



*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**  
VOLUME 24, NUMBER 7, JULY 2017

**Wilderness Life and Reformation**

Page 3

**Reverence and Respect**

Page 6

**Blessed are the Meek**

Page 10

**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.

### **In this Issue**

- 3 Wilderness Life and Reformation**
- 6 Reverence and Respect**
- 10 Blessed are the Meek**
- 12 Christian Youth in a Corrupt World**
- 15 The Broken Jar**
- 16 My Country, My Identity**
- 18 Children's Corner: The Garden Club**
- 20 Health Matters: Turmeric, Part 2**
- 23 Amour Fraternal**
- 25 Missionary Work in Calgary**

### **PHOTO CREDITS**

Front Cover Photo: Manuela DiFranca, Spain  
Back Cover Photo: Richard Eaton, Germany  
Inside Front Cover: Manuela DiFranca, Spain

The Reformation Messenger is published monthly. It is an Official Publication of the International Missionary Society the Seventh-Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field. Subscriptions can be paid online on the website or by mail.

- Telephone: 905-876-2518
- E-mail: [ismessenger@yahoo.com](mailto:ismessenger@yahoo.com)
- Internet: [www.ismessenger.org](http://www.ismessenger.org)
- Mail: RR #3, 7899 15 Side Road  
Milton, ON L9T 2X7, Canada

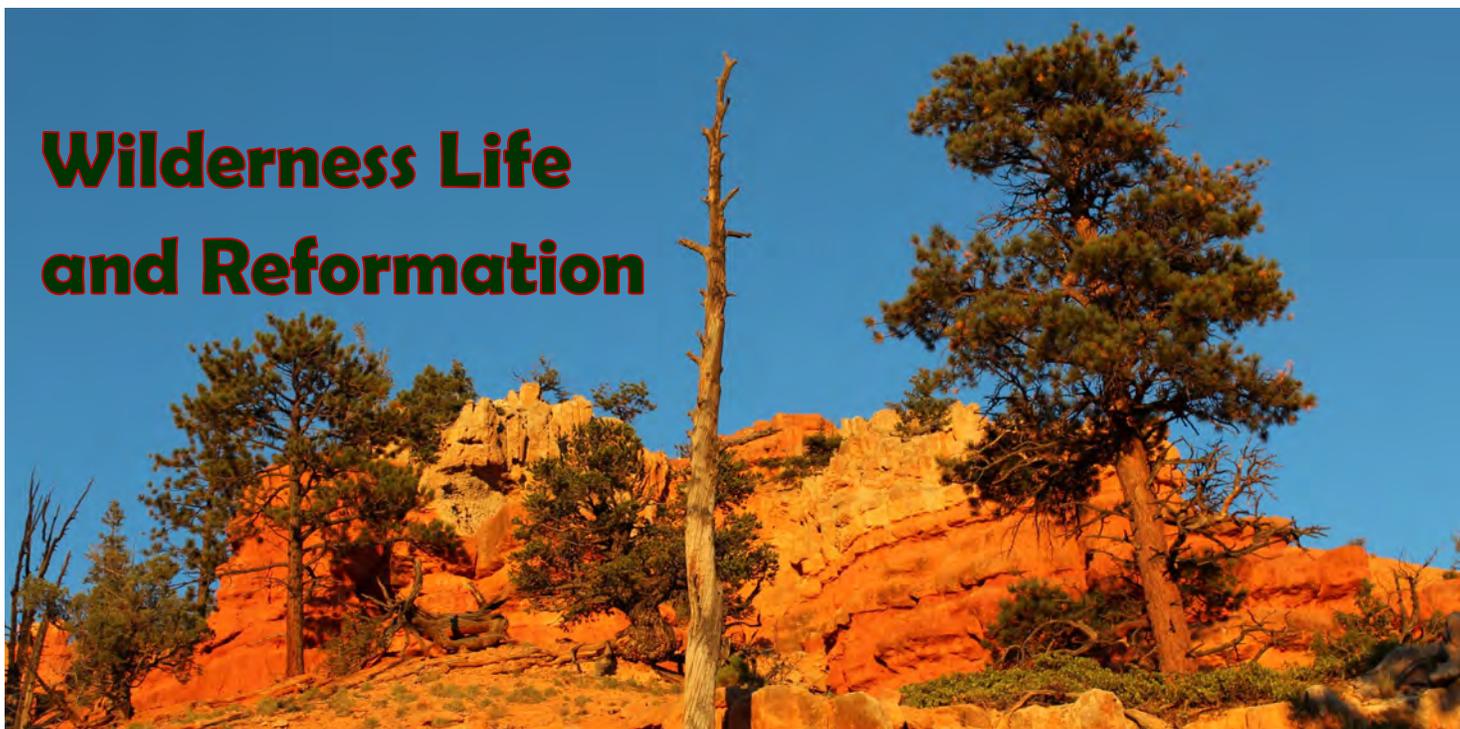
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Colour x \$45.00 per year.  
(Add \$10.00 North America and \$20.00 overseas shipping & handling)

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# Wilderness Life and Reformation



Brothers and sisters, this is an important subject to be learned in the Christian life as we journey through this world. Here the question is posed, how will you face your wilderness life? Will you gain the victory or will the wilderness overtake you? Each and every Christian who has named the name of Christ must pass through a wilderness life, and afterwards our calling and election shall be made known to us.

We are going to learn about different groups of people who went through a wilderness life and how they overcame.

“And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. And Moses said to the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.” Exodus 14:10, 13

“And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.” Exodus 13:17–18

“And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to

lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night. He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.’ Says the psalmist, ‘He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.’ Psalm 105:39. See also 1 Corinthians 10:1, 2. The standard of their invisible Leader was ever with them. By day the cloud directed their journeyings or spread as a canopy above the host. It served as a protection from the burning heat, and by its coolness and moisture afforded grateful refreshment in the parched, thirsty desert. By night it became a pillar of fire, illuminating their encampment and constantly assuring them of the divine presence.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 282

God uses two methods with which to teach His people. First, through instruction, and then through testing to see if they will be firm to the instruction given them.

In the time of Gideon the people were being tested. “Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. And the LORD said to Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.” Judges 7:1–2

“And they went out, ‘about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. And a mixed multitude went up also with them.’ In this multitude were

not only those who were actuated by faith in the God of Israel, but also a far greater number who desired only to escape from the plagues, or who followed in the wake of the moving multitudes merely from excitement and curiosity. This class were ever a hindrance and a snare to Israel." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 281

"And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle." Exodus 12:37–38

In the work of Reformation two groups are identified—the true reformers and the multitudes who come only because they want to be named among God's people. The exodus also comprised of two groups, the Israelites and the mixed multitude from Egypt. Brethren, do you want to be part of the mixed multitude or one of the faithful few?

Daniel was thrown in the den of Lions and was not destroyed by the lions. "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said to Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid on the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before Him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt." Daniel 6:16–17, 22

Jesus also was in His wilderness life for forty days after His baptism. "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungered." Matthew 4:1–2

John the Baptist was also in the wilderness life. And Elijah, before he went to King Ahab was also in his wilderness life. Brethren, how will you face your wilderness life when it comes?

A wilderness life is a state when one sees God as his only support, and trusts in God alone. Every true Christian is to pass through the wilderness in order to learn to trust in God fully. The final wilderness will be the Sunday law; each should prepare for it today.

### THREE STAGES IN THE WILDERNESS LIFE

**1. Calling Stage.** This is the first stage in a Christian's life. We hear the word of God; and when we hear the

call we come to Jesus.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19. The children of Israel were called out of Egypt, and were being baptized by Moses. "Moreover, brothers, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea." 1 Corinthians 10:1–2

**2. Instructional stage.** The teaching and learning process begins. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:20. "And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:3–4

**3. Testing and observation stage, selection stage.** In this stage a Christian is to have patience that he may endure. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:12, 2–4

To select the faithful few of the many who are being called, the Bible says, "for many are called, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:14. Will you be among the faithful few? "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

### HOW SHALL YOU FACE YOUR WILDERNESS LIFE?

Job was able to say, "If the scourge slay suddenly, he will laugh at the trial of the innocent." Job 9:23. Peter was able to say, "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." 1 Peter 1:17; 4:12

Paul warned us, "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in Whom we trust that He will yet deliver us." 2 Corinthians 1:9–10

Paul concluded by saying, "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but to all them also that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:5  
-8

In order to prepare Moses for the great work before him, he had to learn much. "Moses had been learning much that he must unlearn. The influences that had surrounded him in Egypt—the love of his foster mother, his own high position as the king's grandson, the dissipation on every hand, the refinement, the subtlety, and the mysticism of a false religion, the splendor of idolatrous worship, the solemn grandeur of architecture and sculpture—all had left deep impressions upon his developing mind and had molded, to some extent, his habits and character. Time, change of surroundings, and communion with God could remove these impres-

sions. It would require on the part of Moses himself a struggle as for life to renounce error and accept truth, but God would be his helper when the conflict should be too severe for human strength." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p.248

How many are treading like Moses? The time will come when each and every true Christian will be tested for a greater work that the Lord is preparing them for, as was Moses. Therefore, will you humble yourself as did Moses? His life is an example for every true Christian to learn from.

"Now all these things happened to them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Corinthians 10:11

Finally brethren, may we be encouraged by with these words, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." 2 Peter 1:10

May God bless you; all grace be unto you. Amen.

*Jenifer Akello*



**"For Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy." Psalm 61:3. "In the Psalm David speaks of God's being a refuge and a strong tower, a refuge and a fortress; unto Him we can run and we can be saved. How precious is the thought that God is our refuge and that He will be our helper in all times and in all places, and that in every emergency we have God with us. He says that He will give His angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways. . . . In our God we have a helper, and we will trust in Him. We must constantly look in that direction, believing that the angels of God are round about us, and that heaven is in communication with us, because**

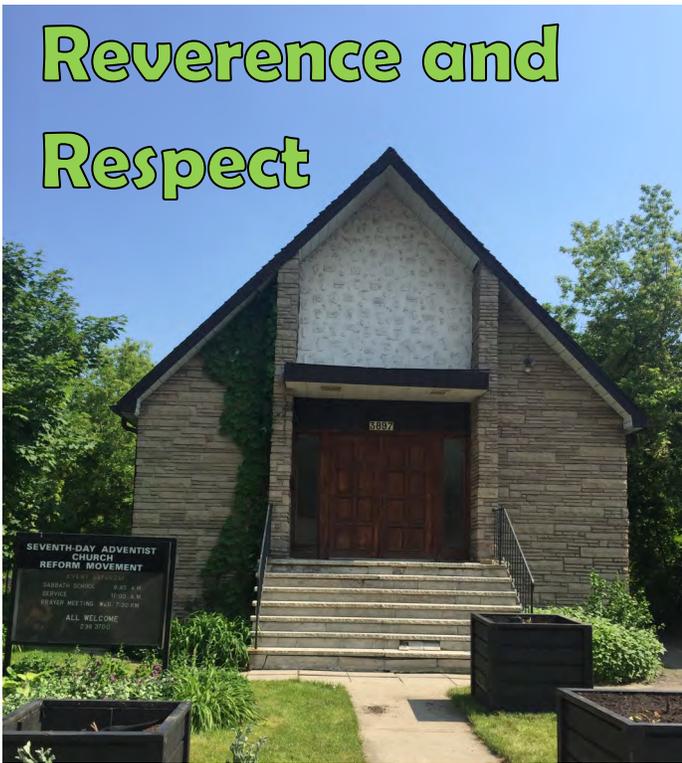
**these heavenly messengers are ascending and descending upon the ladder of shining brightness." —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 333**

**"The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 11**

**"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 324**

**"Live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold you firmly by a hand that will never let go. Know and believe the love that God has to us, and you are secure; that love is a fortress impregnable to all the delusions and assaults of Satan. 'The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.' Proverbs 18:10." —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 119**

# Reverence and Respect



## What is the difference between Reverence and Respect?

**Reverence:** feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe

**Respect:** to show regard or consideration for

Reverence is involved with worship, while respect is showing common courtesy to other people.

**“Holy and reverend is His name.” Psalm 111:9.** This word “Reverend” in this verse is from the Hebrew word “Nora”. It literally means “to be feared,” or “to be revered.” Although this word appears 44 times in the Bible it is never applied to human beings.

“If Christ were on earth today, surrounded by those who bear the title of ‘Reverend’ or ‘Right Reverend,’ would He not repeat His saying, ‘Neither be ye called masters: for One is your Master, even Christ?’ The Scripture declares of God, ‘Holy and reverend is His name.’ Psalm 111:9. To what human being is such a title befitting? How little does man reveal of the wisdom and righteousness it indicates! How many of those who assume this title are misrepresenting the name and character of God! Alas, how often have worldly ambition, despotism, and the basest sins been hidden under the brodered garments of a high and holy office!” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 613

“According to the teaching of the Scriptures, it dishonors God to address ministers as ‘reverend.’ No mortal has any right to attach this to His own name, or to the name of any other human being. It belongs only to God, to distinguish Him from every other being. Those who lay claim to this title take to themselves God’s holy honor. They have no right to the stolen word, whatever, their position may be.

‘Holy and reverend is His name.’ We dishonor God when we use this word where it does not belong.” —*The Youth’s Instructor*, July 7, 1898

“The greatest Teacher the world ever knew left no example of this character for us to follow. He did not call any fallible, sinful man by a title that belongs alone to God. No human being heard the title of reverend or right reverend from His lips as applied to man.” —*The Signs of the Times*, July 16, 1896

While we are to respect the leaders in the church, we are not to reverence them as the Pharisees had taught the people to do in the time of Christ. “For the people still had great reverence for their religious leaders.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 205

We are to respect authority figures on this earth but not reverence them. The Father and the Son alone are to be revered.

## HOW DO WE SHOW REVERENCE TO THE LORD?

“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” Hebrews 12:28

Our service to the Lord must be with reverence. In the Christian world there are all kinds of service and worship that is extremely irreverent. We must not copy their example, but show a different spirit. “It makes every difference how we do service for God. The boy who drudges through his lessons because he must learn will never become a real student. The man who claims to keep the commandments of God because he thinks he must do it will never enter into the enjoyment of obedience.

“The essence and flavor of all obedience is the outworking of a principle within—the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer, doing right because it is right. When the Word of God is a burden because it cuts directly across human inclinations, then the religious life is not a Christian life, but a tug and a strain, an enforced obedience. All the purity and godliness of religion are set aside.

“But adoption into the family of God makes us children, not slaves. When the love of Christ enters the heart we strive to imitate the character of Christ. . . . The more we study the life of Christ with a heart to learn, the more Christlike we become. Into the heart of every true doer of the Word the Holy Spirit infuses clear understanding. The more we crucify selfish practices by imparting our blessings to others and by exercising our God-given ability, the more the heavenly graces will be strengthened and increased in us. We will grow in spirituality, in patience, in fortitude, in meekness, in gentleness. . . . A train of cars is not merely attached to the engine; they follow on the same track as the engine. Whom are we following?” —*That I May Know*

Him, p. 118

This is true reverence for the Lord; worship, service and obedience with love.

### REVERENCE THE NAME OF GOD IN PRAYER

“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions.” Matthew 6:7. Our prayers will not be like a tape recorder, thoughtlessly playing back the same set phrases. The Pharisees were making a great show of their holiness by their prayers. A reverent prayer will be a simple, humble, plea to God from a penitent heart. “Prosy, sermonizing prayers are uncalled for and out of place in public. A short prayer, offered in fervor and faith, will soften the hearts of the hearers; but during long prayers they wait impatiently, as if wishing that every word might end it.”  
—*Gospel Workers*, p. 179



In the model prayer that Jesus gave (the Lord’s Prayer found in Matthew 6:9–14) we see the name of the Father mentioned once in the beginning only.

When you meet someone and have a conversation with them, you may mention their name at the beginning of your greeting. You say, “Hello\_\_\_,” but you do not mention their name constantly throughout your conversation. And that is what prayer really is—a conversation with the Lord. We would therefore show respect and reverence unto the name of the Lord, by not needlessly repeating His name throughout our prayers.

“Reverence should be shown also for the name of God. Never should that name be spoken lightly or thoughtlessly. Even in prayer its frequent or needless repetition should be avoided.” — *Child Guidance*, p. 538

“We are never in any manner to treat lightly the titles or appellations of the Deity. In prayer we enter the audience chamber of the Most High; and we should come before Him with holy awe. The angels veil their faces in His presence. The cherubim and the bright and holy seraphim approach His throne with solemn reverence. How much more should we, finite, sinful beings, come in a reverent manner before the Lord, our Maker!” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 106

“Some think it a mark of humility to pray to God in a common manner. . . . They profane His name by needlessly and irreverently mingling with their prayers the words, ‘God Almighty’—awful, sacred words, which should never pass the lips except in subdued tones and with a feeling of awe.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 41

Remember, in prayer you are in the audience chamber of the Most High, whether you are praying at church, with

your family, or in your closet. Let your prayers be spoken with utmost reverence.

### REVERENCE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

“That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1 Timothy 3:15. This verse was written by the Apostle Paul when the Christian church was young and did not own any church buildings. However, the presence of God was still in their midst during worship. The church of God is primarily the spiritual union of its converted members. Yet, great respect was still to be shown for the place of worship. We also may not have church buildings of our own, but the area used must be kept holy and reverence be shown. Much more so should reverence be shown when we have our own buildings and places of worship. This needs to be taught to the children. They must learn to show reverence in the sanctuary from their earliest years; no talking or walking around.

“Ye shall keep My sabbaths, and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:30. Two commandments are given here. True religion requires reverence for the Sabbath as well as for the sanctuary. Both are holy. Some reverence one or the other, but reverence must be shown to both. The Jewish nation had great respect for their sanctuary, and that respect is to be continued today in our places of worship.

“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him.” Psalm 89:7

There is an entire chapter entitled “Behavior in the House of God” in the book *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, pages 491–500. It would be well for us all to read it. I will quote a few highlights here.

“To the humble, believing soul, the house of God on earth is the gate of heaven. The song of praise, the prayer, the words spoken by Christ’s representatives, are God’s appointed agencies to prepare a people for the church above, for that loftier worship into which there can enter nothing that defileth. . . . the church is the sanctuary for the congregation. There should be rules in regard to the time, the place, and the manner of worshiping. . . .

“When the worshipers enter the place of meeting, they should do so with decorum, passing quietly to their seats. . . . Common talking, whispering,



and laughing should not be permitted in the house of worship, either before or after the service. Ardent, active piety should characterize the worshippers. . . .

“If some have to wait a few minutes before the meeting begins, let them maintain a true spirit of devotion by silent meditation, keeping the heart uplifted to God in prayer that the service may be of special benefit to their own hearts and lead to the conviction and conversion of other souls. They should remember that heavenly messengers are in the house. We all lose much sweet communion with God by our restlessness, by not encouraging moments of reflection and prayer. The spiritual condition needs to be often reviewed and the mind and heart drawn toward the Sun of Righteousness. If when the people come into the house of worship, they have genuine reverence for the Lord and bear in mind that they are in His presence, there will be a sweet eloquence in silence. The whispering and laughing and talking which might be without sin in a common business place should find no sanction in the house where God is worshiped. The mind should be prepared to hear the word of God, that it may have due weight and suitably impress the heart. . . .

“When the minister enters, it should be with dignified, solemn mien. He should bow down in silent prayer as soon as he steps into the pulpit, and earnestly ask help of God. What an impression this will make! There will be solemnity and awe upon the people. Their minister is communing with God; he is committing himself to God before he dares to stand before the people. Solemnity rests upon all, and angels of God are brought very near. Every one of the congregation, also, who fears God should with bowed head unite in silent prayer with him that God may grace the meeting with His presence and give power to His truth proclaimed from human lips.

“When the word is spoken, you should remember, brethren, that you are listening to the voice of God through His delegated servant. Listen attentively. Sleep not for one instant, because by this slumber you may lose the very words that you need most—the very words which, if heeded, would save your feet from straying into wrong paths. 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. Sometimes a little child may so attract the attention of the hearers that the precious seed does not fall into good ground and bring forth fruit. Sometimes young men and women have so little reverence for the house and worship of God that they keep up a continual communication with each other during the sermon. Could these see the angels of God looking upon them and marking their doings, they would be filled with shame, with abhorrence of themselves. God wants attentive hearers. It was while men slept that Satan sowed his tares. . . .

“When the benediction is pronounced, all should still be quiet, as if fearful of losing the peace of Christ. Let all pass out without jostling or loud talking, feeling that they are in the presence of God, that His eye is resting upon them, and that they must act as in His visible presence. Let there be no stopping in the aisles to visit or gossip, thus blocking them up so that others cannot pass out. The precincts of the church should be invested with a sacred reverence. It should not be made a place to meet old friends and visit and introduce common thoughts and worldly business transactions. These should be left outside the church. God and angels have been dishonored by the careless, noisy laughing and shuffling of feet heard in some places.”

And from *Child Guidance*, pages 542–543:

“There should be a sacred spot, like the sanctuary of old, where God is to meet with His people. That place should not be used as a lunchroom or as a business room, but simply for the worship of God. . . .

“The house or sanctuary dedicated to God should not be made a common place. Its sacredness should not be confused or mingled with the common everyday feelings or business life. There should be a solemn awe upon the worshippers as they enter the sanctuary, and they should leave behind all common worldly thoughts, for it is the place where God reveals His presence. It is as the audience chamber of the great and eternal God; therefore pride and passion, dissension and self-esteem, selfishness, and covetousness, which God pronounces idolatry, are inappropriate for such a place.”

Whether there are services being held or not, or even if it is not Sabbath but a regular working day, the same reverence must be upheld in the house of the Lord.

#### **REVERENCE OF WIFE TO HUSBAND**

The family circle is a small unit that is an example of what the larger circle of the family of God should be. Religion begins in the home and then spreads out to the church and to the community. A united home is a strong building block in the church and in society. It begins before the children are born with the wife reverencing her husband.

“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” Ephesians 5:33

The word “Reverence” in this verse in the Greek is literally “fear” or “respect” as opposed to “worship” as we understand the word reverence to mean in its truest sense. Paul does not mean cringing fear; that would be out of keeping with previous counsels he had given. God’s natural order in the family should not be subverted, and that special function of leadership that He has laid upon the husband should be regarded. Where there is mutual love and respect, question for domination or alienation will not arise.



The church of Christ is compared to a pure woman (“I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.” Jeremiah 6:2), and this church is to reverence her Husband (Christ).

Earlier in the chapter Paul wrote, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body.” Ephesians 5:23. Wives are to reverence the Lord, but respect their husbands, in the Lord. As long as the husband is faithful to the Lord and does not expect the wife to violate her conscience in any manner, but encourages her in her faith, then the wife is commanded to reverence (respect) him. If the husband is not in the faith she still needs to respect him, as long as there is no force to violate conscience.

**PARENTS**

Of Aaron’s sons it is said, “They were not disciplined to respect and reverence parental authority.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 294. When children are taught to respect their parents, they learn to reverence the Lord.

“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?” Hebrews 12:9

The word reverence here, literally translated from the Greek means “respect”, as opposed to despising them. Respect must be shown to duly appointed authority figures in our life, beginning with our parents, then teachers, employers, pastors, elders, etc.

“If you are a mother, train your children for Christ. This is as verily a work for God as is that of the minister in the pulpit.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 359

“Would that every mother could realize how great are her duties and her responsibilities, and how great will be the reward of faithfulness. The mother’s daily influence upon her children is preparing them for everlasting life or eternal death. She exercises in her home a power more decisive



than the minister in the desk, or even the king upon his throne.” –*Conflict and Courage*, p. 139

Mothers have the greatest influence on their children when they are very young. As she reverences (respects) her husband in the Lord, the children learn from her example to respect their parents and then to reverence the Lord.

Our worship and reverence begin in the home, and our example will be seen in the church as we respect the leaders. And then we will have a good influence in the community.

**RESPECT**

The Bible mentions a few times that there is no respect of persons with God.

God respects faithful worshippers. “And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.” Exodus 2:25. “Though the LORD be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly: but the proud He knoweth afar off.” Psalm 138:6. “For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish My covenant with you.” Leviticus 26:9

However, we are not to show respect in terms of preferential treatment. There is no distinction—God loves every one and is willing to help everyone and anyone regardless of social class, culture, nationality, age, or occupation.

This sentiment is conveyed in these verses. “For there is no respect of persons with God.” Romans 2:11. “For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person.” 2 Samuel 14:14

“When persons were invited to a feast, the guests were seated according to their rank, and those who were given the most honorable place received the first attention and special favors. The Pharisees were ever scheming to secure these honors. This practice Jesus rebuked.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 613

We must have the same kind of respect for fallen mankind. The gospel is open and available to all and as we love and reverence our Heavenly Father, this genuine respect will be manifested towards our fellow men. There is no respect as far as social class, occupation, or culture. All are one in Christ.

“Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.” Psalm 40:4. “But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.” James 2:9

May God help us to truly reverence the Lord in our prayers and service, especially worship services in the House of God, and then we will be led give proper to respect our fellow men. Amen. **Wendy Eaton**



# Blessed are the Meek

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5. All who want to be saved must learn meekness, and it is not an easy lesson to learn. Moses, who was quick tempered, and in anger killed an Egyptian man who was smiting a Hebrew, could not be used by God to deliver His people from Egypt. God had to send him to school to learn humility and patience. It took 40 years to learn, while doing humble work of caring for the flock of sheep for Jethro, his father-in-law. "(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)" Numbers 12:3. Now God could use him to deliver the people of Israel from Egypt.

King Nebuchadnezzar was proud. He said, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" Daniel 4:30. God decided to put him also in the school to learn meekness.

"While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of

heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured Him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation." Daniel 4:31–34

Joseph, the son of Jacob also had to learn meekness before he was exalted to be prime minister of Egypt. He was put into slavery, and also into prison, and after he had learned meekness, he was exalted to a high position.

Yet the greatest example of true meekness we find is the Son of God. Jesus, who created the whole universe, the billions of galaxies, and each one of them with billions of stars, came to this world, and washed the dusty feet of His disciples, the work that none of His disciples were willing to do. He was also willing to take the punishment of our sins upon Himself, and sacrificed His life for it, therefore He can say "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29

"God's providence is the school in which we are to learn the meekness and lowliness of Jesus. The Lord is ever setting before us, not the way we would choose, which seems easier and pleasanter to us, but the true aims of life. It rests with us to co-operate with the agencies which Heaven employs in the work of con-

forming our characters to the divine model. None can neglect or defer this work but at the most fearful peril to their souls." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 623

"You will have to learn the important lesson of what it is to be a man in the sight of God. It is to be like Jesus, meek and lowly of heart, to guard the interests of others more sacredly than you would your own.... It should be carried out in your daily life and practise, showing that you have not been playing truant or a dull scholar in the school of Christ.

"Selfishness cannot exist in a heart where Christ dwells; if cherished, it will crowd out everything besides. It will lead you to follow inclination rather than duty, to make self the subject of thought, and to gratify and indulge yourself, instead of seeking to be a blessing to others. Your wants, your pleasures, will come before everything else. . . . True happiness is to be found, not in self-indulgence and self-pleasing, but in learning of Christ. . . . Those who trust to their own wisdom, and follow their own ways, go complaining at every step, because the burden which selfishness binds upon them is so heavy." –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 82

David writes, "The meek will He guide in judgment: and the meek will He teach his way." Psalm 25:9

Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." Matthew 11:11. What made him great? Was it not his meekness? He said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30. I must be less appreciated, less noticed, and put aside.

The apostle Paul learned the lesson of meekness. He said, "Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews." Acts 20:18–19

We need to start learning meekness, because it takes time to become meek and lowly, and we do not have much time left. Many professing Christians will be lost because of self-righteousness. If Satan is not able to tempt us to break the Commandments of God, he will tempt us to become proud of our goodness, like the Pharisee who was praying in the temple. "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. He went home without being justified. The feeling that

we are better than others is almost incurable. This self-sufficiency separates us from God.

A solemn warning is given us: "It is a dangerous age for any man who has talents which can be of value in the work of God; for Satan is constantly plying his temptations upon such a person, ever trying to fill him with pride and ambition; and when God would use him, in nine cases out of ten he becomes independent, self-sufficient, and feels capable of standing alone." –*Counsels on Health*, p. 367

God cannot use self-sufficient people in His work. When we fully understand the work of Jesus, we know "for without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5

This will help us to learn meekness. It is a great privilege for a man to be used by God in His cause. God is calling humble workers to step into line. He is calling men and women who realize their own nothingness and helplessness. "The minister for God should in an eminent degree possess humility. Those who have the deepest experience in the things of God are the farthest removed from pride and self-exaltation. Because they have an exalted conception of the glory of God, they feel that the lowest place in His service is too honorable for them." –*Gospel Workers*, p. 142

"Jesus places meekness among the first qualifications for His kingdom." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 14

"The meek 'shall inherit the earth.' It was through the desire for self-exaltation that sin entered into the world, and our first parents lost the dominion over this fair earth, their kingdom. It is through self-abnegation that Christ redeems what was lost. And He says we are to overcome as He did. Revelation 3:21. Through humility and self-surrender we may become heirs with Him when 'the meek shall inherit the earth.' Psalm 37:11

"The earth promised to the meek will not be like this, darkened with the shadow of death and the curse. 'We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.' 'There shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him.' 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 22:3." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 17

By looking to Jesus, and meditating on His meekness, patience, and faithfulness, we will change into the same image. May the Lord help all of us to learn in the school of Christ this important lesson of meekness. Amen. **Timo Martin**



## Christian Youth in a Corrupt World

“Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” Galatians 1:3–4

The word “Christian” has been grossly misused in the world today to the point that almost everyone is a Christian, provided he is religious and confesses to be a follower of Christ. The condition is so bad that many genuine Christians no longer understand the differences that exist between them and the nominal Christians. Christ, our Lord and Master, makes it very clear that genuinely born-again, Christians are not of the world, though they live in the world. “I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” John 17:14–16

Let us look back into history to know why we are called Christians today; the disciples were first called Christians in the church at Antioch. “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.” Acts 11:26. The reason they were called Christians was because of their distinctive lifestyle; it marked them as a peculiar people. A Christian youth, therefore, is one who has truly repented of his sins, accepted Christ as his personal

Saviour; and, as a result, lives a righteous life in this sinful world. “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” Daniel 1:8

### **THE REALITY OF CORRUPTION IN THIS PRESENT WORLD**

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Genesis 6:5

The word “corrupt” refers to “a state of being dishonest, evil and immoral.” After the fall of man, the human race lost the original sinless image and nature of God and became corrupt. The sin of disobedience corrupted and defiled the initial pure nature. The heart of all human beings, old or young, is corrupt, evil, and wicked. The Scriptures confirm this: “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.” 1 John 5:19. The Psalmist also speaks of the corrupt state of the human heart in Psalm 53:2–3.

The world today is filled with all sorts of theories and ideologies about God and His children “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” Psalms 53:1–3

A Christian youth is faced with the reality of corruption in the world. The corrupt world actually refers to the various forms of evil and immoral practices of sinful youth in the schools and communities, as well as society at large. Corrupt practices among sinful youth seen through stealing, lying, fleshly desire, immoral conversation, immoral pictures, disobedience to parents in the Lord, not keeping the Sabbath faithfully, etc. Faced with this reality, a Christian youth needs to resolve to stand for Christ.

As a Christian youth, you cannot afford to change for the world; rather you are to remain steadfast and speak the word, preaching to the unconverted youth around you. Tell them of the danger of living a life of sin, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." Romans 1:28–32. Tell the world the truth! Do not keep quiet; do not give up. Keep speaking until you see them changing; there is a reward for you in heaven. Our fathers and mothers are getting old; we have to take the mantle and be separated for God.

#### **THE RESOLVE OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN A CORRUPT WORLD**

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." Daniel 1:8

To resolve is to decide firmly on a course of action. As a young Christian youth with a promising future before you, you must decide firmly not to be affected by the corruption in the world. "And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me,

and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." Ruth 1:15–17. Be firm like Ruth and stand with God and His people; you must constantly remember that, though you are in the world, you are not to be of the world. "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind." Ephesians 4:17

To resolve not to be corrupted or defiled by the world implies that you:

**Put off all forms of worldly conduct:** "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts." Ephesians 4:22

**Part with all evil associations:** "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." 1 Corinthians 15:33

**Put off every form of corrupt communication:** "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Ephesians 4:29

**Pray and study the Word of God:** "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:8

**Be prudent in your interactions and inter-personal relationships:** "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated." Proverbs 14:17

#### **THE REWARD OF NON-CONFORMITY IN A CORRUPT WORLD**

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Corinthians 9:24–27

Total obedience to the Lord always results in great positive rewards. A Christian youth who refuses to be corrupted by the world stands to enjoy:

**Compassion from the Lord in times of need.**

**Constant fruit-bearing.** "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scorn-

ful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalms 1:1-3

**Communion with God.**

**Commendation from Christ.**

**Crown of glory.** "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." 1 Corinthians 9:24

The Lord has promised to bless Christian young people who serve Him without being spotted by the world. "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD." Psalm 119:1

To the undefiled Christian youth is reserved "An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:4

**PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS**

In your view, what should

be the stand of the Christian youth in this corrupt world?

Mention some corrupt activities that are done by unconverted youth in your school, to confirm the reality of corruption in this present world.

What practical steps must a Christian youth take to avoid being corrupted by the corrupt practices in our society?

What other rewards can the Christian get for a life of non-conformity to the world?

I want to thank God and my family in Canada for their love, support and prayers.

**Ebrima John Jaiteh, The Gambia**



**"The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting transformations so amazing that Satan, with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and delusions. They are to him an incomprehensible mystery. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to cooperate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are through the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude, to be sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasure of heaven.**

**"To His church, Christ has given ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. The church, being endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depository, in which the wealth of His mercy, His love, His grace, is to appear in full and final display. The declaration in His intercessory prayer, that the Father's love is as great toward us as toward Himself, the only-begotten Son, and that we shall be with Him where He is, forever one with Christ and the Father, is a marvel to the heavenly host, and it is their great joy. . . .**

**"All heaven is watching those agencies that are as the hand to work out the purpose of God in the earth, thus doing the will of God in heaven. Such co-operation accomplishes a work that brings honor and glory and majesty to God. Oh, if all would love as Christ has loved, that perishing men might be saved from ruin, what a change would come to our world!" –God's Amazing Grace, p. 222**

# The Broken Jar



With a feeling of anticipation I am holding the parcel in my hands. Even though I already know what is inside, there is still that moment of excitement and curiosity when I open it. Carefully my hands pull apart the wrapping paper and my eyes spot the shimmering glass. My fingers lightly tap on the smooth surface of a vintage cookie jar. However, my joy gets clouded for an instant—taking a closer look I notice that a part of the lid is splintered and broken. The first thought that comes to my mind is to send it back and to claim a new one. But something about it intrigues me and I decide to keep it that way. It has not lost any of its beauty and still fulfills its purpose—being filled with pieces of paper as part of the challenge “30 days of gratitude”.

The jar reminds me of myself as a human being—sometimes empty, hurt and heartbroken. I do not know what your heartbreak looks like. Maybe someone who promised to stick with you left with little warning. Maybe a close friend betrayed your trust or let you down when you needed them the most. Or maybe you have that awful feeling in your gut that the person you love just does not love you back.

But you are not alone in this. God Himself—powerful and holy as He is—knows what it is to have His heart broken. He is not sitting up in the clouds somewhere, watching with detached interest. He is fully engaged with you, pouring out His love on you and longing for you to love Him back. When He made you, He could have created a being who was automatically loyal to Him, who robotically returned His affection. But instead, He designed you with the will to decide how you would respond to Him, and in doing so, He opened His heart to profound love—and profound heartache.

## BEING REJECTED

Ever since the beginning, we humans have been breaking God’s heart. Adam and Eve had the opportunity to walk in unbroken closeness with God, yet they rejected the relationship He offered in exchange for a hollow promise. Since then, people have continued to turn their backs on God’s love and faithfulness. Jeremiah recounts the way God aches over the rejection of His love: “They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife” (Jeremiah 31:32). If anyone has felt the sting of rejection, it is God.

## BEING BETRAYED

In one of the most heartbreaking illustrations recorded in the Bible, the prophet Hosea lived out a devastating parallel to God’s relationship with His people. God instructed Hosea to marry Gomer, a woman who was compulsively unfaithful to him. Time after time she betrayed him, yet he consistently took her back, loving her against all logic and the advice of his friends. Perhaps you are not so different today. You flirt with less worthy lovers and continually break God’s heart with your betrayal. And still He takes you back, His love is as fierce as ever.

## BEING ABANDONED

When you find yourself left alone by someone you love, there is comfort in knowing that God has endured that kind of abandonment too. At the end of Jesus’ time on earth—the darkest hour of His life—He was abandoned by His closest friends, the men He had spent the last three years with. As He was pouring out His grief to God, they were off napping. When He was being arrested, they went into hiding to save their own skin. And when Jesus was on the cross, even God Himself seemed to turn His face away, prompting Jesus to cry out, “My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?” (Matthew 27:46).

So when you endure these heartbreaks yourself—rejection, betrayal, abandonment—remember, you do not walk through them alone. God has walked that road Himself and is with you. When you feel empty, let God fill you with His promises and be grateful. When your heart is broken, remember that you are given an insight into the very character of God.

*Manuela Di Franca*



# My Country, My Identity

ing the way for Christ's first advent, he was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 101

What is our mission? Do we know our mission as Christians? My country, my identity—what is the mission for each and every true follower of Christ?

"Had the Church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 633

Fellow believers, do you know your country and your identity? Which country are you identifying with? In my country, Uganda, in the year 2015, every citizen was required to register and obtain a national identity card. Without the card you could not move about. Each was to carry it with them at all times for quick identification. As Christians, we are fellow citizens of heaven and we are to advocate for heaven, carrying our identity with us where ever we go, such that the world may know that we are not of this world. We are strangers and pilgrims; our home is in heaven.

Isaiah the prophet foretold the work of John the Baptist when he wrote: "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Isaiah 40:3–5

In the time of John the Baptist he advocated his country and his identity by preparing the people to accept Jesus as their Saviour. He said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29

"As a prophet John was 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' In prepar-

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:5–6

"The prophet Malachi declares, 'Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers.' Malachi 4:5–6. Here the prophet describes the character of the work. Those who are to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ, are represented by faithful Elijah, as John came in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for Christ's first advent. The great subject of reformation is to be agitated, and the public mind is to be stirred. Temperance in all things is to be connected with the message, to turn the people of God from their idolatry, their gluttony, and their extravagance in dress and other things. The self-denial, humility, and temperance required of the righteous, whom God especially leads and blesses, is to be presented to the people in contrast to the extravagant, health-destroying habits of those who live in this degenerate age." —*Counsels on Health*, p. 72

My country, My identity! Brethren, what work are you doing during the final hours of this earth's history? As we have seen regarding the work of John the Baptist who prepared the way for Christ's first advent, where are the Johns of today, who will warn the people? Where are Elijahs of today, who will proclaim Christ's second coming? The world is full of rioting. People are lost in sin and the door of mercy is about to be closed. Remember that we are living on borrowed time; therefore, minute men are needed now to work in the Lord's vineyard.

"The Lord calls for minutemen, men who will be prepared to speak words in season and out of season that will arrest

the attention and convict the heart. The kingdom of God consisteth not in outward show. Light will not be received by following selfish plans, but by looking unto Jesus, following Christ's leading, not the suppositions of men. The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 497

"But the life of John the Baptist was not spent in idleness, in ascetic gloom, or in selfish isolation. From time to time he went forth to mingle with men; and he was ever an interested observer of what was passing in the world. From his quiet retreat he watched the unfolding of events. With vision illuminated by the divine Spirit he studied the characters of men, that he might understand how to reach their hearts with the message of heaven. The burden of his mission was upon him. In solitude, by meditation and prayer, he sought to gird up his soul for the lifework before him." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 102

John the Baptist saw his people deceived, self-satisfied, and asleep in their sins. He longed to arouse them to a holier life. The message that God gave him to bear was designed to startle them from their lethargy, and cause them to tremble because of their great wickedness.

"God does not send messengers to flatter the sinner. He delivers no message of peace to lull the unsanctified into fatal security. He lays heavy burdens upon the conscience of the wrongdoer, and pierces the soul with arrows of conviction. The ministering angels presents to him the fearful judgments of God to deepen the sense of need, and prompt the cry, 'What must I do to be saved?' Then the hand that has humbled in the dust, lifts up the penitent. The voice that has rebuked sin, and put to shame pride and ambition, inquiries with tenderest sympathy, 'What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?' –*Ibid.*, p. 104

#### **THE WORK OF ELIJAH AND THE ELEVENTH-HOUR PEOPLE**

"John the Baptist went forth in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way of the Lord and to turn the people to the wisdom of the just. He was a representative of those living in these last days, to whom God has entrusted sacred truths to present before the people, to prepare the way for the second appearing of Christ. John was a reformer. The angel Gabriel, direct from heaven, gave a discourse upon health reform to the Father and mother of John. He said that he should not drink wine or strong drink, and that he should be filled with the Holy Ghost from his birth." –*Counsels on Health* p. 72

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things." Matthew 17:11

Elias, who was John the Baptist, was present in Jesus' time. Elias, who had already come and who will come, is the eleventh-hour people.

"And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatever is right, that shall ye receive." Matthew 20:6–7

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God's people." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 181

"The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out, and left by the way. [I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth. 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 3:15-17.] The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, but their numbers were immediately made up by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks." –*Ibid.*, p. 182

"The people of God must see their wrongs and arouse to zealous repentance and a putting away of those sins which have brought them into such a deplorable condition of poverty, blindness, wretchedness, and fearful deception. I was shown that the pointed testimony must live in the church. This alone will answer to the message to the Laodiceans. Wrongs must be reproved, sin must be called sin, and iniquity must be met promptly and decidedly, and put away from us as a people." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 260

Labourers are needed now in the Lord's vineyard, to give both to the world and the church a living testimony; to wake people from their spiritual slumber. We have a message to give to the world—my country, my identity.

"Men of clear understanding are needed now. God calls upon those who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work of thorough reformation. I see a crisis before us, and the Lord calls for His laborers to come into line. Every soul should now stand in a position of deeper, truer consecration to God than during the years that have passed." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 514

*Jenifer Akello, Uganda*

## CHILDREN'S CORNER:

# The Garden Club

Jenny was new at her school. She sat alone in the cafeteria while she looked curiously at a small group of girls who were admiring some potted plants. Some had pretty flowers, while others appeared to be newly planted.

Suddenly one of the girls waved at her to join them, and as Jenny approached, a girl named Christy smiled at her. "Hi, I think I know you, Jenny right?"

"Yeah," Jenny replied. "What's going on here—is this for a science class or something?"

Lisa spoke up, "Oh no! It's for our garden club. We grew these plants from the kit we received after becoming a member. Do you like gardening?"

"A little bit," Jenny admitted. "So you're all in a garden club? Isn't that a little lame? I could see being in an art club or playing sports or music, but growing flowers?"

"This is not an ordinary club," Lisa continued. "First of all, it's free, not like some clubs that cost a lot of money. Secondly, there is no competition like in sports. We just get to admire what becomes of the seeds we plant, and see what kind of flowers they produce. Some turn out beautiful, others not too great, but you don't have to feel bad if your plants don't grow well. You never know what kind of seeds you planted in the first place. The kit says if you follow the instructions, they will grow."

"Well it sounds intriguing. How much would it cost me

to join?" Jenny asked.

Everyone turned and replied at the same time, "It's free!"

Christy continued talking about the club. "The headquarters for the club is somewhere out of state. The president of the club lives there. It is said he has a beautiful place, and a magnificent garden. Occasionally he will invite members to see his wonderful garden and they get to travel first class, free."

"Well, I think I'm interested. How can I join?" Jenny asked.

"I just happen to have a membership application here, answer all questions sincerely and you're in."

After sending in her application, Jenny received her kit. She read the instructions over and over to make sure she did everything just right. She was determined that her seeds will grow and produce beautiful flowers. Occasionally, she would take her plants to school and talk with the others about gardening.

After a few weeks, she noticed that some of her plants weren't growing as fast as she expected. She felt she might be doing something wrong, so she decided to go to some nurseries and ask questions. Then she went to the library and read all kinds of books about plants and gardening. Once in a while, she would even go with some friends to seminars. She was becoming an expert on how to grow flowers.

One day, a big announcement came to the club. The president was very pleased that new members were being added to the club, and that the joy of gardening was spreading. So he wanted to have all members come to visit his magnificent garden, all expenses paid. Brand new members were also invited, even if their plants weren't fully grown. There was a lot of excitement among all the members. They gathered after school to talk about the big event.

"Is the president really that rich to pay for everyone to come to see his garden?" Jenny asked. "How can he really be that wealthy?"

"Well, I love the club and everything it has done for me," Christy admitted. "I have so many new friends now who care about the same things I care about, and who love gardening! If he says the trip is free, then I believe it. Maybe he'll even give me a prize when he sees some of the beautiful plants grown from my kit. But that's really not important. Just going will be fun."

"You mean we will have to bring our plants?" Jenny asked a little surprised.

"Well of course," Lisa piped in. "After all, this is a gardening club. Naturally you would want to bring your plants. You were given the seeds, so you wouldn't want to show up with nothing. Even if it were not mandatory, as a member you should want to show how you did."

Jenny shook her head, "Well, I'm sorry to tell you this Lisa, but your plants didn't bloom too well."

"I know. I followed the instructions and everything. There is only so much I can do. I can't be blamed for something I can't control.

"I wish I could have helped you," said Jenny. I went to seminars, read several books and studied hard about plants. But the truth is, I can't seem to do it right either. I really like gardening, but sometimes I feel so hopeless. Some of my seeds grew into beautiful flowers, but others just so-so, and still others hardly grew at all. I must be doing something wrong; I just don't know what it is. It's so embarrassing when your plants don't grow well."

Lisa shook her head and replied, "What you have is more than acceptable Jenny. You can still go. I didn't hear anyone say you had to have perfect plants before you could go. Like you said, look at mine! They aren't

anywhere near as pretty as yours, but I'm going."

"I just don't know," Jenny replied. "I was always taught to do things the right way. I can't accept anything for something I didn't work hard for, much more this free trip. I can't bring these plants. They're not perfect. I joined the club because I thought I could do it, but now I just feel like a failure. As for the trip, I'm not really sure I believe it is free either. Somehow, somewhere, it may turn out that it will really cost me something. Maybe I can save up for the plane fare so I can enjoy seeing the garden without any worry or doubt.

"You are too hard on yourself Jenny. The announcement didn't say bring perfect plants! As for me, I'll take my chances and go. Maybe when I am there, I can learn the real story about the seeds."

When the big day came, everyone in the garden club was ready to board the plane with all of their plants, and fly to the magnificent garden, everyone, that is, except for Jenny. She never did save enough to pay for the flight on her own, and on the big day she was still

feeling inadequate because not all of her plants grew into beautiful flowers. However, what Jenny didn't know was that all of her plants grew exactly as they were supposed to grow.

The members of the garden club are like many people who become Christians. They have joy and enthusiasm in their heart, and sincerely love the Lord. The seeds represent the Word of God, planted to grow in each Christian's life. They also show how the Word of God can be shared with oth-

ers, but the growth depends on God. Unfortunately, like Jenny, some Christians receive God's Word, but tend to rely on their own efforts for growth and salvation, so doubt creeps into their faith.

The Apostle Paul said: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5. We need to have true faith in God, trusting in Him to allow His word to grow in our hearts. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11



# Turmeric



“The use of natural remedies requires an amount of care and effort that many are not willing to give. Nature's process of healing and upbuilding is gradual, and to the impatient it seems slow. The surrender of hurtful indulgences requires sacrifice. But in the end it will be found that nature, untrammled, does her work wisely and well. Those who persevere in obedience to her laws will reap the reward in health of body and health of mind.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 301

Although turmeric/curcumin supplements have proven to contain tremendous health benefits with little or no side effects, as with all herbal or natural medicines, one must use them wisely, as their effects on the body may be similar to pharmaceutical medicines; therefore, if you have a health condition and are taking medication for it, you must check with your doctor before taking turmeric/curcumin supplements (supplement manufacturers may label their products as either turmeric or curcumin).

The dangers arise when using large doses or in combination with pharmaceutical medications. They can either increase or decrease the effect of other drugs and cause serious reactions. For example, in diabetics, curcumin may lower your blood sugar levels to dangerous lows when used with diabetes medications. Because curcumin is also a blood thinner, if taken with other blood thinners, including aspirin, it can slow clotting, increase the risk of serious bleeds, potentially lead to strokes.

During pregnancy and while breastfeeding, turmeric is likely safe when taken by mouth in amounts commonly

found in food. However, turmeric's compound, curcumin, is likely unsafe when taken by mouth in medicinal amounts during pregnancy. It might promote a menstrual period or cause contractions, putting the pregnancy at risk. There is also not enough information to rate the safety of medicinal amounts of curcumin during breast-feeding. Curcumin can make gallbladder problems worse; do not use it if you have gallstones or a bile duct obstruction.

Curcumin can cause stomach upset in some people. It might make stomach problems such as GERD worse. Do not take curcumin if it worsens symptoms of GERD. In hormone-sensitive condition such as breast cancer, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer, endometriosis, or uterine fibroids, curcumin might act like the hormone estrogen. In theory, curcumin might make hormone-sensitive conditions worse. However, some research shows that turmeric reduces the effects of estrogen in some hormone-sensitive cancer cells. Until more is known, use cautiously if you have a condition that might be made worse by exposure to hormones.

Turmeric might lower testosterone levels and decrease sperm movement when taken by mouth by men. This might reduce fertility. High amounts of turmeric might prevent the absorption of iron, and should be used with caution in people with an iron deficiency.

Studies regarding turmeric require that everything be measured, so that if the results are beneficial, people can be told exactly how much to take. Standardized extracts provide this convenience, as you know exactly how much curcumin you are getting, and the studies

can be done at “higher doses”. What was discovered through the studies is that curcumin has a low bioavailability—meaning, it gets excreted or metabolized by the body before the active curcumin can reach the blood stream and other organs (only trace amounts were found in the body after ingestion). This means that just because your supplement has curcumin extract does not mean that your body will be able to get the benefits. Therefore, when using turmeric or curcumin supplements, the biggest factor to consider is the bioavailability of the actual active ingredient.

Another reason behind the non-availability of curcumin in the body is due to its low solubility in water. There are ways by which one can take curcumin without its solubility issues coming in its way. Turmeric is fat-soluble, which means that it does not fully dissolve unless it is in fat. To increase the absorption of curcumin, consume it with a meal containing fats, for example, coconut oil, flaxseed oil, or olive oil. When eaten with a healthy fat, your body directly absorbs curcumin into the bloodstream bypassing the liver.

When taking curcumin with water, it should be taken with hot water to enhance its solubility. Studies have shown that boiling turmeric in water for 10 minutes increases its solubility 12 fold. Do not expose turmeric to prolonged heat (curcumin is moderately sensitive to heat). After more than 15 minutes curcumins are starting to get destroyed.

Another substance to use with curcumin is quercetin, which is one of the most potent flavonoids. It is a plant pigment that occurs in several plants and foods, such as red grapes, red onions, apples, berries, tomatoes, peppers, green leafy veggies, cruciferous vegetables, asparagus, beans, quinoa, and legumes. Fruits with a blue color or dark red have the highest quercetin content. Quercetin inhibits the enzyme that inactivates curcumin, thus resulting in better bioavailability for your body. Ginger, bromelain, and silymarin, all naturally occurring compounds also help to increase your body’s absorption of curcumin.

Manufacturers of herbal supplements are finding that combining curcumin with other compounds increases the amount of curcumin that gets absorbed into the body. These compounds are known as adjuvants, defined as “a drug or other substance that enhances the activity of another.” These combination curcumin supplements have been patented by the companies that produce them. Accumulating data evidence shows that most, if not all formulated curcumins have better bio-

availability and biological activities than unformulated curcumins.

Many recent studies conducted by major research groups around the globe suggest the use of curcumin as an adjuvant with chemotherapeutic drugs can help to maximize their benefits and minimize side effects due to turmeric’s non-toxic nature. Curcumin has been shown to prevent the relapse of cancer, decrease tumour mass and prevent cancer spreading to other parts of the body. Curcumin naturally targets cancer cells, whereas chemotherapy agents target not only cancer cells, but healthy cells. Curcumin is also non-toxic to healthy cells, as opposed to chemotherapy, which damages healthy cells as well as the cancer cells. However, low bioavailability of a curcumin molecule is still the primary challenge encountered in adjuvant therapy. Research is developing strategies to overcome bioavailability issues and discovering new ways of using curcumin in the ever-growing field of cancer treatment. Recently, with the discovery of nanotechnology, it has become possible to design curcumin-encapsulated nanoparticles or nanocurcumin by compressing its bulky size to less than 100 nanometres with superior bioavailability properties, allowing high doses of curcumin to be absorbed by the body.

The leading names in curcumin supplements currently are: BioPerine, Longvida, Jarrow Formulas, NOW Foods, Doctors Best, Theracurmin, and BCM-95. These supplements are made from curcumin and, at least one additional ingredient (adjuvant) to assist in the absorption and bioavailability. These patented additives each claim to increase curcumin absorption. No matter which one you buy, all brands will claim to have the best bioavailable curcumin. Their product reviews almost sound identical in that regard.

The patented BioPerine is an extract from the fruit of *Piper nigrum* (black pepper). It has been found to be one of the best ways to take turmeric to increase absorption. Bio-availability of curcumin is increased up to 154%. Black pepper increases levels of prescription medicine in the blood also, potentially causing an overdose; therefore, it needs to be used with caution. High doses of black pepper can also be toxic. However, we have been counselled not to use black pepper in our diets, therefore look at the label to ensure that the supplement you use does not include black pepper.

Some supplement companies encase curcumin within a liposome to increase its bioavailability. A liposome is a tiny bubble, made out of the same material as a cell

membrane. Liposomes can be filled with drugs, and used to deliver drugs to the body to improve absorption. Others contain phospholipids (a type of fat) combined with turmeric, to allow for increased absorption. This allows for taking the supplement without needing to ingest fats at the same time.

Both LongVida and Meriva contain 20% curcumin and 80% phospholipids (fats). In Meriva, the phospholipid is derived from soy. This combination has a respectable amount of research and clinical studies examining its effectiveness in curcumin absorption. Their websites claims that the formula is anywhere from 29-65 times more bioavailable than curcumin alone. Also, Longvida has demonstrated its ability to cross the blood-brain barrier and bind amyloid plaques, slowing down the advancement of Alzheimer's disease. It may be the preferred choice for research that focuses on brain-related conditions and traumatic brain injury.

The Theracurmin supplement is composed of 10% curcumin, and 90% other curcuminoids. This product has been able to make the turmeric particle extremely small, into nanoparticles. Thus, larger amounts can be taken into the body. In treating cancer, high doses of curcumin is needed. Theracurmin has been tested as having strong anti-cancer properties. It contains microscopic curcumin particles in a suspension that is absorbed into the blood faster, and stays there longer.

In looking for another method to increase bioavailability of curcumin, a patented formula called BCM-95 CG was found. While the details of this compound are patented, essentially, it uses the other parts of the turmeric root to make the curcumin extract bioavailable. And the conclusion of the scientists who did the initial study on BCM-95 states that the study supports the "probable" role for non-curcuminoid components of turmeric in the absorbability of curcumin. In other words, YOU NEED ALL THE PARTS OF THE ROOT! This



supports using the whole herb the way nature intended.

According to the University of Maryland Medical Center, the permissible dosages of various forms of turmeric (for adults) are:

- Freshly cut root: 1.5–3 g per day
- Dried, powdered root: 1–3 g per day
- Standardized powder (curcumin): 400–600 mg, 3 times per day (as supplements)
- Fluid extract (1:1): 30–90 drops a day
- Tincture (1:2): 15–30 drops, 4 times per day

The concentration of curcumin may change by brand, so be sure to read the labels carefully. Biomedical science has been able to validate many of the ancient healing modalities that existed long before science. Much of this information was passed down from generation to generation, and is still in use today. These natural treatments are increasingly gaining the attention of scientists looking for cures for the most common ailments of mankind. No better example of this type of study exists than turmeric. Over the course of the past several years, it has been researched extensively, and it has been found that it can have benefits in 750 different diseases. The reason why it is not used in mainstream medicine is because the research into having a drug approved by the FDA can cost billions of dollars, and with a naturally occurring substance, there would not be a return on a drug company's investment. Profit motives are the primary reason why natural medicine is still being practiced outside mainstream medicine.

Curcumin supplementation without someone having a specific health condition present can be used to prevent diseases that are caused by factors in our environment that we are not able to control. Turmeric's anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties both are key factors in preventing damage from the aging process and decreasing the risk of developing age-related chronic illnesses. Taking turmeric on a daily basis, either in your diet or from supplements can produce a lot of health benefits without any harmful effects.

God has provided us with many natural medicines, which are more effective and safer than many medicines created by man. "Our Saviour is the restorer of the moral image of God in man. He has supplied in the natural world remedies for the ills of man, that His followers may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." –Pamphlet 144 14.1, *The Place of Herbs in Rational Therapy* (Manuscript 65, 1899)

**Below is our occasional French article  
for our French speaking readers.**



## Amour Fraternel

Quand Jésus marchait sur cette terre, il était souvent suivi par beaucoup de personnes et entouré par des multitudes, cependant il a toujours marché seul. Personne sur terre ne le comprenait. Quand il avait besoin de réconfort, il ne pouvait que répandre son cœur en présence de son Père céleste.

De la même façon, chacun parmi nous, devra faire sa propre marche - solitaire. Nous pouvons nous prendre d'amitié les uns pour les autres, nous pouvons nous aimer, nous pouvons essayer de nous entraider, mais notre être intérieur est une chambre privée dont seul Dieu a la clé.

Pourtant, il y a parfois des âmes qui se lient avec d'autres âmes, et elles ont une intuition même de ce que l'autre peut traverser. Oui, plus profond que cela, quand l'un est blessé, l'autre peut ressentir la douleur. Il y a un lien poignant, un lien mystérieux entre les deux cœurs.

POIGNANT: Très pénible pour l'esprit ou les sentiments : anxiété poignante. Affectant, touchant : sentiment poignant. Latin : piquant, transperçant.

Siméon a prédit que Marie, la mère de Jésus aurait un

tel sentiment : « Et à toi-même une épée te transpercera l'âme. » Luc 2:35

« L'amour sanctifié des uns pour les autres est une chose sacrée. Dans cette œuvre solennelle, l'amour chrétien mutuel – d'un caractère élevé, durable, bienveillant, désintéressé sans précédent – assure la bonté, la charité et la courtoisie chrétiennes, et embrasse la fraternité humaine dans le sein du Tout-Puissant, reconnaissant la dignité qu'il a conférée aux droits de l'homme. Les chrétiens doivent sans cesse sauvegarder cette dignité pour l'honneur et la gloire de Dieu. » – *Pour un bon équilibre mental et spirituel*, vol. 1, p. 249–250

Néanmoins, nous sommes tous des êtres humains pécheurs et déçus, et il nous faut une vigilance permanente.

« Aussi longtemps que nous vivrons, il nous faudra préserver avec détermination nos affections et nos passions. Car nous avons affaire à une corruption interne, à des tentations extérieures, et partout où l'œuvre de Dieu avance, Satan utilise les circonstances de manière que la tentation agisse de façon accablante sur l'âme. Pas un seul instant nous ne pouvons être en sécurité, si

ce n'est en nous appuyant sur le Tout-Puissant, en ayant notre vie cachée avec le Christ en Dieu. » – *Pour un bon équilibre mental et spirituel*, vol. 1, p. 243–244

« Plus que tous ses compagnons, Jean, le disciple bien-aimé, subit l'influence de cette vie merveilleuse ; cette vie divine d'où découlent tous les bienfaits dont le monde a été enrichi. » – *Jésus Christ*, p. 233

Et « Écoutons les paroles qu'il adressait à son Père dans sa prière sacerdotale : 'Je leur ai fait connaître ton nom, et je le leur ferai connaître, afin que l'amour dont tu m'as aimé soit en eux, et que moi, je sois en eux.' Jean 17:26. Quelles paroles profondes, quelle largeur de vues !... Le Seigneur désire diffuser son amour à travers chaque membre du corps, c'est-à-dire de son Église, pour que la vitalité de cet amour pénètre chaque partie de ce corps et demeure en nous comme il demeure en lui. Ainsi, il peut aimer l'homme déchu comme son propre Fils, et il déclare que rien de moins que cela ne saurait le satisfaire. » – *Pour un bon équilibre mental et spirituel*, vol. 1, p. 251

Cet amour divin doit couler dans chacun de nous et dans notre église en tant que corps.

« Le Seigneur voudrait que ses enfants sachent que s'ils veulent le glorifier, ils doivent témoigner leur affection à ceux qui en ont le plus besoin... Quel que soit le rang de nos semblables, qu'ils soient riches ou pauvres..., il ne faut faire preuve d'aucun égoïsme dans nos attitudes, nos paroles ou nos actes, à l'égard de ceux qui ont une foi précieuse comme la nôtre. L'amour qui adresse des paroles bienveillantes à quelques personnes seulement, tandis que les autres sont traitées avec froideur et indifférence, n'est pas de l'amour, mais de l'égoïsme, un égoïsme qui ne contribuera nullement

au bien des âmes et à la gloire de Dieu. Notre amour... ne saurait être réservé à certaines personnes privilégiées, au mépris des autres. Brisez le flacon, et le parfum remplira la maison. » – *Pour un bon équilibre mental et spirituel*, vol. 1, p. 247

« L'amour que le Christ répand dans l'être tout entier est une puissance vivifiante. C'est lui qui guérit notre cœur, notre cerveau, nos nerfs. Par lui, les plus nobles énergies de notre être sont mises en activité. Il libère l'âme de sa culpabilité et de sa tristesse, de ses anxiétés et de ses soucis. Il nous apporte le calme et la sérénité, et répand dans notre âme une joie dans le Saint-Esprit, qui est une source de vie et de santé, et que rien au monde ne saurait détruire. » – *Le ministère de la guérison*, p. 90–91

« Pour vous, bien-aimés, vous édifiant vous-mêmes sur votre très sainte foi, et priant par le Saint-Esprit, maintenez-vous dans l'amour de Dieu, en attendant la miséricorde de notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ pour la vie éternelle. Reprenez les uns, ceux qui contestent ; sauvez-en d'autres en les arrachant du feu ; et pour d'autres encore, ayez une pitié mêlée de crainte, haïssant jusqu'à la tunique souillée par la chair. Or, à celui qui peut vous préserver de toute chute et vous faire paraître devant sa gloire irrépréhensibles et dans l'allégresse, Dieu seul, notre Sauveur, par Jésus-Christ notre Seigneur, soient gloire, majesté, force et puissance, dès avant tous les temps, et maintenant, et dans tous les siècles ! Amen ! » Jude 20–25

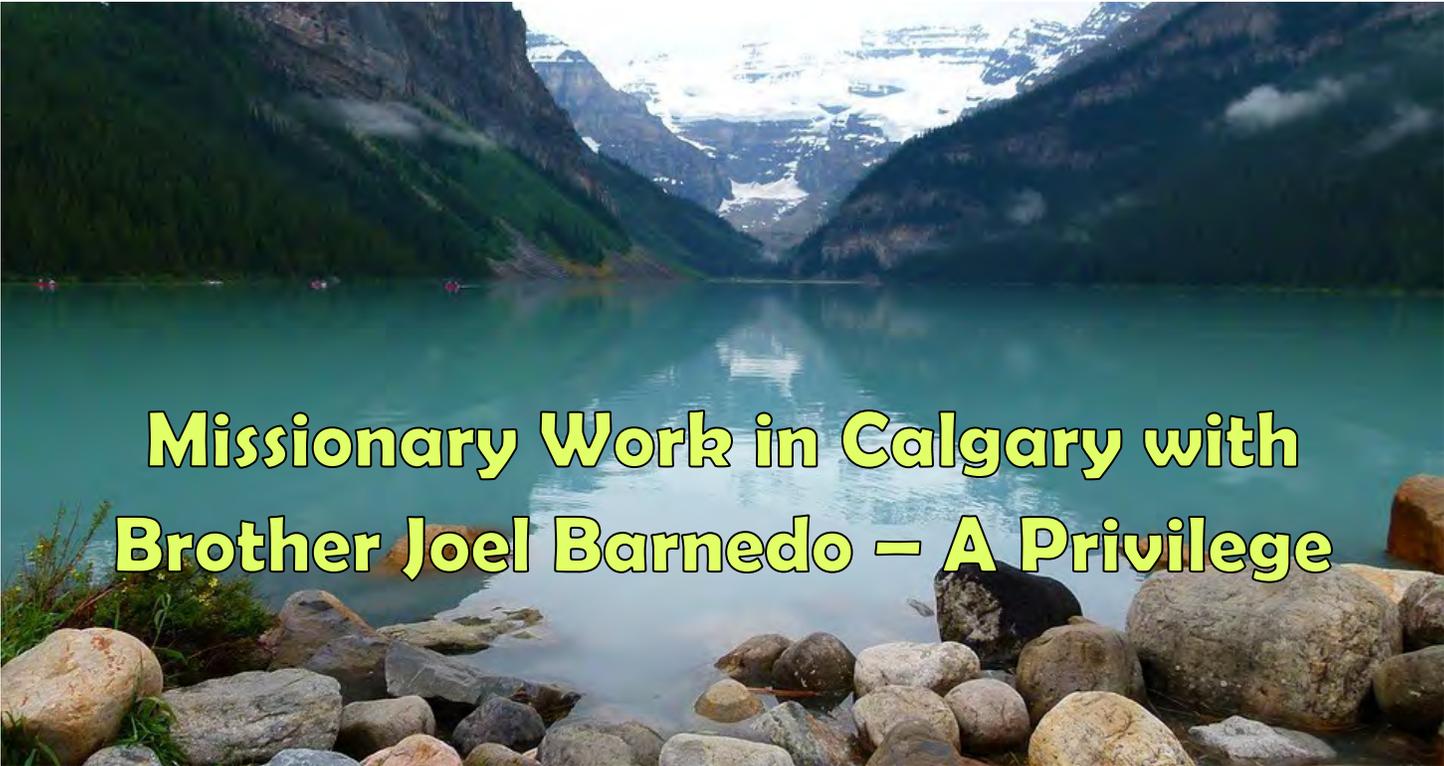
**Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada**

English version found in: November 2007, Vol 14, Number 11. *The Reformation Messenger*.

## LOOKING FOR YOU . . .

**If you are interested in submitting an item for publication in *The Reformation Messenger*, please submit by email or mail.**

**Submit:  
Drawings, Announcements ,  
Reports, Articles, Poems, Photos,  
Personal Testimonies and Experiences.**



## Missionary Work in Calgary with Brother Joel Barnedo – A Privilege

I want to thank God that I had the opportunity to have Brother Joel Barnedo from United States here in Calgary doing missionary work with me. We did work such as canvassing from door-to-door, giving Bible studies, making visits and counselling. There is an old saying that says, “A that Friend in need is a Friend indeed.” Friends hold a special place in our heart as they are the ones who always stand by us whenever we need them. Therefore, I would like to write a few words in appreciation of our brother in the Lord who has helped me and showed me how to improve my personal approach when doing canvassing work or giving Bible studies. I personally, and on behalf of the Canadian Field, express our gratitude towards him for the sacrifice he has done in accepting our invitation to come and help. I believe that both Brother Joel and I have learned something new on this occasion. As we went out every day we witnessed about the love and mercy of God towards the people.

The Bible tells us that God is love and each of us knows that; but what about the people around us? Do they know that God is love? Do they know that Jesus is going to come very soon? Are they aware of what God is expecting from His children in order to be saved? There is an amazing story in the Bible regarding missionary work. It is the story of the Ethiopian reading the Scriptures of the Old Testament. He was reading from Isaiah 53 and could not understand what it was all about. Then the Lord sent Philip to explain the Scriptures to this sincere soul who was looking for salvation. The question Philip asked was; “do you understand what

you are reading?” The answer came; “how can I, unless someone guides me?” (Acts 8:26–39)

My dear brothers and sisters, dear friends, God is waiting for us to go to the lost sheep in the streets or houses of the city or village we are living in. Jesus wants us to give Bible studies because there are many people just like the Ethiopian who do not understand when they read the Bible. I want to encourage you to consider it a great blessing and opportunity through which the Lord can make you a channel of light, and a blessing for others. I have experienced with Brother Joel the joy of salvation when you impart God’s word and you help others to come to Jesus. We visited Hospitals. We also have been in the street handing out leaflets and giving out spiritual literature to people. We have been blessed with this work. Calgary is a multicultural city, with people from many countries like Philippines, China, Asia and so forth. Brother Joel, by the mercy of God, could interact with people from his country (Philippines). We have made a few Bible study contacts and I hope by God’s help that I will continue my friendship with them bring these souls to Jesus. We spent a beautiful Sabbath with our dear Church members; Brother Oscar and his family came from Vancouver, brother Matungo and his family as well as a very nice number of visitors that we visited during the week. All of them came to have fellowship with the Lord and with us. A Bible study was requested in the afternoon, in which Br. Joel had an opportunity to share with us the periods of nutrition in the Bible. There were questions and answers as well. We concluded with Lord’s Supper. We were all blessed

as we partook in this event.

In closing this message, I want to say that the ministry of Brother Barnedo while in Calgary made a great difference for me! I cannot even begin to imagine the sacrifices he has made as a pastor as he shared many of his experiences with us. His ministry has had an impact that will only be fully seen in Heaven. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank the Brother for visiting us and helping the missionary work.

I would like to give a special thank you also to Brother Barnedo for his prayers and countless experiences, Bible studies and encouragement. I thank the Lord for the passion I see expressed in his life for Jesus, for His care and gentle guidance. Your example in being sensitive to the Lord's leading has been a blessing. Thank you for the example that you set by the grace of God. May God richly bless you and all the ministers and leaders who are making great sacrifices to help and encourage the missionary work in different parts of the world.

With brotherly love -

***Nicholas Anca & Family***



**Above From left to right. Visiting the hospital. Brother Barnedo. Brother Nicholas Anca  
Below: visitors and members in attendance on Sabbath**



## Ministerial Board in Session, May 1-12



The Ministerial Board of the General Conference met to propose updates to the Church Manual and Ministerial Manual. From left to right: Arnolfo Cortez, Philippines; Parmenas Shirima, Tanzania; Timo Martin, Canada; Henry Andrade, Australia; Tzvetan Petkov, USA.  
Absent: Antonino DiFranca, Alfonso Reto

## Baptism in South Africa—May 21, 2017





**“The Word of God is to be your lesson book. Study this Word, and it will become your strength, your fortress, your high tower, your consolation, your instruction, your guide, your sanctification. It is given for your constant growth in holiness. Peter calls the practical application of the Word ‘growth in grace.’ Through the study of the Word the whole character may be changed. ‘If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things (old ambitions) are passed away; behold, all things are become new’ [2 Corinthians 5:17]. The fruits of the Spirit will be revealed in refinement and true godliness. Selfishness will be purged from the life. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, and gentleness will be revealed in the life.” – *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 37**