

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

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- Tel: 905-876-2518
- E-mail: ismessenger@yahoo.com
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Lest We Forget

The term, “Lest We Forget” is used in North America, particularly on Remembrance Day on November 11. The term is used to remind people of the sacrifices that the soldiers made in war; those who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy in our country.

This year, our church, the International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement is taking time to remember the fact that it has been 100 years since the separation began from the Seventh-day Adventist Church during the First World War in 1914. There are many services around the world commemorating this event.

The separation began, not on the part of the Reformers. No, they did not want to separate from the church they had grown to know and to love. It was the Seventh-day Adventist church that disfellowshipped the faithful members from their congregations for refusing to take part in the military service.

Although we do not fight in worldly armies, we are called by God to be true soldiers of the cross. We are to put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:13–17). “We have a soldier’s duty to perform, victories to gain, for we must not be ignorant of Satan’s devices. We pray and then watch lest Satan shall steal upon us and make us forget our need of prayer, our need of vigilance and watching thereunto.” –*This Day With God*, p. 27

We are prone to forgetfulness, more so as we age. Sometimes we cannot help it, sometimes it is by choice. There are things we choose not to remember as they are not important to us. “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons and thy sons’ sons.” Deuteronomy 4:9

However, remembering things is vital to our existence.

There are various methods people use to help them remember. Some people write notes, others repeat things over and over in their minds. People memorize songs, poetry, and Bible verses. They memorize their studies at school; the procedures at work; how to drive. Many things in life require us to remember. In order to remember, people must continually repeat the phrases, whether spoken or written, and then the brain creates new neuron pathways and the memory sticks.

Some people do not really want to remember things, like some young people growing up who choose not to remember the things their parents taught them. People may have heard some religious services sometime in their lives, but they choose not to remember. That is fearful. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee.” Hosea 4:6. How would we feel if God forgot us for even one day? If He did forget us for one day, we would be dead. We are alive by His grace only. “It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22–23

Some students spend a lot of time trying to remember their worldly studies for exams, but they do not give half the effort to study and remember Bible verses. It is said of the Adventist pioneer, J.N. Andrews, that he had quit formal education at the age of 11 and from then on he was self-taught. Later in his life he was fluent in seven languages and could recite the New Testament by memory. How many can say that they have memorized even one book of the Bible? If we took the time to just memorize one verse a day, then in a year we will have 365 committed to memory. It is one thing to have an idea as to what a particular verse says, but to quote it exactly and to know where it is found, is another thing. One day we will not have access to our Bibles and will

have to rely on our memory.

Memory is like a muscle. It improves with use. At first, what may seem difficult to remember, with much practice grows easier and easier.

WHAT WE SHOULD NOT TO FORGET

“Satan is no indifferent spectator. He exults to see his temptations successful. He loves to see discord and want of harmonious action in the church. *We forget* so quickly that we are Christ’s ambassadors to bear His message to the world. *We forget* that we are His soldiers, fighting His battles in our enemy’s country, and unless we are upon guard, as faithful sentinels, we shall be entrapped by the enemy’s stratagems. We must not be ignorant of his devices while we are obeying the orders of our Captain, Jesus Christ.” —*The Review and Herald*, July 10, 1888 [emphasis mine]

When out with our companions: “In our association with one another, we should take heed lest we forget Jesus, and pass along unmindful that He is not with us. When we become absorbed in worldly things so that we have no thought for Him in whom our hope of eternal life is centered, we separate ourselves from Jesus and from the heavenly angels. These holy beings cannot remain where the Saviour’s presence is not desired, and His absence is not marked. This is why discouragement so often exists among the professed followers of Christ.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 83

Is your light hidden under a bushel? Do all your associates



know that you claim to be a servant of Christ? Does your dress and demeanor reflect Christ so that when you are in public, people know that you are a Christian without you even opening your mouth?

Many fear ridicule as did the Apostle Peter before his conversion, but Jesus said, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” John 15:18–19. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12

A brother in need: When a brother makes a mistake, human nature chooses to react in one of two ways—either to look the other way and ignore the mistake, or then to

criticize it and magnify it. This, however, is not the will of God. We must put our human nature aside and let God’s divine nature control our being. Then we will not forget to help our brother with the proper, Christ-like spirit.

“You forget that when a brother has made a mistake, you should ‘seek to restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself lest thou also be tempted.’ We are out of place in cherishing bitter feelings toward any of the Lord’s purchased possession.” —*Christian Leadership*, p. 63

NOT FORGETTING THE PAST

If we forget the past, we are bound to repeat the mistakes of others. The Bible is full of history that is for our learning. “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4

“The dealings of God with His people should be often repeated. How frequently were the waymarks set up by the Lord in His dealings with ancient Israel! Lest they should forget the history of the past, He commanded Moses to frame these events into song, that parents might teach them to their children. They were to gather up memorials and to lay them up in sight. Special pains were taken to preserve them, that when the children should inquire concerning these things, the whole story might be repeated. Thus the providential dealings and the marked goodness and mercy of God in His care and deliverance of His people were kept in mind. We are exhorted to ‘call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions’ (Hebrews 10:32). For His people in this generation the Lord has wrought as a wonder-working God. . . . We need often to recount God’s goodness and to praise Him for His wonderful works.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 364. Similarly, we must not forget the sufferings of our forefathers in this Reform Movement, and we must also teach them to our children.

Yet Paul says, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind.” Philippians 3:13–14

Is there a contradiction? The Scriptures plainly show that the work of sanctification is progressive. Yet there are some things we should forget, and others we should remember of the past. Many are weighed down by their past mistakes or hurts from others. They cannot seem to let go and they are weighed down with these burdens. When the past affects the present behaviour in a detrimental fashion it is a memory that is best to be forgotten. When the past memories work to strengthen and

encourage faith in the continued struggle against worldly elements, and helps us grow—it is a memory that is best to be kept fresh. We are to keep the memory of the sufferings of Jesus fresh in our memory daily. “It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 83

Ellen G. White sums it up well here: “We need not keep our own record of trials and difficulties, griefs, and sorrows. All these things are written in the books, and heaven will take care of them. While we are counting up the disagreeable things, many things that are pleasant to reflect upon are passing from memory, such as the merciful kindness of God surrounding us every moment and the love over which angels marvel, that God gave His Son to die for us.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 487

WHAT WE MUST FORGET

There is something we are counselled that we must forget, and that is self. In our struggles on this earth, self must be in last place. Christ, others, the work of the Lord, our fellow members and family members, these all take priority above ourselves. “Selfishness and unbelief are spoiling many lives. The church is made weak by the inefficiency

of those who should wear the yoke of Christ and lift his burdens. Christ has need of persons of genuine experience. Shall He have in His army men each with some spiritual defect, soldiers who must seek the easiest place, lest the rough path hurt their slippered feet? We are on the battlefield, enlisted for service. When the trumpet call is heard, ‘Advance!’ do not stop to nurse your little infirmities. Forget that you have them, and move on. Where are the active soldiers, who, clad in all the armor of God, are prepared to do aggressive warfare? Where are the soldiers who are ready to lift the standard, and bear it through the battle, under the Captain’s order, unto victory?” —*The Review and Herald*, August 21, 1900

GOAL OF LIFE

“The chief end of life is to glorify God. While worldlings live to please themselves, and to get all the enjoyment

possible, the Christian should live to bring honor to his Master, and blessing to mankind. Worldlings forget God in their eagerness for pleasure; but the word of God draws a dividing line between the follower of Christ and the pleasure-seeker. He who imitates Christ will show forth his self-denial and self-sacrifice, and will conscientiously consider every action lest he should dishonor God in any of his ways. Just where the conscience of the Bible Christian warns him to forbear, to deny himself, to stop, just there the worldling steps over the line to indulge his selfish propensities. On one side of the line is the self-denying follower of Jesus Christ, on the other side of the line is the self-indulgent world-lover, pandering in fashion, engaging in frivolity, and pampering himself in forbidden pleasures. On this side of the line the Christian cannot go. It is no place for him; for it is a path of darkness, where only unrest of spirit is found.” —*The Youth’s Instructor*, September 6, 1894

CONCLUSION

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me.” Isaiah 46:9

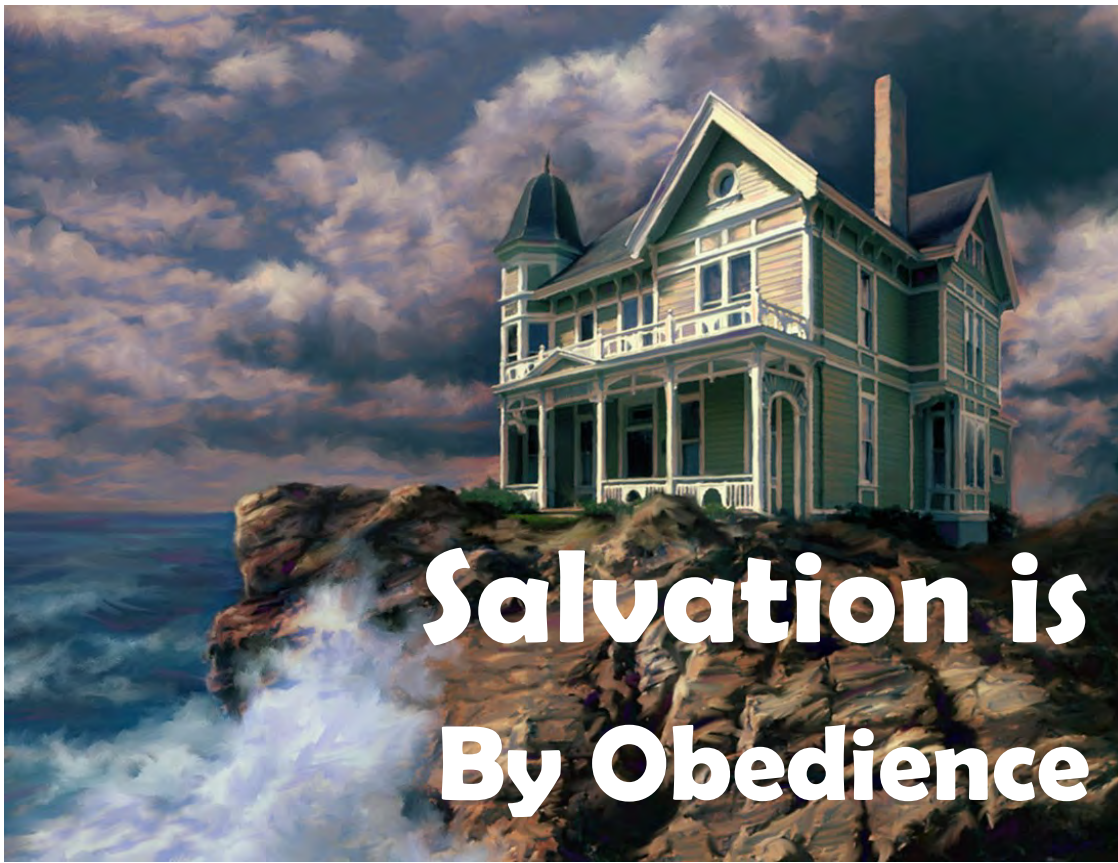
“We are as a people to guard ourselves diligently lest we forget the charges of the Lord. There are many dangers that we shall avoid if we keep ourselves a distinct people from the world. Our children are the Lord’s heritage to be educated and disciplined, and that most faithfully, to obey God and keep all the words of the Lord in obeying His commandments. Parents are responsible to God

for strictly guarding their children in the path of obedience to God.” —*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, p. 73

May God help us to remember the blessings of the Lord and His leading in the past, and forget our trials and troubles and go forward unto perfection. Let us to remember the sacrifices that our former brethren made 100 years ago for the sake of the truth. Be careful, lest you forget the Lord in your daily activities; be mindful to take the Lord with you at all times, remembering that He is in your presence daily. It is my wish and prayer that each one of us stand faithful in the time of the end when the world will once again be violently opposed to God’s true commandment-keeping people. Remember how God preserved His faithful in the past, and He will be with you also. Amen.

Wendy Eaton





Salvation is By Obedience

Many people in the Christian world think that they are saved by grace alone; no matter what they do, one day they will be with Jesus, even if there has been no change in their lives. Is that what the Bible teaches? Is that the right way, if we want to be in heaven? Heaven is real, Jesus is real, and His gift of eternal life is real. Then we should find out from the Scriptures if there are conditions for salvation, and, if yes, what are they? Very often people mix up these important requirements and end up saying that there is a contradiction in the Scripture. Is that true? Is there a contradiction between

Dear reader, I want to greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May His peace be with you and your family, relatives and friends. I pray that one day we may all worship God together throughout all eternity. One of the best choices that we can make in life is that we accept Jesus Christ and His gift of "Salvation". The Bible clearly portrays the reason why people need Jesus today, in order to be with Him in heaven at last. It all started back in paradise, which had been lost to Adam and Eve by sin. Sin is the transgression of God's commandments; the wages of sin is death. Any time we transgress one of the Ten Commandments we are deserving of death; but there is a gift given to us freely—and this is what Jesus did on the cross 2000 years ago. Are you willing to give up the things that the Bible portrays as sin and take the cross daily and follow Jesus? There is a great reward if you do and that reward is eternal life. Eternal means forever, endless life with Jesus and the redeemed ones. In this article, with God's help, I will trace out some of the important steps to take in order to be sure that we have accepted Jesus and His salvation that was offered on the cross.

First of all, as the title of this article states "Salvation is by Obedience." In Ephesians 2:8 the apostle Paul clearly tells us that salvation is by grace through faith; we can all agree with that, for we are saved by God's grace. In order to understand this we first need to clarify a few things, such as, what is grace, what is faith, and why is obedience required?

between "saved by grace" and "saved by obedience"? This is important to have clarified in order to be saved. Take your Bible and read it in order to find out what Jesus meant during His ministry on this earth, where, on numerous occasions He said, "not hearers—but doers" of His word.

What is grace? The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." According to the Bible, grace is a gift. The word "grace" in Greek is *charis*, and it occurs approximately 150 times in the New Testament, and it means favour, kindness. Paul made more use of this significant term than did any other New Testament writer, there being some 100 occurrences in his epistles. Just as Paul needed Christ's grace, how much more today do we need the grace of God in order to be overcomers and to live an obedient life in Christ. The distinctive meaning attached to the term "grace" in the New Testament and especially in the writings of Paul is that of the abundant, saving love of God toward sinners as revealed in Jesus Christ. Since all men have sinned and are destitute of the glory of God, according to the Bible in Romans 3:23, such favour and loving-kindness on God's part is wholly undeserved and unmerited by sinful man.

The Apostle Paul mentioned in Romans chapter 2 that men have lived in hatred and rebellion against God, they have perverted His truth, have preferred to worship beasts and reptiles, have defiled His image in their own bodies, have blasphemed His name, and have even des-

pired God for His patience and forbearance. Finally, they murdered His Son, Who was sent to save them (Acts 7:52). Yet God has continued to regard man with love and kindness, that the revelation of His goodness may lead men to repentance (Romans 2:4). The Spirit of Prophecy puts it; "Grace is an attribute of God exercised toward undeserving human beings. We did not seek for it, but it was sent in search of us. God rejoices to bestow His grace upon us, not because we are worthy, but because we are so utterly unworthy. Our only claim to His mercy is our great need." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 161

Many people today believe that they are saved by grace alone through faith and not by anything they do. This is correct. We cannot add anything to what Jesus did on the cross. But it is also true that we are saved by obedience. I know it sounds like a contradiction but it is not. Allow me to explain. The Bible clearly portrays how Adam and Eve lost Eden because of their disobedience towards their Creator. He was their loving Father who told them, "You may freely eat from any tree in the garden except this one, the tree of knowledge good and evil." God also told them what the consequences would be if they ate from this tree. Sadly, they disobeyed God and death came upon the human race.

God created angels and human beings, with a free will, so that man can freely obey and serve Him, and not be as robots. We have the liberty to choose. This is what makes God different and helps us to understand and serve Him willingly. This is what happened in my life when I discovered the love of Jesus. I freely decided to follow and obey Him. No one pushed me to do it. Only His immeasurable and infinite love attracted me. This is what happened with millions of born-again Christian believers throughout the centuries down to our time.

Recall the history of a man called John Huss, a Catholic priest who lived in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He began to study the Bible and as he studied it he declared, "Obedience to God is my motto, not obedience to man." As a result Huss was burned at the stake in the town square of Prague. Huss was a courageous hero whose life was dedicated to obeying God. God raised up men of faith, men like John Huss, men who would give their lives for His word. Also women of faith that made obedience to God their motto were raised up.

The love of God transforms lives. Great men of faith in the Bible found grace in the eyes of God. Why? Because they obeyed God willingly and served Him out of love. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Genesis 6:8. But Noah found grace, or favour, in the eyes of the Lord. What an awful state this world was in when only

one man and his family had piety and virtue among all the people on the earth.

Another example is Lot: "Behold now, Thy servant hath found grace in Thy sight, and Thou hast magnified Thy mercy." Genesis 19:19. All the people of Sodom were very wicked and vile, therefore special care was taken to save Lot and his family. Salvation of the most righteous men is of God's mercy, not by their own merits. But let us not forget that there is still a strong connection between God's grace, or mercy, and our obedience.

Moses is a good example also. The Bible says in Exodus 33:13, "Now therefore, I pray Thee, if I have found grace in Thy sight, shew me now Thy way, that I may know Thee, that I may find grace in Thy sight." Moses was very earnest with God. Take note of how he pleads. We will find grace in God's sight and He will guide and quicken us in the way of our duty. Moses speaks as one who dreaded the thought of going forward without the Lord's presence. God's gracious promises and mercy towards us should not only encourage our faith, but also lift up our fervency in prayer. There are many other examples in the Bible, so let us learn from these people who found grace and mercy in God's sight and apply these lessons to our lives.

Another important point in our study is faith. We know that faith is important for our salvation. When we want to define faith we turn to Hebrews 11. Here we find the definition of faith and the importance of faith in our lives. Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Paul continues in verse 6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Then is listed the names of many faithful people, common people—people like you and I. These people were called giants of faith because they experienced the kind of experience that you and I long for, namely the new birth or transformation of the entire person into the likeness of Christ.

Is not that what you and I expect when we approach the word of God with reverence and willingness, as a child who depends completely on his parents for survival? How much more do we depend on Christ in order to grow spiritually and have the assurance of salvation. Recently we concluded our Evangelistic Outreach here in London. Praise God for those who came to these meetings because both the one who preached as well as the listeners were richly blessed. With hope we face tomorrow, with courage we go on in our Christian journey towards Heaven. We have seen how Jesus is seeking the lost. When He finds there is joy in the presence of angels

before God. Our faith increases, says the Bible, when we come closer to Christ through Bible study and prayer, fervent prayer.

A short definition of what faith is trusting God. In the 15th century we read of another Catholic priest, a mighty man of God in faith—Martin Luther. As Martin Luther struggled with issues of faith, he visited Rome where he climbed the famous Pilate’s staircase on his knees. He thought, “if I can only climb the stairs Jesus supposedly climbed when He approached Pilate, I will find peace.”



When Luther returned home he still felt the oppression of guilt. He sensed that guilt was crushing out his life. All of the requirements of the church could not take away his sin. All of his penances, going up the stairs on his knees, could not take away his sense of condemnation. All of his whipping himself could not take away his feeling of unworthiness. Then Martin Luther read

Romans 1:17, “The just shall live by faith.” He saw Jesus anew as a mighty Saviour. Luther was amazed. He experienced a new peace in his life. He went to the great prelates of the church and declared that salvation comes by grace. I believe with Martin Luther that salvation comes, not by the works of our hands, not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. I believe salvation comes only by grace. Martin Luther said; “The whole being of any Christian is faith and love.” I trust God because I know He feels all of my needs and God is worthy to be trusted.

Through faith we grasp the magnitude of the gift of Calvary. We receive spiritual strength to resist the temptations of the evil one. We are empowered to witness. Through faith we are motivated to obey His commandments. You can expect the Holy Spirit to increase your faith as you study God’s word. Apply the promises of God’s word to your life, and act on the measure of faith that God has already placed in your heart. Are there Divine promises based on what I said? Certainly, there are. In Matthew 19:26, Jesus said; “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may

obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16.

There is only one way we can find grace and mercy in God’s sight and that is through complete surrender and obedience to God’s word.

Why is there not seen a revival amongst us in God’s remnant Church today? Why has Jesus not come yet to take us home as He promised? How can Jesus take you and me home when He comes? There is only one way, and this is total and complete separation from sin. Let God put in your heart an enmity against sin, that enmity that He promised in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3:15. When we hate sin then God is really doing something in our hearts. He cleanses our hearts and prepares them for His dwelling place through His Holy Spirit. This is sanctification or holiness. There is plenty of evidence throughout the Scriptures in which we are admonished to follow these two important things in our lives, namely peace and holiness. In Hebrews 12:14, we are encouraged to make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; for without holiness no one will see the Lord. “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” 2 Corinthians 7:1.

God spoke through another man by the name of John Wesley. Wesley saw that the standards of the church were decaying. He saw that the amusements, pleasures and practices of the world were entering the Church. God called John Wesley and showed him that when men and women study the Bible they could live holy and righteous lives. I believe in holiness. I believe the church should be separate from the world. I believe that if you are a Christian you should look like a Christian, eat like a Christian, go places that Christians go. I do not believe in the idea that some people who say: “I can eat whatever I want, go wherever I want, dress however I please, do whatever I desire,” and call it Christianity. This is not Christianity. This is self-deception.

Some people may feel that their life is too sinful for Christ to accept. But Jesus said, “The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” You cannot commit a sin so wicked that it exceeds God’s willingness to forgive you and to credit Christ’s righteousness to your account. And when you have been forgiven by God, you stand before Him just as though you had not sinned. You are perfect. Obedience made it possible. Not yours, but Christ’s. He promises to do that in us. That is why many Christians in the world do not live an obedient life. Christ said in John 15:5, “without Me ye can do nothing.” But Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth

me.” Philippians 4:13

I could write more about these very important issues, grace and faith and their relation to perfect obedience, but time and space do not allow me to do so. God knows our inner thoughts and if we come before Him in humbleness and with a teachable spirit He will grant us the wisdom and the power to be able to stand for the truth even when darkness is all around us. When error and sin abound we are called to stay our hearts upon what is written, we are called to stand for a “Thus saith the Lord.” Maybe right now as you read these lines you have doubts about how God saves sinners from their sins. Or maybe you have heard someone preaching about obtaining salvation while still in sin and you knew that it is not according to the Scripture, but because you have heard it so many times you put down the standard God has set and things that once were sin for you now seem to be right.

Many people confuse right and wrong—they call right wrong, and wrong right. Sin has darkened their minds so that they are confused, but there is still hope. Jesus promises us that if we wish to come back to our first love He will help us to come to that wonderful experience, my friend. Do you remember when you had to stand against opposition, in being persecuted for Christ, you found happiness and joy, and fellowship was all you needed at that time?

I come from a country where religion freedom was forbidden under the oppression of communism. I was not a believer at that time, but I heard, after my conversion, about people who were willing to give up their lives rather than disobey God. I listened to testimonies from people, where, sometimes, a husband or a wife was taken away from their family in the middle of the night, just for the simple fact that they wanted to worship God according to their conscience. They wanted to educate their children according to the Bible, and never came back home, never saw their loved ones again.

I look back at brothers and sisters today who have parents that went through this terrible persecution, and I see these brothers and sisters abandon their faith just for the pleasures of sin for a while, or maybe under the pre-



text: “I do not know if this is God’s Church or God’s remnant people.” I doubt what they say when they leave the Church, God’s remnant Church. Lift up your eyes to Jesus and let doubt go away because Jesus is coming soon and there is no time to delay your preparation. Get ready, stay ready and stay in the ark because there is safety. In fact, let me put this bluntly, this is the only place where yours and my salvation is secure. The church is the body of Christ and we are members of the body; and according to Revelation 19 the bride (Church) is getting ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb, Jesus.

The figure of marriage is used in both Testaments to describe God’s relationship with His people. Eternal union with Christ is the church’s destiny and hope. The marriage supper of the Lamb is the consummation of the

marriage of Christ with the Church as His bride. Let us keep the faith which was given to the saints and not lose our courage and faith in this perilous time in which we live. God, in this time, is calling us; He is calling us back to the old pathway, to the narrow one, the one that leads us to Christ. So, let us not be weary because the reward of your faith is greater than what this world can offer you.

The great deceiver, Satan, may come with the same lie as he came to Eve saying,

“Eve, God is restricting your liberty; Eve, if you eat of the tree that God has told you not eat of—you will feel free indeed.” If you feel that God restricts your liberty when He calls you to holiness, remember that Satan is the author of that feeling and he wants to deceive you just as he deceived the Angels in Heaven and so many Christians in the world. I want to close with this statement from the Spirit of Prophecy:

“The Lord expects no less of the soul now than He expected of man in Paradise, perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness. The requirement under the covenant of grace is just as broad as the requirement made in Eden—harmony with God’s law, which is holy, just, and good.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons* (1900), p. 391

May God richly bless you.

Nicholas Anca



Loneliness

One of the great problems in modern society is loneliness. Many are unhappy and suffering because they do not have the right kind of company, and for this reason they feel lonely. We do not need hundreds of friends; even one good friend is already enough to satisfy our need for company.

Casual friends we may have in our workplace, school, or in our neighborhood, but they do not satisfy our soul hunger for true friendship. God created families for this purpose. He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18. Often when people are alone in the house they put on the radio or television so that they do not feel the quietness of being alone.

Sometimes people who do not have even one good friend may commit suicide, because life is not happy for them in being alone. Church organizations were also created for this reason, that those who are like-minded may meet with one another and talk to each other. When we join the church and become children of God we often lose worldly friends, but we find better and more faithful friends in the church.

Many have joined the church just because they found a friend whom they like, who also goes to church. When the faithful children of God speak to one another, God will listen to their conversation and a book of remembrance is being written of all that they said to each other. "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name." Malachi 3:16

They did not speak seldom to each other, but often. And this, speaking often to one another proves the

friendship that is between them. When you are involved in missionary work the first thing you need to do is to create friendships with the interested souls. Be interested in the work that they do, also with their children, and with their hobbies; offer advice and help to them in their difficulties and problems, and hopefully this friendship will last through eternity. Then introduce to them the best possible friend, which is Jesus. He will gladly accept them into His friendship. He said, "Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you." John 15:14–15

When Jesus went to heaven to His Father, His disciples felt lonely. But He comforted His disciples saying, "But now I go My way to Him that sent me; and none of you asketh Me, Whither goest Thou? But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you." John 16:5–7

Jesus said, "it is expedient for you that I go away." Sister White writes, "Henceforth through the Spirit, Christ was to abide continually in the hearts of His children. Their union with Him was closer than when He was personally with them. The light, and love, and power of the indwelling Christ shone out through them, so that men, beholding 'marveled; And they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.' Acts 4:13." — *Steps to Christ*, p. 75

Jesus also said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20

Enoch walked with God 300 years. He had a close relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. We also can behold Christ daily through the Holy Spirit. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18

Sister White writes, "Many are suffering from maladies of the soul far more than from diseases of the body, and they will find no relief until they shall come to Christ, the wellspring of life. Complaints of weariness, loneliness, and dissatisfaction will then cease. Satisfying joys will give vigor to the mind and health and vital energy to the body." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 579

When we come to Christ our loneliness will disappear. If we have lost our life partner for some reason, then Christ will take the place of our partner and will satisfy us fully.

David wrote, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. . . . My cup runneth over." Psalm 23: 1, 5

I receive more than I expected. When Jesus left the disciples and went back to heaven, instead of being sad they were filled with great joy. "And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and He lifted up His hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up to heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy." Luke 24:50–52

"Jesus invites you to make Him your strength, your support. He will be to you a present help in every time of need." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 48

"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20

But what must we do in order to keep Jesus as our dearest personal friend, and never feel lonely anymore? "Draw near to God, and come into closer union with His people. Let your interest and your affections center in Christ and His followers. Love those best who love Christ most. Sever the links which have bound you to those who love not God and the truth. What communion hath light with darkness? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 48

Do not look to Jesus as a Welfare department, to call on Him only when you need help, but consider Him as a friend. He gave His life for you to prove His love to you. If you do this you will be truly happy and never complain any more, and never feel lonely any more, and perfect peace will fill your heart. Your only desire will be how to please Him more, and your conversation will be mostly of Him. You pray to Him all day long, and you walk with Him as Enoch did. Be careful that you will not lose Him as a friend and be alone again and fall into loneliness. Amen.

Timo Martin

"We are never alone. Whether we choose Him or not, we have a companion. Remember that wherever you are, whatever you do, God is there. Nothing that is said or done or thought can escape His attention. To your every word or deed you have a witness—the holy, sin-hating God. Before you speak or act, always think of this. As a Christian, you are a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King. Say no word, do no act, that shall bring dishonor upon 'that worthy name by the which ye are called.' James 2:7." – *The Ministry or Healing*, p. 490–491

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God's Appointed Time

In the present day world, almost everything is moving quickly. If by some other reason an apparent delay is seen, we tend to lose patience. Perseverance also seems to wear out fast. The Bible tells us that everything has its time (Ecclesiastes 3: 1–8). Many times we may have desired something from God, but it seems as though the answers to our prayers have tarried. We have desired to have our health restored, perhaps at the same moment we ask, but to our surprise, it has taken longer than we thought! One may be looking for a life-partner (husband or wife) for some time, but the answers seem to have been apparently delayed, etc.

Jesus tried to explain this perplexity in the prayer that He taught using the short phrase: “Thy will be done.” Matthew 6:10. God’s will is always best for us. His time and ways are always right! To the prophet Isaiah of old, God revealed Himself as follows:

“For My thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. . . . So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it.” Isaiah 55:8–9, 11

“God’s purposes know no haste and no delay.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 32

This forms a preliminary answer to the perplexity. If He has promised us something truly He will fulfill it regardless of how long it takes. As we are just about to see, it is a dangerous thing for us to take matters into our hands to try to fulfill something that is the prerogative of God alone; to fulfill that which He Himself must do in His own way and appropriate time.

Abraham and Sarah failed the test of faith and patience in this way:

“Abraham had accepted without question the promise of a son, but he did not wait for God to fulfill His word in His own time and way. A delay was permitted, to test his faith in the power of God; but he failed to endure the trial. Thinking it impossible that a child should be given her in her old age, Sarah suggested, as a plan by which the divine purpose might be fulfilled. . . . Abraham’s marriage with Hagar resulted in evil, not only to his own household, but to future generations.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 145

Truly, if we venture on the forbidden ground and try to act in God’s behalf by attempting to bring about events and circumstances in our own time and way, we place ourselves in great danger. We may be preparing ourselves for lifelong sorrow and repentance.

Jacob and Rebekah also failed on the same point:

“Jacob and Rebekah succeeded in their purpose, but they gained only trouble and sorrow by their deception. God had declared that Jacob should receive the birthright, and His word would have been fulfilled in His own time had they waited in faith for Him to work for them. But like many who now profess to be children of God, they were unwilling to leave the matter in His hands. Rebekah bitterly repented the wrong counsel she had given her son; it was the means of separating him from her, and she never saw his face again.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 62

“In one short hour he had made work for a lifelong repentance. . . .

“The error that had led to Jacob’s sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud was now clearly set before him. He had not trusted God’s promises, but had sought by his own efforts to bring about that which God would have accomplished in His own time and way.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 180, 197

At times, God may give us another opportunity to redeem a past failure. In such a case, instead of complaining, we must thank Him for it.

“God had called Abraham to be the father of the faithful, and his life was to stand as an example of faith to succeeding generations. But his faith had not been perfect. He had shown distrust of God in concealing the fact that Sarah was his wife, and again in his marriage with Hagar. That he might reach the highest standard,

God subjected him to another test, the closest which man was ever called to endure.” –*Conflict and Courage*, p. 56

It is very important to first listen, and follow the direction that God gives to us. Do not be so rash as to act from impulse. The example of the Patriarch, Noah during trying times stands as a rebuke to those who follow the opposite course.

“Noah and his family anxiously waited for the decrease of the waters, for they longed to go forth again upon the earth. Forty days after the tops of the mountains became visible, they sent out a raven, a bird of quick scent, to discover whether the earth had become dry. This bird, finding nothing but water, continued to fly to and from the ark. Seven days later a dove was sent forth, which, finding no footing, returned to the ark. Noah waited seven days longer, and again sent forth the dove. When she returned at evening with an olive leaf in her mouth, there was great rejoicing. Later ‘Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.’ Still he waited patiently within the ark. As he had entered at God’s command, he waited for special directions to depart.

“At last an angel descended from heaven, opened the massive door, and bade the patriarch and his household go forth upon the earth and take with them every living thing.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 105

“We know not what we should pray for as we ought:” but “the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for . . . the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8:26

Answers to certain prayers are instant while others are not.

“In some instances of healing, Jesus did not at once grant the blessing sought. But in the case of leprosy, no sooner was the appeal made than it was granted. When we pray for earthly blessings, the answer to our prayer may be delayed, or God may give us something other than we ask, but not so when we ask for deliverance from sin. It is His will to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 266

The first Coming of Jesus stands to us as an assurance

that God will never be slack with His promises.

“The Saviour’s coming was foretold in Eden. When Adam and Eve first heard the promise, they looked for its speedy fulfillment. They joyfully welcomed their first-born son, hoping that he might be the Deliverer. But the fulfillment of the promise tarried. Those who first received it died without the sight. From the days of Enoch the promise was repeated through patriarchs and prophets, keeping alive the hope of His appearing, and yet He came not. The prophecy of Daniel revealed the time of His advent, but not all rightly interpreted the message. Century after century passed away; the voices of the prophets ceased. The hand of the oppressor was heavy upon Israel, and many were ready to exclaim, ‘The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth.’ Ezekiel 12:22.” –*Maranatha*, p. 9

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son. . . To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” Galatians 4:4–5



In an interesting note, at the very end of time, The Father in heaven will reveal to His children the day and hour of the Second Coming of the Son of Man! What a wonderful hope! We have been waiting for that event for a long time.

“Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus’ coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spake the time, He poured upon us the Holy Spirit, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses’ did when he came down from Mount Sinai.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 59

Dear reader, and fellow traveler in the heavenward journey, God has appointed the best time for every event. His clock continues to tick! It is not time to murmur; instead it is time to courageously forge ahead with the heavenward journey. Sometimes even amidst many perplexities. But know and understand that as you seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, He said all these things shall be added unto you! (Matthew 6: 33). Amen.

Joel Msiska

The Spirit of Sacrifice Is an Essential Part of Acceptable Worship



The selfish heart likes to receive rather than to give but we are told in Psalm 96:7–9, “Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come into His courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the earth.” The spirit of heaven is to give. All that man is, hopes to be, or may possess of life and happiness, is a gift from God. It is Godlike to give; for it is of love, for love gives and gives. Therefore, true worship loves and gives.

“This is seen in Noah and his family as they came forth from the ark, their hearts swelling with gratitude that they could set their feet on the earth again. It was not enough that this righteous man should lift his voice in thanksgiving for his deliverance, for past mercies and blessings, but he must then give more tangible evidence of his gratitude than words could express. He must make a burnt offering of a seventh part of the clean animals unto the Lord, as it is written: ‘And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord, and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar, and the Lord smelled a sweet savor.’ Genesis 8:20–21.” —*Sabbath School Lesson*, September 2, 1905, p. 22

The offerings we give on the Sabbath should be special and from our hearts when compared with offerings we make on other days. The Lord commanded the children of Israel in Numbers 28:2–6, 9–10. “Command the children of Israel, and say unto them, My offering, and My bread for My sacrifices made by fire, for a sweet savour unto Me, shall ye observe to offer unto Me in their due season. And thou shalt say unto them, This is the offering made by fire which ye shall offer unto the LORD; two lambs of the first year without spot day by day, for

a continual burnt offering. The one lamb shalt thou offer in the morning, and the other lamb shalt thou offer at even; And a tenth part of an ephah of flour for a meat offering, mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil. It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in mount Sinai for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD. And on the Sabbath day two lambs of the first year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof: This is the burnt offering of every Sabbath, beside the continual burnt offering, and His drink offering.”

The Sabbath offerings connected with the sanctuary service were twice as much as on other days.

There are about thirty thousand International Missionary Society Seventh-day Adventist Reformers in the world. If each of us brought to the Lord a weekly Sabbath offering as the Lord had prospered, we would have at least:

2,000	giving	\$2.00	each	Sabbath;	for	the	year,	\$208,000
2,000	“	1.00	“	“	“	“	“	104,000
1,000	“	.50	“	“	“	“	“	26,000
5,000	“	.25	“	“	“	“	“	65,000
15,000	“	.10	“	“	“	“	“	78,000
5,000	“	.05	“	“	“	“	“	<u>13,000</u>
Or a total for the year of:								\$494,000

None would be the poorer for this offering, nor would this affect their title.

Could we as a people commit ourselves for one whole year collectively to make this sacrifice? We would dedicate this money to places like Haiti, some places in Afri-

ca, Asia and other places that are in need.

The time in which we live is very short and the Church of God has a great work to do before the end comes; we must give from our hearts like the poor widow in Mark 12:41–44. “And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And He called unto Him His disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.” Our offerings will be acceptable to the Creator of heaven and earth. Why? When they are sacrificial.

In 2 Samuel 24:24 it says that King David said unto Araunah, “Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”

Like David, our offerings unto the Lord must cost us because the class of persons the Lord will receive into His kingdom are those that have made a covenant with Him by sacrifice (Psalm 50:3–5).

Why has Christ warned His people against covetousness in His word?

“And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” Luke 12:15

“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.” 1 Timothy 6:9–11

“Covetousness is an unlawful desire. It is classed among the worst of sins, for it is directly opposed to every

principle of the gospel of Christ. The plan of salvation rests wholly on Heaven's gift to man. It was a gift of infinite love, and was at an infinite sacrifice. When there is one single prompting of that spirit in the soul, it so far makes men unselfish and generous. The two spirits are as far apart as Heaven and hell, as light and darkness.

“No man possessing the spirit of covetousness is fit to bear any responsibility in a work as sacred as that which is laid in such an infinite cost. Every attempt to advance it by such a person would only mar the work. Our efforts are weakened by such a spirit. It paralyzes the greatest effort. But the smallest act and the feeblest effort clothed with the spirit of appreciation of the gift of Heaven, has a power beyond description. It conquers Satan every time, and only works good.

“God would have His people despise covetousness, and cultivate the opposite spirit.” –*Sabbath School Lesson*, July 23, 1889, p. 6

“We are naturally selfish, but the grace of Christ is unselfish. It is a heavenly plant growing only in that heart which has been renewed. It is a jealous principle, and will admit of no rival. It makes a lovely character, admired by all. It cannot live without action, and every act increases, strengthens, and extends it. The unconverted heart cannot originate or produce

this plant of heavenly growth, which lives and flourishes only where Christ reigns.

“If this spirit of unselfishness is nourished, it will prove an evergreen. Its branches will not decay; its leaves will not wither. It is immortal, eternal, watered continually with the dews of Heaven. But covetousness is the reverse of all this. It withers the soul; dries up every liberal feeling; paralyzes unselfish emotions; prevents every generous act, and while it may say, Yes, yes, to the opposite principles, there is nothing that can move the individual to action. This is covetousness. It should be hated as we would hate poison, and dreaded as we would dread the bite of a deadly viper. It should not be so much as named among saints.” –*Sabbath School Lesson*, July 23, 1889 p. 7

In 1 Corinthians 5:11 we are told not to keep company or even eat with certain characters and amongst them



are mentioned covetous persons. This means that such persons should not be walking in church-fellowship and eating at the communion table. No stronger language could be used to show how God regards that sin. The tenth verse shows that we will have to mingle with them in this world as long as we are in it. But to take them into Christian fellowship is contrary to the principles of this gospel of Christ.

Sister White wrote, "I saw that Satan bade his angels lay their snares especially for those who were looking for Christ's second appearing, and keeping all the commandments of God. Satan told his angels: . . . 'Go; make the possessors of lands and money drunk with cares. . . . They may profess what they please, only make them care more for money than for the success of Christ's kingdom or the spread of the truths we hate. Present the world before them in the they injure our kingdom by getting our subjects. As they appoint meetings in different places, we are in danger. Be very vigilant then. Cause disturbance and most attractive light, that they may love and idolize it. We must keep in our ranks all the means of which we can gain control.

The more means the followers of Christ devote to His service; the more will confusion if possible. Destroy love for one another. Discourage and dishearten their ministers; for we hate them. Present every plausible excuse to those who have means, lest they hand it out. Control the money matters if you can, and drive their ministers to want and distress. This will weaken their courage and zeal. Battle every inch of the ground. Make covetousness and love of earthly treasures the ruling traits of their character. As long as these traits rule, salvation and grace stand back. Crowd every attraction around them, and they will be surely ours. And not only are we sure of them, but their hateful influence will not be exercised to lead others to heaven. When they shall attempt to give, put within them a grudging disposition that it may be sparingly.'" —*Early*

Writings, p. 266

A solemn charge is made to those who have been prospered in the things of this world, in 1 Timothy 6:7–19." For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all



things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only

Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

"Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your

heart be also. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." Luke 12:33-37

My dear brothers and sisters we should give as the Lord has prospered us. "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

"Upon what principle can it be said that we rob God in 'offerings,' if God has given to man nine-tenths of his income, and has only reserved the tithe as holy to Himself? God has not specified any particular amount that man should give in offerings; yet if we do not recognize the obligation we are under to God for what He has done, and is doing for us in the gift of Jesus Christ, we show the basest ingratitude. When our friends have bestowed upon us some valuable gift, we look about us to see what we can do to reciprocate the favor. The greater the gift bestowed, the greater the sense of obligation and gratitude. If the trifling favors bestowed upon man by their fellows can call forth a return of 'gifts' according to the receiver's ability, how much more should the 'gift' of life and redemption call forth from man constant recognition of his obligations and gratitude to his Redeemer?" -*Sabbath School Lesson*, September 2, 1905, p. 23-24

The Lord anciently required of His people trespass offerings, peace offerings and thank offerings and we who are living in this age of special gospel light are not

under less obligations that those of a former age to make liberal offerings to God because for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. "Every blessing bestowed upon us calls for a response to the Author of all our mercies. The Christian should often review his past life, and recall with gratitude the precious deliverances that God has wrought for him, supporting him in trial, opening ways before him when all seemed dark and forbidding, refreshing him when ready to faint. He should recognize all of them as evidences of the watchcare of heavenly angels. In view of these innumerable blessings he should often ask, with subdued and grateful heart, 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?'

"Our time, our talents, our property, should be sacredly devoted to Him who has given us these blessings in trust. Whenever a special deliverance is wrought in our behalf, or new and unexpected favors are granted us, we should acknowledge God's goodness, not only by expressing our gratitude in words, but, like Jacob, by gifts and offerings to His cause. As we are continually receiving the blessings of God, so we are to be continually giving." -*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 187-188

The Lord's Church is in need of money to help in the work in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and many other countries. The Caribbean is home to 18 British Commonwealth countries and territories and 17 of them need to hear the Third Angel's Message. Who will give of time and money so that the message can reach these people?

May the Lord touch each heart to give sacrificially. Amen.

*George Gowie,
Jamaica*

"Jesus is knocking through the prosperity He gives you. He loads you with blessings to test your fidelity, that they may flow out from you to others. Will you permit your selfishness to triumph? Will you squander God's talents, and lose your soul through idolatrous love of the blessings He has given." - *The Review and Herald*, November 2, 1886

"If a man in good physical health has property, and has no need of entering into employment for his own support, he should labor to acquire means that he may advance the cause and work of God. He is to be 'not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord' (Romans 12:11). God will bless all who will guard their influence in regard to others in this respect." - *This Day with God*, p. 203

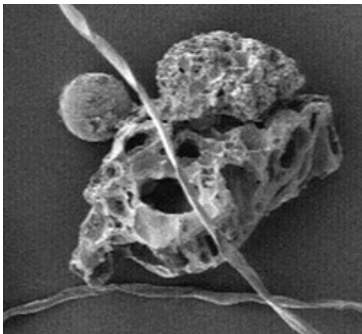
Charcoal

CARBON: BUILDING BLOCK OF LIFE

Carbon is one of the chemical elements of the periodic table. Carbon compounds form the basis of all known life on earth; it is part of the framework for all living materials, including animals, plants and humans. Next to oxygen, carbon is the second most abundant element after oxygen in the human body. How versatile is carbon? Both a diamond and a pencil lead are made from carbon, with the only difference being how the charcoal atoms are structured in each. A diamond is the hardest naturally-occurring material known, while graphite is soft enough to form a streak on paper.

WHAT IS CHARCOAL?

Simply put, charcoal is the black hard lumps left behind after a fire has completely burned up any living material, including the wood in your campfire. Essentially all the water and a number of other chemicals have been evaporated off, leaving behind the familiar crusty, crumbly black chunks. Charcoal is made up of carbon atoms and other chemical residue. However, what makes charcoal so unique is the way that the carbon atoms are structured. In charcoal, the carbon atoms lay in an intricate lattice-like design with no recognizable pattern. As you can see in the illustration, magnified many times, a charcoal particle is irregularly shaped, with many folds, cracks and creases; this irregular shape increases the surface area by a vast amount. This large surface area is what makes charcoal such a unique substance and this property of charcoal ensures



its usefulness in natural healing treatments. We will learn later as to why this is the case.

But, is charcoal from burnt wood or even charcoal briquettes that we use in barbecues the one that we should be using in our natural remedies? Can we just burn a pile of wood and use that charcoal to treat our ailments? No. Do not be tempted to go to your nearest fire pit and take charcoal from there to use medicinally. Wood, briquettes, and other plants have impurities that remain behind in the charcoal that could be harmful to us. Charcoal from burnt food is not effective, as it is a product of charred proteins, fats, carbohydrates and mineral salts which are harmful to the body.

Common charcoal can also be made from the bones of animals, or coal, but for medicinal use it has historically come primarily from plant-based sources such as hardwood, bamboo, coconut, olive pits or peat. Before we can make medicinal charcoal we need to purify it.

ACTIVATED (PURIFIED) CHARCOAL

The form of charcoal that is used for medicinal purposes is referred to as “activated charcoal.” The process to purify the charcoal involves subjecting the raw charcoal to the “activation” of oxidizing (using oxygen) agents such as air, steam, or oxygen, at high temperatures. By doing this, the internal structure of the charcoal particle is further eroded, even more cracks, pores and folds develop, creating an even greater surface area. Activated charcoal is a tasteless, odorless powder. Charcoal particles have a disproportionately high surface area compared to its size. One teaspoon (5 ml) of activated charcoal powder (about 3.3gms) has about the same surface area as a football field. Now that we know the unique property of charcoal, how can we take advantage of it?

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS LARGE SURFACE AREA?

The activation of charcoal increases its adsorption capacity by creating an internal network of even smaller

pores rendering it two to three times as effective as regular charcoal. This tremendous surface area provides charcoal with the potential to adsorb large amounts of other products. Adsorption is the process by which an ultrathin layer of one substance can stick onto the surface of another substance via an electrical reaction. In relation to charcoal, many substances can adhere or bind to its surface. But think of how large that surface is. . . . Charcoal can “adsorb” substances many times its size because of its large surface area, to almost 100 times its own weight. Examples of substances that can be adsorbed by charcoal are gases, bacteria, chemicals, toxins, poisons, or pollutants, primarily those that are poisonous to life. For example a 1 quart jar of activated charcoal powder can adsorb 80 quarts of ammonia gas! Once charcoal adsorbs these harmful substances, their harmful effects are neutralized.

In the case of either accidental or purposeful ingestion of poisons, the charcoal attaches to the poison so that it is passed out of the body by elimination and prevents it from being absorbed into the blood stream. Thus it renders the poison harmless. Charcoal does not work with every poison therefore a poison control centre should be consulted. The powder must be stored in a tightly sealed container, as it readily adsorbs impurities from the atmosphere. Activated charcoal adsorbs most organic and inorganic chemicals that do not belong in the body, but no studies have been able to prove that it adsorbs nutrients, as some people are afraid of.

It is this tremendous surface area that science began to more fully harness during the late 1800s leading to the "activation" of raw charcoal.

HISTORY OF CHARCOAL

Charcoal has been used for centuries as a remedy for a variety of ailments. Records show that carbon or activated charcoal has been around for thousands of years. The first recorded use of charcoal for medicinal purposes comes from Egyptian papyri around 1500 B.C. The principal use appears to have been to adsorb the unpleasant odors from putrefying wounds and from within the intestinal tract. Charcoal was used in medicinal treatments by Hippocrates (400 B.C.), considered the father of western medicine. And in later centuries by Pliny (A.D. 50), a naturalist, who discovered that “It is only when ignited and quenched that charcoal itself acquires its characteristic powers, and only when it seems to have perished that it becomes endowed with greater virtue.” Pliny discovered “activated” charcoal by burning it and recognizing how the powers of char-

coal increased. What Pliny observed and noted so long ago is the very uniqueness of charcoal that science continues to use today. Hippocrates and Pliny recorded the use of charcoal for treating a wide range of complaints.

After the study of the sciences was discouraged, first by pagan Rome and then by papal Rome through the Dark Ages, charcoal re-emerged in the 1700s as a prescription for various conditions. Charcoal was often prescribed for bilious problems (excessive bile excretion). The use of charred wood was also mentioned for the control of odors from gangrenous ulcers.

MEDICINAL USES FOR CHARCOAL BY ELLEN WHITE

By the mid-1800s charcoal suddenly became a well-known treatment for a number of health conditions. The Spirit of Prophecy books provide us many examples of how Ellen White used charcoal to treat people who were expected to die. Through her interventions using charcoal, she saved lives and restored people to health.

“One of the most beneficial remedies is pulverized charcoal placed in a bag and used in fomentations. This is a most successful remedy. If wet in Smartweed [linseed] tea, it is still better. I have ordered this in cases where persons were suffering great pain, and when the physician has confided to me that it was the last before the close of life. Then I suggested the charcoal and the patient slept; the turning point came, and recovery was the result.

“To students when injured with bruised hands, and suffering with inflammation, I have prescribed this simple remedy, with perfect success. The poison of inflammation is overcome, the pain removed, and healing goes on rapidly.

“The more severe inflammation of the eyes will be relieved by a poultice of charcoal, put in a bag and dipped in hot or cold water as will best suit the case.” – *Manuscript 162, 1897*

“My mother had told me that snake bites and the sting of reptiles and poisonous insects could often be rendered harmless by the use of charcoal poultices.” – *Letter 90, 1908*

“A brother was taken sick with inflammation of the bowels and bloody dysentery. The man was not a careful health reformer, but indulged his appetite. . . . This man who was suffering from inflammation of the bowels, sent for me to come to him. My husband and I decided that it would not do to move him. Fears were entertained that mortification had set in. Then the

thought came to me like communication from the Lord, to take pulverized charcoal, put water upon it, and give this water to the sick man to drink, putting bandages of the charcoal over the bowels and stomach. . . . The sick man's son went to a blacksmith's shop, secured the charcoal, and pulverized it, and then used it according to the directions given. The result was that in half an hour there was a change for the better. We had to go on our journey and leave the family behind, but what was our surprise the next day to see their wagon overtake us. The sick man was lying in a bed in the wagon. The blessing of God had worked with the simple means used." –*Letter 182*, 1899

"I felt impressed to recommend for your consideration the use of charcoal as a powerful agent for removing poison from the system. I have on several occasions been impressed to suggest the use of charcoal, and it has often brought relief when every other means had failed." –*Letter 158*, 1907

"Brother Thompson. . . brought his boy to Cooranbong with a swollen knee. The lad had fallen on a stone, and the knee was seriously injured and much enlarged. The doctors had attended him, but had done him no good, and he was then going about with a crutch. . . About one hour a day was occupied in giving him treatment. It was a stubborn affair, but for weeks most thorough treatment was given him with hot and cold applications, and pulverized charcoal dipped in hot water and used as a poultice. . . . The swelling is now removed, and he is as active and healthy a child as you would wish to look upon. . . . We have our reward in seeing him restored to health. We thank the Lord for this." –*Letter 72*, 1898

MEDICINAL USES FOR CHARCOAL

Any inflammation, any area that is red, painful, swollen, and hot, responds to charcoal. It is given as a poultice if the inflammation is on the outside of the body, or given by mouth if the inflammation is in the digestive tract. By the application of moist activated charcoal compresses and poultices, bacteria and poisons are drawn through the skin and into the charcoal. Poultices must be kept moist and warm to allow this healing process to take place.

While charcoal is not commonly found in people's medicine cabinets any more, it is widely used in hospitals and medical research facilities! There are few if any natural products (the exception being water) that have been as extensively studied, researched, experimented within the field of modern medicine as activated char-

coal. In hospitals, it is the first line of treatment for drug poisonings, it is used to dress wounds in burn victims; it is used in the lab, in research, in surgery. The list of medical applications continues to grow.

Meanwhile the number of progressive minded health care professionals who regularly use and recommend activated charcoal as part of a comprehensive health program of prevention and treatment is also growing.

Charcoal can be used to treat the following ailments:

ORALLY

- for poisoning, drug overdose, and food poisoning
- to counteract bad breath
- treatment of headaches, menstrual pain, sore throats
- eliminates toxins that cause anemia in cancer patients;
- filters toxins in people with kidney or liver disease
- for diseases such as gout, tetanus, diphtheria, arthritis, and cholera
- for digestive and other gastrointestinal problems: such as acid reflux, indigestion, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, gas, infections
- jaundice in babies/children

AS A POULTICE

- for poisonous bites: including bees, hornets, brown recluse spiders, scorpions, and as an antidote to the venom of poisonous snakes
- to control bleeding
- for allergic reactions to poisonous plants: such as poison ivy and poison oak
- for infections: including pink eye, diabetic ulcers, abscesses, gangrene, cold sores, tooth abscesses
- disinfects wounds, heals sprains
- for purifying water, air, and food
- removes tartar and plaque build-up when used as a toothpaste

BATHING

- Skin disorders such as eczema, skin irritations, atopic dermatitis, infection, and inflammations. Activated charcoal's purifying, detoxifying, deodorizing, and anti-bacterial properties will wash away any impurities on the skin
- Charcoal baths will remove impurities, relieve fatigue, and recharge you!

Charcoal can even be used to treat similar ailments in animals, including poisoning, infections, odors, and as a digestive supplement.

As opposed to a lot of the medications that doctors prescribe for various ailments, charcoal is safe:

- it has a safety record that goes back 3500 years
- rated Category 1 (Safe and Effective) by the Federal Drug Agency
- recommended by Poison Control Centers, Pediatric & Toxicologist Associations
- has no known adverse side effects, doesn't cause allergic reactions, harmless when used on skin or swallowed
- non-habit forming
- indefinite shelf life—does not age or spoil if properly stored

HOW TO USE CHARCOAL

Externally: To make a poultice, mix 3 tablespoons of ground flax seeds or cornstarch with 3 tablespoons of activated charcoal powder in 3/4 cups of hot water. Stir until blended and cool to room temperature. Place mix-



ture generously on a strip of gauze large enough to cover the area and tape the sides so that the mixture does not leak. Leave on 3–6 hours or overnight.

Internally: For adults, take between 1–3 heaping tablespoons of charcoal powder in a large glass of water (mixed well) until symptoms are alleviated. Drink one



more glass of water after each glass. If using tablets, take a minimum of 6–10 as there is generally less charcoal in tablet form. Drink water with tablets to avoid constipation.

(Ground up flax seed can also be added to avoid constipation. Repeat this process every 6 hours until relief. In addition, be drinking 2.5 litres or 8 glasses of water throughout the day). Children under 12 should take half an adult dosage. Activated charcoal should not be taken regularly for

more than 6 weeks at a time.

Baths: Put about 6 cups (2 lbs.) of granular charcoal in a cloth bag, tie it, and place it in the tub. Fill the tub and soak yourself. After the first use, dry the bag. When using a second and third time, add a cup of granular charcoal to the cloth bag. Discard after the third use. Placing charcoal first before filling the tub with water will help the body to get warm faster, keep the water warmer and cleaner, and



make the skin smoother.

Since activated charcoal absorbs substances in the stomach and intestines, taking activated charcoal along with medications taken by mouth can decrease how much medicine your body absorbs, and also decrease the effectiveness of your medication. To prevent this interaction, take activated charcoal at least one hour after medications you take by mouth.

Activated charcoal is universally available around the world. You can purchase it in many pharmacies and in most health food or natural food stores. It can be purchased in tablets, capsules, or powder form. Tablets have one-half the potency of the powdered charcoal and the capsules are expensive but are easy to use. About 14 capsules equals a tablespoon of powder. It is most easily mixed in a small portion of water and is most effective if one tablespoon is used with one to two glasses of water. While some drugstores sell activated charcoal tablets, the most economical way to purchase activated charcoal is in powder form.

Finally, it is easy to use, either by mouth or used as a poultice or bath. Always have a supply of activated charcoal at home to use as necessary. Accidental poisonings should be treated immediately, keep charcoal on hand especially if you have small children. When you are sick, suffering pain, or battling some infection, you should first consider a simple and natural remedy like medicinal charcoal instead of pharmaceutical drugs.

“Our Saviour is the restorer of the moral image of God in man. He has supplied in the natural world remedies for the ills of man, that His followers may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.” —*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 289



Business Transactions in the Bible

(Part 1)

MONEY CHANGERS

A money changer is someone that changes foreign money of various kinds into a different currency. It could then be used as a temple poll tax or free-willing offering.

In the time of Jesus and the apostles, large numbers of foreign Jews annually visited Jerusalem, especially during the great feasts, bringing with them their foreign currency which was not accepted at the temple. Only money with Hebrew inscriptions could be presented for an offering. So they had the money changers right there conveniently located at the temple.

Usually their money changing stalls were in the city, but they were admitted to the temple court of the Gentiles during the festivals, where they sat at their tables. There were also cattle dealers. They charged very high prices for their animals. When they sold an animal, they would share their profits with the priests and rulers.

After coming from a far distance, the people could not bring their own sacrificial animals with them so they were forced to pay the high prices that were charged to buy animals for a sacrifice.

As Jesus came into the temple, He saw the unfair transactions. He saw the distress of the poor. The sacred enclosure had become one vast exchange. The noise was great. It was like a cattle market rather than the sacred temple of God. There could be heard men bargaining, the lowing of cattle, bleating of sheep, the cooing of doves, mixed with the clinking of coins and the voices of the angry bargainers. What a great confusion! Jesus stood and watched it all.

Then the confusion stopped, and all was silent. Jesus said, "Take these things hence; make not My Father's house a house of merchandise." He told the bargaining

companies to leave the temple. Then all was quiet and peaceful. Twice Jesus drove the merchants out of the temple. First in the beginning of His active work and then again near the end.

Quietness and reverence should be in the house of God. Even today Sister White writes, "We should not have yard sales, bake sales, etc. for church." She says that through these, the holy standard of the Word of God is lowered into dust. We can have bake sales and yard sales and then donate the money to the church, but not on the church property. That is considered confusion. God is holy and the church is a place of His worship which is also holy.

In Jesus' time there was confusion with the people wanting to do business at the temple, but we know that Jesus was angry against that and had them stop. We also in our lives need to keep reverence and quietness in His holy place. That is what we should always remember. AMEN.

Tiffany Bessec

THE WIDOW'S MITE

Let us read about the time when Jesus was in the temple, and witnessed the widow giving her two last mites. "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto Him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." Mark 12:41-44

"Jesus was in the court where were the treasure chests,

and He watched those who came to deposit their gifts. Many of the rich brought large sums, which they presented with great ostentation. Jesus looked upon them sadly, but made no comment on their liberal offerings. Presently His countenance lighted as He saw a poor widow approach hesitatingly, as though fearful of being observed. As the rich and haughty swept by, to deposit their offerings, she shrank back as if hardly daring to venture farther. And yet she longed to do something, little though it might be, for the cause she loved. She looked at the gift in her hand. It was very small in comparison with the gifts of those around her, yet it was her all. Watching her opportunity, she hurriedly threw in her two mites, and turned to hasten away. But in doing this she caught the eye of Jesus, which was fastened earnestly upon her.

“The Saviour called His disciples to Him, and bade them mark the widow’s poverty. Then His words of commendation fell upon her ear: ‘Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all.’ Tears of joy filled her eyes as she felt that her act was understood and appreciated. Many would have advised her to keep her pittance for her own use; given into the hands of the well-fed priests, it would be lost sight of among the many costly gifts brought to the treasury. But Jesus understood her motive.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 614–615

Jesus saw that the other people gave a little bit of what they had. They kept some for themselves. But the widow gave all she had and left none for herself. This teaches us that we must give all we have to God like the widow did, because God gave us all the life of His Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross. If we give all the money we have, we will receive blessings from heaven.

“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:31–33

My wish and prayer is that we are not like the Pharisees who do not love God because they are afraid and only gave some of what they had. But to be like the widow who loved and trusted God and gave everything because she believed what He promised in Matthew chapter 6.

Stephen Newby

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.” Acts 5:1–4

We read that Ananias and Sapphira sold their land and promised that they would give all of the money to the early church, for missionary work. But they gave some of the money and left most for themselves. They left most of it for themselves because it would be good for living, and at the same time they would look good in front of everybody.

And at that time, Peter came, and with the Holy Ghost he said, “you didn’t have to give all the money, you could have given whatever you wanted and told us you didn’t give all of it, but instead you lied, saying, here is all of the money from the sale of the land.” Then Ananias fell to the ground and died, and the young men came and buried him.

“And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.” Acts 5:5–6

Three hours later, Sapphira, not knowing that her husband had died, came in. And then Peter said to her, “Did you sell this land for so much money?” Then she answered, “Yes, we did.” Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.” Acts 5:9. Then all of a sudden Sapphira fell to the ground and died. They buried her beside her husband.

This is my wish and prayer that we may not be covetous like Ananias and Sapphira.



The Fruit

Along my path was this quaint little shop that brought me to a full stop. It seemed so old that no one would even bother to stop. Yet I was drawn to enter therein. No one was there except a very old Man. He gave me a warm smile and extended His hand. "Oh you have come to the right place," said He to me. I continued being reserved but extended my hand. What gentleness, what meekness I sensed from such an old Man. Strangely, I felt what seemed like a rough spot in the palm of His hand, I couldn't help but wonder what could have actually left that scar.

I glanced around and touched a book. He said, "Ah, that's the Book of books. Get that and you will never go wrong." I decided to take it as it was light and since my journey was long, I needed nothing that weighted me down. I was about to turn away when I saw a small box, on it was marked "Fruit". Like a good salesman He followed my glance. He said: "Take it—a desert is coming up and you will need it for quenching your thirst—nothing like a good fruit." "Well," said I, "I would like to take it, as my bag was packed with a water-filled jug, but to my surprise it all leaked out. Yet I cannot buy it as my funds are now all gone." "Oh My friend this one is free. It's here for many, many years as all who came in just passed it right by. Oh, but what a buy!" He exclaimed. Pausing momentarily He then said: "I made a decision that the one who gives it a glance; to him it would be free. Take it, take it My dear friend. It is what will take you on the other side. Every day on My way home I pass by many a one having lost their lives from much tiredness and thirstiness. Here! I will wrap it for you."

I left the store with great joy, and then I heard a voice that said: "It's a taste of the fruit; it gives fullness of joy for evermore." As I left the door I saw a beggar man. I gave him no coin as that I did not have, but I gave him my coat as he shivered in the cold. The voice again came and said in mine ear: "that was much love you showed that beggar man; now listen, under the box is a small drawer. Pull it down and you will find another coat and this will never turn to rags. It was for the old man—woven in his loom. Go on, put it on."

I moved on with steadfastness as the night was coming on. Oh, another night of unrest I thought. With the box as my pillow I sheltered under a huge overhanging rock as a storm was passing through, then I heard as if it was the old man's voice saying: "My peace I give unto you; my peace I leave with you." I awoke the next morning with perfect peace, with the journey still ahead, I hastened on.

The day seemed long and toilsome yet with longsuffering and unwavering steps I persevered. Suddenly I came upon a child who had just lost his dear father to the severe cold, coupled perhaps with hunger and thirst. I bent down and said to him, "come dear one I will take you along." In the silence of the morning came a still small voice and I heard him say: "That was a true spirit of goodness that you displayed."

With the child on my back I journeyed on. What must we eat? I thought to myself. I saw what could have been a very good feast but I know that it would only cause us ill, so with my little temperance we continued on. To our delight we came to a small Oasis that gave us fresh water. Then I remembered the Book of books, on opening, I came across the words, "The Just shall live by his faith". So with hope and faith we continued on.

The little child looked down and said in trusting grateful tones: "You are so kind and gentle." "Actually! Meek is what he is," intercepted a voice. I blushed as I felt that far, far from me.

As we travelled along, with childlike curiosity the little child asked: What's in that box that you hold so close? "Oh, it's a fruit," said I. "Ah that's it—we can eat that fruit. I will open it right now," and so I did, but to my surprise there was nothing therein, except the words, written in gold: "Fruit of the Spirit".

Just then a familiar-sounding voice called out: "Come, follow Me; I will take you home; you will dine and drink with Me." We turned and saw the old man, dressed now in what seemed like a spotless robe, woven in pure white.

Rose Powell



Makambako Tanzania

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.” Matthew 4:23

Makambako is a place in the region of Iringa, Tanzania. It lies more than 600 km from the city of Dar es Salaam. Some efforts to bring the message to this region in the past had not produced visible fruits. By August 2008, Brother Flavian Nyakeji and his wife Lucia (who were members of the Ubungo Church, Dar es Salaam), started their journey to begin Medical missionary work in this region.

Amidst difficult situations, among them being financial constraints, they worked hard together. Bro. Nyakeji worked as a doctor while being helped by Sister Rachel Katondo, who later returned to Dar es Salaam. He then continued working with his wife. A little later, classes begun for those who will be working as medics and thereafter for those who came to be treated.

Brother Walter Kajiru (who was the Field leader at that time for the South) used to come to help the work in terms of pastoral guidance, identifying a permanent worker for the place, and baptism. Brother Japhet Mbu-ba is the missionary worker who was found to work hand in hand with Brother Nyakeji. Two souls were baptized—brothers Geoge Magoti and Benito Mta-vangu. These two are part of the present work being done.

Not long afterwards many souls got baptized. By the time Brother Kajiru left for Zimbabwe, the church had over 45 members! We praise the Lord for this! Later on Brothers Bright Fue and Hildon Mbogela came to conduct later baptisms. To date, those that have been baptized under the third angel’s message are over 70. Even though a few have backslidden, the work continues to grow strong. We ask the Lord to help. Brother Joel Msiska from Malawi has also been with us now for some time helping the work by providing treatments and giving the message. We came to know each other

when I travelled to his country in 2011 for a Medical Seminar conducted by Brother Idel Suarez, Jr.

The work has also opened in a new place in the Njombe region. There is great interest in our message among the people in this place as we preach the message through the radio. This has been a great blessing to the work. Seven souls have so far been baptized in this area but are counted as part of the church membership (i.e. part of the number mentioned above) in Makambako.

Sometime ago, Brother Nyakeji and his family decided to buy a building and then gave it to the church so that it can be used as a church building! It cost them about \$9009 excluding the costs of furnishing it to make it look like a church. This money came from the services they have been providing to patients as medics. Brothers Hildon Mbogela and Enock Ndimangwa officially received the building on behalf of the IMS Southern Field. We thank God also for this gift!

Finally, we would like to thank all those who have helped, and continue to help, this work in one way or another. We also would like to encourage our fellow IMS members all around the world to consider the work of a medical missionary as a way to save souls! Imagine only from 2008–2014, the work has grown this much! It, in fact, fulfills prophesy.

“As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for freedom of conscience will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure. And those who do this will find a field of labor anywhere. There will be suffering ones, plenty of them, who will need help, not only among those of our own faith, but largely among those who know not the truth.” –Counsels on Health 1892, p. 506

“I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work. The work of a minister is to minister. Our ministers are to work on the gospel plan of ministering.” –Counsels on Health 1901, p. 533

May God bless you all who do His work, and may His peace also be unto you! Amen.

Flavian Nyakeji, (Church leader) on behalf of the Makambako Church

See Photos next page

TANZANIA



Brother Flavian Nyakeji and his family



Brother Japhet Mbuba and family



L to r Ester, John, Rose, Magdrena, Joel (in front) Elisha



Church building in Makambako with Brother Walter Kajiru

TOGO



Cedar Christian School — Cedartown, Georgia, USA

Graduation, June 5th, 2014



Cedar Christian School was opened in response to the Biblical teaching that a child needs to be trained in the way of the Lord. "In localities where there is a church, schools should be established if there are

no more than six children." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p.199. Cedar Christian School had more than six students and they all benefited from the study of God's word, from the basics of 3 hours of Language, Music, and Computer Technology. With the graduation ceremony, the climax of the school year, it was recognized that many goals had been reached by the students. During the year they have gone on field trips, enjoyed physical education and participated in practical workshops. The education we enjoyed this year is a small example of what is to come in our future education. Each student achieved individual goals,

and learned to develop their individual talents. They will be blessed by the principles that they have learned and will carry through their lives of faithfulness, leadership, responsibility and service.

Answered Prayers

**I prayed for riches, and achieved success;
All that I touched turned into gold. Alas!
My cares were greater, and my peace was less,
When that wish came to pass.**

**I prayed for glory; and I heard my name
Sung by sweet children and by hoary men,
But ah! The hurts, the hurts that come with fame!
I was not happy then.**

**I prayed for love, and had my soul's desire;
Through quivering heart and body and through brain,
There swept the flame of devouring fire;
And there the scars remain.**

**I prayed for a contented mind. At length
Great light up on my spirit burst,
Great peace fell on me, also, and great strength,—
Oh! Had that prayer been first.**

Ella Wheeler