

The Reformation 

Messenger

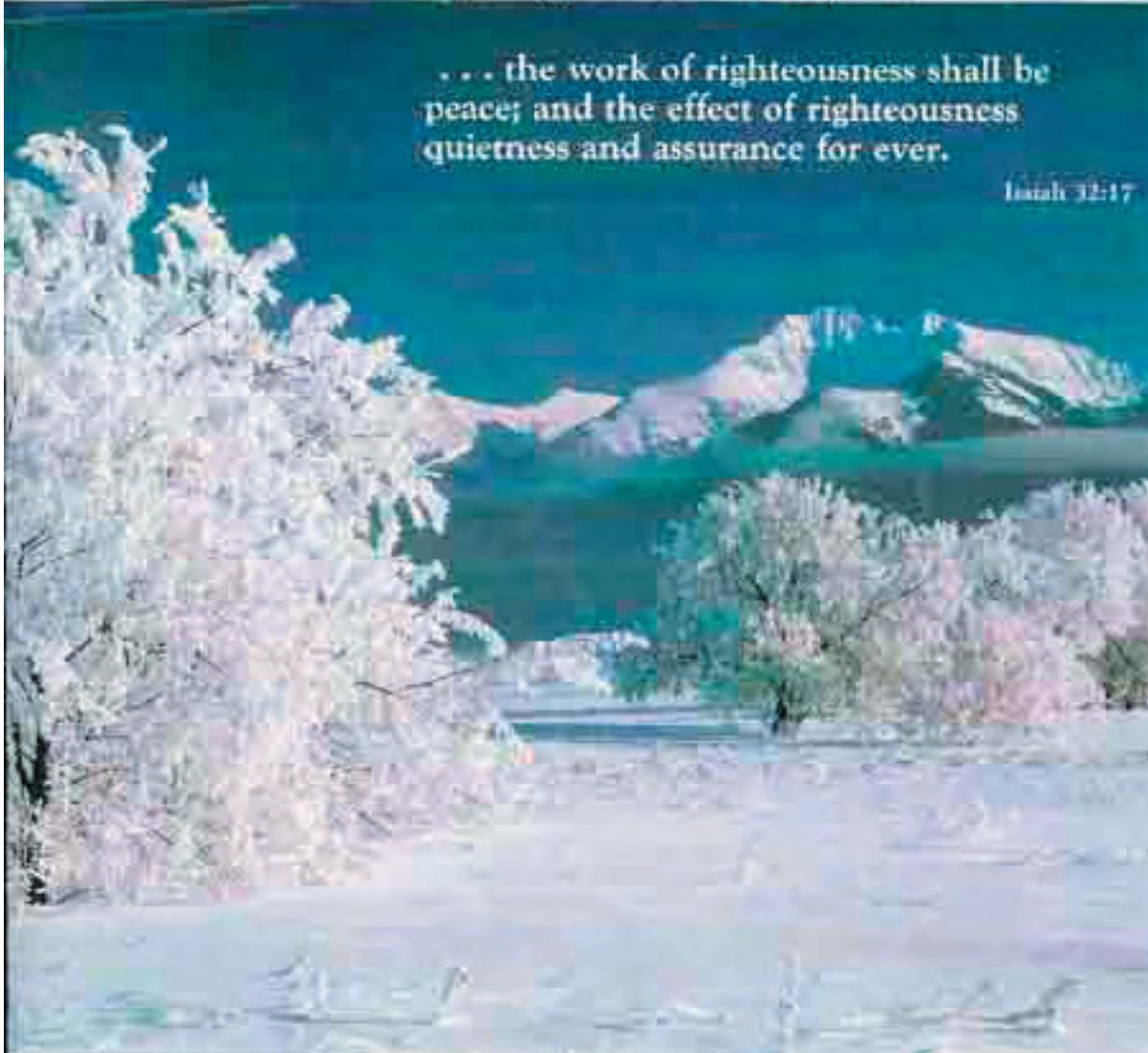
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International Missionary Society of S.D.A. Church Reform Movement

... the work of righteousness shall be
peace; and the effect of righteousness
quietness and assurance for ever.

Isaiah 32:17



NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

“Return, O Lord, how long? And let it repent Thee concerning thy servants.” Ps. 90:13

We never thought that we would reach the year 2000-but now it is a reality. After the ,’i appni.iiinerit In i844_ the Advent people expected Jesus to return in a few years, but now 155 years have passed and we are still here. In the year 1888 the Advent people came to the borders of the Promised Land, but had to return back to the wilderness. At the two great World Wars the faithful believers thought that the end of the world was upon them, but they also are now history and new events are taking place.

The question arises in many a mind: how long does it take to gather the 144,000 and prepare them for the sealing? Truly the words of Rev. 14:12 are true, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. »

Great plans have been made for the year 2000 by governments and by churches. A New World order is in the making. Unity among the churches prepares the way for the Sunday laws. Satan is more active than ever, trying to deceive, if possible, the very elect. We, the people of God, are the targets of his attacks. He has studied our lives and our weaknesses therefore he has planned a different deception and temptation to everyone in the area where we are most vulnerable.

We must also make plans for the new year. First of all, let us repair the broken altar and start this year with a renewed prayer life. “Pray without ceasing” is not of minor importance, but rather the most vital thing to keep us spiritually alive. It is compared to breathing which maintains the physical life.

Next, let us renew our Bible study and eat this spiritual food everyday to maintain our spiritual strength.

Missionary work is our duty. Love to Jesus will not permit us to remain idle. While saving others, we save ourselves. Do not look to other members to see how much they do missionary work, but look to Jesus and follow His example.

Ask the Lord to reveal to you your weak points and sins. Often we do not realize what we may be lacking. David prayed to God, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: Ar.d sec if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting,” Ps. 139:23,24.

Sister White writes that with the Lord’s help, our weakest points will become our strongest points.

We all have talents that the Lord has given us. He wants us to use them in His cause. The man who did not use his talent was cast into outer darkness. The churches have a responsibility to put into practical use every talent in its members. That way the talents will be improved and increased and we can do greater service.

In the larger churches often much talent is wasted. Only the best are chosen to practical use and the rest of the members have nothing to do. For this reason we have counsel given by the Spirit of Prophecy to divide larger congregations to smaller groups and that way everyone will have work to do according to his talent.

Let us also support our workers by encouraging words and by any other help that we can give them. Pray for the interested souls that they may make a right decision and join with the remnant people of God.

Work for unity in this New Year. Unity is strength while division is weakness. Our churches need peacemakers who will, with the help of God, remove all discord and strife and bring unity and harmony into our congregations.

The I.M.S. Publishers wish God’s rich blessings to all the members, visitors and children in the Reform Movement and also ask for your prayers to support this important branch of God’s work.

AMEN The Editors

HERESIES

Heresies have existed since the beginning of the world. Satan has found it to be a very successful way to deceive people out of salvation.

The first heresy we find in the Garden of Eden. The Serpent said, “Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Gen. 3:4,5. Believing this heresy cost our first parents their lives and the lives of their children even up to our day and also the life of the Son of God.

When Noah was preaching of the coming flood and righteousness, the whole world turned against him and believed heresies of the false religious leaders.

False prophets and religious teachers have deceived millions out of the truth throughout the six thousand years that the world has existed. Two thousand years ago the Jewish people believed heresies that Satan had invented and as a result they rejected Jesus as their Messiah. Even the disciples of Jesus had difficulty in giving up these false beliefs and to accept the truth that Jesus was teaching.

Yet never have the false teachings, the heresies been so abundant as in the last days. In Matthew Chapter 24 Jesus foretold the signs of the last days. He mentioned only once the earthquakes, wars, famines and pestilences but the false prophets He mentioned three times in verses 5, 11 and 24. He said that they “shall deceive many”.

A person who is deceived by these heresies does not know it. He thinks that he is right and others wrong. These prevailing heresies are so deceptive that, they often blind a person so much that the strongest evidence for the truth cannot open his eyes anymore. When someone who has once believed the truth starts doubting it, there is very little we can do to save him.

“A man that is heretic after the first and second admonition reject.” Titus 3:10. This was Apostle Paul’s counsel to Titus. Paul had met heretics all along and he had learned that it was a waste of time and effort to continue to argue and debate with them.

Apostle Paul relates the 17 works of the flesh in Gal. 5:19=21. One of them is heresies. He recognized the great danger of them. He states that, “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be cursed.” Gal. 1:8.

Sister White made it clear that we have the present truth and nothing must be changed from it. New light will be given but it will only confirm the present truth and will not overthrow it. “The proclamation of the first, second, and third angel’s messages has been located by the word of Inspiration. Not a peg or pin is to be removed. No human authority has any more right to change the location of these messages than to substitute the New Testament for the Old.” Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 26.

“The great deceiver has many agents ready to present any and every kind of error to ensnare souls—heresies prepared to suit the varied tastes and capacities of those whom he would win. It is his plan to bring into the church insincere, unregenerate elements that will encourage doubt and unbelief, and hinder all who desire to see the work of God to advance, and to advance with it. Many who have no real faith in God or His Word, assent to some principles of truth and pass as Christians; and thus they are enabled to introduce their errors as scriptural doctrines.” GC, p. 520.

“Though many of us are sleeping at our post, Satan does not sleep; and he will put forth untiring efforts to bring in heresies that will turn us from a wholehearted worship of God. Not as a fiend, not as a being that rebels, but as an angel of light he will come, and those who are not watchful and grounded in the truth for this time will be overcome by his wiles.” R.H., July 22, 1909.

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“He (Satan) has other heresies-intellectual poisons—which he has concocted for another class of minds in this age of skepticism and proud reasoning. These sophistries have a bewitching power over minds, and thousands are deceived by them” S.T., March 27, 1884.

One of the greatest heresies that will destroy our salvation is that sin cannot be overcome, and that the perfection of the character is not possible. Some believe that the conditions of Romans chapter 7 will remain until Jesus comes. When brothers Jones and Waggoner preached in 1888 that perfection is possible and also is a condition for eternal life, those who rejected this message sinned against the Holy Spirit. (Test, to Min, p. 80.)

Another heresy is that the Revelation chapter 18 angel is still in the future. This heresy removes the foundation of the SDA Reform Movement. How could the church that preaches the message of the Revelation 18th angel not be the same? The message that Jones and Waggoner preached at the 1888 conference was the light of the Revelation 18th angel according to Sister White and when we are proclaiming this very message then we must be this angel and in the latter rain our work will swell to a greater and mightier work.

Another heresy that the Shepherd's Rod movement believes is that the Rock that hit Nebuchadnezzar's image is the church, but Sister White wrote clearly that Jesus is this Rock. "But when Christ shall visit the wicked, His judgments will not fall only upon the Jews but upon all who have refused the heavenly benefits of the grace of God. The stone that was passive, bearing humbly all the abuse heaped upon it, will then lift itself in life and power above those who despised and rejected it. They will see in this their Rock of offense, an avenging mountain falling upon and crushing them." Spirit of Prophecy #3, p. 41.

Some have a wrong understanding about the 144,000 and the great multitude, others fail to see when an apostate church becomes Babylon. Christ's righteousness message is misunderstood by many. Law and grace are often confused.

What would help us to discern these heresies? How can we escape Satan's deceptions? One way to protect us from these heresies is Bible study, that we may be rooted and grounded in the truth.

"There must be painstaking effort to fasten in the minds of all, the solid arguments of the truth; for everyone will be tested, and those who are rooted and grounded in the work of God will be unmoved by the heresies that will arise on all sides; but if any neglect to obtain the necessary preparation, they will be swept away by errors that have the appearance of truth." Gospel Workers, 1893 Edition, p. 228.

"Many false doctrines will be presented to us as the teaching of the Bible; but as we compare them with the law and the testimony we shall find that they are dangerous heresies. Our only safety is in becoming personally acquainted with the reasons of our faith." S.T., April 22, 1889.

Another help we have to save us from these heresies is the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

"Moral darkness, like a funeral pall, covers the earth. All manner of false doctrines, heresies and Satanic deceptions are misleading the minds of men. Without the Spirit and power of God, it will be in vain that we labour to present the truth. We must have the Holy Spirit to sustain us in the conflict, 'for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.'" Home Missionary, Nov. 1, 1893.

These heresies have also a purpose. There is a reason why God permits them to come into our church. These heresies will bring a shaking among us, which is needful.

"God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat." Test. Vol. 5, p. 707.

Apostle Paul gives us a warning that all who do not love the truth will believe a lie. "Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2. Thess. 2:10-11.

May the Lord grant us the eye salve to anoint our eyes that we may detect the heresies that Satan is trying to bring among us.

AMEN Timo Martin

Make a DECISION, set yourself GOALS and be an ACHIEVER

No matter how old you are, you will always have to make decisions in life, sometimes little ones and other times big and important ones. The decisions you make right now- will influence or determine your future. Oftentimes your decisions will even affect the future of the people around you, because there is not much we do exclusively for ourselves.

Although all decisions are to a certain degree important, there is one which is most important of all. It is the one which will determine whether you will live eternally, or whether you will spend your years only here on earth- and that's it.

This means you will have to decide whether you want to follow Christ, the one and only, who has made it possible for you to have eternal life. A life with no disappointments, no pain, and no problems whatsoever, but filled with love and joy, peace, and pleasures that "eyes have not seen and ears have never heard of, neither has entered into the mind of mankind." This is what the Bible says and you can believe it.

Then there is the alternative, which is to follow Satan, Christ's enemy. He offers pleasures too, but they are so little and so short compared to the everlasting ones of heaven, and if you look towards the end, all of his pleasures end up in misery. He knows that this is all he has to offer, even for himself and millions of others. So he takes the misery and wraps it into an attractive little package, hoping you will fall for it. You will soon find, however, that in reality he gives you shameful little and at the same time takes everything away from you which is rightfully yours.

Why does he try to fool you? Because he doesn't want you to have what he has lost. He is the one who knows how wonderful it feels to live in the presence of God. He has been there. He felt the unsurpassable love of the heavenly Father, of the Son Jesus Christ and of all the angels. He experienced first hand the fullness of the pleasures of heaven and yet, a long time ago, he had made the decision to give it all up. What a mistake!

Satan knows only too well that he is never allowed in heaven, or in the presence of God again and his heart is filled with resentment and anger more than ever before. Now, all he has to look forward to is his own fabricated misery. He gets enraged with everyone who keeps the commandments of God and who has the testimony of Jesus, and with those who have made up their mind to claim the promise to sit with Christ on His throne. A privilege which he had decided to give up so long ago and therefore is not willing to grant others to have it either. Christ is exactly the opposite. He wants to share everything He has. He worked hard to make it possible for all of us to be with Him for eternity. He said to His Father: "Father I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which you have given Me; for you loved me before the foundation of the world." John 17:24. This was Christ's goal. This is why He left heaven, that wonderful place, and came to this sin-sick world. This is why He became "a Man of Sorrows" so we might be made partakers of everlasting joy. This is why He died for us as a young man of 33 years of age. He not only died for us, but also lived for us.

Whenever Jesus was tempted by Satan to give in, He stayed firm because He thought of His goal, which was to save mankind from sin. Whenever He felt like giving up, He thought of His goal. Whenever He could have made His life on earth a little easier, He did not, if it meant losing sight of His goal. Whenever He was mocked or tortured He did not talk back, or get angry, or give up, or think about Himself. He thought of His goal; He thought of us!

If we let our mind wander back to the time of the Old Testament and think about Joseph, when he was employed at Pharaoh's house, when he was tempted by Pharaoh's wife; in that moment he thought of his goal. His goal was to do only and always what is right before God. He wanted rather to have peace with God, than peace with men. Because of that decision which he made in the time of crisis, years later he was able to save his family from *starvation. Not only his family, but a whole nation. He became a great man, an achiever in life. (Read the story*

in Genesis 39 to 45).

We have an example in Moses. His goal was to lead the people of Israel right. Nothing else mattered. He even asked God, rather to blot out his own name from the book of life, but have His people saved. "He was willing to surrender his own life, if that would serve to atone for their sin." Exodus 32:32-33. What a commitment!

If we look at his end, which was really his new beginning, he was loved and accepted by God so much, that He took him away from the earth to be rewarded with everlasting joy. "But since then there was not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face." Deuteronomy 34:10. Was it worth it for him to stick to his goal? Oh yes it was!

Then there was Job. He had God as a friend and he trusted Him. His goal was to trust in God no matter what happens. He would not allow anything in life to separate him from his heavenly friend. All his so-called friends, and even his own wife, told Job again and again that God is not interested in him, and that he should give up on his God. But Job made his decision, he stuck to his goal and became an achiever. Read Job 42:10-17.

Then there was Daniel and his three friends. Their goal was to serve the Lord, even if it meant death for them, and they also became great men in their time. There are so many more people who have become great in this world, because they've had goals and made the right decisions.

But there are so many other people who have had the same commitments, the same goals and also made the right decisions, yet their names are not written in the Bible, nor can we find them in any other book in this world. Their names are written in the book of life; which is all that matters.

None of them had an easy life. "You don't fall up a mountain, you have to climb up."

You need goals too. Every decision which you will have to make in the future, make it in such a way, that it will bring you one step closer to the direction of your goal, one step closer to Jesus.

If we can't make the decision whether we want to follow Christ or Satan, or just to sit on the fence, then I think it is important to know that the decision will be made for us. In this case not making a decision is making a decision. If we don't make up our mind to love and follow the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul and all our might, then we have decided to give up on eternal life. Deut. 6:4-9.

We know that God is a jealous God. Exodus 20:5. He doesn't want to share us with Satan. Not because He is selfish, no, but because He can not allow the new earth, which will last forever; to be polluted again with sin. We know that Satan is the cause of sin and along with sin comes all the misery, the pain, the tears, the disappointments, the heartaches and all kinds of weaknesses and sickness. If God would allow anyone, who refused in this life to separate from sin and Satan, to live on the new earth, all the misery would spread and continue eternally.

But because God is a loving God, He will not allow His people to go through pain all over again. He wants to start anew. This is God's goal. No more sin, not a trace of it.

I think this is only fair towards all those who have made the decisions to give all to God, who have accepted Jesus in their heart and who are prepared to accept His help to fight for the good and separate from evil - until the end.

Make it your goal in life to create a friendship with God and Jesus Christ. It is so much easier to go through life with a real friend. Make your decision, and be an achiever. Amen

Sonja Baumung

Don't let the destiny of your life depend on an uncertainly, but rather depend on Jesus!

A DIVINE PROMISE

“For I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Genesis 8:15.

What a wonderful promise! The one who makes it is the True and Faithful One, whose word is Yes and Amen. Jacob was a deceiver, a liar, and due to his actions, he had to flee from his father’s home and live as a fugitive in a foreign land. Before getting there he had a revelation from God. The vision that he saw was all of heaven in movement to save the fallen race. He saw angels going up and down a ladder on whose top was God Himself, and he made a covenant with Him: *“If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothes to put on, so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God.”* (Gen. 28:20, 21).

The Lord had promised to give him a big inheritance and said that He Himself would fulfill the promise. Jacob’s life was without worldly ambition. He was happy with what God gave him. He went through hard trials, was a victim of deceit by his father-in-law and he got to understand the magnitude of the sin committed in his youth. Circumstances led him to practice polygamy, and his home, instead of being a haven of peace, turned into a place of jealousy, envy, mistrust and where strife was always present. The lessons that Jacob learnt were hard. Nevertheless he accepted them with humility. He never forgot the meeting he had with the Lord of his forefathers with whom he had also made a covenant.

The Lord kept His promise. When the time was fulfilled, He ordered him to go back home. Two important meetings would take place on his way; a wrestling with the angel of peace which due to his effort would end up blessing him, and the reconciliation with his brother. From his great desire and struggle to receive the blessing from heaven, he became lame in one leg while wrestling with the angel. Yet he had the big privilege to have his name changed from Jacob—Deceiver, to Israel—Overcomer. The struggle was hard. It took place in darkness. Everything seemed to show that it would be impossible for him to overcome. The powerful angel seemed not to be ready to bless him. As the hours went by, Jacob’s strength decreased as well as his hope and faith. But, every time he was ready to give up, that ladder that had been revealed to him so many years before, came to his mind. He remembered the divine promise: *“For I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”*

In his whole life he had felt the presence of the Lord even when he had separated himself from Him because of the weakness of his flesh, the advice of his wives, or his own understanding. Now he was there, almost at the end of his way, and he had no other choice. Either he had to wrestle with all his strength to obtain the gift of the Spirit (both physically and spiritually he was exhausted) or to abandon the fight and be lost forever. The day was about to break. It was his last opportunity. He could not let everything be lost. He could not allow his whole life of misery and hardship not to be rewarded with forgiveness and the divine blessing. He could not reject the grace that so abundantly had been poured upon him during his wanderings on the way of life. A thousand doubts came upon him as he struggled. It was already too late to obtain the blessing. He did not deserve such a privilege. His life, even if he was conscientious was lived under grace, had not been faithful to the requirements of heaven. He had not surrendered to the yoke of the Lord and allowed his character to be gradually transformed in the process of sanctification. Nevertheless the fact that the angel of the Lord had appeared on his way, meant that heaven wished to give him that blessing. Heaven did not count his unfaithfulness. It did not pay attention to his past, to his doubts, to his little faith. Jacob himself had paid for his weaknesses leading a life full of trials and afflictions. He had to believe in divine forgiveness, generosity and mercy. The angel had not come in vain. He had a big blessing in store for him. Even though it seemed he did not want to give it to him, and gave the impression he had to obtain it by force. What strength could be found in someone who had lost his youth, his idealism, even his desire to struggle? But that strength he got out of nothing, that insistence and perseverance that was not in proportion to his physical or mental state, were also given to him by heaven who had stubbornly decided to make of that weak and cowardly man, a winner. And thus, making use of the strength given to him from above, not paying attention to his reasoning, he grasped the angel desperately, and told him: *“I will not let You go if you do not bless me.”* (Gen. 32:26) Only after this wrestling and his triumph, could he humble himself before his offended brother, and with tears in his eyes accept the grace of forgiveness.

In the same way as Jacob, each one of us who has been called by the Lord has had a revelation from that ladder. That ladder that unites heaven and earth, where the angels of God ascend and descent to reconcile us with the Father. Each has to struggle with the angel of peace to receive his blessing, to be given a new name: Israel-Overcomer. A name without which we may not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Spiritual darkness will precede the second coming of Jesus. In spite of all the light our souls have received from heaven, some have lost their first love and have no more faith or hope left. We are called to go and fight, and before daybreak, before Jesus appears in the clouds of heaven we will receive His blessing and become the spiritual Israel that will inherit the kingdom of Heaven. Once this battle is won, by divine grace, the communion with our brethren will be perfect, free from any trace of pride or self-righteousness. We shall be able to humble ourselves before our Lord. What a liberation! What a peace! What a joy! What a miraculous restoration! Faith and hope! How wonderful to feel that flame of love that is kindled once again in our heart which seemed to have turned into stone!

Israel, that man who had had such a great experience with the Lord, also fulfilled his promise in the covenant he had made with God at Bethel: *“If God will go with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat, and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God...”* God fulfilled his promise, and he would fulfill his, and thus *“he bought a parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent... then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe, Israel”* (Gen. 33:20) which means the God of Israel. He was not only the God of Abraham and Isaac, but his own God, his Redeemer, and his friend.

May the Lord give us such an experience so that we may also become Israel so that He may become our personal God to whom we may erect an altar in our heart where the flame of faith and love may always burn. AMEN.

Teresa Corti

THE LORD HATES (Series 2 of 3)

“Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.” Rom. 15.30

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,
A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. Prov. 6:16-19

Note that three are the focus on SELF: a proud look, hands that shed innocent blood, and an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations. Discussed in previous article Series 1. Today, Series 2 embarks on the interaction with others: a lying tongue, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. The remaining one which is a combination of both: feet that be swift in running to mischief presented in Series 3.

4th - A Lying Tongue

The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death. Proverbs 21:6. Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue. Psa. 120.2

In this our day, some whose tongues are deceitful have been presenting as truth many things that they themselves have originated,--as if the

law of truth were in their heart and coming from their lips. But the Lord will surely punish every deceitful, lying tongue that has caused his people to err and to turn from the righteousness of Christ. RH. 1906-10-11.013

I saw that the people of God must put on the armor and arouse. Christ is coming, and the great work of the last message of mercy is of too much importance for us to leave it, and come down to answer such falsehoods, and misrepresentations, and slander, as the Messenger party has fed upon, and has scattered abroad. Truth, present truth, we must dwell upon it. We are doing a great work, and cannot come down. Satan is in all this, to divert our minds from the present truth, and the coming of Christ. Said the angel, "Jesus knows it all. In a little from this their day is coming. All will be judged according to the deeds done in the body. The lying tongue will be stopped. The sinners in Zion will be afraid, and tearfulness will surprise the hypocrites." 4SGB.010.001

But God hates hypocrisy and falsehood. Ananias and Sapphira practiced fraud in their dealing with God: they lied to the Holy Spirit, and their sin was visited with swift and terrible judgment. When Ananias came-with his offering, Peter said: "Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." AA.072.002

Personal Testimony

You have heard the words before, DO NOT TELL ANYONE. The moment it is spoken the occasion arises that this so-called covenant becomes broken. It is shameful to say but this is a major stumbling block for God's people throughout history.

A visitor arrived at church with much to share and the minister listened attentively. All of sudden the visitor asked that what was to proceed in the conversation was confidential. The visitor carefully observed that the moment that the words were said, what a big mistake it was to share their personal secret. A real embarrassment was felt and the confidence was relinquished and the visitor walked away discouraged.

How often have you shared deep heartfelt secrets with regret? For most, unfortunately too often. We seem to need an antidote from a laundry list of wrong persons. Stop now! And Think. If we are God's people, who is our example? Christ. Therefore, did He discuss His problems and concerns with the apostles? No! He came to teach and preach the gospel. His secrets remained in the CLOSET and were revealed to HIS FATHER. Where are you today with your secrets? Remember, Our Saviour awaits to hear from you. Rush to His feet and beg for His Mercy. Council is found above, Not Below.

5th - A False Witness that Speaketh Lies

Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Exo.20.16 (Deut.5.20)

Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. Exo.23.1

Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. Psa.27.12

False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. Psa.35.11-12

He that speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit. Pro. 12.17

A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies. Pro.14.5

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape. Pro. 19.5

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish. Pro.19.9

A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly. Pro.21.28

A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow. Pro.25.18

And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. Mai.3.5

Many False Witnesses Accused Christ and the Apostles

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses. Matt.26.59-60

For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him,

saying, We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. But neither so did their witness agree together. And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? Mark.14.56-61

And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law. Acts.6.13
Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 1 Cor. 15.15

There are many ministers of the gospel who need to have the live coal from off the altar touch their lips, and sanctify their tongues and hearts, till their souls are purified, ennobled, refined, and wholly given to the work. The humility, meekness, and lowliness of Christ, must characterize their lives. Their energy is represented by an angel flying through the midst of heaven. The Lord will give to the consecrated workers a new and enlarged commission, and will say, "Go into the harvest field. Lo, I am with you to work with human effort." The live coal is symbolical of purification. If it touches the lips, no impure word will fall from them. The live coal also symbolizes the potency of the efforts of the servants of the Lord. God hates all coldness, all commonness, all cheap efforts. Those who labor acceptably in his cause, must be men who pray fervently, and whose works are wrought in God; and they will never have cause to be ashamed of their record. They will have an **abundant entrance into the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and their reward will be given them,- even eternal life.** RH.1888-10-16.013

6th - He that Soweth Discord among Brethren

"A talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips." Proverbs 20:19.

I feel sad as I think how many are so engrossed with thoughts of their friends and the gifts they are preparing for them that they will lose sight of their obligations to God. They will not seek to purify the soul temple from defilement that they may present to the Lord an offering in righteousness. During the past year, Satan has been making most earnest effort to sow discord and dissension among brethren. Now, as the old year is passing away and the new year coming in, is a good time for those who have cherished alienation and bitterness to make confession to one another. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." (James.5.16) This is the Lord's direction; will we obey him, or choose to remain in pride, and justify our course of wrong? Oh! that many may seek to have the sins of the past year blotted out, and pardon written against their names in the heavenly record. RH.1882-12-26.007

Satan has had great power over the minds of parents through their undisciplined children. The sin of parental neglect stands marked against many Sabbathkeeping parents. The spirit of gossip and talebearing is one of Satan's special agencies to sow discord and strife, to separate friends, and to undermine the faith of many in the truthfulness of our positions. Brethren and sisters are too ready to talk of the faults and errors that they think exist in others, and especially in those who have borne unflinchingly the messages of reproof and warning given them of God. 4T.194.003

Evilspeaking is a twofold curse, falling more heavily upon the speaker than upon the hearer. He who scatters the seeds of dissension and strife reaps in his own soul the deadly fruits. How miserable is the talebearer, the surmiser of evil! He is a stranger to true happiness. 5T. 176.002

An earnest effort should be made in every church to put away evilspeaking and a censorious spirit as among the sins productive of the greatest evils in the church. Severity and faultfinding must be rebuked as the workings of Satan. Mutual love and confidence must be encouraged and strengthened in the members of the church. Let all, in the fear of God and with love to their brethren, close their ears to gossip and censure. Direct the talebearer to the teachings of God's word. Bid him obey the Scriptures and carry his complaints directly to those whom he thinks in error. This united action would bring a flood of light into the church and close the door to a flood of evil. Thus God would be glorified, and many souls would be saved. 5T.609.003 - 610

The thoughtless, unkind words that are spoken grow with every repetition. One and another adds a word, until the false report assumes large proportions. Great injustice is done. By their unrighteous suspicions and unrighteous judgments the talebearers hurt their own experience and sow the seeds of discord in the church. If they could see things as God sees them they would change their attitude. They would realize how they have neglected the work He has given them to do as they have found fault with their brethren and sisters. 8T.083.003

I am filled with sorrow as I see finite men who claim to be the sons of God, filled with evil surmising, and ready to speak evil of their brethren in the truth, ready to weigh others in their own scales of human opinion, and place their estimate upon those of whom they really understand but little. The worst of it is that often those who ought to understand why such action is out of place, drink in the spirit of the accuser, go to the polluted fountain of suspicion and distrust, and turning from the course justice marks out, are guided by someone's hearsay of another's action or character. By this course God's Holy Spirit is grieved, and the churches are weakened by the influence of distrust and suspicion; for they are led to speak evil of those who stand far better in the sight of God than do their accusers. Are we to take reports, hearsay, as if they were verity and truth? Are we not to rebuke the talebearer who would make a condemned brother's course

appear as bad as possible? The true brethren of Christ are those who guard the interests of their brethren and sisters. How inappropriate it is to condemn others, when every soul is to be saved, not on his own merits, but by the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour! We are all erring, finite creatures, accountable to God for our words, works, and influence. RH.1893-10-24.002

Students, understand that you have not been appointed by the Lord to be an informer. Your work is to study your Bible and the other branches of education, as for your life. Do not make it your business to be a talebearer. As matters are reported, each one makes the report a little more pronounced or varied, and thus painful discrepancies cause many to form wrong conclusions. Therefore guard well your words; put a bridle on your tongue. If you allow yourself to become a talebearer, you will not be welcome in any family, because of your propensity to report every transaction that may occur. I have decided that it is unsafe for me to visit, not because I am guilty of any known wrong, but because something will be said or inferred that will be misrepresented; and therefore I prefer to remain at home. (Signed) Mrs. E. G. White SPM.077.002

Practical Christianity means, not working for God now and then, but continuously. It means being laborers together with God. A neglect to reveal this practical righteousness in our lives is a denial of the faith and of the power of God, and makes of but little effect His principles of Godliness. Such negligent Christians become fault-finders, at discord with their brethren, and pronouncing judgment against many good works. They are spiritual paralytics. GH.1905-04-01.013

“Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” (Matt. 10.16) These words should have an influence on the minds of all those who profess the truth. The Lord has not sent us to criticise and condemn the world. Even Christ came not to condemn, but to redeem lost humanity. You have no right to find fault with those who do not believe as you do. You are not to criticise the minister who is sent to you, and say he is too liberal, or he is at fault in this or that, if he is preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. No matter what you may think, do not allow your tongue to utter condemnation of that which you do not understand. Do not sow the seed of unbelief and discord. Silence is eloquence, and we greatly need to learn this eloquence. When you hear your brethren speaking evil of others, tell them not to judge, not to condemn. Jesus says, “Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?” (Matt.7.1 - Matt.7.4) Persons have criticised those who were digging deep in the mines of knowledge, and their criticism, if heeded, would crush out the very powers that God would have men develop and strengthen. This talking against others must be stopped among those who profess to be the children of God. RH.1892-04-26.005

The thoughtless, unkind words that are spoken grow with every repetition. One and another adds a word, until the false report assumes large proportions. Great injustice is done. By their unrighteous suspicions and unrighteous judgments, the tale-bearers hurt their own experience and sow the seeds of discord in the church. If they could see things as God sees them, they would change their attitude. They would realize how they have neglected the work He has given them to do as they have found fault with their brethren and sisters. PH151.043.003

Unite with your brethren in counsel. Do not, I beg of you, stand apart as a separate whole. Unify! Unify! Exercise care to avoid discord and strife. Do not speak words such as I heard you speak when in the night season I was in a council meeting at which you were present. Speak the words that Christ would speak were He in your place. NBL.113.007

The cause of divisions or discord in the church is separation from Christ. The secret of unity is union with Christ. Christ is the great center. We shall approach one another just in proportion as we approach the center. United with Christ, we shall surely be united with our brethren in the faith. To be a Christian means a great deal more than is supposed. A Christian is Christ-like. Membership in the church does not make us Christians. Has the light from Christ penetrated the heart? Are justice and purity and truth abiding in the soul temple? We may know; for the fruits will appear. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the Spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.” (Gal.5.22 - Gal.6.3) This is not a time for brother to cherish prejudice against brother. Put not into our enemies’ hands anything that bears the least suggestions of differences among us, even in opinion. PC.153.003

Compiled by Bro. Richard Lapensee Vancouver,
Canada

Baptized With The Holy Ghost And With Fire

By Clinton McNutt

Introduction:

“I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.

For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.” Isaiah 63:7-9

The peace of Christ be upon you all, all my brothers and sisters in the LORD!
Greetings in the Faithful and True Witness, Jesus Christ the King!

“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 scornful.” Psalms 1:1

“The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.” Proverbs 19:23

“For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.” Isaiah 54:10

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.” Psalms 48:1

I am so thankful and delighted in the goodness of God which He has shown to us-ward through His Son Christ Jesus. I am compelled by the grace of God and the abiding witness within me to share with you my profession of faith.

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself.” 1 John 5:10

An experimental knowledge and spiritual experience can only be realized by heart faith. Heart faith can only be acquired by God bringing us to the uttermost depths of self-renunciation.

“And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes.” Genesis 18:27

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Matthew 7:7

“And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD.” Jeremiah 24:7

“For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Matthew 7:8

“And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you;” Ezekiel 11:19

To renounce self we must wait on the LORD and disperse from ourselves every distraction.

“And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.” Isaiah 8:17

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength;” Isaiah 40:31

Silence and solitude is the beginning of self-renunciation. The mind and the heart has to be continually conditioned to receive the word of God. As you build yourself up this way through prayer and study of the word of God, you will enter into lasting conscious meditation of God’s providence. This consciousness of God’s presence will in return lead you into contemplation by divine revelation.

“For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.” Psalms 38:18

“LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.” Psalms 131:1-2

“All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.” Psalms 25:10

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” Matthew 6:6

Praise God! Brothers and sisters, my profession of faith is based on one conviction - Receiving the new life in Christ and adoption into the Royal Family is established by the word of God!

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God,” 1 Peter 1:23

“For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalms 33:9

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1’

I was born again one morning, unknown to myself what God was about to do to me. He raised my spirit up from the dead, baptizing me with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

I woke up that morning and was immediately prompted to seek God with all my heart. I had no consciousness of space or time, neither was I dwelling on self. I was totally emptied of every temporal attachment and carnal affection. I was fully absorbed in God and was utterly convinced of my unrighteousness whole-heartedly.

I arose and fell to my knees with the book of God laid out before me on my bed. The word of life was opened by the angel of His presence to Philippians 3:7-11,

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:

for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”

I was enraptured and surrendered in holiness to God. The Spirit of Truth illuminated God’s Holy Writ to my spirit. The angel of His presence then turned the Sacred Page to Galatians 4:4-6,

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”

I was deeply moved by the Holy Ghost on my heart about sonship. I then followed the lead of the angel of His presence to Psalms 2:7,

“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”

I understood this sacred scripture as being perfectly fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ. At the same time I was in humble awe as to what God was saying to me personally -that I also am a son of God, begotten of the Father, like Jesus.

The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, instantly brought to my attention Romans 8:16,

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”

I was suspended in divine love when the angel of His presence took me, in the Spirit, to Romans 5:1-5 to confirm my experience,

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

Praise God forever and ever! Thank Him for the blessing of blessings continually. Amen!

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

In the Spirit of the Christ I had the deepest appreciation for the Holy Bible and realized how the apostles and prophets could write the Sacred Page with such beauty, depth, understanding and love. That was an unforgettable morning and for the rest of the day I was walking in heaven.

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:” 1 John 3:1

During the whole time of this anointing, I was experiencing one continual revelation of the truth and power of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the sepulchre, along with a presence of His imminent return.

“And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.” Mark 16:5-6

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen;” Revelation 1:18

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by

the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” Romans 8:11

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8

May God bless all of you with a deeper consecration and lead all who have not been born again into the newness of life. We need to treat God as the most sincere best friend we ever had and we'll experience the richest fellowship beyond any thought and feeling of human nature.

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1 John 5:4-5.

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;” 1 Corinthians 15:50

So in the peace of Jesus Christ, O children of God.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.” 2 Corinthians 13:14

Further readings on the new birth experience -Romans 13:11, Ephesians 5:14, John 3:3; 1:12-13, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Ephesians 3:14-21. God bless you!

COMFORT IN THE BIBLE

There are three characters in the Bible that I relate very much to since their experience has in many cases been mine. Reading their books I find consolation and courage because I see in how many different ways the Lord leads to salvation.

One of them is Job, whom the devil asked to be tested. He went through fearful experiences, many times he longed for the night to come to find some rest from his pain but he is scared by dreams. He asks the Lord to make him know his transgressions and sins; he realized he is a target of God's care and says in Job 13:27, “y^ou P^u^ my feet in the stocks, and watch closely all my paths. You set a limit for the soles of my feet.” And in Job 14:14 he says, “all the days of my hard service I will wait till my change comes.” Whether he speaks about his grief or remains silent, there is no relief (Job 16:6). His heart yearns within him (Job 19:27) and he fasts, declaring that he has treasured the words of His mouth more than his necessary food (Job 23:12).

When he gets to the peak of despair seeing that his situation and trials don't seem to have an end, he declares (Job 13:15), “Though He slays me, yet I will trust Him.” And that is because he knows that his life is not due to the food he eats but to the breath of the Almighty. “The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” (Job 33:4). He acknowledges that he came to the world naked and has nothing to take with him, and the Lord has blessed him with a prosperous earthly life, reason for which his heart is full of gratitude and is ready to accept adversity as the hardest test of his faith. “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” (Job 2:10).

And finally, he declares he has been talking about things he didn't understand, things too wonderful for him that he didn't know. The Lord reveals Himself to him in all His grandeur and he abhors himself and repents in dust and ashes (Job 42:3-6).

My other friend with whom I have shared much is Solomon. He wrote two of the most beautiful books and one of the most practical - ones. Solomon had tried all the pleasures of life and he came to the sad conclusion that all was vanity in life. He knew that the eye never gets tired of seeing and the ear of hearing and that in many words there is sin. He knew that loving silver brought no satisfaction (Eccl. 5:10) and that man just worked to eat but his soul was not satisfied. (Eccl. 6:7).

He knew that repentance and awareness of one's weakness brought a sad countenance, but still considered sorrow better than laughter (Eccl. 7:3). That is why he longed for wisdom so that his face might shine and the sternness of his face be changed (Eccl. 8:1). But he also knew that in much wisdom there was much grief (Eccl. 1:18) and in spite of it, he pleads the Lord to give him wisdom.

The very intense life he lived made him more aware of God's love and forgiveness. "When sin abounded, grace abounded much more." (Rom 5:20). And this knowledge of sin made out of him a big advisor of men through his proverbs, and gave him fear of the Lord and a longing for His coming. He wrote the most poetic love story in which, in full acknowledgement of God's love to him, he says, "His banner over me was love." (Songs of Solomon 2:4).

When he describes the love of Jesus for His church and of those who await for him with security, he declares, "My beloved is mine and I am his." (Songs of Solomon 2:16). He thirsts for the Holy Spirit and calls Him with the most poetical verses (Songs of Solomon 4:16). When he falls into any act of self-righteousness after having been justified by faith, he remembers what he wrote in Eccl. 7:16. "Do not be overly righteous, nor be overly wise" or in Songs of Solomon, "I have taken off my robe, how can I put it on again?" (5:3).

He sleeps but his heart is awake waiting for his beloved to put his hand on the door and respond to the yearning of his heart. He knows that human love, with all its manifestations of tenderness is nothing but vanity. He asks the Lord, "Set me as a seal upon your heart." (Songs 8:6).

These are many of the experiences I share with my friend based on the verse that says, whether two will walk together if they do not agree.

The other character that is very near to my heart is Paul. Paul was a big globe-trotter, he traveled much, he studied much, he spoke several languages, he had more than one passport, he loved writing missionary letters, he never forgot the people he had met in his life, and he carried every church in his heart that he had visited. People were not indifferent to him, he knew the price that had been paid for each soul. He understood that the path of obedience was narrow and one couldn't follow it without suffering. Three times in the letter to the Hebrews he mentions how Jesus suffered to learn obedience. And to the Phillipians he explains how much humbleness is required to be obedient. He goes through hard discipline of his body to bring it into subjection, he knows he is justified by faith and that nothing can separate him from the love of God. He knew he had to be an example for his churches and that everything had to be done in love. He rebuked the churches many times, and asks the Galatians: "Have I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" He knows the flesh fights against the Holy Spirit and at the same time says to the Galatians, "My little children, for whom I labour in birth again till Christ is found in you." (Gal. 4:19).

He felt a big responsibility for the church of Corinth knowing that its members were espistles of Christ ministered by him and his co-workers. They felt the need of being made sufficient by God to minister according to the Spirit and not to the flesh. (2 Cor. 3:2-6). He knew that the will of God is our sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3) and a thankful heart (1 Thess. 5:18). He understood the faith of the men who followed the Lord in the old times and realized that faith is dynamic and it has nothing to do with reality.

He suffered strong attacks from Satan and asked the Lord to deliver him, but he wouldn't so as to keep him humble. (2 Cor. 12:7). Finally he writes to the church where he spent one and a half years, "I do not seek yours, but you for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children." (2 Cor. 12:14).

All Paul did was not to get anything for himself. All his concerns were not because he wanted acknowledgement or material things from the people of this church, but he wanted them. He wanted to gain them for Christ, he wanted their salvation, he felt as a father who provides for his children and does not expect his children to provide for him, and he confesses to them, "And I will gladly spend and be spent for your souls." Paul did not fear self-sacrifice. His eyes were fixed on his Redeemer's sacrifice for him, and nothing he could be asked to do for the souls the Lord had put under his care was too much. He knew love was sacrifice and was not understood by most people. And it was without bitterness that Paul declared to the Corinthians, "Though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved." (2 Cor. 12:15). But his consolation is that nothing can separate him from the love of God. All his expectations were on the power of God's love to save him and comfort him.

I am thankful to God for these books in the Bible, for the life history of these three characters which at different times have given me much consolation. And I will finish with a verse in 2 Cor. 2:3. "Blessed be the God and

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.” AMEN.

Teresa Corti

MEETING PLACES

“A compilation of writings by ELLEN G. WHITE, answering the question, “Is it proper and permissible for God’s people to gather and hold meetings in places other than their own churches?”

At times, thoughts have been advanced by some individuals that it is improper for God’s people to hold their religious meetings in rented churches of other denominations, halls, or other public places when the church does not have its own house of worship. Such action has been branded by these individuals as apostasy and as being equal to worshiping at Baal’s altar.

We regard this as an extreme view and believe we are safe in taking the well-considered position that we shall not take any false stand as long as we follow the instruction and guidance of the Bible and the Testimonies, which contain much historical information as well as direct inspired counsel on this point.

“The danger that threatens our churches is that new and strange things will be brought in, things that confuse the minds of the people, and give them no strength, at the very time when they most need strength in spiritual things. Every phase of fanaticism and erroneous theories, claiming to be the truth, will be brought in among the remnant people of God. These will fill minds with erroneous sentiments, which have no part in the truth for this time.

Quotations from PRACTICAL ADDRESSES AND NOTES OF TRAVEL, by Ellen G. White

“Friday evening I spoke in Temperance Hall, on the subject of Temperance in the Home. Sunday afternoon we had another meeting of the brethren and sisters, and in the evening I spoke in the Town Hall. The ‘Union Temperance Prize Choir’ volunteered to come and sing.” P. 162.

“Our first meeting was held on Friday evening, in a little fourth-story hall close at hand, used for Sabbath meetings by our people.” P. 180.

“After some effort, however, the brethren secured a hall which they assured us would meet the requirements. What was our surprise, upon going to the place for service, to find it in the basement of a building, in the upper stories of which were halls for dancing, and places for drinking. The room was large enough to accommodate two hundred persons, but contained seats for only half as many. It was quite damp, the moisture at times being plainly seen on the walls. One evening, while I was speaking, some young men from the drinking halls above, half intoxicated, gathered about the windows of our hall, and by loud talking and laughing endeavored to interrupt the meeting, they even thrust their heads through an open window, shouting into the room. If it is necessary to speak in such places, we will do so cheerfully. If in this rich and beautiful city there is no suitable room where the truth can be presented to the people, we remember that there was no room in the inn at Bethlehem for the mother of Jesus, and that the Saviour of the world was born in a stable.” P. 183.

“Our people hold their meetings in a union house built by dissenters, and open to all denominations.” P. 195.

“Here, as in other places, it was difficult to obtain a good hall. But the best in the place was secured, a hall used for balls and concerts, about thirty-six by eighty feet in size, with a narrow gallery on each side, and a huge stove in each end. There was no pulpit nor place for one. Six beer tables, brought in from an adjoining room, served to make a platform, a square carpet was thrown over this platform, and another table set on top for light-stand and

pulpit, while steps were made with chairs and stools. We doubt if the hall or beer tables were ever put to so good use before. The people came and filled the seats, the galleries, and all the standing room, and listened with the best attention while I spoke to them of the love of Christ, and His life of sacrifice. Wednesday and Friday evenings another hall was secured in Christiania, and I spoke to about five hundred each evening.

“The meeting was held in the soldiers’ military gymnasium, the largest hall in the city. An American flag was placed as a canopy about the pulpit; this was an attention which I highly appreciated.” P.207.

“The next Sabbath, I spoke to the brethren and sisters in the hired hall in which they held their regular Sabbath meetings.” P. 231.

“Before the next Sabbath another hall had been hired, and handbills posted stating that meetings would be held Friday and Sunday evenings and Sabbath and Sunday afternoons.” P. 236.

“Brother Geymet has been visiting and holding Bible readings with the people in these stables. At the time we were there, he was holding two meetings a week in a stable in the Angrogn Valley, about seven miles from Torre Pellice. The interest was good and the average attendance was from forty to fifty. There, on the dirt floor of the stable which was sometimes strewn with leaves or straw, or sitting on boards placed across boxes, they would sit and listen for an hour or two, and then would remain after the meeting closed, to talk over what had been said. Occasionally the meeting would be interrupted by the movements and noise of the quadrupeds.” P. 248.

Quotations from ADVENT REVIEW, by Ellen G. White

“When we reached Chicago they had made an appointment for me to speak in their newly hired hall, and the people were already assembling. My head was dizzy, and I knew I was in no condition to labour; but the pleadings of my brethren prevailed and I was soon standing in the humble but well-filled room.” Jan. 29, 1884.

“In the afternoon I walked half a mile to the Baptist church and for an hour and a half spoke to a full house on the subject of Temperance. There was the best attention; and at the close of the service, several ladies came forward and expressed their grateful appreciation of the words spoken. I was glad to see our brethren and sisters manifest a disposition to bring their offerings to the Lord. At this meeting about five thousand dollars was pledged to be used in enlarging the missionary work in the Pennsylvania Conference.” Feb. 5, 1884.

“The evening after the Sabbath I spoke in Washington Hall. This is a plain, convenient, home-like room—and excellent place for meetings.” Feb. 10, 1885.

“I spoke in the National Church on Sunday afternoon, upon the subject of temperance. The minister who had refused to give notice of my appointment the first time, was invited to be present and open the meeting with singing and prayer. He readily consented to do this. I had much freedom in speaking to an attentive audience.” Apr. 5, 1887.

“On Sabbath, I spoke to the church in Chaux-de-Fonds about one hour. The only hall the church could obtain in which to hold meetings was like a private room. And if the windows were opened to obtain air, the atmosphere was loaded with the fumes of liquor casks and wine barrels; for directly across the narrow street was a manufactory of liquors. And the noise of hammering and pounding and clatter would not permit one to hear. The room was so packed that it was impossible to kneel down, so all stood while prayer was offered.

“Here were more than sixty persons assembled in a place so small that they could not find room to kneel, and the impossibility of securing proper ventilation made the atmosphere anything but healthful. I felt compelled twice, as I was speaking, to change the exercise, and have all arise and engage in singing; for a sleepy lethargy seemed to be upon the people who were compelled to work hard during the week. The windows were thrown open as often as practicable, but the strong fumes of fermented wine were most offensive to the senses of those who were temperate. I spoke again on Sabbath, and then there was a social meeting.” Sept. 27, 1887.

“Sunday afternoon I spoke in the opera house at Fresno.” July 10, 1888.

Quotations from THE REVIEW AND HERALD, by Ellen G. White

“A number of rumsellers have turned their shops into meeting-rooms and these places that were once devoted to intemperance and revelry are now devoted to prayer and praise.” Nov. 25, 1884.

“On Sunday morning I spoke to a congregation of between thirty and forty in the old schoolhouse at Dora Creek.” Oct. 18, 1898.

“Twice I spoke in the theater, to attentive audiences. Elder Starr laboured untiringly for the church, and several of the evening meetings were called early in the evening, and divided into two meetings.” May 30, 1893.

“Sabbath afternoon I filled my appointment in the large Congregational church that is now being used by our people.” Feb. 7, 1907.

AMEN.

ADVENTURING FOR THE LORD

Present truth and present duty. Do we understand the connection between the two? Personally, is it just an abstract state of mind? Let's find out, shall we?

The Lord, I think, would want us all as church members to have a complete understanding of this issue at this present time. Let's take as an example the activities of Apostle Paul and ask ourselves, “do you think he had truth for his time?” And did he do his duty before God? What did the Lord say to him after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus? We find the answer in Acts 26: 16 & 17, which says: “But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee: Delivering thee from the Gentiles unto whom now I send thee.” Come now to your own conclusions and then put your own experience to work for God. Maybe it will be a continuation of that experience or a new one. But whatever it is, let it be an adventure for the Lord after reading the escapades of Paul. He certainly had adventures, don't you think? And this can be ours also. A spiritual endeavour and godly living that can only come from God the Father through Jesus His Son.

Please read John chapter 17. In this chapter you will realize the wonderful unity one can obtain with God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit will bring this about, and wonder of wonders, we can be part of this unity, as quoted in the middle of verse 21 which says: “That they (that's you and I) also may be one in us.” What a great privilege awaits us in this great venture of present duty of doing missionary work within the church program. Yes, we are all concerned for our friends, our neighbours, our families, so let us pray to the Father through Jesus His Son that they too will have a road to Damascus experience as Paul did.

But let us have a godly balance in our personal witness. Let us not go before the spirit of the Lord as did King Jehu of the Old Testament who loved doing his own thing without consulting the Lord first, and discussing it with the brethren.

The Spirit of Prophecy states that our meetings should be also of testimonies and of the experiences of the brethren. Here in New Zealand we make this a pleasant feature in our Sabbath School program. One testimony was told recently when a young man came onto our church property when we were having a Working Bee one Sunday morning, wanting to help us in our landscaping of the property. He professed to be a Botanist, especially with trees and we had just planted many trees. But this is not all. We found out that this young man is doing the “Know Your Bible” course which was a great surprise to us. Praise that Lord that he visited our church also last Sabbath and has become very interested in our present truth and promises to be back. Another man who is not so young was with us last Sabbath. We have been having Bible studies with him and although he had his own ideas about present truth in the past, lo and behold he was impressed to keep God's Sabbath after refusing to partake of

alcohol and dancing at the Rest Home where he lives. Now he seemingly wants to be with Sabbath keepers. Praise the Lord that he has been impressed by the Holy Spirit. In the Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6 p. 56 it says this: “Arm yourselves with humility; pray that angels of God may come close to your side to impress the mind; for it is not you that work the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit must work you. It is the Holy Spirit that makes the truth impressive. Keep practical truth ever before the people” It also says in the same volume p. 151 that “Reformers are not destroyers and that human wisdom is foolishness; for it misses the whole of God’s providences, which look into eternity.”

James 1:5 says: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him.”

AMEN

Brother Ernie Gale, New Zealand

CHRIST CAME TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE

“And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.” Jude 22, 23

There were four preachers that went out on a nice Sunday afternoon in a rowboat on the Niagara River. They were in a beautiful spot where it was quiet and calm. Their conversation was so interesting that they barely noticed that gradually the current of the river was getting quicker. They engaged in such a deep discussion that minute after minute went by, but still they did not notice where they were. Suddenly, one of them gave a shout and said, “look we’re already in the rapids”. Everyone knew that the famous falls were just a short distance away, which meant sure destruction, so they had to row as they never had before in their lives in order to save themselves. It was only in putting all of their efforts to the oars that their lives were spared and they got to safety.

Isn’t that what life is often like? We drift along thinking that all is well, maybe with our car or our health, neglecting what needs to be done for safety and suddenly we find ourselves nearly or completely beyond the point of no return and in great danger. Has it happened to you?

It certainly has happened to me! In fact, quite recently. So what are we to do with those in danger? What might be their reaction when we warn them?

Well, if they don’t even acknowledge that there is a danger—maybe they will be just like Lot’s family when he went to warn them about the sure destruction that was coming. Genesis 18: 12-14. But still, we have to try and warn them. Even if they are asleep or dead in trespasses and sins.

Do you remember who Jesus was the hardest upon in His ministry? Who did He spend so much time and effort in so many of His parables to reach and warn? It was the Pharisees. Oh, how He loved them, but how He laid it straight on the line in telling them their real danger before God...”Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.” Matthew 23: 25-28.

Isn’t it those that have a form of godliness but deny the power of God to overcome sin in their private lives

who are in the greatest danger in this or any time?

Does it sound like anyone you know? It is true there are to be no rude or condemnatory voices in the Reforms for this time—so we must always remember that while we're leading souls to Christ, it is the truth that has to do the cutting, not we ourselves.

Maybe the thing that has impressed me more than anything about the work here in Australia, in just the short time that we have been here, is that the people are very complacent, perhaps even more so than in other developed countries. How can we make them wake up?

Well, how did Martin Luther do it? There were many Christian men in Wittenberg who said to Martin Luther when he was going to hang the 95 reasons that indulgences were wrong, "You don't mean that you are going to hang up those on the church door?" Luther said: "They are true; they assail damning error; my Fatherland is bowing down to Antichrist." "Pause," said the men who would stand well with everybody. "Is not this zeal without knowledge? Think how you will scandalize the University; how you will drive off men who would follow you in a more discreet course." "Away!" said the Reformer. "The people are perishing in ignorance. The crowds of the common people who come into the city to market will read these words. Yours is not discretion, but cowardice." He did the deed; and, as the result of that act, Europe received the Protestant Reformation, and the night of the Middle Ages was ended."

There is another great darkness coming to this world, and only those who have been comforted by the hand of God in Christ will be able to stand by faith in that time. We must guard everyone's personality and even their pride personally. We must lead them to Christ, who will lead them out of sin. Or else, it is only a deception. In this work, we must learn to appeal for a decision and not merely let the souls who are skating on very thin ice think that they can go on like that without endangering themselves as well as others.

The science of salvation is a science so much deeper and broader and wider than anything we can imagine. If we truly love God, how can we go with averted eyes to heaven saying, "Oh, those people must know better. They will make it somehow. Maybe we can just love them into the kingdom." But without a direct appeal, I doubt that they can see their real danger. And that takes courage, doesn't it?

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men." 1 Thess. 5:14,15. Yes, we must comfort the feebleminded, and support the weak... But how is it going to be for you and I in that great judgment day? If our neighbors, associates and families come up to us and throw blood on our garments, saying you could have had the courage to warn me, but you only studied your own convenience, comfort and spiritual cowardice. "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from Me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." Ezekiel 3: 17-19. God forbid that we should be in that condition before God.

It is a very spiritually proud, lukewarm and self-righteous time in which we live, isn't it? One of the most spiritually dangerous times there has ever been. What is the reaction of the religious world? Isaiah 56:12. Oh, tomorrow will be like today, only much more abundant! All goodness, morality and righteousness is relative for even most Christians today! But we need to ask: relative to what? It is still perfect obedience that God requires for salvation. His grace does not excuse our transgression! It is only as we look at the absolute standard of morality contained in the Ten Commandments that we can have a right conception of God's love for the sinner, and His hatred toward sin. As He has looked past our faults and seen our needs, we must do the same with others. So what is Man's greatest need? Isn't it to be saved from sin? Saved from himself and Satan's influence? So let's call sin by its right name but show the love of Christ to sinners. The science of salvation is exactly that: not to condone sin, but not to condemn sinners.

A couple of years ago I read in the Adventist Review about a SDA missionary who was ministering with his son up and down the Amazon River. They lived in a houseboat and would put in for the night in a good place where they could obtain fresh food and drinking water. But this one particular night someone forgot to tie them securely to the dock and they ended up drifting all night on the Amazon River without even knowing it. In this article that I read, the missionary used it for an illustration of life—like we were all drifting along and had to depend upon God's grace to bring us to heaven. But where will we end up if we try to drift to heaven? Not there at all, unfortunately... Christ came to comfort the afflicted, but afflict the comfortable, drifting ones. When we forget about commitment to

God in this life, it is of necessity that we will be led by the evil one into darkness. That is where all of those who try to drift into heaven will end up. Zeph. 1:12; Amos 6:1

The path of least resistance will lead the world to choose the Mark of the Beast. We know that this is exactly the end of all the proud, lukewarm and outwardly conservative time in which we live - rebellion against God and His law.

If we try to just drift along into heaven, we'll never make it. We must go against the current of the world to get to heaven. Just like Martin Luther was faced with in the Dark Ages with many ignorant and lost people, we today are faced with many outwardly educated people, but who have lost sight of the true education in the true science - the science of salvation. There is great darkness coming upon this world. All of those who have neglected to ally themselves to the kingdom of light will then, naturally, be in darkness.

This science will comfort the afflicted and afflict those that are comfortable in their sin. May God help you and I take part in this process, in working out our own salvation with fear and trembling before Him who is love. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Phil 2:12, 13. AMEN.

By Jerry Eaton, Sydney, Australia

Missionary Experiences from the Lord

"Several precious experiences were related by the canvassers in regard to the way in which they had searched their hearts while canvassing for Great Controversy and Patriarchs and Prophets. They said that as they read these books their minds were enlightened, and they felt that angels of God were very near... The canvassers stated that they had found that where these books had been sold, everyone spoke highly of them, and that from reading them, some had embraced the truth who had never heard a discourse in their lives given by a Seventh-day Adventist minister." *The Publishing Ministry*, p. 356.

Only eternity will show how many souls came to the truth because of some little printed seed of truth that fell into their hands. I was found, first by a SDA colporteur, and then just at the key time, when I was searching for a church home and spiritual family, a volunteer canvasser from God's church came by my door. I am so thankful for this that words can hardly express my gratitude.

"All who want an opportunity for true ministry, and who will give themselves unreservedly to God, will find in the canvassing work opportunities to speak upon many things pertaining to the future immortal life. The experience thus gained will be of the greatest value to those who are fitting themselves for the work of the ministry. It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, both men and women, to become pastors to the flock of God. As they cherish the thought that Christ is their companion, a holy awe, a sacred joy will be felt by them amid all the trying experiences and all their tests. They will learn how to pray as they work. They will become educated in patience, kindness, affability, and helpfulness, wherever they may be. They will practice true Christian courtesy, bearing in mind that Christ, their companion, will not approve of harsh, unkind words or feelings. Their words will be purified. The power of speech will be regarded as a precious talent, lent them to do a high and holy work. The human agent will learn how to represent the divine Companion with whom he is associated. To that unseen holy One, he will show respect and reverence because he is wearing His yoke, and learning His pure, holy ways. Those who have faith in this divine attendant will develop. They will be gifted with a power to clothe the message of truth with a sacred beauty." T 6, p. 323

"Canvassers should be able to give instruction in regard to the treatment of the sick. They should learn the simple methods of hygienic treatment. Thus they may work as medical missionaries, ministering to the souls and the bodies of the suffering. This work should now be going forward in all parts of the world. Thus multitudes might be blessed by the prayers and instruction of God's servants." T 6, p. 324

With these inspired words as my guide, I would like to share some precious canvassing experiences that the Lord has shared with me:

Truly, we have come to this same time, as in many places of the developed world, that people are so negative about anything religious. Therefore as an entering wedge, the health reform message is perfectly adapted to the need. As I introduce the work as "practical mission work" in the neighborhood, the people can immediately see how practical it is because we offer drug addiction counseling, marriage and family counseling as well as natural remedies for anyone who is sick. I end the presentation by saying that it's important to prevent things these days. We

show people how to build up the immune system so a lot of these problems never happen in the first place. Usually the Christians recognize that we're believers and respond positively; (have you noticed that even a lot of famous Christian preachers are starting to advocate healthier diets and life-styles?) and the unbelievers seem to be much more receptive due to our desire to be a practical help for them.

Recently, I have been privileged to get to know a dear SDA family that has some difficult health problems. Unfortunately, they did not have the instruction, in the nominal church, that was sufficient for them to avoid diabetes and cancer. The sister has just had a cancerous tumour removed and has been hit very hard emotionally. It's not easy to go from being a healthy person to a sick person and there is definitely a process of grieving the loss of that former state of health. We have had some precious leading of the Holy Spirit in sharing with this family some simple natural remedies that they have already started to put into practice and benefit from. Praise the Lord that He is still healing broken bodies, hearts and souls.

On one occasion, I was canvassing in the Vancouver, Canada area and noticed an agitated young man across the street. He was uttering obscenities and blasphemies obviously directed at me. I guessed that Satan, who knew his kingdom was being assailed, had stirred up this teenager's heart in anger against me. This reminded me of different occasions in the past when I had met outright Satan worshipers at the door who had told me openly who they worshiped. As a rule, on these occasions I would ask quietly: "why do you worship him who has already been conquered on the cross of Calvary? Jesus Christ gained the victory over Satan on the cross -why not worship Jesus, who is much more powerful, anyway?" Usually, this would cause looks of fear and anxiety to come over the faces of these poor, deluded souls. On this occasion in Vancouver, I believed this young man was stirred in anger by Satan against me so that I would stop canvassing there, because soon thereafter I found several Bible study contacts in that same area. Satan can only distract but not force-everyone who will overcome him will have found in Jesus "their science and song."

I remember hearing of some really inspiring stories from the visiting Missionaries around the time of the General Conference held in Denver in 1978, and I thought, "What great experiences the Lord has given them. And I think that it's hard to get out into the mission field here in North America? What others have to suffer all the time in other countries just to share their faith. Then it shouldn't be hard for us to simply suffer a little rejection here in the Developed world."

On one occasion, I was canvassing late on a Friday afternoon, and I remember thinking and praying for a soul to respond to the grace of God. Well, soon thereafter a young man came to the door and invited me in. His wife had been attending the SDA church's Daniel and Revelation seminar and was interested in Adventist doctrine because she thought it was the truth; they had heard nothing about the Reform. We started to study, but Satan was not happy about them coming to the truth at all. Just as they were close to taking their stand with us, the wife had a severe problem with her vision. We asked the church to pray for her in the hospital, and the Doctors were amazed that "somehow her eyes just came right back into line." This dear couple ended up taking their stand with us due to the fact a prayer-hearing God worked so wondrously on their behalf.

When we consider the health message, let us think of the right arm and its relation to the body. The right arm isn't the body itself, but rather helps and supports the body. So health reform, as it is in right relation to the three angel's messages will accomplish much good. This message definitely has a part to play in the closing of the three angel's messages. The pen of inspiration also calls this message the entering wedge. Consequently we can get to know many people who may be disillusioned by the vagaries of religion today, but will respond to the grace of God shown to them in this practical means of doing them good. Jesus said, "Go, and sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee". We are to appeal to the people to put themselves in right relation to the laws that govern their beings.

Let us then work and pray, pray and work for our families, friends and associates. As we strive to relieve their physical necessities, the Lord will give many precious opportunities to minister to them spiritually. Very often, thinking people are looking for some kind of imbalance of self-righteousness, or spiritual pride to come from religious people, but as we go forward doing justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God, perhaps they will respond to the goodness of God.

I am reminded of one dear Brother in the Vancouver church who has shared that message in the construction trade. There are many rough and tough fellows who are completely at the opposite scale of religion.

Yet many of them have responded to his appeals about the evils of smoking, drinking and immorality due to the fact that he has been very humble and kind in his appeals. The way-he has said it is, "Look, I don't think that I am any better than you just because I don't smoke, drink or eat meat. I just feel better this way, and I would like you guys to feel better as well."

The Lord is more than willing to share with us precious experiences as we contact our families, friends and neighbors. Have you tried to go with our literature—gospel and health—to the people on your block to see how you can determine their needs and try to help them with their needs? Maybe in this way you would find that you have a lot more friends than at first thought. AMEN **By: Jerry Eaton**

CURRENT SCENE – Part 1 of 2

“The Marian Phenomena, which consists of tens of thousands of sightings, or apparitions of Mary, the mother of Christ, is clearly known to Adventists to be a deception on a massive scale. With the knowledge of the biblical teachings on the state of the dead we know that each and every sighting is a manifestation of the miracle working power of demons, since Mary, the mother of Jesus, is still resting in her grave awaiting the return of Jesus and the resurrection. Yet, the enormous number of sightings and the impact that the Marian movement is having, coupled with an understanding of last day events, as given in Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy, compels us to examine this Phenomena. This examination reveals astonishing events that lead us to believe that we may well be seeing the evidence of the devil’s overmastering deception that is calculated to deceive the world.

Both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are replete with warnings about deceptions that God’s last day people, His remnant church, will face in these closing days of the great controversy. In 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 we read: ‘And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.’ Paul is trying to tell us here that there is no middle ground. Either we know and love the truth or we will be deceived. “Only those who have been diligent students of the scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusions that take the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise.” *The Great Controversy*, 625.

“We are warned of strong, almost overmastering delusions and told that if possible even the very elect should be deceived. “As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ...He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth.” *The Great Controversy*, 624,625.

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christ’s, and false prophets, and shall shew great wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24: 23, 24.

“Today, Satan’s two great masterpieces of deception are at work to try and destroy God’s elect. Inspiration defines these clearly for us. Satan’s masterpiece of deception is popery; and while it has been demonstrated that a day of great intellectual darkness was favourable to It will also be demonstrated that a day of great intellectual light is also favourable to its power.” *Signs of the times*, February 19, 1894.

“Spiritualism is the masterpiece of deception. It is Satan’s most successful and fascinating delusion.” *Signs of the times*, August 26, 1889.

“Spiritualism and popery are the methods used by Satan to spread his two most seductive errors. Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” *The Great Controversy*, 588.

“Certainly the Marian apparitions are spiritualism. The dictionary defines Spiritualism as, ‘A belief that spirits of the dead communicate with the living.’ Through these apparitions, Satan is preparing the world for his ultimate deception, which will take place when he personates Christ in a false second coming. “Books such as *the Thunder of Justice*, by Ted and Maureen Flynn and *The Keys of This Blood*, by Malachi Martin (both Catholic authors) tell us the history of the sightings of “Mary.” They also reveal the plans and goals, which have been clearly announced by Papal leaders or by the apparitions themselves, and give timelines of future predicted events. As we examine Satan’s timetable and plans, it is important to remind ourselves that Satan is a mighty foe but he is not in control of events in the universe. “But God’s servants are not to trust to themselves in this great emergency...The world is not without a ruler. *The program of coming events is in the hands of the Lord*. The Majesty of Heaven has the destiny of nations, as well as the concerns of His church, in His own charge.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 753. [Emphasis supplied.]

“The times are in God’s hands, not the devil’s. Satan, through his knowledge of scripture and his ability to manipulate events is able to accurately predict some events, but he is not in control and his predictions are faulty. As part of his masterpiece of deception he works to counterfeit last day events. So, while we are waiting and watching, it is vital that we study to understand last day events so that we will be able to distinguish between the true and false.

THE STORY OF THE MARIAN MOVEMENT

“Mary’ first appeared on May 13, 1917, to three children in Fatima, Portugal. According to the children’s report, she gave them instruction to say the rosary daily and showed them a vision of hell and told them that in order to save poor sinners God wants to establish, throughout the world, the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

“In October of 1917, 50,000-70,000 were present when another sighting occurred in Fatima which was accompanied by wonders and miracles in the sky. The message was that they were to build a chapel at the site. A prediction was also made that World War 1 would soon end. Another prediction that was fulfilled was that two of the children would soon die.

“Lucia, one of the three original children, was given a message for the Pope. He was instructed that Russia could be saved if all the Bishops of the world would unite in making a consecration of Russia to Mary’s Immaculate Heart. In 1984, a Catholic Bishop secretly made a consecration of Russia, while in that country. Not long after this, the communist empire was broken up and the way was opened for the “conversion” of Russia.

“The years since have seen many renewed calls for more adoration of Mary and the declarations by the Catholic church that these apparitions were supernatural. Feasts have been instituted and a basilica built at Fatima, and the world, not just Russia, has been repeatedly consecrated to the immaculate heart.

“The Marian

Phenomena is seen in visions, appearances, weeping statues, bleeding icons, cures, signs in the heavens and messages received by the uneducated for popes and presidents. Sightings have occurred around the world. These are claimed, by believers, to fulfill the words of Joel, that God’s spirit will be poured upon all flesh.

PAPAL DEVOTION TO THE MARIAN MOVEMENT

“On the anniversary of the first Fatima apparition, on May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot. He felt that he was saved by Mary, because, at the moment the gun was fired, he leaned toward a child who was carrying a picture of Our Lady of Fatima, and the shot, which was intended to be fatal, only wounded him. And so began his devotion to the Marian movement. During his recovery he exhaustively examined documents and questioned living witnesses and participants connected with Fatima.

“According to the Catholic scholar, Malachi Martin, the pope believes that he received a vision’ from heaven giving him “the great design of God for the New World Order.” *The Keys of His Blood, p.48*. Also, he says that in this vision, Mary told him that he had been spared for a special mission to bring peace to the world. Under conviction that the messages of Fatima were not for a distant time, but that they had a immediate timetable, the pope began to carry out a program of world travel and redoubled his political efforts to prepare the world for the New World Order, with the Church of Rome as its supreme ruler. To show his devotion to “the virgin,” he wears an inscription on the side of his robe, in Latin, stating, “Mary, I’m yours,” and has a M for Mary on his coat of arms.

“According to the Catholic sources, Pope John Paul II is waiting for the greatest of all apparitions when “Mary” will declare, from heaven, the day and the hour of Jesus’ coming. (God has told us that He himself will declare the time of Jesus’ return in glory. In *The Great Controversy, 640*, we read, “The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus’ coming.”) “Mary” is to appear as a woman clothed with the sun giving birth to a child who will rule the nations with a rod of iron.

“What does inspiration say about these events? “Little by little he[Satan] has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism. He has not yet [in Ellen G White’s day] reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time.” *Ibid.*, 561. “Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons.” *Ibid.*, 624.

“The devil will counterfeit every truth and end time event. God’s people will see many miracles and marvelous workings of Satan, but God has given us a source of knowledge that we need not be deceived, if we diligently study. “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20

“The people of God are directed to the scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every

possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. At every revival of God's work the prince of evil is aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and his followers. The last great delusion is soon to open for us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the holy scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested." *The Great Controversy*, 593. "None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." Ibid.

"There have been several predictions made by "Mary," in different locations and at different times, that relate to the time when this event will happen. Lucia (the woman who saw many of the Fatima apparitions) was told that she would be alive to see the culmination of all these things. Also apparitions have said that the current pope will be the last. (Both the pope and Lucia are now very old.) The last decade of this century has been predicted to bring the completion of all things. However, some of the predictions made by these apparitions have already failed to occur. This alone would be evidence enough to prove that they are not of divine origin. For we know that *God never fails!*

UNITING THE WORLD

"As Satan's designs are fully accomplished, the world will be united. It seems very possible that it will be "Mary" who will appeal to everyone, according to their beliefs. She will say that one whom they most need is coming to bring love, unity, peace, justice, and prosperity. All the world will wait in great expectation, hope and joy, for the coming of their Saviour, who will actually be Satan in a counterfeit second coming.

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Savior's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13-15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when he was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying: This is 'the great power of God.' Acts 8:10." *The Great Controversy*, 624.

"By appearing in Fatima, the devil has planned a masterful deception to include the entire Moslem world. The Moslems now bow down to worship the images of Mary in the processions of the North African Catholics. It is believed that they will be led to worship her "son" at his coming. If she were to appear as a woman clothed with the sun, as has been predicted, the pagan religions, based on sun worship, would be likely to join the multitudes in worship.

"The Marian

phenomena could be what will unite the world. For "Mary" could introduce the "second coming" to the Jews as their Messiah, and to the Christians as Jesus Christ and to Moslems as their Iman Mahdi. Buddhists might recognize their Buddha in his fifth incarnation. Hindus could find Krishna and the new age could find the Matryeia, the Cosmic Christ. All *but* the very elect of God, will welcome Satan as their savior.

"The Catholic world believes, according to Malachi Martin, that, at this spectacular appearing, "Christ" (really the devil in disguise) will hand over the keys to the pope. It will then appear that Satan, the papacy, and the New World Order are the winners of the great controversy.

"What will the condition of God's people be at this time? "I saw our people in great distress, weeping, and praying, pleading the sure promises of God, while the wicked were all around us, mocking us, and threatening to destroy us. They ridiculed our feebleness; they mocked at the smallness of our numbers, and taunted us with words calculated to cut deep. They charged us with taking 'an independent position from the rest of the world. They had cut off our resources so that we could not buy or sell, and referred to our abject poverty and stricken condition. They could not see how we could live without the world; we were dependent upon the world, and we must concede to the customs, practices, and laws of the world, or go out of it. If we were the only people in the world whom the Lord favored the appearances were awfully against us. They declared that they had the truth,

that miracles were among them, that angels from heaven talked with them with them and walked with them, that great power, and signs and wonders were performed among them, and this was the Temporal Millenium, which they had been expecting for so long. The whole world was converted and in harmony with the Sunday Law, and this little feeble people stood out in defiance of the laws of the land, and the laws of God, and claimed to be the only ones right on the earth.” *Maranatha*, 209.

Continued next issue...

Jerry Eaton

Priscilla and Aquila

Presented for the year 2000 is a series of studies on relationships prayerfully giving greater insight on individuals who, led by the Holy Spirit and the Truth changed their lives. May we all seek the will of the Father as earth’s final chapter closes.

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. Rev.12.12

Humble Beginning

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus.” Rom.16.3

“The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.” 1cor.16.19

“And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.” Acts.18.2

Why did Paul thus connect mechanical labor with the preaching of the gospel? Was not the laborer worthy of his hire? Why did he not labor all his time in preaching? Why waste time and strength in making tents? But Paul did not regard the time spent in making tents lost by any means. As he worked with Aquila, he kept in touch with the great Teacher. He gave Aquila needed instruction in spiritual things, and he also educated the believers in unity. While working at his trade he gave an example in diligence and thoroughness. He was diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. He and Aquila and Priscilla had more than one prayer-and praise-meeting with those associated with them in tent-making. This was a testimony to the value of the truth they were presenting. AG.1909-

06-16.003

Paul in his letters to the churches makes mention of women who were laborers with him in the gospel. Writing to the Romans, he says: “I commend unto you Phoebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; that ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you; for she hath been a succorer of many, and of myself also. Greet Aquila and Priscilla, my helpers in Christ Jesus: who have for my sake laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaenetus, who is the first-fruits of Achaia unto Christ.

Corinth

Among the Jews who had taken up their residence in Corinth were Aquila and Priscilla, who afterward became distinguished as earnest workers for Christ. Becoming acquainted with the character of these persons, Paul “abode with them.” M.243.002

Soon after his arrival at Corinth, Paul found “a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla.” These were “of the same craft” with himself. Banished by the decree of Claudius, which commanded all Jews to leave Rome, Aquila and Priscilla had come to Corinth, where they established a business as manufacturers of tents. Paul made inquiry concerning them, and learning that they feared God and were seeking to avoid the contaminating influences with which they were surrounded, “he abode with them, and wrought... And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.” (Acts 18:2-4) AA.349.002

Corinth presented to the apostle an important field. It was a large mercantile city, closely connected with Rome. Paul saw that if the gospel could be established there it would be rapidly communicated to all parts of the world. The Jews who had

recently been banished from Rome, because of their continual insurrections, had taken up their residence at Corinth. Many who were innocent of any wrong were violently persecuted and were compelled to suffer with the guilty. Among this class were Aquila and Priscilla. Paul made the particular acquaintance of these persons, because their trade and his own were the same. 8RED.061.002

The apostle preached through the day, and at night worked with Aquila and Priscilla at tent-making. While in a city of strangers, he would not be chargeable to any one, but labored with his hands for his own support; and while thus preaching and working, he presented the highest type of Christianity. He combined teaching with his labor; and, while toiling with those of his trade, he imparted to his fellow-workmen knowledge in regard to the way of salvation. In this way he had access to many whom he could not otherwise have reached.

8RED.061.003

Meeting Apollos

And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. Acts. 18.26

Paul set an example against the sentiment, then gaining influence in the church, that the gospel could be proclaimed successfully only by those who were wholly freed from the necessity of physical toil. He illustrated in a practical way what might be done by consecrated laymen in many places where the people were unacquainted with the truths of the gospel. His course inspired many humble toilers with a desire to do what they could to advance the cause of God, while at the same time they supported themselves in daily labor. Aquila and Priscilla were not called to give their whole time to the ministry of the gospel, yet these humble laborers were used by God to show Apollos the way of truth more perfectly. The Lord employs various instrumentalities for the accomplishment of His purpose, and while some with special talents are chosen to devote all their energies to the work of teaching and preaching the gospel, many others, upon whom human hands have never been laid in ordination, are called to act an important part in soulsaving.

AA.355.001

Aquila and Priscilla listened to him, and saw that his teachings were defective. He had not a thorough knowledge of the mission of Christ, his resurrection and ascension, and of the work of his Spirit, the Comforter which he sent down to remain with his people during his absence. They accordingly sent for Apollos, and the educated orator received instruction from them with grateful surprise and joy. Through their teachings he obtained a clearer understanding of the Scriptures, and became one of the ablest defenders of the Christian church. Thus a thorough scholar and brilliant orator learned the way of the Lord more perfectly from the teachings of a Christian man and woman whose humble employment was that of tent-making. LP.1 19.002

Ephesus

And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow. Acts. 18.18

After leaving Corinth, Paul's next scene of labor was Ephesus. He was on his way to Jerusalem to attend an approaching festival, and his stay at Ephesus was necessarily brief. He reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue, and so favorable was the impression made upon them that they entreated him to continue his labors among them. His plan to visit Jerusalem prevented him from tarrying then, but he promised to return to them, "if God will." Aquila and Priscilla had accompanied him to Ephesus, and he left them there to carry on the work that he had begun. M.269.001

While in Ephesus, Apollos "began to speak boldly in the synagogue." Among his hearers were Aquila and Priscilla, who, perceiving that he had not yet received the full light of the gospel, "took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." Through their teaching he obtained a clearer understanding of the Scriptures and became one of the ablest advocates of the Christian faith. AA.270.001

During the long period of his ministry in Ephesus, where for three years he carried forward an aggressive evangelistic effort throughout that region, Paul again worked at his trade. In Ephesus, as in Corinth, the apostle was cheered by the presence of Aquila and Priscilla, who had accompanied him on his return to Asia at the close of his second missionary journey. M.351.001

Compiled by Bro. Richard Lapensee Vancouver, Canada

Christmas is coming

“*Christmas is coming*,” is the phrase that is sounded throughout our world from East to West and from North to South. But what is Christmas, that it should demand so much attention? This day has been made much of for centuries.

The *twenty-fifth of December* is supposed to be the day of the birth of Jesus Christ, and its observance has become customary and popular. But yet there is no certainty that we are keeping the veritable day of our Saviour’s birth. History gives us no certain assurance of this. The Bible does not give us the precise time. Had the Lord deemed this knowledge essential to our salvation, he would have spoken through his prophets and apostles, that we might know all about the matter. But the silence of the Scriptures upon this point is evidence to us that it is hidden from us for the wisest purposes

There is no divine sanctity resting upon the twenty-fifth of December; and it is not pleasing to God that anything that concerns the salvation of man through the infinite sacrifice made for them, should be so sadly perverted from its professed design. **Christ should be the supreme object**; but as Christmas has been observed, *the glory is turned from him to mortal man, whose sinful, defective character* made it necessary for *him to come to our world*. Jesus, the Majesty of heaven, the royal King of heaven, laid aside his royalty, left his throne of glory, his high command, and came into our world to bring to fallen man, weakened in moral power, and corrupted by sin, divine aid. **He clothed his divinity with humanity**, that *he might reach to the very depths of human woe and misery*, to lift up fallen man. By taking upon himself man’s nature, *he raised humanity in the scale of moral value with God*. These great themes are almost too high, too deep, too infinite, for the comprehension of finite minds.

Parents should keep these things before their children, and instruct them, line upon line, precept upon precept, in their obligation to God,—not their obligation to each other, to honor and glorify one another by gifts and offerings. They should be taught that **Jesus is the world’s Redeemer**. The object of thought, of painstaking effort; *that His work is the grand theme which should engage their attention*. They should bring to him their gifts and offerings thus as did the wise men and the shepherds.

As the twenty-fifth day of December is observed to commemorate the birth of Christ, as the children have been instructed by precept and example that this was *indeed a day of gladness and rejoicing*, you will find it a difficult matter to pass over this period without giving it some attention. It can be made to serve a very good purpose. The youth should be treated very carefully. They **should not** be left on Christmas to find their own amusement in vanity and pleasure-seeking. Such amusements will be detrimental to their spirituality. Parents can control this matter by turning the minds and the offerings of their children to God and **his cause and the salvation of souls**.

The secret of saving your children lies in making your home lovely and attractive.

Indulgence by the parents will not bind the children to God nor to home; but a firm, godly influence to properly train and educate the mind would save many children from ruin.

I entreat you, one and all, to make this coming *Christmas a blessing* to yourselves and others. *The birth of Jesus was unhallowed by the great men of earth*. He was the Majesty of heaven; yet this royal subject had no attendants. His birth was *unhonored by the very men he came to our world to save*. *But his advent was celebrated by the heavenly host*. The angel of the Lord came to them, and said, “Fear not, for, behold, **I bring you tidings of great joy,**

which shall be unto all people; for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you, Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” Luke 2: 10 -12. No sooner had their eyes become accustomed to the glorious presence of the one angel, than, lo! the whole plain was lighted up with the wondrous glory of the multitude of angels that peopled the plains of Bethlehem. *The angel quieted the fears of the shepherds before opening their eyes* to behold the multitude of the heavenly host, all praising God, and saying, “**Glory to God in the highest; and on earth, peace, good will to men.**” Luke 2:14

Then was the melody of heaven heard by mortal ears, and the heavenly choir swept back to heaven as they closed their ever memorable anthem. The light faded away and the shadows of the night once more fell on the hills and plains of Bethlehem; but *there remained in the hearts of the shepherds the brightest picture mortal man had ever looked upon, and the blessed promise and assurance of the advent to our world of the Saviour of men, which filled their hearts with joy and gladness, mingled with faith and wondrous love to God.* In simple trust, the shepherds hastened to follow the direction of the heavenly messengers, to find the royal babe, not in a palace, not even in a common inn, but in a stable.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

CONSIDER THE POOR

“Oh, girls! I shall just die, I know I shall!” exclaimed Betty, going off into a hysterical fit of laughter, which she vainly tried to smother behind her handkerchief.

“What is it? Why don't you tell us so we can laugh too?”

“Well - you - see,” she gasped out at last, “We've got a new student — the strangest looking person you ever saw. I happened to be hi the Head Teacher's room when she arrived. She came on the train and had a very old-fashioned suitcase. She came into the teacher's room with a funny little basket in her hand, and sat down as if she had come to stay forever. She said, ‘Are you Mrs. Gazin?’ ‘Yes,’ she replied, ‘that is my name.’ ‘Well, I've come to stay a year at your school.’ Then she pulled a handkerchief out of her basket, and unrolled it until she found an old leather wallet, and actually took out \$250.00 and laid it hi the teacher's hand saying, ‘That is just the amount, I believe; will you please give me a receipt for it?’ You never saw the teacher look so surprised. She actually didn't know what to say for a minute, but she gave her the receipt, asked a few questions, and had her taken to Dormitory room No. 10, and there she is now, this very minute.”

“Well, what is so funny about all that?”

“Why this: she has read hair, tucked into a black net, and looks just like a fright hi every way. She had on a brown dress that looks like a potato sack. No ruffles or trimmings on it. And then she had the shabbiest looking hat and shawl that you ever saw. You will laugh also, when you see her.”

Betty was an only child, and her wealthy father pleased to gratify her every whim. So, besides being far too elegantly dressed for a schoolgirl, she was supplied with plenty of pocket-money, and being very generous, and full of life and fun, she was acknowledged the leader among the students. She now attended one of the finest boarding schools in the city.

When the tea-bell rang, the newcomer was escorted to the dining room, and introduced to her schoolmates as Miss Fannie Comstock. She had exchanged her brown dress for a plain calico one, with a bit of white edging around the neck. She did look rather odd, with her small, thin freckled face, and her red hair brushed straight back from her face, and hidden as much as possible under a large black net. If it wasn't for the presence of the teacher, her first reception by the other students would have been quite unpleasant. She was shy and awkward, and uncomfortable among so many strangers. As soon as possible she hurried back to the privacy of her own room.

The next day she was examined, and assigned to her place in the different classes, and to the surprise of all she was far hi advance of those her age. But this did not awaken the respect of her schoolmates, as it should have done. On the contrary, Betty and her special friends were highly incensed about it, and at once began to do small things to annoy Fannie, whenever it was safe to do so. This kept poor Fannie miserable, indeed, although she seemed to take no notice of it.

A few weeks passed by. Her lessons were always perfectly recited. She made no complaint of the slights and sneers of her companions, but kept out of their way as much as possible. Her thin face grew paler, however, and there were dark rings about her eyes. A watchful friend would have seen that all these things were wearing heavily upon her young life.

One Sunday the very spirit of wickedness seemed let loose among them. The Head Teacher was away, and the other teachers were busy in their rooms. Fannie had been out for a walk and was near the door of her room when a dozen or more of the girls surrounded her, clasping hands together so she was a prisoner in their midst. For a moment she begged piteously to be released, but they only laughed the more, and began going around, singing something which Betty had composed - cruel, miserable, insulting words. She stood for an instant pale and still, then, with a piercing cry, she burst through the ring, and rushed into her room closed and locked the door. Through their wild peals of laughter the girls heard a strange moan and a heavy fall.

“I believe she has fainted,” said Betty.

“What shall we do?” asked another.

For a moment they stood there too frightened to think clearly; then one of them ran for the matron and told her that Fannie Comstock has fainted in her room and the door was locked.

She had a long ladder put to the window, and sent the janitor up to see if it was true. Fortunately the window was open, and in a few moments he had unlocked the door from the inside. The girls were huddled together in a frightened group, while Fannie lifted up and laid her upon her bed. She was having violent spasms. The doctor was sent for, but when the spasms ceased, other alarming symptoms set in, and he pronounced it a serious case of brain fever. It is impossible to tell the shame and remorse of the conscience stricken girls. They were not brave enough to confess their guilt, but hung around the sick room, offering their services vainly wishing that they might atone for it some way. But their presence only excited the poor sufferer, so that they were all sent away. Day after day passed and she still raved in violent delirium. The little suitcase was searched to find some clue about who her friends and family were, but only the plainest, clothing was seen inside.

Day after day the doctor came, looking serious and anxious, and at last the crisis came. For many hours she lay as if dead, and not a noise was permitted to disturb the awful silence while they waited to see if she would live or die. At last she opened her eyes; and the suspense was relieved by an assuring word from the doctor, that with careful nursing she would soon be well again. But her recuperation was slow and tedious.

The other students dared not say anything about what they had done, but they sent her small bouquets of flowers every day as well as small portions of her favourite foods to try and tempt her appetite to return. Her eyes would light up with surprise and pleasure at the little gifts. Not once did she utter a complaint about the ill treatment she had received.

One day the Head Teacher was sitting by her side, and as Fannie seemed to be much stronger, she decided to ask her about her family and friends.

“I have no friends,” she said, “only Cousin John, who has a large family of his own, and has never cared for me. Mother died when I was born. I had a step-mother, but father died five years after, and I’ve taken care of myself ever since.”

“And you are only, fifteen now?”

“Yes, ma’am.”

“How did you get money enough to pay for a year’s board and tuition here?”

“I earned it all, Madam, every cent of it. As soon as I was big enough I went to a factory, and earned two dollars a week at first, and finally \$3.50; and I worked for my board nights and mornings.”

“Poor child!”

“Oh no, ma’am, I was very glad to do it.”

“But how did you keep along so well with your studies?”

“I used to fix a book open on my loom, where I could catch a sentence now and then, and the overseer did not object, because I always did my work well. You see, Madam, I wanted to be a teacher some time, and I knew I would have a better chance to learn here than anywhere else, so I determined to do it.”

“What are your plans for the summer holidays?”

“I must go back to the factory and earn enough to get some warmer clothes for the next winter. You see, Madam, why I can’t afford to dress better?”

The Head Teacher’s heart was full. She bent over the white, thin little face, and kissed it reverently.

That evening, when the girls gathered in the chapel for evening worship, she told the other girls Fannie’s story. There was not a dry eye in the room. The moment she finished, Betty sprang up with the tears pouring down her cheeks and said:

“Oh, Madam!” We have been awfully cruel and wicked to that poor girl. We have made fun of her from the first, and she would not have been sick as she was if we had not tormented her almost to death. I was the most to blame. It was I that led on the rest, and we have suffered terribly all these weeks, fearing she might die. You may expel me, or punish me in any way you please; for I deserve it; and I shall go down on my knees to ask her forgiveness, as soon as you will let me see her.”

“My child, I am shocked to hear this. I can scarcely believe that any of my students would ill-treat another person because she was so unfortunate as to be plain and poor. But you have made a noble confession, and I forgive you as freely as I believe she will, when she knows how truly you have repented of your unkindness.”

Little by little, as she was able to bear it, one after another of the students went to Fannie and begged her forgiveness, which was freely granted. She said, “I don’t wonder you made fun of me. I know I was poorly dressed and plain. I would have pulled every hair out of my head long ago, only I knew it would grow back as red as ever. But, oh! If I could have felt that I had just one friend among you all, I could have borne it; but somehow it just broke my heart to have you all turn against me.”

After this she gained her strength rapidly, and one fine morning the doctor said she was well enough to join the other students in the students’ lounge. There had been a great deal of whispering and hurrying to and fro lately, among the girls, of which Fannie knew nothing about while she was quietly in her room.

At the appointed time, the Head Teacher came to help her, and leaning upon her strong arms, the young girl walked feebly through the long hall and down the stairs.

“My dear, the girls have planned a little surprise for you, to make the hour as pleasant as possible.

She opened the door and seated Fannie in an easy chair, and the girls came gliding in, with smiling faces, singing a beautiful song of welcome. At the end of the song, Betty came up to Fannie and placed a beautiful wreath of flowers upon her head, saying, "Dear Fannie, we crown you our queen today, knowing well how far above us all you are in His sight, who looketh upon the heart instead of the outward appearance. You have taught us a lesson we shall never forget, and we beg you to accept a token of sincere love and repentance for our treatment of you in the past, which you will find in your room on your return."

Fannie's eyes were full of tears, and she tried to say a word in reply, but the Head Teacher spoke for her, and after another song they followed their newly crowned queen to the dining room, where a most tempting feast was laid in honour of the occasion. Fannie was quietly, tearfully happy through it all, yet so wearied with the unusual excitement that the teacher said she must not see the girls' "peace-offering" that night. The first thing she saw the next morning was a fine large suitcase with a card on top that said, "For Miss Fannie Comstock from her teacher and schoolmates." Having opened it, she saw it was packed full of newly folded clothing, but she had no time to examine the contents, until after breakfast, when they left her alone with her wonderful gifts. There were pretty dresses and scarves; a new umbrella, gloves and ribbons; everything that a young schoolgirl could possibly need. Every one of the teacher's two hundred and ten students had contributed from their best, to furnish a complete outfit for their less *Favoured fellow student*. *At the bottom was an album containing all their pictures and a pretty purse containing five dollars, and the following note from the teacher.*

"My dear child: this shall be a receipt in full for all expenses, during whatever time you may choose to remain in the school, which I present to you as a sincere token of my love and respect." Jeannette Gazin.

They found her at dinnertime on the floor, surrounded by her new treasures, crying like a baby; but it did her good. She was soon able to resume her studies, and was ever afterward treated with kindness and consideration, even though all her hair came out and left her head bald as her face, so she had to wear a wig for many weeks.

When the summer holidays arrived, Betty took her to her beautiful home, where for the first time she was surrounded with beauty and luxury on every side, and was treated as a loved and honoured guest. It was not long before the hateful wig was cast aside, and Fannie's head was covered with a profusion of dark auburn curls, which were indeed a crown of glory that made her plain face beautiful.

Gentle, loving, and beloved by all, she remained in the school until she graduated with honours, after which the Head Teacher offered her a teaching job that had come open, with a generous salary, which Fannie accepted gratefully.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:34-40.

BELIEVE WHAT GOD BELIEVES ABOUT YOU

(Read this aloud to yourself each morning and evening for the next 30 days, then evaluate how your feelings about yourself have changed)

1 Corinthians 13 paraphrased

Because God loves me, He is slow to lose patience with me. Because God loves me, He takes the circumstance of my life and uses them in a constructive way
for my growth.

Because God loves me, He does not treat me as an object to be possessed and manipulated. Because God loves me, He has no need to impress me with how great and powerful He is because He is God. Nor does he belittle me as His child in order to show me how important He is. Because God loves me, He does not send down His wrath on every little mistake I make, of which there are many. Because God loves me,

He does not keep score of all my sins and then beat me over the head with

them whenever He gets a chance. Because God loves me, He is deeply grieved when I do not walk in the ways that please Him

because He sees this as evidence that I don't trust Him and love Him as I should. Because God loves me, He rejoices when I



'Tis The Time

'Tis the time that was seen of him
A long, long time ago
In a vision grand it was shown to him
That men would run to and fro.
He saw indeed what men would be
At the time of the end
For knowledge will increase, indeed, it will
And our Lord shall come again.

BY SUZAN GOWIE

