

*The Reformation* 

# **Messenger**

*Volume 7, Number 2*

*February 2000*

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



## HAS THE ANGEL COME

*“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.*

*And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

*For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

*And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:1-4.*

Revelation 18 deals with a number of topics such as: the loud cry, the latter rain, the third angel, the second angel, the other angel, and Babylon. There is much food for thought on these subjects in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

“The third angel’s message is to be given with power. The power of the proclamation of the first and second messages is to be intensified in the third. In Revelation, John says of the heavenly messenger who unites with the third angel: ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice.’” Revelation 18:1, 2. Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 6, p. 60.

Why does the angel of Revelation 18 unite with the third angel? “We are in danger of giving the third angel’s message in so indefinite a manner that it does not impress the people. So many other interests are brought in that the veiy message which should be proclaimed with power becomes tame and voiceless.” Ibid., page 60.

The message became tame and voiceless. The angel of Revelation 18 is to aid, support, and strengthen the third angel’s message. This support was needed when the leadership and the membership became lukewarm, and legalistic. “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Revelation 3:17. To be spiritually naked means to lack the righteousness of Christ.

How is the message to be presented? “There must be no toning down of the truth, no muffling of the message for this time. The third angel’s message must be strengthened and confirmed. The eighteenth chapter of Revelation reveals the importance of presenting the truth in no measured terms but with boldness and power. . . . There has been too much beating about the bush in the proclamation of the third angel’s message. The message has not been given as clearly and distinctly as it should have been.” Ellen G. White, *Manuscript 16*, 1900.

“The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel’s message as it swells to a loud cry.” Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, page 277. Swelling is a gradual process, beginning small and expanding until it becomes a loud cry which is heard everywhere. The message gets louder and louder and intensifies in its effort to be clearly heard.

When was the time for the appearance of this angel? “The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel **has already begun** in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. **This is the beginning of the light of the angel** whose glory shall fill the whole earth.” Ellen G. White Book / *Selected Messages*, p. 363. When was the revelation of the righteousness of Christ presented to God’s people? In 1888 at the General Conference the light from the angel of Revelation 18 began to shine. The angel came with a message of revival and reformation to prepare a people for the latter rain.

“If we would receive the light of the glorious angel that shall lighten the earth with his glory, let us see to it that our **hearts are cleansed, emptied of self**, and turned toward heaven, that they may be ready for the latter rain. Let us be obtaining a fitting up to join in the proclamation of the angel who shall lighten the earth with his glory.” Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, August 1, 1892. This heart cleansing must be done prior to the latter rain. In other words, the work of purification must be done today.

“The great reformatory movement must **begin** in presenting to fathers and mothers and children the principles of the law of God.” Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, page 119. The work of Reformation has to do with obedience to God’s law. Sister White wrote the following words: “The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the **righteousness of Christ**, which is made manifest in **obedience to all the commandments of God.**” Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 91-92. The angel of Revelation 18 is today revealing the light of Christ our righteousness by pointing people to God’s law. It will be God’s church that proclaims the last message of hope to a dying world. “God has a **church** on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law, and presenting to the world the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.” *Ibid.*, p. 50. His people will be organized for service in rescuing the lost. “I tell you, my brethren, the Lord has an **organized body** through whom He will work.” Ellen G. White, *This Day With God*, p. 172. “We should all feel our individual responsibility as members of the **visible church** and workers in the vineyard of the Lord.” Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, p. 16.

The last church on earth will preach and obey all of God’s commandments. If a church keeps only nine commandments, it *cannot* be recognized as the REMNANT CHURCH. Always remember that the righteousness of Christ leads to obedience. Is there an organized body of believers who are today obeying the Lord? Of course. God has always had a people. They are described in Revelation 12:17: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which **keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**”

In the 1800’s, the Lord called the Seventh Day Adventist Church to preach the last message of warning. As time went on, many believers had lost sight of Jesus. Very few were preparing themselves for the latter rain. Sister Ellen White wrote the following: “It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that **not one in twenty** whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner.” Ellen G. White, *Christian Service*, p. 41. This was written after the 1888 Conference.

There was no spiritual improvement in the 1890’s. The 1888 Conference did not produce a revival and reformation among the people. How was the message of Christ our Righteousness received? Was the angel of Revelation 18 accepted or rejected? Here is the clear answer from the pen of inspiration: “The perils of the last days are upon us. Satan takes the control of every mind that is not decidedly under the control of the Spirit of God. Some have been cultivating hatred against the men whom God has commissioned to bear a special message to the world. **They began this satanic work at Minneapolis.** Afterward, when they saw and felt the demonstration of the Holy Spirit testifying that the message was of God, they **hated it** the more, because it was a testimony against them. They would not humble their hearts to repent, to give God the glory, and vindicate the right. They went on in their own spirit, filled with envy, jealousy, and evil surmisings, as did the Jews. They opened their hearts to the enemy of God and man. Yet these men have been holding positions of trust, and have been molding the work after their own similitude, as far as they possibly could. . . .” Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 79-80. “There was a time when this work was made necessary, because our own people opposed the work of God by **refusing the light of truth** on the righteousness of Christ by faith.” *Ibid.*, p. 401.

This sad, startling fact has been confirmed by George R. Knight in the book, *A Brief History of Seventh-Day Adventists*. He writes: “Jones and Waggoner’s Christ-centered message received a mixed response among the participants at the conference. Some of the Adventist leadership accepted it, but **most rejected** both the men and

the message.” In harmony with Knight’s report of the 1888 Conference, another Adventist author writes, “The message has **never been received**, nor proclaimed, nor given free course as it should have been in order to convey to the church the measureless blessings that were wrapped within it.” A. Daniells, *Christ Our Righteousness*, p. 47. How sad that this truth-filled message of justification by faith was never accepted collectively by the church.

What happened in 1901 at the General Conference Session?

“At the General Conference, held in Battle Creek in 1901, the Lord gave His people evidence that He was calling for **reformation**. Minds were convicted, and hearts were touched; **but thorough work was not done**. If stubborn hearts had then broken in penitence before God, there would have been seen one of the greatest manifestations of the power of God that has ever been seen. But God was not honored. The testimonies of His Spirit were not heeded. Men did not separate from the practices that were in decided opposition to the principles of truth and righteousness, which should ever be maintained in the Lord’s work.” Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, pp. 97-

What was the outcome of the 1909 General Conference? “During the General Conference of 1909 a work should have been done in the hearts of those in attendance **that was not done**. Hours should have been given up to heart searching, that would have led to the breaking up of the fallow ground of the hearts of those who were at the meeting. This would have given them insight to understand the work so essential to be done by them in repentance and confession. But, though opportunities were given for confession of sin, for heartfelt repentance, and for a **decided reformation, thorough work was not done.**” Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 2, pp. 400-401.

In **1913** the last call for a revival and reformation came to the church. “Men of clear understanding are needed now. God calls upon those who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work **of thorough reformation. I see a crisis** before us, and the Lord calls for His laborers to come into line. Every soul should now stand in a position of deeper, truer consecration to God than during the years that have passed.” *Ibid.*, p. 400.

“I have been deeply impressed by scenes that have recently passed before me in the night season. There seemed to be a **great movement—a work of revival**—going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God’s call. My brethren, the Lord is speaking to us.

v Shall we not heed His voice? Shall we not trim our lamps, and act like men who look for their Lord to come? The time is one that calls for light bearing, for action.” *Ibid.*, p. 402. The prophesied Reformation must occur before the latter rain. IT MUST BE IN EXISTENCE TO PREPARE A PEOPLE FOR THE LATTER RAIN.

Since the message of Christ our Righteousness in 1888 was rejected by the leadership, the other angel returned in the form of a well-defined prophesied test. World War I was definitely predicted by Ellen G. White. The church became divided. About 2% of the Adventists in Europe were faithful during the crisis of World War I. The persecuted understood the message of Revelation 18. Righteousness within their hearts led them to obedience.

The last phase of the angel of Revelation 18 will take place during the latter rain. At this time, there will be miracles, signs and wonders. (See *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 126). A call from heaven will be made to come out of Babylon. The faithful will respond to God’s voice. “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” John 10:16.

“I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and before the loud cry of the third angel is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches. But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.” Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, p. 261. All those who leave the fallen churches, will then take their stand with the remnant who are keeping all the commandments of God (only one remnant).

“The question of most vital importance for this time is, ‘Who is on the Lord’s side? Who will unite with the angel in giving the message of truth to the world? Who will receive the light that is to fill the whole earth with its glory?’” Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, November 5, 1889. AMEN

\*To emphasize certain words and phrases in quoted material, I have used bold type.

Your fellow pilgrim, Henry Dering

## LATER RAIN

So important to the church of God is the latter rain that already the Old Testament prophets spoke about it and called the people to prepare for it.

Moses spoke about the early and latter rain and David mentions it in the Psalms. Isaiah writes, “For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour out My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessings upon thy offspring.” Isa. 44:3

Joel, when speaking of the last days, also prophesies the promise of the latter rain. “Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and will cause to come down for you the latter rain in the first month.” Joel 2:23

“Near the close of earth’s harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain.” A.A. 55(1911)

### WHAT IS HOLDING BACK THE LATTER RAIN?

Already in 1897, Sister White wrote, “It is the time of the latter rain, when the Lord will give largely of His Spirit.” T.M. 512

Now many years later we have not received it yet. There must be a reason for it, why the Lord has not poured it out upon His people.

“Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in His season: He reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.” Jer. 5:24-25

“Ministers and people are unprepared for the time in which they live, and nearly all who profess to believe present truth are unprepared to understand the work of preparation for this time. In their present state of worldly ambition, with their lack of consecration to God, their devotion to self, they are wholly unfitted to receive the latter rain and, having done all, to stand against the wrath of Satan, who by his inventions would cause them to make shipwreck of faith, fastening upon them some pleasing self-deception. They think they are all right when they are all wrong.” Vol. 1 pg. 466

God in His mercy has granted more time to His people to get ready, but many are still neglecting the necessary preparation and are wasting their precious time of probation.

### WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE READY?

This is the most important question for each one of us; our eternal life depends on it.

“Come let us return unto the Lord: for He hath torn and he will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come to us as the rain, as the, latter and former rain unto the earth.” Hosea 6:1, 3

“Sow to yourself in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you,” Hosea 10:20

We need to make a thorough reformation in our lives. Sister White made it very clear what kind of preparation is needed.

“Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully,... I saw that none could share the “refreshing” unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action.” E.W. 71

The standard is high. Many will lose out on the latter rain because they did not realize the perfect character which is required by God. And this perfection cannot be gained in a few days. Therefore we must begin our work of reformation today. After you have fulfilled the conditions, then ask the Lord to fulfill His part.

“Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.” Zech. 10:1

“Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain.” Do not rest satisfied that in the ordinary course of the season, rain will fall.

Ask for it... Let us, with contrite hearts, pray most earnestly that now, in the time of the latter rain, the showers of grace may fall upon us... If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised.” T.M. 508, 509

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE LATTER RAIN?

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” Joel 2:28

“Servants of God, with their faces lightened up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers.” G.C. 612

“There will be thousands converted to the truth in a day who at the eleventh hour see and acknowledge the truth and the movements of the Spirit of God.” Last Day Events, p. 212

Sis. White also stated, “At that time of the Tatter rain’, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.”

The loud cry of the third angel, which has existed since the beginning of the Reform Movement, will now grow into a mighty work under the power of the latter rain.

The solemn thought is that our judgement and sealing take place before the latter rain. Also the final shaking will precede the latter rain. The wise and foolish virgins will be separated and then the little remnant who remains will receive the power from on high. The latter rain is not a power for us to overcome sins. They must be put away before our sealing or it will be too late for us. The latter rain is a mighty power to finish the gospel preaching. It is to proclaim the Sabbath more fully and to call out God’s people from Babylon which includes all churches outside the Church of God.

These thoughts should occupy our minds daily. Delay in our preparation may be fatal. “The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death... Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat.” Test. Vol. 5 pg. 81

Out of the Church of God in the time of the Sunday law, when the mark of the beast is forced upon us, many

will be shaken out like a cloud and the little remnant that remains will receive the latter rain. May the Lord have mercy on His people and waken each one to see the danger of being found wanting in this solemn time. AMEN

Timo Martin

### **Where are your fruits?**

“The best evidence that a person is a son of God is that he does the works of God.”

“By your fruits ye shall know them?” What does this verse include? Does this verse mean that if a person is not openly bringing many people to church and having them be baptized they are a failure because they are not bearing fruits? Is a minister or canvasser judged on the number of souls that have been brought to church through their efforts? Sometimes this mistake has been made without any thought of consideration of the fact that missionary work is easier in some parts of the world than others. Why are there hundreds and even thousands of believers in countries like Peru while in North America and places like Australia there are relatively few? Does this mean that the brethren in Latin America have more living faith than the believers in North America?

Of course the amount of faith a person has, has no bearing on the number of souls they have brought to church. There may be two members with equally strong faith in two different countries and yet one belongs to a large church and one to a small church that has only a handful of believers.

Are we preaching to have the numbers flow in? Is that our main goal? That is the goal of most fallen religions. They always like to boast of great numbers and belittle God’s true church because of its small numbers. They even try to quiet their pricked conscience on account of this fact alone. What did Paul say in 1 Corinthians 3:6? “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” Yes, it is God who gave the increase. Then may we conclude that God’s church is weak in different parts of the world? No, one thing God will not do is force people to believe and come to church. He works equally with the members of the church in different parts of the world.

By what kind of fruits do we measure our success? If it is the amount of souls that have been brought to church through our efforts, then we are making a great mistake. I am thinking of a great sister of faith in our church in Vancouver who passed away several years ago. She could not speak the English language very well, yet she went out canvassing for many years. She sold and gave away much literature with the few simple English sentences that she could speak. Not one soul came to church through her efforts, but I am sure there was much fruit for her labours. Maybe it was not directly from her canvassing work that souls came but a working church is a growing church. The literature is in the homes of the people and she has left the increase to God. They may read it at some future time and be saved. She was not lacking in faith. And also the church in Vancouver has grown through the diligent efforts of all the members.

I want to mention another case now. A friend of mine lost her cat and waited weeks for it to come home. It never came. One day she decided to print up some notices and post them around the neighborhood in hopes that someone may have seen her cat and would bring it home. The next day when she came home from work the cat was sitting on the front step. The cat most likely was not brought home through the notices, but she said that once she decided to do something then God did His part and brought her cat home in His way.

She compared this experience of her cat with the church in Toronto. There was a time when the young people were going out every Sunday to pass out religious tracts in the city. They were fairly regular about going out. Then she mentioned that although not one soul came to church through those tracts so far, because the church was working, 17 souls were baptized in the area that year. They came from other sources, but God worked for the church when the church was working. If we just sit and wait for souls to come in, it won’t happen.

I have often heard it said that very few souls have come to church through the canvassing work here in many of the Western countries. Mostly they come from other places. Does that mean we should stop canvassing and try to find out the most successful ways of bringing souls into the church? What does Sister White say about the canvassing work? “The intelligent, God-fearing, truth-loving canvasser should be respected; for he occupies a position equal to that of the gospel minister. Many of our young ministers would, if truly converted, do much good by working in the canvassing field.” 6T, p. 321. “The ministerial evangelist who engages in the canvassing work is performing a service fully as important as that of preaching the gospel before a congregation Sabbath after Sabbath. God looks upon the faithful evangelistic canvasser with as much approval as He looks upon any faithful minister. Both workers have a light, and both are to shine in their respective spheres of influence.”

PC, p. 15. It is a very important part of the work because the literature is to go out as the "Leaves of Autumn". The books and tracts may not be read today, but sometime in the future when the people are more receptive the Lord will direct them back to that literature and they will pick it up and read it. Also the beauty of the canvassing work is that you can do as much or as little of it, depending on the amount of spare time you may have. Some are full-time canvassers, some only part-time volunteer canvassers. And the truth of the matter is that souls have come to the message through the canvassing work.

Upon pondering this situation, I thought of my friend's cat and the Toronto church. It doesn't matter what kind of missionary work you do, just do something for the Lord and leave the increase to Him. Watch Him work miracles and build your faith. In some places of the world, many more souls come from the canvassing work. We are to preach for a witness wherever we are. This does not mean that we should not search for new ways to bring the gospel message to the people. We are to work where we are, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Fruits are not seen only in the number of church members in a church. The fruits of the Spirit mentioned by Paul are: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance." Gal. 6:22,23. In these fruits nothing is mentioned about the numbers. Yet, if a person has the fruits of the Spirit, they will be as a "City set on a hill, that cannot be hid." In this world of darkness and coldness, their light will shine brightly. Many people will see it and some will be drawn to the light. If a Christian dresses and acts like the world, he does not possess the fruits of the Spirit and will not have any effect on those around them. We must come apart and be separate. God is looking for quality more than quantity. Some also bear fruits by writing letters or articles for the Lord and thus are able to reach others in different parts of the world with encouraging words. Although this is good work, personal outreach is also very necessary whenever possible because as we share our faith verbally, our faith strengthens. Once a person is elderly, their prayers and offerings can help out needy mission fields. God has work for everyone to do, no matter how old or young, rich or poor. In Matthew 25:35,36, Jesus mentions various different ways that a person can do missionary work. "For I was an hungered, 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."

## NOT GOD'S PLAN

Is praying enough missionary work for the young person who is full of energy?

"God does not mean that any of us should become hermits or monks and retire from the world in order to devote ourselves to acts of worship. The life must be like Christ's life -between the mountain and the multitude. He who does nothing but pray will soon cease to pray, or his prayers will become a formal routine. When men take themselves out of social life, away from the sphere of Christian duty and cross bearing; when they cease to work earnestly for the Master, who worked earnestly for them, they lose the subject matter of prayer and have no incentive to devotion. Their prayers become personal and selfish. They cannot pray in regard to the wants of humanity or the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom, pleading for strength wherewith to work." SCp. 101.

We are not to wait until better opportunities to witness for our faith. We must ask God what is our duty today and do it. Today is the only day that we have been given and let us make the most of it. We must let the Holy Spirit dwell in us today and produce His fruits.

## MANY LINES OF WORK

"Loyalty to Christ demands the faithful performance of church duties..."

"Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in co-operation with Christ for the salvation of souls. . .

"The Lord calls for young men and women to gird themselves for lifelong, earnest labor in the Sabbath-school work... The Lord would have teachers in the Sabbath-school work who can give wholehearted service..."

"The idea of holding Bible readings is a heaven-bom idea, and opens the way to put hundreds of young men and women into the field to do an important work, which otherwise could not have been done. The Bible is unchained. It can be carried to every man's door, and its truths may be presented to every man's conscience.

"The Lord calls upon our youth to labor as canvassers and evangelists, to do house-to-house work in places that have not yet heard the truth... Those who will go forth to the work under God's direction will be wonderfully blessed... "One of the best ways in which young men can obtain fitness for the ministry is by entering the canvassing field. . .

"The very best talent that can be secured is needed to educate and mould the minds of the young, and to carry on successfully the many lines of work that will need to be done by the teacher in the church schools... Teachers are needed, especially for the children... Our church schools need teachers who have high moral qualities;..."

"The Lord desires to have in His service intelligent men, men qualified for various lines of work. There is need of business men who will weave the grand principles of truth into all their transactions. . .

“There is no missionary field more important than that occupied by the faithful God-fearing physician. . . . “In almost every community there “are large numbers who do not listen to the preaching of God’s word or attend any religious service. If they are reached by the gospel, it must be carried to their homes. Often the relief of their physical needs is the only avenue by which they can be approached. . .

“There must be no belittling of the gospel ministry. No enterprise should be so conducted as to cause the ministry of the word to be looked upon as an inferior matter. It is not so... The highest of all work is ministry in its various lines, and it should be kept before the youth that there is no work more blessed of God than that of the gospel minister...

“Children can be acceptable missionary workers in the home and in the church. God desires them to be taught that they are in this world for useful service, not merely for play. In the home they can be trained to do missionary work that will prepare them for wider spheres of usefulness... MYP, pp. 219-224.

## MEROZ

What is Meroz? In Judges

5:23 we read about Meroz. “Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.”

“There is a class that are represented by Meroz. The missionary spirit has never taken hold of their souls.”

A bitter curse is pronounced on those who do not come to the help of the Lord. What had Meroz done? Nothing! And this was their sin. They came not to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The curse of God came upon them for what they had not done. They Master will require of each steward to give account of his stewardship to show what he gained with the talents given to him. It is not because of great crimes that they are condemned, but because they did not come to the help of the Lord. Lukewarm Meroz, they are neither for nor against, neither cold nor hot. Let them arouse and act their part in the work for the Lord today, before it is forever too late. Sister White addressed some people in her day who were in this situation. “A people are here addressed who make high profession, who are in the habit of praying, and who delight in religious exercises; yet there is a lack. They realize that their prayers are not answered; their zealous, earnest efforts are not observed in heaven, and they earnestly inquire why the Lord makes them no returns. It is not because there is any neglect on the part of God. The difficulty is with the people. While professing godliness, they do not bear fruit to the glory of God; their works are not what they should be. They are living in neglect of positive duties. Unless these are performed, God cannot answer their prayers according to His glory.” T2, p. 147

“We shall individually be held responsible for doing one jot less than we have ability to do. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service. The unused capabilities are as much brought into account as are those that are improved. For all that we might become through the right use of our talents God holds us responsible. We shall be judged according to what we ought to have done, but did not accomplish because we did not use our powers to glorify God. Even if we do not lose our souls, we shall realize in eternity the result of our unused talents. For all the knowledge and ability that we might have gained and did not, there will be an eternal loss.” COL, p. 362.

“We may not have committed grievous sins; such offenses may not stand registered against us in the book of God; but the fact that our deeds are not recorded as pure, good, elevated, and noble, showing that we have not improved our entrusted talents, places us under condemnation.” ISM, p. 220.

“When the King shall make investigation, these do-nothing, illiberal, selfish souls will learn that heaven is for those who have been workers, those who have denied themselves for Christ’s sake. No provisions have been made for those who have ever taken such special care in loving and looking out for themselves. The terrible punishment which the King threatens those in His left hand, in this case, is not because of their great crimes. They are not condemned for the things which they did do, but for that which they did not do. You did not those things which Heaven assigned you to do. You pleased yourself, and can take your portion with self-pleasers.” 2T, p. 27.

“Let all who believe the truth begin to work. Do the work that lies nearest you; do anything, however humble, rather than be, like the men of Meroz, do-nothings.” T8, p. 246.

## WORK OF WOMEN

Women are also expected to bear fruit, however their fruit may be of a different nature.

“All who work for God should have the Martha and the Mary attributes blended - a willingness to minister and a sincere love of the truth. Self and selfishness must be put out of sight. God calls for earnest women workers, workers who are prudent, warmhearted, tender, and true to principle. He calls for persevering women who will take their minds from self and their personal convenience, and will centre them on Christ speaking words of truth, praying with the persons to whom they can obtain access, laboring for the conversion of souls.

“Oh, what is our excuse, my sisters, that we do not devote all the time possible to searching the Scriptures, making the mind a storehouse of precious things, that we may present them to those who are not interested in

the truth? Will our sisters arise to the emergency? Will they work for the Master?" T6, p. 118.

We know a family in Canada who lives across the road from where we used to live. There is a single mother with several children at home. Her youngest son befriended my son and they spent much time together. This mother is a very faithful Christian. She goes to church regularly and participates in many church activities and also she often spends her holidays travelling to different parts of the world doing voluntary missionary work. Yet in her children there was a different spirit While the youngest son was not fully affected by the absence of the mother yet, the older children were quite rebellious. They were doing poorly in school and were troublemakers in society. They have no interest in their mother's faith. Is this mother doing true missionary work?

"God has assigned woman her mission; and if she, in her humble way, yet to the best of her ability, makes a heaven of her home, faithfully and lovingly performing her duties to her husband and children, continually seeking to let a holy light shine from her useful, pure, and virtuous life to brighten all around her, she is doing the work left her of the Master, and will hear from His divine lips the words; Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord. These women who are doing with ready willingness what their hands find to do, with cheerfulness of spirit aiding their husband to bear their burdens, and training their children for God, are missionaries in the highest sense. They are engaged in an important branch of the great work to be done on earth to prepare mortals for a higher life, and they will receive their reward." 4T 465/466.

This previous paragraph is woman's first work. Not all women are in families with children. Some never had children and some have children who have grown up and left home. This being the case then they have more time for ministry outside the home.

"The mother's work often seems to her an unimportant service. It is a work that is rarely appreciated. Others know little of her many cares and burdens. Her days are occupied with a round of little duties, all calling for patient effort, for self-control, for tact, wisdom, and self-sacrificing love; yet she cannot boast of what she has done as any great achievement. She has only kept things in the home running smoothly; often weary and perplexed, she has tried to speak kindly to the children, to keep them busy and happy, and to guide the little feet in the right path. She feels that she has accomplished nothing. But it is not so. Heavenly angels watch the careworn mother, noting the burdens she carries day by day. Her name may not have been heard in the world, but it is written in the Lamb's book of life." MH, p. 376.

## WORK FOR YOUTH

Bearing fruit does not come naturally. In order for a plant to grow and produce fruit, it needs rain, sunshine and minerals from the earth. Even then some plants may grow but will produce only very little fruit. In the days of Jesus there was a fig tree that had no figs. Jesus cursed the fig tree and it died the next day. It was only cumbering the ground. In another parable the gardener requested time before the non-producing fig tree was cut down. He asked for another year in which he would put an extra effort to have this tree produce fruit.

The same is true for our young people. They will not grow up and be automatically Christians simply because their parents were. No, they must be trained. But by whom? "God has appointed the church as a watchman, to have a jealous care over the youth and children, and as a sentinel to see the approach of the enemy and give warning of danger. But the church does not realize the situation. She is sleeping on guard. In this time of peril fathers and mothers must arouse and work as for life, or many of the youth will be forever lost." CG, p. 312.

Their training is the responsibility of the whole church. There is often the danger of only concentrating on our own children and even looking down upon those other children and young people who are not as well trained and are causing disruptions in the service. We are told that we must help these children as though they were our own.

Once a youth is baptized, the work for them is not finished. "If you consent to the baptism of your children and then leave them to do as they choose, feeling no special duty to keep their feet in the straight path, you yourselves are responsible if they lose faith and courage and interest in the truth." CG, p. 500.

So what are we training our young people for? Is it just to be good and faithful church members? What did the Waldenses train their youth for? Our duty is no different. We are to train them to be useful, active members in the church. "The churches in different localities should feel that a solemn responsibility rests upon them, to train youth and educate talent to engage in missionary work." 6T, p. 213. That does not mean they need to become full-time missionaries, (although this is a very worthy goal for them to reach) if they are not led of the Lord in this line. Instead they can be trained as to how they can share their faith in school, in their work place, and with different kinds of people. They also need to be taught how to use their spare time wisely because that is when Satan will come in strongly, when they have nothing to do. Satan will find them something to do if we don't direct them to what the Lord wants them to do. Youth is the best time to serve the Lord. While they are young the burdens of life are not heavy upon them, and their minds are not harassed with care. While they are so free they should devote the best of their strength to God. They need to be encouraged to follow the words of the spirit of Prophecy to go to new areas with the gospel message.

Even in the world, the strength of the youth is recognized. Look at most armies in the world. They like to draft the young people, beginning at the age of 18. That is when

they are at the height of their strength. How much better if we channel that energy into the Lord's army.

"When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord's work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. Teach them to try in a quiet, unpretending way to help their young companions. Let different branches of missionary effort be systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction and help. Thus they will learn to work for God." Gospel Workers, p. 210.

"Let not the youth be ignored; let them share in the labor and responsibility. Let ministers put to use all their ingenuity in devising plans whereby the young members of the church may be led to co-operate with them in missionary work. Let those who have charge of the flock of Christ awake to their duty, and set many souls to work. Scarcely a thousandth part of the work is being done that ought to be done in missionary fields." Southern Watchman 07-03-02.

Work where you are. Don't dream of distant lands and future times when you will have better opportunities to work for the Lord. The Lord will not take you to distant lands unless you have fulfilled your duties in your home field.

Do something - anything - and the Lord will bless your efforts.

### OMISSION VS. COMMISSION

"The duty of setting a good example must be considered. We must weigh faithfully the results of our actions. If we think a certain course will do us no harm, we should then look at it from the stand point of others and ask how it will affect them." 11 MR, p. 297

"There are sins of omission, as well as sins of commission, and all of us are influencing the course of others. A neglect when the work is laid before you, is as wrong as to perform some sinful action, for in neglecting your duty you fail to supply your link in the chain of God's great work. Your influence does not sustain His cause." 11 MR, p. 297.

"The law of God condemns not only what we have done but what we have not done. We will, in the day of final accounts, find a register of the sins of omission as well as the sins of commission. God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing. It is not enough that by our own measurement of character you prove you have done no positive wrong. The fact that one has done no positive good will be enough to condemn him as a wicked and slothful servant." 6MR, p. 141.

"You have excused yourself for speaking evil of your brother or sister or neighbor to others before going to him and taking the steps which God has absolutely commanded. You say: "Why, I did not speak to anyone until I was so burdened that I could not refrain." What burdened you? You were under the guilt of sin because you did not go and tell the offender his fault between you and him alone. If you did not do this, if you disobeyed God, how could you be otherwise than burdened unless your heart was hardened while you were trampling the command of God underfoot, and in your heart hating your brother or neighbor? And what way have you found to unburden yourself? God reproves you for a sin of omission in not telling your brother his fault, and you excuse and comfort yourself by a sin of commission by telling your brother's faults to another person! Is this the right way to purchase ease - by committing sin?" 2T, p. 53.

In Ezekiel 3 we see the Watchmen on the walls of Zion. They are to issue the warning message. If they do not, the enemy will come in and destroy the people. We are these watchmen. We see the danger up ahead and we are to warn those who do not see it. If we do not do our duty, the blood of those poor sinners will be on our garments. What can we answer them on the judgement day when they ask us why we didn't warn them when we knew what was coming?

Jesus spoke many parables regarding the neglect of known duties. One that was mentioned already was about the fig tree. Other parables in this regard are: 10 virgins (Mat. 25:1-13), 10 talents (Mat. 25:13-30), lack of a wedding garment (Mat. 22:1-14), refusing to come to the King's feast or supper (Luke 14:1, 12-24), the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Saying and Doing (Mat. 21:23-32). These people were not evil, they simply neglected their duty.

### TYPES OF WORK

Missionary - full time

Missionary - part time

Missionary - volunteer (Using our leisure time wisely)

We are one of the three above.

“I see fields that have never been entered. The torch of truth must be carried into the dark places of the earth. While the angels are holding the winds, we must work as Christ worked. Let no man fix his eyes on his own sphere of labor, and think it is of greater importance than all others. The missionary fields are all to receive equal interest. The field is the world.” RH 12-15-85

“How often is Christ disappointed in those who profess to be his children! He has given them unmistakable evidences of his love. He became poor, that through his poverty we might be made rich. He died for us, that we might not perish, but have eternal life. What if Christ had refused to bear our iniquity because He was rejected by many, and so few appreciated His love and the infinite blessings He came to bring to them? We need to encourage patient, painstaking efforts. Courage is now wanted, not lazy despondency and fretful murmuring. We are in this world to do work for the Master, and not to study our inclination and pleasure. And to serve and glorify ourselves. Why, then, should we be inactive and discouraged because we do not see the immediate results we desire?” RH, 07-13-86. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if ye faint not.” Gal. 6:9. “We can every one of us do something, if we will only take the position that God would have us. Every move that you make to enlighten others, brings you nearer in harmony with the God of heaven. If you sit down and look at yourself and say, ‘I can barely support my family,’ you will never do anything; but if you say, ‘I will do something for the truth, I will see it advance, I will do what I can,’ God will open ways so that you can do something. You should invest in the cause of truth so that you will feel that you are a part of it. God does not require of men to whom He has given one talent, the interest of ten. Remember that it was the man who had one talent that wrapped it in a napkin and hid it in the earth. You should use the talent, influence, and means which God has given you that you may act a part in this work.” RH, 07-08-90.

“My brethren and sisters, do you desire to break the spell that holds you? Would you arouse from this sluggishness that resembles the torpor of death? Go to work, whether you feel like it or not. Engage in personal effort to bring souls to Jesus and the knowledge of the truth. In such labor you will find both a stimulus and a tonic; it will both arouse and strengthen. By exercise your spiritual powers will become more vigorous, so that you can with better success work out your own salvation.” T5, p. 387.

If you sit down and take into account what you do with your leisure time, calculate how much of it is spent for the Lord and how much for yourself. Hopefully the scale will not be unbalanced. It may be time to start to seriously consider bearing fruit for eternity and not the poisonous fruit that Satan wants us to produce in his way because it will not only kill us but also many around us. My wish and prayer is that none of us will be cut down as cumberers of the ground but that our fruit will be borne unto Eternal Life.

Wendy Eaton

## LOVE - the source of life

**An elderly man was asked about the reason for his sadness. He said that his daughter had sent him another parcel. “But that is no reason to be sad,” said his friend with a puzzled look on his face, “don’t you think it is a happy occasion to receive a parcel from your daughter?” “Oh yes,” the old man replied, “but there was no love in it.”**

**Can we understand this father? From time to time his daughter sent him a parcel, but only as a matter of dutiful routine. What about our Heavenly Father? Do we not send Him a prayer from time to time, or give Him our tithes and offerings? How do we do it? With love, or merely as a matter of dutiful routine because we don’t want to miss out on His blessings? Why do we give Him our time every Sabbath? Why do we go to church? Why do we come before God in our daily worship? For the same reason? Why do we give to charity? “And though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mystery and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have no love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.**

**God is love, and love is of God. A lot has been written about His love, a lot has been spoken about it, and many have experienced it. Those who have experience it, cannot stop talking or writing about it. And**

the more we think about it, the more we come to the conclusion that His love is truly indescribable.

We merely know the effects of love from 1 Cor. 13, but what love really is, we cannot fathom. Love is a part of God, and therefore it is divine, and divinity just cannot be explained by humanity. 5T p. 740. Although we cannot explain it, yet, by the grace of God, we may experience it. This very love, in its purest form, was the one thing not affected by sin which humanity was granted to take out of paradise. His love, as strong and pure as it ever was gives us the energy to keep us going in our Christian life today. *Where would we be without it?*

God's love is our hope, it is our life! Therefore it says in John 3:16. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" We only live - because He loves.

We were created to be channels through which God can send His love into the world. We were not given His love to let it stagnate in our heart. After all, it is only the life of love, that produces the love of life. Everything is working well from God's side. He is always ready to send us His love, but if we are not willing to pass it on, we become useless channels to God. In fact, according to 1 Corinthians 13:2, if the love of God is not kept alive in us in order to pass it on, "*we are nothing*"!

These are strong words, but it shows us how important it is to God for us to keep our channels open. Ellen G. White explains this Bible passage in her own way: "No matter how high the profession, he whose heart is not filled with love for God and his fellow men is not a true disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith and have power even to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless. He might display genuine love, bestow all his goods to feed the poor, but the act would not commend him to the favor of God. In his zeal he might even meet a martyr's death, yet, if not actuated by love, he would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite." AA p. 318.

We are meant to pass on His precious gift of love. Passing it on does not mean to simply give it away and miss out on it ourselves. Love is like the fire on a candle. With our own lit candle we can light up many other candles without losing any light of our own. And all the burning candles together can light up a whole area. This is the heavenly principle; the more we give, the more we get in return. We have a lot of opportunities in our lives to light the fire of love in people's hearts.

Some time ago an actress visited a leprosy village. She saw the nurse kneeling on the ground over a bucket of water, washing the bandages that came off the leprosy sores of one of her patients. The actress turned her head in disgust and said, "I wouldn't do what you are doing, not for a million dollars." The nurse looked up and assured her with a friendly smile on her face: "neither would I, but, what is a million dollars compared to the love of Christ?" I believe this nurse kept her channels right open.

Not everybody can do the same things in life, but we are all given our own opportunities to let our light shine in the form of love. If you can't be a big, bright, beaming "sun", then be a "star", but shine!

Love is the strongest medicine for our sin-sick world. It soothes the soul and heals the body beyond belief. "Those who are sick in body are nearly always sick in the soul, and when the soul is sick, the body is made sick<sup>1</sup> as well. MM p. 238. Our heavenly Physician knew exactly what to prescribe. He knew the great demand for love in this world, therefore He said: "***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,***" to be fully connected to the source of love, in order to be enabled to keep the second great commandment, which is to "***love your neighbour as yourself.***" Mat. 22:37-39.

If all would adhere to these two commands, we would seldom find a sick person amongst us. We don't need to perform miracles to heal people in body, soul and spirit. Sometimes just a change of heart in one person can in response change sickness into vibrant health in another, especially if these two people are close to each other.

Ellen G. White said that in the time to come there will be so many sick people on earth, that there won't be enough healthy people around to take care of the sick. When we compare her statement with what Jesus predicted about the signs of the end time, in Mathew 24:12, ***“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold”***, we understand why there will be so many sick people in this world, and sad to say, our churches are not excluded.

Foremost, it is love that keeps us healthy in body, soul and spirit. It is love that gives us emotional stability. It gives us strength to face and to bear life's burdens patiently. Love is like a powerful glue that keeps our marriages happily together and also our families, as well as our churches. Without love, everything is falling apart, even our relationship with God.

And furthermore, to grow in love is the only thing that will prepare us for the latter rain and for a life with God eternally. Many people believe that obedience to the Ten Commandments is the most important thing in a Christian's preparation for eternal life, but, we can obey without loving, but we never can love ***without*** obeying.

A lot of articles have been written by church members about perfection and obedience, but only seldom is the love *of* God, and the love *for* God put forwards as a tool to reach that perfection. We have to come to terms with the fact that love is the driving force behind obedience, ***and without love, there is no perfection!***

The apostle John goes even so far as to say that ***“Through the union and communion with Him, love has been brought to completion and attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgement, with assurance and boldness to face Him, because as He is, so are we in this world.”*** I John 4:17, Amplified Bible.

To love means to be Christlike.

To be just like Him; what a glorious thought. When we have grown in love to perfection, we will not need to be afraid of God or man. “Whenever we maintain ourselves in the atmosphere of love, it follows that we must be maintaining ourselves in the presence of God.” SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 668.

Are we obeying God without love like the Scribes and Pharisees did in the time of the Old Testament, whom Jesus sadly had to rebuke for being hypocrites? The only people who were rebuked by Christ, over and over again, were those hypocrites, who may have kept the law to perfection in the eyes of the people, even invented new laws with which to burden their fellow men, and yet, they had not love or compassion, and therefore failed miserably in the eyes of God. They pretended to be so concerned about everyone's exterior cleanliness and righteousness, but did not see and/or care the least about the filth and wickedness inside themselves, which was actually caused by a lack of love. Luke 11:39-46.

It is interesting to see that while Jesus lived here on earth, He never used His authority to judge or condemn anyone who was overcome by weaknesses or sin. He knew only too well condemnation is not a remedy for sin. John 12:47. He did not intimidate the sinner, nor did he put the pressure on through guilt or fear to make him do His will, because He knew that “only by love is love awakened.” DA p. 22.

We say that Jesus is our example in all things. In order to eternally *be* with Him, we first have to desire to *become* like Him; just like He was here on earth. He was not only fully obedient to His Father in keeping the Commandments, but He was also fully obedient in keeping His channel right open, through which God could send His love into the world. Jesus Christ knew that He was the only one in the whole universe, who, through His death, could seal the salvation of this world. But before that, throughout His life, He loved the people in this world out of the bondage of sin, and in this, He became our greatest example.

When I think of Peter, after he denied Jesus three times, his heart was crushed with the heavy burden of sin. Ellen G. White said that at that moment, what would have hindered him to follow in Judas' footsteps and

hang himself? But “at the same time Peter’s eyes were drawn to his Master. In that gentle countenance he read deep pity and sorrow, but there was no anger there. The sight of that pale, suffering face, those quivering lips, that look of compassion and forgiveness, pierced his heart like an arrow. Conscience was around. . . . A tide of memories rushed over him. The Saviour’s tender mercy, His kindness and longsuffering, His gentleness and patience toward His erring disciples, - all was remembered.” DA p. 713

It took but one look of love from Jesus, combined with the memory of His loving character, to change Peter’s life around. “The look of Christ assured him of pardon. Now his self-assertions repeated.

Henceforth he followed his Lord in self-denial and self-sacrifice. He was a partaker of Christ’s sufferings, and when Christ shall sit upon the throne of His glory, Peter will be a partaker in His glory.” COL, p. 154. Peter experienced first hand the truly indescribable, life-giving power of love.

The Bible is filled with those examples of Christ’s love toward His fellow human beings. He loved them all; even if some of them were not exceptionally loveable themselves. But then, no one needs the love of God more than those who have none to give.

May God grant us all the willingness (Philippians 2:13) to open our channel, to pass on the life-giving love to light up the world around us. “Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave! Some poor fainting, struggling seaman you may rescue, you may save.” (Brightly Beams Our Father’s Mercy - Hymnal p. 628)

By Sonja Baumung, Australia

## FAITH AND PRESUMPTION

**When I was a small boy I used to visit my grand father. He mostly stayed seated in his sofa. When we would go near him and greet him, right away he tried to look for his cane and tried to feel us. He called his servant to bring his glasses to see us clearly and called us by our names before he could see who we were. Sometimes he called my brother’s name or my cousin’s name but when he wore his glasses you couldn’t fool him. He knew us.**

**In spiritual life we see GOD like our grandfather. We cannot see him. But Faith grabs holds of the things we cannot see; our spiritual sight is given and the word of GOD comes to us. “Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of GOD so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear/”(Heb. 11:1-3.) “But without faith it’s impossible to please HIM, for he that cometh to GOD must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” (Heb. 11:6.) But Satan tries his level best to hide these glasses. He makes sure that we won’t get these glasses. Many come under his snare.**

**Faith is like a plant, it grows and if we don’t practice it, faith becomes feeble and dies. For a Christian there are so many trials. Everything the LORD puts us through allows our faith to grow. However, people often get discouraged and complain. People should use the opportunity to exercise faith so that they can fight the good fight. However, because of discouragement many are lost. This is the reality. Let’s take the Bible. “Because all these men which have seen my glory and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice,”( Num 14:22.) While it is said today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard did provoke howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was He grieved 40 years? Was it not with them that had sinned whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And entered not into His rest, because they believed not? So we see that they could not enter because of lack**

## of faith

I'll tell you a story. There were two farmers. One's name was Faith and the other was called Presumption. Both had the same size of garden, money, soil, equipment, talent etc. Faith woke up early every day and ate breakfast, had morning worship and dedicated his life into the hands of the LORD and prayed for strength to carry forward. Then he started his errands and added good fertilizer and plowed his field to make sure everything was done properly. Then, he planted the seeds and when his work produced enough fruits he sold them and became rich. He supported many poor and needy with his plenty. Presumption woke up late in the morning and prayed to GOD that the seed should grow. He never prepared the ground, never watered the field, and didn't do any preparation for the ground. When time passed he presumed he would be successful but all his crops started to die and when the harvest time came there was nothing to harvest and everything perished. He complained like Cain and lost his faith and was lost. He thought himself to be a Christian but he was presuming.

Sometimes in one's spiritual life, a man who refuses to use his limbs will lose all the power to use them. Thus, a Christian who doesn't exercise his spiritual will becomes worse than in the beginning. Presumption only prayed to GOD but he forgot his other duties so he failed. Not only praying will save us but also application of our prayer. Faith and presumption look so similar sometimes they both look the same. But without the divine Spirit we cannot distinguish which is which. Many Christians are lost because of this.

When Satan tempted CHRIST he saw the SON of GOD'S humility and attempted to use presumption, saying to HIM, "Cast thy self because thy FATHER has given charge over you to protect you." What did CHRIST say when He made the tempters plan clear? Satan was asking CHRIST to have faith in GOD and jump but CHRIST exposed him saying, "Satan this is not faith, don't tempt the LORD thy GOD." Don't go and test the LORD GOD. This is disbelief and this is presumption not faith.

The following is a true story. There was an Adventist minister in Africa who wanted to increase his faith, so what was his plan? He proposed to his friends and the Church leader that they will do something great, they would walk on water. So all four of his friends took a boat and attempted to walk like Peter. They went to one of the Great Lakes in their country and all jumped in the middle of the lake. They all perished. Only one, who knew how to swim, swam to shore and reported this terrible ordeal. What they did was not faith it was presumption. Satan tries to tell us to increase our faith by presumptuous acts of so called faith.

Many a time CHRIST admired the Gentiles who acknowledged His divinity. "And a certain centurion's servant who was dear unto him was sick and ready to die. And when he heard JESUS he sent unto Him the elders of the Jews, beseeching Him that he would come and heal his servant. And when they came to JESUS they besought Him instantly, saying, that he was worthy for whom he should do this. For he loveth our nation and hath built us a synagogue. Then JESUS went with them. And when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying unto Him, "LORD trouble not thyself for I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof. Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee. But say in a word my servant shall be healed for I am also a man under authority having under me soldiers and I say unto one go and he goes the and the other come, and he cometh and to my servant do this and he doeth it. When JESUS heard these things and said unto the people that followed Him I say unto you, I have not found so great a faith no, not in Israel." Now, the centurion was a worldly man plus he was a warrior. He didn't have the light like the Jewish nation about GOD but still when he was working in Israel he heard about JESUS; he heard about the prophecy about the Messiah and he was amazed by the prophecy. He tried to help this nation by building a synagogue for them and he was a virtuous man. Even his motives were very clear; he was exercising faith.

Sometimes, in the World, people are truer than in the Church. They exercise faith, they do good deeds and they love the LORD. They do everything their good conscience tells them. This shows that the Centurion was growing every day according to the knowledge he had. He could deliver everything and he saw His Creator who could create the universe. That's why he sent his servants saying, "don't come to my roof but say in a word, feeling his unworthiness, but having such a faith that the people who were so near to Him didn't have. It's marvelous to understand how a person who can have such a faith doesn't need to be in the Church of GOD.

In this world if only everybody could have such a faith. If they would only exercise what the LORD has given unto them. They violate their conscience and grieve the SPIRIT of GOD and the SPIRIT of GOD goes away.

That is why the world is in such darkness. GOD gave all humanity faith. Every human is born with this faith, “For I say through the grace given unto me to every man that is among you, according as GOD hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Rom 12:3. Some cultivate it but many don’t.

Another scene took place in Matt 15:22. “And behold a women of Canaan came out of the same coast, and cried unto Him saying have mercy on me, O LORD thou son of David, my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word”. And His disciples came and besought him saying, “Send her away for she crieth after us. But He answered and said I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel”. Now a Canaanite woman who is an alien to the truth of GOD sees her Creator and cries behind him asking for help. JESUS is now testing her faith because faith can grasp hold of GOD and it can do anything, like Jacob did. It was faith that prevailed. It was not his intelligence, neither his strength, nor his knowledge that prevailed, only his faith.

**Now came a terrible situation for this Canaanite woman. She approached CHRIST and he ignored her and even worse, his disciples beg to chase her away. It seems for a moment that CHRIST agreed with his disciples as the event unfolded. Then, she continued to worship Him saying, LORD help me. After being treated very indifferently she didn’t go. She started to beg after Him. But He answered and said, “it’s not meant to take the children’s bread and cast it to dogs.” She, hearing all these didn’t go away. She grabbed hold of her only chance. She answer’s Him truthfully, “LORD, yet the dog’s eat of the crumbs which fall from their master’s table.” So she sees the Creator who creates life and imparts his love to every living beings.**

Without Him we cannot exist. Everything exists because of his goodness. Please don’t treat me like the children of the chambers of light but give me the share of which falls from the table of thy grace. CHRIST saw in this woman faith so great that He responded to her request. “Then JESUS answered and said to her O! Woman great is thy faith. Be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour”. This was a great lesson for His disciples, to show how much He cares even for those who don’t have so much light but who are seeking after the light. To show them that the nation that was so privileged didn’t exercise its faith whereas the people far away from Him were willing to obey His will. Because, to reach GOD, we need faith. She had this virtue and she prevailed. Now let us go to His disciples who were His promised children. Let us check Matt 8:23. “And when He was entered unto a ship his disciples followed Him. And behold there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves but he was asleep. And His disciples came to Him and awoke Him saying LORD save us we perish. And He saith unto them why are ye fearful, O! ye of little faith? Then He arose and rebuked the wind the sea and there was great calm”. Now CHRIST calls his disciples, “ye of little faith”; they proved to have little faith. They had some faith, but they didn’t cultivate their faith and began to lose their faith. When storms approach everything seems to work against you. In life sometimes this happens, when everything is failing we get discouraged. We become fearful, but CHRIST says, don’t be fearful because when He is with us we don’t need to fear. He will take care of us. HE is the LORD of the universe. If He is with us we don’t need to worry. Let us look at Revelation 21:8. “The first person to be cast into the lake of fire is the fearful, then the unbelieving”. If we believe in the providence of GOD we will not be fearful. Because of His assurances He will protect us. “When thou passes through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee, when thou walkest through the fires, thou shalt not be burned neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” Isiah 43:2.

Again another incident occurred which is recorded in Matthew 14:25. “And in the fourth watch of night JESUS went unto them, walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying it’s a spirit, and they cried out for fear”. But straightaway JESUS speaks unto them saying, “be of good cheer. It is I be not afraid, and Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be thou bid me come unto thee on the water, and He said come, and when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water to go to JESUS. But when he saw the wind boisterous he was afraid and beginning to sink. He cried saying, ‘Lord save me’. And immediately JESUS stretched forth His hand and caught him and said unto him. ‘O! Thou of little faith wherefore midst thou doubt?’” Why did CHRIST permit the boisterous wind to take Peter? He allowed it so Peter could exercise his faith. Instead, he started to doubt CHRIST. Since CHRIST chose him for a great position he wanted him to be faithful. Peter should not have doubted CHRIST. Peter’s current position revealed his human heart that was fearful most of the time. Fear creates doubt and disbelief takes hold and we sin.

Luke 17:5,6. “And the Apostles said unto the LORD, increase our faith. And the LORD said if ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, be thou plucked up by the root and

**be thou planted in the sea. And it should obey you". Now for their request CHRIST shows them how to increase their faith, He shows them the mustard seed, which is a very tiny seed. It is nicely explained in the Desire of Ages, pg. 431. "In order to succeed in such a conflict they must come to work in a different spirit. Fervent prayer and fasting, and humiliation of heart must strengthen their faith. They must be emptied of self, and be filled with the Spirit and power of GOD". Earnest, persevering supplication to GOD and unreserved consecration to His work can alone avail to bring men the HOLY SPIRIT'S aid in the battle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places. "If ye have faith like as a grain of mustard seed, said JESUS ye shall say unto this mountain remove hence to yonder place and it shall remove. Though the grain of mustard seed is so small it contains those same mysterious life principles which produce growth in the loftiest tree. If you have faith like this, you will lay hold upon GOD'S word and upon all the helpful agencies He has appointed. Then your faith will strengthen and will bring to your aid the power of heaven. The obstacles that are piled by Satan across your path, though apparently as insurmountable as the hills, shall disappear before the demand of faith. Nothing shall be impossible unto you.**

I will give you some medication to increase your faith:

- 1) Prayer is the key to unlock heaven's storehouse where it has reserved the boundless treasures of the OMNIPOTENT. If you will find voice and time to pray, GOD will find time and voice to answer. The life of the soul depends upon habitual communion with GOD. Secret prayer sustains the inner life. When it becomes the habit of the soul to converse with GOD, the power of the evil one is broken, for Satan cannot abide near the soul that draws nigh unto GOD. We must learn to distrust self and to rely wholly upon GOD for guidance and support, for knowledge of His will and for strength to perform it. We must be much in communion with GOD. Prayer in secret, prayer while the hands are engaged in labor, prayer while walking by the way, prayer in the night season, the heart's desires ever ascending to GOD is our only safety. In this manner Enoch walked with GOD. Daily prayer is as essential to growth in grace and even to spiritual life itself as is temporal food to our physical well being. We should accustom ourselves to often lift the thoughts to GOD in prayer. If the mind wanders we must bring it back, by persevering effort, habit will finally make it easy.
- 2) We have to read the Bible every day. The word of GOD is compared to a sword to fight against the enemy. It is important that we do this.
- 3) We must do missionary work. It can be visiting a hospital, or giving water to a thirsty soul, or giving a Bible study. Please read Matt 25:31-46. Simple daily tasks are important.
- 4) We must use our talents, like money for good deeds. If we can sing we should sing praises to GOD, etc. There are many talents GOD has given us. Are we using these ones for His glory?
- 5) If we do all these, our faith will become like Elijah's. He was a man like us but diligently he prayed and he did everything GOD commanded him to do and he became a powerful servant of GOD.

I will tell an another story and then I will end this topic. This is a true story. When they wanted to build a bridge across the Ontario River they could not take the building materials across the river, but without the materials it was impossible to build. So what they did was take a kite and flew it across the river. They tied a small gauge thread on to the end of the kite and the kite flew to the other side. They made the kite land on the other side. Then they slowly pulled the small string attached to it and on the other end of the string they attached a little bigger string and so forth until they slowly increased the gauge of the string until it became strong metal high-end ropes. Now they were capable of pulling all the material tied to the rope and transport all the material to the other end. Finally, they finished the bridge. What did we learn from this story? Our faith is also little but slowly we gain victories and grow more until we are able to do the impossible tasks. I hope now you understand what faith really means. This is my wish and prayer. AMEN.

Augustus Ratneiyya

## THE GENERAL ATTACK AGAINST CHRISTIANITY: PART ONE

*“But all these things will they do unto you for my names’ sake, because they know not him that sent me.”  
John 15:21.*

April 20, 1999, Littleton, USA. Cassie Bernal, a blond 17 year old girl was known for sometimes taking a Bible to school with her. On that particular day she sat during a break in the library at school, to read her Bible. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, in long trenchcoats entered the Columbian High School on that day, the birthday of Adolf Hitler. Their outfits and actions were alarmingly similar to those of the hero in the film “Matrix”, recently shown in German movie theatres. Their victims were not taken at random, but were deliberately picked out. Coming into the library, one of the killers pointed his semiautomatic rifle at the Bible-reading Cassie and said: “Do you believe in God?” Cassie hesitated a moment, then said: “Yes, I believe in God. You can take my life, but not my God!” The member of the so-called Trenchcoat Mafia shot Cassie. Satanists killed the faithful Christian girl. Her last words were: “You cannot take my God from me!”

It is interesting to note that Cassie was herself just two years ago active in circles of occultism. But then she became a Christian and severed herself from these connections. At the end of that massacre, 13 victims lay dead on the floor, eight of them were Christians. One of those eight dead young people was Bible-reading Cassie Bernal.

There is a movement in the USA, called, “See you at the pole.” That pole is the flagpole one can find in every schoolyard in America, it is there that the students meet to pray, to witness for their faith and to encourage one another. This movement started in 1990 in a schoolyard in Texas, and soon found followers. More and more young people met at the flagpole, confessed their sins to God and claimed forgiveness in Jesus. The movement now has three million sympathizers.

On Sept. 15th, 1999, this group “See you at the pole”, called for worldwide prayer meetings. On that same day in Wedgwood, Texas, 47 year old Larry Ashbrook loaded nine full cartridges of ammunition into his semiautomatic pistol. Then with cursing and shouting he rampaged into the church where a service for the youth of “See you at the pole” was being held. “What you believe is all rubbish,” he shouted, shooting at random into the crowd of 150 young people. At the end he had killed three adults and four youngsters; seven others were severely injured. When Ashbrook saw a policeman, he went to a bench and shot himself in the head.

What does the word of God say about the last days? “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, waiketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” 1. Pet. 5:8,9. Fortunately not all attacks of Satan are so horrendous, so dramatic, so terrible and so sensational.

A quote from the 1998 book by theologian Dr. Stephan Holthaus, Trends 2000 with the subtitle: The spirit of time and Christianity’. “We are in a historic time with fundamental changes taking place before our very eyes,... Today... fundamental basics and norms of society... are being challenged...”

In Christian circles the concept of “End-time theology” is mostly being connected with the Catholic church, the papacy, the uniting of Europe, the happenings in Israel and in the USA. But are these the only topics to be taken into consideration as to what is actually happening? Or is there, perhaps, another direction from which we may expect “surprises” in the future?

As the term “antichrist” was understood in the past as being “against Christ”, it is also necessary to add the Greek meaning, namely, “instead of Christ”.

I would like to refer to dangers from a direction from which nothing, or only very little is being talked about. Helena Blavatsky, also called “The Sphynx of the Occult”, formed in 1888 the esoteric section within the Theosophical Society. This society upholds a statute which cannot be misunderstood: “ ... must be resisted, ... every form of dogmatic theology, especially of Christianity.”

Marilyn Ferguson, 1981 wrote in her book about a further goal of this organization, called The gentle seduction, “the reorientation of the entire human race.” In 1998, only 16 years later, Dr. Hinrichs writes in her book ‘You will be like God’, the conclusion being, “The... described infiltration of all (religious

and social) institutions, must sadly be called a full success.”

What does this mean? “All religious institutions are already infiltrated?” How for instance, is it with us?

I’d like to give an example, which tells about a woman named Beverly Schnell who had been looking for a new tenant. In exchange for low rent, the tenant was to help in renovating the approx. 100 year old house. She, as a Christian, hoped to find a reliable Christian. Therefore she put an ad in the paper: “Christian workman needed.” But what happened then? Her ad provoked government officials to act. Her simple ad was a clear case of sexual and religious discrimination. Instead of eight dollars for the cost of the ad, she had to pay \$8000 dollars. It was the cost of the ad plus a penalty and for the paperwork done by the bureaucrats of the State.

If we want to remodel a society, where would we start? With the children and the youth! This is how it happens: Shaman Berry, a first grader in an elementary school in Florida was talking during a break with one of her classmates about their mutual faith in Jesus Christ. A teacher who heard the conversation took both aside and scolded them sharply that they were not allowed to openly talk about Jesus.

A similar incident took place in New York State, when a teacher prevented a girl in third grade to read her Bible during a break. The crying girl was told that she was never again to bring that forbidden book to school.

A fourth grader, Raymond Raines made the mistake of bending his head for a little prayer at lunchtime. It resulted in a stiff warning. He was called to the office of the principal, was told that if he tries again to pray, even silently he would be punished. Note the following facts: These propagated changes in society from the New Age founders are aimed at the children and the youth. Those who have the youth, have the future! Success promises changes; be it in the area of politics, society or religion, it will be aimed at the young-Does the reorientation of society from the above-mentioned examples not show reasonable success? What kind of changes have already taken place in our society? What if I would say that just by mentioning the name of Jesus Christ you are going to be punished with imprisonment? Not possible? Is it only possible in the former Soviet Union or in some dictatorial nation of the Third World?

On May 5, 1995, judge Samuel Kent in an US court in Southern Texas, made the resolution: every student, who in prayer, at graduation would say the name of Jesus, will face six months imprisonment. This is what the judge said: “Make no mistakes. The court will send an government official to the graduation. If a student violates this court order, he will instantly be removed from the premises, and spend six months in the prison at Galveston. Everyone violating these orders will (without joking) wish that he or she had died as a child, when the court executes those orders.”

But how can such a thing happen in the USA, the land that for so many years had welcomed religious refugees? This land which guaranteed everyone religious liberty, according to the first amendment of the Constitution? This country, with the statue of Liberty in the harbour of New York, which for many immigrants was for decades the land of “freedom”?

Or do we here already see a change or reorientation? Think about the woman who was part of the hospital staff in Texas, ordered to undergo psychoanalysis because she spoke to one of her superiors in “religious tones”. Think about the incident of the housemaster of the boarding school at Cornell University, an “active Catholic”, who had as part of his “sensitivity training” and orientation been forced to look at hardcore homosexual pornographic movies. “This was no harmless stuff”, the young man emphasized, “it was hardcore homo-porno. Those “training-sessions” on Sunday were obligatory and the participants were closely watched for showing any sign of abhorrence, indicating homophobia, (rejection of homosexuality). This would bring about further “training” or even the loss of one’s job.

What does this mean to believing Christians?

Helena Blavatsky said: “Christian religion must be resisted!” One hundred years ago this movement pronounced its decided resistance against Christianity.

What is tolerance? What is truth?

We like to say that the one who demands tolerance must also practice the same. But this works only when all participants mean and understand the same things about tolerance. But what do we really understand as tolerance?

Biblical tolerance is “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.”

Eph. 4:2. Traditional tolerance is comparable to the biblical one. A traditional understanding of tolerance means to protect and to respect the legitimate rights of other people.

What do Blavatsky, Bailey and Ferguson, as the reoriented society, understand regarding the “new” tolerance?

“The definition of the new tolerance says, that convictions, values, lifestyle and perceptions of truth are the same with everyone. There is no hierarchy of truth, everyone’s convictions are equal, and all truth is relative.”

This is not a single quote. The Spanish philosopher Fernando Savater states in his new book: “Tolerance is a newly adapted teaching, that all men are equal. Each one has its centrepoint and all are to be respected and to be prized. This means that there is no rational method to discern between them.”

Stanley Grenz says in his book Introduction to Post-Modernism. “Since there are many human societies, there are therefore many different truths.” Thus, truth became pluralistic. “So we today no longer have one truth ... but several models of truth next to one another... This means also that there is no more one distinctive truth, but only (many diverse) truths - short lived truths - valid just for the moment in a certain situation and for those involved with the situation.” Holthaus concludes from all this: “But if everything is truth, there is nothing that is truth.”

American courthouses even adopted this definition of the new tolerance. Judge Danny Boggs declared as a reason for giving out sentences: “Every belief as a declared religion is equally true.”

In this new tolerance all values, convictions, lifestyles and claims of truth are equal. Every belief is truth. Everyone is right. All religions are equal.

How does Christianity stand in this new tolerance?

Looking at the first commandment, “I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have any other gods before me,” (Ex. 20:2-3), we find an additional quote from Christ in John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto my Father but by me.” There is no other way to the Father.

This is the biblical claim of God’s absoluteness. There is no other god who could be equal to Him. The Ten Commandments clearly forbid the worship of other deities. According to the Bible, there is only one God. And thus only one truth.

“But I will show thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth” Dan.10:21. There is no other source of truth beside the Bible! There is no alternative way. The word of God claims to be the book of truth. Yet not of a pluralistic truth, but the only truth.

Dr. Stephan Holthaus, lecturer in church history, clearly points out the fact: “The Christian faith has irrefutable divine guidelines for the daily life and for doctrine. These are truths which simply cannot be questioned, because they originate with God.”

According to a survey done by the magazine “Der Spiegel”, to most Germans this first commandment is an unimportant matter. In short, today’s change of values can be described as such: Christ is, according to the new tolerance intolerant. He does not fit into the society of this age. Christianity does not correspond with today’s ideas of tolerance.

The very source Christianity is based upon - the Bible - claims to be the book of truth. Thus it is a very unloved book.

It may also be said that Christianity is intolerant. Christ is being intolerant and the Bible as the truth is a symbol of intolerance. One who makes his stand against the popular trend is considered dangerous. This may bring Christians under heavy pressure in the future.

How are these so called intolerant ones being dealt with today? Leslie Armour, professor of philosophy at the university of Ottawa, suggests: “We think being a good citizen means to tolerate everything except intolerance.” Dr. Hill from the school department says: “It is the duty of public schools not to tolerate intolerance.”

Today’s definition of tolerance considers the commandments in the Bible and its claims of truth as being too narrow. The Christian belief of “the God of truth” (Isa. 65:16) and the “scripture of truth” (Dan.10:21), is unacceptable for those in favour of the new tolerance. For they consider the belief of an absolute truth as being evil and offensive. Such attitudes produce an ideal condition for cases like the following: **In Manassas (Virginia) ten year old Audrey Pearson took her Bible with her in order to pass the time meaningfully during the hour-long bus ride to school. The principal said she was never again to bring**

the Bible to school with her... Another incident took place in the Capitol of the USA when a group of tourists took a break to pray. They were interrupted and warned that public prayer was considered a “demonstration”. The consequences would be to be removed from the premises, along with a fine of \$500 and six months in prison.

At the same time the report came from “AMC Update” on September 1, 1999 stating that beginning that week, Muslims wanted to pray every Friday in the Capitol building. This Friday prayer meeting would bring together representatives of the House of Congress, employees of the State and other Muslims from Washington D.C. to pray and to discuss political questions important to Muslims.

In a similar way the American Union for Civil Liberty in Columbus, Ohio, demanded that one of the federal courts should prevent the State from allowing the State’s motto: “With God all things are possible” to become engraved on the wall of the Parliament. The lawyers of the American Union for Civil Liberty declare that this motto is insulting to members of religious minorities, and is a statement against the Constitution, limiting the progress of religion.

Blavatsky said one hundred years ago: The Christian religion must be resisted. Ferguson wrote in 1981: Society must be remodeled. Dr. Stephan described Helena Blavatsky as “The Sphynx of Occultism”. Organizations of the New Age Movement that were inspired by her views are active today in the reorientation and transformation of society. We can conclude that Christianity is being suppressed by satanic, spiritist organizations. Satan leads a decided attack against Christianity. It is already going on in full swing.

This deranged reasoning caused them to try and convince the people, that they themselves, not God are the judge of truth and morality. It could also be said this way: “You have your values and I have mine. Because they differ, this does not mean, that yours are right and others false.” (Biblical) Claims of exclusiveness are rejected. Everything is equal. Everything is right. Everybody is right. All religions are right. Those who do not accept this are intolerant!

Matthias Horx in his book Megatrends for the latter Nineties: “Belief is on the loose. What results from it is a religious, spiritualistic patchwork, a supermarket of beliefs with fast changes and countless combinations. A market of every belief imaginable is being offered: Make use of it, that ye might be saved!” Thus we can understand what the Psalmist meant with the exclamation: “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” Ps. 11:3.

On what criteria should one orient himself these days? Pilate asked Jesus at His trial: “What is truth?” John 18:38. Where then can one find truth when everything is claimed to be truth?

Vicka Ivankovic from Medjugorje, who personally received many visions of Mary, said about the content of the visions: “All religions are basically of the same value...”. By declaring a gospel which can be accepted by Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and Jews, she says: “Everybody worships God according to the peace he has in his heart.” Through Spiritism Satan makes the idea of a pluralistic truth even more popular.

According to the new tolerance my identity to be separate from my behaviour, reason and beliefs; for my identity is interwoven in my culture and behaviour. Thus, if they are opposing my beliefs, they despise me! When they say that my behaviour is wrong they are judging me! If they cannot accept my lifestyle they are intolerant towards me! The French politician Pisani stated: “Intolerance is not just a missing out of solidarity with the people; it is a rejection of others for the sake of what they are, what they do, think, and finally, because they exist.”

We summarize: “Because the new tolerance starts out with the false principles that our actions represent what we believe, thus beliefs, values and lifestyle of a person must be supported in order to accept and respect that person. Otherwise one will be considered as being insensitive, intolerant and fanatical.”

In our society nobody wants to associate with someone who is insensitive, fanatical or intolerant. One makes a big circle around such a person. But today, serious Christians can be labelled with these degrading attributes. So how do we respond to these challenges?

Dr. Hinrichs, who unfortunately passed away in February 1999, wrote: “It has been attempted to expose how widely the Organization of the United Nation is connected with New Age ideology. These connections are not limited to mere mutual political goals and personal interests. They reach deep down to the very agreements in principles It appears that we have to come to the conclusion that the UNO is an organization of the New Age Movement The attempt was made to show that the new tolerance has its origin in the founders and authoritative figures of the New Age Movement. What is the stand

of the UNO toward the new tolerance? “The definition of tolerance is the rejection of dogmatism and absolutism”.

The problem of tolerance today is one of the greatest and urgent challenges the world has been confronted with. The UNO General Conference, on Nov. 25, 1981, proposed the long overdue acceptance of the declaration to eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination concerning religion or belief. It was an important step towards the “global family.”

This elimination of all forms of intolerance through the “global family”, is aimed at those among us who have a message of global truth. Those are the Christians. Christianity has the universal, full and only truth. As faithful Christians we shall find ourselves more and more in contrast to the “global family”.

As an example, the countries of Brazil and Guatemala declared that it is illegal for Christians to proclaim the gospel to the native Indians; a position which has been supported and enforced by the United Nations. Christians have become the target of the new tolerance. Christianity is being attacked.

Continued next issue...

By: Helmut Welker, Germany Translated by: Edda Tedford

### TRUE HAPPINESS

***“Jesting, joking and worldly conversation belong to the world. Christians who have the peace of God in their hearts will be cheerful and happy without indulging in lightness or frivolity.” Testimonies for the Church vol. 3 p.p. 241.***

God, through Ellen G. White, is very clear in this quote that we should not indulge in certain worldly things. In fact this text not only means we should stay away from jesting, joking and worldly conversation but it means we should have no part of the world. In 1 John 2:15-16 it says, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” Also in Romans 12:2 it says “ And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. God does not want us to be caught up in worldly things, but to keep our eyes on him.

The main reason why Christ made laws and guidelines for us in the Bible is because He is concerned for our happiness and this will lead us to salvation. This does not mean we have to hide far away from civilization and become extreme. No, if we are true Christians we will attempt to witness to worldly people without becoming worldly ourselves. We will show them the true way to find happiness.

Notice how it says in the quote at the beginning that Christians who have the peace of God in their hearts will be happy without the worldly pleasures. So the only way to be truly happy is to have the peace of God, otherwise you will become like the world, only able to be happy when things are going well.

Some Christians say it is a small thing to joke, jest and talk about typical worldly things like Politics and sports all the time. They are wrong though because when this happens Satan is triumphant because he makes sure they have no time to talk about Spiritual things. Think if it this way, these things might be the difference between being saved or lost. So let us examine ourselves closely today to see if we are really walking with God in truth and holiness.

Richard Eaton

## EARTHQUAKE!

Earthquake! A word we hear with trembling, reverential, silent awe. A silent inexpressible experience with cringing fear that shakes every member of our body. A slumbering earthquake that suddenly became murderous and all devouring, jarred and jolted Athens, the capital city of Greece, a city priding itself on being impregnable to earthquakes. It was a paralyzing shock that shattered families and genuinely humbled the most indifferent and unscrupulous character, many screaming to a Supreme God for mercy in their plight. A city that the Apostle Paul visited often and preached, "then stood Paul in the midst of Mars' hill and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To the Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship him declare I unto you." (Acts 17:23)

It was a carefree, empty day, for many the same normal routine of endless idleness and motionless. However, this was to violently change. Here was a land that by a burst of genius, opened the way to our modern world and modern man, the birth of reason; the miracle of Greece, a place on a small rock-bound Mediterranean peninsula 2,500 years ago. For the people of ancient Greece, drama and the theatre was a towering religious experience, with all the ritualistic grandeur and mystery of a High Mass. Drama was a religious rite, a source of wisdom, and a showplace of the spirit. The Greeks, in their theatre invented "comic relief. Side by side with tragedy, comedy was religious in origin, springing as it did from ancient revels that celebrated the god Dionysus.

But here was unfolding a modern day Greek tragedy that was to have no comic relief, no horseplay and mockery, vulgarity, license or libel. It was just another day but with prophetic significance... "As the days of Noah" whereas indicated Jesus Christ in His prophecy about "the conclusion of the system of things", making specific reference to "the days of Noah". He pointed to the flood as a warning example of a greater destruction to come during "the presence of the Son of man". (Matt. 24: 3, 37-39)

"So shall also the coming of the son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood which occurred over 4,350 years ago, were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noe entered into the ark." (Mat. 24:27,28) What else? There was violence in the land. (Ez 16:49; Luke 19:2-25)

It all began with a sleepy, deathlike calmness, a displeasing ominous calm that was a strange chilling experience; a period of grim...silence. Prophetically, when all the heavenly harpers leave the courts above to come to this earth with their divine Lord as He descends to gather the fruit of His redeeming work, will there not be silence in heaven? (Daniel and Revelation, Ch. 8 pg. 473) "But the Lord is in His Holy Temple: Let all the earth keep silence before Him." (Hab. 2:20) "And when He had opened the Seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour." (Rev. 8:1)

The Greek sparrow abandoned the bird feeder; it was songless. The neighbour's two Maltese dogs were nervously yapping. Strangely the unvarying barometer fell, predicting stormy weather, yet there was not a cloud in the sky. Ironically, for days I would pass and observe the precarious position of a tall Hungarian porcelain vase perched atop a high cabinet shelf. Perceptively or obliviously I moved this treasured piece to a secure rail-lined bookshelf.

The "calm" was suddenly broken, demolishing the myth that Athens is "earthquake proof, safely placed on a firm foundation of "rock". "Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 10:12) The smitten rock; as "God heard the murmurings of the Israelites and bade Moses speak to the rock, that the people might have water. Moses smote the rock in wrath and took the glory to himself." (E.W. 163) There is, however, an impenetrable nature of rock. "Everyone therefore which heareth these words of Mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, which built his house upon the rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon the rock." (Matt. 7:24, 25, R.V.). What is your foundation?

At precisely 2:56 p.m., Tuesday, September 9, 1999 a strong earthquake of a frightening 5.9 on the Richter scale suddenly struck Athens and its suburbs for an agonizing 10-15 seconds. It came without warning as, to-date, earthquakes cannot be predicted. In the letters to the churches of Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea, the Lord spoke, "Remember, therefore, how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent, if therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." (Re. 3:3) We are the Laodician church of today; living in that solemn period of time. (Rev. 3:15,16) Calamities come

suddenly and cause the ruin of many. (Prov. 24:22) Isaiah wrote, “the multitude of all nations shall be like small dust, and chaff and at an instant suddenly; and be visited with earthquake and great noise” (Isa. 29:5,6)

Greece is encompassed by the Mediterranean and is an area that is known the world over for being a cauldron of high seismic activity. Turkey also falls into this category, which only a few weeks before was struck by a devastating earthquake, killing 17,000. This Eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea occupies the highest seismic activity of the whole world, a zone of extreme danger. One-hundred thousand earthquakes of varying magnitude have taken place in and around Greece since the beginning of the century. Here are two major quakes occurring in less than one month!

Dishes rattled and fell out of the cupboards. Books tumbled out of their shelves. Bookcases toppled over like dominoes. The untuned piano slid crazily across the marble floor playing an impromptu maddening chord. The filing cabinet reels with a deadening force. Pictures awkwardly cant and tilt. Outside, treetops bowed down almost to the ground. Billows of dust and plumes of smoke rose from distant buildings through a haze of concrete dust.

The thundering sound that accompanied the sharp tremor was moaning, grating, a mourning-like cry. Some reported sounds much like a rapidly racing train passing through the living room. Others heard a sound like an explosion. One compared it to a storm at sea or hooking a shark. We vacantly looked at each other and quickly lurched under the doorframe, trying to keep our balance and bracing ourselves. Maria quickly uttered a soft, earnest prayer in those tense seconds that seemed like an eternity. “Lord, we place ourselves in your hands.” My first spontaneous impulse was to pray too. My heart led me quickly to Psalm 23, then skipped quickly to Psalm 46, but it was almost over before I could even whisper the first verse. I was pathetically speechless and muddled a short silent prayer only. “I was dumb with silence, held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred.” (Psalm 39:2)

We lurched again to the stairwell door, and onto the quaking steps, slipping almost falling and tumbling downward, pitching almost helplessly from landing to landing from the fifth floor. We heard screaming as we passed the floors, and pleas for mercy. Maria clutched her woe-comforting Bible tightly, and ironically the house keys, as we burst out to the ground floor. We expected flying debris to fall on us. We then quickly joined our stunned, ashen-faced neighbours, some in pajamas, with crying children held tightly in their arms by the garden-pool. The water was still sloshing and splashing wildly all by itself. We meekly returned to the apartment shortly thereafter, against the warnings of the gaping, trembling crowd, for a second aftershock, looking back on them with mixed feelings of pity and compassion. The ground bobbed and weaved as the second aftershock suddenly came, followed by many more intermittent tremors throughout the day and night and for many days to follow. Remembering Luke 21:11 “and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven”, in speaking of the last days. I was comforted by his formula (as a wise physician, also) for replacing worry with faith, “fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.” (Luke 12:7) We passed through the quakes first short vibrations. What swept on was a series of long energy pulses, but still brutally powerful.

We are few and will continue to be few. The Lord assures us further by saying, “fear not little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)

Thousands of dumfounded Athenians fled from the state capital (population 4 million). Household water was cut off. Electricity was quenched shut. International and - local telephones were dead. Mobile-phone networks were also inoperable. Tourists abandoned their hotels. 9T 92-93 was an imposing prophesy in reality.

Hampered rescue teams frantically dug under collapsed apartment blocks, and factories, trying to free pinned survivors from piles of rubble. This included the Greek Emergency Rescue Squad, Fire Brigade, and thousands of Army personelle. France, Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Cyprus, the Ukraine, Israel, and others offered unbidden and spontaneous assistance by sending special rescue squads. Their motto was “hope never dies”, as they dug furiously for survivors,

In the wake of the killer quake which hit Athens, and the more than one-thousand tremors which followed and continued over the next few weeks, seismology experts called on Greeks to “get used to living with earthquakes”. It was now called a “normal phenomenon”. What an ominous dread, a foreboding worldly prophecy! Earthquakes will, indeed, and most assuredly increase more and more (LS 411), more frequent and terrible before the second advent of Jesus (PP 108-9) and signs of the times (DA 636) and where least expected

(TM 421); earthquakes in divers places (Matt. 24:27)

Many family tragedies were described including cases where children survived, yet parents were killed within the same room. Or where a father perished, but managed to protect his infant son with his body. Another heroic story was where a ten year old son was dug out alive in which the father held up a heavy beam for twenty-four hours to stop it from crushing his son. We can strengthen our faith in Jesus, in His love for us, for He “endured the cross(beam), despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”. (Heb 12:2) And, “upon one Simon, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross(beam) that he might bear it after Jesus”. (Luke 23:26) “And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciples.” (Luke 15:27)

The sheer magnitude of the disaster exceeded the government’s gloomiest expectations, which was thoroughly unprepared for the emergency. Cranes, jackhammers, concrete-cutting saws -all tools of urban search and rescue were tragically scarce. Unpreparedness will continue to occur in the lives of many. In the parable of the ten virgins we are admonished again, “but the wise took oil in their vessel with their lamps. (Matt. 25:4) The death toll mounted to 143. 100,000 were counted homeless and many still unaccounted for, either missing or trapped under the rubble. The stench of death rose from mounds of concrete and twisted metal in some places under the scorching Greek sun. Thousands were injured, many seriously. A surgeon reported seeing many fractured spines and pelvises. Most were in bed when the house fell in.

Ironically, or miraculously, many say, the ancient monuments of Athens suffered only a few cracks, but no significant damage. Of particular interest was the austere Parthenon which still stood on the Acropolis. Measuring 228 feet by 101 feet, its 33 magnificent columns withstood the shock of the quake. When asked what will happen to the Parthenon if a massive quake hits Athens, experts were optimistic and noisily boasted that it will survive, of course, and withstand any further quakes, but “the pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at His reproof. (Job 26:11) It was built to honour the God of wisdom, Athena, as the Champion of military power.

Red “X” markings have been haphazardly sprayed onto the facing of countless crushed or severely damaged buildings singled out by government building inspectors. A solemn ordinance spelling disaster for tens of thousands, condemned to live in tents and in the open in unsanitary conditions with little and inferior food. A yellow “X” marking designates, “in need of structural repairs, and uninhabitable until restored”.

The unwearied Church of Athens, surrounded by mountains, meets in central Athens, within sight of the Parthenon and the Acropolis. It is housed in an old classical structure. The building has been officially classified as a Historic Site; beautiful, ornate, but no longer practically sound. Of the six adjoining apartments of three unpretentious floors, all were severely damaged, uninhabitable, and in need of extensive repairs. Miraculously, however, the Lord preserved our sanctuary with no trace of damage; the fierce seismic waves having bypassed the House of the Lord. Unfortunately because of the looming danger to our church and imminent collapse with inevitable earthquakes, we were forced to seek another site, having received a yellow “X” classification - uninhabitable, and in need of extensive repair. “Trusting in Him at all times, the rock of our strength and refuge in the day of affliction. (Ps. 62:7,8; Jer. 16:19) We have been divinely blessed and directed to a northern suburb of Athens, and now meet temporarily in a home-like apartment, (Acts 28:30) We are further gratefully blessed that not one of our brethren were killed or injured, although some lived in the epicenter of the quake.

The first known or earliest known earthquakes in Athens occurred in the winter of 427 B.C.; and during that period there were repeated shocks in Athena, but also in Evia and Boetia, (taken from a passage of Thucydides, Histories, iii, 87), that refers to these events.

The shock waves from Athens stunned the world and echoed back an oft-asked question: Can we somehow see in advance the onset of earthquakes? Many nations are pursuing an elusive effort to predict earthquakes, nature’s most destructive cataclysm.

Continued next issue...

By: Br. John Theodorou Athens, Greece

## TO BE EXACT

“Men of the world and men who are Christ’s servants indeed may be alike in outward appearance; but they are servants of two masters whose interests are in decided opposition to each other...”

I read the above testimony after an encounter with a leader of the Nicolici Church. \* They pitched a tent along the border of the city. A sister was told that I was a Reformer, and she invited me to visit them. After much prayer, meditation, and counsel, I decided to accept the invitation, hoping and believing that they would put forth the same earnest effort to understand the Separation of 1951, as was done while studying the Reformation of 1914.

Their leader and instructor immediately attacked our dear Brother Cholich’s “Report On The Work of Unification of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement,” 1996 edition. “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; that they may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.” The Report and its author were accused of working against the prayer of Jesus.

The leader was asked to explain to the audience the difference between the two Reformations. He said that there were no differences. “There was no fighting for the Principles of Faith.”<sup>1</sup> If there were no differences, then why a separation? After all recording devices were turned off, he said, “there was a man, President of the General Conference Committee, taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?”<sup>v</sup> And they agreed; he should have been stoned.

“I only know that Brother Kissener during the war broke the seventh commandment, and that he confessed his sin publicly and openly, repented himself and made a confession of what he had done. The church forgave his sin, and Br. Nicolici knew it.”<sup>v</sup> “When Br. Nicolici accused Br. Kissener publicly, Br. Kissener declared publicly that he will resign his mandate as delegate and completely withdraw in order not to cause any difficulties.”<sup>vi</sup> “...but brother Nicolici was still not satisfied.”<sup>vii</sup> “Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God.”<sup>vi</sup>

“Men of the world and men who are Christ’s servants, indeed may be alike in outward appearance; but they are servants of two masters whose interests are in decided opposition to each other..”<sup>x</sup> One class is ripening as wheat for the garner of God, the other as tares for the fires of destruction.”

The following Sabbath, I apologized to the members and to the interested souls present for what had occurred the preceding Sabbath. In so many words, I was accused of drawing the minds of the people from contemplating the love of Christ, and directing them to behold the works of men. Their teacher was not present.

**“And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 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. Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay as a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.”<sup>1</sup> “Let all understand the words that I write. Those who are labourers together with God are but His instruments, and they in themselves possess no essential grace or holiness. It is only when they are cooperating with heavenly intelligences that they are successful. They are but earthen vessels, the depositaries in which God places the treasures of His truth. Paul may plant, and Apollos water, but it is God alone that gives the increase.”\*** “He therefore

that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us His Holy Spirit.”<sup>x1</sup>

The next Sabbath, there was a young woman present whose “thoughts” were “accusing or else excusing” her. She stated that she had a male friend who, while visiting her, would steal money from her purse and would take food from her kitchen. She had forgiven him more than four hundred and ninety times, five hundred to be exact. She reasoned that she had fulfilled her requirements to him, and now he is unworthy of her prayers of forgiveness, or of the privilege of coming within her immediate presence. After much discussion, the leader and the majority of the group sided with the woman.” Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.”<sup>v</sup> So I attempted to break it down for her.

“We are dependent upon the pardoning mercy of God every day and every hour.”<sup>v</sup> Eight hours of each day are prescribed to man to use for sleep. Eight from twenty-four leaves sixteen. For sixteen hours we need the pardoning mercy of God. But is it possible to sin while in sleep? “It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell.”<sup>xvi</sup> “You may think that there can be no sin in permitting your thoughts to run as they naturally would, without restraint. But this is not so. You are responsible to God for the indulgence of vain thoughts; for from vain imaginations arises the committal of sins, the actual doing of those things upon which the mind has dwelt.”<sup>xv</sup> “We need to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit every hour of the day, lest we be ensnared by the enemy and our souls be imperiled.”<sup>TM</sup>

After thirty-one days, one would have accumulated over four hundred and ninety hours, four hundred and ninety-six, to be exact. According to my reckoning, using your references to Matthew 18:22, we would have “passed the limits of divine forbearance—the hidden boundary between God’s patience and His wrath.”<sup>xix</sup>

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.”<sup>\*\*</sup>

“Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”<sup>\*\*\*</sup> “We are not to stand aside from others in a spirit that seems to say, ‘Come not near me; I am holier than thou.’ Do not shut yourselves away from your fellow men, but seek to impart to them the precious truth that has blessed your heart. Let it be manifest that yours is the religion of love.”<sup>\*\*\*</sup> <sup>L</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matt. 5:16.

Then Brother Lubin said, “But brother, we are human. There is none good but one, that is, God.”<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> I said, Yea. “But we have the mind of Christ.”<sup>xxiv</sup> “And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.”<sup>xxv</sup>

“Men of the world and men who are Christ’s servants indeed may be alike in outward appearance; but they are servants of two masters whose interests are in decided opposition to each other. The world does not understand or discern the difference; but there is an immense distance, a vast separation, between them.”<sup>\*\*\*</sup> <sup>1</sup> “They are as distinct as midday and midnight.”<sup>xxv</sup>

“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”<sup>xxvi</sup> “And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.”<sup>xxix</sup>

“May the Lord bless His people with spiritual eyesight, to see that the children of God and the world can never be in co-partnership.”<sup>xxx</sup> AMEN By: Chester B. Cosby

“ John 17:20, 21

“” Report p. 2

John 8:4,5

ˆ Letter by s. Gutknecht dated Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 1988, p.2

Ibid, p.3

Ibid, p.3

PP p.37

2T p. 590

SM2 p.127

Ezekiel 3:16-21

<sup>i</sup> TM pp. 53, 54

“ 1 Thessalonians 4:8

ˆ Job 38: 11

<sup>i</sup>T p.170

GC p.555

3T p 82

TM p.223

PP p. 159

Matthew 5:43-46

Romans 2:4

SM2 <sup>pp</sup> 127, 128

Mark 10:18

1 Cor. 2:16

John 1:16

2 T p.690

<sup>xxvii</sup> TM p. 87

<sup>xxviii</sup> 1 John 4:6

«\* Malachi 3:17, 18

<sup>xxx</sup> TM p. 276

## Current Scene

PART 2 of 2

### THE DEVIL'S GOAL

**This pope has referred to this century as the “Marian Times.” What does this mean? Ted Flynn, a Catholic author, explains that in the Old Testament times God spoke through the prophets and in the New Testament times Jesus spoke, but that now, God is speaking through “Mary.” (See *The Thunder of Justice*, p 171.) It is the devil’s plan to put himself in the place of Jesus in the hearts of mankind. First he uses the guise of “Mary” and then he comes personating Christ,**

**Saying the rosary replaces praying to our Father in heaven. “Mary” is referred to as the Mediatrix; yet, we know that the Bible teaches us, “For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” I Timothy 2:5. “Mary” claims to be the refuge and ark, advocate and intercessor, and the mother of the church. There are even claims ‘that “Mary” will place her “motherly seal” on those who have consecrated themselves to her immaculate heart.**

All this has been predicted, has it not? “The time is at hand when Satan will work miracles to confirm minds in their belief that he is God. All the people of God are now to stand on the platform of truth as it has been given in the Third Angels Message. All the pleasant pictures, all the miracles wrought, will be presented in order that, if possible, the very elect will be deceived. The only hope for any one is to hold fast the evidences that have confirmed the truth in righteousness. Let these be proclaimed over and over again, until the close of the earth’s history.” *Review and Herald, August 9, 1906.*

#### ECUMENICAL ASSOCIATIONS ENSNARE ADVENTISM

Pope John Paul II plans to unite the world by the year 2000. The pope has laid specific plans for each year of this last decade of the century. There are special plans being made by thousands of organizations representing the United Nations, governments, businesses, educational and religious bodies for that special time. Inter-religious dialogue is taking place under the guidelines of the second Vatican Council.

Sister White wrote about this very thing in *Christian Service, 50*. “The world is a theatre; the actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama. With the great masses of mankind, there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes. God is looking on. His purposes in regard to His rebellious subjects will be fulfilled. The world has not been given into the hands of men, though God is permitting the elements of confusion and disorder to bear sway for a season. A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama,- Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceiveableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of the enemy. The cause will be followed by the effect.”

There have been worship services on the steps of the capital in Washington where Jerry Fafwell said, “We must network together or we will lose this country.” Oral Roberts prayed for “miracles, healings, and deliverance.” Benny Hinn held a “faith- healing ceremony.”

Announcements are regularly coming in the press of union between various churches.

“When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman Hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.” *The Great Controversy, 445.*

How are these plans affecting the Seventh-day Adventist Church? The news is not good. The plans for dialogue between various churches are seen reflected in Adventism. The *Adventist Review* reported dialogue with the leaders of the Lutheran Church. Also, during 1998, the master plan of the pope called for an emphasis on the Holy Spirit in developing the spirit of unity. In the fall of 1998, the *Adventist Review* issued a special edition on the Holy Spirit. Because of the deep involvement with the World Council of Churches there are demands of cooperation with the ecumenical program as planned by the pope. In the year 2000, there are plans for all churches to be represented in Jerusalem, to celebrate the Eucharist together. Will the Adventist church be represented? If so, there is but one step to embracing the Sunday law.

“Never did this message apply with greater force than it applies today. More and more the world is setting at nought the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled up the measure of their iniquity. This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it. The substitution of the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain.” *Testimonies, vol. 7, 141.*

“How vital it is that God’s people be unified in the battle against this deceptive power. We must remember who the enemy is and fight together as an army under the banner of Christ, where there will be perfect order, harmony and unity among the Lord’s instrumentalities. The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head -the papal power - the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses. The great apostate cements this union. While he seeks to unite his agents in warring against the truth he will work to divide and scatter its advocates. Jealousy, evil surmising, evil speaking, are instigated by him to produce discord and dissension. The members of Christ’s church have the

power to thwart the purpose of the adversary of souls. At such a time as this let them not be found at variance with one another or with any of the Lord's workers. Amidst the general discord let there be one place where harmony and unity exist because the Bible is made the guide of life. Let the people of God feel that a responsibility rests upon them to build up His instrumentalities." *Testimonies, vol. 7, 182.*

We are seeing before us the union of the fallen churches. Papal documents have already called for worldwide enforcement of Sunday observance with violators to be punished as heretics. Surely the day is not far off when we will see the conclusion of all things. We are living in solemn times. God's church will be united and ready. May each of us be a part of that body.

Taken from the *Historic Adventist Land Marks*, September, 1999:

It is only truth that will unify. God's instrumentalities have to themselves be founded upon the Rock, Christ Jesus if we would not be swept away by the storm and tempest that are coming.

This article refers to the many counterfeits that are coming from the Papacy and Satan himself, to mislead the people of God into false paths. Our question is: are not the independent ministries themselves choosing to mislead the people by not giving the trumpet a certain sound? Now so many of the independents are being drawn back into the SDA apostasy through financial or doctrinal pressure.

The very thing that this article mentions in the final appeal for unity, only God's remnant church, and organized and visible body can fulfill this. For it is only God's church that can appeal to the other churches, fallen in trespasses and sins, that the foundation still stands sure. Organization is not an end in itself, but a means of making the work for souls easier. Unfortunately, the nominal SDA church, and their step-daughters, the Independent Ministries as a whole are following lock-step in this same pattern of looking at the church as a material thing, and thus glorying in their numbers, institutions, etc.

One man is made the focus and his opinion becomes another type of popery without the checks and balances of organization. The only true independence is dependence upon Christ rather than making any other man, or fallen organization our focus.

This article has not even mentioned the worst and that is that the nominal SDA church has been in a complete ecumenical relationship with the Catholic church for at least 10 years. As such it is making ready for the final crisis by becoming more conformed to the world and the worldly churches doctrinally. The many ecumenical councils convened in SDA churches, the many Easter sunrise services held with other churches, etc. are only alluded to in the article, unfortunately.

To be on the right side of the great, and final conflict all we must do is deny the world, the flesh and the devil, which will cause us to pour forth the straight testimony, participate in the shaking of Adventism and thus receive the Latter Rain sometime before, during or after this process. We are not to look to the Latter Rain to complete any defect or deficiency in our characters though, so we must see our duty to appeal to those who have been misled to see that God's organized people are still pouring forth the straight truth. We must appeal to those who are confused by all of these spiritual distractions to see that God has a people, though enfeebled and defective to human sight, who are founded upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. As such, organization has a very important part to play in our salvation.

The mention in this article about sharing the "eucharist" with the other churches in a grand ecumenical meeting in Jerusalem neglects to mention that the SDA independent ministries themselves are following in this pattern of sharing the communion bread and wine with anyone who walks through their doors. It is surely just another step for them to go along with the nominal SDA church and thus with all of the other apostate churches in the final crisis.

The only foundation of unity is truth, and what more could be said to be truth than the transcript of God's character - the Ten Commandments? It is only in obedience to all of the precepts of the Decalogue that we can be said to be preparing for the Latter Rain and purifying our souls through obedience to the truth. This is exactly where the people of God can and must come in at the right time in the right way.

Inspiration has told us that the people of God will be an obscure, unknown people to the Protestants and the Catholics in the final crisis. And why is this? Is it not because the righteous will not go along with their grand, political procession toward "unity"? Maybe it is also because we have not taken part with them in spirit or doctrine.

May the Lord help you and I to clearly discern between those who serve God and keep His commandments and those who do not.

Yes, we are living in a time that many are inventing ways that will pass for serving God, when their hearts are far from Him. But God's people must make their calling and election sure, by adding to their faith, virtue and their virtue, knowledge and their knowledge, brotherly kindness, and so on.

May we see that the righteousness of Christ is much more than a doctrine, or merely showing that He had a fallen

human nature to overcome just like we have to overcome, but rather it is an experience.

Jerry Eaton

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### MISSIONARIES FOR JESUS

There have been many missionaries for Jesus since the beginning of time. Old, as well as young men and women and even children have been used by the Lord to bring a message to His people. He will use anyone who is willing to surrender their lives to the Lord.

Here are two short stories about two men who were used by the Lord. One was young and one was old, but they each had their own work to do and they did it to the best of their ability. They gave their lives to Jesus.

#### SAMMY'S CALL

Slave boy Sammy Morris' body tightened as the master's cruel whip was applied to his bare back. He said not a word, but he yearned for freedom. And finally he worked up enough courage to run away from his heartless master. He dreaded to think what would happen to him if he were caught.

After his freedom, he went to the coast of Africa where he worked on a coffee plantation. Later he painted houses and became interested in attending a Christian mission. At first the services were strange and new for him, but he liked the singing and the preaching. One night he went forward and gave his heart to God. Soon after that he was called to preach. For hours he discussed the Bible with the missionary and asked him how he could learn more about God.

The missionary told Sammy he should travel to the United States to study for the ministry, and that in New York, Stephen Merritt would help him. So at the age of twenty, reaching America became a definite goal for Sammy Morris. O how much he wanted to go! But having almost no money, how could he ever achieve his purpose?

Finally Sammy persuaded the captain of a sailing boat to let him work his passage to America.

At first the boy was treated roughly by the other men on the ship. They were not interested in the religion that Sammy insisted on preaching. But before the journey was completed the captain and half the crew were converted to Christianity!

On arriving in New York, Sammy bravely offered a young man a dollar to help him find Stephen Merritt.

"Let me see the money first," said the boy.

"Stephen Merritt will pay you," said Sammy. It was a statement of faith, but it became fact. Stephen Merritt paid the dollar and was overjoyed to meet the earnest Christian from Africa. Merritt was a philanthropist who used part of his wealth to operate a Christian mission in New York.

On the evening that Sammy arrived, Mr. Merritt had to attend a meeting at another church, so he left Sammy at the mission. When he returned at ten-thirty he discovered that Sammy Morris had preached, and seventeen men were kneeling at the altar!

Next weekend, Sammy preached in church. Within a few minutes the altar was crowded with people. He lived so close to God and was so willing to be a useful servant that God used him marvelously. He won friends quickly, and a number of them willingly agreed to finance his college education at William Taylor University, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

At college the power of the Spirit in Sammy Morris' life soon became evident. He was a "Prayer Warrior"; he loved people, and constantly tried to help them spiritually. Sammy gave himself freely. He attended all the religious services, and was constantly active at preaching and personal evangelism. This young African was certainly strong in spirit, but his body, so long conditioned to a mild climate, had great difficulty resisting the frigid temperatures that occasionally gripped the United States. The cold, combined with overwork and lack of sleep, weakened Sammy Morris' physical

resistance until death became certain.

But when he was told about his serious condition he laughed and said, "Since I have found Jesus, death is my friend." Truly he had found peace that "passeth understanding."

A desire of Sammy's heart was to return to Africa to preach Jesus Christ to his people. But even knowing he could never do this did not worry him. "Others can do it better," he said. "It is not my work, but it is Christ's work. He must choose His own workers."

Until the end Sammy was patient, cheerful, and thankful. The impact of his Christian living was so great that at his funeral three young men dedicated their lives to go to Africa to take the place of Sammy Morris. Jesus had chosen His workers threefold!

Isn't it marvelous what God can do with a life that is willingly and completely consecrated to Him even though the life is only that of a poor slave? Sammy Morris was only 21 when he died, but his life has inspired many to give their lives to Jesus and go out as foreign missionaries.

## THE RIGHT NUMBER

The ringing of a telephone shattered the early morning stillness in "Daddy" Hall's meager apartment in New York.

The old man blinked his eyes and feebly sat up in bed as the telephone rang a second time. Who could want to talk with him at that hour, and about what? Laboriously, because he was still recuperating from a stroke, he went to the telephone and said, "Hello."

Wrong number!

But instead of hanging up the receiver immediately, Daddy Hall said, "No, you have the right number. You are talking with the 'Bishop' of Wall Street. And I want to know if you are a Christian?"

"What? Oh, I suppose so."

"And do you suppose you are married?"

"I know I am married."

"Do you know you love your wife?"

"Yes."

"Do you read the Bible and pray?"

"Sometimes. Long ago my mother taught me to do that."

"She also taught you to bathe regularly, didn't she?"

"Certainly."

"Since you left your mother you haven't stopped bathing, have you?"

"No - but who on earth are you anyway?"

"Name's James Jefferson Davis Hall. I'm an old-fashioned minister who preaches everywhere."

"Well, thank you. You've really helped me this morning."

So Pastor Hall hung up the receiver and slowly made his way back to bed, thinking he might not receive another telephone call for a week. But on that December 29, 1939, he received nineteen more calls!

The man who had called by mistake told a friend about the unexpected help he had received. This friend called, was helped, and he called a friend. Thus a chain was started, which lengthened until finally Daddy Hall received more than two thousand calls weekly for spiritual inspiration.

James Davis Hall was born in the state of Alabama. He attended the Protestant Episcopal Theological School of Virginia, at Alexandria, and was ordained as a minister in 1895. But he said, "The only degrees I have are the B.A. for 'born again,' and D.D. for 'Divine Dynamiter.'"

After serving a few pastorates, for seven years he was a chaplain at Alabama State Prison. Then for twelve years he served at rescue missions in Philadelphia and Boston. He moved to New York in 1922, at the age of fifty-nine.

For many years he preached daily at noon on the Wall Street corner near the New York Stock Exchange. "I preached what they needed," he said, "not what they wanted to hear." Many listened and were helped, while others paid no attention or simply explained briefly to someone, "He's the 'Bishop' of Wall Street."

Bishop Hall also preached on Broadway, at piers, and at other places. Occasionally he delivered a sermon while riding a subway. Of course, he had no idea that his 'telephone ministry' would become so popular that he would have to install more telephones and hire five assistants to operate them. All night a light was on in his brownstone house on Fifty-first Street, where he had moved from his apartment.

Each morning he had a brief new "message of the day." And many people formed the habit of calling for those daily messages. The famous, the wealthy, the poor, discouraged people of all faiths, including the clergy of other churches, called the elderly minister for spiritual inspiration.

"I have a religious hypodermic for every man or woman who calls, and I can tell what size dose

a person needs by the way he talks,” he said.

When a woman called, the telephone minister might say, “I have a message that could fit Lady Astor or the Duchess of Marlborough as well as you. ‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.’ Read your Bible. Love your own husband, not somebody else’s. That’s the way to keep out of Reno.” Or he might tell briefly of God’s marvelous love or about His righteous wrath.

After the telephone ministry became so urgent, the “bishop” had to limit his preaching on Wall Street to each Thursday noon, and work in other outdoor preaching engagements as opportunities came. No collections were ever taken, but contributions from friends were welcome. Funds for service were always on hand, especially as Hall and his assistants did not have expensive habits, and they had no desire for wealth.

“I wear second hand clothing and eat of the Spirit,” said the aged minister. He was a vegetarian, did not drink alcohol, tea, or coffee, did not smoke, and advised others to follow his example. “My only worry is that I’m so happy I hate to go to bed at night,” he said. Most of the time his eyes twinkled merrily, although at times, in his battle with sin, he could be as serious as a judge with the prisoner at the bar.

During a period of eleven years the telephone minister answered at least seven hundred thousand calls for spiritual guidance. Then on September 6, 1951, at age eighty-eight, he went to sleep in Jesus.

Circle 6-6483 or Circle 6-6484 - those were the numbers that so many spiritually bankrupt people called. Of course, sometimes people were given those numbers to call as a joke. But regardless, the faithful minister tried always to get God’s truth to anyone who called. And frequently a call that started as a joke became very serious business.

“You have the most important numbers in New York,” telephone operators told him. And thousands of people who were definitely helped by his unusual ministry could certainly have vouched for the truth of that statement.

James Hall thought he was getting old before his telephone ministry began. He was already in his 70’s. Many would have thought he should be retiring from active service, and that his work was pretty well over, but God still had work for him to do and kept him alive for those many years to do a very important work. No one is to say when a person’s active life should end - the Lord may still have work for them to accomplish and He will decide when the work is done.

So God can use anyone -whether young or old. Anyone who is willing to surrender their life to the Lord will have avenues of opportunity open before them.

## **FUNCTION OF THE BRAIN**

### **Part 1**

### **GOD’S ORIGINAL CREATION**

At creation, man was created perfect. “Man came from the hand of his Creator perfect in organization and beautiful in form. Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to be a counterpart of God. Adam was a noble being, with the will of God, and affections that centered upon heaven. He possessed a body heir to no disease, and a soul bearing the impress of Deity. He stood before God in the strength of perfect manhood. All the organs and faculties of his being were equally developed, and harmoniously balanced. The Creator of man has arranged the living machinery of our bodies. Every function is wonderfully and wisely made. And God pledged Himself to keep this human machinery in healthful action if the human agent will obey His law and co-operate with God. A healthy experience demands growth, and growth demands that careful attention be paid to the laws of nature, that the organs of the body may be kept in a sound state, untrammelled in their action.” *Temperance*, p. 11,12.

“Our natural inclinations and appetites...were divinely appointed, and when given to man, were pure and holy. It was God’s design that reason should rule the appetites, and that they should minister to our happiness. And when they are regulated and controlled by a sanctified reason, they are holiness unto the Lord.” - Manuscript 47, 1896.

“The brain nerves which communicate with the entire system are the only medium through which Heaven can communicate to man and affect his inmost life. Whatever disturbs the circulation of the electric currents in the nervous system lessens the strength of the vital powers, and the result is a deadening of the sensibilities of the mind.” T2, p. 347. “There are many invalids who will ever remain so because they cannot be convinced that their experience is not reliable. The brain is the capital of the body, the seat of all the nervous forces and of mental action. The nerves proceeding from the brain control the body. By the brain nerves, mental impressions are conveyed to all the nerves of the body as by telegraph wires, and they control the vital action of every part of the

system. All the organs of motion are governed by the communications they receive from the brain.” T3 69.

### **GOD’S PURPOSE FOR CREATING MANKIND**

“Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? What! Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Cor. 6:15,19,20. “Our bodies are Christ’s purchased property, and we are not at liberty to do with them as we please. Man has done this. He has treated his body as if its laws had no penalty. Through perverted appetite its organs and powers have become enfeebled, diseased, and crippled. And these results which Satan has brought about by his own specious temptations, he uses to taunt God with. He presents before God the human body that Christ has purchased as His property; and what an unsightly representation of his Maker man is! Because man has sinned against his body, and has corrupted his ways, God is dishonored.

“When men and women are truly converted, they will conscientiously regard the laws of life that God has established in their being, thus seeking to avoid physical, mental and moral feebleness. Obedience to these laws must be made a matter of personal duty.” CDF, p. 18.

“Therefore the question for us is not, ‘What will the world say?’ but, ‘How shall I, claiming to be a Christian, treat the habitation God has given me? Shall I work for my highest temporal and spiritual good by keeping my body as a temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, or shall I sacrifice myself to the world’s ideas and practices?’ “ CDF, p. 19.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1.

“In the ancient Jewish service it was required that every sacrifice should be without blemish. In the text we are told to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service. We are God’s workmanship. The psalmist, meditating upon the marvelous work of God in the human frame, exclaimed, ‘I am fearfully and wonderfully made.’ There are many who are educated in the sciences and are familiar with the theory of the truth, who do not understand the laws that govern their own being. God has given us faculties and talents; and it is our duty, as His sons and daughters, to make the best use of them. If we weaken these powers of mind or body by wrong habits or indulgence of perverted appetite, it will be impossible for us to honor God as we should.” CDF 20,21

### **HOW DOES THE BRAIN WORK?**

In order to understand what happens when someone has a stroke it is necessary to have a basic understanding of how the brain works.

Your brain is the centre which enables you to see, hear and feel things as well as controlling the muscular activity involved in speaking, moving our limbs and a number of other bodily functions. It does this by way of nerves connecting it to all parts of the body.

The brain is divided into 2 Hemispheres. The (R) right hemisphere and the (L) hemispheres. The nerves from the brain to the body cross over at the base of the brain and therefore the (R) hemispheres controls the (L) side of the body and the (L) hemispheres controls the (R) side of the body. A stroke to the (L) side of the brain may cause paralysis of the (R) side of the brain may cause paralysis to the (L) side of the body.

In most people the left side of the brain contains the language centres. 90% of right-handed people have their speech centre in the left side of the brain. Even left-handed people usually have their speech centre in the left side of the brain too. Most (but not all) stroke patients, who have language problems, will therefore have had a left hemisphere stroke, which affected their language centre.

The following information may assist in a greater understanding of what can happen when a part of the brain is damaged as a result of a stroke.

Motor cortex of the (L) cerebral hemisphere which controls skeletal muscles on the (R) side of the body. The parts of the body are drawn in proportion to the relative size of their cortical areas of control

### **RIGHT-BRAIN SPECIALISATION**

The right brain is your intuitive hemisphere. Although it is frequently called the **non-dominant** hemisphere, the right brain is dominant for the following types of activity **Non-Verbal:** Right-brain knowledge is not achieved through words but through images.

**Holistic:** The right hemisphere can process many kinds of information simultaneously. It sees problems holistically, and can make great leaps of insight. It is able to evaluate the whole problem at once. The right brain recognizes faces, seeing the features **as a whole.**

**Spatial:** Visuospatial functions - those involving perceptions of location and spatial relationships - are processes of the right sphere. Your right brain knows how to work jigsaw puzzles and enable you to find

your way around your house without getting lost.

**Musical:** Innate musical talent, as well as the ability to respond to music, are right brain functions, although extensive musical education will result in left hemisphere involvement as well.

**Metaphoric:** Your right brain understands metaphors and imagery. It can change the literal meaning of a sentence into its connotations: if someone says, "He's really on my back," the right brain knows the difference between what is said and what is meant.

**imaginative:** Your right brain is capable of fantasy; it makes up stories and dreams and knows how to play. It is also the hemisphere that is speculative and imaginative. The right brain wonders, "What if.....?"

**Artistic:** Drawing, painting, and sculpting are natural talents of the right hemisphere.

**Emotional:** Although emotions are actually a product of another part of the brain, it is the right hemisphere that is more in touch with these feelings.

**Sexual:** Making love is a right hemisphere experience.

**Spiritual:** It is the right hemisphere that is involved in worship, prayer and mysticism.

**Dream Maker:** Dreams are primarily a function of the right side of the brain. It is your imaginative, metaphoric, internal-poet that creates dreams images.

**Controls Movement on the Opposite Side of the Body:** If you wiggle your left thumb it is your right brain that gave the instruction.

## LEFT-BRAIN SPECIALISATION

Your left brain is your logical hemisphere. Until recently, doctors called this your dominant hemisphere. But in fact, your left hemisphere is only dominant for the following tasks:

**Analytical:** The left hemisphere is your logical, analytical side. It can evaluate factual material in a rational way.

**Verbal:** The left hemisphere is the side of your brain that is involved in language skills. The is the side that controls speech, that is able to read and write.

It remembers facts, recalls names and dates, and knows how to spell.

**Linear:** Information is processed sequentially by the left brain. This is a one-step-at-a-time way of thinking.

**Mathematical:** Numbers and symbols are comprehended in the left hemisphere. The logical, analytical thinking required for the working of advanced mathematical problems is produced by the expertise of your left.

**Controls Movements On the Opposite Side of me Body:** If you wiggle your right thumb, it is your left brain that gave the instructions.

## THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Together the nervous system and the hormonal system manage to co-ordinate the body's growth, movement and metabolism. Both systems are activated by either internal or external stimuli. These external stimuli are detected by special sensory organs which include the tongue, nose, skin ears and eyes.

The main difference between the two systems is that whilst the nervous system is very fast to act the hormonal system is very slow to act.

Nerves are found throughout the body. They are made of special cells which use electrical impulses to transmit messages to the brain. The brain is the organ located inside the skull. It is responsible for your thoughts and directs your body's response to stimuli.

The nervous system can be compared to the electrical wiring in your home. When you switch on a light the electricity flows to the bulb and causes it to glow. Similarly if you switch on a specific nerve the electrical impulses flow from the organ to the brain and the brain then directs your body as to what action must be taken. This message system is divided into two types. One is called the *central nervous system* which means all messages received by the sensory organs are sent to the brain, where you are able to make a voluntary decision on how to react. Millions of nerves are attached to muscles and are responsible for coordination and smooth movement when you are walking, jogging or performing physical tasks. If you are jogging and pulled a leg muscle, the sensory nerve in the skin of the injured leg would send a message to your brain, and you would respond by feeling pain in that area.

Within this central nervous system is another type of message called a *reflex* action. In this case the sensory organ sends a message to the muscle and an action takes place before the brain realizes what has happened. This may occur, for instance, when you bum your finger. Your finger is usually withdrawn from the flame by reflex

action before your brain registers the pain.

## THE HORMONAL SYSTEM

The hormonal system is slow acting and is another method by which you can control your body. It is also an involuntary control. Since you cannot consciously tell your body to make hormones, your brain directs the process for you. The system works using chemicals called *hormones*, which are made by specific glands to perform specific jobs. When the gland is stimulated to produce hormones it does so and the hormones are carried in the blood stream to various parts of the body. Hence there is a close association between the hormonal system and the circulatory system. The hormone will act only on a specific organ or part of the body.

The diagram below shows the locations of the *endocrine* glands which produce the hormones which are found in your body.

The table below summarizes the action of various hormones.

### SOURCE

### HORMONE

### WHAT IT AFFECTS

|  |   |                  |              |
|--|---|------------------|--------------|
| <i>Pituitary</i>                       | <i>hormones</i>   | <i>Pituitary</i> | <i>Gland</i> |
| <i>Adrenaline</i>                      | <i>Adrenal medulla</i>  |                  |              |
|  | <i>Activity of all other glands</i>   |                  |              |
| <i>Thyroxin</i>                        |   |                  |              |
| <i>Insulin</i>                         |   |                  |              |
| <i>Cortisone</i>                       |   |                  |              |
| <i>Androgens Estrogen</i>              |   |                  |              |
| <i>Thyroid Pancreas Adrenal cortex</i> |   |                  |              |
| <i>Testes Ovaries</i>                  |   |                  |              |
|  | <i>Fear, and fright reactions. Preparing the body for Increased activity.</i> |                  |              |
|  | <i>Rate of metabolism Blood sugar level</i>                                   |                  |              |
|  | <i>Growth, salt regulation Protein synthesis.</i>                             |                  |              |
| <i>Male sexual characteristics</i>     |   |                  |              |
|  | <i>Female sexual Characteristics. The menstrual cycle.</i>                    |                  |              |

The hormone adrenaline works in the following way: its release is stimulated by fear or anxiety, it affects our muscle cells and brain, and allows us to respond quickly and think more clearly in certain circumstances. For example, imagine a child pinned to the ground by a car which has slipped off its jack during a wheel change. The father reacts immediately and much to his surprise is able to lift the car enough to let his daughter crawl free. This is adrenaline at work..

## CONCLUSION

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...” Psalm 139:14.

I hope that through this study we can see how God created that special and wonderful organ (the brain) and how the brain functions so efficiently. The brain is the instrument through which God communicates with us and as such it must be kept in a clear working condition. Especially in these last days, with so many temptations around us, we need to keep our mind stayed upon the Lord. We need to take care of this wonderful organ that the Lord has given to us to keep the avenues of communication open.

Nada Stefanovic, Australia.

## **Stress-Management Strategies for the Body and the Mind**

1. Get some vigorous exercise daily. Spend some time outdoors each day. Allow sunlight and fresh air into your home and office.
2. Practice deep diaphragmatic breathing as often as you can.
3. Make sure that, clothing and shoes provide proper warmth, comfort, and protection.
4. Drink eight glasses of pure water daily. Practice personal cleanliness and hygiene. Maintain sanitary surroundings where you live and work.
5. Abstain from tobacco, alcohol, caffeine, and other unnecessary drugs.
6. Switch to a vegetarian diet (fruits, grains, nuts, vegetables, and—if you wish—low-fat dairy products) and eat only enough to meet your nutritional requirements. Maintain your ideal body weight.
7. Eliminate unnecessary muscular tension by proper posture and by taking frequent stretch breaks, especially if you are a sedentary worker.
8. Minimize noise in your environment. If possible,, select a home surrounded by nature rather than the artificial scenes of city life.
9. Get adequate sleep. For most people this means seven to nine hours per night. Do not try to crowd too much into one day. Don't be afraid to take a break during the day if needed.
10. Observe the seventh-day Sabbath—the weekly day of rest from our work and ordinary pursuits. Employed as God designs, it is a means of physical, mental, and spiritual restoration

### *and the Mind*

- 1. Develop a firm trust in God through personal daily Bible study prayer, and commitment.**
- 2. Submit your life and plans to the inspection and approval of God as His will and your duty are revealed in Scripture and impressed on the conscience.**
- 3. Test your words and actions by the Golden Rule—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Be co-operative, not competitive.**
- 4. Cultivate love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, humility, meekness, moderation, gratitude and cheerfulness.**
- 5. Ask for and receive God's forgiveness for your wrongs. Freely forgive others. Do not chafe under injustice. Overcome evil with good. Harbor no bitterness.**
- 6. Draw up a budget. Live within your means. Be content and grateful for what you have. Simplify your life. Get out of debt.**
- 7. Follow a daily schedule. Set proper priorities. Plan ahead but be flexible when circumstances demand it. Set a moderate pace.**
- 8. Carefully choose what you see and hear. Think on those things that are true, honest, just, pure, beautiful, and worthwhile.**
- 9. Put God first, others second, and yourself third. This should not lead one into self-neglect.**
- 10. Develop your talents and skills to be employed in serving and benefiting others in some way, thus glorifying God. This goal is the true purpose of life.**

**IN MEMORY OF  
BRUCE CLIFFORD ELRICK**

**1915 -1999**

**Our dear brother Bruce Clifford Elrick from the Hamilton church passed away at McMaster Hospital on December 21<sup>st</sup> in his 85<sup>th</sup> year. Survived by his wife Marie, his three sons; Clifford and Ronald of Hamilton and Brian and his wife Judy of Dundas; two daughters, Darlene of Hamilton and Louise and her husband Gordon of Gravenhurst. Three granddaughters; Christine and her husband Rob, April and her husband Michael and Natasha; two grandsons Jason and Arthur. Also survived by five great-grandchildren Robbie, Jessica, Alyssa, Brandon and Noah. Also two stepsons Rene of California and Marcel of Dundas; two half brothers and one half sister in Sarnia.**

**Brother Elrick was born May 29, 1915 and he worked hard 42 years as a locomotive engineer at Stelco.**

**At the funeral service Brother Evald Pedersen spoke interesting stories of his life and of the hardships that he encountered. Brother Morris Lowe continued to speak words of comfort and hope. Death is not the end, it is a sleep and one day all will wake from the sleep and live again, but we must be faithful to have part in the first resurrection.**

**May the Lord comfort all of his relatives and friends with -the hope that we have in the Lord.  
AMEN**

**ASLEEP IN JESUS**

Our dear brother Joaquin Hidalgo passed away peacefully in his home on December 3 after six months of sickness.  
1999,

He was born April 6, 1924 in El Salvador and moved to Canada with his family in 1983. In 1992 he was baptized to our Reform Movement in which he remained faithful to the end of his life. He left behind his son Joaquin and two daughters Loria and Inna, and seven grandchildren.

Most of his life he spent in agriculture but he also worked as a carpenter. He was known for his peaceful nature. He was always smiling and patient. Br. Joaquin was a worthy example for us to learn from.

Brother Timo Martin conducted the funeral service and spoke words of comfort to those left behind. To a faithful Christian, death is only a sweet sleep away from troubles, pain and Satan's temptations. We have a wonderful expectation to see our brother Joaquin again at the coming of Jesus when there will be no more death, sorrow or tears in our eyes.

May the Lord bless and comfort the sorrowing relatives and friends with this blessed hope. AMEN