


The Reformation
Messenger 

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

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*"Remember the Sabbath day,
to keep it holy."*

Exodus 20:8

"Our world is a vast globe which makes a complete revolution upon its axis once every twenty-four hours. In consequence of this, it is night to a portion of its inhabitants while it is day to the other portion. The day is therefore twelve hours earlier on one side of the globe than it is upon the other. And unless we can fix some line, or point, or place, from which to begin the reckoning of the day, we are thrown into confusion as to the definite day. Moreover, those who circumnavigate the globe in one direction gain a day by the operation; while those who sail around it in the opposite direction lose a day. We cannot, indeed, actually gain a day, nor is it possible for us really to lose one. It would therefore be more correct for us to speak of adding a day to our reckoning, or of dropping a day from it, than to speak of a day as actually lost or gained. We drop a day in circumnavigating the globe from east to west. This is done by going with the sun, and thus prolonging the time that it remains above the horizon. By this means we make each of our days a fraction more than twenty-four hours long. And in the complete circuit of our globe, we thus use up one entire period of twenty-four hours. And we add a day to our reckoning by going round the world from west to east. For as we thus travel in a direction opposite to the sun, we make the period of sunlight each day a fraction less to ourselves than it would have been had we remained stationary. And so also of the night, which we shorten in the same manner. As we thus take a fraction from each period between the successive sunsets, we do, in the complete circuit of the globe, thus save one day as the sum total of these fractions, though we have had no more real time than those who remained at home, whose reckoning is one day less than ours.

"Or to state it in another form: If we travel in the same direction with the motion of the earth, we gain one revolution of the sun by going ourselves one time more around the earth's axis than do those who, during the same time, remain in their own land. And, again, if we travel in the direction opposite to the motion of the earth, i.e., if we go as the sun appears to go, from east to west, we actually make one revolution around the

earth's axis less than do those who remain at home. For as we travel against the motion of the earth, our circuit of the globe offsets one of the revolutions which the earth has made on its axis during this time. As a consequence, those who go round the world eastward are, when they arrive at their starting point, one day

in advance of the reckoning of those who live in the country from which they started. And those who go around it in a westerly direction come out one day behind the reckoning of their own country.

"These considerations are supposed to prove that the observance of the definite seventh day is impossible, and that the fourth commandment requires, not the seventh day, but the seventh part of time. But before adopting a conclusion which compels us to deny some of the plainest statements of the Bible. . . .

"'The Sabbath was made for man.' Mark 2:27

"God, who made our world, made it of a globular form, and made man to dwell on all the face of it. And that the creation of the world might be commemorated, He set apart the seventh day of the week, because He rested upon it from that work, to be observed by the human family as the Sabbath of the Lord. . . . Wherever in the providence of God men are placed, the definite seventh day is to be found, and can be kept by those who are so minded. The observers of the first day of the week have attempted to show, in the things above examined, that the observance of a definite day is impossible, because the days of the week are indefinite and uncertain. The real intent of their action is to excuse themselves for not observing the day enjoined in the commandment. . . . The excuse is without foundation in truth; and we close by calling attention to the remarkable fact, that, whereas Sunday-keepers, who have a definite day to celebrate in their 'first day of the week,' have much to say concerning the impossibility of keeping a definite day the world over, no observer of the seventh day, wherever situated, whether Hebrew or Christian, ever found any difficulty of this kind in keeping the definite rest-day of the great Creator." —*The Definite Seventh Day*, p. 1, 15

J.N. Andrews

J.N. Andrews wrote an entire book about the Sabbath entitled *History of the Sabbath and the First Day of the Week*.

Our Greatest Danger



We are Reform Adventists. We keep the Sabbath, we pay our tithes, we are vegetarians, and we also do missionary work. We would not kill anyone, or steal anything, nor would we speak a lie. But there is one danger to us as Reformers and that is self-righteousness. Sister White writes, "There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 154

Jesus said, "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." Luke 18:11–12

A self-righteous person feels that he is better and holier than others, and he is proud of it. Self-righteousness is what brought destruction to the city of Jerusalem. It is Satan's deception into which many fall. If Satan cannot tempt them to do other sins, he makes them feel that they are better than others, and this spiritual pride separates them from God.

"There are hindrances to be removed. Wrong feelings have been cherished, and there have been pride, self-sufficiency, impatience, and murmurings. All these separate us from God." —*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 350

A self-righteous person may not realize that he is separated from God. He continues his self-righteous religion, being blinded to his condition.

Also, self-righteous people condemn others, even to the point that they start persecuting those who believe different doctrines. Paul was seeking and bringing all who believed that Jesus was the Messiah to prison and to death, thinking that he was serving God by doing so.

The Catholic Church killed over 50 million Christians who did not believe in the Catholic teachings. This shows how far self-righteousness can lead someone to hating others. It begins with small things, and the self-righteous person often does not realize what he/she is doing, because they are blinded. Peter learned to know himself after he had denied Jesus. When the eyes of Peter met the eyes of Jesus and Peter saw no anger in Jesus' eyes, even though he had denied that he knew Him. Peter's heart was touched and afterwards he wept bitterly. Now he was truly converted. His self-righteousness was gone. The eyes of Paul were opened when he met Jesus on the way to Damascus. Jesus did not show anger towards him, even though he was on the way to bring Christian prisoners to Jerusalem. Paul learned to know himself, and that is why he called himself the chief of sinners. His self-righteousness was also gone at that moment. He became a great missionary for the rest of his life.

Self-righteousness puts a person in a lukewarm condition. They will be blinded and will not see, or recognize, their true condition. Therefore, they may not be desperately seeking God's help. If self-righteous people would realize their fallen condition, they would hunger and thirst after righteousness. All who do so will be filled.

If we remain for a long time in a self-righteous condition, eventually it will become sin against the Holy Spirit, and our salvation will be gone forever. The best way to know ourselves and see our real condition is to see, and think, of Christ's suffering and dying on the cross, and then compare His life to our own.

Isaiah writes, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do

fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” Isaiah 64:6

Anything we do ourselves in our human power is not the righteousness of Christ. His righteousness goes beyond the Ten Commandments. It includes the second mile. The Ten Commandments do not say that the innocent is to take the punishment of the guilty, but Jesus did it. We are also to sacrifice for others and to even love our enemies.

“All heaven is astonished at the terrible indifference of the human agents. Men who are themselves tempted to fall into sin, and need pardon, are yet full of self-sufficiency, and are unfeeling toward a brother who is ensnared by the enemy, and whose need and peril should call out Christlike sympathy and effort to plant his feet on the solid Rock.

“There is a most fearful, fatal deception upon human minds. Because men are in positions of trust, connected with the work of God, they are exalted in their own estimation, and do not discern that other souls, fully as precious in the sight of God as their own, are neglected, and handled roughly, and bruised, and wounded, and left to die.” – *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 356

The Laodicean angel, which is the leaders of the church, fell into self-righteous blindness. “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Revelation 3:17

Yet there is hope for a person who has fallen into such a condition. The next verse, Revelation 3:18 says, “I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”

The following verse tells us what God will do to help us to escape the danger of self-righteousness. “As many as

I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” Revelation 3:19

We need to be thankful for the rebuke and chastening of the Lord; He does it because He loves us. If we complain and murmur, then God has to leave us alone. God said to Ancient Israel, “Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against Me.” Numbers 14:29

Mary Magdalene did not understand how Jesus could forgive all her sins; then she beheld the cross and understood that Jesus took her place upon it, that she can go free. She realized the price Jesus had to pay for her forgiveness. This won her heart and she became one of His most loyal followers.

This is the theme that we can never fully understand. If we keep the scenes of Calvary before our eyes daily, then this world will lose its attractiveness to us. All what the world offers seem to us as vain and empty.

The marvellous truth is that all what we learn of Christ and His character is being offered to us in one gift—the righteousness of Christ; the goodly pearl, for which the merchant man was willing to sell all that he had in order to purchase. The price seems high but what we get is a million times more valuable.

May the Lord help that this robe of righteousness that Christ offers will not be a robe unworn, nor the fountain of life be untouched but that we all, like the Apostle Paul, will be willing to pay the price to receive the fullness of God for ourselves.

We must avoid like leprosy this danger of self-righteousness, which can end up as sin against the Holy Spirit. In the finishing work in this world, God will not use any self-sufficient, self-righteous persons. Sister White writes that, “The Lord uses humble men to proclaim His messages.” –

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 253. Jesus will teach us true humility; He said that He is meek and lowly. Amen. **Timo Martin**





When someone asks the question “why?” it is because they are looking for an answer to something they do not know, but are interested in knowing. Young children, as they are growing up, are full of wonderment and ask many questions beginning with the word “why?” When they ask this question, they are hoping to get a response beginning with, “because.” Sometimes we wonder about something and there is no real answer and we continue wondering. There is no “because.” For example, when a parent has given all their time, effort and means to raise a child and this child rejects the parents as they age, or turn to a life of crime—totally opposite to the principles they were raised with, the parents wonder and ask “why?” Where did they go wrong? Or did they? Is there no “because” answer?

There are times when there is a clear “because,” answer to the “why?” question. When the Lord gives clear guidelines and commands, and we choose to do something else, things may not go so well. At these times we may be led to ask the Lord “why?” and He may give us a “because” answer.

The captives who returned from Babylon likely wondered why their crops were failing. The Lord, in His mercy, told them there was a reason. “Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts.” The answer was, “Because of Mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.” Haggai 1:9. There was a reason that their personal interests did not prosper. It was because they were putting their own personal interests ahead of the Lord’s interests so the Lord, “did blow upon it.” Have we been guilty of the same? Has the Lord blown up on our interests?

When we sin and things go wrong, if we ask God

“why?” He may say, “Why criest thou for thine affliction? thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee.” Jeremiah 30:15. Rather than always going to ask the Lord “why?” perhaps we should ask *ourselves* “why?” Have we done anything to bring upon ourselves these negative consequences? For example, are we sick because we have violated the laws of health? Or struggling financially because we have not been faithful in our financial obligations to the Lord?

It is at these times of difficulty that we are tempted to say, “Why standest Thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest Thou Thyself in times of trouble?” Psalm 10:1. “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? why art Thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? Psalm 22:1. Perhaps the Lord may seem to be standing afar. Maybe it is, “your iniquities have separated between you and your God,” Isaiah 59:2. He is closer, however, than you may realize and He may have a “because” answer for you as He did the nation of Judah.

Joshua wondered why the army of Israel suffered defeat at the hands of the men of Ai after the remarkable victory in Jericho. The Lord gave him a “because” answer. It was because there was sin in the camp of Israel—Achan had stolen something that was not his to have. Joshua then asked Achan, “Why hast thou troubled us?” Nothing is recorded as to what Achan responded; we do, however, read of his punishment. “The LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.” Joshua 7:25. Our sin may affect more than just ourselves; it may affect the entire church. They why sin?

In the wilderness it is recorded of Ancient Israel that on several occasions they said they did not understand the

will of God in bringing them out of Egypt, although they should have. “Ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?” Numbers 11:20. “And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? It is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.” Numbers 20:4–5. I am sure many of us have been tempted to doubt the Lord’s leading if things are not going according to our plans. “Why should I keep Sabbath when I cannot find employment? Is it really that important?” The Lord says to continue going forward and upward, regardless of the circumstances around you and do not doubt His leading, or the importance of obeying His law. Do not always ask “Why?” Just obey. Abraham never asked the Lord “why?” when he was asked to sacrifice his only son. He just obeyed, and in the end he was greatly blessed.

The prophet Jeremiah had a message that was not very popular. The people did not want to hear it nor believe it. In fact, they vehemently opposed his message at times and asked him, “Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant? And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.” Jeremiah 26:9. But the Lord had His own “why” questions to ask in response to the people’s questionings. “Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.” Jeremiah 8:5. “Why have they provoked Me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities?” Jeremiah 8:19. The question of “why?” was asked many times by the Lord before the nation of Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonians. Why did they choose not to serve Him? There is no “because” answer recorded in the Bible that the people gave in answer to the Lord’s questions.

Jeremiah basically told the King of Judah to surrender to a foreign power if he and his people wanted to live. “I spake also to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live. *Why will ye die*, thou and thy people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the LORD hath spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? Therefore hearken not unto the

words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you.” Jeremiah 27:12–14 (emphasis mine). I am sure many in Israel were wondering why they should surrender, and were doubting the validity of Jeremiah’s message. It just did not make sense. They were God’s holy nation and surely He would protect them from evil and would not expect them to surrender. However, they were wrong; the Lord did expect them to surrender to Babylon. The Lord clearly told them what they had to do to live, but still they chose their own way, so He simply asked them, “Why will ye die?” The Lord was true to His words that He spoke through His prophet. Sometimes the ways of the Lord do not seem to make sense to us, but we cannot doubt or question. We have to obey. Is the Lord asking you also, “Why will ye die?”

The Lord often wonders why we do not trust Him at all times—in good times and difficult times. It takes faith to trust His leading in times of trouble. He is the Omnipotent God that has ultimate control of all the universe. “And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of Man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!” Matthew 8:26–27. Are you fearful? Do you have little faith?

Although, we do not always understand the ways of the Lord, that is no reason to doubt His leading. Job likely wondered why he was going through all his trials. In the end he had a deeper understanding of the love and mercy of God. Job said, “the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.” Job 1:21–22

IN CHURCH RELATIONS

In church relations, the question of “why?” is raised in different scenarios. However, the root cause is always associated with different kinds of sin.

“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Romans 14:10

“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” Matthew 7:3

The Apostle Paul related the experience of Moses. When Moses saw two Israelites fighting, he said, “Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?” Acts 7:26. It has happened in God’s church where some

have been fighting against their brethren. We saw it happen with the SDA believers in time of World War I. There have been many who have left the church of God who have had this spirit. The Lord separates the chaff from the wheat in His time.

The Pharisees did not understand Jesus' mission. He just did not do things according to their way of thinking. "Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?" Matthew 9:11. Is there favouritism seen in your church?

I pray that the Lord does not need to ask these "why?" questions to you personally or to your local church. If He did, what would you answer Him?

WHY TARRY?

Then the Lord asks us why we are standing around tarrying when there is work to do. "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11. The angels encouraged the disciples to stop just standing and looking. Jesus will come back soon enough; however, at the moment, there was a great work for them to do. Many like to listen and observe good religious meetings and sermons, which is well and good, but there is a time to stop just sitting and listening and a time to get up and go to work.

Also, there are some people who know and understand the truths but are slow in making their decision to be baptized and fully consecrated to the Lord. If you are one of these people the Lord is asking you, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16. What excuse will you offer the Lord if He asks you?

Some may delay for many years and "kick against the pricks," as did Saul. But finally one day Saul yielded "And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me? Whatever you have done to the least of these my brethren you have done it unto Me." Acts 9:4. Not all do yield. Delay can be deadly.

WHY SIN?

Not every "why?" question has a clear "because" answer. The Lord asks, "Oh, why are the human agents so

ready to yield to temptation? So irresolute in purpose, so weak to practise the word of God? Why are they so feeble in action? Why is the glory of Jesus so dimly seen? Why is His preciousness so little realized, His love so imperfectly experienced?" —*Testimonies to Southern Africa*, p. 47. "Ye have not obeyed My voice: why have ye done this?" Judges 2:2. What kind of answer can be given? Is there an answer? Is the Lord asking you these questions?

There is one big "why?" that many serious Christians wonder about at one point in time and it is, "Why did sin enter?" What caused Lucifer to doubt the love of God and rebel against His authority? There is no answer to this question. And many evil rulers on this earth have followed in his footsteps. "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." Psalm 2:1–3. Again, is there any answer?



The God of heaven asks "why?" He has given all of heaven for the salvation of man yet still the majority reject His offers of mercy. From the very beginning of this earth's history God was asking this question of "why?" "And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?" Genesis 4:6. The Lord saw the discontent on the face of Cain and asked him

"Why?" The Lord had given specific instructions on how to worship and what sacrifices to give. Cain chose to do things his own way; not the way of the Lord. When the Lord did not accept his service, what reason did he have for being upset with the Lord? Jesus can always read the thoughts and see the troubled countenance and He may come to you and ask, "Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?" Luke 24:38. What reason do we have to doubt or be discouraged when He is in control of our lives? *Is He in control; have you fully surrendered?*

When we sin, and the Lord asks us "why?" do we have a "because" answer to give Him? Yes, people come up with all kinds of excuses ("because"); they blame others as did Adam and Eve; they blame circumstances; they blame human weakness; and the list goes on and on. In the world people mockingly say, "The devil made me do

it." Is that an excuse? "The strongest temptation is no excuse for sin. No matter how severe the pressure brought to bear upon you, sin is your own act. The seat of the difficulty is the unrenewed heart." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 433. "Can we not understand that the most costly thing in the world is sin? It is at the expense of purity of conscience, at the cost of losing the favor of God and separating the soul from Him, and at last losing heaven." —*Faith and Works*, p. 17. Why on earth would anyone want to sin? This is a mystery.

Not even ignorance can be excused. We live in a world of "enlightenment" with Bibles freely available in most parts of the world. "Ignorance is no excuse for error or sin, when there is every opportunity to know the will of God." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 597. Some have stopped studying God's word for fear of what more He may require of them. They prefer to keep a quiet conscience. The Lords asks them, "why?"

Satan has fed people so many lies that they have believed—lies about the love of God, the excitement of the world, hell fire is nothing to be so fearful about, heaven is boring, and that it is impossible to overcome sin. Why on earth would people want to listen to him and not the word of God?

When the laws of health are violated, the Lord asks, "Why shouldst thou destroy thyself? why shouldst thou die before thy time?" Ecclesiastes 7:16–17. He has told us how to eat to be healthy. Why? He wonders, would you want to poison your body and be sickly?

The angels also ask "why?" They are wondering how mankind could reject the love of God so freely given. "Our heavenly Father waits to bestow upon us the fullness of His blessing. It is our privilege to drink largely at the fountain of boundless love. What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children, and yet there is much manifest reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God. What can the angels of heaven think of poor helpless human beings, who are subject to temptation, when God's heart of infinite love yearns toward them, ready to give them more than they can ask or think, and yet they pray so little and have so little faith? The angels love to bow before God; they love to be near Him. They regard communion with God as their highest joy; and yet the children of earth, who need so much the help that God only can give, seem satisfied to walk without the light of His Spirit, the companionship of His presence." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 94. Why?

Is the Lord asking you today, "Why do ye these things?" Acts 14:15. If so, what answer will you give Him? Perhaps before the Lord asks you this questions, you should ask yourself the question of "why?" When you are about to do something that you know the Lord would not be pleased with, stop and ask yourself "why . . . why am I doing this?"

In the end when people are lost, will they be asking God "why?" No, "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth." Philippians 2:10. "All see that their exclusion from heaven is just." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 668

This is the Lord's answer to "why sin?" He states that there is sin, "because" . . . but He does not state what motivated a person to sin in the first place. "The reason why we have so few men of good mind, of stability and solid worth, is that God is not feared, God is not loved, the principles of religion are not carried out in the life as they should be." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 507. Here we are given a reason as to why there are few people with good solid faith in God. But, why?

"The world today is in crying need of a revelation of Christ Jesus in the person of His saints. God desires that His people shall stand before the world a holy people. *Why—because* there is a world to be saved by the light of gospel truth; and as the message of truth that is to call men out of darkness into God's marvelous light is given by the church, the lives of its members, sanctified by the Spirit of truth, are to bear witness to the verity of the messages proclaimed." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 458 (emphasis mine)

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: *for why will ye die*, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." Ezekiel 18: 30–32 (emphasis mine).

Why will you die? Surrender to the Lord and live. Amen.

Wendy Eaton





Searching for the Lost Around Us

Based on *Christian Service*,
pages 46-57



Could it be possible that the precious souls I am looking for in far distant lands are to be found near me? I wonder where the best place to work for Jesus is? We have studied during this month a wonderful message. The field, in this dream, is the world; and the berries are the people we should find and bring to Christ. Sister White had a dream in which the Lord showed her the importance of paying attention to those around us. Just like in that dream some people run far away thinking they will find precious souls when they run faster than others, while there are precious ones to be found in their houses, neighbourhoods, among school mates or work mates. There are some people who think that amusement or entertainment is part of this work and they view it as of less importance to search for the lost. In other words, some people in this dream are acting in a careless way with the things which are so valuable in God's sight. The good news is that there is a group of people, a special group, who put all their efforts into searching for the lost. They act with love, patience and long suffering. They bear with lost souls until these souls personally get to know Jesus and receive Him as their personal Saviour.

What is the lesson I can personally take and apply to my life and to my local church from the reading? The best way to answer this question is to read the Bible and see if there is a similar teaching that Christ gave in His time to His listeners that can apply to our time. Jesus spoke a parable about a lost coin in Luke chapter 15. In this par-

able, the silver coin, like the Roman denarius, was equivalent to a day's wage. The home of the poorer class of society was usually small, with dirt floors and few windows. Finding a lost coin in a dark and dusty place would not be easy work at all; and something interesting we notice also is that the coin was lost in the house. From this parable there is a lesson for us both as individuals and as a church. This lesson is that we have a work to do, and this work is not easy; but in the end it will be greatly rewarded if we do it faithfully. Start this work in your own house. Look around you and see if there is one soul who does not know Jesus and the salvation provided, and bring him or her to Jesus' feet. This is the only place where someone can find true peace.

The signs of the time are fast fulfilling and the crisis is just before us. What are we doing? In Matthew 24, Jesus gave us a description of the events that will take place just prior to His second coming when each inhabitant of the earth will be greatly tested. None of us will be excluded from that crisis which is called "the crisis of the ages". Satan and his confederacy are now working with all their power, knowing that their time is almost finished. Very soon God's grace and mercy will be over and the probationary time will be closed—it will be a time in which no one will be able to repent of their sins. The destiny of every single person in the world will be settled forever, for life eternal or for eternal death. Revelation 22:11 makes this statement very clear. We

are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events with prophecies fulfilling. The only way we can make sure we will not be deceived by the enemy is to be anchored in Christ and give attention to His word, the Bible, and writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. God loves us very much and longs for the day in which you and I, through the merits of Jesus, can live eternally. Why does God allow calamities to come upon this world? It is because this world is not our home. This world became the battlefield of Satan and his confederacy against the children of God.

For the sake of those who love and long for the coming of their Saviour, God is love and love is the answer to the rebellion. The destiny of each person will be settled for ever. God respects the choice people make while they are alive, whether they choose life or death. When God created man and woman in His likeness He created them with a free will. They can choose to love and obey their Creator. If we love Jesus and obey Him, doing His will, then we are preparing ourselves for eternity. As we see the spiritual condition of many professed Christians in the world today and how Satan has blinded their eyes, there remains one thing for us to do. We need to pray, asking the Lord to wake us up from our spiritual sleep which leads to death. We must pray that we see ourselves as He sees us, and repent of our sins and then do the work diligently that He has entrusted to us.

Through diligent Bible study, one can be found faithful while waiting for the return of Jesus. The message of

the historical, prophetic and Apocalyptic Elijah should be our message today in order to prepare the way for the Messiah's second coming. The apostasy prevailing today is similar to what it was in Ancient Israel in the prophet's day. A clear message should be given. People should know for themselves what sanctification means in this special time in which we live—the time of the judgement. Our church members should know for themselves what Jesus requires from them according to the knowledge and privileges they have been given. They should know for themselves what it means to serve God with all heart, mind, and soul.

In closing, I just want to encourage you to serve the Lord with the talents He has given you and let us stretch out our hands one to another that we might resist the Devil and his temptations; that we may present a united front in the proclamation of the Gospel with its final message—the three angel's messages in Revelation 14.

My dear youth, brothers and sisters around the world, let us hear the voice of God as His watchmen and give a certain sound to the people in our homes, churches and places of work so that they may know God and fear (or respect) Him because the day of Jesus' coming is approaching.

May this message be for God's glory and our salvation, Amen!

Canadian Field Missionary Department

“Wickedness is reaching a height never before attained, and yet many ministers of the gospel are crying, ‘Peace and safety.’ But God's faithful messengers are to go steadily forward with their work. Clothed with the panoply of heaven, they are to advance fearlessly and victoriously, never ceasing their warfare until every soul within their reach shall have received the message of truth for this time. . . .

“There are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.” –*Christian Service*, pp. 55–57

A Heath in the Desert

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.” Jeremiah 17:5–6

“This is precisely the condition of those who have not a vital connection with Christ. They seem to be ever working at cross-purposes with God, and are so full of jealousy, evil surmising, discord, and strife—Satanic attributes—that they are constantly lying against the truth; they are not doers of the words of Christ. Yet many church-members are in this very position. They dwell, as it were, in the salt land, in a parched wilderness.” —*The Review and Herald*, February 23, 1897

“This is a representation of the man who does not humble his heart before the Lord, and give up his will to the will of God. This man has lost his discernment, and can not be trusted. And because he has rejected the warnings of God, he has greatly hindered the work of the Lord. He shall ‘inhabit the parched places of the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.’” —*North Pacific Union Gleaner*, December 18, 1907

“How few appreciate the matchless love that He has manifested! He proclaims Himself as merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. Those who come to Him, He pardons abundantly. Shall we be like the heath in the desert, that knoweth not when good cometh? Shall we not from the fullness of our gratitude render praise and glory to God, like the one who returned and bowed in his humility at the feet of Jesus? We do not want to be represented by the

nine who went right on their way in indifference, and did not return to glorify Him who had restored them to perfect health.” —*The Signs of the Times*, May 6, 1889

“We grieve our Heavenly Father when we are unmindful of His mercies—like the heath in the desert ‘that knoweth not when good cometh.’” —*The Adventist Review and Herald*, April 18, 1907

“He has given all the riches of heaven to redeem them, and yet they are unmindful of His great love. By their ingratitude they close their hearts against the grace of God. Like the heath in the desert they know not when good cometh, and their souls inhabit the parched places of the wilderness.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 348

“There were many who testified that as the searching truths had been presented, they had been convicted in the light of the law as transgressors. They had been trusting in their own righteousness. Now they saw it as filthy rags, in comparison with the righteousness of Christ, which is alone acceptable to God. While they had not been open transgressors, they saw themselves depraved and degraded in heart. They had substituted other gods in the place of their Heavenly Father. They had struggled to refrain from sin, but had trusted in their own strength. We should go to Jesus just as we are, confess our sins, and cast our helpless souls upon our compassionate Redeemer. This subdues the pride of the heart, and is a crucifixion of self. In the parable, [Prodigal son in Luke chapter 15] the father saw the returning prodigal son. He saw his repentance and contrition of soul, and he had compassion on him, and ran, and fell on his neck and kissed him. The son spoke his penitence, saying, ‘Father, I have sinned against Heav-

en, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' The prodigal made a full confession of his sin. He made no excuse for his wrong-doing, and he was forgiven, and re-established in his father's house.

"We thank the Lord, we rejoice, that it is not too late for wanderers to return, with humble confession, and receive a welcome in the Father's house—to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. I thank God for this with a full heart every day. We should be the most ungrateful of His creatures, were we indifferent when He works for the children of men in such a marvelous way. We should be like the heath in the desert, if we did not praise God when good cometh. . . . and if the angels rejoice, why should not we who have also witnessed the return of wanderers from darkness into the marvelous light of God's love?

"To know God is the most wonderful knowledge that men can have. There is much wisdom with worldly men; but with all their wisdom, they behold not the beauty and majesty, the justice and wisdom, the goodness and holiness, of the Creator of all worlds. The Lord walks among men by His providences; but His stately stepplings are not heard, His presence is not discerned, His hand is not recognized. The work of Christ's disciples is to shine as lights, making manifest to the world the character of God. They are to catch the increasing rays of light from the word of God, and reflect them to men enshrouded in the darkness of misapprehension of

God. The servants of Christ must rightly represent the character of God and Christ to men. Says the apostle, 'Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.'" —*The Adventist Review and Herald*, March 5, 1889

"When we are not connected with God, we are like the heath of the desert, for the natural heart is 'deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?' We should pray as did the psalmist, 'Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways: and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness.'

These are words that should be hung in memory's hall." —*The Adventist Review and Herald*, April 16, 1889

Ellen G. White



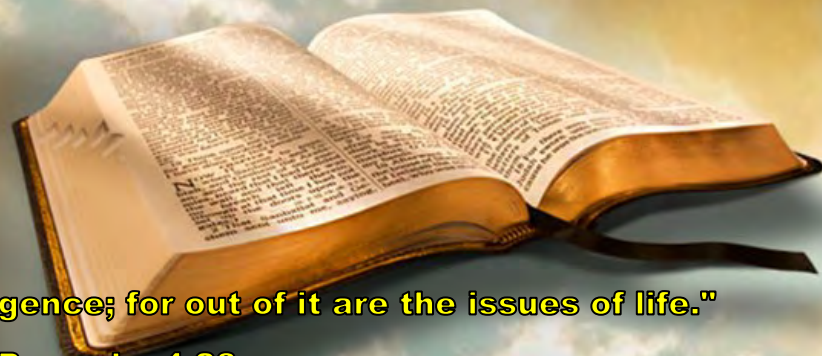
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Antivirus for the Heart-drive



"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Proverbs 4:23

A COMPUTER

A computer is an electronic device that performs tasks or calculations based on a set of instructions, also called programs. This is done through the interaction of hardware and software; hardware refers to computer parts you can see and touch such as the case and everything inside it; whereas software refers to the programs that tell the hardware what to do. Some of the most important hardware components of a computer are the Central Processing Unit (CPU), Random Access Memory (RAM), and the Hard drive or Hard disk. The CPU is the brain of a Computer—It does the processing of data and instructions, RAM works hand in glove with the CPU by acting as the Primary memory for the computer. All instructions and data to be processed are loaded into RAM. The internal Hard drive serves as the main secondary storage where all programs such as a Music Player, a Word Processor, etc. are installed, and data such as pictures, documents, videos, etc. are stored. Every operational computer has one most important system program called the Operating System (OS) which manages the computer and everything connected to it. The operating system also resides on the Hard drive.

A HUMAN

In the human body we can think of the brain as physically being the CPU, the RAM and the Hard drive, however the logical separation still exists. The brain has the reasoning component (CPU), the short term memory (RAM), and the long term memory, which we can think of as the Hard drive; but this is not a one to one mapping; it is merely given here to illustrate a concept. The Bible creates this distinction as well when Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with

all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:27. Notice here that even though we may often refer to the heart as implying the mind, the Bible still creates the distinction between the mind and the heart. The mind is used to refer to the intellect, the reasoning part, while the heart is used to refer to the part where habits and character are formed, the moral nature, and the seat of emotions or affections of the being. This is why it is possible that one could have all the intellectual knowledge about Jesus and still have a heart far from GOD (see Matthew 15:8-9). However, it is worth mentioning that sometimes the distinction is not very important as the mind has a direct bearing on the state of the heart. In this text, we shall think of the heart as the Hard drive of a computer which stores everything needed for a computer to function. This is why the Preacher says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23

A VIRUS

What is a computer virus? Well, many people know what a biological virus is such as the HIV virus which causes AIDS or the H5N1 virus that causes bird flu. Computer viruses work in a manner similar to biological viruses; that is, by the process of attachment to host cells, replication and internal damage takes place. A computer virus is a computer program—(i.e. a set of instructions) that reproduces itself by attaching itself to some other program and does some damage on your computer. This damage varies depending on the intention of the creator of the virus; it can range from files being deleted or stolen, programs stopping to function, to the entire computer crashing. For a computer virus to work, it has to first gain access to a computer and be stored somewhere on the hard drive and then carry out its malicious intents, sometimes using operating system features.

Having looked at how a computer virus and briefly how a biological virus works, we would expect that a spiritual virus would also work in like manner. It must first find its way to the Heart-drive, be stored there, and then carry out its ill purpose as stated by Jesus in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." How would we define a spiritual virus? That is open to discussion but let us define it based on its purpose. **A spiritual virus is any activity of human life which, if entertained or hosted, would kill your love for and trust in God, steal your allegiance and heart from Him, and destroy your religious life and sometimes your physical life.**

VIRUS SOURCES

As stated previously, computer viruses are computer programs, hence they are written by some people somewhere on this globe. Where do "spiritual viruses" come from?

"Oh, if these youth would but be firm and bold in the practice of virtue; if they would frown down the base advances of the agents of Satan, what a victory might be gained over the **world**, the **flesh**, and the **devil**! God calls upon the youth of today to love and serve Him with the whole heart. They need a daily connection with Heaven to keep them unsullied by the corruptions of the last days." —*The Signs of the Times*, February 16, 1882 (emphasis supplied).

The three main sources of spiritual viruses are given above as the world, the flesh and the devil. In the Spirit of Prophecy these three terms are used together 114 times and are always given in that same order. I tend to think this is because the greatest enemy we have to fight against is not exactly the devil but ourselves. Satan uses the attractions of the world and our own sinful desires to gain control over us.

"The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 43

AVENUES OF THE HEART-DRIVE

In what ways can a computer get infected by a virus? Through connection to the Internet, local network, or infected disks connected to the computer, hence antivirus programs always watch these avenues. On my computer, every USB storage device or optical disk that gets connected is scanned by the antivirus before its con-

tents are made accessible. What are the avenues of the heart-drive? The servant of the Lord writes thus:

"All should guard the senses, lest Satan gain victory over them; for these are the avenues of the soul. You will have to become a faithful sentinel over your eyes, ears, and all your senses if you would control your mind and prevent vain and corrupt thoughts from staining your soul. The power of grace alone can accomplish this most desirable work. Satan and his angels are busy creating a paralyzed condition of the senses so that cautions, warnings, and reproofs shall not be heard; or, if heard, that they shall not take effect upon the heart and reform the life." —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 166

This is a clear admonishment to guard our sight, hearing, taste, feelings and sense of smell to prevent, or fight against, viruses.

A TROJAN HORSE

Many categories of viruses and malicious software exist today, such as internet worms, adware and malware; but one kind of virus I would like to focus on is called the Trojan horse. How does this virus work? We can understand how it works by learning how it got its name.

When the Greeks were fighting against the people of Troy during the Trojan War they found it hard to defeat them because, apart from physical prowess and strength in numbers, Troy was a highly fenced city. Being known for wisdom, the Greeks decided to outthink the Trojans; as always, the battle is not only about brawn but brains also; with skill and tact, numbers count for nothing! The Greeks made a giant wooden



horse in which they concealed some soldiers and left it outside the city and then withdrew. When the Trojans perceived the horse and the absence of the Greeks, they took the horse inside

their city, thinking it was a gift—a sign of defeat by the Greeks. However, when the horse was inside the city, the soldiers concealed within came out and began their work of destruction, which led to the entire Greek army gaining access to the city and later destroying it.

The virus called Trojan horse works in this same way. It is usually concealed in a seemingly useful program such as a game or music player, which, to the unsuspecting user appears very good and useful, but alas, once the program is installed or run, the virus works its ill purpose in the background.

This principle is similar to how a fisherman's hook works. The fisherman does not use a naked hook but always conceals it within bait, something nice and useful to the fish; when the fish see the bait, they scramble for it, only to discover too late that there is a hook within it.

Satan does not present things that we do not like in order to attract us; he knows that we will not be attracted by them. He brings us things that appear good, things that we feel we need, things that seem like when we have them they will solve a number of our problems, but alas, those things come with deadly hooks that lead us as willing captives to Satan. Consider the things you enjoy doing, the people you interact with, the thoughts you like to entertain, the conversations you engage in, the music you like listening to, the clothes you put on, the food you eat, the books you read and see if there is nothing there with Satan's hook to pull you to him. Rat poison is often 99% food and 1% poison but it is the 1% that kills the rat! Poison is poison; no matter how much food it may have, it will still kill. You may say, I see nothing wrong with this food, I see nothing wrong with this kind of dressing, I see nothing wrong with this movie, or song or TV show, I see nothing wrong with this brother or sister, but that is because you may be seeing those things in the light that Satan would like you to see them, for "many behold things in a perverted light, in the light in which Satan would have them see." —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 961

TWO GREAT TACTICS OF VIRUSES

Most viruses work using two great tactics; attraction and intimidation. Most viruses infect computers of users that get attracted to things like games, love messages, and pornography, or other seemingly useful programs. Others could intimidate the user with a false message that their computer has several viruses and needs to download a special program to scan the subject computer, but it is actually the act of downloading and installing that so-called "solution" which would infect the computer.

We have already covered how Satan works, using the tactic of attraction by appealing to our senses, such as the sense of taste, sight, and hearing. How does he use the second tactic of intimidation?

Imagine what would happen if a lion came nearby a pen of cattle at night and roared? What would happen to the

animals inside the pen? The roaring of the lion would strike fear and panic leading to some (if not all) of the animals jumping out of the pen to flee for their lives, not knowing that actually by jumping out of the pen, they are going to where the danger lies; the lion divides and conquers. The Apostle Peter tells us that Satan is as a roaring lion, walking about, looking for whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). If he fails to attract us, he intimidates us with problems, challenges and even persecutions that would strike fear in our hearts and make us panic and then jump out of God's protecting care. Sometimes he may roar with a financial crisis in your life and you panic and then decide not to return tithe, not knowing that by so doing, you are actually taking yourself to the lion. Other times he may roar with a threat of you being fired if you do not work on the Sabbath!

THE ANTIVIRUS (AV)

An anti-virus is a computer program that works to prevent and eliminate computer viruses. What is the antivirus for the Heart-drive? Before we understand the antivirus, we must understand the problem with the heart.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9. "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." Matthew 12:33–35

So, what is the antivirus for the Heart-drive? The wise man admonishes us thus, "My son, attend to My words; incline thine ear unto My sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." Proverbs 4:20–22. Job says, "Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. Receive, I pray thee, the law from His mouth, and lay up His words in thine heart." Job 22:21–22. The Psalmist asks and answers his own question, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word. With my whole heart have I sought Thee: O let me not wander from Thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalms 119:9–11. And Jesus says, "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." John 17:17. So, there you have it! The precious word of God is the antivirus for our heart-drives.

WHY DOES WICKEDNESS ABOUND THEN?

But, if the word of God is the antivirus, why do we have so much wickedness in an era when the word of God abounds and yet there was seemingly more piety in the days of the “dark ages”? Jesus in Matthew 24:12 says that “because iniquity will abound the love of many shall wax cold.” What makes iniquity to abound? The Lord further states that the last days shall be as the days of Noah were (Matthew 24:37). What led to so much wickedness that the world had to be destroyed by a flood? Sin or wickedness is compared to darkness, while righteousness is compared to light. It is the absence of light that brings darkness. Jesus says that the children of God are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14) and also the salt that preserves good in the earth (Matthew 5:13). In the antediluvian world, it was when the sons of God, the righteous descendants of Seth began to join and marry with the wicked descendants of Cain that iniquity abounded to such an extent that God “regretted” that He had made man (Genesis 6:6). Similarly, in our generation, sin abounds because many of God’s professed followers are conforming to the world, to its pleasures and practices. Instead of being light bearers, many are sunless professors who are shadows of darkness!

In the dark ages, Satan kept the Bible away from people; in our time, he keeps the people away from the Bible. In our day people have the Bible in print, mobile devices, and even on their computers but are too busy to read it; some that read it, do it to support their own preconceived ideas that misinterpret the word and misrepresent the will of God stated therein. Some that profess to accept the teachings of the word only want to obey it to some degree but not completely; they fail to surrender all to Jesus. We have many professed Christians who eat like the world, drink like the world, dress like the world, worship like the world, claiming to love God, but living as servants of sin. Indecency, irreverence, immorality, lying, and indifference abound among God’s professed people. Many are content with little sporadic improvements but not an entire transformation of their lives. Many church members that could work for the salvation of their fellow men only concern themselves with their own worldly affairs, leaving the work to a few overburdened workers; all this is a sign that they are not concerned with their own salvation as well.



When a lion catches its prey, it first bites on the throat because that’s where the animal breathes from. Any wonder why we have many prayerless and powerless Christians who are strangers to the word and promises of God? The Servant of the LORD says, “We should pray in the family circle, and above all we must not neglect secret prayer, for this is the life of the soul. It is impossible for the soul to flourish while prayer is neglected.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 98

HOW DOES AN ANTIVIRUS WORK?

The antivirus must be installed on the computer’s hard drive and integrated with the operating system. It must have control over the programs that run on the computer, it must scan all files on the computer, it must clean the memory and all external devices connected to the computer. You can have an antivirus on a CD, or even downloaded onto the hard drive, but unless you install it, it will be of no use to you.

Similarly, it does not matter how many spiritual books you possess, how many Bible versions you have, which Bible colleges you have been to, how many church meetings you attend or even how melodiously you may sing, all these are important in their own right and serve a purpose, but will not protect you from viruses. What

matters is that the word of God is in you and becomes part of your life. The word of God shapes your words and actions, the word of God is in **all** you do and say, in all you see and hear, in all you touch and feel, in all you smell and taste—then and only then will you keep your heart with all diligence.

“Study His word prayerfully. Lay it not aside for any other book. This book convinces of sin. It plainly reveals the way of salvation. It brings to view a bright and glorious reward. It reveals to you a complete Saviour, and teaches you that through His boundless mercy alone can you expect salvation.”—*Messages to Young People*, p. 268

“The truths of the Bible, received, will uplift the mind from its earthliness and debasement. If the word of God were appreciated as it should be, both young and old would possess an inward rectitude, a strength of principle, that would enable them to resist temptation.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 319

Mukelabai Mukelabai

CHILDREN'S CORNER



John Nevins Andrews

On October 1, 1844 a local newspaper wrote about a brave young man and what he did.

“Today an inspiring scene was enacted at the bridge in Paris, Maine. Young John Nevins Andrews confronted and confounded an angry mob that threatened worshippers crossing the river to attend Advent meetings. Andrews and Advent Brother Davis, approached the bridge, when a man from the mob, brandishing his horsewhip, inflicted several blows on Brother Davis. Andrews, barely fourteen years of age, threw his arms about Davis and declared, ‘We are commanded to bear one another's burdens. If you whip Brother Davis, you must whip me also!’ Confounded and not wishing to whip a boy, the man drew back with the mob and let them pass. ‘It's too bad to whip a boy,’ he declared in admiration of the youth's courage and presence of mind.” This brave act reflects the spirit of John Andrews.

John Nevins Andrews was born July 22, 1829 and spent his childhood and youth quietly with his parents and brother, William, in Paris, Maine. When he was young his parents faithfully took him to the Methodist meetings. He remembers how impressed he was at five years of age when the preacher solemnly read Revelation 20:11, “I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away.” John commented, “I have rarely read the passage without remembering that discourse.” When John learned to read, the Bible was one of his favorite books.

William was crippled, and unable to do much on their New England farm, so John felt a responsibility to help his father all he could; so he quit school at age 11 and from then on taught himself. Does that mean he did not have a good education? He loved to study and read and studied on his own time. When he was older, he was able to speak seven languages and he learned the entire New Testament of the Bible by memory.

He was an intellectual man who loved to study more

than to do physical exercise. He spent so much time studying that at one point in time, in 1855, he became sick from overwork, insufficient rest, and poor food. To recover his health he went home to his family, and then, together with his family, moved out to Iowa to a farm where he regained his health by outdoor work and rest.

Andrews became a Millerite in February 1843 and began to observe the seventh-day Sabbath in 1845. He met James White and Ellen G. White in September 1849. Later, the Whites lived with the Andrews family for a while.

His uncle Charles was a rich man. He was a politician; a member of the U.S. Congress. Charles offered to pay for John to go to university to become a lawyer so he could follow a political career. However, early in 1845, at age 15, John accepted the Sabbath from a tract written by T. M. Preble. It completely changed the direction of his life. He no longer wanted to become a politician, but wanted to work for the Lord.

After accepting the Adventist message Andrews gave his life to work for the Lord and had a long and productive career with the church. He was good friends with James and Ellen White.

James White was the editor of the *Review and Herald* and Andrews began to write articles also. His name first appeared in Adventist literature when he was 20 years old, when he wrote a letter to the editor that was dated October 16, 1849.

When the first Adventist printing press was set up in Rochester, New York, in 1852, he, at age 22, was one of a publishing committee of three with Joseph Bates and James White. The next year, when he was just 23 years old, Andrews was ordained as a minister. By this time, 35 of his articles had been published in the *Review*.

Since he loved to study so much, Andrews made some important doctrinal discoveries in the Bible. He was the first one who discovered that Sabbath should begin at

sunset on Friday; in 1855, at James White's request and using Bible proofs, he wrote a paper which explained that sunset was the time for beginning the Sabbath. Ellen White then had a vision that confirmed his conclusions. (See *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 116)

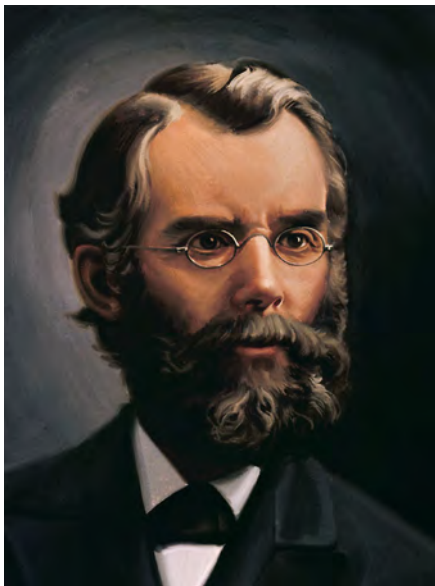
Another important doctrinal truth that he discovered in the Bible was identifying the two-horned beast of Revelation as the United States of America.

In 1858 Andrews conducted a study of systematic benevolence, the forerunner of the teaching about tithing. He then, in 1861, published the first of several editions of a book called *History of the Sabbath*.

Andrews was very helpful in getting the church organized and registered with the government so that they could obtain property in the name of the church. In 1864 he went to the government in Washington, D.C. This was during the American Civil War and he successfully lobbied the government for non-combatant status for Adventist draftees so that they did not need to go to war.

John Andrews was elected as the third president of the General Conference in 1867. When the first camp meeting was held in Wright, Michigan, in 1868, he proved to be a very kind and compassionate person because he went around to the tents at the end of the day, asking: "Are you all comfortable for the night?"

He and Uriah Smith married sisters, Angeline and Harriet Stevens. John and Angeline had 4 children. Two of them died while infants. One was 13 months and the other just 4 days old. The two other children, Charles and Mary, survived. The Andrews family adopted the health message after seeing the results in their son. In 1864, Charles' crippled leg was healed after about 15 weeks of hydrotherapy treatments and a nutritious diet at "Our Home" in Danville, New York. The Andrews family determined to remove unhealthful foods from their diet and to use whole wheat flour and more fruits and vegetables, and to eat two meals a day. Angeline had a stroke on February 17, 1872. She seemed to be improving for a month, but on March 18, as John helped her into her coat, she fell unconscious to the floor. She died the following morning, at 48 years of age. In her eulogy, John wrote, ". . . no unkind word ever passed between us, and no vexed feeling ever existed in our hearts."



After Angeline died, John dedicated his life to guiding his children, (who were just 14 and 11 years old) towards heaven, and to preaching Christ more urgently to those who were ready to perish. When a call came for a missionary to help the growing cause in Europe, he willingly agreed to go. He departed for Europe on September 15, 1874, taking with him Charles, almost 17, and Mary, almost 13.

Sister White strongly encouraged Andrews to remarry before starting for Europe. He needed someone to make a home for his family; someone to fill his emotional and physical needs, as well as help with the work when she was able. He did not take her advice.

Andrews was a firm believer of the importance of the publishing ministry and so he established the Adventist press in Basel, Switzerland when he was there. His children were his emotional support and helpers in the printing and publishing work.

He wrote of Charles in 1876, "He is perfectly steady and quiet and gives me no trouble. He is my companion by day and by night, and seems to prefer my company to that of any young person. I should not know [how] to live without him!" Their diet was deficient in many ways, and with the poor sanitation and overwork, John developed pneumonia, and Mary, tuberculosis. In the fall of 1878, John went to the General Conference, taking Mary with him, in the hopes she could be healed at the Battle Creek Sanitarium. But even

under Dr. J. H. Kellogg's able care, Mary passed away on November 27, 1878. Charles wrote from Switzerland that he was confident they would see her again, if they remained faithful.

After Mary's death, Andrews returned to Switzerland, but could not regain his health. "I seem to be having hold upon God with a numb hand," he said. Andrews died of tuberculosis in 1883 at the age of 54. He was buried in Basel, Switzerland. Soon after this, Charles married Maria Anne Dietsch and returned to Battle Creek. He worked in the Review and Herald Publishing House all his life.

John Nevins Andrews is remembered for his valuable doctrinal contributions in the early history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and his courage to go out and be the first foreign missionary sent out from the United States of America for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Natural Methods To Combat Bacterial Infections

At the end of last month's article, we learned that natural prevention and healing methods for bacterial infections have always existed and continue to be used. Long before "modern medicine", different herbs, foods, and natural treatments were used to prevent and treat illness and disease. These natural remedies are often more beneficial to us in fighting infections as they do not contribute to the problem of antibiotic resistance. They also work on improving immune system function to combat illness. And, finally we posed two questions: How do we know when to use natural methods vs antibiotics? And, what are the foods, herbs and treatments that can help us? We will learn the answers this month and next month.

OUR GUT MICROBIOME

The collection of microorganisms in the gut—our microbiome—is very large. As many as 500 to 1,000 species of bacteria inhabit our intestines, and the roughly 100



trillion microorganisms in those species are around 10 times greater than the number of cells in our body. When all is well, good bacteria make up about 90% of the gut microbes. The role of many of these bacteria is to help to digest our food. Research shows that some of the bacteria in our bodies actually boost the production of certain

cells in our immune system and protect against a number of illnesses. However, factors such as stress, illness and medications can affect the balance of good vs bad bacteria, and lead to further disorders such as gastrointestinal distress, inflammation, eczema, yeast infections, a weakened immune system, diarrhea or consti-

pation.

WHAT ARE PROBIOTICS?

Probiotics are one of the most incredible discoveries in the last decade. The research into the health benefits of probiotics has only recently started to gain more attention. Probiotics are live bacteria contained in yogurt, other dairy products and in supplement form. They are made up of hundreds of different species and strains of good bacteria that can safely live in your intestines. Taking probiotics work to boost and preserve the natural gut flora (good bacteria) found in your digestive system. Research has proven that a balanced gut is one of the keys to overall wellness and cancer prevention. Certain probiotic species have been shown to be helpful for childhood diarrhea, irritable bowel disease, and for certain bowel infections.

Diarrhea, a common side effect of antibiotics, also results from the antibiotic altering the normal intestinal bacteria, and causes overgrowth of disease-causing bacteria, such as *C. difficile*, which can kill the elderly and those who are ill with other diseases. When antibiotics are used to treat an infection, not only does it destroy the disease-causing bacteria, but it also destroys many of the healthy bacteria in our body, specifically in our gut. This can lead to further infections, as the healthy bacteria in our gut protect us from bad bacteria. When healthy bacteria are killed, disease-causing bacteria can proliferate and make us sick. When you are sick, the good probiotic bacteria that normally live in your gut may get damaged or killed in the fight to make you better. These good bacteria are so critical to your health that doctors now recommend a probiotic while their patients are on antibiotics. Eating foods or supplements of probiotics helps your body to get its full protection back.

Most people do not need to take a probiotic every day. Probiotics are still not clearly known to provide health

benefits to otherwise healthy people. Some are suspected but still not proven. However, if you are trying to treat a particular problem, make sure your probiotic contains the specific strains that can combat what you are battling. Some strains have been tested and proven to have a positive impact on certain digestive conditions.

Probiotics are available in most health food stores and pharmacies. However, picking a probiotic is more complicated than buying vitamins, and often the quality of probiotic supplements is not consistent. An independent agency that tests vitamins and supplements found that 30% of probiotic products did not contain the amount of live bacteria claimed on the label. Probiotic bacteria must be kept alive in order to work. They may be killed by heat, stomach acid or simply die with time.

VITAL INFORMATION IN THE LABELLING OF PROBIOTICS

When reading a probiotic label, the following list offers tips on what to look for before buying a product. Label information should always include:

Genus, species and strain of the microorganisms (*Lactobacillus reuteri* ATCC55730, for example). Many products list only the genus and species, but different strains provide different benefits.

Number of organisms contained in a single dose and how often you should take it. Pick one that has at least seven strains, and five billion CFU (colony forming units).

Storage information when relevant (some forms need to be refrigerated while others need a dark, cool space). Always keep probiotics away from moisture and heat.

“Viable through end of shelf life” ensures the living microbes are in fact still living. Pass on the probiotic if the label says “viable at time of manufacture,” which means everything in it could be dead by the time it reaches your mouth. If you are buying yogurt, look for “live and active cultures.”

Encapsulated pills or other delayed-rupture technology ensure the bacteria survive the trip through your acidic stomach and actually reach your colon.

Certification by an independent third party. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not regulate most probiotics and therefore the amount of bacteria stated on the label might not be what’s actually in there. Make sure it has been tested.

SPECIFIC PROBIOTIC STRAINS SHOWN TO PROVIDE

HEALTH BENEFITS

The most common probiotic bacteria come from two genus groups: *Lactobacillus* or *Bifidobacterium*, although there are many others. Each group of bacteria has different species and each species have different strains (the “code” at the end). Researchers are still studying which strains are useful for which health conditions, but a handful have been demonstrated to help with the following:

Traveling abroad. Taking *Saccharomyces boulardii* weeks before your trip may help prevent traveler’s diarrhea, which usually comes from ingesting food or water that has been contaminated with bacteria.

Lactose intolerance. *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Streptococcus thermophilus* produce the enzyme “lactase” that helps the gut digest and absorb lactose.

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) or gastrointestinal distress. *Bifidobacterium infantis* 35624, *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299V or *Bifidobacterium bifidum* MIMBb75 have been shown to help regulate bowel movements and relieve bloating, pain and gas.

When taking antibiotics. Take *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG and/or *Saccharomyces boulardii* six hours after each dose of antibiotics. Increase the dose to 10 billion CFUs per day and continue for one to two weeks after you stop taking the antibiotic.

Eczema. *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* HN001 and *Lactobacillus fermentum* VRI-003 PCC have been shown to help treat those itchy, scaly skin rashes—especially in children.

Colds and flu. *Bifidobacterium animalis lactis* Bi-07 and *Lactobacillus acidophilus* NCFM can help reduce the duration and severity of the common cold and flu by enhancing the body’s production of antibodies.

Yeast infections. *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GR-1 and *Lactobacillus reuteri* RC-14 have been shown to help prevent and clear up bacterial vaginosis and urinary tract infections in some individuals. *Lactobacillus reuteri* RC-14 and *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GR-1 are the most effective stains to protect against yeast infections.

Bad breath, gingivitis or periodontitis. A probiotic lozenge or mouthwash might be your best bet. *Lactobacillus reuteri* LR-1 or LR-2 promote oral health by binding to teeth and gums, preventing plaque formation in the mouth. *Weissella cibaria* freshens

breath by inhibiting the production of sulfur compounds in the mouth.

Your pharmacist, naturopath and doctor are good resources when deciding which probiotic to use.

Currently research is being done in treating intestinal problems such as Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel disease, inflammatory bowel syndrome, and ulcerative colitis, with probiotics. Also, scientists think some probiotics may lower cholesterol or blood pressure. Probiotics may also help us get the most nutrients from the food we eat, and perhaps to even prevent food poisoning.

WHEN TO USE NATURAL METHODS VS ANTIBIOTICS

Minor bacterial infections can be cleared naturally without having to rely on an antibiotic. For example, often when women are suffering from a Urinary Tract Infection, the infection will clear itself within 48 hours as the body's natural immune response kicks in, especially when helped along with plenty of water and cranberry capsules. Doctors will sometimes carry out 'delayed prescribing', where they write a prescription but instruct the patient to wait for 48 hours before picking it up. This delayed prescribing is carried out by well-informed doctors, with the understanding that the infection will often clear itself in 48 hours, and if it is to do so, it would be better for the patient to wait—not only better for overall health, but also for the general population in helping to prevent antibiotic resistance. During this time, natural immune boosters added to our diet can also assist in fighting an infection.

In light of this, steps *must* be taken to slow the progress of antibiotic resistance, and to change the way we use and prescribe antibiotics. Because of this, natural remedies which provide an alternative to antibiotics would be an obvious option.

For example, a recent study determined that there appears to be plenty of evidence to suggest that gut microbes, and the health of the gastrointestinal tract itself, may be contributing factors in the acne process. As a result, taking an antibiotic may further reduce the health of the gut whereas taking a probiotic may help to improve gut flora with a potentially positive outcome

While there is increased research into probiotics, science is not yet at a stage where doctors can determine whether patients should be taking probiotics or antibiotics. Therefore, wherever there is a question regarding taking probiotics or antibiotics, for now, until more research is done about probiotics, taking the two together

should be encouraged; the question should not be whether probiotics should be chosen over antibiotics.

PREBIOTICS

While probiotics have been shown effective in managing certain gastrointestinal conditions, they do not have the same power that prebiotics do.

Once you have the right balance of probiotics in your gut, it is important to keep them strong and healthy. The bacteria in your colon thrive on something known as prebiotics. These chemicals are different from probiotics, as prebiotics are found in food sources. A prebiotic is a general term that refers to chemicals that promote the growth of good bacteria that then contribute to the well-being of their host. Prebiotics were first identified in 1995. In people, most prebiotics work in the gastrointestinal tract (gut), contributing to the proper balance of bacteria referred to as the gut microbiome. Prebiotics are derived from specific non-digestible plant fibers that pass through the gastrointestinal tract undigested, however they nourish the good bacteria in the colon and contribute to the well-being of the individual.

These fibers act as a fertilizer to promote the growth of good bacteria in the gut. This in turn prevents the bad, disease-causing bacteria from reproducing. Foods that are high in prebiotic fibers provide health benefits that result from the proper balance of good bacteria. Certain foods are high in the prebiotic fibers called inulin and oligosaccharides. Unlike the research into the benefits of probiotics, which is still in its infancy, prebiotics have been proven to provide a wide range of health benefits to the otherwise healthy person.

Once the intestines have the proper bacterial mix by consuming prebiotics, when food enters the intestine, fermentation takes place to digest the food; this helps beneficial bacteria to multiply while stifling the production of bad, disease-causing bacteria. When good bacteria multiply, they strengthen the walls of the lower gut, which is where production of hormones take place that help the body maintain optimal health.

Prebiotic fiber is found in many fruits and vegetables. The foods highest in prebiotics include chicory root (highest), Jerusalem artichoke, dandelion greens, garlic, leek, onions, beans, raw oats, asparagus, wheat bran, whole wheat flour, and bananas.

Prebiotics can also be purchased as a supplement and can be added to most foods. Unlike probiotics, they are not affected by heat, cold, acid, or time. Research has

shown that as well as protecting us from bad bacteria, prebiotics help to prevent obesity, assist in absorbing calcium and magnesium, reduces bad cholesterol and triglyceride levels, and decreases the risk of chronic intestinal disorders. Some of the oligosaccharides that naturally occur in breast milk are believed to play an important role in the development of a healthy immune system in infants. Babies who are breast fed vs those who are fed by formula, have a much lower incidence of infections because they receive prebiotics and also antibodies against infections from the mother, through her breast milk.

A recommended daily amount of prebiotics for digestive health has not been established. However, experts suggest that an effective amount is probably in the range of 5 to 15 grams per day. In the US, average intake of inulin from plant foods is about 1 to 4 grams per day. The best way to determine if a food product contains prebiotics is to check the ingredient list. The most common prebiotic ingredients are inulin and oligofructose. Most foods with added prebiotics from inulin or oligofructose supply about 2 to 4 grams per serving, although some products may contain more. Eating foods that are high in prebiotics will help you reach the daily amount that will provide you with its health benefits.

If you want to increase the amount of prebiotic foods in your diet, it is a good idea to do so gradually to prevent possible temporary discomforts, such as gas, bloating or cramps, which may occur for some people with intake of more than 10 grams per day. Remember that many prebiotics supply fiber, and fiber intake should be increased slowly, along with taking in adequate amounts of fluid. The type of food and prebiotic ingredient may influence whether you experience side effects. For example, solid foods with prebiotics are often better tolerated than liquids, and foods with inulin may be better tolerated because the prebiotic acts more slowly in the intestines.

The following list includes the foods highest in prebiotics. In brackets is the prebiotic fiber content by weight, followed by the amount of food required to obtain 6 g of prebiotic fiber. The list is in order of greatest

amount of prebiotics per weight, to least amount:

- Raw chicory root (64.6%) – 1/3 oz or 9 grams
- Raw Jerusalem artichoke (31.5%) – 3/4 oz or 21 grams
- Raw dandelion greens (24.3%) – 1 oz or 28 grams
- Raw garlic (17.5%) – 1.2 oz or 34 grams
- Raw leek (11.7%) – 1.8 oz or 51 grams
- Raw onion (8.6%) – 2.5 oz or 70 grams
- Cooked onion (5%) – 1/4 lb, or 4 oz or 113 grams
- Raw banana (1%) – 1.3 lb or 590 grams

CONCLUSION

These natural remedies can be used to prevent bacterial infections, and in combating minor infections. However, many bacterial illnesses are caused by unhealthy practices. For example, a form of malnutrition that is surprisingly common even in developed countries is known as “micronutrient malnutrition.” Micronutrient malnutrition is when a person is deficient in some essential vitamins and trace minerals that are obtained from, or supplemented by, one’s diet. This type of malnutrition has been shown to increase a person’s risk for infections. Use natural healing whenever possible, however medicine can save lives in acute situations, e.g. heart attack, stroke, severe infection. The effect of disease on those afflicted can also be lessened by healthful practices, and often the use of drugs can be prevented or stopped. This series of articles have provided information that balances the benefits of modern medicine and adherence to God’s laws of nature, for maintaining the health of our bodies. However, the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and the use of natural remedies to prevent and treat disease is always our first message to the world.



NEXT MONTH: FOODS THAT BOOST OUR IMMUNE SYSTEM

Hippocrates, the father of medicine, said, “Let your food be your medicine, and your medicine be your food.”

Long before the modern discovery of penicillin, certain foods and herbs helped guard against infection and disease on a daily basis. They naturally cleanse your blood without harmful side effects or upsetting the delicate balance of good bacteria in your body. We will learn more about these foods next month.



From Inside to Outside

After the slaughter of the men of Shechem by Simeon and Levi, the sons of Jacob, Jacob was worried about the terrible consequences of that horrible crime. Genesis 34:25, 26, 30

God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto the when the fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him: put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments." Genesis 35:1–2

Bethel means "house of God", but there was not a building in that place, with walls, floors, and roof; neither pews to sit, or a pulpit for the preacher. Today, in some places, it could be that the house of worship is in the living room, the kitchen, the basement of a house, or a nice temple.

Jacob, his family, and household were going to meet with God and needed to make every reform in their lives. Jacob's wives, and many of the others in the camp had idols in their tents that needed to be gotten rid of. They also were told to clean their bodies and change their garments. They were called to make an internal and external reform.

Where are, and who, are our idols today? The Spirit of Prophecy says: "I have been shown that the spirit of the world is fast leavening the church. You are following the same path as did Ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God's peculiar people. You are having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 75–76

Immodest and extravagant fashions are entering into our churches. Some women wear tight and short dresses, with a low cut in the neck. A young man looking at someone dressed in this manner will assume by her appearance what kind of girl she is. He sees the heart by her appearance. Men also are victims to the fashion

world by wearing flashy suits and ties, or tight pants.

"Christians should not take pains to make themselves a gazingstock by dressing differently from the world. But if, when following out their convictions of duty in respect to dressing modestly and healthfully, they found themselves out of fashion, they should not change their dress in order to be like the world; but they should manifest a noble independence and moral courage to be right, if all the world differ from them. If the world introduces a modest, convenient, and healthful mode of dress, which is in accordance with the Bible, it will not change our relation to God or to the world to adopt such style of dress. Christians should follow Christ and make their dress conform to God's word." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 458–459

The fashions that, in the past, were considered immodest, have been gaining territory, and today are accepted. There has to be a distinction between the way of dressing of a man and a woman. If we look today at Facebook, we may see some women that are called Adventist Reformers, showing themselves wearing pants or men dressing worldly.

In the years of my childhood, I remembered the grandmothers having long grey hair. In Ecclesiastes chapter 12, it gives a list, in symbols, of the changes in the human body as it gets old. In verse 5 it mentions the "almond tree that shall flourish." The almond tree was the first one to flourish in Palestine. It might be that the profusion of the white almond flowers evoked Solomon to the time when the hair turns grey. This should be read in the congregation where "the almond tree that shall flourish" is not seen on the heads of some senior citizens.

I want to share with you something that I read in a magazine some years ago:

"You'll totter, girls!

"Women in the past have literally bent over backwards

to keep pace with fashion.

“From the Victorian women who squeezed themselves into the peculiar S-bend to the Africans who see beauty in elongated necks and extended ear lobes.

“But today we are more sensible, having rejected those tribal fashions and abandoned whalebone corsets and tight lacing.

“Or are we?

“‘A number of fashions that persist today will lead to aches and pains later in life and even cause minor deformities,’ says Alan Griffiths, director of the Osteopathic and Natural Health Care Centre, Sydney.

“The principal offender, he claims, is the high heel.

“‘You see women teetering along the street in 10 cm (4 inches) heels, oblivious to the damage they are doing to the posture and health.

“‘By elevating the heel you shift the centre of gravity which places an additional strain on the calf muscles, pushes the pelvis forward and accentuates the sway back.’

“Back Aches

“‘If this continues for long periods, you could develop back aches, varicose veins and abdominal sagging due to the added pressure in that area.’

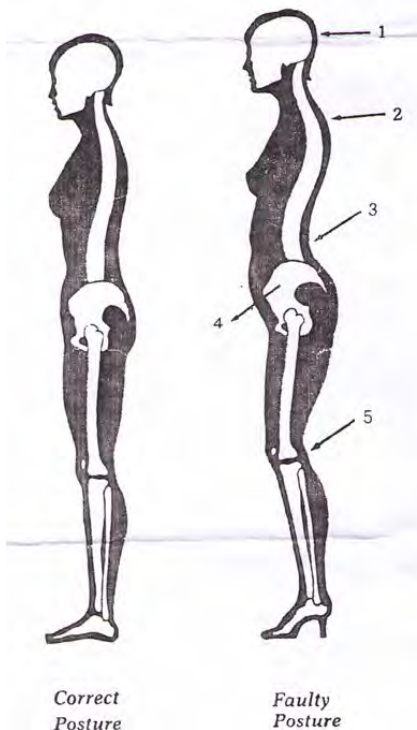
“Mr. Griffiths said high heels were fine for a dinner date but if you value your body, stick to heels no higher than 5 cm (2 inches).

“The unassuming handbag is another guilty party.

“‘Sling your bag over one shoulder and your shoulder instantly hitches up to keep it there,’ Mr. Griffiths points out.

“‘In time, if the bag is heavy and continuously carried on the same shoulder, curvature of the spine could result.’

“The figure to the left shows the effect of wearing high heels. 1. Head forward of its centre of gravity. 2. Thoracic area of spine rounded. 3. Lumbar



area hollowed. 4. Pelvis rotated forward and abdominal area sagging. 5. Shortening of posterior leg muscles. (Sketch from Osteopathy by Leon Chaitow, Thorsons Publishers Ltd.)”

“The prophecy of Isaiah 3 was presented before me as applying to this last days, and the reproofs are given to the daughters of Zion who have thought only of appearance and display.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 270

In some of our churches, lunch is served after the second service. At that moment, the dining rooms look like employment agencies, or immigration offices, talking about jobs, incomes, expenses, and documents. Let us remember Isaiah 58:13–14 when we come to church on the Sabbath day. “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: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

Our actions will be measured by the law of the Ten Commandments. Let us not forget to return anything that we borrow from others. To neglect to do so is to steal. A person can make a good show of being a Christian from the outside, being obedient to the external requirements, but may not be reformed on the inside.

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Ephesians 4:22–24

The Lord wants to make a covenant with His people. “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws in their inward parts, and write it in their heart; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Jeremiah 31:33; (Hebrews 8:10)

“My son, give Me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe My ways.” Proverbs 23:26

“For who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto Me? saith the Lord.” Jeremiah 30:21, last part

As soon as we give our hearts to Jesus, He will work in us a change, a reform from inside to outside. Amen.

Nidya Sanchez, New York

London, Canada



CONFERENCES

“Go to the camp meeting, even though you have to make a sacrifice to do so. Go with a will to work. And make every effort to induce your friends to go, not in your place, but to go with you, to stand on the Lord's side and obey His commandments. Help those who are interested to attend, if necessary providing them with food and lodging. Angels who are commissioned to minister to those who are heirs of salvation will accompany you. God will do great things for His people. He will bless every effort to honor His cause and advance His work.” – Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6 , p. 40

Canadian Field Conference

Toronto, Canada. July 31–August 2

Email: imsmessage@yahoo.com and you will be directed to the accommodations committee.

American Union Conference

Georgia, USA. (www.imsconference.org)

July 31: Centennial Commemoration of E. White's Death

August 2-5: AU Family Camp

August 5-9: AU Conference



EU Summer Youth Conference

August 6-16, 2015 Barcelona, Spain

Discover your identity:
Who are you? Where are you going?

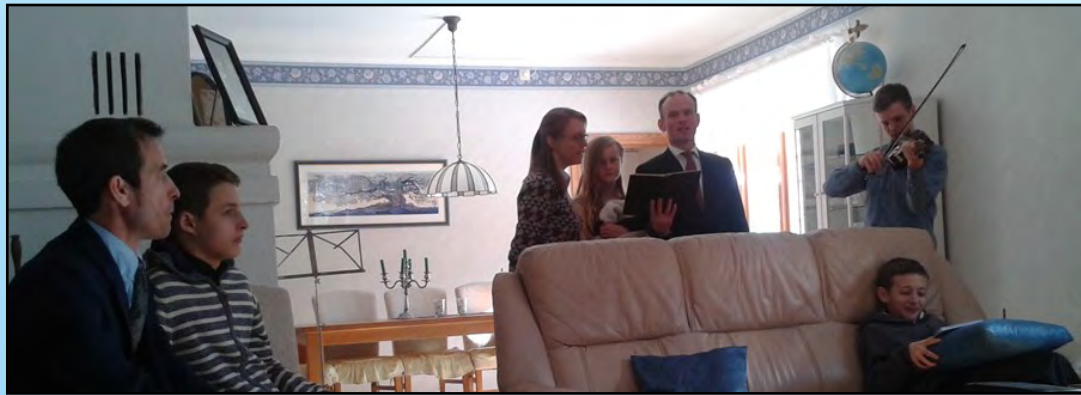
Doubleroom: 540 €
Single bed (-28): 240€
Single bed (+28): 260 €
Sofa bed: 214 €

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may declare the goodness of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” 1 Peter 2:9

Email: joven.es@asdimores.org
More Info: www.asdimores.org/summer2015

* all preises include: board and lodging, excursions

Sweden



Workers in Malawi





Keep Smiling

SMILING is infectious. You catch it like the flu.

When someone SMILED at me today,
I started SMILING too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,

When he SMILED I realized, I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that SMILE then realized its worth,
A single SMILE, just like mine could travel 'round the
earth.

So if you feel a smile begin don't leave it undetected.

**LET'S START AN EPIDEMIC QUICK, AND GET THE
WORLD INFECTED!**

Everyone needs a smile.

Submitted by Franziska Pedersen