



*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**  
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 4, APRIL 2014

**Rooted and Grounded**  
Page 13

**“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye,  
being rooted and grounded in love.”**

**Ephesians 3:17**



**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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**Volume 21, Number 4, April 2014**

- 3 Emmaus – From Discouragement to Victory**
- 6 An Achan in the Church**
- 8 What Does the Future Hold?**
- 13 Rooted and Grounded**
- 16 A Spiritual Inheritance**
- 18 Friendliness and Courtesy**
- 19 Health Matters: Stroke**
- 22 Some Secrets for Maintaining Your Spiritual Life**
- 24 Children's Corner: Unusual Weather**

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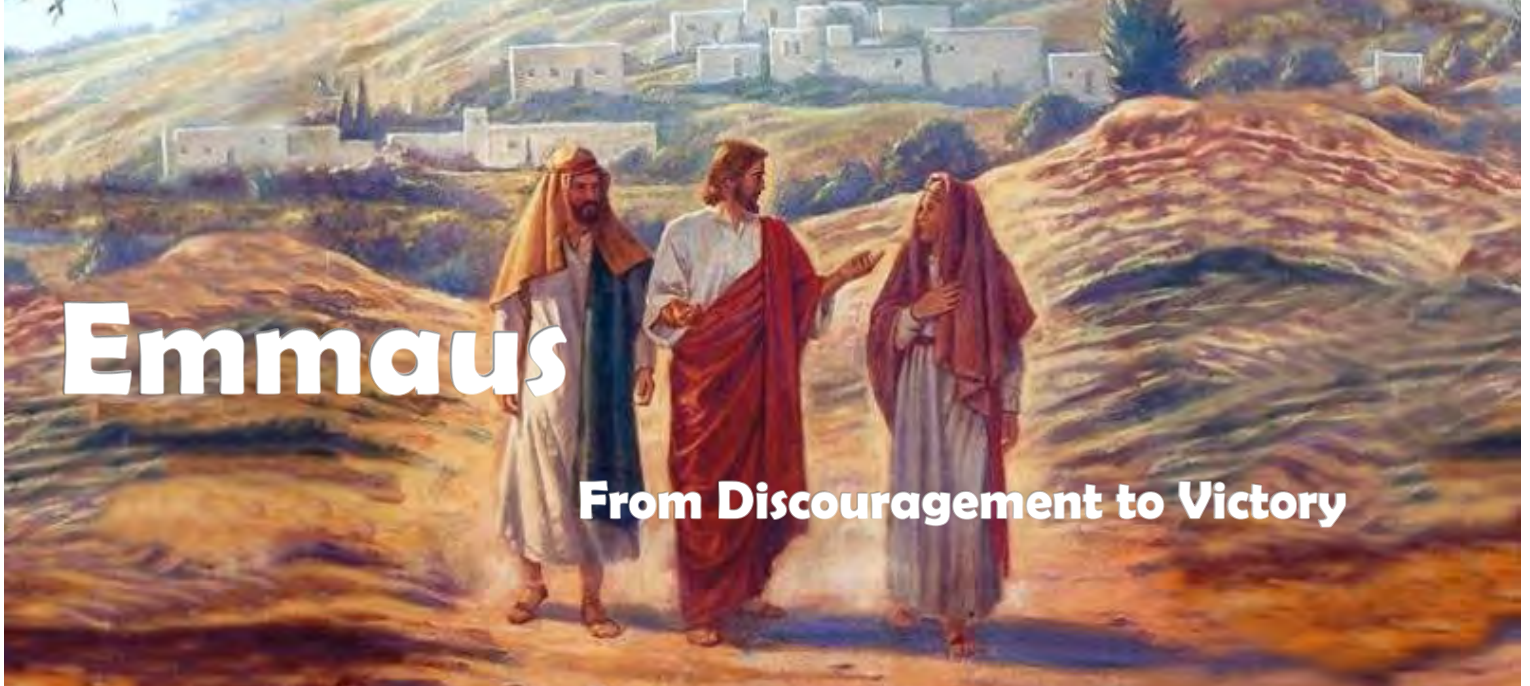
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# Emmaus

## From Discouragement to Victory

The mystery of our everyday lives is that Jesus is with us, but we often do not recognize Him. This is the way that many of us have walked for a long time, without even realizing that Jesus was with us—is with us—and will be with us until the end of our lives if we allow Him. Many times we face challenges in this life; challenges that turn the direction of our destiny completely. When I review the scenes of my past life before knowing Christ, my dear Lord and Saviour, I can see that Jesus was always at my side, leading me kindly, patiently and lovingly towards the way of victory. Discouragement comes because we have expectations and when our expectations are not fulfilled, we are led to disappointment. But should that be the case? Many times when things do not go our way we are filled with sorrow and disappointment, and in bitterness ask, "Why, why me Lord?"

With God's help, in this article, I would like to point out the hope that we have in Christ. No matter what the future brings into our lives, or what the circumstances will be, what *does* matter is that we are anchored in Christ. It is important that we wait patiently for Him even when it seems that our prayers are not answered immediately. Also, to trust Him even when it seems that there is no hope left, when our family and friends forsake us. Discouragement and disappointment are dangerous tools that Satan uses in order to deceive us and to cause us to depart us from our loving Father. They can also cause us to walk away from fellowship with believers and finally from Christ. We may be led to question God's care, which causes people to live in the past, dwelling on their failures. I have met many people in my Christian journey that have fallen by these snares. Let us keep in mind that the victory is not gained by complaining about our circumstances in this life, but rather by seeing the solution that is available in Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Let's go back in history almost 2000 years ago to the time when the two disciples were journeying on the road to Emmaus. They were confused and did not know what was going on. Here were two people—Cleopas and another unidentified brother—of whom we read of only in Luke's Gospel. They were followers of Christ, but not one of His 11 disciples.

Learning from this story we can go on a journey with Jesus that brings joy, peace and confidence in spite of the many disappointments or discouragements this life may bring. When Jesus reigns in our lives, His presence will transform defeat into victory. It will transform sadness into singing and darkness into light. He really does it. I have seen it many times in my life and in the lives of others. Do you want this kind of experience with Jesus? Do you want to know how to be victorious? I certainly do and I am sure you do also.

The story starts in Luke 24:13. "And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about three score furlongs." Emmaus was a village located about 7 miles (11 km) from Jerusalem. The Emmaus road can be any road of your life. It can be any circumstance in your life. The Emmaus road represents the story of our lives on this planet earth and how we can meet Jesus. This appearance of Jesus to the two disciples going to Emmaus happened the same day that He rose from the dead. The story tells us about these two followers of Christ. As they were coming from Jerusalem on their journey towards Emmaus, they were disappointed about what happened to Jesus on that dark Friday afternoon. Their hopes were dashed when they saw, for the last time, that bleeding, wounded body on the cross. They saw how Jesus breathed His last breath and heard those words from His lips, "It is finished."

What could you expect from a dead man? What can a dead man do for you? Their hopes were crushed when they saw Jesus' body put into the tomb before sunset. Not only the disciples, but also other people who witnessed Jesus' death on the cross were thinking that Jesus was a failure. From a human perspective, if you and I were there that day we would possibly have said that Jesus was a failure also. What do you think Caiaphas the high priest, Pilate, Herod and the closest friends of Jesus said that Friday afternoon when Jesus hung on the cross? Do you think they saw it as a solution to the problem of sin? Not at all. They thought Jesus was indeed a failure.

But Hallelujah, praise God, that early on Sunday morning Jesus rose from the dead. The death of Christ on the cross was foretold throughout the Scriptures from the time when Adam and Eve had sinned against God. God gave them the assurance of salvation through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, while they were there in the garden of Eden, their home (Genesis 3:15). People in Jesus' time did not have the New Testament but they had the Old Testament promises regarding the Messiah who was to come. They had Jesus Himself among them and they did not believe Him though He performed so many miracles. As the Bible states, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." John 1:11

As they were walking together, Cleopas and his friend spoke about what had happened to Jesus. "And they talked together of all these things which had happened." Luke 24:14. When we are concerned about our salvation, and show interest in heavenly things, Jesus is always with us. There is no greater joy in heaven than when a sinner turns away from his sin, seeking help from Jesus. When this is experienced in someone's life the most important theme of their conversation is always about the Saviour. Those who are indifferent to salvation are in great danger. I have met people in my missionary work who said, "I do not want to have anything to do with your Jesus and His salvation. I do not care about heaven, because if this or that is not there, I will not be happy."

I want to relate the story of the two men walking to Emmaus to the time when my lovely Grandmother died almost 17 years ago. As I went home from the funeral with a broken heart, I started questioning God's care and love for us. I remember, as I went home from that sad event, I asked God where my Grandma will be, paradise or hell. It was all I knew at that time. Since then I have learned that God is a wonderful, compassionate and loving Father. He never lets us down when we go through the trials and disappointments in this life, when we lose someone beloved or when our hearts are broken. This is what had happened to these two sincere followers of Christ. We can say that they came from a funeral also; the fu-

neral of the One in whom they had put all their hope and trust. They were very sad as they walked home from Jerusalem, because their friend and Saviour, Jesus had, been killed and they did not understand why.

These men were speaking about Jesus. What is the theme of your regular conversation? Do you show an interest in the salvation which was provided by Jesus on the cross? Are you conversing about Jesus at the place where you work; at the college you attend?

Let us put ourselves in the shoes of these two followers of Christ. They were on the way, walking and speaking about the events they had seen concerning the One they had put all their trust in for salvation. Were they deceived? Were they to give up hope so easily? In Luke 24:15 it reads, "So it was, while they conversed and reasoned that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them." From this story we learn four very important steps in our spiritual journey.

The first point is that Jesus is seeking us. Although these two men knew who Jesus was they were not able to cope with this situation and they did not recognize Him when He drew near to them while they were walking. They knew a lot about Jesus. They had witnessed many of Jesus' miracles, although, "their eyes were restrained." Luke 24:16. There are several reasons why they did not recognize Jesus. Firstly, their faith was weak, and secondly the events did not happen the way they had expected. I have seen God's working many times in my life, in ways that were contrary to my expectations. For example, I never thought that I, and my family, would be in missionary work in Canada. I said, "there are so many other places in the world where I can work for You, Lord, and You want me to go to Canada? No, this is absurd. How can I go there?" The Lord said, "I have work for you to do there, will you go? Indeed we came and we believe God sent us here.

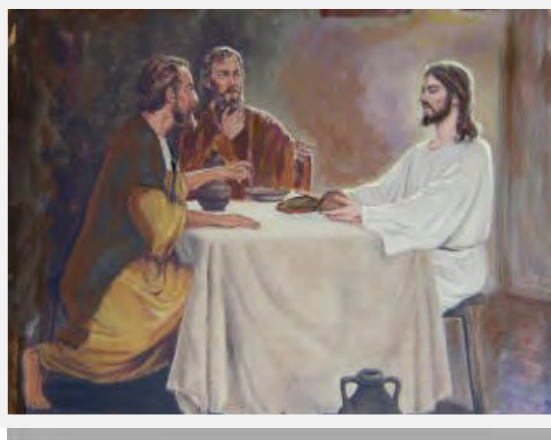
Do you converse with God? Do you know when He speaks to you? Do you follow His way of working even when you do not see what His expectations are for you? Be of good courage, take it to heart because when God speaks we should answer, "yes Lord, here am I; send me," and He will do the rest. I really like this promise found in Isaiah 43:1, "But now thus saith The Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name, thou art Mine." It is clear that God calls us; He seeks us where we are and He tells us, "Come and follow Me."

The second point is that Jesus opens our eyes. Without the Comforter whom Jesus promised to send, we cannot see how terrible sin is. The Comforter, or the Holy Spirit,

convincing us of some important things in order to be saved. "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8. Repentance is the work of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of The Godhead, on the human heart. You and I cannot repent by ourselves if the Holy Spirit does not work in our hearts in order to produce repentance. Jesus said, "without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. Jesus sends His representative to earth, the Holy Spirit, not only to convince us of sin, righteousness and judgment, but also to remain with us, giving us power to overcome sin while we wait for Jesus' second coming. Praise God I am not alone in this battle. We have passed from condemnation to life eternal. One day sorrow, death, and defeat will come to an end. No more pain, no more crying, no more disappointment. Jesus is coming again just as He promised. Did you receive the gift of repentance? Have you confessed and abandoned all your sin? Can we say today, "Yes Jesus, I am prepared, You may come?"

The third point is that Jesus reveals Himself. As we walk with Jesus we receive a revelation of who He is. In the story found in Luke 24 we read that Jesus is interested in us when we are interested in Him. The two men were speaking about Jesus and, as they were speaking, Jesus revealed Himself to them. He opened to them the Scriptures telling them of things concerning Himself. We do not know the Scripture verses He used but we can guess the possible quotations He used, such as Genesis 3:15, Deuteronomy 18:15, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 53, and perhaps Zachariah 12:10. He opened their eyes, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27. So, Jesus can be revealed to us when we study the Bible and its prophecies. Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5:39. And also, "this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." John 17:3. Do you know Jesus? Have you received Him?

The last point is that when we discover God's love manifested through His Son, we are moved by such a spirit that cannot be quenched. I want to say that when we meet Christ, there rises in our hearts a missionary spirit which cannot be stopped. Every day we are renewed by nourishment from the Scriptures through prayer and



consecration. We reach a high personal experience with Christ that makes us want to share with everyone we meet, the good news of salvation. The Spirit of Prophecy says, "Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. No sooner does he come to know the Saviour than he desires to make others acquainted with Him. The saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life. In doing this work a greater blessing is received than if we work merely to benefit ourselves. It is in working to spread the good news of salvation that we are brought near to the Saviour." --*The Ministry of Healing*, p.102-103 [emphasis mine]

The journey to Emmaus is both a literal and a spiritual journey. On the one hand it recounts the story of two disciples who, after the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord, walked seven miles from Jerusalem to their village of Emmaus. On the other hand, it outlines the spiritual journey that each one of us will take which begins by our not recognizing Jesus' presence, and continues to the understanding of what the Scriptures say about

Him, to the recognizing of Him for who He is, and finally to witnessing what we have experienced with Him.

In conclusion, here are some questions to ask yourself. Do you know Jesus today? Have your eyes ever been opened to who He is and what He has done for you? Do you know that He walks with you and talks with you? Can you testify to His presence in your life? Do you have fellowship with Him? Has your experience with Him been so real, so moving, so life changing that it has caused you to want to tell others about Him? I wish I could always experience Jesus' love in my life and never forget what He has done for me; to be motivated by such a love that cannot be described in mere words. Only the person who has experienced salvation in Christ can speak earnestly of Jesus, trusting in and eagerly awaiting for His coming. It is my wish and prayer that we would be in the class or people who know Jesus personally, experiencing His immeasurable love daily. Amen!

*In Christ, Nicholas Anca*





# An Achan

## in the Church

What happens if there is an Achan in the church? Who will suffer for it? In the time of Joshua there was an Achan in the church and the whole nation lost the blessing and protection of God.

Paul writes, "for as the body is one, and have many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many." 1 Corinthians 12:12–14

Because the church is one body then we have a close relationship with one another. Paul writes further, "that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." 1 Corinthians 12:25–26

If one member commits sin it becomes sin for everyone. This happened in the time of Joshua.

"And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you." Joshua 7:10–12

Even the secret, unknown sin brought the curse of God upon all the people. How careful we must be that this will not happen in our churches. Because we do not see the secret sins, we must ask God to purify His church.

Sister White writes, "Where is the spirituality of the church? Where are men and women full of faith and the Holy Spirit? My prayer is: purify Thy church, O God... God is sifting His people. He will have a clean and holy church. We cannot read the heart of man. But the Lord has provided means to keep the church pure. . . We all have reason

to thank God that a way has been opened to save the church, for the wrath of God must have come upon it if these corrupt pretenders had remained with us." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 99

We must thank God that He has promised to help to keep the church pure. But visible, known sins we must deal with, or they would become our sins. Jesus said, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 18:15–18

If someone has to be disfellowshipped from the church, heaven also takes his/her name out of their books. Therefore it is important to be a member in the church of God. There are faithful Christians in the fallen churches, but they have to come out or they will be guilty of the sins in their churches.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, 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

Jesus said, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My

voice: and there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd." John 10:16

Every sinner is not an Achan, because Achan had no more chance of repentance nor for forgiveness. Weak members need encouragement and much love to be shown to them in order to bring them back to faithfulness. We need divine wisdom to see the difference between Achans and sinners that can be saved as in the case of the prodigal son.

Satan tries to bring Achans into the church. He knows the damage that they can do to the church of God. And an important question we need to ask of ourselves is, "Am I an Achan, am I bringing the displeasure of God upon the church?"

Achan could have been forgiven if he had confessed his sin before, and asked for forgiveness, but he left his confession too late. We need to ask God to reveal to us our weak points and sins that we need to confess.

David prayed, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23–24

God sent His prophet Nathan to rebuke David of his sin. And He will reveal to us our sins if we sincerely seek purity of heart. He does not only reveal our sins to us, but gives us power to overcome them.

Sister White writes, "We profess to be governed by the same principles, to be influenced by the same spirit. But instead of giving all for Christ many have taken the golden wedge and a goodly Babylonish garment and hid them in the camp. If the presence of one Achan was sufficient to weaken the whole camp of Israel, can we be surprised at the little success which attends our efforts when every church and almost every family has its Achan? Let us individually go to work to stimulate others by our example of disinterested benevolence. The work might have gone forward with far greater power had all done what they could to supply the treasury with means." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 157

"If when Achan yielded to temptation he had been asked if he wished to bring defeat and death into the camp of Israel, he would have answered: 'No, no! is thy servant a dog that he should do this great wickedness?' But he lingered over the temptation to gratify his own covetousness; and when the opportunity was presented, he went further than he had purposed in his heart. It is exactly in this way that individual members of the church are imperceptibly led on to grieve the Spirit of God, to defraud their neighbours, and to bring the frown of God upon the church. No man lives to himself. Shame, defeat, and death were brought upon Israel by



one man's sin. That protection which had covered their heads in the time of battle was withdrawn. Various sins that are cherished and practiced by professed Christians bring the frown of God upon the church. In the day when the Ledger of Heaven shall be opened, the Judge will not in words express to man his guilt, but will cast one penetrating, convicting glance, and every deed, every transaction of life, will be vividly impressed upon the memory of the wrongdoer. The person will not, as in Joshua's day, need to be hunted out from tribe to family, but his own lips will confess his shame, his selfishness, covetousness, dishonesty, dissembling, and fraud. His sins,

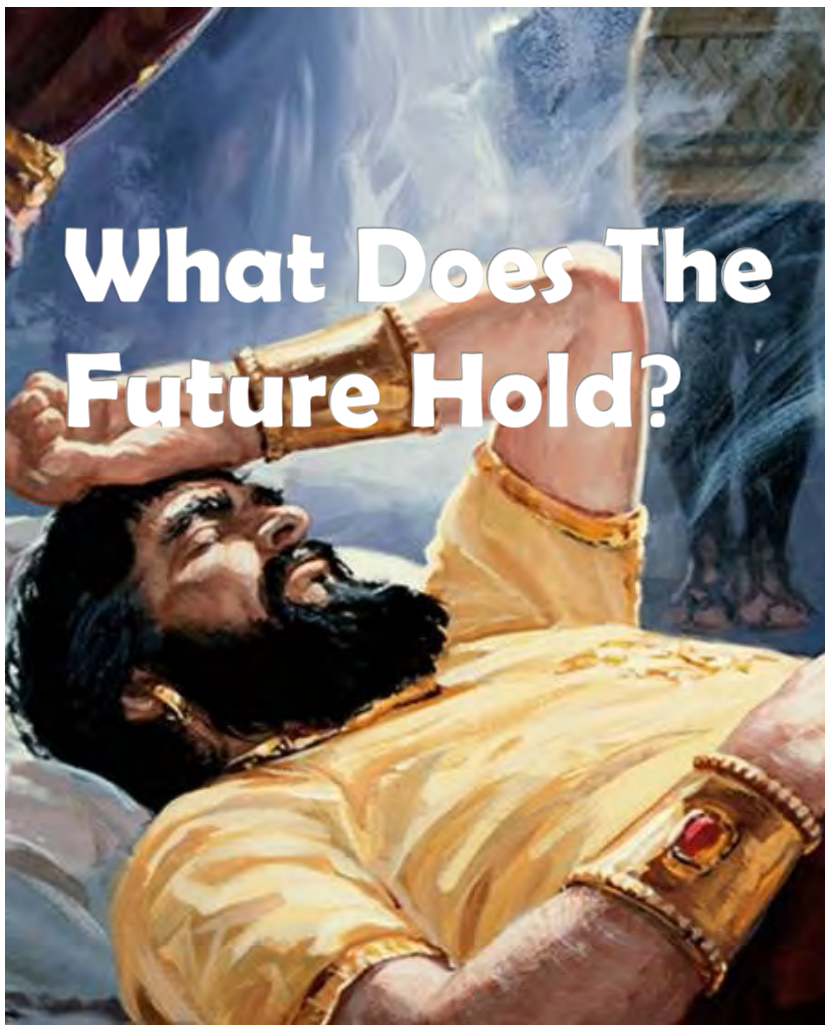
hidden from the knowledge of man, will then be proclaimed, as it were, upon the housetop.

"The influence most to be feared by the church is not that of open opposers, infidels, and blasphemers, but of inconsistent professors of Christ. These are the ones who keep back the blessing of the God of Israel and bring weakness upon the church, a reproach that is not easily wiped away." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 492–493

Achan's sin could have been forgiven if he had confessed it earlier. Our sins will be forgiven if we confess them before they come to the judgment. We need to pray for the Achans in the churches and in the families that their consciences will lead them to repentance and to true conversion. Amen.

**Timo Martin**





# What Does The Future Hold?

**“As for thee, O King, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and He that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.” Daniel 2:29**

## **A DREAM WORLD**

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon meditated over our question: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD? And the result was that he had a dream about it! “As for thee, O King, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and He that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.” Daniel 2:29

Sad, however, the dream was forgotten through the forceful impression it made upon him. “Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.” Daniel 2:2–3. This passage of Scripture is—a history—but it is a history of a prophecy, by a dream and the interpretation of it! God sometimes serves His own pur-

poses by putting things out of men’s minds as well as by putting things into their minds.

The wise men of the royal Court of Babylon were neither able to meet the King’s request, nor help, nor interpret the dream. They were weak, feeble, debilitated human beings, as most of all the learned and wise men of today are with their shallow wisdom, in contrast to the coming world events. “The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king’s matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.” Daniel 2:10. They acknowledge that the gods may indeed declare unto man what is his thought (Amos 4:13), for God understands our thoughts afar off (Psalm 139:2); what they will be before we think them, what they are when we do not regard them, what they have been when we have forgotten them.

We, as men who know not that which will take place tomorrow, it has been acknowledged by all sincere wise men that our knowledge is imperfect. That next to a finite wisdom there is also a higher one which we as human beings can acquire, that may be seen from the report of

Daniel, a faithful man, who was, along with many others, placed under a death penalty in Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, since he himself declared that he could interpret the lost dream of the King (Daniel 2:13–16).

## **BEST FRIEND!**

Now, Daniel knew his God, like we do our Best Friend, and in the hour of distress, he turned confidently to Him in prayer (Daniel 2:17–19).

Ah! In this lies the key to true knowledge. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Psalm 111: 10 (Ecclesiastes 12:13). God, you see, uses true, humble, faithful men, in order to reveal Himself; and through this He brings to naught the wisdom of men. A knowledge of God is not received in universities. If such be the case, only the trained and learned (theologians) would be able to know our Father. How is it said? “I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. . . . And no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.” Matthew 11:25–27



## GRIM SECRET EXPOSED

Daniel did not glory in his success, but, acknowledged openly that the honour belongs to God alone. “But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.” (Daniel 2:25–28). Humble men will be always ready to think that what God does for them and by them is more for the sake of others than for their own. Prophets receive that they may give, that the discoveries made to them may not be lodged with themselves, but communicated to the persons that are concerned—Nebuchadnezzar was agonizingly concerned!

As a true servant, Daniel fearlessly declared to his earthly lord the message of the heavenly King. “Thou, O King, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible” (Daniel 2: 31–35); that which was most remarkable in this image was the different metals of which it was composed—

“This image’s:

**Head** was of fine **gold**, his  
**Breast** and his **arms of silver**, his  
**Belly** and **thighs of brass**, his  
**Legs of iron**, his  
**Feet part of iron** and part of **clay**.

“Thou sawest until that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces, . . . and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.” Daniel 2:34–35

Head of Gold—**BABYLON**  
(Babylonian-Babili, “gate of God”)  
(605 BC—538 BC)



“Thou, O King, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. . . . Thou (Nebuchadnezzar) art this head of gold.” Daniel 2:36–38

We find also in the image of man—as it stood before the king—as a living man, but the form of this image is said to

be “terrible!” Both the features of the face and the postures of the body made it so—the world’s history is symbolically represented; and especially so, beginning with Babylon, at that time a universal kingdom. God did choose man as a symbol. “What is man?” The Psalmist asked. A vapor—grass—weak—vanishable! This, in fact, is a correct characteristic of man’s history in this world.

Powerfully and gloriously did Babylon commence; the first world-kingdom. Jehovah, the Almighty, King of kings, revealed himself to Nebuchadnezzar, who finally came to the acknowledgment of God, declaring: “All whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase.” Daniel 4:37. (Psalm 119:67). But Belshazzar, who mocked God, contrary to his better knowledge, and abused the power entrusted to him, had to give heed to the judgment pronounced upon him: “Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.” (Daniel 5: 22–30)

The gold soon came to an end. According to human judgment, Babylon the proud seemed invincible; nevertheless, Medo-Persia arose, in the appointed hour of God, upon the stage of action in this world’s history, and Babylon—the fine gold, vanished!

Breast and Arms of silver—**MEDO-PERSIA**  
(538 BC—331 BC)

“And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee.” Daniel 2:39

This chosen governing nation, according to the symbol, was declared by God, inferior in value. God

marked definitely the Breast and Arms, the double kingdom: (the duality of the king-

dom is obviously represented by the duality of the breasts and arms) Medo-Persia that should follow Babylon. Though Cores (Cyrus) permitted himself to be controlled by the Spirit of God, he gave certain privileges to the Jews since they were the chosen people. Nevertheless, it also finally came to an end, through a reign of tyranny and slavery, as a second universal kingdom.



Thighs of Brass—**GREECE**  
(331 BC—168 BC)

“And another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.” Daniel 2:39

More inferior than Medo-Persia was sighted the following historical universal kingdom of Greece (Macedonian empire of Alexander). Even Alexander the Great, tutored by Aristotle the Greek philosopher up to the age of 16, grew rapidly through his swiftness and subtility to a world monarch, only to sink again as a powerful ruler at the age of 33, into the grave, as a poor slave of his passions, and with him his great kingdom. “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.” Proverbs 16:32. Some say he died of alcohol poisoning; others, a relapse of malaria—a mysterious illness—or was poisoned by the sons of Antipater or disaffected senior officers; or by natural causes. What is certain is that he died of a high fever—but the mystery of half truths and controversy still persists. Moreover, Alexander boasted that he had conquered the world, and then sat down and wept because he had not another world to conquer.

Legs of Iron—**ROME**  
(168 BC – 476 AD) (Western)  
(330 AD – 1453 AD) (Eastern)

“And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.” Daniel 2:40

Still more inferior in value, follows the fourth: The “iron” Rome (Luke 2:1). Of all the four metals this is the strongest. Rome, although divided into two legs of iron, it was still one kingdom. In the two legs, prophecy denotes the division of the empire into two separate kingdoms, with capitals in Rome (Western) and Constantinople (Eastern). Eastern Rome eventually became known as the Byzantine Empire (Orthodox Church). As a whole, the image gives the im-



posing outward greatness and splendour of the Gentile world power. In a most ruthless political way, however, Rome demolished her enemies and predecessors in such manner that from a human standpoint, the future of Rome as a world-power must have been more deeply rooted than any one of the preceding kingdoms. Towards the latter end of the Roman kingdom, however, it grew very weak (Western empire), and branched into ten kingdoms, which are signified by the toes of the statue (v. 42). At that point, also, Eastern Rome no longer played a part in prophecy in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of Daniel 2.

The “seed of man” (common humanity) shall intrude into government—en masse! The Roman government became a rule of the mob! Rome fragmented and reassembled—socially, culturally, and politically—all the peoples, institutions, etc. it took over—like a plague. The only notable exception was Christianity itself as a spiritual movement (albeit truly Romanized in the perversion of the Roman church). And “subdueth all!” “The empire of the Romans filled the world, and when the Empire fell into the hands of a single person, the world became a safe and dreary prison for his enemies. To resist was fatal and it was impossible to “fly!” If modern history is forecast here, the suggestion of the dictatorship of the common man, in socialism, is almost irresistible. Among her inner social uprisings between Plebeians (common people) and Patricians (landlords), revolutions and lastly indiscriminate immigration, ruined also this powerful kingdom; and only to be divided by the low-cultured race of Germanic origin, into many states of Germanic tribes; Visigoths, Vandals, Anglos, Saxons, Franks, Ostrogoths, and Lombards, from which we have left the remains of the European Kingdoms.

Feet and toes, part iron, and part clay—

**THE EUROPEAN STATES**

(November 1, 1993—Maastricht Treaty—creation of the European Union and the single European currency, the Euro)

**THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES!**

There has never been such a wonderful fulfillment of the symbolic “Image of Man,” as was fulfilled in Rome, also a world Empire. Just as the human body terminates in ten toes, so were formed ten European States, from the Roman Kingdom. We discern among them—basically: Germany, England, France, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Portugal and Spain; some of Roman and some of Germanic origin. As iron does not mix with clay, but always each keeps its original



form, thus we have lived to learn, that national alliances of many years, and intermarriages among royal households were not able to preserve the world's peace. The Roman iron, through its standing drafted army, resulted in heated friction among the nations. All inventions of science have been brought to the service of destruction. In a most fearful barbarian way, the "Christian nations" had made war, were making war or always preparing to make war upon each other with the most horrible weapons. All the previous war events of past universal kingdoms are placed in a shadow as compared with those of our day. Higher than ever, therefore, arose our world's distress and our world's calling for a final reckoning with God.

Which connecting link is missing which would insure a permanent, enduring, and yet preservative unity among nations? For those who have been sold under the bondage of sin, there is no human tie or object for a harmonious unity! No! Not one! This human tie exists for those alone, who have been liberated from the curse of sin: "The True Christianity."

Christ with His pure teaching of brotherly unity, and not only for this, but also of the future eternal life, has become a stumbling block to the so-called Christian states; also, in a similar manner, the chosen Cornerstone of God has been cast away (Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:44). In like manner true Christianity—as proved in recent years—has also been cast aside—the Law of God—trampled upon! Everything is incoherently and perilously breaking down!

#### **DEPENDABLE!**

But the Smiting Stone, the Messianic Kingdom of the Stone (Daniel 2:34–35), destroys the Gentile world system (in its final form) by a sudden, violent, catastrophic, and irremediable blow, not by the gradual processes of conversion and assimilation; and then and not before, does the Stone become a mountain (a

mountain is one of the Biblical symbols of a kingdom—Isaiah 2:2) which fills the whole earth (Daniel 7: 26–27). Such a destruction of the Gentile monarchy system did not occur at the first advent of Christ. On the contrary, He was put to death by the sentence of an officer of the fourth empire which was then at the zenith of its power!

But, from the head of gold to the iron of the fourth kingdom (Rome) there is deterioration in fineness, but increase of strength (Daniel 2:40).



(1) Deterioration by division: the kingdom is divided into two; the legs (eastern and western empires) and these are again divided into ten kingdoms, the number of which, when the Stone smites the image, will be ten (toes, Daniel 2:42), and;

(2) Deterioration by admixture; the iron mixed with the clay; some of these kingdoms were weak as clay, others strong as iron! This empire divided the government for a long time between the senate and the people, the nobles and the commons, but they did not entirely coalesce. There were civil wars, irruptions of the barbarous nations, the branches of the royal family intermarried; but the politics had not the desired effect, when the day of the fall of that empire came.

"God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." Daniel 2:45. God declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). Whatever God has made known we may depend upon—for certain!

#### **ANOTHER DREAM!**

Ah! Mankind, however, had another dream—that of a united Europe (EU) (European Union)—that would indissolubly unite man into a viable force—both politically and spiritually—a harmonious and brilliant bond. Man has from the onset clamoured—even demanded

such a unity of the European nations—yes, even jeopardizing their own freedoms from such a binding pact.

That dream was “EUROPE.” It has, however, become:

- A Europe of accountants—not the Europe of values.
- A Europe of bureaucrats—not the Europe in spirit.
- A Europe that is tired of itself; doubts its mission, and meaning—not an ardent, fervent, heroic Europe.
- A Europe that is beset by doubt—not the Europe that knows what it is or where it is going.

This is a Europe in which the inextinguishable flame could have been rediscovered—but has faltered—and flickers—as prophesied!

### HOW MUCH?

But, therefore, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12. This true old gospel has lost more and more of its redeeming power for our so-called Christian generation of today, and daily we behold among us the ever-growing contrast. Sooner is accepted man’s fanciful theory in place of the true teaching of Christ; yes, even accepted by force instead of by work with the pure gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16).



How much more reason have we to test sincerely, the face value of our demolishing, and all-crushing social and political conditions with this proven Cornerstone, in order to drop all personal opinions; “And whosoever shall fall on this Stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.” Matthew 21:44

The stone cut down without hands falls without any assistance of men upon this earth and closes this world’s history, filling this whole earth, and remaining eternal (Daniel 2:34–35).

How much—is the question—are we, as Christians prepared to meet this coming event?

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom.” Daniel 2:44

“Thy kingdom come.” Matthew 6:10

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33), and pray with a sincere heart as all those have who were upright since the onset of mankind and enlightened by the Truth.

Look for the waymarks as you journey on,  
Look for the waymarks, passing one by one;  
down thro’ the ages, past the kingdoms four,  
Where are we standing? Look the waymarks o’er.  
First, the Assyrian kingdom ruled the world,  
Then Medo-Persia’s banners were unfurled;  
And after Greece held universal sway,  
Rome seized the scepter—where are we today?  
Down in the feet of iron and of clay,  
Weak and divided, soon to pass away;  
What will the next great, glorious drama be?—  
Christ and His coming, and eternity.  
Look for the waymarks,  
the great prophetic waymarks,  
Down thro’ the ages, past the kingdoms four.  
Look for the waymarks,  
the great prophetic waymarks;  
The journey’s almost o’er.

(Prof. Franklin Edison Belden (1858-1945);  
musician, gospel song writer,  
“Christ in Song”, Adventist College teacher)

The fulfilled signs in nature, complete to the letter, has universally founded the faith of many of the believers in the soon coming of Christ!

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD? For you today??

Amen <>< <>< <><

# Canadian Field Conference

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# Rooted and Grounded

**“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.” Ephesians 3:17**

In this Bible verse, Paul mentions love as of primary importance. You can obey without loving, but you cannot love without obeying. Love must come first then all else will naturally follow. The Apostle uses two different metaphors to represent the love of God and how it is to dwell in our hearts. A plant that is well rooted can withstand many different adverse weather conditions, from extreme heat and drought like the palms in the desert, or strong winds, and extreme cold, as the evergreen trees. In both extremes, it is the deep roots that save the tree.

From Science we learn that roots are the part of a plant that grows downward and holds the plant in place, absorbs water and minerals from the soil, and often stores food. For the plant to be “grounded,” the plant must be held fast to the ground, unmoveable.

Other Biblical writers have also compared the Christian life to a tree. For example, David describes the righteous man as, “A tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalm 1:3. And Jeremiah, “For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.” Jeremiah 17:8. A tall, strong tree can be seen in its might, but it also shares what it has. It provides shade, shelter and food for man and animals. This is what the Christian life should be like. Strong amidst any adverse conditions it may face, but also very giving of its benefits for the good of others.

Looking closer at the verse in Ephesians 3:17, in order to be rooted and grounded in love, we must have Christ dwelling in our hearts, by faith.

This word “dwell” is from the Greek word, “Katoikeo”, which translated means: “To abide,” “to be at home,”

or, “to settle down.” When someone “settles down” it often has the idea of permanency. They settle and don’t want to move for quite some time. And to “be at home” gives the idea that one is very comfortable. When you visit someone and they tell you to “make yourself at home,” this means, to be relaxed, comfortable and to treat their home as yours and act in their home as you would in your own.

This is what Christ wants to do when He wants to dwell in you. He does not want to be an occasional visitor, but He wants to “settle down” and “be at home.” Ask yourself if your heart is in such a condition that Christ would “be at home” and be happy to settle down there.

Most people would like this prayer much better if Paul had not put in the little phrase “by faith.” The truth is, most Christians don’t like doing anything “by faith.” They would rather have Christ in their hearts by feeling rather than by faith. There is a difference. Faith will sometimes produce feelings, but feelings are not faith. For many Christians if they don’t feel the presence of the Lord, they don’t believe He’s really there.

We know that He promised He would never leave us, even though we may not feel His presence at times. Paul was praying that, instead of being dominated by feelings, we would renew our minds and perceive by faith, not feeling, that Christ is in our souls.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.” John 14:23

I want you to stop and really ponder this thought. In Ephesians we read that “Christ may dwell in your heart by faith” and here we read that both the Father and Jesus will make their abode in the believer.

The Father and the Son (Jesus) want to abide in your heart; your sinful, heart. “The heart is deceitful above all

things, and desperately wicked.” Jeremiah 17:9. They want to abide in the heart of man whose righteousness is as “filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). Who are they? God, King of the Universe, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent . . . from everlasting to everlasting . . . and they want to dwell in your corrupt, evil heart and mind? Oh, what a solemn thought; how humbling. How undeserving we are of such an honour.

But the beauty of it is that Jesus does not leave us in this condition. When He makes His abode in our heart, He begins to clean up. “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:25–27

You need to be willing to welcome them into your heart and allow them to sweep away all your sin, but it is sometimes a painful process. To remove the cancerous sores from a sick person often causes pain. To remove cherished idols that are hurting you will also cause pain. It is difficult to let go of what we cherish, but the putrid sores need to be burned off. “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire.” 1 Peter 1:7. However, the end result will be pure health and happiness and it is worth the pain. But the sad part is that the majority will not allow this to happen. While many may give up their outwardly sinful lifestyle they may refuse to give up their inward sins such as selfishness, pride, love of their own opinion, their inability to submit to authority . . . etc. These attitudes, often hidden from the human eye, cannot escape the eye of Jesus and many will end up outside of eternity because they would not humble themselves and let Jesus clean these out of their hearts. Their pride would not allow them.

If we allow Jesus to dwell in our hearts, by faith, there will be a constant power available for us to remain pure. It is faith that opens up the heart of Christ. We may not feel any happy flight of feeling, but we have a confident trust in God and His promises, and this continuously sustains our spiritual life.

The final part of the verse in Ephesians tells us we need to be rooted and grounded in what? In Love. Love that is “rooted” goes down deep into the soil of the soul, engaging all the faculties of the mind. Love that is “grounded” is the firm foundation on which all our relationships exist, whether with God or with our fellow man. There is nothing greater than this kind of love and we can read of it in 1 Corinthians 13. This true love springs directly from the experience of possessing the indwelling Christ and it results in perfect unity between Christ and our fellow man.

Christ’s love is beyond the knowledge of humanity because it is infinite, free, and never exhausted. Christ is the source of our own growing experience of love. And we must be growing as the trees or we are dying. Love is the great principle of true religion, and the apostle wished that all believers might be fully settled in that love, as a tree is in the soil, whose roots strike deep into the earth.

How frail our understanding and appreciation of what God wants to do in and through us.

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6–7. Here again, Paul uses the word “rooted,” implying stability. In the experience of the believers, the foundation of the spiritual building must be in Jesus Himself.

Paul uses three different words in these verses to describe the Christian journey. The believers are to “walk”, take “root” and be “built up” as a mighty temple for the Lord. All of these activities are to take place in Him. Jesus Christ is the pattern according to which they must walk; He is the root from which they must draw sap and nourishment; He is the living Rock, the sure foundation upon whom Jews and Gentiles alike are to build. He is “broad enough for all and strong enough to sustain the weight and burden of the whole world.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 175

Through this experience, Paul tells us we will be “stablished in the faith” and “abounding therein with thanksgiving.” The supply is limitless. Christians are given all that they need for salvation. Knowing and believing this we will approach God with a grateful heart. How can one be anything but thankful when surrounded by the boundless resources of Omnipotence? Since Christ is all and in all and with all, what has man to fear? The secret of true happiness is habitual reliance upon Christ. Thanksgiving is the fruit of this reliance.

“The only way in which men will be able to stand firm in the conflict, is to be *rooted and grounded in Christ*. They must receive the truth as it is in Jesus. And it is only as the truth is presented thus that it can meet the wants of the soul. The preaching of Christ crucified, Christ our righteousness, is what satisfies the soul's hunger. When we secure the interest of the people in this great central truth, faith and hope and courage come to the heart. If God has given His Son to die for sinners, He means to counteract sin. He has made the great gift because of His love for sinful, fallen man. We must make it plain that He is able and willing to save all who come unto Him and believe in Him as their personal Saviour. Present this again and again, until the mind can take it in.” –*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, January 28, 1893



## ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN THE TRUTH

Although we are to be rooted and grounded in Christ, and in His love, we must also be rooted and grounded in the truth. This will be the natural result of being rooted and grounded in Christ. We will want to know more about Him, about His truth. The strong desire will be there. "God calls for men and women of stability, of firm purpose, who can be relied upon in seasons of danger and trial, who are as firmly *rooted and grounded in the truth* as the eternal hills, who cannot be swayed to the right or to the left, but who move straight onward and are always found on the right side. There are some, who, in time of religious peril, may almost always be looked for in the ranks of the enemy; if they have any influence, it is on the wrong side. They do not feel under moral obligation to give all their strength to the truth they profess. Such will be rewarded according to their works." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 75 (emphasis mine)

"Unless we are intelligent in the Scriptures, may we not, when this mighty miracle-working power of Satan is manifested in our world, be deceived and call it the workings of God; for the Word of God declares that, if it were possible, the very elect should be deceived. Unless we are *rooted and grounded in the truth*, we shall be swept away by Satan's delusive snares. We must cling to our Bibles." —*Evangelism*, p. 249 (emphasis mine)

"When the love of Jesus is abiding in the soul, many who are now but withered branches will become as the cedars of Lebanon, 'whose root is by the great waters.' The cedar is noted for the firmness of its roots. Not content to cling to the earth with a few weak fibers, it thrusts its rootlets, like a sturdy wedge, into the cloven rock, and reaches down deeper and deeper for strong holds to grasp. When the tempest grapples with its boughs, that firm-set tree cannot be uprooted. What a goodly cedar might not every follower of Christ become, if he were but *rooted and grounded in the truth*, firmly united to the Eternal Rock." —*The Review and Herald*, June 20, 1882 (emphasis mine)

"But those who resolutely try to obtain the victory over temptation, who promptly and decisively resist the attacks of Satan, will become rooted and grounded in the truth. Their experience will not be dwarfed and sickly, but will bear rich fruit to the glory of God." —*The Youth's Instructor*, March 5, 1903

## ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN FAITH

If we are truly rooted and grounded in the love of Christ and in the truth, our faith will not waver. "But let him ask in

faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." James 1:6–7

"Those who have lived on the flesh and blood of the Son of God—His Holy Word—will be strengthened, *rooted, and grounded in the faith*. They will see increased evidence why they should prize and obey the Word of God. With David, they will say, 'They have made void Thy law. Therefore love I Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.' While others count them dross, they will arise to defend the faith." —*The Review and Herald*, June 8, 1897 (emphasis mine)

"Jesus said, 'He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.' Now if you are following another leader than Christ, who is Light and Truth and Life, leave that leader and follow Jesus the Light of the world. Is the Lord pleased to have you tossed about as the restless waves of the sea? No! No! I tell you He bids you be strengthened, stablished, rooted and grounded and built up in the most holy faith. Ye are not your own; ye are

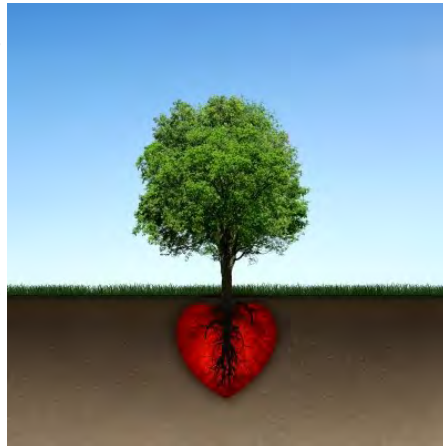
bought with a price which cannot be estimated. Then your owner is God, the mighty God, and for the price paid look to the cross of Calvary. This fluctuating between hope and fear grieves the heart of Christ, who hath given you unmistakable evidence of His love and hath chosen you." —*The Upward Look*, p. 150

"Let the sinner fix his eyes on Jesus, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. As he looks to Christ, he will feel the power of God. He must not devote the precious time to deploring his sinfulness, looking upon the wounds

and bruises he has received in the services of Satan. By faith carry the mind up within the veil to view Christ as our intercessor before the mercy-seat. Let the sinner behold Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life, and his soul will be open to receive the truth as it is in Jesus." —*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, January 28, 1893

If we wish to overcome and resist the attacks of the devil we need to be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, in the truth and in faith. We will then gain the victory and be granted the crown of victory. Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Revelation 3:11. Jesus is our lifeline, our only support. Just as the tree's roots are the lifeline for the entire tree, we need to be firmly rooted and grounded in the love of Christ and let Him make His abode in our hearts. And hold fast. Do not let go. Amen.

**Wendy Eaton**





# A Spiritual Inheritance

From the online dictionary we read: Inheritance is the practice of passing on property, titles, debts, rights and obligations upon the death of an individual. It has long played an important role in human societies. Sometimes parents make sure to train their children to receive a good education and profession as an inheritance for the future. We can also inherit character, the features from someone in the family, as well as last names. This was very important years ago, especially if the parents only had girls—their wish was to have a son so that they could pass their name to the next generation. For immigrants like myself, obtaining my Canadian Citizenship was also another kind of inheritance. For me, as a mother it will provide my children a home in this country.

Not long ago Elaine had a project in which she had to explain the history of her ancestors. One of Elaine's questions was, "how far back can you trace your heritage?" Not far, I answered. On my father's side I only know the names of my grandparents, because my father's parents died when he was only 13 years old. On my mother's side, I remember my grandparents but not my great-grandparents. My grandfather was a very nice and kind man and my grandmother had a very strong personality. Most of the time she reminded me of a warrior ready to fight. Her father was from Spain and her mother was Mexican. My grandmother inherited her father's skin colour which she was very proud of. I remember her saying, "I'm as white as a Jicama." Jicama is a Mexican fruit which is white on the inside. As you see, I don't know much about my ancestors, my roots or my background. Once someone asked me if I was a descendant from the Mayan civilization. I said, No, I think I might be a descendant from the Aztec civilization.

Sometimes we want to hear that we belong to a family that was very important, that did something remarkable in history, someone whose name will be mentioned forever, or someone who was wealthy and it will provide us with a good inheritance for the future. In Hebrews 9:16 it says, "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator." Jesus, the Son of God, came to this world and died and arose victorious and when He left He said in John 14:2–3, "In My Father's house are many

mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Sometimes I worry too much about my ancestor's past and I should not. I should worry about my future—especially my spiritual future. The Bible mentioned two types of inheritance—the physical inheritance and the spiritual inheritance. I should stop thinking that I am a descendant from the Aztec civilization, because it is something that I may never know. But something that I know for sure is that God Himself sent His Son, the great I AM. His majesty was in this world to save you and to save me. He gave His life for us, so that we can be part of His family; His royal family. Famous people and wealthy people might say that they own luxurious cars, castles, Islands and rare and expensive diamonds, but we, as part of God's family can receive a greater inheritance. "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will." Ephesians 1:11. "The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever." Psalm 37:29

The following is a poem by Cindy Wyatt:

## Great Inheritance

I have a great inheritance  
that will never fade away,  
It will last forever and ever  
into God's eternal day.

My inheritance was not earned  
but instead was freely given.  
This great inheritance is so rich,  
much more than we could ever dream,  
reserved in Heaven for those  
who by Jesus' blood have been redeemed.

Part of this inheritance is  
streets of pure gold that will never tarnish,  
shining brightly forevermore,  
and the walls with precious stones garnished.



But the best part of it all  
is that Jesus the Saviour will be there,  
and we'll be with Him forever,  
in the place He has gone to prepare.

"We should not forget that it will be just as important to our descendants to be prosperous in their time as it is to us to be prosperous in our time." –Theodore Roosevelt

"The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of their time each day." –M. Grundler

"Property left to a child may soon be lost but the inheritance of virtue—a good name, an unblemished reputation—will abide forever. If those who are toiling for wealth to leave their children, would but take half the pains to secure for them virtuous habits, how much more serviceable would they be. The largest property may be wrested from a child, but virtue will stand by him to the last." –William Graham Sumner

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:4

We have a reservation in heaven for all of us. God sent His Son so that we can learn from Jesus and follow His example. We are very valuable to God and Jesus; everything that we receive and gain in this world is for this world, but everything that we learn from Jesus will open to us the doors of heaven and we will be able to receive His inheritance. But we are going to have our hands empty, as Jesus says in Matthew 11:28, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Our new heart will rejoice with joy, happiness, thankfulness and love for Jesus and God, and then we will know that we are part of His family. "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." Psalm 16:6

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:12), this is my wish and prayer. Amen.

**Lucy Flores**

## **CONCLUSION**

Some people on earth might inherit a house and maybe money. But to inherit something we either have to be a friend or a relative of the person who passed away.

But to inherit what God wants us to inherit we have to follow God's rules. And how many people actually keep God's rules? Some people in the world that have rich relatives will do anything for them to pass away so that they can have the inheritance.

But, on the other hand, we cannot do anything but keep God's rules to inherit what He wants us to inherit.

Some religions do believe in just going to church or just believing in Jesus and you can do whatever you want and you still can go to heaven, but we know this is not true. We know we have to follow God's rules and even if we do we just can't go out and run around and do whatever we want.

Some people may say that the apostles said, "believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and all your household." But we all know that they did follow God's rules and they did not just go off and do things that God did not want them to do.

Did you know that there are two types of inheritance? The good inheritance and the not-so-good inheritance. Some of you may say, "but this isn't an inheritance; this is more of a punishment." I was one of those people who said that.

The definition of an inheritance is simple and easy to remember: a thing that is inherited. So we inherit what we get.

Or what we get is what we deserve.

But there is another type of inheritance that has already been mentioned. People of this earth say, "Oh, you inherited your Dad's attitude or your Mom's nose." I hear this a lot at my school.

People on earth may say that they have good looks, and they may have them. But in reality we are just hideous beings, who have inherited deformities.

We want to inherit the new celestial body that God has in store for us. And we can say that we have inherited the perfect body that God has given us. Then we can all say that we have inherited no deformities like the ones on earth.

Even if we have followed God's rules and believe and do everything right, we still have to experience people discouraging us, persecution and trials.

This is what we have to go through to get what God has in store for us. Who remembers that verse which says, if I turn my body into the flames but have no love it profited me nothing?

Can you imagine this? Doing everything God has asked us but having no love, which causes you to lose heaven.

This would be terrible.

This is why we must be sure to do the right thing. Never look to the right or to the left—look at the cross.

It is my wish and prayer that we have love for everyone, and, in everything that we do, to follow God's rules so we can one day see each other inheriting eternal life. Amen.

**Matthew Romero**



# Friendliness and Courtesy

**“ . . . Be pitiful, be courteous.” 1 Peter 3:8**

In order to be a successful soul winner, one must show friendliness and practice tact and courtesy. It is a fact that businessmen and politicians make themselves as attractive and appealing as possible in order to reach their goals. Many of these people, unfortunately, only put on these graces—they do not come from the heart

“A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favour of Christianity.” – *Gospel Workers*, p. 122

Additionally, every worker for the Lord should have good eye contact, good manners, a firm handshake, and a happy, smiling face when greeting others. A smile is the universal language of the world (Also, it takes 58 fewer muscles to smile than to frown).

“The religion of Jesus gives peace like a river. It does not quench the light of joy, it does not restrain cheerfulness nor cloud the sunny, smiling face.” – *Steps to Christ*, p. 121

“Children are attracted by a cheerful, sunny demeanor. . . If your heart is sad, let not your face reveal the fact.” – *Child Guidance*, p. 146, 148

Whether we come into a home for a Bible study, or attend church services on Sabbath, let’s try smiling. It doesn’t cost anything! Visitors will be delighted when they see cheerful faces.

Another grace that needs special attention is humility. The heavenly intelligences can cooperate with him who is seeking not to exalt self, but to save souls. It is pride that is a stumbling block to success for it is opposed to God’s nature of love. Lacking love and true compassion in his heart, man becomes cold as steel and very critical of others.

In the gospel of John, we find a group of scribes and Phar-

isees who had accused a woman of a serious sin—adultery. Jesus did not *justify* nor *condemn* her. He merely said to her, “Neither do I condemn thee: *go and sin no more.*” John 8:11. What amazing sympathy and understanding were shown by Jesus toward this frightened woman! He came not into this world to condemn, but to save sinners.

The church of God should have the same attitude toward all sinners. No matter what they have done, they need to be loved.

Only by strictly adhering to the timely Biblical rule found in Matthew 18:15–17, can the believers do justice to themselves and help the sinner find his way back to God. It is not by casting stones, which often wound and even kill spiritually, that a sinner is benefited. He is to be directed to a living and loving Saviour, Jesus Christ who forgives and cleanses from all sin.

**Henry Dering**

## LOOKING FOR YOU...

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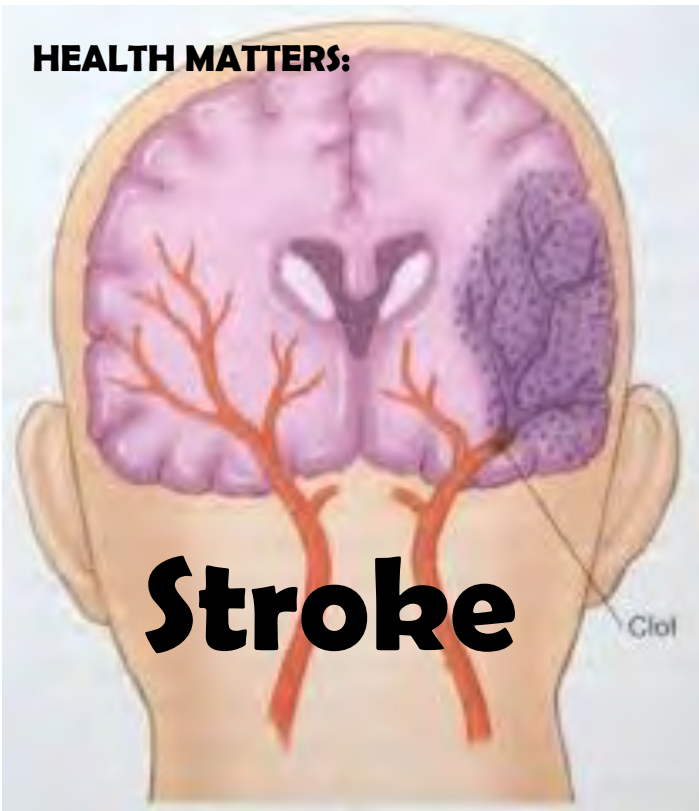
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## HEALTH MATTERS:



“The brain nerves which communicate with the entire system are the only medium through which Heaven can communicate to man and affect his inmost life.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 448

A stroke, which is also known as a cerebrovascular (brain/blood vessel) accident (CVA), is when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted or severely reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and food. Within minutes of decreased blood supply, brain cells begin to die. Eventually, enough brain cells die that it causes a loss of brain function in the area that is affected by the stroke. This loss of brain function manifests itself in many ways, depending which part of the brain is injured and how severely it is injured. Different areas of our brain control different functions of the body. Therefore, the effects of a stroke differ, depending on what part of the brain was affected. Strokes may cause sudden weakness, paralysis, loss of sensation, difficulty with walking, talking, or seeing.

The results of a stroke are either a temporary or permanent disability, or death. According to the World Health Organization, over 15 million people suffer a stroke worldwide each year. Of these, 5 million die and another 5 million are permanently disabled. Stroke is the leading cause of serious, long-term disability in North America. It is also the second-leading cause of death world-wide after heart disease, accounting for 10 percent of all deaths each year. Cardiovascular disease, which can lead to stroke, kill more people each year than any other reason.

Many people refer to a stroke as a “brain attack,” due to the similarities between a stroke and a heart attack, which

causes damage and death to the heart due to lack of blood and oxygen. Like a heart attack, a stroke is a medical emergency. Prompt treatment is crucial. Early action can minimize brain damage and potential complications.

A stroke happens very quickly, and even if you are alert to the warning signs of a stroke, and get the medical help needed, very often it is too late to prevent permanent damage. People in the developed countries have much quicker access to appropriate medical care, and, with sophisticated medications, can often prevent the stroke from causing any more damage. The faster that help is received, the better the chances of recovery with a decrease in permanent disability. For **every minute** delay in treating a stroke, the average person loses 1.9 million brain cells, 13.8 billion synapses (connections between brain cells), and 12 km of axonal fibres (which transmit information from one brain cell to another). Each **hour** in which treatment does not occur, the brain loses as many brain cells as it does in almost 3.6 years of normal aging.

### WHAT CAUSES A LACK OF BLOOD SUPPLY TO THE BRAIN?

There are two main reasons for the blood supply to the brain to be disrupted. The first reason is known as an “ischemic” attack, from lack of blood and oxygen in the brain due to a clot. The word “ischemic” is defined as “an insufficient supply of blood to a part of the body which is caused by an obstruction or blockage in a blood vessel.” About 80% of strokes are ischemic strokes caused by an abrupt interruption of blood flow to the brain due to a clot. Clots can either form from damage in one of the brain arteries, or from plaque breaking off from damaged arteries in other parts of the body, often from the heart. These clots travel in the bloodstream until they become lodged and cannot travel any further. This usually happens in the small arteries that supply blood to various parts of the brain, which then cuts off the blood supply from that part of the brain, depleting the brain of vital nutrients.

The brain depends on its arteries to bring fresh blood from the heart and lungs. The blood carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain, and takes away carbon dioxide and cellular waste. If an artery is blocked, the brain cells (neurons) cannot make enough energy and will eventually stop working. If the artery remains blocked for more than a few minutes, the brain cells may die. This is why immediate medical treatment is critical. If an artery is blocked for more than three hours, permanent damage is inevitable.

Many people who have had a stroke have other problems or conditions which put them at higher risk for clots, which then cause strokes. We will learn more about these conditions later in the article.

About 20% of strokes are hemorrhagic, caused by uncontrolled bleeding in the brain. Most hemorrhagic strokes are due to high blood pressure. Many people do not realize that they have high blood pressure as it doesn't cause any noticeable symptoms, but continual high blood pressure puts added stress on the walls of arteries, which then damages and weakens them. This damage, combined with high pressure levels, can cause blood vessels in the brain to burst, which then causes blood to leak into the brain. The sudden increase in pressure caused by the blood leak within the brain can cause damage to the brain cells surrounding the blood. If the amount of blood increases rapidly, the sudden buildup in pressure can lead to unconsciousness or death. Often, surgery is required to remove the extra blood that has leaked into the brain. Hemorrhagic strokes can occur at any age, whereas the incidence of ischemic strokes tends to increase as the person ages.

### TRANSIENT ISCHEMIC ATTACK (TIA)

As the name implies, a TIA is a transient or temporary interruption in blood flow to a part of the brain. The symptoms of a TIA are similar to a stroke but last for a shorter period of time, usually less than an hour, and do not leave “noticeable” permanent damage. This is what people also call a “mini-stroke.” Often, a TIA is a warning sign that the person could suffer a stroke in the near future. A TIA is usually caused by a clot lodging in a blood vessel in the brain, but then dislodges itself almost immediately. Because a TIA is caused by a clot, it is also an indication that the person may have further clots that could break off from damaged vessels and cause another blockage. The risk of another TIA or stroke after a TIA is 10–20% within the following 90 days. People who have had a TIA are five times more likely to have a stroke over the next two years than the general population.

Despite the fact that once a TIA is over, and the person seems back to “normal”, there is a cost. Multiple TIAs over time can and will cause permanent damage. While most TIAs seem small, and the symptoms are temporary, their damage can cause a gradual decline in brain function. Vascular dementia is a form of dementia which is caused by reduced blood flow to the brain over a period of time—usually from a stroke or a series of strokes or TIAs. Symptoms include memory loss, confusion, and difficulty performing every day activities. These symptoms worsen over time as more strokes or TIAs occur. Vascular dementia is preventable by decreasing risk factors for TIAs or strokes.

With Stroke,



## RISK FACTORS FOR STROKE

### A. MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Risk factors for stroke include a number of diseases that increase the risk of damage to blood vessels which then in turn can cause clots or weakened areas. Certain medical conditions greatly increase the likelihood of having a stroke.

1. **Previous stroke or “mini-stroke” (TIA).** This is a warning sign that you have a health condition which increases your risk for more strokes.

2. **Fatty deposits in your carotid arteries.** The carotid arteries are the two arteries on either side of the neck that supply blood to the brain. Narrowing in the arteries decreases the amount of blood flow to the brain. If the arteries become too narrow, blood cells may collect and form clots. Clots can also break off the fatty deposits and go to the brain.

3. **High blood pressure.** High blood pressure is the number-one cause for strokes that is preventable; reducing blood pressure levels reduces risk. High blood pressure accounts for 35–50% of stroke risk. Not only can high blood pressure lead to bleeding in the brain, but the damage to blood vessels from high blood pressure is also a leading cause of clot development. World-wide, high blood pressure contributes to more than 12.7 million strokes. Medication and lifestyle changes can lower your blood pressure and reduce your risk.

4. **High blood sugar** can increase your risk by damaging your blood vessels. Any damage to blood vessels increases the chances of clot formation. Decrease your risk by managing your diabetes to main-

tain sugars within normal levels.

5. **Heart disease.** Atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) causes plaque to build up in blood vessels. This plaque then can break off, and travel to the brain. Diseases of the heart valves, congestive heart failure or a recent heart attack also increases risk of stroke.

6. **Atrial fibrillation (AF),** which is an irregular heartbeat, can be caused by specific heart conditions, but it can also occur in otherwise healthy hearts. AF increases stroke risk about five-fold. AF can be genetic also. Medications can be used to treat AF, to reduce stroke risk.

### B. LIFESTYLE CHOICES:

1. **Obesity.** Being obese is now considered a disease because of all the health complications that come along with being over weight. Obesity rates are climbing in all



countries, with some developed countries having up to one-third of the population considered obese. Obesity causes increases in heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and fat levels, all conditions that raise stroke risk.

2. **Elevated cholesterol and elevated triglycerides (fats) levels in your blood.** Elevations in these levels are directly connected to one's diet. Reducing your dietary intake of saturated fats and cholesterol may help reduce your risk of a stroke.

3. **Physical inactivity.** A sedentary lifestyle, lacking regular exercise can contribute to heart disease which may lead to stroke. Recommendations are that adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity a week.

4. **Smoking and excessive alcohol intake.** As Reformers, these are not risk factors that we typically have problems with, but when we talk with those who we witness to, health teaching as to tobacco and alcohol use and their relationship to strokes can be done. Smokers have twice the risk of having a stroke than someone who has never smoked. However, even if someone has smoked for years, risk is lowered as soon as a person quits. Alcohol contributes to diseases that affect the circulation of the blood, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, elevation of cholesterol, and atrial fibrillation.

Reducing risk of stroke depends on how willing someone is in making changes to these lifestyle choices.

### C. UNCONTROLLABLE RISK FACTORS:

Despite knowledge of risk factors, decreasing those risks with avoidance of harmful substances, making lifestyle changes, and managing disease, a stroke is still not 100% preventable. There are also a number of risk factors that are uncontrollable which also increase stroke risk. These include:

1. **Increasing age.** Nearly three-quarters of all strokes occur in people over the age of 65. The risk of having a stroke more than doubles each decade after the age of 55. However, strokes can occur at any age, but with less frequency at younger ages.

2. **Male sex.** Men and women both have strokes but stroke incidence is higher in men than women at younger ages. On a yearly basis, more women than men have strokes, but it is because stroke risk increases with age, and women live longer than men.

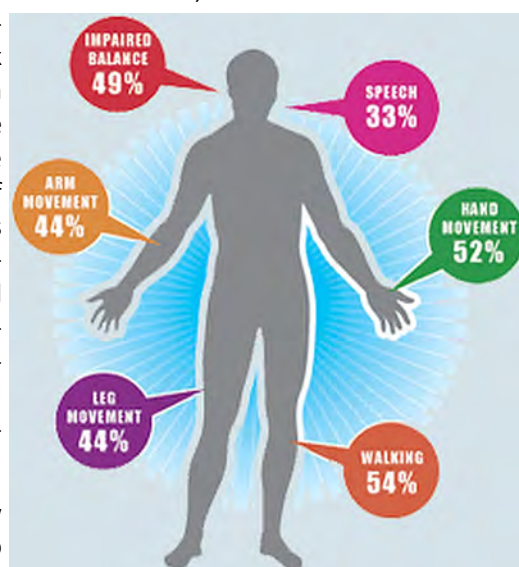
3. **Heredity and ethnicity.** Strokes are more common in people whose close relatives have had a stroke at an early

age. African-Americans and Hispanic Americans are at higher risk than white Americans. This may be due in part to a predisposition to high blood pressure and dietary differences.

Overall, strokes are decreasing in the developed world with greater focus on prevention, but it is no longer a disease that affects only the rich, developed world. Stroke risk is increasing in developing countries because of increased personal wealth, with related problems such as increases in obesity and diabetes.

### WARNING SIGNS OF A STROKE:

In order to receive medical treatment as soon as possible, everyone should know about the warning signs of a stroke, to recognize it in yourself or others.



**Weakness:** Sudden loss of strength or numbness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body.

**Trouble Speaking:** Sudden confusion, or sudden difficulty with speaking or understanding speech.

**Vision Problems:** Sudden trouble with vision, (blurred, double vision) in one or both eyes.

**Dizziness:** Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, especially if other symptoms also occur.

**Headache:** Sudden, severe headache and unusual headache with no known cause.

The signs of a stroke depend on the side of the brain that's affected, the part of the brain affected, and how severely the brain is injured. Therefore, each person may have different stroke warning signs. Every one of these symptoms indicate a medical emergency, **EVEN IF TEMPORARY**; they could be an important warning that requires prompt medical attention.

If you or someone you know is having any of these signs, **CALL 911 immediately** (in North America—other countries may have different emergency numbers) and seek medical help immediately.

If you have ever had a stroke or experience any of the warning signs of a stroke, it is very important that you work with your doctor to determine the most likely cause of the problem and the best course of treatment for you. Treatment of disease, and changes in lifestyle can reduce the risk of a recurrence.

A person is walking through a snowy forest. The trees are bare and the ground is covered in snow. The person is in the center of the frame, slightly out of focus, walking away from the viewer.

# Some Secrets for Maintaining Your Spiritual Life

"I have read of a man who, journeying on a winter's day through the deep, drifted snow, became benumbed by the cold, which was almost imperceptibly stealing away his vital powers. And as he was nearly chilled to death by the embrace of the frost king, and about to give up the struggle for life, he heard the moans of a brother traveler, who was perishing with cold as he was about to perish. His humanity was aroused to rescue him. He chafed the ice-clad limbs of the unfortunate man, and, after considerable effort, raised him to his feet; and as he could not stand, he bore him in sympathizing arms through the very drifts he had thought he could never succeed in getting through alone. And when he had borne his fellow traveler to a place of safety, the truth flashed home to him that in saving his neighbor he had saved himself also. His earnest efforts to save another quickened the blood which was freezing in his own veins, and created a healthful warmth in the extremities of the body." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 319

We have been preparing and waiting for the coming of our Lord for a long time now. Unfortunately, this delay has caused many to be weary of waiting. Some are almost dying spiritually, some are in a tense battle with evil and are almost giving up the fight and some have given up already. As the enemy continues to intensify his war, we find that in one way or another each one of us is affected.

As we heard from the story just mentioned, each one can play a part in rescuing family members, brethren in the church, and other people, thereby rescuing themselves. As the battle with sin intensifies, some conclude that the way to heaven is very trying and difficult. Some even feel like God has already withdrawn His spirit from them. For those people, the solution is to rescue some-

one and in that way God will revive their first love.

Before we even go to the world, there are people close to us who need our help or else they will perish and we will perish with them also. We need to hold their hands and try to move them from the mud or snow of sin which could end their lives any time. "There has been too much of a spirit to ask, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' Said the angel: 'Yea, thou art thy brother's keeper. . . . Press together, press together.'" — *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p.113–114. As we can see you do not have to feel that you are righteous for you to help someone but in your desponding situation, put forth the effort to help someone. In that way, spiritual strength will revive in you.

Let us start with the brethren. How can we pull them out of the snow or mud of sin so that, in the end, all of us can be safe? There are many ways, but we will mention just a few. "I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep." John 10:11–12. We must be good shepherds to our fellow brethren. Good shepherds gather the flock and keep them in the fold. The hireling, on the contrary, drives them out of the fold to be eaten by wolves or lions. Some brethren may be struggling with some evil habit and instead of driving them deeper into the snow of sin by criticism or sharp rebukes, even though we have to call sin by its right name (*Testimonies for the Church* vol. 3, p. 328), there is a better way as this way will tend to harden their heart more than to soften. Our actions towards such must be to show more love, sympathy and concern for their salvation. In doing this, these good attributes are devel-



oped and strengthened in us.

There is a weakness among us as brethren. When a certain brother falls into sin, some feel so bad about it as if he has done them wrong, rather than feeling sorry for the brother that he has been overcome by temptation. When disciplinary measures are taken they make sure the brother will really feel it. In this way they are driven deeper into the snow of sin. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Galatians 6:1. Therefore, we need to realise that if we do not manifest the spirit of love and meekness in restoring others it will be our downfall also.

Among us there are brethren who like to gossip. If such come to you, or any of the members with their gossip, instead of taking time to listen to what they want to say, you can rescue them by kindly asking them if they could speak to the person concerned. In this way they will realise that you do not entertain such conversation and they will never come back to you with their gossip.

Some have the habit of talking about any unnecessary subjects on Sabbath. If such come to you with their conversation, kindly remind them that it is Sabbath and then suggest that you can discuss such matters after Sabbath. In this way you will have saved a brother and yourself from transgressing the Sabbath.

The same way with eating or dressing; we should be able to help our brethren to forsake their evil ways without offending them. We will realise that in so doing our own consciences will be aroused and, through God's power, we will also forsake the same evil habits. We must remember that there are some people who need to be dragged out of Sodom for them to be saved, for example, Lot. "And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him." Genesis 19:16. The good thing about all this is that, while you rescue others, you receive more strength to overcome the same sins.

Now let us come to parents and children. How can we rescue each other so that we can all be saved at last? It is not by false love which winks at sin (*Child Guidance*, p. 88). As much as they can, parents must be loving and firm with their children. At times, children would like to go, to or do things which seem innocent, but could lead them astray or even hurt them. They need to be reminded that they are a heritage from God to their par-

ents and that they are responsible and will be accountable to God for whatever they do. Even though they might think the parents are unnecessarily strict, in the end they will be happy. If we do all according to the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy in training our children, we will save our children and our own souls. We must remember, especially women, that the Bible says, "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." 1 Timothy 2:15

Children also need to help their parents, like Isaac helped his father tie his own hands. Most of the time children cause their parents to sin. Parents not to scold their children in anger but to be patient and teach them with love. Since parents are also fighting with their own evil natures; children should not make the task harder by their willful disobedience. "And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood." Genesis 22:9. Imagine if Isaac had chosen to run away. It would have been difficult for Abraham, in his old age, to run after the boy. Therefore, if children will choose to obey, the battle with sin will be lighter since they will be happier and healthier because of having peace of mind. If we truly love one another in the family, with each member holding the hands of the others, our enemy will not get a foothold. Then in the end all of us will be saved.

Finally, encouragement for husbands and wives. It is not only by saying we love each other that matters, because only blind love will lead both parties to destruction. Each must help the other to overcome their bad habits. Not only by correcting and rebuking, but also by avoiding those things which you are aware that your partner does not like. And also, doing those things which you know he or she likes. In this way both will be happy and the home will be what God intends it to be—a small heaven on earth.

Heaven is real, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9. We cannot be indifferent whether we, or our loved ones, will be saved or not. May the Lord be our help as we also help one another to prepare for our heavenly home.

*Josephine V Gwina*

*Sierra Leone*

## CHILDREN'S CORNER



# Unusual Weather

## Elijah runs in front of Ahab's chariot during a Thunderstorm

Who remembers the Bible story about a thunderstorm, and where a man ran faster than horses?

Who was this man? Answer: Elijah

We all have been in a thunderstorm. Do you know when thunderstorms happen most often? They happen mostly in the spring and summer and late in the day or evening. A thunderstorm starts with moisture in the clouds.

Today I will tell you how this thunderstorm started.

"And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not." 1 Kings 18:44

The thunderstorm started with a tiny cloud that grew and grew and grew until the heaven was black with clouds and strong winds. King Ahab was riding in his chariot going to Jezreel. The rain soaked him, the wild wind ripped his clothes, and the crashing thunder scared his horses.

Suddenly, there was a flash of lightning in the darkness and the king saw a man running as fast as the horses.

"And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel." 1 Kings 18:46

Elijah wasn't afraid of the lightning. Lightning is very dangerous. It is a flash of electric power caused by a thunderstorm. Lightning kills many people every year but Elijah was safe.

God helped Elijah and answered his prayer. God will also answer our prayers if we are faithful and obedient. This is my wish and prayer. Amen.

*Sarah Newby*

## Sodom and Gomorrah

Another significant weather event in the Bible is the fire and brimstone that consumed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Sodom and Gomorrah were two very beautiful cities in the land of Canaan. Sister White writes that Sodom was set in a plain which was "as the garden of the Lord' in its fertility and beauty." A lot of beautiful trees and flowers grew in this valley. Trees that bore fruit were abundant in this lush paradise. The palm trees, the olive trees and the vines grew and flourished. The harvests were bountiful and filled with plenty. Without much toil, the people of the two cities were able to satisfy their needs and even exceed them. This gave way to laziness, pride and luxury. The desire for pleasure made the people do many evil and wicked things.

Labour was given from God as a blessing. Labour keeps the mind from wandering; Satan has a hard time entering into the working mind. But if people stop working and become lazy, then Satan has a much better chance of influencing them to do sin. This is what happened to the inhabitants of these cities. Satan was able to tempt them much easier. Many abominations and evil deeds were being done in these cities. This is what brought about their destruction.

When God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham pleaded with him not to destroy the city if he found fifty righteous people in the city. God promised



that He would not. But Abraham doubted that there would be that many righteous people so he lowered it to forty-five. God promised He wouldn't destroy the city if He found forty-five righteous people. Abraham lowered it to forty. God agreed. Abraham went even lower, this time to thirty, God still agreed not to destroy the city if He found thirty righteous people. Abraham kept lowering the number of righteous people until he reached ten righteous citizens. God agreed not to destroy the city if He found ten righteous people in it.

Ten righteous people could not be found. Two angels went into the city, disguised as men, to warn Lot of the impending doom of the cities. They ordered him and his family to flee the city and to not look back. While the angels were in his house, a mob gathered at Lot's front door. They began a riot and planned to attack the two visitors. Lot went out to plead with them but they turned on him and only by the power of the angels, who blinded the men, was Lot saved.

The next morning, Lot, his wife and his two daughters fled the city. As the fire came down from heaven and began to consume the plains and the city itself, Lot's wife stopped and turned around to get one last glimpse of the

place she called home. Immediately she turned into a pillar of salt. Although, she could not have turned back and lived, yet she loved the city so much that she felt she had to look back, and thus she perished. Lot and his two daughters however, did survive. They fled into the mountains where they would be safe from the fire and brimstone that would consume Sodom and Gomorrah as well as the whole plain the cities were situated in.

Our world is getting more and more evil as the days go by. Soon the whole world will have to be cleansed by fire and brimstone from heaven, and the fire from inside the earth. It is my wish and prayer that we may not be part of the evildoers that will burn for their sins. Amen.

**Michael C. Newby**

## CONCLUSION

We have read several stories about weather or natural events that have occurred in the Bible. All of the events occurred on a large scale. There are other familiar weather occurrences recorded in the Bible such as the flood that covered the whole earth and the drought that crippled Egypt and the surrounding area for seven years. All these wonders of nature have occurred because of God. God had a purpose in making all these events happen. The flood was to purge the earth of the terrible sins and abominations that were happening in the whole world. The thunderstorm brought rain for the dry and parched land of the Israelites. The seventh plague of Egypt, which made hail fall down on the Egyptians and their crops, was to make Pharaoh let the Israelites free. All these epic wonders of nature have had a purpose.



Although, there are many other natural events that have occurred in the Bible, there are many others that the Bible says are yet to come. We are in the last days, and as we look at our world more closely, we see how much environmental damage has occurred. The weather patterns have changed; we

have more and more large earthquakes every year, the hurricanes and tornadoes have become more frequent and violent, even the ocean and its currents have changed. These are signs of Christ's soon coming. As the number of these natural disasters climb we should not be surprised. The world will be in chaos when Christ comes. Even more chaos than it is in now.

Let us remember, brothers and sisters, that God has a purpose for everything. All these natural disasters that have come and are still coming are just signs that Jesus's second coming is near. Let us prepare for His coming, so that we may all meet in heaven. This is my wish and prayer. Amen.

**Matthew Romero**

## MEMBERS AND VISITORS IN THE MONTREAL CHURCH, CANADA



## MEDICAL MISSIONARY SEMINAR, MAJI YA CHAI, IMS SDA CHURCH, ARUSHA, TANZANIA FEBRUARY 17–22, 2014

The six day seminar was arranged by the Arusha field, who wanted their members from various places to have a knowledge of Medical Missionary Work as part of their ministry. The seminar was conducted by Doctor Erick Ndimangwa, who is also the Youth Leader of the South West Field Conference, together with Pastor Bathlomeo James, the Arusha Field Leader.

About 15 members attended the seminar, including eight sisters, and seven brothers. In this seminar, the following topics were covered: Missions and the Importance of Medical Missionary Work in our Time, Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology, Principles and Regulation of Natural Therapy in Tanzania, Diseases, Food and Nutrition, Identification of Healing Plants and Herbs, Measuring and Testing Diseases. Lastly we had a blessed Sabbath to finish off the seminar.

*Daniel Ndunguru*

*SEE PHOTOS NEXT PAGE*



## MEDICAL MISSIONARY SEMINAR, ARUSHA, TANZANIA



**Members who attended the Seminar**



**The trumpet group.  
From left: Brothers, Seth,  
Riward, Methusela**



**From left: Brother Kajiru,  
Daniel and Mbwambo**

**Front from  
left: sisters  
Mariam,  
Elizabeth,  
Rehema,  
Mariam  
Back from  
left:  
Daniel,  
Uhuru,  
Dr. Erick  
Sister Elia,**



**Church Members in Arusha**





**“Many who now appear strong, and talk in vindication of the truth, are not rooted and grounded. They have no tap-root; and when the storms of opposition and persecution come, they are like a tree uprooted by the blast.” – *Our High Calling*, p. 332**