

The cover of 'The Reformation Messenger' magazine features a photograph of a lawn with the number '100' formed by white flowers. The magazine title is at the top in a large, white, cursive font, with 'The Reformation' in a smaller font above it. Below the title, the volume and issue information is printed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background of the cover is a photograph of a brick wall and a black metal fence, with trees and a red fire hydrant visible in the distance.

The Reformation
Messenger
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 9, SEPTEMBER 2014

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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.

ABOUT THE COVER

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Wendy Eaton,
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Inside Cover:

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One hundred years ago, terror gripped the hearts of men and women as World War I unleashed its hellish fury across Europe. Inside the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a different kind of war began to wage. Fearing sanctions and death sentences, Adventist leaders joined the world and openly abandoned their allegiance to God's government and holy law. Only a handful stood faithful, refusing to fight and kill, or break the Sabbath commandment. They sadly were persecuted, ridiculed and disfellowshipped from the church. This was a turning point in the history of God's church.

These special days were set aside at the General Conference headquarters in Cedartown, Georgia, USA, to commemorate the bravery of God's faithful people who stood faithful in a time of severe oppression, giving rise to God's true remnant church today—the International Missionary Society of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement. Visitors and members came from all over the world to take part in this spiritual feast.

The major themes that were presented during this solemn occasion were the history regarding the Great War (before and after), and issues surrounding it such as nonviolence and pacifism, and the law of God and military service, which gave rise to the Reform Movement.

The conference began on Wednesday evening with a welcome from Brother Idel Suarez, Jr., President of the General Conference. He gave a brief overview of Adventist history which led to the birth of the Reform Movement as prophesied in the Bible and Testimonies.

The following meetings then went into more details regarding the events and important issues involved. Brother Monterroso from Guatemala went back into

history and spoke about the Reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries. God's people have always been a remnant, as seen from the time of Noah when only eight souls entered the ark and found salvation. In the time of Lot, only three escaped the fire from heaven. The 16th and 17th centuries were an age in history called The Dark Ages. During this time, knowledge of the Bible was hidden from the common people and there was great spiritual darkness. Owning a Bible would incur the death penalty. At this time the Papacy had control of the people as they enforced their false teachings and traditions. Many brave reformers spoke up against the false teachings, some of them sealing their fate as martyrs; however, the truth was more precious to them than life itself. Luther was considered one of the most notable reformers, but reform did not end with him. Reform continues to the end of the world. History repeats itself and 100 years ago, God called for a reform in His church.

On Thursday, Brother Woonsang Kang from South Korea began the day by speaking about "Nonviolence, Pacifism, and Conscientious Objection." He asked the question, "How should we react when the government forces people to take up arms and fight? Must we adapt and surrender to their demands? Or is it our duty to respond by Conscientious Objection? Conscientious Objection can be defined when a person refuses to perform military services based on specific Biblical principles. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Romans 12:17. Conscientious Objection is connected to non-violence—refusing to do anything that will result in violence to others. This is our duty before God. If we have a situation similar to that which the be-

lievers were facing 100 years ago, what position would we take?

Brother Joel Barnedo continued with an appeal to the youth. During 1863 the youth in the Seventh-day Adventist Church were faced with the question as to whether the youth should participate in the American Civil War. James White was inclined to support the government because it seemed to be a “good” war—against slavery. His wife, though, had a vision which showed the Lord’s displeasure at such a decision; so the call came from the throne of God that the position of His people should be to not participate in warfare. The youth stood faithful. Unfortunately in World War I, it was not the same. Many youth joined the war effort, however, while only a few stood faithful. Our youth today need to learn from these faithful young men. They need to put on the whole armour of God as they are fighting a spiritual warfare. “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh.” 2 Corinthians 3:10. The youth of 1914 recognized that their warfare was not nation against nation but the battle for their souls.

Following the apostasy of World War I came the birth of the Reform Movement. Brother Parmenas Shirima from Tanzania presented “The Prophetic Foundation of the Reform Movement.” We can thank the Lord that the Reform Movement has a solid foundation. There are three principles for identifying the church of God: 1) Doctrine. The Word of God. Do they live and teach ac-

ording to the Word of God in all areas, such as the Law of God, health reform, dress reform, tithes and offerings? 2) Prophecy. Amos 3:7 tells us that, “Surely the LORD God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.” The true church of God must be prophesied in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy. 3) History. The church of God existed from Eden and God has always had a remnant. Once a church apostatizes, God does not make a new church, but He maintains a remnant from the old church. In history, God has always had a remnant who kept the original doctrine of heaven, because whatever we keep today is not new. It is original truth given by God, right from the beginning.

In the military, it is impossible to keep the law of God, and Brother Francesco Caputo from Italy gave more details on this topic. In Matthew 5:9, Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” The children of God are called to be peacemakers and this is difficult to do in the army. If we have the genuine love of God in our hearts, we will not want to kill anyone. It may be difficult to love those who want to kill us, but Christian perfection is to love our enemies. Learning this kind of love is not natural, but is possible by the grace of God. Satan delights in war and inspires conflict in the family, churches, and in the world. Our only weapon is prayer. This is the solution to the problems in the world. The Lord is our defense.

Brother Pedro Alva from Peru, took us through “The



Biblical Path—Matthew 18". The Reform movement rose not through violence, but through peace. The church went through many crucial times, and the enemy fought against the church. Many chose the prince of darkness, while a faithful few gave respect to the principles of God's word. These people were disfellowshipped without the church having followed the proper procedure laid out in the Bible in Matthew 18. The church of God was not born through violence. They were not rebels, but rather peaceful, faithful followers of Christ.

The messages of the three angels in Revelation 14 are an international message and this subject was presented by Brother Noe Chappa from Argentina. In 1920, the Reformers found themselves in a meeting with the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The fourth question they asked the leaders was whether the message in Revelation 14:6–12 is national or international. We are to be in the world but not of the world. In Acts 10:28, when the first disciples shared the gospel message, they had to break down national barriers, making it an international message. The message of today is truly international.

The Alpha and Omega was presented by Brother Larry Watts. The Bible contains the Alpha and Omega of knowledge. Take the Bible as your study book. Christ is the Alpha and Omega of redemption. We need to crucify ourselves completely with Christ. There is no middle ground. Alpha—we need to change ourselves. Omega—

we are preparing for a place in heaven. The Alpha of apostasy is self-reliance, selfishness and covetousness; putting yourself above God; you choose what is truth. The Omega is that you can sin and not pay. There are no consequences for sin. In order to be saved, we need to know the Alpha of Salvation and that is Christ in you. The Alpha is your personal salvation through Christ, and the Omega is having the spirit of service—a united people, working together by the Holy Spirit.

The Health Reform message is a pillar of reformation. Brother Roland de la Paz from the Philippines shared with us its importance. Health reform has been advancing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church with Sister White receiving several visions of its importance. It is our religious duty to keep our body healthy. Men and women cannot violate natural laws by indulging depraved appetites and lustful passions, and not violate the law of God. All areas of health are to be studied and faithfully followed in order to keep our bodies in the best possible condition for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Brother Douglas Frances from Sri Lanka gave a presentation of the 1919 Bible Conference in Takoma Park, Maryland, U.S.A It was reported that at the 1919 Bible Conference there was a discussion of the Adventist hermeneutics and eschatology. Many important documents had been in the archives which were kept wrapped up in a vault at the General Conference. We in the Reform Movement are to uplift the Spirit of Prophecy and not keep it hidden.

Brother Morris Lowe from Canada gave the final presentation of the day by sharing some historical events relating to the preservation of the Bible. During the Dark Ages, Satan, through the Papacy, waged war against the Bible. The Bible was outlawed for 1260 years. Over 50 million Christians were slaughtered by the Papacy under the influence of Satan for wanting to read and follow Biblical principles. But Satan lost the battle as he always does. Today, thankfully, there are Bible societies who translate and publish Bibles at affordable prices.

Friday morning began with Brother Tzvetan Petkov reviewing the negotiations that the disfellowshipped believers had with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Friedensau, Germany in 1920. The full report is written in a book called "The Protocol". There was no reconciliation following this meeting.



Brothers Idel Suarez, Jr. and Woonsang Kang shared with us some of the events from the Seventh-day Adventist Symposium in Friedensau in May 2014, which they attended. The Symposium was regarding the impact of the First World War on the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Reformers were given an opportunity to give a presentation on one of the evenings. The meeting was followed by an interesting question and answer period. The end result was that the German Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church gave the Reform Church an official statement of apology in writing. It is yet to be seen if this apology is approved by the world-wide church.

Sister Raquel Orce shared some of the historical events of the disfellowshipped brethren in World War I. There was a division in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the reasons given for the disfellowshippment of the faithful was because of their unchristian conduct. They were said to be obstinate and fanatical. Although there were protests and appeals from some of the churches to follow the course outlined in Matthew 18, the disfellowshippments were still carried out. After the disfellowshippments, sadly the church continued to persecute the faithful by reporting them to the authorities.

Brother Gustavo Castellanos from Austria shared some of the experiences of the martyrs during this difficult time. Although many gave their lives and faced a martyr's death, some were miraculously preserved. One day we will again face such opposition and we need to learn from our forefathers' experiences so that we too will remain faithful.

For the opening of the Sabbath, Brother Larry Watts spoke about America's Biblical Legacy. Although America has enjoyed a culture with a Christian heritage, can we call it a Christian nation today? Throughout the history of America we see many events, and the leaders who gave glory to God for His leading. Although America is becoming more and more godless today, yet its beginning was laid down on Christian principles.

Brother George Gowie from Jamaica shared some of the characteristics of God's church. In the world there are over 2000 churches claiming to be Christian; this has caused much confusion in the minds of many people. Yet God has only one church and it is founded on the principles in the Word of God. God's church keeps His law in its entirety, including the Sabbath. Although we may claim to be a part of God's church today, we need to ask ourselves if we are truly keeping the Sabbath according to His commandments, in our conversation and actions. God's people also are those who preach the

Three Angel's messages, and the judgment hour. They are a remnant—poor and afflicted. God's church must also be a missionary church.

For the divine service on Sabbath, Brother Idel Suarez Jr. shared the word of God under the title of "Final Triumph of the Third Angel's Message." The questions were asked, "Are you in Christ? What does it mean to be in Christ?" It is not just to believe that He is the Saviour and Redeemer. "Are you in Christ? "Not if you do not acknowledge yourselves erring, helpless, condemned sinners. Not if you are exalting and glorifying self." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 48. Just because we belong to a church that stood faithful in every war since World War I, does not guarantee that we are in Christ. Two men went into the temple to pray, one told the Lord his accomplishments, the other said, "I am a sinner." The second received righteousness. We have nothing worthy in us, but Jesus is worthy and merciful. He came to seek and save the lost. To be in Christ requires two steps: to believe that you are a condemned sinner; and to believe that only Jesus can save you. The final triumph of the church will be when all the members are in Christ, doing the works of Christ. His character will be perfectly reflected in each member as they accept His robe of righteousness.

Brother Pablo Hunger shared some important thoughts regarding the Bible in the time of the end. There are many Bibles in the world, and many different theories. If we wish to triumph in the end we must know our Bible well. That is our only security. And through the Bible we will be drawn closer to Christ.

To close the Sabbath, Brother Francisco Caputo from Italy shared the most important subject for our salvation, the message of Christ our Righteousness. This is the basis of all Reformation. The Lord our Righteousness is a message that has been repeated throughout history, not just in 1888. All the way from the beginning when Adam and Eve sinned there was the need of a Saviour for lost mankind. The example of Peter was used. Although he had been baptized and had his moments of holiness, yet he was not converted. He loved Jesus sincerely, but still made a terrible mistake in denying Jesus. We often try to do our best, but fail. What is needed is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We need help from a power outside ourselves and this is where Christ's Righteousness comes in. He will work a complete transformation of our character—this is sanctification.

The very informative studies continued into Sunday with the first session being conducted by Brother Larry

Watts, who spoke of the pillars that were brought out of the Garden of Eden—Marriage and the Sabbath. He related their connection with the Reformation. “In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 678. Reformation is restoration as in the time of Nehemiah when he came to restore and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. In like manner, the divine institutions must be restored today.

Brother Idel Suarez Jr. spoke specifically about Minneapolis in 1888, and in 1917 when America finally entered the Great War. The

Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered twice in Minneapolis—in 1888 and again in 1917. In 1888 the Christ our Righteousness message was rejected; and in 1917 the church gave permission for its members to join the army as non-combatants.

This made their apostasy complete.

The connection between World War I and II was presented by Brother Tzvetan Petkov. There was the same persecution of God’s true believers in both wars with their betrayal to authorities by other Christians. Although there appears to be religious liberty in the Western World, history will repeat itself and one day God’s true and faithful children will face persecution once more from unexpected sources.

The final subject was presented by Sister Raquel Orce and it was about the origin of the name International Missionary Society. This name goes as far back as 1870, having its roots in the International Tract Society. Over the years the name changed slightly and in 1921 the resolution was made to keep the name “International Missionary Society” and to add, “Reform Movement”, even though there was no official General Conference committee as of yet. Finally, the principles of faith were es-



tablished in 1925.

During Sabbath afternoon and Sunday afternoon we were blessed to hear short missionary reports from many countries around the world—reports of how the work of Reform reached their country and how it has progressed since. There were many inspiring experiences shared and these will be available in print in the future.

Friday afternoon saw the blessed event of two dear souls giving their lives to the Lord through baptism.



Sister Persia Suarez, eldest daughter of Brother Idel Suarez Jr., and Brother Prudent Katide from South Africa, buried their old lives in the watery grave and rose to newness in Christ. Truly the angels of heaven rejoiced at this joyous event when two more souls decided to turn their back on the world and to stand with Christ

on His platform of truth.

For the closing of the conference, Brother Woonsang Kang, and Brother Idel Suarez Jr. thanked all the participants and those that helped out, those that made the effort to travel to Cedartown to share in this Commemoration, as well as those that tuned in via the Internet. Brother Kang ended with a question? “Do you love Jesus? If so, then go to the world and spread the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.”

The time had come for each one to return to their own part of the world to spread the good news of salvation. This was truly a spiritual feast. The church of God has a solid foundation in history and prophecy; may each one of us stand faithful to the Lord, having an answer to give to those who question the foundation of God’s church today. May you each be a light in your corner of the world so that Jesus can come soon. Amen.



Restoring the Dwelling Paths

. What is the work that God has given for us to do? We read in Isaiah, “And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.” Isaiah 58:12

God wants us to repair the breach, and to restore the paths to dwell in. We are not to look for new paths. “Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16

We are not to stay in one place, but we are to advance constantly. We are to move on the narrow pathway that leads to perfection, to a sinless condition. Our destination is heaven and the New Jerusalem. Therefore, even our name is the Reform Movement. We are not in the same place today as we were yesterday. The light of the truth, the understanding of the doctrines is constantly increasing. This is what it means to restore the dwelling paths, and to repair the breach that has been created during the times of ignorance.

When the Adventist Church started in 1844 after the disappointment, they were keeping Sunday as the day of rest; they were meat eaters; many other doctrines they did not understand correctly. But little by little, the ancient pathways were restored, and the breach in the law was repaired.

As old Israel traveled 40 years in the wilderness they were constantly learning more of the truth, so modern Israel is learning more and more of the Bible truth. One of the first things that they learned was the Sabbath. This was also one of the first things that the ancient Israelites learned as they left Egypt. When Isaiah called us to be restorers of the dwelling paths, and the repairers of the breach, the following verse brings the Sabbath reform as one of the most important truths. “If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words.” Isaiah 58:13

Here we are given instruction as to how to keep the Sab-

bath, as a day that is holy:

- We must keep our feet from going to the wrong places.
- Not “doing thy pleasure on My holy day”.
- Call the Sabbath a delight. Then you love the Sabbath. You enjoy it. You are waiting for the Sabbath to come for the whole week.
- Not finding thine own pleasure. This is repeated a second time in this verse.
- Nor speaking thine own words. Not speaking worldly things. Not of your work, your business.
- Speak only spiritual things, what the Holy Spirit inspires you to say.

To begin the Sabbath on Friday evening, and also the closing of it on Saturday evening, the family needs to come together, to sing, to read the Bible and to pray. It is a sign that now the Sabbath has begun and also when it has ended.

Also, we must not sleep much on the Sabbath day. “It is displeasing to God for Sabbath-keepers to sleep during much of the Sabbath. They dishonor their Creator in so doing, and, by their example, say that the six days are too precious for them to spend in resting. They must make money, although it be by robbing themselves of needed sleep, which they make up by sleeping away holy time. They then excuse themselves by saying: ‘The Sabbath was given for a day of rest. I will not deprive myself of rest to attend meeting, for I need rest.’ Such make a wrong use of the sanctified day.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 704. On Sabbath we are not to sleep any more than on the other days.

What are we to do with our children on the Sabbath day? “I have found that on the Sabbath day many are indifferent and do not know where their children are or what they are doing.

“Parents, above everything take care of your children upon the Sabbath. Do not suffer them to violate God’s holy day by playing in the house or out-of-doors. You may just as well break the Sabbath yourselves as to let your children do it, and when you suffer your children to wander about and suffer them to play upon the Sabbath, God looks upon you

as Sabbathbreakers.” —*The Review and Herald*, September 19, 1854

Parents, spend time with your children on the Sabbath day. Take them into nature, teach them the Bible truths.

At the time of the disappointment, the Adventists kept Sunday as the day to worship God. But three years later, the Seventh-Day Adventists kept the Sabbath, but not perfectly. Some kept it from six o’clock on Friday to six o’clock on Saturday; others from twelve o’clock at night on Friday to twelve o’clock on Saturday night; until they returned to the old paths, to the time of Moses, when they began to keep it from sunset to sunset.

But we are not at the end of the road yet. Soon we are expecting the Sunday law to be enacted. What shall we do? Shall we go into hiding? No.

“And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time God’s chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us.” —*Early Writings*, p. 33

We will proclaim the Sabbath more fully. We are not afraid of the persecution when the Sunday law comes. Our names, pictures, addresses will be on television, the Internet, in the newspapers. Everybody will learn that there are still Sabbath-keepers during the Sunday law. But when the time of mercy has ended, then we stop preaching. There will be silence. Now we leave the cities and towns and seek solitary places. “I saw the saints leaving the cities and villages, and associating together in companies, and living in the most solitary places. Angels provided them food and water, while the wicked were suffering from hunger and thirst. Then I saw the leading men of the earth consulting together, and Satan and his angels busy around them. I saw a writing, copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the first day of the week, the people were at liberty after a certain time to put them to death. But in this hour of trial the saints were calm and composed, trusting in God and leaning upon His promise that a way of escape would be made for them.” —*Early Writings*, p. 282

And who will be our greatest enemies during the Sunday law? Sister White wrote in Dorchester, Maine on October 23, 1850: “I saw the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints

and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep Sabbath and disregard Sunday.”

The Sabbath will never be done away with. When God shall make new heavens and the new earth, the Sabbath still remains as the day of worship. “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 66:22–23

Many other doctrines had been forgotten or ignored and they had to be restored. Health reform had been completely left out by the early Adventists. It was not until 1863 that Sister White had a vision from God to stop eating meat and to be vegetarians. She wrote also that health reform is progressive, that a time will come when we need to stop eating dairy products also. Today many of our members are vegan, and many are eating organic fruits and vegetables. Also, many are practicing fasting in order to overcome the idol of indulging appetite.

“Many who profess godliness do not inquire into the reason of Christ’s long period of fasting and suffering in the wilderness. His anguish was not so much from enduring the pangs of hunger as from His sense of the fearful result of the indulgence of appetite and passion upon the race. He knew that appetite would be man’s idol, and would lead him to forget God, and would stand directly in the way of his salvation.” —*The Review and Herald*, September 1, 1874

Also the message of Christ’s righteousness has become clearer to us. Many Bible students understood that the Ten Commandments are the righteousness that is required from us for salvation, but a little while ago, I had a dream at night that explained that the Ten Commandments are the first mile, but Christ’s righteousness requires the second mile also. Jesus fulfilled the second mile by coming to this world and giving His life for guilty sinners; this is not required in the Ten Commandments, but Christ’s righteousness requires it.

Little by little, the paths have been restored, but this is not the end yet. We need to study the word of God to gain a better understanding of our doctrines and teachings. Especially we need to learn the prophecies concerning the time of the end. The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation are important to study, so that when the time of trouble comes upon us we will not be surprised by the events, but see the fulfilment of prophecy. Every member of the church is called to be the restorers of the dwelling paths and the repairers of the breach. Let us all be faithful in this work. Amen.

Timo Martin



Lessons from 1888



As most of you know, some of our top leaders just attended a Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) symposium about Conscientious Objection and Non-Combatancy in Germany (May 2014). At the symposium, some interesting discussions took place and questions were asked of our leaders by the SDA group. Some of the questions that were commonly asked include, “How many members do you have around the world?” Just like the Jews of old, they ask, in essence, “Have any of the scribes and Pharisees believed on Him?”

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:13–14. Strait is the gate and narrow is the way, and few there be that find it. . . . What the church went through in 1888 was actually the beginning of our movement—just as it was prophesied to happen—over the subject of war and the keeping of God’s Commandments—it came. But at that time in 1888, the outward issues were the law in Galatians, the covenants and who were the three extinct horns in Western Europe. Not very essential issues—but what a controversy began just over those little things. And this was prophesied, as well.

What happens if we fail to repent? “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” Revelation 2:5

All quotes from the E.G. White CD, 2007 Edition: “We must not end with a narration of the evils and the virtues of the Minneapolis meeting. We need to learn important lessons from the experience of our forefathers. These lessons need to be pointed out, meditated upon,

and acted upon, or we will be in danger of repeating the mistakes they made a century ago.

“First, we must individually humble our souls before God and put away our idols. Some have wondered whether the Seventh-day Adventist Church today should, in a General Conference action, make a formal apology to the Lord for the sins of our brethren at Minneapolis. Ellen White recognized the responsibility of leadership in correcting evils and in setting the proper spiritual tone in the church.

“But in the 27 years she lived following the Minneapolis meeting she never once suggested that we should pass an official action in which we would formally disassociate ourselves from the unChristlike attitude manifested by so many at Minneapolis. She did, however, urge the individuals involved to confess their own sins. She warned, ‘The words and actions of [all] who took part in this work will stand registered against them until they make confession of their wrong.’ ‘Repentance,’ she said, ‘is the first step that must be taken by all who would return to God.’ And, ‘no one can do this work for another. We must individually humble our souls before God and put away our idols.’

[This same lesson was applied in the attempt for reunification with the ’51 Movement approximately 20 years ago. There is no such thing as corporate repentance for individual sins.]

“Second, we should ‘pray without ceasing’ (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We cannot afford to neglect our prayer life, even for a day. Elder C. C. McReynolds described the prayerless spirit at Minneapolis: ‘In our lodging house we were hearing a good many remarks about Sister White favouring Elder Waggoner, that he was one of her pets. The spirit of controversy was up, and when the delegates came in from the last meeting of the day

there was simply babble, with much laughter and joking and some very disgusting comments were being made, no spirit of solemnity prevailing. A few did not engage in the hilarity. No worship hour was kept, and anything but the solemnity that should have been felt and manifested on such an occasion was present.’

“Because many delegates did not maintain constant connection with God, the door was opened for Satan to control their thinking for a time. We must not allow such a sad chapter to be repeated.

“Third, we should learn to love all our brethren, including those who do not share our individual interpretations of Scripture. Referring to Minneapolis, Ellen White lamented: ‘A difference in the application of some few scriptural passages makes men forget their Christian principles. Elements become banded together, exciting one another through the human passions to withstand in a harsh, denunciatory manner everything that does not meet their ideas. This is not Christian, but is of another spirit.’

“She admonished the brethren: ‘A. T. Jones and Dr. Waggoner hold views upon some doctrinal points which all admit are not vital questions. . . . But it is a vital question whether we are Christians, whether we have a Christian spirit, and are true, open, and frank with one another.’

“The law in Galatians and the 10 kingdoms of Daniel 7 were not ‘vital questions’—non-negotiables, such as the Sabbath and the investigative judgment doctrines. They were in that class of Biblical interpretations where some latitude of belief must be tolerated. *On issues that all agree are not vital, is it right to be cool toward our brethren and sisters whose views are not identical with our own?*

“To manifest an un-Christlike spirit toward those in the church who differ with us on these or similar issues is to repeat the spirit of Minneapolis. Just before the Minneapolis meeting Ellen White exhorted the brethren: ‘Heaven’s enlightenment is what is needed, so that when we look upon the faces of our brethren, we may consider: These are they that have been purchased by the price of the blood of Christ. They are precious in His sight. I must love them as Christ has loved me.’

[Surely this is good counsel for us today.]

“Fourth, we should search the Scriptures for ourselves and not allow others to do our thinking for us. At Minneapolis Ellen White could see that many of our ministers were simply following the lead of Elders Butler and

Smith in their understanding of Scripture. They were not doing their own thinking. Loyalty to Leadership—a commendable virtue—became a serious weakness when it led to following leadership blindly.

“On October 19 Ellen White cautioned the delegates: ‘Do not believe anything simply because others say it is truth. Take your Bibles, and search them for yourselves.’

“Again, on October 24, she entreated: ‘I want our young men to take a position, not because someone else takes it, but because they understand the truth for themselves.’

“And on November 3, the last Sabbath of the conference, she once more appealed to the brethren: ‘We should be prepared to investigate the Scriptures with unbiased minds, with reverence and candour. It becomes us to pray over matters of difference in views of Scripture.’

“The following day, November 4, Ellen White wrote her daughter-in-law: ‘The ministers have been the shadow and echo of Elder Butler about as long as it is healthy and for the good of the cause. . . . [Elder Butler] thinks his position gives him such power that his voice is infallible. To get this off from the minds of our brethren has been a difficult matter.’ Let us not fall into the trap of putting any man where God alone should be.

“Fifth, we should emphasize righteousness by faith in our preaching, we should make the subject as clear as crystal to our people, and we should be sure that we ourselves enjoy a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Ellen White urged: ‘Faith in Jesus Christ’s righteousness in behalf of every individual soul should be held before the people for their study and for them to contemplate thoroughly. This theme cannot be dwelt upon too often and too earnestly.’

“Probably all the delegates at Minneapolis would have insisted that they believed in the doctrine of righteousness by faith in Christ. However, many did not act or sound that way, either at the 1888 conference or in the months following. In addressing the 1889 General Conference session, Ellen White stated: ‘The true religion, the only religion of the Bible, that teaches forgiveness through the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, that advocates righteousness by the faith of the Son of God, has been slighted, spoken against, ridiculed. It has been denounced as leading to enthusiasm and fanaticism.’

“Even Uriah Smith’s thinking on the subject appeared to have been fuzzy at times. For example, he editorial-

ized in the June 11, 1889, Review: ‘The law is spiritual, holy, just, and good, the divine standard of righteousness. Perfect obedience to it will develop perfect righteousness, and that is the only way anyone can attain to righteousness. . . .’

“There is a righteousness we must have, in order to see the kingdom of heaven, which is called ‘our righteousness,’ and this righteousness comes from being in harmony with the law of God. In *Deuteronomy 6:24–25*, we read: ‘And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He hath commanded us.’ The Lord would not command them to do what He had not made adequate provision for them to do; and if they did do it, it would be their righteousness.

[Is this true and right-what Uriah Smith wrote? What do you think? Is it our righteousness that allows us to obey the law of God, and that we receive by that obedience?]

“A week after this editorial was published someone asked Ellen White, ‘What does Brother Smith’s piece in the Review mean?’ She responded publicly, ‘He doesn’t know what he is talking about; he sees trees as men walking. . . . It is impossible for us to exalt the law of Jehovah unless we take hold of the righteousness of Jesus Christ.’

“In a manuscript ‘Looking Back at Minneapolis,’ written a few weeks after the conference closed, Ellen White stated: ‘I bore testimony that the most precious light had been shining forth from the Scriptures in the presentation of the great subject of the righteousness of Christ connected with the law, which should be constantly kept before the sinner as his only hope of salvation. . . .’

“‘It is a study that can tax the highest human intelligence, that man, fallen, deceived by Satan, taking Sa-

tan’s side of the question, can be conformed to the image of the Son of the infinite God—that man shall be like Him, that, because of the righteousness of Christ given to man, God will love man, fallen but redeemed, even as He loved His Son. . . .’

“‘This is the mystery of godliness. This picture is of the highest value. It is to be meditated upon, placed in every discourse, hung in memory’s hall, uttered by human lips, and traced by human beings who have tasted and known that the Lord is good. It is to be the groundwork of every discourse.’

“‘Sister White could hardly have expressed herself more plainly and more decidedly than when she said: ‘The point which has been urged upon my mind for years is the imputed righteousness of Christ. . . .’

“‘There is not a point that needs to be dwelt upon more earnestly, repeated more frequently, or established

more firmly in the minds of all, than the impossibility of fallen man meriting anything by his own best good works. Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone.’

“‘Sixth, we should ‘despise not prophecies’ (**1 Thessalonians 5:20**). If Uriah Smith had only heeded this admonition at Minneapolis he would have saved himself and many others much

heartache. But the devil convinced Smith that Ellen White had contradicted herself. She had told J. H. Waggoner in the 1850s that his view of Galatians 3 was wrong. Now in 1888 she appeared to support the younger Waggoner, who had essentially the same view as his father.

“‘Actually, Ellen White did not take a position on Galatians 3 at the Minneapolis conference. She carefully avoided taking sides on this issue. She pointed out, in fact, that her understanding of this passage was different in some respects from that of Dr. Waggoner.

“‘But Smith was not listening. He allowed himself to brood over what he thought were Ellen White’s mistakes. His coolness toward God’s prophet continued for more than two years. Finally, on January 7, 1891, he



made a full confession. Of this Ellen White wrote: "[Brother Smith] took my hand as he left the room, and said, "If the Lord will forgive me for the sorrow and burdens I have brought upon you, I tell you this will be the last. I will stay up your hands." . . . It is seldom that Elder Smith sheds a tear, but he did weep, and his voice was choked with the tears in it.'"

But Uriah Smith could not take back all of the bad influence that he had been on others, nor the wrong ideas that he had taught and believed—many of which may exist still to this day in Adventism.

Let us remember: Just because a church is prophesied does not mean it cannot fall. Revelation chapter 3 tells us about those who are individually lukewarm and self-satisfied—what happens to them? They are spued out.

Looking back at that time, we must remember that most of those converted to Adventism were already Christians, so the leaders thought that they didn't have to preach Christ; all they had to do was preach the law—and by this, they did have success.

So when Jones and Waggoner, these two young men preached such powerful sermons on Christ and how He is the only way that we can obey the law—many of the older leaders thought it was completely unnecessary—they already had Christ, did they not?

May the good and merciful God help us to always uplift Christ in every sermon, every Bible study or lesson that we have—because indeed, He and the love of God are at the center of every doctrine that we have and hold to. Because ultimately, it comes down to this question: Who or what are we trusting in for salvation? The law—can the law alone save us? Our own obedience? If so, then we are like the Jews who leave Christ and His righteousness out. No, we must forsake even ourselves at the foot of the cross and flee to the stronghold, the tower of God's righteousness—this is our only safety.

We cannot look to any other church or individual to obtain an experience for us, to tell us what to believe, or how to practice, that which we see to be right. We must obtain that experience for ourselves through prayer, study and sharing God's word with others. We need to walk so close to Christ every day, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be enabled to have a faith that works by love to purify the soul. Amen.

Quotes taken from "1888--Issues, Outcomes, Lessons," by Robert W. Olson, secretary, EG White Estate. Originally published as a supplement to Australian Record, June 8, 1981.

Jerry Eaton

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Pastor Edward Miyoba (1920 – 2014)

Our dear Brother Miyoba passed away peacefully on Friday, 25th July, 2014 at the age of 94 years. He was born in Monze, Zambia in 1920. In 1942 he travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa where he received the message of Reformation. In 1965 he returned home in Zambia and engaged himself in the spreading of the Reformation truth in Zambia and other neighboring countries. He was the last surviving pioneer of this Reformation in Southern Africa. He served as a faithful and active President of the Zambian Union for many years.

He will be missed by many for his fatherly counsel and spiritual encouragement, but we rest in the hope of meeting him again at the second coming of our LORD in glory. "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints." Psalms 116:15. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. . .Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life." John 5:25, 28—29



Get Ready

Some time ago I had a very exciting adventure of crossing the sea to a neighbouring island aboard a ferry. When I entered inside I found many people seated, and it seemed like all their focus was on a certain presentation on television. For someone like me, coming from a landlocked and very dry country I was so excited to be surrounded by so much water that I could not sit down. All my attention was focused on the sea and I could not stop praising the greatness and power of the Creator. As the ferry was about to depart I saw some people who were idly standing outside, running and entering. One boy who came running very quickly attracted my attention. As he came running, even faster, people were praising and applauding him so loud while some were laughing at the way he was running. Unfortunately, as soon as he tried to step his foot to enter, the ferry had already started to move. He almost caught the ferry but was left behind. This scene made a very strong impact on my mind. I realized the danger of waiting for the last minute. Since he was just from the neighbourhood, it means that he was aware of the timetable of the ferry but he didn't care about the time. He thought he will reach the ferry at the last minute. This is the same situation many Christians find themselves in. We are all aware of the time we are living in; every event has been laid bare before us, but by this attitude of carelessness and indifference many will be left behind.

"Get ready, get ready, get ready. . . I saw that there was

a great work to do for them and but little time to do it." – *Early Writings*, p.64. Many think that in the future, or at an appropriate time, they will start the preparation of their characters for the heavenly kingdom. When you wait for tomorrow or the appropriate time, the truth is, that time will never come. It is best to start your preparation right now. The good part is that if you win the battle against your evil nature now, it puts you in a better position to overcome the next trial. "A preparation for the kingdom of God is no haphazard work. You cannot be religious at times and at other times irreligious." – *Medical Ministry*, p. 202

"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event." – *Early Writings*, p. 277. What a spectacle—angels were seen hurrying to and fro in heaven. How about the people whom they are ministering to? What a sad situation is seen among some of God's people! They seem not to even be alarmed, as if nothing special is about to take place. There is no sign that they are in a hurry to do anything. So many seem relaxed and comfortable in this world. How about our enemy, the devil? What is he doing?

"Satan will not yield one inch of ground except as he is driven back by the power of heavenly messengers." – *The Great Controversy*, p. 559. Ask yourself how much ground you have given him because of your indifference. If we find ourselves in such a situation we must not think we can gain eternal life. We will not be found ready when Jesus comes.

"Two women shall be grinding together . . . two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Luke 17:35–36. This is the painful part about being found ready. No matter how much you love your parents, children or even your spouse, if they do not work for their salvation with fear and trembling they will not be found ready. We might share everything as a family and have morning and evening family devotion

together every day, but that is no guarantee that all will be found ready. Obtaining salvation lies with the individual's choice to prepare when he is alone, every day. He prepares simply by studying God's word, praying for strength to live by it, and then living by his prayer. Doing this you will find that each day you will be growing in Christ and no circumstance will draw you away from the right principles and divert you from your preparation.

We must not fool ourselves by thinking we will work hard at the last minute. What happens at school represents exactly how we will also qualify for the heavenly kingdom.

As the students learn, they are given periodic tests or quizzes. The performance on these small tests gives an insight on whether one will make it through the final exam or not. After knowledge has been imparted to us, God also tries us through different ways. If every day you fail, for example, you cannot control yourself, your temper, passions, appetite or any trial, then you need to understand that in the final test you will not be able to stand. Today you need to agonize more with God so that He will add more strength to fight on and win this battle against your evil nature.

Time is very short, brethren. Think of the years wasted on sinful indulgences throughout your life since the time you accepted Christ as your personal Saviour up until today.

Oh, what a waste of time! Happy are you if you are like those people whom I found sitting in the ferry, just waiting for it to take off, when Jesus says, "Surely I come quickly." Your response will be, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Revelation 22:20. Unfortunately many have wasted years in indifference and sin, yet God is still calling them in mercy to live more fruitful years in the future. A little time is still left, although we do not know how much. Just like those people who were idly standing outside the ferry, you can rush and get inside; however, you have to start the preparation right now. Even though these people had a risk of being left be-



hind, they rushed the last minute and found their place inside. Be aware also of the challenge which lies ahead of you; what you failed to do in the time of peace, you will have to do under pressure. If you continue in sin and carelessness, waiting for tomorrow or another appropriate time, just like the boy who came running but missed the ferry, you may be left out. Then you will be heard crying, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jeremiah 8:20. Oh how sorrowful it will be to see your loved ones among the saved and you totally lost.

Therefore, my dear brethren, let us individually make up our minds and choose to give our will to God today and He will give us strength to prepare so that at His coming we will be found ready. Let each one of us "Get ready!"

*By Josephine Gwina
Sierra Leone*

LOOKING FOR YOU...

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So, because you're not a church leader, you think the following article is not for you? But it is—because everyone is a leader in some area of his or her life. Every mother and father is a leader, and so is each church officer and committee chair, and every person to whom someone else looks for advice and guidance.

God's people are organized—at the church, field, union, division and, finally, the General Conference levels. "Let none entertain the thought that we can dispense with organization. It has cost us much study and many prayers for wisdom, that we know God has answered, to erect this structure. It has been built up by His direction, through much sacrifice and conflict." —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 27–28. Throughout the church leaders are needed—men and women such as Noah, Moses, Gideon, Daniel, Paul, and James and Ellen White.

Leaders lead. "The minister should not feel that it is his duty to do all the talking and all the laboring and all the praying; he should educate helpers in every church. . . .

"In some respects the pastor occupies a position similar to that of the foreman of a gang of laboring men or the captain of a ship's crew. They are expected to see that the men over whom they are set, do the work assigned to them correctly and promptly, and only in case of emergency are they to execute in detail." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 197

A leader should be:

1. Spiritual—One does not become a spiritual leader by birth or social rank or education, but only by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. A man of vision—"Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18
3. A man of the Word—"Those who are thus appointed as overseers of the flock should be

men of good repute; men who give evidence that they have not only a knowledge of the Scriptures, but an experience in faith, in patience, that in meekness they may instruct those who oppose the truth." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 413. When a leader is too busy to spend time with God and His Word every day, he is busier than Heaven ever intended him to be!

4. Humble—"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Galatians 6:3
5. Patient—"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." James 1:19
6. Kind and understanding.
7. Meek—"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Galatians 6:1
8. Courageous.
9. Loyal to his God, his church, and his brothers and sisters.
10. Happy, with a sense of humor!

Jesus, our ideal leader, identified Himself closely with the interests and needs of others. "I have compassion on the multitude" (Matthew 15:32), He said, then set about multiplying seven loaves and a few small fishes into fare for 4,000 men and an uncounted number of women and children.

Like Christ, leaders should seek to avoid giving offense. “Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them,” He instructed Peter, “go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up.” Matthew 17:27. Then the disciple was told to take the fish to the tax collectors, not because Jesus owed tax but to prevent hurt feelings. “In every gentle and submissive way, Jesus tried to please those with whom He came in contact.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 85

Leaders may practice the golden rule in many ways. One way is to allow men to “fight in their own armor.” Remember how much better David did with his own slingshot and small stones than with Saul’s sword! Encourage those who work for you to think for themselves. “None should consent to be mere machines, run by another man’s mind. God has given us ability, to think and to act, and it is by acting with carefulness, looking to Him for wisdom, that you will become capable of bearing burdens. Stand in your God-given personality. Be no other person’s shadow. Expect that the Lord will work in and by and through you.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 498–499

A good leader will seek as well as give counsel. “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14

Leaders, work closely with your committees. Be sure you know where you are going before steering your committee there! Allow ample opportunity for committee members to speak (listen well) and know when to crystallize the thinking of the group. Be willing to yield your own plans and opinions sometimes. Be adaptable: “If you can’t lick ‘em, join ‘em.” Remember that even a chairman can be wrong.

Good leaders give second chances. The Apostle Paul threw up his hands over John Mark and insisted that the young man stay home. Barnabas, on the other hand, took Mark in tow and “sailed unto Cyprus.” Acts 15:39. “In after years his solicitude in Mark’s behalf was richly rewarded, for the young man gave himself unreservedly to the Lord. . . . Under the blessing of God, and

the wise training of Barnabas, he developed into a valuable worker.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 170

The good leader will not ask others to do what he is able but unwilling to do himself. “Let’s go,” he’ll say, instead of, “You go.”

To make a good decision, the leader will be sure he understands the problem. Then he will pray earnestly for wisdom—and obtain, write down, and study the facts carefully. To avoid repeating mistakes, he will rely upon his experience. Sometimes he will sleep over the matter and/or talk with a trusted friend. After a decision is made, the leader will accept responsibility for it.

A wise leader values time. “Only let the moments be treasured. A few moments here and a few there, that might be frittered away in aimless talk; the morning hours so often wasted in bed; the time spent in traveling. . . . the moments of waiting for meals, waiting for those who are tardy in keeping an appointment—if a book were kept at hand, and these fragments of time were improved in study, reading, or careful thought, what might not be accomplished.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 343–344

The Bible provides useful guidelines for leaders, who inevitably face problems and problem makers. “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” Proverbs 15:1

Leaders listen. “A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.” Proverbs 1:5

No leader expects to please all the people all the time. He knows criticism will come but learns from it rather than becoming upset. “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalm 119:165. Criticism may be countered with kindness: “Overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21. Critics may sometimes curse even the kindest leader, but Christ said to “bless them that curse you.” Matthew 5:44

“Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and



failings. When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person's life or character." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 492

The patient leader will not be stopped by criticism. He will consider its source and keep doing his best. He will forget or ignore unjustified criticism, leaving the criticizer in God's hands. "Everyone who has been free to condemn or discourage, will in his own experience be brought over the ground where he has caused others to

pass." —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 136

A leader becomes wise only by association with the Source of Wisdom. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5

A sermon delivered by Elder Henry Dering and recorded by Evelyn Holmstroem.

CONSECRATED LEADERSHIP

"My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the Lord." Judges 5:9

A leader loves his men and his people. Love teaches how.

A leader is not a hireling. He offers and gives himself for the men, the work—success.

A leader is not suspicious, but shows confidence in his men.

A leader identifies himself with his men and people.

A leader will visit and stay with his men.

A true leader will bear the weak on his heart and shoulders.

Where adversity strikes, the leader will be there to take the blow.

A leader anticipates the needs, and serves.

A self-centered man is unworthy of leadership.

A leader believes in his work as a calling, not a job.

A leader is unassuming, sincere, never pompous.

He leads without the people knowing that he does.

A leader is full of courage, at his best when facing opposition.

He turns cold water into steam and goes ahead.

He inspires men and oozes enthusiasm.

A leader is proficient and keeps himself up to date. He keeps ahead.

A leader never passes the blame down.

No man who has not learned to follow can be qualified to lead.

A leader's greatness rests alone in his capacity to serve.

He must be friendly, glowing, zealous.

He must pray and work!

By A. W. Staples

As in Noah's Time



While God's servants are giving the message that the end of all things is at hand, the world is absorbed in amusement and pleasure seeking. "This know also, that in the last days perilous time shall come." 1 Timothy 3:1

- Lovers of their own selves
- Blasphemers
- Disobedient to parents
- Unthankful
- Without natural affection
- Truce breakers, false accusers, etc. (2

When the people began to multiply on the earth, they began to do evil. "The the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." Genesis 6:2

That is how evil multiplied. "There were many giants, men of great stature and strength, renowned for wisdom, skillful in devising the most cunning and wonderful works; but their guilt in giving loose rein to iniquity was in proportion to their skill and mental ability. . . .

"Men put God out of their knowledge and worshiped the creatures of their own imagination; and as the result, they became more and debased." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 90

"And the LORD said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years." Genesis 6:3

So, what caused them to be destroyed?

- They put away the knowledge of God and worshiped creatures
- They worshiped idols
- They were full of violence
- The imagination of the thoughts of the hearts was only evil continually
- Polygamy had been introduced also
- Iniquity had become deep and wide spread
- The philosophers declared that it was impossible for the world to be destroyed by water, by so saying they rejected Noah's admonition.

So in the last days (our time), is it not similar to what happened in Noah's days? What will cause this earth to be destroyed?

Timothy 3:2–5)

As it was in the days of Noah, even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:10. "When the reasoning of philosophy has banished the fear of God's judgments, when religious teachers are pointing forward to long ages of peace and prosperity, and the world is absorbed in their rounds of business and pleasure, planting and building, feasting and merrymaking, rejecting God's warnings and mocking His messengers—then it is that sudden destruction cometh upon them, and they shall not escape." —*Last Day Events*, p. 233

Be careful!


In Noah's days, philosophers were declaring that it was impossible for the world to be destroyed by water; so now, there are men of such who endeavor to show that the world cannot be destroyed by fire!

Beloved brothers and sisters, whatsoever you sow, that shall you also reap!

"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also. . . in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:26, 30. The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, be ready to receive Him by exercising obedience every day and being loyal to Him. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, . . . and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:3

Anitha Ninera, Burundi

Berea Adventist Missionary Institute student



The Tower of Babel and our Time

The construction of the city and the tower of Babel in the time of Nimrod is perfectly corroborated by the events which are going on in our time. In five steps, point after point, from the beginning up to the end of Babel's adventure, we see the same phenomenon happening in our time.

IN THE TIME OF BABEL

1. Building of the City. "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, . . . and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:4. They planned this while God had directed men to disperse throughout the earth, to replenish and subdue it. In one mind, they started to build their city which would prevent the people from scattering abroad in colonies (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 119).

2. The Tower. In building the tower that would reach the heavens they had two purposes: first the tower would make their name famous, showing their power and wisdom even to the latest generation; and, second, it would make them secure in case of another flood. Openly they ignored and showed their rebellion to God, the Creator, who said: "neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth." Genesis 9:11 (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 119).

3. Success in Building the Tower. "When the tower had been partially completed, a portion of it was occupied as a dwelling place for the builders; other apartments, splendidly furnished and adorned, were devoted to their idols. The people rejoiced in their success, and praised the gods of silver and gold, and set themselves against the Ruler of heaven and earth. Suddenly the work that had been advancing so prosperously was checked." – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 119

With an exclamation, God said: "Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." Genesis 11:6

4. Confusion of Language. There was only one thing which could restrain their work and that had to come from God Himself. "Let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." Genesis 11:7. "As messages were thus passing from one to another the language was confounded, so that material was called for which was not needed, . . . All work came to a standstill. . . . Their confederacy ended in strife and bloodshed." – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 119. But still they continued in their impenitence and refused to worship and glorify the God who rules in heaven.

5. Upper Portion of Tower Broken. "Lightnings from heaven, as an evidence of God's displeasure, broke off the upper portion of the tower and cast it to the ground." – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 119. The Lord's purpose was fulfilled of scattering the people upon the face of the earth that they should go forth to found nations in different parts of the earth and carry with them a knowledge of His will, so that the light of the truth might shine undimmed to succeeding generations (*Ibid.*, p. 119–120).

OUR TIME

1. Unification of the World. With the same purpose as the construction of the city of Babel by the Antediluvians; today's world has already planned and begun such. By Sunday observance and enforcement, the papacy (Roman Catholicism), and all the forms of the fallen Protestant churches and Paganism in the world will come together, making a confederacy—in one body, one mind, and having common points of doctrine. Then the liberty of conscience which is spiritually scattering and separating people upon the face of the whole earth will be threatened. America, the one which the beast has given all the power to speak as a dragon and to exercise all the power of Rome (Revelation 13:11–12) has already pronounced the word, "Let us come together and build the city and the tower to control the universe." But only a few countries still refuse to follow, fearing to be under its supremacy

and dominion and so they impose their veto to some of America's plans; mainly the Federations of Russia and China. Americans and their allies, the Europeans, have tried to subdue many countries which can hinder their purpose. Now their main war is against RUSSIA, CHINA, IRAN, NORTH KOREA, and SYRIA which can mainly oppose their constitution. Only God knows how the present crisis of UKRAINE in the peninsula of Crimea between the Russians and the west will be ended.

2. The Tower. The tower is being built both in the pagan and Christian world.

In the Pagan World. The researchers (scientists) have well understood that the earth will not stand forever according to the way which man is using its resources, spreading of the waste and polluting its surface. Some others know very well about the Apocalypse, although they show that they don't believe it by their actions. Therefore, billions and billions of currency are used in making sophisticated telescopes and probes, and other machines for the search in space, to find among the billions of planets the one which holds out a possibility for man to live and escape from the earth. God exclaimed Himself: "Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." Genesis 11:6. If they could have had more time, they might have done something very huge in the sight of God. We are living in the period where the same sentence from the mouth of the Lord will be repeated, because if we look only from the year 2000 up to 2014, the speed of technological progress is doubled now; science is progressing very swiftly. If more time is given to these people, none can doubt that one day we will be seeing spacecraft going from one planet to another. As the Babel-builders, we also are in the period where the foundation of the tower has been already laid and now the work of construction is going higher.

In the Christian World. "There are tower builders in our time. . . . In the professedly Christian world many turn away from the plain teachings of the Bible and build up a creed from human speculations and pleasing fables, and they point to their tower as a way to climb up to heaven." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 124

3. The Deceptive Success of a Common Creed. "The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 315. "Thus saith the LORD of hosts,

Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth." Jeremiah 25:32. Under the supremacy of the United States all the nations of the world shall come together in the common belief of "**the Sunday movement**". But "Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land." Genesis 41:29–30. America and its allies will dare to cry success and uplift themselves and their belief in spiritualism; "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1Thessalonians 5:3

4. The Seven Plagues. As the construction of the tower was ended by confusion of language, these seven plagues will be more horrible to the tower-builders of today. "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth." Revelation 16:1. Instead of coming together in one objective to continue their projects, they will be troubled, tormented, scattered, and faint; no one will have a single power in this day of the Lord. But still they will blaspheme "the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds." Revelation 16:11

5. The Tower Cast to the Ground. "And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, where we were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. And the voice of harpers. . . shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, . . . of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee." Revelation 18:19, 22. The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 641

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Corinthians 10:11. Jesus said, "I come quickly." Satan also when he was cast down, sees his time is short (Revelation 12:12). As observers of the signs of the times, we have nothing to wait upon; let us open our eyes and watch the time intently so that the day of the Lord can come while we are prepared, and will not be a thief in the night for us.

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Business Transactions in the Bible

(Part 2)

JUDAS

Continuing with the theme of business transactions in the Bible, the next topic will be about one of the most well-known transactions in the Bible: the betrayal and selling of Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

“And while He yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed Him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is He: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, Master; and kissed Him. And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took Him.” Matthew 26:47–50

All four gospels mention this sad event. It is a very important part of earth’s history, as well as Christ’s church. It was the deciding point of the saving of mankind, of giving him eternal life. But let us now rewind, prior to this time, when Judas, named Iscariot, didn’t even have a thought of betraying the Saviour.

Judas was a decent man before his trip to Jerusalem. Sister White writes that, “Had Judas died, . . . he would have been regarded as a man worthy of a place among the twelve, and one who would be greatly missed.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 716. Jesus saw great potential in him, but Judas had a natural strong love for money, and had many worldly ambitions. “Judas was highly regarded by the disciples, and had great influence over them. He himself had a high opinion of his own qualifications, and looked upon his brethren as greatly inferior to him in judgment and ability. They did not see their opportunities, he thought, and take advantage of circumstances. The church would never prosper with such shortsighted men as leaders. Peter was impetuous; he would move without consideration. John, who was treasuring up the truths that fell from

Christ’s lips, was looked upon by Judas as a poor financier. Matthew, whose training had taught him accuracy in all things, was very particular in regard to honesty, and he was ever contemplating the words of Christ, and became so absorbed in them that, as Judas thought, he could not be trusted to do sharp, far-seeing business. Thus Judas summed up all the disciples, and flattered himself that the church would often be brought into perplexity and embarrassment if it were not for his ability as a manager. Judas regarded himself as the capable one, who could not be overreached. In his own estimation he was an honor to the cause, and as such he always represented himself.” – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 717



Judas was blinded to his own weakness of character. Jesus put him in a position where he might see and correct this. Jesus made him treasurer of the disciples; in this position he was called upon to provide for the needs of Jesus and the disciples, as well as relieving the necessities of the poor.

While ministering to others, Judas might have developed an unselfish spirit, but instead he slipped further into his errors and wrongdoings. The small amounts of money that would come into his hands were a very strong temptation. Whenever he did a small favour for Christ, he paid himself out of the poor fund as recompense for his “good deeds”. God saw this as thievery and Judas fell further and further into the tempter’s snare.

One day Jesus and His disciples were invited to a feast with Simon, one of the many Jesus had healed. All of them came, Judas included, and ate and had a good time. All of a sudden Mary Magdalene walked in. She searched through all the faces and found Jesus. She walked over to Him and began to cry, washing His feet with her tears, then drying them with her hair. Then with precious ointment, which took a whole year’s salary to buy, she anointed Jesus’ feet. Judas rebuked Mary, saying that this mon-

ey could have been put to the poor fund instead of being wasted on expensive perfume. Jesus replied and said, "When Jesus understood it, He said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon Me. For ye have the poor always with you; but Me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on My body, she did it for My burial. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her." Matthew 26:10–13

That was the complete turning point for Judas. He could not stand what Jesus had said to him. From that day on he looked for the perfect moment to betray his Saviour. That day came on that Passover night in the upper room. "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver Him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver." Matthew 26:14–15

This was the beginning of the overall transaction. Then Judas, the Pharisees, and the temple guards went to find Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, the place where the trade would be completed. Judas told the Pharisees that the One he would kiss was the One they were to take. The soldiers laid hold on Jesus and took Him away. The transaction was complete; Judas sold our Lord, and Jesus sold Himself to be condemned by the Father for all the sins of the world.

Judas could have been better than this. He could have been a good disciple. He could have been one of the twelve, but as we clearly see, the love of money can sometimes destroy the soul. It is my wish and prayer that we may never allow money to make us lose sight of the greatest transaction of all—the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. Amen.

Cyrus Newby

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls. Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it." Matthew 13:45–46. We are continuing on the topic of business transactions in the Bible. But, what is a business transaction? The definition that I found says the following, "the occurrence of an economic event or a condition that must be recorded in the accounting records."

My topic will be about the pearl of great price. Has anyone here ever owned a pearl or ever had one in their possession? My mother has owned pearls, and there is a story behind it. About three years ago my mother decided to make a business transaction for people in need. So, what

she did was to sell her pearls. My mother used to say that those pearls were her treasure; it made my mother sad that the store that we sold the pearls to had not given her much for them, and this money was to go to Africa. But what they gave she donated to Arica.

"The blessings of redeeming love our Saviour compared to a precious pearl. He illustrated His lesson by the parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls 'who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.' Christ Himself is the pearl of great price. In Him is gathered all the glory of the Father, the fullness of the Godhead. He is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. The glory of the attributes of God is expressed in His character. Every page of the Holy Scriptures shines with His light. The righteousness of Christ, as a pure, white pearl, has no defect, no stain. No work of man can improve the great and precious gift of God. It is without a flaw. In Christ are 'hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.' Colossians 2:3. He is 'made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.' 1 Corinthians 1:30. All that can satisfy the needs and longings of the human soul, for this world and for the world to come, is found in Christ. Our Redeemer is the pearl so precious that in comparison all things else may be accounted loss." – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 115. I hope it is the same for us.

The parable of the pearl of great price is of a man who gives all he that has to get his pearl. I don't think many people are actually willing to do this. Although it may be for a good cause, people still don't want to do it. These people are way too attracted to the riches of this world. But what does Luke 12:33 say? "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."

People don't understand this. People think that if they keep all the money to themselves they will be happy. Yes, money can buy you a lot of nice things. But all the money in the world cannot buy you happiness. Other people might wonder then, what is money's true value if it can't make you happy? Well. . . It is not the money that matters; it is how you use the money that determines its true value. These two thoughts define money perfectly. And in this case the money made the man of the parable happy because he was able to buy the pearl.

So, who would make a spiritual transaction for that pearl? I know that most of us would at least want to. To conclude, a famous actor once said, "Too many people spend money they haven't earned to buy things they don't want, to impress people they don't like." So, it is my wish and prayer that we make a good choice in our next spiritual business transaction. **Mathew Romero**





Canadian Field Conference, July 25–27, 2014



“Moreover the [workers with] familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.” 2 Kings 23:24. A great revival took place in the nation of Judah when they found the book of the Lord.

100 years ago, in the church of God, a call was made for Reform when the apostasy in the church reached the limit of the Lord’s tolerance. This was the theme for the Canadian Field conference.

On Friday evening, Brother Larry Watts shared with us the importance of the work of the Holy Spirit in the work of revival and reformation. For a revival to happen, it must indicate that something was dead and given power to become alive again. The work of the Holy

Spirit is vital for this transformation to happen. When we pray, we need to have ears to hear the answers to our prayers. Often the Holy Spirit answers our prayers in a manner that we do not expect. We need to have our ears open, and then to accept the answer, and finally to respond. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, which is vital for revival and Reformation.

Brother Timo Martin then reminded us of the importance of our heritage as Adventists and Reformers. The call to Reform came when there was a change being made in God’s church; the foundation was being torn down. We need to go back to the old paths (Jeremiah 6:16). God has a work for each one of us to do. We are not to just sit back and wait for the Lord to come, but we are to work. If we continue to advance, then the end result will be perfection. In the near future, the whole world will be against God’s faithful commandment-keeping people who are keeping the



Sabbath as the Lord commanded. Brother Timo reviewed for us the future events that will soon take place on this earth. It will be a trying time for God's people, but we must prepare today; one way to prepare is by proper Sabbath keeping, which can only be accomplished by the Holy Spirit. We are responsible for our children also on the Sabbath day. Today we must be faithful in our duties if we wish to be ready for tomorrow's trials.

For the Divine Service on Sabbath, Brother Watts shared some more inspiration regarding reform. If there is a revival amongst God's people, they will turn the world upside down as did the apostles. "And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also." Acts 17:6

There are many reformers (true and false) in the world, who are reforming—wanting to re-form, or change—the current methods of doing things. Lucifer was the first reformer. He tried to reform the society of heaven. He lost that effort and came and continued his work here. Because of the changes he made on this earth, a reform was again needed and God wasted no time in getting on with the work of reform; a reform for the better.

"Revival and reformation go hand in hand. Reformation accomplishes revival. "A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the

powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend." —*The Review and Herald*, February 25, 1902

For a true revival in our lives, we need to connect with God. When Adam sinned, he ran from God. He was not looking for God, but God was looking for him. We too have sinned, and need to change our ideas and connect with God again. And once we are connected we are sent as missionaries. In Jesus' parting words to His followers, He told them to go and make disciples of men. God is calling us today to make a reform.

In the afternoon, the young people and children blessed us with interesting biographies of song writers and the message behind many of the songs that were written. These songs had great meaning in the lives of these people.

Brother Woonsang Kang, had the privilege of travelling to Friedensau, Germany in the month of May to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Symposium regarding the war issue. He shared with us some of his experiences and reminded us of the history of the Reformation. There can be no reconciliation with apostasy; no compromise. What makes us the church of God today is our ability to teach and defend the law of God, to the point of death.



Brother Oscar Oviedo made an appeal to the young people. The youth need to be trained to be an army for the Lord. Satan is making war with the youth. When people are young, they are more adaptable and able to move from place to place and to travel. That is why the Lord needs the youth in His army. Jesus put together His army when He was on this earth and it consisted of 12 men whom He trained to go and preach. Again the thought was expressed that the answers to our prayers do not always come in the way we expect. The disciples, on the way to Emmaus, did not expect Jesus to come in the manner that He did. He gave them a Bible study and they stated that their hearts burned. We need to have the same experience. We need to have a revival and reformation and the comparison was made to the time of Nehemiah, when a lay person had a burden for the work of the Lord, and he acted on it. We need our youth to be as Nehemiah.

Sunday morning found us at the lakeshore as we witnessed five dear sisters make their covenant with the Lord through baptism.

Brother Renzo Suarez then encouraged us with our responsibilities of discipleship. What does it mean to be a disciple? Being a disciple means to know and to preach Jesus. To know Jesus we must communicate with Him. When Jesus was on this earth and called His disciples, they did not hesitate to answer the call. From the fishermen to the tax collectors, they left all and followed Jesus, and they were not all men who were poverty stricken. Once we have become disciples, Jesus' commission for us is that we go and make disciples of others. If we are truly filled with the Spirit we cannot wait to bring souls to Christ. This will be our greatest desire.

The work of revival and reformation begins with the individual. This thought was expressed by Brother Elder Hernandez. We are individually called to work for the Lord. Each person has different talents, and have been given different gifts. Some preach, others teach. We are to get out of our comfort zone and work for the Lord. We will not be happy just warming a pew in church every week. We all need to begin with having passive faith—praying and listening to the Lord—and end with an active faith—putting into practice what the Lord has told us to do. Each individual should discover their gifts (Romans 12) and find out how to be involved in the work of the Lord. The gifts are given to the church for the perfecting of the saints and each member must individually use their gifts for the service of the Lord.

Brother Morris Lowe wrapped up the conference in the final meeting by reviewing the subjects studied, and the progression and importance of revival and reformation. He stressed the importance of love. Without love, you cannot fulfil the law. Love is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:8). If you fall in love with the Lord, you will be able to keep all the commandments of God. The Lord calls us to be repairers of the breach, not only in practical godliness, but in our love to one another.

With the ending of the conference, we all left truly blessed with the fellowship that was experienced and the solemn messages and appeals that were made. The appeal is made for all of God's children world-wide that each person individually responds to the call for revival and reformation in their lives, and use the gifts and talents that have been given to them for God's honour and glory. And most of all—to love. Amen.



CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE



CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION CEDARTOWN, GEORGIA



Left: Believers from Asia

Below: Believers from Brazil



**Left:
Leaders in
Africa
send
greetings
to those
who
attended
the
Commemo-
ration.**



A Hymn of Trust

Trust in God. The trees and flowers
Spring to life through nature's bowers.
Verdant green, for brown decay,
Clothes the field in rich array.

**Trust the Hand that moves the earth,
Trust the One who gave it birth;
Spring a resurrection brings,
Telling us of heavenly things.**

**Nature's book has stories true,
Ever changing, ever new.
Art can only faintly trace
Little gems from Nature's face.**

**It is ethereal depths of blue,
Azure curtains ever new
Seem to hide from mortal sight
Homes of bliss, and worlds of light.**

**Ah! The works of God are grand;
Infinite the skill that planned
Mountain height or shady dell,
Ocean crest or tiny shell.**

**Sweet to trust, and sweet to rest
On the cradle of His breast
Who, with true and loving hand,
Rolls the seasons at command.**

P. Alderman