of liberty.*" James 2:12 [emphasis mine]

Imagine! God's law is described as the "law of liberty." Although the Ten Commandments reveal our sins and condemn us to death, they also make us realize our

need for a Saviour. Jesus came to this earth for only one reason: to save us from eternal death. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. What a marvellous promise!

In your heavenly day in court, who will represent you? Who is your defense attorney, your personal lawyer, your advocate? "My little children," wrote John in yet another message of entreaty, "these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1

This very day, Jesus

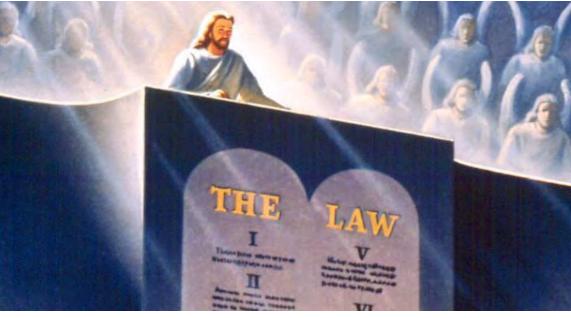
pleads His merits on behalf of His faithful children. Standing before the Father, Christ confidently says, "My blood, Father; My blood is sufficient for them." What a wonderful defense attorney we have!

Very soon, however, Jesus will end His work as our Advocate. The last name called, the books will be shut, the court will close forever. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. At this pronouncement, the verdict of the trial for every human being that has ever lived will have been decided as innocent—or guilty.

"The hour of His judgment," I repeat, "is come." Revelation 14:7

Court is in session. Some names are being cleared; others, condemned. Today, accept Jesus as your Saviour, your Advocate. He loves you; He died to save you. Now this moment, confess your sins to Him like Charles Finney did. Jesus will forgive and defend you. He *will* win your case.

Henry Dering



Healing the Wounds of Others

Let me not live a life that's free From the things that draw me close to Thee, For how can I ever hope to heal The wounds of others I do not feel— If my eyes are dry and I never weep, How do I know when the hurt is deep, If my heart is cold and it never bleeds, How can I tell what my brother needs, For when ears are deaf to the beggar's pleas, And we close our eye and refuse to see, And we steel our hearts and harden our mind, And we count it a weakness whenever we're kind,

We are no longer following the Father's way, Or seeking His guidance from day to day— For without crosses to carry and burdens to bear, We dance through a life that is frothy and fair, And "chasing the rainbow" we have no desire For roads that are rough and realms that are higher—

So spare me no heartache or sorrow, dear Lord, For the heart that is hurt reaps the richest reward, And God enters the heart that is broken with

sorrow As He opens the door to a brighter tomorrow, For only through tears can we recognize The suffering that lies in another's eyes.

> By Helen Steinar Rice Submitted by Franziska Pedersen

"We are admonished by the apostle: 'Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil: cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.' Paul would have us distinguish between the pure, unselfish love which is prompted by the spirit of Christ, and the unmeaning, deceitful pretense with which the world abounds. This base counterfeit has misled many souls. It would blot out the distinction between right and wrong, by agreeing with the transgressor instead of faithfully showing him his errors. Such a course never springs from real friendship. The spirit by which it is prompted dwells only in the carnal heart. While the Christian will be ever kind, compassionate, and forgiving, he can feel no harmony with sin. He will abhor evil and cling to that which is good, at the sacrifice of association or friendship with the ungodly. The spirit of Christ will lead us to hate sin, while we are willing to make any sacrifice to save the sinner." -Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 169–171

LOOKING FOR YOU...

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HOW MUCH?

Let us jog our memories for a moment and appraise the cost! It cost—much! But, we have all done the wrong things in our lives and the body is not in balance—nor in harmony. Man suffers—and dies!

"The body is a most important medium through which the mind and the soul are developed for the upbuilding of character." *—Prophets and Kings*, p. 488. Transgression of the physical law is transgression of the moral law; for God is as truly the author of the physical law as He is the author of the moral. His law is written with His own finger upon every nerve, every muscle, and every faculty which has been entrusted to man. And every misuse of any part of ours is a violation of that law.

This is an incredibly powerful statement! The mind and soul are inseparably bound. They cannot be effectually separated! The mind, in fact, is the measure of man. The mind is the soul—indivisible, multi-dimensional, physical, social, mental, and spiritual! Yet mental abuses to the mind continue as scientists work unabated in their quest for cures to the ensuing rise in subsequent pitifully sad mental diseases.

As both the mind and body encompass immensely vast topics, the emphasis in this study will be placed on the **physical law only** (although still part of the spiritual law), and which, of course, can influence the mind and its functioning.

WHO?

All should, therefore, have an intelligent knowledge of the human frame, that they may keep their bodies in the best condition necessary to do the work of the

Lord—to serve Him better:

1) <u>So, therefore, what is your body called and to</u> <u>whom do you belong</u>? There are many, unfortunately, who believe that they have the right to do anything they want with their bodies—they call this "freedom" or more popularly in vogue—in and outside of religious circles, "freedom of choice." (irksomely referred often to diet, dress code, conduct, and the Law). But, not realizing that they are enslaved to their own depraved desires (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

Ah! Observe here also, that gluttony, as well as impurity, is a sin against God. Because the body is the Lord's; foods for the body, and the body for food; but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body (1 Corinthians 6:13). "Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." Philippians 3:19

Becoming a child of God means that the Holy Spirit dwells in you—this is the sign that God has taken back His property, therefore we no longer own our bodies the rules of the game are changed—we must not violate His standards for living. We are <u>God's Property</u>! God owns you and me! Remember— "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16

Some today, (eh, many) are very sick; yes, God's people. In the early days, man could not diagnose diseases as such: i.e., Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular disease, cancer, anemia, dementia, etc.

As Paul's thorn in the flesh many lived by the "grace of God;" "And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.

Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

2) What will God do to you, therefore, if you defile or destroy the temple of God? which is your body?

(1 Corinthians 3:16). This is scary! "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:17 (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). Of interest, "So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha." 2 Kings 5:9. Naaman, the Syrian, and captain of the host of the King of Syria was eventually purified and healed of leprosy.

3) How, therefore, do we become this holy Temple of God? and become enshrined—and find our refuge in? No! Not some ancient pillared mystical temple of inanimate idols-but the living temple of God! "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye

are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." 2 Corinthians 6:16

4) Ah! In view of this stark fact (perhaps unpalatable for some), yet inescapable, what are we to do?

"What? Know ye not that he

who is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:17-20

Furthermore, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the member of an harlot? God forbid." 1 Corinthians 6:15. Observe, that both the authority of the Seventh Commandment and the apostle's appeal to the Christian's sacredness as a member of the body of Christ forbid unequivocally immorality of every kind!

Corinth, "the city of prostitution," was a place where

sex-sin-was acceptable within the culture. It was important that Paul instruct the Corinthian church in this area of moral purity, because the temple of Aphrodite in Corinth employed more than one thousand prostitutes—sex worship was part of the worship ritual; giving their bodies to the temple god. Fornication and incest was a part of the Jewish and Roman culture. It was difficult for the Christians living there in such perverse circumstances.

5) So, in this realm of wickedness and evil, and in a world enmeshed in greed, fear, ambition, and pleasure, what else is one to do? "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:17–18. Separation means: from whatever is contrary to the mind of God, and unto God Himself. It is impossi-

> ble for God to fully bless and use His children who are in compromise with evil. Separation from evil, furthermore, implies: separation from desire, motive, and act, from the world-dominated by satanic principles. Furthermore, separation from: false teachers.

GOD'S DESIRE FOR US

6) It is good to be concerned about our physical and spiritual well-

being. Today, many people are trapped into thinking of what you eat and drink cannot affect your spirituality. But, firstly, the apostle John said: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2. Mark tells us: "There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man." Mark 7:15

Many misinterpret these passages; particularly Mark's. A spiritual simpleton thinks he can eat anything. The moral principle is: defiled food defiles the body! The Pharisees washed their hands, being careful not to let the water run down their arms; defiled through the intervals and not ceremonially purified defiles the food, and defiles the body, but Jesus declares that a man is not defiled spiritually by what he eats. Though externals do not make a person unclean, internals can also. The truth of Scripture is that uncleanness comes from within. Jeremiah said, "The heart is deceitful above all



things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9. You can see from this that defilement works away from the inside. The expression of diverse language at times is an expression of false intellect.

The oral cavity, for example, being the first segment of the gastro-intestinal tract, malfunctions when the food is not masticated thoroughly. Many, consequently, take a digestive enzyme or aid, or see their doctor for any minor digestive disturbances, and thusly—more medications. We need to know something of the physiology of our bodies. For example, the parathyroid gland helps control the calcium levels of the blood. The pancreas controls the insulin levels in the blood, etc., etc. Although we still need medical services for certain conditions, we need to monitor our bodies more closely and follow sound healthful practices using natural remedies, if possible. Don't shut the door on God! Go to Him in prayer—the Great Physician and Healer.

7) How important is good health to any individual?

"Since the mind and the soul find expression through the body, both mental and spiritual vigour are in great degree dependent upon physical strength and activity; whatever promotes physical health, promotes the development of a strong mind and a wellbalanced character. Without

health, no one can as distinctly understand or as completely fulfill his obligations to himself, to his fellow beings, or to his Creator. Therefore the health should be as faithfully guarded as the character. A knowledge of physiology and hygiene should be the basis of all educational effort." –*Education*, p. 195

"As the foundation principle of all education in these lines, the youth should be taught that the laws of nature are the laws of God—as truly divine as are the precepts of the Decalogue. The laws that govern our physical organism, God has written upon every nerve, muscle, and fiber of the body. Every careless or wilful violation of these laws is a sin against our Creator." – *Education*, p. 196

Perhaps one of the most effective remedies for allaying many diseased conditions or states is found in Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." It is one of the most effective methods of reducing stress and prolonging life. Try laughing often—and make others (at least two) laugh, when appropriate, daily.



8.) What is the result of introducing drugs into the system?

At the onset—doctors do and can save lives! Many love to visit doctors! Appeal, also, to God—the Great Physician, in prayer. Drugs can affect adversely the equilibrium of the body, with side effects and interactions with other elements. Natural remedies can be very effective, however, but may take time. Go back to God's remedies. If we are connected with the source of life, man is not supposed to suffer diseases as most heathens. Eat what He says; herbs, etc., and other essentials of good health (Genesis 1:29; 3:18). Trust in Him. Guard the mind—be transformed! Don't look!! Avoid seeing or hearing immoral things! Avoid any mind destroying factors and devices. He cares!!

A recent US headline announces, "Pediatricians Set Limits for TV, Internet, and Cellphone Use." Parents should ban electronic media during mealtimes and after bedtime as part of a comprehensive "family media

> use plan," according to new recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatricians." "Excessive media use is associated with obesity, poor school performance, aggression and lack of sleep," said Marjorie Hogan, co-author of the new policy and a pediatrician. "Children ages 8 to 18

spent an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes a day consuming media for fun, including TV, music, videogames, and other content, according to a report from the Kaiser Family foundation. A new report from Common Sense Media, a child-advocacy group based in San Francisco found that 17% of children 8 and younger use mobile devices daily. The policy also reiterated the AAP'S existing recommendations: children younger than 2 shouldn't have any TV or Internet exposure. Also, televisions and Internet-accessible devices should be kept out of kid's bedrooms." Wall Street Journal, Tuesday, October, 29, 2013, Health and Wellness Personal Journal, p. D1. Finally, a few years ago, a devoted elderly nurse personally mentioned to me that she noticed an alarming increase in leukemia of children five years and younger! "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Corinthians 2:11. (See also: Psalm 37:7; Proverbs 1:31; 19:21)

"When drugs are introduced into the system, for a time they may seem to have a beneficial effect. A change may take place, but the disease is not cured. It will manifest itself in some other form. In nature's effort to expel the drug from the system, intense suffering is sometime caused the patient. And the disease, which the drug was given to cure, may disappear, but only to reappear in a new form, such as skin diseases, ulcers, painful diseased joints, and sometimes in a more dangerous and deadly form.

"To practice the use of drugs, medication does not harmonize with faith. Appealing to worldly physicians is dishonouring to God. Those who come to God in faith must cooperate with Him in accepting and using His heaven-sent remedies. . . . It is of no use to have seasons of prayer for the sick, while they refuse to use the simple remedies which God has provided, and which are close to them. . . . The drugs administered to the sick do not restore, but destroy. Drugs never cure. Instead they place in the system seeds which bear a very bitter harvest." –*The Use of Drugs*, p. 51–

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9) How can keeping of God's commandments affect life? We see in Proverbs 3:1 -2, some wise scriptural passages of practical value: "My son, forget not My law, but let thine heart keep My commandments: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee." Here is one secret of the popularly unceasing quest in mankind for a "longlife!"—a rule of conduct for prolonging ones' life. Medical science has affirmed that a meditative life and a church going practice extends life.

10) Our conversation and selection of words in an angelic and assuring voice

<u>can be an inner modulating force to one's health</u> and to those near to us and others in dire straits. "Pleasant words are as an honey comb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." Proverbs 16:24

11) <u>With whom is the "fountain of life</u>?" "They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Thy house; and Thou shalt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures. For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy loving kindness unto them that know Thee; and Thy righteousness to the upright in heart." Psalm 36:8–10

12) <u>Why did Jesus come to this world</u>? "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. Here is evidence again of a wondrously anti-aging phenome-

non! Believe!

13) Some essentials for vibrant good health.

Proper diet (vegetarian).
Sunshine and clean air.
Pleasant surroundings and physical exercise.
Proper periods of rest and sleep.
Proper mental attitude and spiritual relationships.
Social interaction.
Family caring and giving.
Sense of humor.
Abundant clean drinking water.
Reduce stress.

14) <u>To whom do we NOT BELONG</u>? "I have no greater joy than to hear that My children walk in truth." 3 John 4. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of

the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" 1 Corinthians 6:19. Because it is the Lord's! You are still God's property!

15) <u>Since we belong to God, what</u> <u>should we do in our body and in our</u> <u>spirit?</u> "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:20. (see also 2 Corinthians 5:15; 1 Peter 1:17–21)

16) <u>The Christian's body is the temple</u> <u>of the Holy Spirit; filth has no right to</u> <u>be there!</u> The Holy Spirit sent from God, abides within the Christian and purifies the temple. The temple was purchased by God through the blood of

Jesus and is now possessed by the Holy Spirit.

The temple does not draw dignity or purity from itself, but from God who inhabits it. Because Jesus paid our bail bond—ransomed us, we are not our own. In Paul's day a slave could save the price of his freedom, pay it in the temple treasury, and be purchased by the god. He then served that god for the rest of his life. It should be the Christian's constant goal to glorify God because he has been bought with a great price. That principle of life applies directly to the body, and it requires immediate obedience.

What a God we have! GOD'S PROPERTY!

Amen <>< <>< <><

John Theodorou U.S.A.



For The Future

Most of us have made plans for the future, what we will do tomorrow, next week, next year and even beyond that.

Young people make plans for their education, for the type of work they want to do. Even plans are made for old age. Sometimes these plans are fulfilled, but many times they must be changed for the sake of difficulties, or when a better plan is presented.

If you plan to build a house, you need to first make a blueprint, to show the size of it, and how many windows and doors it will have. Also, if you plan to go traveling you need an itinerary, which shows the direction that you plan to go, and also stopovers, and then the final destination.

The most important plan that we need to make is to be in heaven and to have eternal life. If this is our desire, then the plan has been already made; it is written in the Bible. God has made a complete plan for our salvation, and we must accept it as it is written, and not add to it, nor take anything away. All our own plans must be put away, and follow the plan of God in every detail.

One thing in the plan of God is tribulation, and this has turned many men and women away from the way of God. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but to be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Do not plan for an easy, comfortable life ahead. Especially in the time of the end in which we live, there will be persecution against God's children.

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Matthew 24:21 We may need to escape as Lot did from Sodom and leave behind our houses, and belongings, and run to the woods and mountains to hide from our enemies.

Also, the plan of God for us includes Bible study. We read, "Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for My mouth it hath commanded, and His spirit it hath gathered them." Isaiah 34:16

Jesus also said, "Have ye not read so much as this?" Luke 6:3. If we neglect regular Bible study we will fail, we will lose our faith. Daily we must study the Bible, it is the spiritual food to make us strong and able to resist the temptations of Satan. Besides the Bible we have the Testimonies of Sister White, which God has given us as mediums for our salvation. By neglecting the study of these testimonies we despise God's efforts to save us.

In the perfect plan of God there is also health reform, which is very important to us. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31. If we eat and drink something that God has not permitted we commit the same sin that Adam and Eve did, and the results will be the same.

Important also is to attend all the religious meetings of the church of God. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

"Those who appreciate the words of Christ will not turn aside from the prayer meeting, or from the meeting where the Lord's messenger has been sent to tell them concerning things of eternal interest." –*Messages to Young People, p.* 140–141 God also wants us to be flexible, so that He can form us into His own image. "But now, O LORD, Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and Thou our Potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand." Isaiah 64:8

We must become like a little child, willing to learn and be changed. We can make no firm plans for ourselves, but let God lead us in His way. If God would tell you to quit your job and start doing missionary work, what would be your answer to Him? If we love our neighbour as ourselves, then the greatest expression of love is to try to save him into eternal life.

Also, we need to be baptized into His church. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16. David said, "I made haste, and delayed not to keep Thy commandments." Psalm 119:60

Also we read, "Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear His voice, Harden not your hearts." Hebrews 3:7–8

To have the continuous power of God with us, we need to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). To pray in the morning and in the evening only, is not enough.

"No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer... while we must constantly guard against the devices of Satan, we should pray in faith continually: Lead us not into temptation." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 530

"We should watch and work and pray as though this were the last day that would be granted us. How intensely earnest, then, would be our life. How closely would we follow Jesus in all our words and deeds." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 200

The word of God tells us also to look unto Him. "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Isaiah 45:22

Peter could walk on water, as long as his eyes were beholding Jesus, but as soon as he turned his eyes away from Him, he started sinking. By beholding Jesus we change to His image. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18

Every day we need to meditate and behold the dying form of Jesus. The scenes of Calvary will generate love to Him. This is one of the most important things that we must learn, to love God above all, even more than ourselves.

Jesus asked Peter three times, "Lovest thou me?" Without this love we will be lost.

Now we have a work to do. There is a work that God will not do for us, we must do it. Paul writes to us, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12. God has promised to give us power that will enable us to obey Him. Sister White writes about the struggle that we must do in order to be overcomers.

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.

"Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.

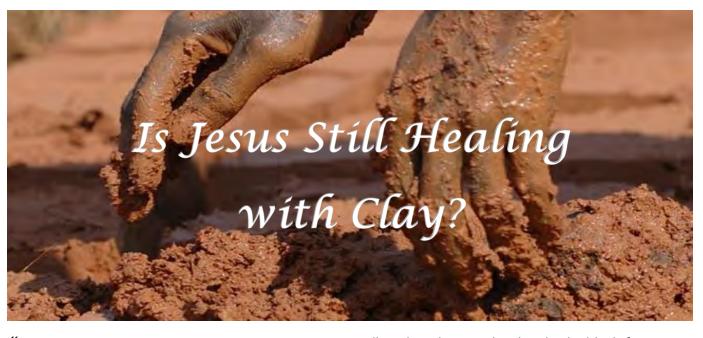
"As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them." –*Early Writings*, p. 269–270

Today, we have a choice to follow the plan of God and



be saved, or to follow our own plans and be lost. Remember, what you decide today will determine your future for eternity. Amen.

Timo Martin



"When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay . . . He washed, and came seeing." John 9:6–7

There are personal victories won in the secret chamber



of prayer where only the eye of God and the dying person know what they are fighting for. There are other victories won collectively with the pleadings of the

spiritual family. That victory is the one I want to share here, through the experience of my dying mother.

The purpose of sharing this experience is to glorify God, who still works through the eight natural remedies and also encourages many to continue fighting with their illnesses with a revived faith and with much more effort than they have had until now. "Your faith must not let go of the promises of God, if you do not see or feel the immediate answer to your prayers." –*Prayer*, p. 48

In July of 2013 I received news that my mother was

yellowish and very pale. She also had high fever, nausea, vomiting, and lost her appetite. This went on for about two or three weeks without being able to recover. My mother showed signs of a dangerous level of dehydration. I was very overwhelmed not only by her condition but more so of not having a real diagnosis.

My mother, a 76-year old woman, lives by herself in the southern part of Colombia in Florencia, Caqueta. She got to a state of weakness where she could not get up from the bed. She stopped eating and drinking, and the disease had gained enough ground to wreak havoc on her body. The place where she was staying is at the end of the city where public transportation only works until 6 p.m.

On a Saturday night my mother went into a coma, and there was no way to transport her to the hospital due to the time and place. Suddenly there was an SUV in front of the house, ready to take my mother to the hospital. We could never know who that person was who helped us, because nobody knew him nor has seen him again after that night. Without a doubt it was an angel sent by God.

The news of my mother's condition was disconcerting, and my need to travel to Colombia was more prevail-

very ill. Her medical exams showed only a chronic anemia that she had been suffering from for many years. She treated it with natural remedies, but there was no improvement. Then she thought that it might be malaria or hepatitis. Her face was



ing. God provided the resources for my journey through a generous heart. The following Tuesday I was to travel from Canada to Colombia.

I longed so much to see my mother and find her alive. I prayed to God for this opportunity, and I asked all my brothers and sisters in the faith to pray for her. Finally, I managed to see her, but in a very

treatment with details so that others can be blessed also.

sad condition. She could not speak because her tongue was swollen and purple. She was so skinny that one could see her bones. Her belly was swollen as if she were pregnant. She was constipated and had urinary retention. She was on oxygen and intravenous therapy (IV). One could only hear her moaning due to pain. She had giant reddish swellings on different parts of the

body. She also had a blood infection, which required large amounts of antibiotics and blood transfusions. As the days passed on, her condition worsened.

After numerous tests the diagnosis was even more worrying. The doctor told us that my mother had chronic lymphocytic leukaemia in the terminal stage. In addition, he said that she would never talk again because

she had a brain tumour. She would never walk again because she had brain metastases, which explained the reason for her loss of sensation from the waist down. The doctor did not offer any alternative treatment for it; he only gave her three days to live. Although for the doctors it was a lost cause, it was not the case for God. We did everything possible with my two sisters to take our mother from the hospital despite the doctors' disapproval. Finally we found a doctor willing to sign her out and the possibility of visiting her at home with two nurses to help us cope with the alleged complications that my mother would suffer thereafter.

We took our mother to an empty

house that we rented in the city, with the determination to do everything possible to save her life if God so willed. My mother suffered unbearable pain. There was a national public transit strike that hindered the painkillers to be given to my mother. So we had to ask a doctor from our church to send us some. He lives two days away traveling by car. The painkillers helped her because she could be moved around for the different therapies without severe pain. I want to share the



We started every day with herbal juices from anamu (*Petiveria al-liacea*), dandelion, nettle, etc. We also gave her a vegetable juice mix: 1 carrot, 1 beet, 1 mashua, 1 bunch of spinach, and 1 stalk of celery. We also gave fruit juices such as grape, dragon fruit, apple, etc. It was ideal to give her 8 oz., five times a day, but her body did

not accept those amounts. So we used a syringe to give her only 50 ml of each juice. We decided to give that amount every hour, along with water, lemon, and anamu (*Petiveria alliacea*) tea.

The other major therapies we did was to rub nettle on her body and then soak her in a wooden box with wet clay mixed with pure herb tea from anamu (*Petiveria*)



alliacea) and horsetail, among others. She would stay in the clay for about 4 hours at a time. We kept the clay warm by adding hot herbal teas. After two hours we could not stand the stench spewed by her body. It was also amazing to see how the clay sucked internal impurities found in the bumps on her skin. These red bumps changed to black and then burst yellowish pus, leaving a deep hole in the skin, which we covered with a mixture of vegetable charcoal, sulphur, and olive oil. The skin eventually ended up fully healed.

Sunbaths every morning renewed and energized her body, plus a lot of faith and confidence in the promises of God which

strengthened her daily to bear the treatment. After daily perseverance with that treatment, we started to see improvements little by little. My mother was starting to babble words, and the pain began to decrease. She started taking more natural juices that helped to repair and nourish her organs.

After three weeks, my mother spoke clearly again. She was able to sit in bed. She started feeling when we massaged her legs and feet. Henceforth every day we

saw a more tangible miracle. She began to take small steps helped by two people. Her appetite came back. Her bowel movements normalized and the skin bumps disappeared.

I want to give glory to God 🛄 for He keeps his word. "Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Matthew 11:25. You can imagine the faces of the doctor and nurses who came to visit my mom, when they saw her dipped in clay. Their eves and their faces expressed disbelief. They could have thought we were torturing my mother or that we had lost our



mind completely. Their eyes and their faces began to change when they saw the dying patient walking, eating, and talking. Now their faces were in amazement. Even the doctor asked to continue with the case, which he had ruled the incurable, to see its end.

The story continues, always waiting in the will of God for my mother. For now I want to encourage all to take good courage to start using what we have in our hands for the healing of ourselves and others. "And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod." Exodus 4:2. And with that rod he did great wonders. In London, Ontario, some sisters were inspired by my mother's experience and started a small sanatorium "with what they have in their hands." They offer a

> selfless service offering steambaths, green juices, massages, and hydrotherapy. "I have been instructed that sanitariums are to be established in many places in the country." -Counsels on Health, p. 169. "We are not to establish a few mammoth institutions; for thus it would be impossible to give the patients the messages that will bring health to the soul. Small sanitariums are to be estab-

lished in many places." – Medical Ministry, p. 327

You can visit our website:

www.jesushealswithclay.weebly.com for more information.

May God bless you, and please continue to pray for my mother.

Magnolia Correa Canada

"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies. Every person should have a knowledge of nature's remedial agencies and how to apply them. It is essential both to understand the principles involved in the treatment of the sick and to have a practical training that will enable one rightly to use this knowledge.

"The use of natural remedies requires an amount of care and effort that many are not willing to give. Nature's process of healing and upbuilding is gradual, and to the impatient it seems slow. The surrender of hurtful indulgences requires sacrifice. But in the end it will be found that nature, untrammeled, does

Balak



Out of the land of Egypt they had come, A mighty and powerful nation, To set fear in the hearts of some, And caused deep consternation.

Lo! In the valley of Moab they camped, And pitched their tents so near, And Balak's heart and soul was stamped, With anxiety and fear.

Come, curse thou Israel for me, he said, To Balaam the prophet, Come now! For we are filled with dread, And only you can stop it.

See now, I've sent money enough, For your wages and time, Only come now and do your stuff And everything will be fine.

Come! Curse thou this nation for me, Balaam, prophet of God, Rid them out of my land, And I'll give you great reward.

I, curse the children of God? Be it far from me.... But, tarry here tonight, my friend, And in the morning we will see.

Who are these that art in thine house? God asked of Balaam, Men sent from Balak unto me To do Israel harm. Surely, thou dost not intend, this thing to do, For whom God hath blessed, none can curse, Not even you.

So tell Balak what I have said, This thing cannot be done, For, I, the Lord, hath not found sin In Israel my son.

So, in the morning Balaam went, A-saddling his ass, But an angel met him in the way, And the donkey could not pass.

Balaam got mad and beat his ass, Three times in a row, Then the ass began to speak, The reason he would not go.



Then, upon the ass Balaam came trodding, Unto Balak the king, To the mountains they went plodding But couldn't do Israel a thing!

Seven times he had tried, With sacrifices plenty, And seven times he had failed, And came up quite empty.

For the Mighty God of heaven, Was pleased with Israel, And has protected His children, From Balaam's evil spell.

And so, if we please Him, By doing what is right, He will encamp around us, And protect us with His might.

Suzan Gowie - Jamaica





People Who Refused to Serve God

Satan/Lucífer

Lucifer was the covering cherub during his time in heaven. This was the highest position an angel could have; he was next to Christ in heaven. He led the heavenly choir in song and praise to God. He would raise the first note then all the angelic host would follow in praising the Lord. The Spirit of Prophecy writes, "Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honour to God's dear Son. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing a powerful intellect. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. A special light beamed in his countenance and shone around him brighter and more beautiful than around the other angels; yet Christ, God's dear Son, had the pre-eminence over all the angelic host. He was one with the Father before the angels were created. Lucifer was envious of Christ, and gradually assumed command which devolved on Christ alone." – The Story of Redemption, p. 13

How was sin created? No one knows, not even God. All we know is that it started with one angel, Lucifer. It started with jealousy. Lucifer wanted to be included when God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit would commune together, alone. Lucifer felt that, as the covering cherub, he should be included in these allimportant meetings. Lucifer became jealous and envious of Jesus and of all His power.

Sister White writes that, "Lucifer was envious and jealous of Jesus Christ. Yet when all the angels bowed to Jesus to acknowledge His supremacy and high authority and rightful rule, he bowed with them; but his heart was filled with envy and hatred. Christ had been taken into the special counsel of God in regard to His plans, while Lucifer was unacquainted with them. He did not understand, neither was he permitted to know, the purposes of God. But Christ was acknowledged sovereign of heaven, His power and authority to be the same as that of God Himself. Lucifer thought that he was himself a favourite in heaven among the angels. He had been highly exalted, but this did not call forth from him gratitude and praise to his Creator. He aspired to the height of God Himself. He gloried in his loftiness. He knew that he was honoured by the angels. He had a special mission to execute. He had been near the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glorious light enshrouding the eternal God had shone especially upon him. He thought how angels had obeyed his command with pleasurable alacrity. Were not his garments light and beautiful? Why should Christ thus be honoured before himself?" - The Story of Redemption, p. 14

Lucifer began to rally angels to his cause. Nearly one half of the angels went to his side. Thus Lucifer's name was changed to Satan which means "the adversary." Then there was a war in heaven. It was the highest crime to rebel against the government of God. It ended with Satan and his followers being cast out from the paradise they called home. Now, in despair, Satan saw what he had drawn himself and the other angels into. They would never again be allowed to live in heaven with all the other angels.

Satan and his angels watched as God created the Earth. Satan thought of a plan that was sure to bring Adam and Eve into sin. He thought that if the first beings on Earth were to fall into sin then God wouldn't punish him and his followers for their wrong doings. He and his angels could unite with Adam and Eve, for when once they should transgress the law of God they would be subjects of God's wrath, like themselves. Their transgression would place them, also, in a state of rebellion, and they could unite with Adam and Eve, take possession of Eden, and hold it as their home. And if they could gain access to the tree of life in the midst of the garden, their strength would, they thought, be equal to that of the holy angels, and even God Himself could not expel them. He also felt that they should partake of his misery in sin. Thus Satan tempted our first parents and the human race fell into sin. But God had a plan of redemption in case any beings fell into sin. His own dear Son would take all the sins upon His back and die.

In heaven we will all have our name changed, just like Satan, but instead of it being changed because of our sins, they will be changed because we have overcome sin. So it is my wish and prayer that we may realize that God loves everyone and that we may be forgiven of all our sins if we realize that our sins were the ones that put Jesus on the cross. Amen.

Michael Cyrus Newby

Натап

In Haman's life he had done many bad things, but the worst was plotting to kill all of God's people in one day. Let me tell you the whole story. It started when Esther, the Israelite, became the new queen of Medo-Persia. Then king Xerxes made Haman the new prime minister. There was a law that everyone must bow down to him when he passed by. Mordecai, the Jew, did not obey that law. Haman got angry and went to the king to make a law that all the Jews would be killed on the 13th day of the 12th month. But Haman did not tell the king EXACTLY that. Let us read in Esther 3:8, 10. It says "And Haman said to King Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy."

The king did not know that one of these people was his gatekeeper and his queen. Mordecai told Queen Esther she was made queen for a purpose—to save her people from destruction. She knew what to do. She went to the king and asked him and Haman to come and have a banquet. The king came with Haman to her apartment. The king asked what she wanted. Esther said to come tomorrow and she would tell him tomorrow at another banquet. Haman came home after the banquet and was overjoyed. He told Zeresh his wife about it, but he was still angry about Mordecai. So his wife suggested he make a gallows and to ask the king to hang Mordecai. He made the gallows 86 feet high. Then he went to the banquet. The king asked Esther what she wanted. She asked for him to spare the life of her and her people. The king was shocked. He did not know who would want to do this. Esther said it was Haman. The king was furious. He called his chamberlains and guards to arrest Haman. They did not know where to put him. Then one suggested the gallows he had made for Mordecai. So the king said to put him there. Let us pray that we do not become like Haman—envious and full of hatred. This is my wish and prayer. Amen.

Stephen Newby

Delílah

Delilah was a Philistine woman who fell in love with a man named Samson from God's church. Samson knew he was not supposed to marry a Philistine woman.

One day, Delilah saw Samson and asked him what was the secret of his strength. Samson told her, "If you bind me with seven wet ropes then I will be weak," so Delilah put seven wet ropes around him, then she woke Samson up. He ripped off the seven wet ropes and Delilah asked, "Why did you lie to me?"

The next time Delilah asked him and he said, "If you bind me with new ropes I will be weak as other men." Then she woke Samson and he broke them also. He then told her, "if you bind my seven locks of hair I would lose my strength;" this did not work either.

Delilah was a wicked, world-loving woman who loved money and her church religion. Samson was blinded by his love for her and did not want to face the truth about her wickedness. Samson disobeyed God and obeyed Delilah when God told him never to tell the secret of his strength to anyone.

Satan brings people who cause us to do the wrong things. These people can be our family, friends or those whom we like.

It is my wish and prayer that we will obey God, no matter what. Amen.

Sarah Newby

London, Canada <u>Ev</u>angelistic Meetings

"It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 69



"Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability." – *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111

By God's grace, here in London, the message of

Jesus was preached for two weeks night after night.

The Lord blessed our work by bringing new precious souls to the meetings who showed interest in studying the Bible and its prophecies as we went through the book, *Daniel and the Revelation*. There were about ten new souls that I have never seen before who attended the meetings, and there are eight souls that I have been working with. They come to church regularly every Sabbath. We would like to thank each one of you who supported and helped us to make this Evangelistic Outreach successful. I strongly encourage the believers in the Canadian Field, and my co-workers in God's vineyard, to have more events like this, because God still has people in Babylon. It is our responsibility and duty to call them out. I believe that more can be done if we put all our power and strength into God's work, because God has promised to do His part if we do our part and He will bless our work.

May God bless us richly as we step out in faith to reach people with the message of salvation.

In Christ, Nicholas Anca







By God's grace we had our first baptism here in Swaziland Field. Swaziland was organized as a field on its own just this year, so this is the first baptism since it became a Field in February 2013. Twenty-one souls made a covenant with Christ by baptism. *Pastor Alfred Ngwenya*, IMS GC Evangelism Department Leader.



"Church members, ask God to give you a burden to open the Scriptures to others and to do missionary work for those who need help. Some will be rescued in one way and some in another, but the work must always be done as the Lord shall lead.... Let the publications containing Bible truth be scattered like the leaves of autumn. Lift Him up, the Saviour of souls, lift Him up higher and still higher." –*In Heavenly Places*, p. 323