



The Reformation
Messenger

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 3, MARCH 2014

NEWS FROM ETHIOPIA

Page 24

**“Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.”
Psalm 68:31**

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

Front Cover Photo:
Wendy Eaton, Ethiopia

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Wendy Eaton, Ethiopia, Kenya

Inside Cover:
Wendy Eaton, Ethiopia

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SANCTIFICATION

When we study the subject of Justification and Sanctification, we are taught that Justification is the work of a moment while Sanctification is the work of a lifetime.

We can read of this, "Again and again the necessity of living a virtuous life, of having a sanctified heart, of revealing a growing conformity to the image of Christ, must be presented to the people. Do they realize that the work of sanctification is to be the work of a lifetime? Jesus prayed that His disciples might be sanctified through the truth, and declared, 'Thy word is truth.' He said, 'I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified.'" —*The Review and Herald*, May 24, 1892

Also, Justification is our title to heaven and Sanctification is our fitness for heaven.

"Justification means the saving of a soul from perdition, that he may obtain sanctification, and through sanctification, the life of heaven. Justification means that the conscience, purged from dead works, is placed where it can receive the blessings of sanctification (*Manuscript 113*, 1902)." —*The Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 908

So, what is Sanctification in reality? Is it a lifetime of overcoming sin, repenting, allowing God to change our character? Is it a difficult and long drawn out process? Well, it is a lifetime, so it is a long process. Is it a grueling process of self-denial? How is it obtained?

Firstly, Justification and Sanctification are impossible without the help of Christ, however it is a work of cooperation between God and man. To further explain this process we read, "The work of gaining salvation is one of co-partnership, a joint operation. There is to be co-

operation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 482

And also, "A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish. Christ first chose us, paying an infinite price for our redemption; and the true believer chooses Christ as first and last and best in everything. But this union costs us something. It is a union of utter dependence, to be entered into by a proud being. All who form this union must feel their need of the atoning blood of Christ. They must have a change of heart. They must submit their own will to the will of God. There will be a struggle with outward and internal obstacles. There must be a painful work of detachment as well as a work of attachment. Pride, selfishness, vanity, worldliness—sin in all its forms—must be overcome if we would enter into a union with Christ. The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is that they try to attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from these cherished idols." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 231

The union with Christ is called Justification. We make a decision to unite with Christ, repenting and turning away from sin. Sin cannot remain in the presence of a

Holy God. We make a choice between our sin and God. However, once we make the decision, we are not free from the devil's attacks. This union needs constant attention in order to be maintained.

"After the union with Christ has been formed, it can be preserved only by earnest prayer and untiring effort. We must resist, we must deny, we must conquer self. Through the grace of Christ, by courage, by faith, by watchfulness, we may gain the victory." *-Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 231

It is an individual experience. One you must make for yourself.

"Believers become one in Christ, but one branch cannot be sustained by another. The nourishment must be obtained through the vital connection with the vine. We must feel our utter dependence on Christ. We must live by faith on the Son of God. That is the meaning of the injunction: 'Abide in Me.' The life we live in the flesh is not to the will of men, not to please our Lord's enemies, but to serve and honour Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. A mere assent to this union, while the affections are not detached from the world, its pleasures and its dissipations, only emboldens the heart in disobedience." *-Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 231

"This is the will of God, even your sanctification." 1 Thesalonians 4:3

"The Lord demands all the powers of the being. It is His design that we should be conformed to Him in will, in temper, in spirit, that the soul may hold communion with Him who is full of love, and peace, and power. God would have us keep close to the heart of Infinite Wisdom and Love. He has chosen us from eternity, that we may be holy, our consciences purged from dead works to serve the living God. The Lord gave Himself to die for us, that He might purify us from all iniquity. He will carry on His work of perfection for us if we will allow ourselves to be controlled by Him." *-The Signs of the Times*, October 11, 1899

"Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfillment of the covenant God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, His Son, and His Spirit in holy fellowship. Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then cooperate with the three great powers of heaven who are working in your behalf (*Manuscript 11*, 1901)." *-The Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 908

EVIDENCE OF SANCTIFICATION

What evidence is there of the sanctification process? From the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:9-14), we see and understand that sometimes man has an incorrect idea of sanctification. The Pharisee thought himself to be sanctified, when in reality, it was the Publican who had just been justified and, if he continued to humble himself before the Lord, he would be sanctified.



This following statement reveals four different signs that indicate a person is being sanctified. "True sanctification will be evidenced by a conscientious regard for all the commandments of God, by a careful improvement of every talent, by a circumspect conversation, by revealing in

every act the meekness of Christ (*The Review and Herald*, October 5, 1886). *-Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 908

Did you notice them? 1) Keep the commandments; 2) improve every talent; 3) holy conversation; 4) revealing the meekness of Christ in every act.

"Obedience to all the commandments of God is the only true sign of sanctification. Disobedience is the sign of disloyalty and apostasy (*Manuscript 41*, 1897)." *-Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 908

And, only by communion with Christ, is it possible to keep the commandments. "God's law tolerates no sin, but demands perfect obedience. The echo of God's voice comes to us, ever saying. Holier, holier still. And ever our answer is to be, Yes, Lord, holier still. Holiness is within the reach of all who reach for it by faith, not because of their good works, but because of Christ's merits. Divine power is provided for every soul struggling for the victory over sin and Satan." *-Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 908

COMMUNION

The most simple and concise definition of Sanctification that I found in my research was the following statement:

"Sanctification means habitual communion with God." *-The Review and Herald*, March 15, 1906

It sounds simple, does it not? Habitual communion. How many of us are in the habit of communing with God 24/7 (24 hours a day, seven days a week)?

Communion is a very close and special connection. We call the Lord's Supper Service the Communion Service. It is a time when we commune with the Lord and rededicate our lives to His service. The word has its roots

in the word “common”. To become “common” with Christ, is to see the fulfillment of the prayer of Jesus in John 17. “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are.” John 17:11

So, this is what the Lord wants for us—Communion. But not just once every few months, but “habitual” communion. What is a habit? A habit is formed when we repeat an activity over and over again, thus creating new neuronal pathways in our brain so that in the future the activity is repeated spontaneously.

Habitual communion with God is just as it states: Communion that has become a habit. But in order for something to become a habit, it must be repeated many times. When we raise our children it is important that we teach them good habits as early as possible.

“Therefore shall ye lay up these My words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deuteronomy 11:18–19

It will be habitual to think about God, the first thing in the morning, the last thing at night. And all throughout the day. In a sudden crisis, we will naturally call out to God for help, while the world will curse. Our thoughts are habitually on God.

Some people get stressed out and worry if they will ever overcome sin, or reach the state of perfection required. Our sinful nature often can seem so deplorably hopeless. If you make it a habit to commune with God, then there is no doubt.

“By communion with God we may constantly have a cultivation in mind and heart and character that will elevate us and direct our thoughts heavenward, that we may become partakers of the divine nature. We are to be human agents that will cooperate with divine intelligences. We are to be quickened under the influence of divine power, that will not only strengthen us, but attract our minds from the dust and rubbish of earth, that will set us free from the polluting, deceiving influences of the world, so that we may contemplate heavenly things. Through this influence our hearts are to be purified, our affections sanctified, and set not upon earthly things but upon heavenly things. The treasure of earth will soon pass away, and 'what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own

soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?' The soul is capable of purification and sanctification, capable of attaining, through the offering of Christ, the heavenly treasure, even the gift of life that shall measure with the life of Jehovah.” —*The Signs of the Times*, July 24, 1893

ENOCH

Enoch learned this habitual communion and he went to heaven without seeing death. We can cultivate this habit also if we, “Pray at home, in your family, night and morning; pray earnestly in your closet; and while engaged in your daily labor, lift up the soul to God in prayer. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. The silent, fervent prayer of the soul will rise like holy incense to the throne of grace and will be as acceptable to God as if offered in the sanctuary.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 213

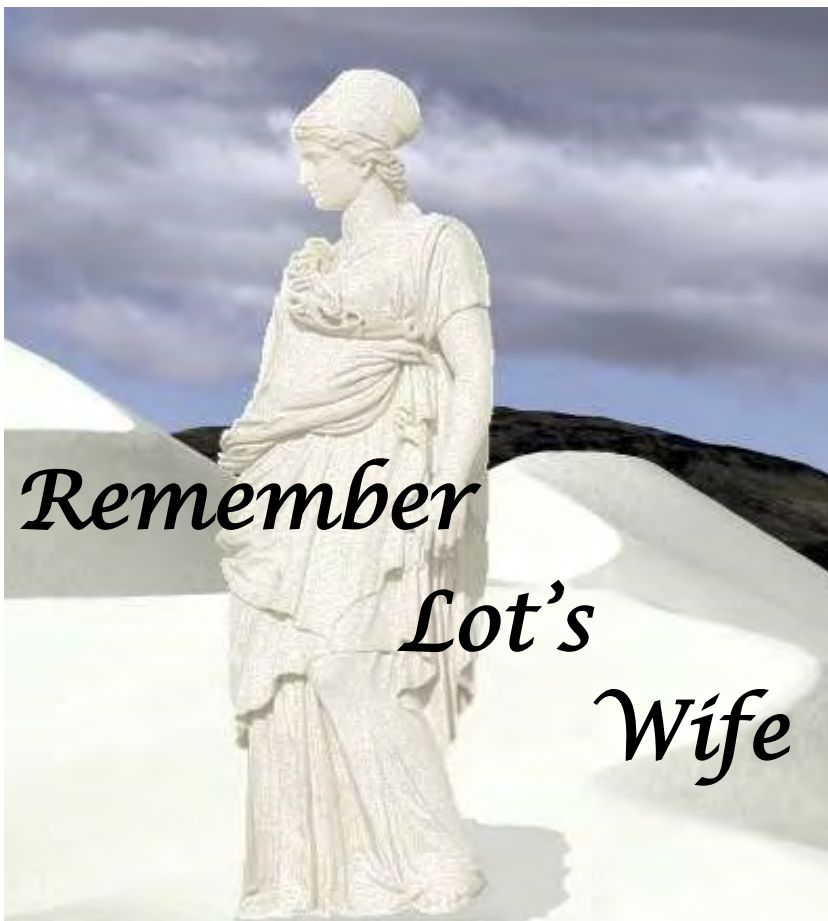
JOHN THE DISCIPLE

The disciple John also learned this habitual communion. “The depth and fervour of John's affection for the Master was not the cause of Christ's love for him, but the effect of that love. John desired to become like Jesus, and under the transforming influence of the love of Christ, he became meek and lowly of heart. Self was hid in Jesus. He was closely united to the Living Vine, and thus became a partaker of the divine nature. Such will ever be the result of communion with Christ. This is true sanctification.” —*The Review and Herald*, February 15, 1881

Again, “Sanctification means habitual communion with God (*The Review and Herald*, March 15, 1906).” —*The Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 908

This sums it up very simply. If we habitually commune with Christ, we will overcome sin. We will have no desire for sin or the things of this world. We will surrender our lives to Him and hunger and thirst for the words of life found in the Bible. We will let our light shine and not hide it under a bushel. The love of Christ will emanate from our very being. Although we may go through trials, our peace and happiness is not affected. We are one in Christ and Christ brings us our true peace and happiness. We will be so preoccupied with spending time with our beloved Jesus that we have eyes for nothing else. We will not want to do anything to hurt (crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame. Hebrews 6:6), or disappoint our Beloved. Make it your habit today to commune with God. Amen.

Wendy Eaton



Remember Lot's Wife

When Jesus was teaching His disciples, He told them to “remember Lot’s wife.” Luke 17:32. Out of millions of people in the world, Jesus took her as an example for His disciples. She had lived almost 2,000 years before, but she was one of whom the disciples had heard. Out of her life experience we can learn lessons also. What was special about her?

We read in Genesis 19:26, “But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.” By one look she lost her life and also her eternal life. She had no chance of repentance, no time to feel sorry for her sin. She had been told clearly not to look back. “And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that He said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.” Genesis 19:17

What was there, back in Sodom, to which she wanted to look? Was there not her home, her two married daughters, her belongings, and friends?

The Lord came down from heaven in person to save Lot and his family, and He told them what to do, how to escape the destruction that came upon the four cities.

Jesus gave the same warning to His disciples and to us. “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom

of God.” Luke 9:62

Jesus made it clear, He said, no man, not even one, who looks back will be in heaven.

What is behind, that we should not look back to it? Is there not the world, life in sin, the old life, selfishness, and self-gratification? But what is before us? Is there not Christ leading us, heaven, New Jerusalem, holiness, and perfection? Why would anyone want to look back to change his life unto death, joy unto mourning, happiness to misery, and Christ to Satan? Why does this happen often? It is a mystery.

We read that Jesus had other 70 disciples, whom He sent out to witness to the people, “After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place, wither He Himself would come.” Luke 10:1. But what happened to these disciples? “From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.” John 6:66. Only the twelve decided to stay with

Him. And out of the twelve, Judas decided to leave Him also. After three and a half years following Jesus, Judas decided to leave Him. He decided that it was more enjoyable to live without Christ. But that same night when he decided to leave the company of Jesus his misery was so great that he decided to end his life.

When the Holy Spirit leaves a person, at the same time his joy and happiness are gone, and never anymore will the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, return to him. When God is shaking His church, only those who have lost the Holy Spirit are shaken out, others will remain, because they did not look back. “For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.” Amos 9:9

When someone decides to look back, there is a process that takes place before it, which is called backsliding. It is an involuntary act. He does not walk back, no, he is sliding without noticing it himself. He does not look unto Jesus anymore; his eyes are turned away from Him. He does not speak about Him, nor even think of Him. In other words, his love for Christ has died.

When Lot’s wife looked back, she had gone through a process of backsliding. It did not happen from a sudden impulse. This happened to the people of Israel in the

time of Jeremiah, "Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return." Jeremiah 8:5

God loved His people, even in their backslidden condition, and tried to save them. "Through Jeremiah the word of the Lord to His people was: 'Return, thou backslidden Israel, . . . and I will not cause Mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God. . . . Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you.' 'Thou shalt call Me, My Father; and shalt not turn away from Me.' 'Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.' Jeremiah 3:12-14, 19, 22." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 410

Sister White wrote to the church, "There is an astonishing backsliding with God's people, to whom has been entrusted sacred, holy truth." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 450

If the backsliding continues, finally God will withdraw His protection. "Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evening shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased." Jeremiah 5:6

As soon as we stop progressing higher, that moment we start sliding back. We cannot stay in one position, we either advance or slide backwards.

Backsliding happens in many different ways. One way is indulging our appetite. "Some are indulging lustful appetite which wars against the soul and is a constant hindrance to their spiritual advancement." — *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 548

Soon they will withdraw themselves from the assemblies of the saints. They lose their interest in the meetings and their love for the truth.

Also, to neglect our prayer connection with God we can lose our faith and start backsliding. "Some of these, through lack of watchfulness and prayer, had lost their faith and the evidence of their connection with God." — *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 220

"Many an honest, well-meaning person makes no advancement in the Christian life because he does not see the necessity of constantly learning more of Jesus." — *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 89. Lack of Bible study and neglect of religious meetings causes them to back-

slide.

Many backslide and lose their faith by associating with unbelievers. "As a rule, those who choose for their friends and companions persons who reject Christ and trample upon God's law, eventually become of the same mind and spirit." —*The Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 1000

The results of backsliding, according to Sister White, are: Blindness of mind, hardness of heart, inactivity in the cause of God, separation from God, a restless heart, and misery.

There is a remedy to the backslidden Christian. "By watchfulness and prayer, he may so guard his weakest points that they will become his strongest points." — *Gospel Workers*, p. 126

We can go higher and higher every day. By looking to Jesus constantly we gain sanctification and holiness that will guarantee us heaven and eternal life.

Let us keep our eyes looking forward to Jesus, and forget the things that are behind. Remember what happened to Lot's wife when she looked back. Amen.

Timo Martin

LOOKING FOR YOU...

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Repent Ye:

For it is at Hand

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:1–2. So let us consider that, as the time is at the very end, likewise, when it is said "IT IS AT HAND" in Matthew 3:2, this is the kingdom of heaven.

GOD DOES NOT TARRY

In the following text we read how the day of the Lord is described in prophecy. "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, it shall be very tempestuous round about Him." Psalm 50:3. See also Zephaniah 1:14–15

"When these things are dwelt upon as they should be, scoffers will be developed who walk after their own lusts, saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?' for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. But 'when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them.' 'But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.' Thank God, all will not be rocked to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. There will be faithful ones who will discern the signs of the times. While a large number professing present truth will deny their faith by their works, there will be some who will endure unto the end." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 10

"God is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish; but His forbearance has a limit, and when the boundary is passed, there is no second probation. His wrath will go forth and He will destroy without remedy." –*The Youth's Instructor*, March 28, 1905

In the book of Acts 17:30 and Matthew 4:17; 3:2, we find the reason as to why we are called to repentance, but "It is only through Christ that we can be brought into harmony with God, with holiness; but how are we to come to Christ? Many are asking the same question. . . [but the answer is given]; "Repent, . . . and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.' Acts 3:19." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 23

TRUE REPENTANCE: 2 CORINTHIANS 7:8; PROVERBS 28:13

"Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 23

"Who is desirous of becoming truly repentant? What must he do?—He must come to Christ, just as he is, without delay. . . . With prayer he will mingle faith, and not only believe in but obey the precepts of the law. He will announce himself as on Christ's side of the question. He will renounce all habits and associations that tend to draw the heart from God." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 393

"We do not repent in order that God may love us, but He reveals to us His love in order that we may repent." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 189

"Repentance comes from Christ as truly as does pardon." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 175

"Oh, no! He who died to redeem man from death, loves with a divine love, and those whom He loves He rebukes. 'As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.' But

many will not receive the message that Heaven in mercy sends them.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 257–258

DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED: JOHN 1:9; 4:14–16

“If you are condemned, there is but one course for you to pursue: you must repent toward God because of the transgression of His law, and have faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ as the one who only can cleanse from sin. If we would obtain heaven, we must be obedient to God’s holy requirements. . . . The wrestlers of old strove to obtain a perishable crown, and should we not strive to win the crown that fadeth not away?” – *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 317–318

WORKS AND DEEDS OF REPENTANCE: MATTHEW 3:8; ACTS 26:20

“At every advance step in our Christian experience our repentance will deepen.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 561

“No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation. The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 555–556

When one has works of repentance, he will bear the fruits of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Galatians 5:22–23).

JESUS HAS ALREADY OPENED A WAY FOR US

“If we would be saved at last we must all learn the lesson of penitence and faith at the foot of the cross. Christ suffered humiliation to save us from everlasting disgrace. He consented to have scorn, mockery and abuse fall upon Him in order to shield us. It was our transgression that gathered the veil of darkness about His divine soul and extorted the cry from Him, as of one smitten and forsaken of God. He bore our sorrows; He was put to grief for our sins. He made Himself an offering for sin, that we might be justified before God through Him. Everything noble and generous in man will respond to the contemplation of Christ upon the cross.” –*Lift Him Up*, p. 240

**Melkizedeki Batholomayo, BAMI student,
Tanzania**

Fitter

My cold heart,
Yearns for a drop of hope,
Oh! A drop of flavour, Holy Spirit
To melt the solidated infirmities of soul,
Just a drop of Your patient faith,
To taste the sweetness—a drop of obedience.

I should say
I envy humanly, unthinkable love,
I envy Your sacrifice for me,
I envy Your inglorious death for me to live,
Above all, Your perpetual pleadings in my
heart

Your love,
So great and immeasurable,
So pure and full of wondrous deeds,
Love which pierced the ears of the dead,
Oh! So different from human bigotries,
Strike the strings of my Jesus,
I plunge in just a drop of Your love.

Your sacrifice,
It is far more than comparable,
Oh! Lord, help me know its value,
I long to feel its deepest worth
To guide me in my battle of faith

*Evalyne Neema Kasiwa
Kenya*

JOHN SEES!

God is not still in regard to the nearness of the fearful sentence of the judgment. God has yet a people in Babylon, and before the destruction comes, these faithful ones must be called out from there. God has called ever and ever through the enticing voice of Je-

sus, but now the pleading and warning voice is sounding stronger than ever! John, that wise old sage on Patmos Island in Greece, sees in connection with the last movement of the everlasting Gospel of the threefold angels message, a new and powerful angel, coming down from heaven to the assistance of the three first angels' messages; he had great power and the earth was lighted with his glory, (Revelation 18:1-3) and he cried mightily with a strong voice:

"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies." Revelation 18:2-3

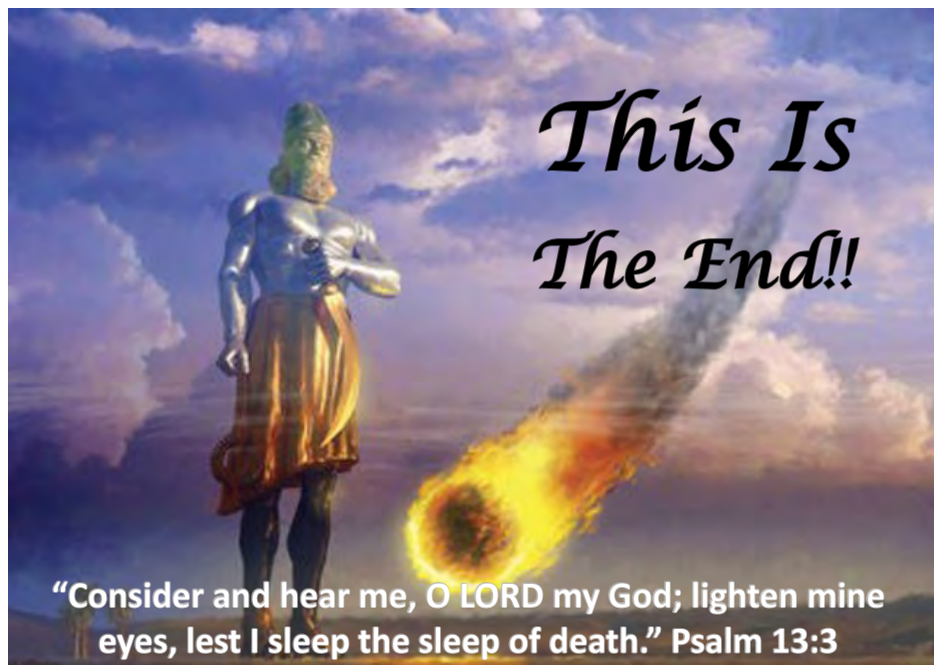
This test shows, that God will, through

~ "The Loud Cry," ~

do a special work for the saving of His people. Now, since 1844 the everlasting gospel has entered through the Advent Believers, "to all people and nations and tongues." The media, technological advances, and the ingenuity of man. . . yes, all progress made it possible, to bring all the knowledge through the **Word** and publications for a testimony. Ah! But now a **different** work should commence, not through might or power, but **through His Spirit** (Zachariah 4:6).

HOLY ZEAL

This movement shall be equal to that of the Apostles at Pentecost. God is separating and choosing His teachers Himself for this work; teachers of righteousness. They are not hirelings or business agents (John 10:12); but men of faith and prayer, who, with a lightened countenance of



holy zeal were rushing from place to place, and as true watchmen did not keep peace day nor night (Isaiah 62:6-7); who are saying with the Apostle: "for we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He hath given you "the former rain moderately", and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month." Joel 2:23

UNPAINTED TRUTH

At every period God has sent His Messengers, in order to rebuke the world, as well as the believers of sin. The people always desired to be preached to, but not too severely, only softly, but smooth things, because the pure, unpainted truth is not pleasing. But the Lord said: "**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Revelation 18:2

After 1844, God announced the fall of the churches through the second angel's message (Revelation 14:8); thus it has become necessary today to warn the people anew about a **greater confusion**. A terrible condition is described here among Christians; it is a reality today. According to this text, many of the people of God must yet be still in Babylon, as John heard another voice from Heaven say:

"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Revelation 18:4

FLEE!

Now, in order that all those who hunger and thirst after righteousness may be saved, God is sending, therefore, once again, His messengers, to call out the scattered members of the people of God, who are in the different religious bodies. Dear souls are driven out from the condemned denominations like Lot, who was speedily led away from Sodom, when it was about to be destroyed. Therefore haste, "flee out of the midst of Babylon" (Jeremiah 51:6) to be saved. All "that sigh and that

cry for all the abominations that be done in the **midst thereof**" (Ezekiel 9:4); cry with Joel: "Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning!" (Joel 2:12); with Elijah they are reminding them: "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him." 1 Kings 18:21

DAYS OF DECISION

We have abruptly entered **upon the days of decision**, in these days of dramatic action. People are fiercely wrestling now throughout the whole world upon their knees, like Jacob at Jabbok. (Genesis 32:22–32); "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." Like the disciples at Pentecost, united to cry unto God (Acts 1:14), so this message will be spread, not so much by giving proofs, but rather as through a deep assurance of the Spirit of God. Much has been preached and written—heretofore. But now the living testimony is to finish God's work.

The midnight hour, the darkest hour of this world's history has broken on! (Matthew 25:6). The wise virgins are taking the oil (the Holy Spirit), while the foolish are satisfied with a mere knowledge of the truth, and superficial actions. "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!" "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1. "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." Amos 4:12. "For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" Joel 2:11

WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BRING TO YOU?

Well—would you not "**leave Babylon**" to turn with your whole heart to the Lord? True conversion to God through Christ, our Saviour, means a complete change of mind and living—in word and deed, in food and dress, in ambitions and desires, in habits and character—a ceaseless battle of faith against the enemy from within and from without! In this present life we must remove every sin—every transgression of law—every doubt—through faith in the redemption of the blood of Christ.

Our precious Saviour is inviting us, to unite:

- Our weakness with His strength,
- Our ignorance with His wisdom,
- Our unworthiness with His merits.

Moreover, the Lord is not setting us on the road on which we would desire to walk in this last warning call. You see, it may appear easier and more pleasing; but, rather than this, He is placing the true aim of life before us!

No one can do the work of forming his character, conformable to the godly standard, through negligence and delay, without a terrible loss to his own soul! The time of tribulation, such as has never been, will break soon **upon**

us, in which we will need an experience that many are now too careless or indifferent to obtain. No one needs to say that his case is hopeless, that he is not able to live a decent Christian life. For all provisions have been made for each soul through the death of Christ. Jesus is our present help in time of need. Call upon Him in faith and prayer. He has promised to hear our pleading and will grant us our petition (Jeremiah 29: 11–13).

"And this is [the confidence]—the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us." 1 John 5:14

Also, "Known unto God are all His works]" (Acts 15:18); for known unto Him are all His thoughts. We often do not know our own thoughts, or our own mind, but God is not at any uncertainty about Himself. We sometimes fear that God's designs are against us, but concerning His own people—are only thoughts of good and not evil. His thoughts are all working towards the expected end—a future and a hope! Israel (the Israelites were not slaves but deportees; free) had both—a future and a hope, but they were not to be realized immediately. First, she had to undergo purification by fire!

We need to have patience until the fruit is ripe. He will give His people an end, and hoped for expectations. He will give them to see the end—(the comfortable termination)—of their trouble; though it last long, it shall not last forever. You see, when things are at their worst they will begin to mend; and He will give them to see the glorious perfection of their deliverance. When He begins in ways of mercy He will make an end—that end which His people desire and hope for and have been waiting long for and which He promised. Not by the expectations of their fears or fancies but of—their faith!

This will be an answer to their wrestling prayers and supplications to God. God will caressingly stir them up to pray. When God is about to give His people the expected good, He pours out a spirit of prayer. When deliverance is coming we must by prayer go forth to meet it! When Daniel understood that the 70 years were soon expiring, then he set his face with more fervency than ever to seek the Lord. (Daniel 9:2–3) (Psalm 80:2). The Lord said, "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13. Those that diligently seek God shall find Him and shall find Him their **bountiful rewarder** (Hebrews 11:6).

Are you ready? For—**THIS IS THE END!!**

Amen <>< >>< <><

John Theodorou

Learning To Forgive

What does it mean, learning to forgive?

“Every association of life calls for the exercise of self-control, forbearance, and sympathy. We differ so widely in disposition, habits, education, that our ways of looking at things vary. We judge differently. Our understanding of truth, our ideas in regard to the conduct of life, are not in all respects the same. There are no two whose experience is alike in every particular. The trials of one are not the trials of another. The duties that one finds light are to another most difficult and perplexing.

“So frail, so ignorant, so liable to misconception is human nature, that each should be careful in the estimate he places upon another. We little know the bearing of our acts upon the experience of others. What we do or say may seem to us of little moment, when, could our eyes be opened, we should see that upon it depended the most important results for good or for evil.” – *Gospel Workers*, p. 473

“Self is the enemy we most need to fear. No form of vice has a more baleful effect upon the character than has human passion not under control of the Holy Spirit. . . . 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. . . . Do not retaliate, so far as you can do so, remove all cause for misapprehension. . . . If impatient words are spoken to you, never reply in the same spirit. Remember that ‘a soft answer turneth away wrath.’ Prov-

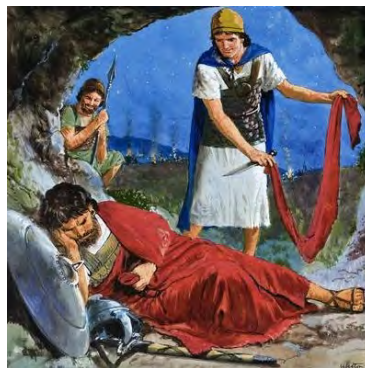
erbs 15:1. Under a storm of stinging, faultfinding words, keep the mind stayed upon the word of God.” – *Help for Daily Living*, p. 25–27

I remember someone once said, “Only when you have experienced the pain of guilt will you will know the value of being forgiven, and the healing experience when you forgive someone.” An example of a soul who had longed for forgiveness is Jacob; he longed to be freed from the burden of guilt, and for about twenty years the guilt tormented him. “Lonely and outcast as he was, separated from all that had made life dear, the one thought that above all others pressed upon his soul, was the fear that his sin had cut him off from God, that he was forsaken of Heaven.” – *Steps to Christ*, p. 19. When the opportunity for forgiveness presented itself Jacob would not let it go until he received the blessing he longed for.

Also, we can draw a lesson from the conduct of David towards Saul. “By command of God, Saul had been anointed as king over Israel.” – *Help in Daily Living*, p. 24. Now, “because of his disobedience, the Lord declared that the kingdom should be taken from him; and

yet how tender and courteous and forbearing was the conduct of David toward him! In seeking the life of David, Saul came into the wilderness and unattended, entered the very cave where David with his men of war lay hidden.” – *Ibid.*, p. 24

David’s response to his men, when they urged him take the life of Saul, is a response from one who has learned to forgive. As long as we are in the



world, we shall meet adverse influences. There will be provocations to test our tempers and it is by meeting these in the right spirit that the Christian graces are developed.

Again, we need not keep our own record of trials and difficulties, griefs and sorrows, or even wrongs of our associates. Because all those are written in the books of heaven and heaven will take care of them. While we are counting the disagreeable things, many things that are pleasing to reflect upon, things to heal and rejuvenate and to enlighten the soul, are passing from our memory; and thus our lives are darkened and choked by sadness and bitterness. God cannot dwell in such a person.

“Life is chiefly made up, not of great sacrifices and wonderful achievements but of little things. It is often through the little things which seem so unworthy of notice that a great good or evil is brought into our lives. It is through our failure to endure the tests that come to us, that habits are molded character misshaped; and when greater tests come, they find us unready.” —*Help in Daily Living*, p. 32

Study the history of Joseph and Daniel. The Lord did not prevent the plotting of men who sought to do harm, but He caused all these devices to work for God and to

His servants, who, amidst trial and conflict, preserved their faith and loyalty. When brought face to face with his brothers who concertedly sold him to strangers, Joseph broke down and wept with them.

He had an opportunity to take revenge but he refused. “Feeling that they had already suffered enough for their cruelty toward him, he nobly sought to banish their fears and lessen the bitterness of their self-reproach.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 230

You may not realize that you are harbouring past hurts until something comes along to expose your pain. But when you forgive and leave it with God, He will cleanse your heart and mind with love and forgiveness and give you more power to forgive. Thus you become a conqueror. All the bitterness of your life will be washed away, and Jesus will live in you, thus you will taste the fragrance of heavenly peace while still on earth.

There many more lessons which we can draw from the conduct of men and women of God in the Bible. May the Lord fill us with His Spirit, to help us do something every day to improve, beautify and ennoble the life that Christ has purchased with His own blood and LEARN TO FORGIVE. Amen.

Evalyne Neema Kasiwa,
Kenya

Study Tour of the Reformation

Monday, August 11–Sunday, August 17, 2014

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Reform Movement, we cordially invite you to tour places of historical and religious importance in central Germany. Daily excursions will highlight the life and work of Reformers of the past.

For this tour we will stay at the youth hostel in Naumberg, Germany, which will also serve as our starting point for each day's outings. In addition, daily spiritual programs and seminars will be held. The week will conclude on Sabbath with a special gathering in Naumburg.

Registration Information

Registration deadline: February 28, 2014

Cost: €299 (approximately US \$410)—includes lodging, meals, excursions, and entrance fees

Contacts: gustavo.castellanos@reform-adventisten.net (Tel. +43 681 20303850)

ines.mueller@reform-adventisten.net (Tel. +49 3445 792922)

This activity is sponsored by the IMS Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, European Division in cooperation with the German Union.



How to be a Successful Christian in this Life

“I am the vine, ye are the branches.” John 15:5

I gladly remember how my parents would often tell me about and teach me principles that they thought at that time to be the best for me, in order to achieve a good education and a good profession; in other words, how to go through the challenges of this life and be successful. Let us ask a question here: what is true success? So many seek it, but they never find it. As a result, very few people achieve true success. Everyone desires to succeed but most fall far short of achieving their goals. There are people who, although they see that they have failed, in very few cases will they realize or acknowledge it. Yet most people fail without knowing why. So, some think they are destined to fail and this is not true. Men and women of all ages can achieve success, but they must understand and practice the right principles that guides one to true success, and only then will they understand what exactly brings them to achieve true success.

Do you know what success is? Many people believe that success consists of obtaining a certain amount of wealth. Their only purpose is in accumulating money and material things. Others think that success means how much power they get. So, they measure their lives in how much influence they have over people, events or even government or world affairs. Such people are usually controlling other's decisions. To them, success is how much or how many they control. Generally speaking, these people are more miserable than those who seek wealth because they live in fear of losing their power. Still others hope to achieve fame. These people are often driven by a need to be known. They seek for name recognition. Of course anyone can enjoy his or

her 15 minutes of fame but not everyone believes that fame means true success, and those who are famous probably represent the most miserable, successful ones in this category. Some people in the world think success involves elevating self above others. But is this true success from the Bible perspective? Think for a moment and be honest; how many people in the world could you name who you consider truly successful, but who do not fit one of these categories, such as wealth, power or fame? Few, if any. Every millionaire eventually dies—there is no exception to the rule that all die. Notice this, the Bible says in Hebrews 9:27, “. . . it is appointed unto men once to die. . .” Also we find written in Ecclesiastes 3:19, “For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts. . . as the one dieth, so dieth the other. . .” “All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.” Ecclesiastes 3:20

In every case, wealth, power and fame, even the recognition that the most famous people have, dies with them. Obtaining and enjoying these things could not keep them alive. There are aspects of the character that these people should consider to be virtuous qualities. One must be courteous, loyal, hard-working, honest, punctual, dependable, patient and probably much more, to be truly successful in this world in God's eyes. Almost everyone recognizes these as good qualities, but fewer people every day exhibit them.

Let us start by enumerating some of the goals, from the Bible perspective, of a person who wants to have true success in this life. Doesn't every human being want to be successful in this life? The Bible makes it clear in

James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Having this in our minds, let us move further and try to understand that true wisdom comes only from God; we need God's wisdom in order to be a successful follower of Christ on this earth. As ambassadors for Christ, as we have been called by Paul under Divine inspiration, we must represent God's kingdom in every aspect of our life. We must let people know and understand that our kingdom is not of this world but in the world to come, when everything shall be made new again by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

When we go to God in prayer we should know what to ask for; the first thing we need to do is to set the right goal. Many kinds of goals can be set throughout our lives and most people know this. Goals can be small, medium, large and very large. I know many people who set goals for themselves, as you probably have and do, and so do I. For instance, I know people who set a goal to plant and take care of a garden; this is a small goal. Another goal is to graduate a college, which is a large goal. Or perhaps to plan a vacation, get married, have children, lose weight, buy a house, paint a house, read a book, play a game, or whatever goal you might set—there is nothing wrong with these goals, but to choose the right goal makes the difference. Few actually take time and realize that true success can be considered a goal. Here are some quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy:

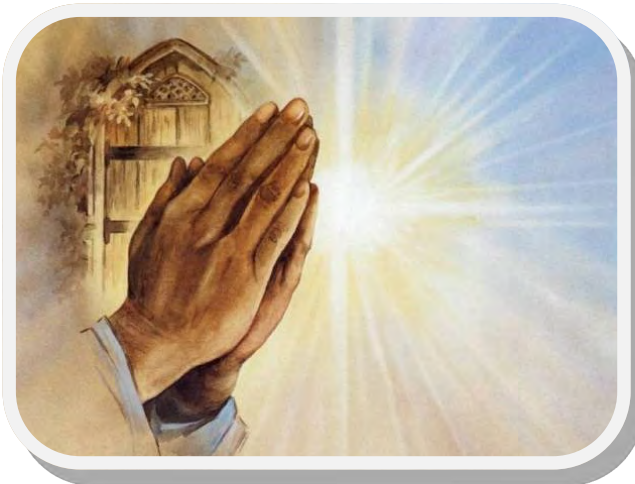
"Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes everything good, and pure, and noble. He will advance as fast and as far as possible in every branch of true knowledge. But his efforts will be directed to objects as much higher than mere selfish and temporal interests as the heavens are higher than the earth." —*Education*, p. 18

"The Holy Scriptures are the perfect standard of truth, and as such should be given the highest place in educa-

tion. To obtain an education worthy of the name, we must receive a knowledge of God, the Creator, and of Christ, the Redeemer, as they are revealed in the sacred word." —*Education*, p. 17

Give your heart to Jesus and accept His salvation and justification. Proverbs 23:26 states, "My son, give Me thine heart." Put God in the first place. Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." What does it mean? Well, to put Him in the first place means to put our tastes and conveniences aside. If we give Him first place in our decisions, all of His promises will be ours. We should accept our human weakness and unite our heart with Christ's, trusting in His grace every day. What is that connection compared to? Jesus mentioned that in John 15:4–5, it was compared "to the vine and the branches." How can we be united with Him? Through daily communion with Jesus, through prayer and study of His word, and through total trust in His infinite grace and righteousness.

I believe there are two essential elements to a true education and growth in our Christian experience. I have mentioned these many times before—it is prayer and study of the word of God. Do you want to succeed in your Christian life? Do you want to have constant growth in your relationship with Jesus Christ? If you want this, Jesus will give you His blessings, His care and protection wherever you go, and a personal and intimate experience with Jesus will accompany you



throughout this life.

"All who would be efficient workers must give much time to prayer. The communication between God and the soul must be kept open, that the workers may recognize the voice of their Captain. The Bible should be diligently studied. The truth of God, like gold, is not always lying right on the surface; it is to be obtained only by earnest thought and study. This study will not only store the mind with most valuable knowledge, but will strengthen and expand the mental powers, and will give a true estimate of eternal things. Let the divine precepts be brought into the daily life; let the life be fashioned after God's great standard of righteousness,

and the whole character will be strengthened and ennobled.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 76

What else do we need in order to have a fulfilling and successful Christian life? Well, we need faith. The Bible plainly speaks that if we do not have faith then we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). So then we need faith in order to achieve the goal of goals, which is eternal life. I often I hear the expression among Christians today, even among Seventh Day Adventists—“well, we do not need a church assembly”—in other words, they say, “why should I go to church? I can study the Bible at home, with my family or on my own.” But, is this right? Perhaps we have many reasons to stay home, but is this the will of God? The Bible says that “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17. Paul admonishes us not to forsake the assembly or congregation with other believers, in these perilous days that we live in. Listen to these inspired words:

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those

whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to ‘the principalities and powers in heavenly places,’ the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9

I believe God has a visible remnant church on this earth. I believe that I am a part of it, and since I became a follower of Christ I have never doubted it. I have seen in my walk with God, people coming in and going out of the church for one reason or another, but, dear friend, let me tell you something. Do you think God is going to save a person who doesn’t like fellowship and service? In fact, let me bring to you a Bible verse which tells what eternity and heaven will be like. “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 His Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

You see, if we walk in the light we have, what? Fellowship—it means coming closer to Jesus, coming together; it means service to the King of kings and Lord of lords. Here is another statement from the Spirit of Prophecy:

“Through centuries of persecution, conflict, and darkness, God has sustained His church. Not one cloud has fallen upon it that He has not prepared for; not one opposing force has risen to counterwork His work, that He has not foreseen. All has taken place as He predicted. He has not left His church forsaken, but has traced in prophetic declarations what would occur, and that which His Spirit inspired the prophets to foretell has been brought about. All His purposes will be fulfilled. His law is linked with His throne, and no power of evil

can destroy it. Truth is inspired and guarded by God; and it will triumph over all opposition.

“During ages of spiritual darkness the church of God has been as a city set on a hill. From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders. Enfeebled

and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 11–12

The last point I want you to know from this study is “be steadfast,” to live a full and happy Christian life. In Jesus we can show gratitude, compassion, and interest in all of our relationships with one another. God’s promises are sure. We need not fear the world and what might come in the future because our King is stronger than the defeated foe, Satan. You see, if we are not earnest, enthusiastic, happy and dynamic, consecrated Christians then Satan can stop you from following Christ.

“Not without a struggle does Satan allow the kingdom of God to be built up in the earth. The forces of evil are



engaged in unceasing warfare against the agencies appointed for the spread of the gospel, and these powers of darkness are especially active when the truth is proclaimed before men of repute and sterling integrity." — *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 167

My brother, my sister, and dear friend, as you have read this message, maybe there have been some thoughts you have been struggling for some time, or perhaps, right now, the voice of the Holy Spirit is telling you to put that thing or thought away; "I am here to help you and strengthen your faith." Maybe you have heard God's voice many times, through the vast amount of messages that you have heard; but nothing has changed in your life and you have become disappointed over time. Perhaps there was a time that you enjoyed reading the Bible or sharing your personal testimony with others, or you enjoyed coming on Sabbath to study the Sabbath School lessons, but now you do not. There is hope; don't let those thoughts overwhelm you. Come to Jesus the way you are, bring to Jesus your broken heart, your life, which may be scattered in thousands of pieces because of sin. There is still hope, my friend. Jesus can revive, repair and rebuild your life, my brother, my sister.

Listen to these words found in Ezra 9:9, "For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem." What a promise, my friend! He did it in my life and He also does it in the lives of many, for those who have an interest in searching for something better than this horrible world in which we live.

This is not our home; I prefer something better than hospitals, sickness and death. God wants us to be saved, but He will not force us. He gave us a free will, and He places before us two ways, which are found in Deuteronomy 30—life or death, curse or blessing. How tenderly He calls us. Choose life so that you can live. At the cross Jesus gave everything for your salvation and for mine. Now it all depends on our choice. What is your choice today?

I have chosen Jesus and He changed my life. I have chosen Jesus and He gave me much more than I have ever had. He brought me from the dirt of this world, showing me that there is meaning in this life if we follow Jesus. I am in debt for this kindness that my Lord and Saviour has shown me, and that is why I want to point your

attention towards the One who deserves all our praise and glory in heaven and on earth. As the Bible says in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." This is Jesus, my friend, and He invites you right now to give your heart to Him and surrender completely in His arms, because there is the only place where you and I can succeed and have eternal life.

There are seven wonderful promises of God to you and to I if we are to succeed in our Christian life:

"I [will] give to eat of the tree of life." Revelation 2:7

He "shall not be hurt of the second death." Revelation 2:11

"I [will] give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written." Revelation 2:17

"To him will I give power over the nations." Revelation 2:26

"[He] shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life." Revelation 3:5

"I [will] make [him] a pillar in the Temple of My God, and he shall go no more out." Revelation 3:12

"I [will] grant [him] to sit with Me in My throne." Revelation 3:21

One day, and that is very soon, my friend, Jesus is coming again. Before He comes, He will put down His golden censer and state, "It is finished," "It is done." The plan of salvation will be accomplished. God's people are sealed and prepared for heaven, to inherit the wonderful promises mentioned in the book of Revelation. Do you want to take part in these blessings? I know you want to, as I also want to. Let us put all our trust in Jesus because then we can succeed in our Christian lives and be overcomers in this world.

Jesus set us a perfect example in terms of salvation and a perfect life. Let us make this our highest goal, which is eternal life, because Jesus will help us. He promises this to us in His word, the Bible. His promises are sure and eternal for those who want them. Let us live the rest of our lives only for Jesus, is my wish and prayer. Amen!

In Christ,

Nicholas Anca



Be Watchful

“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.” Jeremiah 6:16

New teachings in the religious world are trying to confuse our minds; some books are losing their original titles causing the confusion to increase—soon the church of God will have to answer for their faith. The well-known book, “The Great Controversy” is now being published with a different title. The new title is, “Great Hope.” But, the Mighty God will provide for our spiritual needs through His faithful servant. While Satan is working unceasingly in our midst, our weapon should be “It is written,” otherwise false teachings will spread.

“The army of the Lord is on the ground, seeking to save souls. Satan and his host are also at work, trying in every possible way to deceive and destroy.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 41

But God bids us, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against the rulers of darkness, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6: 11–12

In these last days, disobedience is increasing, even in some of our churches. One way in which the devil works is by bringing discord between the elderly and the youth. Some youth, who are well educated, Satan tempts to become proud. In 1 Timothy 5:1 we read, “Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren.” It is true that when you are young you are still active and able to do many things that the older ones are unable to do any longer, but don’t rebuke an old man. He is your father. He has experience in many things. When he was your age, he suffered, trying to provide for your needs, sacrificing even his sleep.

Jesus also talked about this in John 5:19: “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.” If we do what is right before God He will bless us. We have our inheritance in our God, and

He is the One pleading for us to obey our parents.

When it comes to the word “parents” some people think only about their biological fathers and mothers. But in 1 Timothy 5:1 it does not distinguish between parents and elders. We shall praise our Lord in this way, for righteousness is given by Him. He says, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” Revelation 3:20

Jesus will rejoice if we repent and come to His feet. “The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love; He will joy over thee with singing.” Zephaniah 3:17

When one soul repents and confesses and gives his life to God, all the heavenly inhabitants rejoice. There is great joy in heaven. Satan is a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour, since he knows that his end result will be death. He is deceiving and planting evil seeds in people. Be watchful in order to know what is good and leave off with evil works.

No one can obey God’s commandments without the Holy Spirit. We read of the prophet Daniel, that his prayer was answered while he was yet speaking. (Daniel 9:21).

Many prophecies in the Bible predict how God’s times and laws would be replaced by the world’s doctrines. (Daniel 7:25–26). Although this change began slowly, it did not fail to be fulfilled. It begins like a stream and ends like a river. It will be difficult to teach people, because deception has become universal. In the Seventh-Day Adventist church now, the books which predict these changes are no longer read. Many members are not even aware of them. These books need to be carefully studied because they unmask Satan’s teachings. These events will be observed by those who are watching in prayer, humbling themselves in asking God to help them to discern between good and evil. Many books of counsel have been written by Ellen G. White. Let us buy eye salve, and put it on our eyes in order to see. God will help us finish the work.

**Jerome Mpawenayo, BAMI Student
Burundi**



Woman!

God Calls You In His Work

It has been said that women are the heart and backbone of society. Many virtuous women have shaped the world. Religious literature abounds with accounts of how women have shaped the world in one way or another. One book where you can read of these experiences is *Daughters of God*, written by Ellen G. White.

Woman was not created by accident but was created for necessity. "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." Genesis 2:18

It is important for us to appreciate the wisdom of God! For everything that He created was perfect until iniquity was found in the heart of the once honoured cherubim.

"And God saw every thing that He had made, and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

Therefore, the idea that a woman is the result of the entry of sin is an erroneous theory which diminishes our knowledge of our supreme God. God did not create a weak being! Is there any deficiency in God's wisdom? As it is written, sin has been described as an intruder whose entrance and existence is unexplainably mysterious.

A woman is an important influence of what the world is.

Right from the beginning a woman has always been materially orientated. An inspired writer once wrote that, "Unmindful of the angels' caution, she soon found herself gazing with mingled curiosity and admiration upon the forbidden tree. The fruit was very beautiful, and she questioned herself why God had withheld it from them." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 54

The character trait of a woman is that she is completely involved in what she does, whether good or evil; it becomes part and parcel of her and this has determined the destiny of the human race, in that it once cost paradise. Yet through her complete involvement she may again play a major role in regaining paradise.

Once again, woman's shaping of the world is worth noting. There is another woman who shaped the world in a negative way. Jezebel made Ahab and Israel to sin,

and even contaminated the kingdom of Judah by her satanic influence. Her influence was seen for many generations that followed. Her shaping of the world was pure evil.

There is a written record of many women of virtuous and noble influence; woman who unerringly trusted in God; women of great faith. These women are Hannah, the mother of Samuel; Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist; Esther; Dorcas; Mary, mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalene; Damaris and Lydia, who were helping hands to Paul the apostle, Jesus and many more. They were women who touched the hearts of many. In our days, the last days, we need a similar calibre of women for God's work. As soon as she had found the Saviour, the Samaritan woman brought others to Him. She carried the light at once to her country men (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 193).

"Women can be the instruments of righteousness, rendering holy service. It was Mary that first preached a risen Jesus. . . . The refining, softening influence of Christian women is needed in the great work of preaching the truth." —*The Review and Herald*, January 2, 1879

In this time of uncertainty, "the Lord has a work for women, as well as for men. They may take their places in His work at this crisis, and He will work through them. . . . The Saviour will reflect upon these self-sacrificing women the light of His countenance, and will give them a power that exceeds that of men. They can do in families a work that men cannot do, a work that reaches the inner life. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their labour is needed." —*The Review and Herald*, August 26, 1902

May I appeal to all the readers; we need to train our women to work for God wherever they are. Their work will be of great value if done in earnestness and a sincere desire for the saving souls. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be unto you all. Amen.

***Evelyn Neema Kasiwa, Former BAMI Student
Kenya***



In ancient times the leper could not dwell with his family. They were sent far from other people because of leprosy.

WHAT IS LEPROSY?

Leprosy is a contagious disease caused by the *Mycobacterium leprae* that affects the skin and mucous membranes. Therefore, the leper could not dwell with, or mix with, other people because the disease could be transmitted to them.

One day after the Lord preached His Sermon on the Mount, many people had followed Him because of His miracles. When He came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed Him. "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." Matthew 8:2. The leper was eager to be healed by the Lord. He believed and trusted Him. Jesus did not hesitate, "Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, I will, be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." Matthew 8:3

"The work of Christ in cleansing the leper from his terrible disease is an illustration of His work in cleansing the soul from sin. The man came to Jesus was 'full of leprosy.' its deadly poison permeated his whole body. The disciples sought to prevent their Master from touching him; for he who touched a leper became himself unclean. But in laying his hand upon the leper, Jesus received no defilement. His touch imparted life-giving power. The leprosy was cleansed. Thus it is with the leprosy of sin,—deep-rooted, deadly and impossible to be cleansed by human power. 'The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores.'" Isaiah 1:5–6. But Jesus, coming to dwell in humanity, receives no pollution. His presence has healing virtue for the sinner. Whoever will fall at His feet, saying in faith, 'Lord if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean,' shall hear the answer, 'I will; be thou made clean.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 266

You may be a leper also and you cannot stay with the people of God. Why? You may say, "I am ok! I don't have any problem with my health." Yes, maybe it is true that you may not be a leper in a physical sense but in your spiritual life you may be a leper. The spiritual lives of many people may be sick with leprosy. With the leprosy of the love of this world, they are not fit to inherit the new earth that God has promised for His people.

Brother and sister, if any of you may have spiritual leprosy, approach the healer, Jesus Christ, and request that He save you and heal you from your leprosy. Don't hesitate, but approach Him with faith like the leper who asked Him to be cleansed.

"In some instances of healing, Jesus did not at once grant the blessing sought. But in the case of leprosy, no sooner was the appeal made than it was granted. When we pray for earthly blessings, the answer to our prayer may be delayed, or God may give us something other than we ask, but not so when we ask for deliverance from sin. It is His will to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. Christ 'gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.' Galatians 1:4. And 'this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we have the petitions that we desired of Him.' 1 John 5:14–15. '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." —*The Desire of Ages*, p.266

My dear reader, do you have the leprosy of sin? Today you need to tell Jesus simply, "Oh, My Jesus, if Thou wilt, You can make me clean." Then He will put His hand upon you, saying, "I will, be thou clean."

**Tony Nampoina, BAMI Student
Madagascar**



Which Way Can We Go to Reach Home

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Mathew 7:13–14

“**Before you are two ways**—the broad way of self-indulgence and the narrow path of self-sacrifice. Into the broad road you can take selfishness, pride, and love of the world; but those who walk in the narrow way must lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset. Which road have you chosen—the road which leads to everlasting death, or the road which leads to glory and immortality?

“There never was a more solemn time in the history of the world than the time in which we are now living. Our eternal interests are at stake, and we should arouse to the importance of making our calling and election sure. We dare not risk our eternal interest on mere probabilities. We must be in earnest. What we are, what we are doing, what is to be our course of our action in the future, are all questions of untold moment, and we cannot afford to be listless, indifferent, unconcerned. It is important for each one of us to inquire, ‘What is eternity to me?’ Are our feet in the path that leads to heaven, or in the broad road that leads to perdition?

“Those who make a success of the Christian life will count all things as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. Only those who are abiding in Christ can know what true life is. They realise the value of true religion. They have brought their talents of influence and means and ability to the altar of consecration, seeking only to know and do the will of Him who has died to redeem them.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 8

Since the fall of Adam, mankind has not been able to follow the right road by themselves. There are few, however, who have chosen the narrow way and found eternal life. We read of Enoch, Elijah, and others who are good examples for us to follow. Remember that Jesus came for me and for you. We may have lost the way but He wants to show us how to find the right way again.

The right way is only found by repentance. Jesus did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32). And after repentance they will choose the royal way that leads to heaven.

Those who are convicted of sin should ask themselves the following questions. “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Acts 2:37; 16:30. The answers are in the Bible. There we are shown the right way and we must follow it in order to reach heaven.

WHERE WISDOM BEGINS

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

There is a wide difference between what God has given men the capacity to become and the degree of excellence to which they actually attain.

The word of God presents the most important means of education, as well as the most valuable source of knowledge, which is within the reach of man. The understanding adapts itself to the dimensions of the subjects written in the Book. If the mind is occupied with only trivial, common place matters and no earnest efforts are put forth to comprehend the great and eternal truths, it becomes starved and enfeebled.

The value of the scriptures as a means of intellectual culture is without comparison.

The more closely God’s word is searched and the better understood, the more vividly will the student realise that there is infinite wisdom, knowledge and power.

“If the youth will but learn of the heavenly teacher, as Daniel did, they will know for themselves that the fear of the Lord is indeed the beginning of wisdom.” —*That I May Know Him*, p. 8. Let us search the Scriptures that we may know and understand the fear of the Lord.

**Immanuel Sulley, BAMI Student
Tanzania**

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Keeper of the Light

Mary's father was the keeper of a lighthouse on the coast of England. The light of these lamps shines at night to guide ships on their way and to keep them from dangerous rocks and shoals. The lighthouse seems to say: "Take care, sailors, for rocks and sands are here. Keep a good lookout and mind how you sail, or you will be lost."

One afternoon, Mary was in the lighthouse alone. Mary's father had trimmed the lamps, and they were ready for lighting when evening came. As he needed to buy some food, he crossed the causeway which led to the land. This causeway was a path over the rocks and sands, which could be used only two or three hours in the day; at other times, the waters rose and covered it. The father intended to hasten home before the tide flowed over this path. Night was coming on, and a storm was rising on the sea. Waves dashed against the rocks, and the wind moaned around the tower.

Mary's mother was dead, and although she was alone, her father had told the girl not to be afraid, for he would soon return. Now there were some rough-looking men behind the rock, who were watching Mary's father. They watched him go to the land.

Who were they? They were "wreckers" who lurked about the coast. If a vessel was driven on the rocks by a storm, they rushed down—not to help the sailors, but

to rob them, and to plunder the ship.

The wicked men knew that a little girl was left alone in the lighthouse. They planned to keep her father on the shore all night. Ships filled with rich goods were expected to pass the point before the morning and these men knew if the light did not shine, the vessels would run upon the rocks and be wrecked. How cruel and wicked they were to seek the death of the ships' crews!

Mary's father had filled his basket, and prepared to return to the lighthouse. As he drew near the road leading to the causeway, the wreckers rushed from their

hiding place and threw him on the ground. They quickly bound his hands and feet with ropes and carried him into a shed, where he had to lie until morning. It was in vain that he shouted for them to set him free; they only mocked his distress. They then left him in the charge of two men, while they ran back to the shore.

"Oh, Mary, what will you do?" cried the father as he lay in the shed. "There will be no one to light the lamps. Ships may be wrecked, and sailors may be lost."

Mary looked from a narrow window toward the shore, thinking it was time for her father to return. When the clock in the little room struck six, she knew that the water would soon be over the causeway.

An hour passed. The clock struck seven, and Mary still looked toward the beach; but her father was not to be



seen. By the time it was eight, the tide was nearly over the causeway; only bits of rock here and there were above the water. "O father, hurry," cried Mary, as though her father could hear her. "Have you forgotten your little girl?" But the only answer was the noise of the waters as they rose higher and higher, and the roar of the wind as it gave notice of the coming storm. Surely there would be no light that night.

Mary thought of what her mother used to say: "We should pray in every time of need." Quickly she knelt and prayed for help: "O Lord, show me what to do, and bless my father, and bring him home safe."

The water was now over the causeway. The sun had set more than an hour ago, and, as the moon rose, black storm clouds covered it from sight.

The wreckers walked along the shore, looking for some ship to strike on the coast. They hoped that the sailors, not seeing the lights, would think they were far at sea.

At this moment Mary decided she would try to light the lamps. But what could a little girl do? The lamps were far above her reach. She got matches and carried a small step-ladder to the spot. After much labor she found that the lamps were still above her head. Then she got a small table and put the stepladder on it. But when she climbed to the top the lights were still beyond her reach. "If I had a stick," she said, "I would tie a match to it, and then I could set a light to the wicks." But no stick was to be found.

The storm was raging with almost hurricane force. The sailors at sea looked along the coast for the light. Where could it be? Had they sailed in the wrong direction? They were lost and knew not which way to steer.



All this time, Mary's father was praying that God would take care of his child in the dark and lonely lighthouse.

Mary, frightened and lonely, was about to sit down again, when she thought of the old Bible in the room below. But how could she step on that Book? It was God's Holy Word that her mother had loved to read. "Yet, it is to save life," said she; "and if mother were here, would she not allow me to take it?"

In a minute, the large book was brought and placed under the steps, and up she climbed once more. Yes, she was high enough! She touched one wick, then another, and another, until the rays of the lamps shone brightly far about the dark waters.

The father saw the light as he lay in the shed, and thanked God for sending help in the hour of danger. The sailors saw the light, and steered their ships away from the rocks. The wreckers, too, saw the light, and were angry to see that their evil plot had failed.

All that stormy night the lamps cast their rays over the foaming sea; and when the morning came, the father escaped from the shed. Soon he reached the lighthouse and found out how his little girl had stood faithful to duty in the dark hours of storm.

"The lamp in the lighthouse, shining out in the darkness, guides the ship safely to the harbor; thus Christ's followers are to shine in this dark

world, to guide men to Christ and the heavenly home."
—*The Story of Jesus*, p. 62

"We are called upon of God to let the light which he has given us shine forth in clear and steady rays. Everyone who believes in Christ as the light of the world is to be as a lighthouse on a dangerous coast, sending forth bright rays of light to warn souls, lest they make shipwreck of faith." —*The Signs of the Times*, October 1, 1894



The country of Ethiopia is mentioned 20 times in the Bible with the first being in Genesis 2:13. “And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.”

In the days of Queen Esther, Ahasuerus, the king of Persia reigned from India to Ethiopia—127 provinces (Esther 1:1).

The final mention is: “A man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship” (Acts 8:27), to whom Philip, the evangelist preached to. The gospel reached the country over 2000 years ago.

Today, the country of Ethiopia, located in Eastern Africa, has a population of over 90 million people.

I thank the Lord for opening up the way for me to travel to this country with my aunt, Leila McTavish, for 10 days, at the end of January.

Our church in Ethiopia is fairly new. The believers received the Reformation message in 2006 and currently there are approximately 2000 members. “Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.” Psalm 68:31. Yes, The Ethiopians are reaching out for God and truth.

Sister Leila and I were met at the airport by Brothers Libamu (Union President) and Lombamo (Union Treasurer) early in the morning of Friday, January 24th. From the airport, we took a bus with them to the town of Hossana, to participate in the conference over the weekend. The trip was approximately 230 km and took about 4 hours by small bus—a 16-seat van with 22 people inside. If we had taken a large bus the trip would have taken 5 hours.

When conferences are conducted, they are often combined with Evangelistic meetings in the evenings and

many people from the surrounding villages come and attend. The African people are open to hear the gospel message and many visitors do come to hear the word of God.

Brother Libamu is very active, continually travelling to the churches and Fields to holding evangelistic meetings, and even going to new areas. Recently, he went to the west, set up a tent and held some meetings and approximately 5000 people came to hear the Word of God. Bible studies from interested souls were generated and one of the Bible workers remained in the area to follow up with all those eager to learn the truth.

It was a blessed conference the first weekend, and it was a privilege to worship with believers from another part of the world, who believe exactly as we do. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in God’s church.

On Sunday, Sister Leila wanted to visit one of the local churches of which she had overseen the building of. The brethren told us we had to walk there as there was no vehicle traffic and it was only a 40 minute walk (several kilometres). The path was rugged, up and down several ravines and after an hour and a half, we arrived at our destination. The believers were happy to see us. After an afternoon of fellowship, we took a short cut home—one hour in the opposite direction and then took a bus back to the main part of town. The believers are very hospitable and genuinely make efforts to communicate; unfortunately I don’t speak their language.

This is the life of the missionaries in this country. There are approximately 30 Bible workers in the country. They spend much time walking to remote areas and many hours taking buses. The buses take a long time due to the quality of the roads and the number of people getting on and off in random places. The buses also have

no schedule and will leave when every seat is full, so sometimes you are forced to wait for more passengers to show up.

During the following week we visited several churches within the Field and, as always, the members were happy for the visit and we were able to share some experiences.

The following weekend we travelled 1.5 hours by bus (40 km) to the small mountain village of Ansho. In this mountain village we have a larger church and a regional conference was held. This village is the Field headquarters for the area. Many members came from the neighbouring village to attend the conference. They had to walk four hours carrying all their necessities for the weekend as there is no public transport to their village.

The weekend was rich with messages, music and experiences from the local people. You can truly see the love of the Lord shining in their hearts. On Thursday evening, the first night of the conference, as is the custom, an evangelistic meeting was presented and many local villagers were in attendance. According to Brother Libamu, 75% of the audience were non-members from the village. Praise the Lord. Brother Libamu presented an interesting message using Power Point slides, about the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation.

Friday morning, after presenting a message on simple natural remedies, some of the local members came to Sister Leila and I, asking for more specific advice as to how they can implement some of the natural remedies mentioned, for their specific ailments. We were able to point them to the healing qualities of garlic, lemon juice and clay. They are thirsting for more knowledge in this regard and we are working to find someone local who can help them with specific herbal remedies that are available in their country to treat some of their ailments. God's remedies can provide more effective and long-lasting healing.

The Sabbath services saw the church full to capacity with the overflow standing outside. Thankfully, the PA system was working well. In the evening for the final evangelistic meeting there was an issue with the electricity. Electricity can have temporary outages in rural areas. It is not uncommon. Brother Libamu was not deterred and presented his final meeting under candle light without the use of his Power Point slides. The church was in complete darkness, but it was still full to capacity as you could hear the "Amen's" from the congregation.

In the rural areas of Ethiopia, the people in general are not rich in the material wealth of this world, but we saw happy people, smiling children—who are content with

what they have. They are hard working and have found ways to provide for themselves from what God has provided in the natural world. Their food is simple but healthy.

After the second conference, we spent a few days in the capital city of Addis Ababa. The Union Headquarters is a rented facility, with sleeping quarters for Brother Lombamo and his wife. On the site of the headquarters there is also another building where Brother Libamu and his family lived there also at one point in time, but the owner of the property decided he wants to have his daughter live in that building and Brother Libamu needed to find a place to live elsewhere. Please pray for them regarding this situation in Ethiopia as it would be better if they had their own facility for the headquarters. Pray that they can find something suitable.

While food and transport is very inexpensive in Ethiopia, in the capital city, housing and real estate is not as inexpensive, so they need our prayers to find a suitable building for the headquarters.

In the middle of the week we travelled to Nairobi, Kenya, where I spent four days at the headquarters before re-tuning home. At the headquarters, the mission school is also sharing the building, Berea Adventist Missionary Institution (BAMI). At the school, we have 16 dedicated young people who are preparing themselves for the service of the Lord. They came from various countries in eastern Africa and from as far away as Madagascar. These young people are dedicated to their studies, busy around the mission house, and very active in the local church. They need our prayers as their course of study will end in November and then they will go and serve the Lord in the mission field.

Again the believers were very friendly and hospitable.

The African nations are open to the gospel, with many hundreds and thousands coming to hear the word of God. Let us pray for and assist our members and the missionary efforts in these countries in whatever way the Lord opens up for us.

"The history of the churches of Ethiopia and Abyssinia is especially significant. Amid the gloom of the Dark Ages, the Christians of Central Africa were lost sight of and forgotten by the world, and for many centuries they enjoyed freedom in the exercise of their faith." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 578. Amen

Wendy Eaton

Note: SEE PICTURES NEXT PAGE. Front Cover picture is the church outside Hossana where the first conference was held.



**ETHIOPIAN UNION PRESIDENT:
Brother Libamu and his family**

**ETHIOPIAN
UNION
TREASURER:
Brother Lombamo
and his wife**



Jarso Church, Ethiopia



Brother Asaro and family, Ethiopia



**ETHIOPIAN
UNION
SECRETARY
Brother Tekle**



Conference near city of Hossana, Ethiopia



Left: Evalyne Neema Kasiwa, Kenya
Right: Yvonne Solomon, Burundi



Nicolas, Madagascar



KENYAN UNION PRESIDENT:
James Mbaka



Berea Adventist Mission School Students, Kenya



**WORKER'S
RETREAT,
PETER-
BOROUGH,
CANADA**



Church in mountain village of Ansho, Ethiopia



Kenyan Union Headquarters and Berea Adventist Missionary Institute