

Childrens Corner  
*Courage in the Face of Fear*

Kevin awoke and lay staring at the bright sunshine and listening to the laughter of a kookaburra. Why am I feeling so excited? He wondered. It certainly can't be because of that noisy bird.

Kevin and his parents had lived for five years in the country of Australia, but they still hadn't gotten used to the call of some of the native birds.

Then Kevin jumped out of bed as he remembered that he had plenty of chores to do on the farm since his father had gone away for a few days. He was to be the man of the house in his father's absence.

He was half way dressing when he heard the telephone ring. Kevin was reaching for a clean shirt when he caught a bit of his mother's conversation.

"That will be fine," she was saying. "We'll look for Ralph about nine o'clock."

Ralph! Not Ralph Brady! Surely he wasn't coming for a visit today, of all days. Kevin sat back on his bed and closed his eyes, thinking about Ralph. Ralph and his parents had moved to Australia from United States just as Kenny's family had, and they lived on the next farm.

At first Kevin had been happy to be friends with someone from 'back home,' as he thought of the USA. But that was before he became acquainted with Ralph and his mocking attitude towards anything that had to do with Jesus or religion.

Kevin shook his head unhappily. He knew Ralph would make fun of all the chores he had to do today also. He would want to go on a hike, and no doubt shrug his shoulders and make some sarcastic remark, as he always did, if worship was mentioned.

"Kevin," Mother called. "Come to breakfast. Ralph is coming over for awhile to spend the day. You will want to have your chores finished."

"Coming, Mom!" Kevin answered. Maybe if he hurried he could at least get through the milking and feeding the chickens.

*A Lyrebird*

Kevin wanted to tell Mother about the way Ralph acted, but when she bowed her head to ask him to say the blessing, he couldn't. Maybe I'll just have to try harder to understand him, he thought with a sigh, but he knew it would not be easy.

Ralph arrived shortly after nine o'clock. He frowned at the bucket of grain that Kevin was carrying to the chicken house and remarked, "Don't you ever do anything around this place except feed something?"

"The animals and chickens have to eat also," Kevin answered and tried to laugh. "Dad is away in the outback today, and I have to take over his chores as well as do my own."

Ralph's eyes rolled skyward. "Oh, my! I'm glad we've got hired help to tend to our chores. Ma would have to pick today for her dentist appointment in town. I sure didn't want to go in with her, but she could have picked a better day. I thought we could go for a hike across the range or this outback, or whatever you call it."

Kevin nodded. "We can when the chores are finished."

Soon the chickens were fed, the water turned on the garden, and the corral gate opened for the milk cows to go to pasture. "There," Kevin exclaimed as he latched the gate, "all through for the morning!"

"Whew!" whistled Ralph. "I should think so. All that work would last me a week. Don't tell me you have to do all this

again this evening.”

Kevin laughed. “No, I don’t turn the water on the garden twice. But come on, we’ll get our lunch. Mom said she’d have it ready. Then we’ll go on our hike.”

By the time the boys got back to the house, Kevin’s mother had the lunch packed. Mother smiled, handing the basket to Kevin, “Have a good time.”

“We will, Mom,” promised Kevin. “Thanks a million for the nice lunch.”

“Hope she packed enough,” Ralph said.

“She did,” answered Kevin, heading down the orchard path toward the hanging rock. “I know Mom. She always packs enough to feed a small crowd. It’s only a little more than a kilometre to the hanging rock, and it’s a perfect day for hiking.”

Kevin felt a little tired from his chores, but he enjoyed the fresh breeze and the beautiful scenery of the grassland country. He and Ralph had not gone far when they heard a chopping sound nearby. Ralph stopped and looked around. “Who’s cutting wood out here?” he asked.

Kevin laughed. “No one,” he said. “It’s just a lyrebird. It likes to imitate different sounds. It may begin crying like an injured animal before long.”

“Oh, this mixed-up country!” Ralph complained. “I don’t even know when a bird is calling, and this trail seems rougher each time we come over it.”

Kevin sighed, but not so Ralph could hear him. Ralph always seemed to have a complaint about everything. “It will be rougher still if we climb all the way up to the hanging rock. There are a lot of large rocks up there.”

“Yes, I know,” Ralph commented.

From Ralph’s tone of voice, Kevin thought he might now want to climb the small mountain, but when they reached the turn, Ralph started to speed up. “We may as well finish what we came for, not that there will be anything to see at the top,” grumbled Ralph.

“We’ll get a view of God’s beautiful world - a part of it at least.” Kevin tried to sound cheerful.

Ralph glanced back with one eyebrow lifted. “You always manage to bring God into everything, don’t you?”

“I think God belongs in everything we do. He created all things,” Kevin answered quietly and continued to climb.

The boys were about half way up when Kevin saw something on the ground in front of Ralph. It was a thick black ribbon of horror that brought a chill of fear to Kevin’s heart.

Swiftly he caught Ralph’s belt. “Don’t move,” he warned. “There’s a death adder on the path by that pile of leaves.”

Ralph blinked when he saw the snake, but he replied with a mocking voice, “So what? The snake is facing away from us. Let’s run. If it strikes, it will be the other way.”

“We’d better not,” Kevin told him. “We can’t be sure that the snake has seen us. If we move, it will. And even though its head is the other way, the death adder strikes backward. It will detect any movement we make so if we stand still, it won’t notice us. There is no way we can outrun it either, he moves as fast as lightning.”

“Oh, great!” cried Ralph in a hoarse whisper. “What do we do? Stand here all day hoping for a miracle?”

Kevin spoke softly. “I am going to pray and ask God to help us in some way.”

When Kevin had finished his prayer, he heard a strange noise from far up the mountain, but he didn't look up. He looked instead at the black snake. Louder and louder the noise grew.

"Look out!" Ralph cried out. "There's a rock rolling down the mountain! It's bouncing down over stumps and other rocks straight for the pile of leaves. Let's get out of the way!"

"No," Kevin said in a quiet, firm voice, still holding Ralph's belt with a strong grip to keep him from running. "Stand still. If the rock is going to hit where the leaves are, it will miss us. If we move, the snake may strike at us."

The next few seconds seemed like hours. Then the rock smashed into the pile of leaves and onto the adder. The boys sighed in great relief as they saw the rock roll past them and on down the hill.

Slowly Ralph turned to face Kevin. "The snake is dead! The rock smashed it." He paused, his voice quivering. "That rock! Where did it come from? Why did it come just when it did? Do you suppose it was an answer to your prayer?" Ralph looked questioningly at Kevin.

For a moment neither boy spoke. They were thinking of the rock that had rolled down the hill at the right time and in the right place.

Kevin nodded. "I think so, Ralph. I am sure God answered my prayer."

"I am glad He did," Ralph said.

Kevin nodded at Ralph in surprise. There was no mockery in Ralph's voice when he spoke this time.

"I guess God does belong in everything we do after all," Ralph added.

Kevin smiled. If it took a death adder to convince Ralph of that, he was glad that they had met it.

Sometimes it is difficult to witness and to live a Christian life with unbelieving friends and relatives, but if we pray for opportunities to witness, the Lord will bring about circumstances to make them be more open to hear His word. We just have to live for Jesus and when they are in need, they will ask for the comfort that they see we have in the Lord.

## CASTING ALL YOUR CARE

1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." The question has been asked, "What is the 'care' we are to cast on Him?" Is it the 'care' of love and affection or is it the 'care' pertaining to life's burdens?

We are told to 'cast' or as BC Vol. 7, p. 586 and BC Vol. 3 p. 763 and 764 says to 'throw' or 'place', once and for all, all your 'care' upon Him. The apostle Peter quotes from David in Psalm 55:22 "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Here David is repeating the promise to himself, and shares it with all who would learn from his experience. God does not always remove the load, but He supports those who set forth in faith. What a wonderful promise here is given if we would only do as we are asked to do.

The two words used, in 1 Peter, 'care' and in Psalms, 'burden', are, according to the Talmud, of the same meaning, that of 'to be anxious about something.' In the Greek the phrase 'all your care' is emphatic as seen in Matthew 6:25 which gives a very clear meaning to the word 'care.' "Therefore I say unto you, 'take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?'"

"He who places all his anxiety upon God completely solves the problem of 'care', which weakens so many

Christians.” 7BC p. 587.

“No class is free from the temptation to worldly care. To the poor, toil and deprivation and the fear of want bring perplexities and burdens. To the rich come fear of loss and a multitude of anxious cares. Many of Christ’s followers forget the lesson He has bidden us learn from the flowers of the field. They do not trust to His constant care. Christ cannot carry their burden, because they do not cast it upon Him. Therefore the cares of life, which should drive them to the

Saviour for help and comfort, separate them from Him.” COL 51.

*How does God care for us compared to the way He cares for the rest of creation?*

Matthew 6:25 - 31. The flowers of the field, the fowls of the air, the grass of the field are all under His control and care. He provides for them. How much more will He care for us, His ‘image.’ Hebrews 12:2 ... who for the joy (of our redemption) ... endured the cross, despising the shame and is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

*Is there anything that we can do to increase our stature?* No, nothing.

*What should we as God’s children, be seeking above all things?*

Matthew 6:31-33. ‘Therefore take no thought, saying what shall we drink? Or Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after these things do the Gentiles seek:) For your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you.’

*Are we to take ‘care’ for any other day except the day we awaken to?*

Matthew 6:34. ‘Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take care of the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.’

*What are we doing when we ignore God’s gracious invitation to cast our burdens upon Him?*

“We are in this world to form characters for eternity. God does not want His people to be under constant condemnation. He would have them learn to confide in Him. We need not be content with merely formal prayers; we may come to Jesus as to a friend, and in the most simple-hearted, definite manner tell Him all our worries, perplexities, and trials, and He will carry our burdens for us. When our minds and our lives get tangled, we may take them to One who knows just how to untangle them. But after we have asked God to do this work for us, let us rest it with Him. Here is where so many fail. They tell the Lord all their troubles, and then go on worrying just the same. They pray about their cares and sins, but do not cast off their cares nor cease to sin. Jesus invites us to cast all our cares upon him, for he cares for us; then let us leave them with Him, and receive His peace and rest into our hearts.” RH 21-10-84

“May God help us to bring the love of Jesus into our religion. We shall have help, when we feel our weakness, and when we ask God for His strength. He has invited us to come to Him with all our burdens, and to cast our care upon Him who cares for us. Will we obey this gracious invitation? Will we lay our burdens down at the feet of our compassionate Lord? Many act as though they had been to Jesus, and that He had refused to help them. In this you dishonour your Saviour. If, after you pray to the Lord concerning your anxieties, you gather up the old troubles, and go forth fretting and complaining, you do not glorify the God you profess to serve.” RH 07-08-88

*When we cast our cares on God, what can we expect in return?*

Isaiah 26:4 ‘Trust in the LORD forever for in Him is strength everlasting. He is our strength forever.’

Jeremiah 17:7,8 “Blessed [is] the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and [that] spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drougt, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.” We will have all our needs supplied.

*1 Peter 5:6-11 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time; casting all your care upon Him, for he careth for you. Be ye sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh 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. 'But the God of grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Jesus Christ, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle (you). To him (be) glory and dominion for ever and ever, amen.'" We are to do our part, give Him our very best. The LORD will do the rest He will exalt those who humble themselves.*

What does the LORD say about those who trust their cares upon man?

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

As Christians, how can the 'cares' we experience draw us closer to God?

*"Our sorrows do not spring out of the ground. In every affliction God has a purpose to work out for our good. Every blow that destroys an idol, every providence that weakens our hold upon earth and fastens our affections more firmly upon God, is a blessing.*

*The pruning may be painful for a time, but afterward it 'yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness.' We should receive with gratitude whatever will quicken the conscience, elevate the thoughts, and ennoble the life. The fruitless branches are cut off and cast into the fire. Let us be thankful that through painful pruning, we may retain a connection with the living Vine; for if we suffer with Christ, we shall also reign with Him. The very trial that taxes our faith the most severely and makes it seem as though God had forsaken us, is to lead us more clearly to Him, that we may lay all our burdens at the feet of Christ, and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange. Let no Christian feel that he is forsaken when the hour of trial comes upon him. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without your heavenly Father's notice. God loves and cares for the feeblest of His creature, and we cannot dishonour Him more than by doubting His love to us.*

*O let us cultivate that living faith that will trust Him in the hour of darkness and trial! Living faith in the merits of a crucified Redeemer will carry men through the fiery furnace of affliction and trial, and the form of the Fourth will be with them in the furnace, however fierce its heat; and they will come forth from its flame with not even the smell of fire on their garments." RH 10-04-94*

What are the tender words spoken by Christ to every human being?

*In words of tenderness Christ invites us; "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Lay all your cares upon Me, He says, I will carry them for you.*

*"In these words Christ is speaking to every human being. Whether they know it or not, all are weary and heavy laden. All are weighed down with burdens that only Christ can remove. The heaviest burden that we bear is the burden of sin. If we were left to bear this burden, it would crush us. But the sinless One has taken our place. 'The Lord hath laid upon Him the iniquity of us all.' He has borne the burden of our guilt. He will take the load from our weary shoulders. He will give us rest. The burden of our care and sorrow also He will bear. He invites us to cast our cares upon Him; for He carries us upon His heart. Not until we stand face to face with God, when we shall see as we are seen and know as we are known, shall we know how many burdens the Saviour has borne for us, and how many burdens He would have been glad to bear, had we brought them to Him." ST 16-04-02*

***Why is it that our Saviour can bear all our cares?***

*"The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face to Him as*

the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for 'He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.' 'Come unto Me,' is His invitation. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger you will become in His strength. 'In all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.'" ST 16-04-02

### ***What is the promise given to us when we cry for help?***

"Human love may change, but Christ's love knows no change. When we cry to Him for help, His hand is stretched out to save. The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.'" ST 16-04-02

The 'cares' we burden ourselves with are of this world and in disobedience to the request of the LORD to 'cast our cares' on Him, we dishonour Him.

Oh, my brother, my sister, let us be children of God, 'throw' our anxieties upon Him so that we might be accounted as 'righteous', and spend the energies we would use in taking back our cares, on seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

### **God's richest blessings, Raewyn Jones, Australia**

## LOST BUT FOUND

*"Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple..." Luke 2:46.*

Jesus was twelve years old and had gone to Jerusalem with His parents to celebrate the Feast of the Passover, as it was the custom of every Jewish family. There they had the opportunity of remembering the powerful and miraculous flight of God's people from Egypt as a symbol of deliverance from sin, and to center their attention and their hope on the Lamb of God who would die on their stead to purge them from their sins. It was a solemn moment, mostly for Jesus, since He was well aware of His mission, and treasured it in His heart.

The multitude was big and noisy. There were people who met one another every year on that special occasion and experienced big joy during this meeting. But sometimes the excitement of the event which had lost its solemnity since the courtyard of the temple had become a real market place, made people get involved in idle talk, and lose sight of the purpose of their journey.

On this occasion, after the celebration was over, all who had walked together for many days, started their way back and were busily commenting on all they had seen and done. Thus, chatting and exchanging opinions, ideas, and impressions, the trip did not seem so long.

Although Jesus was only a child, not yet an adolescent, he could not delete those images from his eyes. His mind was eagerly going through all the Scriptures where His mission was described in detail: Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, Psalm 69:20,21, Psalm 50:6. He kept away from the crowd, and even from His parents who were mixed with the other believers who were involved in cheerful conversation instead of meditating upon the time in which the type would meet the antitype and Mary's heart would be pierced like by a sword, as old Simon had prophesized. When the parents remembered their son they saw, to their amazement, that he was not there. Great was their despair to see that the precious child who had been specially entrusted to them by God, was not among them. They retraced their steps looking for Him among relatives and acquaintances, but could not find Him. It took them three days to see His lovely and gentle presence, as long as it would take His mother to meet Him again after His death. Have we maybe also lost Jesus? We have certainly many

times been asked this question from the pulpit. We have also been told that we have to retrace our steps and go to the place where we last saw Him, and that this trip may take longer than we expect. But have we been told where He is to be found? “Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple: “ There is where we may find Him today, in the presence of God’s Father, making intercession for everyone who comes to Him just as he is acknowledging his sinfulness. Is that where we last saw Him? Or maybe we haven’t yet had the experience of seeing Him as our Advocate, as our High Priest, as our personal Saviour? Are we maybe still sleeping next to the ark where the law is, like Samuel, who did not recognize the voice of the Lord calling Him because he “did not yet know the Lord? “ (1 Samuel 3:7)

Do we belong to those who did see Him in the temple, to those to whom the wounds in his hands and feet were revealed, the ones who have seen their names printed in the palms of his hands but because of vain talks, daily worries, too much socializing and exchanging points of view, too much planning, have lost sight of Him? If this is our case let us get on our knees and close our eyes and undo our way.

Let’s mentally go through all the experiences we have had with Him, let’s confess our negligence, and ask for true repentance so that we may be forgiven once and for all and our sin may be blotted out of our heart. Let us come to Him as to the High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses. “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. “ Hebrews. 4:15,16. Yes, that is where we can still find Christ, and He wants to be found by us so that he may intercede for us. He considers it an honour and He tells us what Moses said to the Pharaoh: “Accept the honour of saying when I shall intercede for you. “ (Ex. 9:9) It is our choice, we set the time, and He patiently waits for us and keeps on pouring blessings upon us that we cannot enjoy because away from Him, we are spiritually dead.

“Now, so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple... “ Mary and Joseph did not know where He was, but they wanted to find Him and went all the way back to where they had been before. We know where to find Him, in the heavenly temple, and we know that by faith we can enter the Most Holy Place and see him officiating for us, since at His death the veil that separated the two compartments was torn. He won’t be there forever, He won’t be there for long. We know that very soon, sooner than we expect, He will put on His royal garments, leave the temple and come for His bride.

So if we have lost Jesus, let’s not waste our time, let’s ascend to the temple in heaven by faith, and fall at His feet and ask Him to give us a contrite heart if we do not have it, and let us take heed to the warning in Hebrews 3:7,8 “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” Amen.

**Theresa Corti**

### ***SABBATH REFORM***

Long before the Seventh-Day Adventists learned about the seventh-day Sabbath, many of the early reformers kept it, and by voice and pen proclaimed it to others.

In the beginning of the 16th century Andreas Karlstad, the dean of the University where Martin Luther studied was slowly moving towards Luther’s position and finally in 1517 agreed with him on the justification by faith.

Martin Luther rejected the 10 Commandments as unnecessary. He believed that love will replace the law. On the other hand, Karlstad believed that the 10 Commandments are still valid and must be kept. To this Luther answered, “if you want to keep the 10 Commandments, then you must also keep Sabbath on Saturday.” This silenced Karlstad but not his followers. In Moravia the evangelicals took seriously Luther’s remarks and many started to keep the seventh-day Sabbath.

Oswald Glait, a Catholic priest, became Lutheran in the 1520's in Austria. He studied the debate between Luther and Karlstad and a few years later wrote a book about Sabbath-keeping. He believed that the moral law, the 10 Commandments are to be kept, and therefore the seventh-day Sabbath is also to be kept. His arguments for Sabbath-keeping were very clear and similar to our beliefs today.

He encountered much opposition expelled from different countries. Finally he ended up in Bohemia where he raised up Sabbatarian groups in 1532.

Fisher who was the companion of Glait and believed the Sabbath truth also went to Slovakia, which was the land of his birth. Here he suffered a martyr's death because of his beliefs. Both Catholics and Protestants rose up against the Sabbatarians and persecuted them. Martin Luther called these Sabbath-keepers a foolish group as early as 1523.

In 1538 Luther wrote a book against the Sabbatarians, calling the Sabbath part of Mosaic Ceremonial law. Another reformer Erasmus also wrote a book against them.

Many Sabbath-keepers were sentenced to death. A Lady Barbara of Thiers, in France, was executed in 1529 because she said that "God has commanded us to keep the seventh-day."

In 1592 a Swiss writer R. Haspin-ian wrote a book about the Sabbath which is part of the Moral Law and must still be kept.

In 1544 the Sabbath truth reached Scandinavia. The Sabbath-keepers had to pay a fine to the government.

In 1554, King Gustavus 1 Vasa of Sweden sent a letter to Finland, warning the people about the Sabbath doctrine. Between 1594-1632 the King of Sweden, Gustavus II invoked the death penalty against Sabbath-keepers. History tells that many readily gave their life rather than change their opinion.

The records reveal that in the sixteenth century the knowledge of the true Sabbath spread far and wide in Europe. To spread the true Sabbath, Oswald Glait left his wife and child behind and went again to Austria where he was imprisoned in 1546 and put to death by drowning in the Danube.

Also in France, Norway and Finland many Sabbath-keepers were put to death.

In England, John Frith, the friend of William Tyndale spoke about the seventh-day Sabbath in the time of Henry VIII (1491-1547). By the time when Queen Elizabeth was reigning the advocates of the true Sabbath had greatly multiplied. Many conscientious and independent thinkers came to the conclusion that the first day of the week is not the Biblical Sabbath but the seventh day should be observed.

Therefore also to the doctrines of the evangelicals and the Anabaptists in England, the doctrine of the seventh day Sabbath was added.

The Anabaptists brought the Adult baptism by immersion to England and the evangelicals who accepted it organized the Baptist church. The majority of English Baptists kept the first day of the week but many were led to return to the true Sabbath of the fourth commandment.

Brabourne wrote several books advocating the true Sabbath starting in 1628 and continued his whole lifetime. But sadly the most of English puritans rejected the seventh day Sabbath. But some of them and some of the Baptists continued to observe the true Sabbath. When the religious liberty was extended to all in England, the Sabbath-keepers finally had freedom from persecution.

Some famous people as Dr. Peter Chamberlen became Sabbath-keepers at that time. In London there were in 1650 one hundred and fifty Sabbath-keepers. In 1662 there were 3 Sabbatarian churches in London and a fourth

one was established soon after. Later Queen Elizabeth and her successor James 1 started to put pressure upon all separatists to conform to the State religion. Therefore large numbers left England and moved to Holland. But being fearful that the comfortable life in Holland may corrupt their children, they decided to move to America.

The New England states in America soon started to force the State religion upon the people. Therefore many moved to Rhode Island where there was a religious tolerance. The Sabbath-keeping Baptists also found a refuge there. In 1671 the first Sabbatarian Baptist Church was organized in America. In 1816 one of the Sabbath-keeping Baptist churches in Rhode Island had 947 members. Soon the Sabbath truth spread to New Jersey, New York and Connecticut and a little later to Pennsylvania and further west.

About three miles outside Washing ton, New Hampshire a dedicated company of believers worshipped in a little church. To this company came Sabbatarian Baptist Rachel Oakes from New York with her daughter, Delight who would be their teacher in the school in this little community.

They were received to the home of William and Cyrus Farnwerth.

In 1843 visiting minister, Frederick Wheeler, came to this community and spoke about the law of God. After the service Rachel Oakes told him that to keep the law included the Sabbath.

Frederick Wheeler accepted the Sabbath and Rachel Oakes accepted the Advent faith.

In 1844 among the believers who expected the return of the Lord were 18 Sabbath-keepers. One of them was Thomas Preble who on February 28, 1845 wrote the first article about seventh-day Sabbath. This article aroused the interest of one of Miller's closest associates, former sea captain, Joseph Bates. He also wrote a tract, the Seventh-day Sabbath, a Perpetual Zion, which was published in August 1846. In this tract he presented the Sabbath basically as the Baptist Sabbatarians had done, for three hundred years. In 1846 Joseph Bates went to visit Hiram Edson and presented the Sabbath to Him. Edson accepted the Sabbath with great joy and enthusiasm. Joseph Bates also sent his tract to James White and he showed it to Ellen Harmon whom he was about to marry. In the autumn 1846 Ellen White wrote, "we began to observe the Bible Sabbath and to teach and defend it."

But now in the year 2002 the Sabbath Reform is not yet finished. It was shown to Sister White that in the last days God's people will go out to proclaim the Sabbath more fully. The Sunday laws will be enacted and punishments meted out to the Sabbath-keepers. The fires of persecution will be kindled against the faithful Sabbath-keepers. But as the faithful messengers of God gave their lives in martyrdom for the Sabbath truth in the past 500 years; so are we to follow in their footsteps and stand for the truth even if it may cost us our life. To the faithful Sabbath-keepers the Lord has promised an eternal Sabbath rest.

Let us all join in the Sabbath Reform and carry it to the completion.  
AMEN.

**Timo Martin**

## *THE PERFECT MARRIAGE*

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready... Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” Rev. 19:7,9

This Bible verse refers to a very special occasion, an occasion that brings much joyful preparation and expectation: a marriage celebration.

The ministry of Jesus for mankind started at a wedding. His first miracle was performed at Cana where He turned water into wine to supply the needs of the hosts who had not made provision for his guests. The second one takes place in Canaan where He Himself will receive His own bride “arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, “ as we read in Rev. 19:8.

Jesus, as a man that He was, had certainly the same needs of every human being, need of attention, of affection, of understanding, but in DA, p. 89 we read: “No one upon earth had understood Him, and during His ministry He must still walk alone. Even His disciples did not understand Him... His life on earth must be spent in solitude.”

Did He mind this? Did he ever complain about His loneliness or His trials? Never. As we read in Hebrews 12:2 “who for the joy that was set before Him He endured the cross.” His eyes were not fixed on the cross he had to bear, but much further than that in time and space. His eyes were fixed on the event we read in Revelation, in the celebration of His own wedding to His undefiled bride to whom He had been betrothed since the very beginning.

His only desire upon the earth was to become one Spirit with His Father, as we read in 1st Corinthians 6:17 “But He who is joined to the Lord is one Spirit with Him.” He knew that in any earthly relationship He could just become one flesh and He knew very well the weakness of the flesh. And in the best of cases, one mind. But He knew that in order to fulfill His commission for which He had abandoned all He was and had, He needed to be one Spirit with the Father, to have the indwelling of the Spirit.

Very surely, as He was performing the miracle in Cana, His thoughts were fixed on His own wedding, when the bride He had come to buy with His own blood, would be ready to receive Him. As He saw the water turning into blood, His thoughts did not remain in the water mixed with blood that would come out of His side as He would be pierced by-a soldier, but He thought of the wine He would once again share with His redeemed ones at the celebration of His own wedding. Only thus could He rejoice with others.

This thought, this longing of the heart of any young man or woman to be joined with His chosen one for life and eternity accompanied Jesus during His whole life upon the earth. The only difference was that His longing was not centered on one person, but in the whole of humanity, and that was what triggered each and every one of His acts.

As he shared the Last Supper with His disciples in full knowledge that one of them would deny him, and another would even go further, to the point of betraying Him, He girded himself to wash their feet and didn't skip a single one of them.

That time, as He lifted the cup to thank the Father for the sacrifice He was about to perform, even though He was thinking of His blood and revealing to His disciples the great mystery, His eyes were always going beyond time and space. In Luke 22:18 He says: “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Yes, his eyes were set on the kingdom to come. The kingdom of God is about to come, first in our hearts if we have as our first longing to be one Spirit with the Father and second and ultimately as a tangible reality.

As the Lord takes the cup in the upper room where he is gathered with His disciples, He says: “Drink from it, all of you.” Matt. 26:27, and in verse 28 He adds “For this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for many

for the remission of sins.”

There was certainly pain in Jesus’ heart as He had to acknowledge that His precious blood from which He invited all to partake to be cleansed was only going to be shed for many, but once again, He didn’t remain in that thought, but immediately said, according to Matthew’s report: “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” Matt. 26:29

Yes, His eyes were always set on the goal, on the joy ahead of Him when He would be joined with His bride forever. Let us read again Rev. 19:9, “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” Do you realize you have been called to the wedding supper of the Lamb, not just as a guest but as the bride? A bride that is not going to be disappointed after the honeymoon is over, a bride that will be the center of attention of her beloved one for life and eternity.

And to have an idea of what that wedding celebration is going to be like, I will share a short paragraph of EW, page 19: “Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then I could tell a little of the glory of the better world. I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold. After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and went to the city. Soon we heard the lovely voice saying “Come, My people, you have come of great tribulation and done My will, suffered for Me, come in to supper, for I will gird Myself and serve you.” And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit.”

This is what is awaiting us in heaven. There are grapes on the table, but Jesus is not eating any, He is not even drinking its juice because He is waiting for us so that His joy may be perfect as He shares His glory with His bride.

May the Lord help us to see beyond time and space, may He enlarge our heart and put in it the same longing for our wedding to be performed as the longing in our bridegroom’s heart.

AMEN.

**Theresa Corti**

### *CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGY*

**The Science of the Mind:** or mental states and processes. The science of human nature. 2.  
The Science of human and animal behaviour.

One area of Science that has caused a lot of intrigue is the science of the mind - Psychology. It is a fairly standard University course and many students take at least one semester of Psychology. Just how does the human mind work? What makes a criminal, a criminal? What is going through his mind? What makes a person become a prostitute, or a slave to some sort of addictive habit, or then on the other hand, what makes a person become a success in life? What thought processes go through their mind? Often the ‘experts’ on this subject can predict the outcome of a person’s life by his early upbringing and hereditary tendencies. Due to the way they are acting today, this is where they will end up... However, humanly speaking, God is left out of the picture. When God is considered, all these human theories are cast out into the rubbish. They just don’t make sense. God has come to reverse the normal pattern of human behaviour and thinking in such a way that only God can. No outside influences can cause this change; it is the inner working of Someone higher than human reasoning.

If someone should pursue a course of study on Psychology, they go into much depth studying about human behaviours and then they graduate as experts in the field of Psychology. These experts sometimes become counsellors and people come to them for counsel when they are depressed or stressed out, to ask for solutions or just to simply have an ear to listen to their problems, helping them to understand them.

However intelligent these experts believe they are, they will never be able to completely understand and predict human thought processes and activities.

So they continue to study. They study one case after another. They create one study after another, never seeming to make any concrete conclusions. And this is the way God created man. You can't fit him into a box and predict the outcome of his life. Man is a complex

creature. Every man has a free will to choose which way he will go in life; whether he will follow God or whether he will follow the prince of darkness. Each person is an individual and is completely different in every way from every other person.

*Here's what Ellen G. White has to say about the study of Psychology.*

*The Christian and Psychology: Laws of the Mind Ordained by God.* —"He who created the mind and ordained its laws, provided for its development in accordance with them." Ed 41

[NOTE: THERE IS PERFECT HARMONY BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND TRUE SCIENCE. PSYCHOLOGY IS THE SCIENCE AND STUDY OF THE MIND AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR.--COMPILERS.] 1MCP10

*"True Principles of Psychology in Scriptures.—The true principles of psychology are found in the Holy Scriptures. Man knows not his own value. He acts according to his unconverted temperament of character because he does not look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of his faith. He who comes to Jesus, he who believes on Him and makes Him his Example, realizes the meaning of the words 'To them gave He power to become the sons of God.'"*

*"Those who pass through the experience of true conversion will realize, with keenness of perception, their responsibility to God to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling, their responsibility to make complete their recovery from the leprosy of sin. Such an experience will lead them humbly and trustfully to place their dependence upon God." 1MCP10*

*"Dangers in Psychology: Satan a Student of the Mind.—For thousands of years Satan has been experimenting upon the properties of the human mind, and he has learned to know it well. By his subtle workings in these last days he is linking the human mind with his own, imbuing it with his thoughts; and he is doing this work in so deceptive a manner that those who accept his guidance know not that they are being led by him at his will. The great deceiver hopes so to confuse the minds of men and women that none but his voice will be heard.*

*'Satan Master of Subtle Arts '—Satan is continually seeking to influence human minds by his subtle arts. His is a mastermind, given of God, but prostituted with all its noble capabilities to oppose and to make of no effect the counsels of the Most High.*

*'He Comes in Disguise. '—Satan's plans and devices are soliciting us on every hand. We should ever remember that he comes to us in disguise, covering his motives and the character of his temptations. He comes in garments of light, clad apparently in pure angel robes, that we may not discern that it is he. We need to use great caution, to closely investigate his devices, lest we be deceived." 1MCP 18*

*"Either God or Satan Controls. "—Satan takes control of every mind that is not decidedly under the control of the Spirit of God."TM79.*

"I have been shown that we must be guarded on every side and perseveringly resist the insinuations and devices of Satan. He has transformed himself into an angel of light and is deceiving thousands and leading them captive. The advantage he takes of the science of the human mind is tremendous. Here, serpent like, he imperceptibly creeps in to corrupt the work of God. The miracles and works of Christ he would make appear as the result of human skill and

power. If he should make an open, bold attack upon Christianity, it would bring the Christian in distress and agony to the feet of his Redeemer, and his strong and mighty Deliverer would put the bold adversary to flight. He therefore transforms himself into an angel of light and works upon the mind to allure from the only safe and right path. The sciences of phrenology, psychology, and mesmerism are the channel through which he comes more directly to this generation and works with that power which is to characterize his efforts near the close of probation.” IT 290

Satan is trying to destroy God’s church and he has the most success by coming from within the church, bringing discordant voices to cause division. To divide and conquer is one of his most successful attacks. He comes with friendship and kindness, clothed as an angel of light.

There is a right way and a wrong way of dealing with human minds. True Christian Psychology deals with how to guide a person to make the right decisions for the Lord. The wrong way can lead people away from the Lord. Worldly Psychologists try to analyse why people do specific actions. Is there something in their past that makes them what they are presently. Are there influences that can be introduced that could change the course of action? Often this leads to the idea that people are some times a product of their upbringing and there is no hope of changing their behavior. They are what they are, and they have to learn to accept it and deal positively with it; to understand and learn to cope with present circumstances.

With the Lord, there is hope of change. Sometimes it takes much wisdom on the part of the person attempting to guide the hurting soul, as to what is the right counsel to give in order to comfort and encourage them.

Satan works on human minds to try to lead people away from Christ, while we are to understand workings of the human mind as best we can in order to try to bring them back to Christ. MELT HEARTS

The message that God has for the world today is that He is love. He came to seek and save the lost. He came not “to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:17.

When giving Bible studies and sharing the faith, it takes much wisdom from the Lord as to how to present the message to different persons. This is when an understanding of the human mind is essential. Each person is different and reacts differently to different words and actions. Careful planning is necessary before each Bible study. There is no standard method and words to use, because what is successful for one person may not be for another person. The Holy Spirit is needed to direct and guide, and we are to seek wisdom in understanding the variety of human minds.

“It requires much forethought and wisdom from God to labour successfully for the salvation of sinners. If the soul of the labourer is filled with the grace of God, his teaching will not irritate his hearers, but melt its way to their hearts and open them for the reception of the truth.” 4T 263

Truth can be brought in a stern and harsh manner, and while it may be 100% truth, it will only turn hearts away from the Lord. It takes much wisdom to lead souls to Christ. Each person is different and requires different words in order to be helped. There is no set formula to leading souls. Through the help of the Holy Spirit only can we have this wisdom.

## **LACK OF COMMUNICATION**

Since every mind is different, there are times when people completely misunderstand what others are saying. This can happen to two people at any time. Communication can break down. Either communication is lacking, or it is misunderstood, which leads to honest miscommunication; Miscommunication that is not done on purpose. In this case both parties are to recognize what the problem was and that neither one was at fault. There can hopefully be a peaceful solution in such a case.

It is possible to offend someone without meaning to at all, simply from a lack of proper communication or proper methods of communication. Some people just have poor communication skills. Communication skills are not

always natural, they are sometimes learned, and we have to be willing to be taught. The wisdom of the most wise man is of no value if he is unable to effectively communicate his wisdom.

You may have all the right words and arguments, however if you present your issues in the wrong manner, your influence is lost. The lesson you are trying to bring is completely gone. Perhaps you raise your voice slightly and people perceive that you are angry, when you are really not. What is your duty in such situations? Do you confess this as a fault of your own, or do you tell the other people that the fault is their's because they took it the wrong way, and they have to learn to not be so sensitive? After all you really were not angry, it was simply a perception on *their part*. *Who is wrong - who is right?*

*One of the hardest things for a person to do is to say, 'I'm Sorry.' It is especially more difficult if we feel we are completely right, but we were misunderstood. Still the other person looks at us as an offender; even though we may feel we are not. In these situations it is even more difficult, but the Bible says, "if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Mat. 5:23,24.*

*It didn't read that if you have a problem with your brother, but if your brother has something against you. Maybe you did nothing wrong, but your brother thinks you did - he is offended by something you did. Go find out what it was and make it right.*

*To avoid saying these two words many people have created all kinds of fancy excuses as to why they did a certain act, or said certain words. It began with Eve blaming God for making the serpent. How ridiculous does that appear to us now? However I am sure we have all shared this kind of guilt at one time or another in our lives.*

*It is also possible to say 'I'm Sorry,' and not really mean it. We do it to appease the anger of the other person. God judges motives and He knows who is sincere.*

*Getting back to the original question in this section as to who is at fault when one erroneously perceives some wrong attitude in a person due to a lack of communication. Who is at fault? We could say that both are. It is wrong to feel offended, but it is equally wrong to bring an appearance of an offence. I believe that the counsel to "avoid the appearance of evil," goes much further than what we normally think - being that of two people of the opposite sex being in a situation that could be perceived to be something more sinful than it really is. This counsel could also cover many areas of life where appearances look as though we are sinning, when we really are not, whether in actions or in words.*

*While it is not necessary to go to school and take a course on Psychology, the true principles of Psychology we are to be aware of, praying for wisdom from the Holy Spirit to understand others and respect all people with their different frame of mind, working together for the common cause of spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth.*

### **GOING THE EXTRA MILE:**

#### **(an example)**

*In those instances when we feel we have done nothing wrong, but a brother is offended, we are still to go and try to make matters right with our brother. Here is an example from the days of Sister White of a brother who did just this.*

*"Years ago, when the company of believers in the soon coming of Christ was very small, the Sabbathkeepers at Topsham, Maine, met for worship in the large kitchen in the home of Brother Stockbridge Howland. One Sabbath morning Brother Howland was absent. We were surprised at this, because he was always so punctual. Soon he came in, his face aglow, shining with the glory of God. "Brethren," he said, "I have found it. I have found that we can pursue a course of action regarding which the guarantee of God's word is: 'Ye shall never fall.' I am going to tell you about it."*

*"He then told us that he had noticed that one brother, a poor fisherman, had been feeling that he was not as highly respected as he ought to be and that Brother Howland and others thought themselves above him. This was not true, but it seemed true to him; and for several weeks he had not attended the meetings. So Brother Howland went to his house and knelt before him, saying: "My brother, forgive me. What is it that I have done?" The man took him by the arm and tried to raise him to his feet. "No," said Brother Howland, "what have you against me?" "I have nothing against you." "But you must have," said Brother Howland, "because once we could speak to one another; but now you*

*do not speak to me at all, and I want to know what is the matter.”*

*“Get up, Brother Howland,” he said. “No,” said Brother Howland, “I will not.” “Then I must get down,” he said, and he fell on his knees, and confessed how childish he had been and how many evil surmisings he had cherished. “And now,” he said, “I will put them all away.”*

*“As Brother Howland told this story, his face shone with the glory of the Lord. Just as he had finished, the fisherman and his family came in, and we had an excellent meeting.*

*“Suppose that some of us should follow the course pursued by Brother Howland. If when our brethren surmise evil, we would go to them, saying, “Forgive me if I have done anything to harm you,” we might break the spell of Satan and set our brethren free from their temptations.*

*“Do not let anything interpose between you and your brethren. If there is anything that you can do by sacrifice to clear away the rubbish of suspicion, do it. God wants us to love one another as brethren. He wants us to be pitiful and courteous. He wants us to educate ourselves to believe that our brethren love us, and to believe that Christ loves us. Love begets love.” 9T, 191-193*

### **MISPLACED GUILT:**

*Misplaced guilt is guilt that is felt or not felt at the wrong times. It all comes from the mind. Satan is manipulating people's minds. He is a master in the science of Psychology - he has perverted the proper use of psychology and has been successfully leading souls to perdition for 6000 years.*

*Feeling guilty when you really should not.*

*“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.” 1 John 3:20.*

There are some people who are naturally pleasant, positive and regularly thinking of others and their needs. For others this is a character trait that needs to be worked on a little bit more.

Those who try to please everyone are in danger of being manipulated. They are afraid of offending or hurting anyone so when someone places guilt on them, they respond through that guilt and sometimes do things they would not normally want to do, or feel is correct to do.

There are times when people are aware of a certain person who is sensitive to guilt and they will purposely lay guilt on them in order to manipulate them to their way of thinking.

In family situations, when one spouse is converted and the other is not there is danger that the unconverted spouse makes the converted one feel guilty for dividing the family. Whether they come from the world or from another church, the unconverted spouse sees that there is too much of a change in lifestyle of the converted spouse and so they try to make the converted one feel guilty for disrupting the peace in the family with these strange religious beliefs and practices. Sometimes this guilt works and the converted one backslides, capitulating to the pressure put on by the unconverted - trying to preserve family unity. Also with parents and children. It has happened that teenage children see the truth and want to follow it, but unconverted parents restrict them, telling them they are guilty of disobedience to their parents if they follow the truth. While it is correct to obey parents, it is better to follow the Lord.

This is misplaced guilt and it happens all the time. Satan loves to make sensitive souls feel guilty for betraying and neglecting someone by following in the way of the Lord. Many have fallen into this trap and departed from the Lord.

It is often the case that some try to please others because they want to ‘look good’. They don’t want people angry with them. This often leads them to condone others in wrong because they don’t want them to be offended. Satan has much success with people who follow their emotions rather than following principles. Emotions are fickle and will betray us. It is impossible to please everyone so sometimes we have to tactfully let people know

that we can't condone them in their wrong, nor should we allow them to guilt manipulate us into wrong action. They may get upset, but if we do it in love, through the help of the Holy Spirit, there is a chance that their hearts will melt under the influence of the love of God also. Here again Christian Psychology is needed. An understanding of the human mind and how to deal with this misplaced guilt. This knowledge comes from the Holy Spirit.

#### *White Lies*

This leads us to what is called, 'white lies'. People tell these kinds of lies so as not to offend someone. If someone dresses in sloppy clothing and is dirty and smelly, if we tell them they look great today - we are lying. Oh, but we didn't want to hurt their feelings. Is it ever ok to tell these kinds of lies? Or maybe we go out with some friends and another friend asks to also come along. Well we decide that we don't want this extra friend just today, but we do still want to maintain their friendship so a lie is created so as to not hurt this individual. A lie that perhaps there is not enough room in the car or some other excuse. Here again we see some sort of manipulation of someone's mind. The facts are not correctly stated in a manner to innocently deceive someone to avoid hurting them. The truth has nothing to fear and we should never fear to tell the truth.

A lie is a lie and it is the breaking of the 9th commandment. All lies are black. There is no such thing as a white lie.

#### *Not feeling guilty when you should.*

It is dangerous to have the wrong kind of guilt. Either feeling guilty when we should not - being manipulated, or then not feeling guilty when we should for things like watching too much TV or neglecting to pay tithes, eating wrong foods, wrong reading materials. We are in danger of taking sin too lightly thinking that God will overlook minor sins—He doesn't.

***Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful.”  
5T53.***

“Even one wrong trait of character, one sinful desire cherished, will eventually neutralize all the power of the gospel. The prevalence of a sinful desire shows the delusion of the soul. Every indulgence of that desire strengthens the soul's aversion to God. The pains of duty and the pleasures of sin are the cords with which Satan binds men in his snares.”5T 53.

If you read the chapter entitled, “Geth-semene” in the book Desire of Ages, you will understand a little better the terribleness of sin, every sin, even the smallest sin. No sin can be indulged in with safety. All of it leads to death.

#### *So what is true Christian Psychology?*

It is the science of leading souls from a variety of different backgrounds to the safety of the fold of Christ. It takes much wisdom and understanding, as each person is different and has different needs. As new souls come into the faith they come from a variety of backgrounds and have recently left the ways of the world. They may still possess a few rough edges that we may be offended by, however by understanding them, respecting them and helping them, we can help them to smooth the rough edges.

True Psychology also includes effective communication with fellow believers within the church, making matters right when miscommunication has occurred. One of the signs of God's church today is the unity in the church. We all come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, however we can worship in unity. We don't need to divide the cultures as other organizations do into different language and culture groups. We see so many Chinese churches, Korean churches, Spanish churches, etc. In God's church we can worship together. May God help us to help our fellow Christians on the way of Salvation, regardless of their past - we are all going forward to salvation.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1.

AMEN **Wendy Eaton**

## **“TRANSFORMED... by the Spirit of the Lord”**

**2 Cor. 3:18**

“Jesus is the sin-bearer. He takes away our sins and makes us partakers of His holiness. O what tender, pitying love dwells in the heart of Christ toward the purchase of His blood! He is able to save unto the uttermost all who come unto God by Him. There is power in these precious promises, and we should co-operate with the working of Christ, devoting all our God-given talents to the service of the Master, that the Holy Spirit may work through us to the glory and honor of Christ.” Youth Instructor Oct. 31, 1895.

“Turn your eyes away from the imperfections of the others, and fix them firmly to Christ. Study His life and character with contrite heart. You do not need to be only lightened but also made alive that you could see the banquet that is set before you that you may eat and drink the blood of the Son of God, which is His word. Enjoying the good Word of life, nourishing with the Bread of life, you can see the power of the coming world and be new creatures in Christ Jesus.” Letter 74, 1897.

### **THE INVITATION IS:**

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat: yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfi-eth not? Harken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.” Isa. 55:1-2.

“He that drink the water of life that Jesus has given will have in himself a fountain of living water springing up into everlasting life. Even that he may be separated from all made wells he will be nourished by hidden fountain.

He will be a continuous fountain, being in close communication, with the ever running fountain of life.” Letter 70, 1897.

“Love for a lost world was manifested every day, in every act of his life. Those who are imbued by his Spirit will work in the same lines as those in which Christ worked. In Christ the light and love of God were manifested in human nature. No human being has ever possessed so sensitive a nature as did the sinless, holy One of God, who stood as head and representative of what humanity may become through the imparting of the divine nature. To those who believe in Christ as their personal Saviour, He imputes His merit and imparts his power. To those who come to Him with their burden of grief, disappointments, and trials, He will give rest and peace. It is through the grace of Christ that the soul sees his need of repentance toward God because of the transgression of His law, and is led to look to Christ by faith, realizing that His merit is efficacious to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him...” Youth Instructor Aug. 16, 1894.

“God will pour out the power of the Holy Spirit upon all who want to cooperate with Him in the work of cultivating the abilities and talents, that they may be on the vantage ground.” Letter 199, 1899.

### **JESUS SAID:**

“And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.” (John 17:19) “Your word is .truth; therefore we need to familiarize ourselves with the word of God, to study it and to practice it in life... We deny Jesus as one who takes away the sins of the world, if after we have accepted the truth, we do *not reveal to the world the sanctifying effects of the truth in our characters.*” Letter 199, 1899.

*“The prince of the world cometh, and have nothing in Me.” (John 17:19) Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father’s commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.” Rev. Her. March 14, 1912.*

*“I am the vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:*

*for without Me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5.*

*“Marvelous opportunities are opened before the human instrument, that he can understand the unsearchable riches of God’s wisdom. In this work that nothing less than divine power can accomplish, yet nothing can be perfected without the co-operation of the human instrument. Then the divine and human are combined, as in the life of the Son of God.” Manuscript 35, Jan. 8, 1893.*

*“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It is power when it is practiced. Its transforming effect is internal. It begins in the heart and works toward outside. With the heart man believes for righteousness and with the mouth he confesses for the salvation.”*

*“We must hide in Christ, trust in His love, and day after day believe that He loves us with an infinite love. Do not let anything discourage and sadden you. Think about the goodness of God. Remember His favors and blessings.”*

*“The Holy Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of the heavenly King. Have good courage, because Jesus is our Friend and personal Saviour. He loves us, and if He watches a small sparrow, how much more love and care will He show for us.”*

*“By beholding we are changed to His likeness. Not one thought of doubt must enter into our religious experience. The Lord be our extremely great power and reward.” Letter 20, Jan. 16, 1898.*

*“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” John 10:28. Jesus appreciates the efforts of all tempted and tired souls. Please, accept these precious words of invitation by Jesus. All who try to reach the crown of life will find that the forces of Satan will be unfurled against them, but they must remember that they are “kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:5) We live in the time of the end, and Satan is working with power and skill through subtle temptations in order to overcome those who believe in Jesus. But we must be guarded by the power of God so that in the temptation we give glory to God, who is capable to keep the believing soul so that he will not be overcome by the cunning enemy.... Jesus sees the soul that is tempted and imparts grace and comfort which will soothe the broken and contrite heart, and who is of a humble spirit.” Letter 32, Jan 28, 1894.*

*“One who is of a humble spirit, one who is pure and more like a child, will be reinforced for the battle with the power through the medium of the Holy Spirit of God in the inner man. Who sees his weakness and fights with God as did Jacob, and cries like this servant long ago ‘I will not let thee go, except thou bless me,’ he will go forward with the renewed action of the Holy Spirit. The atmosphere of heaven will surround him. He goes about doing good. His influence will be positive in the favor of the religion of Christ.” Letter 73, Feb. 1, 1905.*

*May the Lord help us to understand His word and to trust in His promises.*

*AMEN*

*Guillermo Gamallo*

## “ONE THING”

Luke 10:33,39-42

“...Now it came to pass, as they went, that Jesus Christ and His disciples entered into a certain village, and a certain woman named Martha received them into her house.”

Here is a certain village. John (12:1) says that the village was Bethany, nestled on the eastern slope of Olivet about one and five-eighths miles from Jerusalem, on the road that led to Jericho and Trans-Jordan. Jesus must have visited there frequently as He traveled between Galilee and Jerusalem.

Not only a “certain village” but a “certain woman”! Certain can mean without doubt, reliable, separate, determined, a definite place and a definite woman... not just any woman or any village. Martha was determined, reliable, controlled, steady, and positive... a woman of service... serving always. Martha was the woman of the house, the elder sister of Mary and Lazarus, all being special friends of Jesus. Martha, however, took the responsibility of the household.

God’s work needs the characteristics of Martha... a woman of service. But, like Martha many are always busy daily, hourly; no time to meditate on the word of God; not only reading but meditating... a quiet hour to commune with the Lord. They rush into the streets, always rushing. Why so fast? What is the hurry?

The spirit of prophecy teaches us many lessons. Mary, the contemplative type, took the time to listen with respect and feed on the words of Jesus. Martha was diligently working, busy serving at the table. Martha tends to be outspoken, compared to Mary’s quiet devotion to Jesus. The Greek word “ekouen” means that Mary was continually listening to the Master, or that it was her custom to do so. “Martha was cumbered about much serving.” (v40). The Greek word “per-iespato” means to be pulled away or to be pulled apart, hence “distracted”, “overburdened”. The Lord cannot just look upon Mary as doing nothing. Martha, frustrated, said, “I’m doing all the work”! Jesus was tired, after a long trip, hungry. Here we have a marvelous lesson for us. Jesus’ attention to small things is even greater proof of His greatness. (Heav. P. 61). Listen to Him speaking to Martha as she comes to Him with the request that He bid (ask) her sister to help her with serving. He tells her not to allow the cares of the household to disturb the peace of her soul. Jesus’ affectionate rebuke was evoked by Martha’s failure to recognize the primary importance of His teaching. Her busy activity was not out of place, but out of proportion!

“Martha, Martha”, He says... On several occasions Jesus repeated a name when He wanted to make some unusually impressive statement (Acts 9:4) (Lk 22:31). Jesus continued, “thou art careful and troubled about many things, but ‘ONE THING’ is needed (needful), and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” (Lk 10:41,42). Do you pay attention to the small things in life? Do you take the time to see the needs, the small things in life that matter... the “ONETHING”... you may overlook? Furthermore, Jesus said, “Mary is right, listen to Me.”

Jesus did not condemn Martha’s work, but her excessive attention to material things, robbed her of the benefit of receiving the Lord’s instruction, and disturbed her peace of mind! But, Jesus Christ complimented her sense of values. She realized there were higher values than physical comforts. Having found them, she was allowed to keep them... precious values.

Is the “ONE THING” you see in Martha missing? Is the “ONE THING” missing in your life? Many are listening to the words of Jesus Christ, like a father, for example, teaching things to his son. If a father explains patiently things of interest to his son, how much more are we to listen to the words of Jesus Christ?!

We hear and read such great teachings from the lips of Jesus Christ. It’s good to put them into practice, to learn of eternal things, eternal life, than other things of this world which have no values, perishable, only passing.

Martha needed serenity, peace, devotion in her heart, her life. But food, comfort and service took up her time... no time to study the word of God, to pray, meditate. No time!! How often we hear that cry. No time!!

Charles Buxton, an English author (1823-1871), wrote, "You will never 'find' time for anything. If you want time you must make it." Here's a wise message for us today.

The troubled world today is on the same disaster course... No time! A world in which man's god is technology. A world in which the computer companies are competing in a cold-war race, and man is the prey!

Desire, strive, seek for the eternal life, today, a future of great progress... certain progress and success... spiritually! This is the good news of this time... the words of Jesus Christ... "The thing that thou doest is not good." (Ex 18:17).

God needs hard workers, now more than ever! But, first, we must sit at the feet of Jesus, like Magdale-ine. We need to study and learn the life of Jesus first. Then share it with others, to be alert, awake, to His teachings, and the times of Jesus... a thorough finisher of life.

We don't take time even to admire flowers. We should study the creation, meditating on the creation of the Sabbath, the solar system, the sun, the distant moon, stars, the entering of the first day when the Lord spoke and there was light, separating day from night.

Every time you read the Bible, feel like Mary did with Jesus, and meditate, listen. When we pray, God helps us. When we open the Bible we're listening to the voice of Jesus as Mary listened so intently. Did you ever realize that?

Time does not wait for us! Time is late! In the wink of an eye a house can be destroyed, lost! A life can be snuffed out in a second! Sickness can afflict our lives forever! Yet, man waits, and waits, and says, "you have asked a hard thing!" (2 Kings 2:10).

Pray now that you do not waste any more time; not one minute. It's later than you think! Use your time... His time wisely, by reading the word of God, listening to His voice, the voice of the Creator, letting His handiwork in your life. Yet, money and time and labour are devoted to the class who are "ever learning, yet never able to come to the experimental knowledge of the truth". (2T 13:7). Why? Because they will not practice... live the truth in their daily lives.

There are Marthas in every church. They are intensely busy in religious activities, and they do much good (God bless them); but, we need also Mary's side of character. "The most zealous workers need to learn at the feet of Jesus." (TM346).

Here's the story of Mary vs Martha. It shows the first order of importance of spiritual worship over service. Service, if it doesn't degenerate into mere fleshly business, spoiled by vexations and tensions, illustrated by Martha. Service must be grounded in true spiritual worship of Christ, illustrated by Mary, who not only served but sat at the feet of Jesus, the "ONE THING" needed!

May the Lord help us to sit at the feet of Jesus, to meditate, learn, live the teachings of Jesus Christ in practice; to be, then a blessing for self, family, church, and others.

"Let us, therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded; and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, as to that which we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." (Phil. 3:15, 16).

This is the "ONE THING" needed. AMEN.

**John Theodorou USA/Greece**

## When The Lord Spoke Through The Thunder

Little did Br. Lance know what else the Lord had in store for that hay shed when he began building it on the hillside of his Toodyay property.

Before we get to the hay shed though, we'll begin with our anticipation of Br. Jerry's visit. Since his first visit to the West there have been folk ready and waiting to be baptised whenever he comes. Consequently a visit from Br. Jerry is becoming synonymous with baptisms. No wonder we look forward to his coming.

Who will it be this time?

After his safe arrival on the 17th of October the first get-together was on Friday evening when the youth gathered together for their regular meeting. They all eagerly shared their witnessing experiences and their encounters with the Lord since they saw Jerry last. This was a precious time of praise, prayer and study.

Sabbath was a very joyful day and a great blessing was received from the study of the lesson and sermon. Our company numbered 39 for the Divine service. The afternoon meeting was also attended with power through a Bible study and personal testimony of one of our youth. A beautiful walk to the rapids capped off a very blessed Sabbath.

A decision was made to have a special retreat for the second weekend of Br. Jerry's visit. This caused Br. Lance to rally quickly to complete the shed. Br. Lance, Sis. Brenda and others worked very hard in preparing the shed with chairs, digital piano, hay, flowers and backdrops to create a delightful place of worship in nature. Without the side walls on the shed we were able to look out onto the green paddocks and blue sky and feel the breeze gently wafting along.

On Sabbath the 26th of October we all made our way to the hay shed where Br. Roy led out in the preliminaries, Br. Jerry delivering the review and lesson and Br. John the message for the day entitled "Your Encounter with the Rock". The Spirit of God strove mightily upon us through these messages.

This was a very special weekend for three precious young people, Ariadne, Kerensa Grigson and Paul Godfrey. They planned to make a public stand for Christ on Sunday the 27th of October. These young people had studied the Word of God deeply and their decision to leave the world and all its practices and associations was not lightly made. It has been through much prayer, study and tears that the Lord has had final victory in their lives and their personal testimonies testified to this struggle and their desire to continue the battle of Faith in the name of Jesus.

We were all hoping for a bright blue sunny sky for Sunday. Although the Sabbath was very hot and dry, Sunday dawned cloudy and cool with the threat of rain. Still this did not dampen our joy and enthusiasm in the Lord.

It was a blessing to have twelve visitors who came especially to witness Kerensa, Ariadne and Paul's public statement for Christ.

After Br. John's opening address that pointed us to the Word of God as our only foundation of Truth, Br. Jerry went through the statement of beliefs with the candidates. We then made our way down to the river's edge. By this time dark foreboding clouds had gathered together and a gentle spatter of rain began to fall (symbolic of the latter rain). Quite providentially, Sis. Dawn had a supply of umbrellas that she passed out while we were making our way down to the river.

Just before the first candidate entered the water there was a great peel of thunder. One by one the candidates went down into the water and symbolically showed that the prince of this world was cast out and Jesus Christ was being lifted up. After they came up out of the water the sprinkling of rain ceased and there was no more thunder. Kerensa's father, a Sunday keeper, was very impressed at how Biblical the whole scene was and many indicated that the thunder was the voice of God's approbation upon these young people.

In truth this was a reality and not just our own desired interpretation. The Lord confirmed it twice the next day

through His Word, to a sister, that it was indeed His voice of approbation because she wondered to herself if it really was the Lord speaking or just a coincidence.

We had hoped for sunshine and blue sky but the Lord outdid our expectations far more than we could ask or imagine. He came to us personally in the rain and the thunder. Praise His Holy Name.

After the candidates dried and changed we came together again to welcome them into fellowship and hear their testimonies. Many tears were shed and much praise ascended to the Lord that afternoon.

The service was followed by a delicious lunch and in the afternoon just before the communion service two recently baptised members, Camron and Michelle, brought their two little girls, Christal, 4 years old and Elizabeth just over a month old to the Lord. Br. Jerry knelt with them and prayed a prayer of dedication to the Lord for the little girls and for both Camron and Michelle as parents. How the angels and all of heaven rejoiced with us over that scene of commitment to the Lord *The communion was a sweet experience as we sought forgiveness one with another and washed one another's feet and of course a very new experience for our newly baptised members as we ate from the one bread and drank from the one cup.*

*The weekend closed on a very high note with a testimony time. Many praises to God were expressed and tears flowed as we sensed the preciousness of the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit in the midst of our fellowship.*

*Praise be to our Father in heaven for a wonderful weekend.*

*AMEN.*

**Chris Godfrey**

**Perth, Western Australia**

## ***ANTAGONISTIC PRINCIPLES***

*The controversy between the Christians and the Romans was not a dispute between individuals, nor a contention between sects or parties. It was a contest between antagonistic principles. It was, therefore, a contest between Christianity and Rome, rather than between Christians and Romans. On the part of Christianity it was the proclamation of the principle of genuine liberty; on the part of Rome it was the assertion of the principle of genuine despotism. On the part of Christianity it was the assertion of the principle of the rights of conscience and of the individual; on the part of Rome it was the assertion of the principle of the absolute absorption of the individual, and his total enslavement to the state in all things, divine as well as human, religious as well as civil.*

*Jesus Christ came into this world to set men free, and to plant in their souls the genuine principle of liberty,—liberty actuated by love, liberty too honourable to allow itself to be used as an occasion to the flesh or for a cloak of maliciousness, liberty led by a conscience enlightened by the Spirit of God, liberty in which man may be free from all men, yet made so gentle by love that he would willingly become the servant of all, in order to bring to them the enjoyment of this same liberty. This is freedom indeed. This is the freedom which Christ gave to man; for “whom the Son makes free, is free indeed.”*

*In giving to men this freedom, such an infinite gift could have no other result than that which Christ intended; namely, to bind them in everlasting, unquestioning, unswerving allegiance to Him as the royal Benefactor of the race. He thus reveals Himself to men as the highest good, and brings them to Himself as the manifestation of that highest good, and to obedience to His will as the perfection of conduct*

*(Taken from a pamphlet entitled *Opposing Principles, The Cause of Persecution* by A.T.Jones. This is published in small form from a book entitled “*Great Empires of Prophecy*” by A.T.Jones.)*

*‘The thing that hath been, is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no*

*new thing under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 1:9*

What are you telling us, Lord

*“I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth...In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them... Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O Lord art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting. O Lord, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, and hardened our heart from thy fear? Return for thy servant’s sake, the tribes of thine inheritance. The people of thy holiness have possessed it but a little while: our adversaries have trodden down thy sanctuary. We are thine: thou never barest rule over them; they were not called by thy name. Is. 63.3-6,9,10 and 16-19*

What is God saying to us in this chapter? Why did the professed people of God crucify the Lord Jesus? Because their profession didn’t match their confession. They merely professed their religion outwardly in a political way while their confession of what they were living lagged far behind what they should have been.

Does it sound familiar? That is us, Brothers and Sisters. We all have hypocritical elements about ourselves that if not submitted to Christ will prove our ruin. We would end up crucifying Christ just like they did, wouldn’t we? But we have a second chance through recognizing the cross of Calvary in our lives. We can listen to what God is telling us today so we can have the insight and strength to overcome sin tomorrow.

But let’s not neglect the present moment because that is all that we have in this life.

*“Many shall be purified and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” Daniel 12:10.*

You see, God’s people have always had to be an attuned and ready people. We must listen to His voice everyday to avoid falling and doing what the Israelites did in rejecting the very means of our salvation.

We should really ask this question each and every day, shouldn’t we? What are you telling us, especially in times of distress or loss?

Here in Isaiah 63 there is a beautiful prophecy of Christ’s first coming and a foreshadowing of His Second Coming. Do you notice the response of His professed people in this passage? Are they thankful? Or obedient?

No, how about the state of decency and morality in professed Christian countries like America, Canada and Australia? I was reading an editorial in the newspaper the other day that asked the question: “What is the response of the churches to the bombings in Bali?” This editorial encouraged a political response to the bombings and attacks and named the churches as a likely place to stir up that spirit of vengeance. Let me ask you: can we safely take vengeance into our own hands? Let’s focus on vs. 16 - do you notice whom this verse is talking about? There were two sons of Abraham, but here Abraham is said not to know the true people of God - why? Neither Ishmael nor Isaac went on to be the people of God for they are only a spiritual people today, and not according to the flesh. Jesus said to the Jews of His time that if they were truly the sons of Abraham then they would do the works of Abraham. In Galatians 3:26-29 it is said that if we are Christ’s then we are inheritors of all the promises made to Abraham. As soon as we are born as His children, then there is born in our hearts the desire to see others share in this same

joy-

This is our message today - Jesus is coming back, but this time He has on the garments of vengeance.

When Jesus first came He was clothed with humility in His humanity. But now, the days of wrath are beginning when the only covert we will find from the tempest is in and through Him.

I was recently visiting with some brethren whose unconverted families are very close to them. And these family members were talking about how it was very unfair for Australia to be punished because of America's proposed war with Iraq. Their assumption was that the bombing in Bali was because of Australia's backing of George Bush to fight against Iraq.

Is this wise? Is it even right?

*I mean, we can't say for sure who has done this horrible deed yet many are already judging the motives of those who did it to try and avoid further danger for themselves and their families. First and foremost: what should be our response to this horrible deed? Fear? Desire for revenge? Or to pray for the Lord to comfort with His love and presence those who have lost their friends or family members in this attack?*

*And that the survivors may be led not to revenge themselves in their bitterness but to find forgiveness and freedom through Christ.*

*Let's ask the question here: Should we really be focused on political solutions or concepts to avoid danger for ourselves or our families? What is the only thing that God's people have to fear? "Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." Matt. 10: 26-31*

*Has God ever used the unrighteous in the Bible to punish His professed people?*

*Oh yes, many times. We think of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans and many others. While I was reading the news the other day after the attacks in Bali, I noticed that the article said that these 4 new attacks around the world had come a year, a month and a day after the attacks in America last year.*

*Did you notice that?*

*Did you also know that the Bible talks about a time prophecy of a year, a month, a day and it adds an hour? And it also has to do with the power of the Muslims? "And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men." Rev. 9:15*

*Josiah Litch, one of the leading Adventist expositors of prophecy made an incredible prediction in the year 1838 that sometime in the month of August, 1840 the Ottoman Empire would lose its power. Of course, the news reporters of the time scoffed at that idea that one of the leading Empires of the time could come to its end. "No," an impossibility," they said. And then, a few days before August 11th of 1840, Josiah Litch said that he thought they would come to the end of their power on that very day - the 11th of August, to make the prophecy true. You see, the early Adventist people were just confirming what God's church had always proclaimed, that a day in Bible prophecy equals a year in our actual, calendar time, and that we can trace definitely the past fulfillment's of Bible prophecy through history.*

*Revelation 9 had been referred to from quite ancient times by Bible expositors as pertaining to the Muslim, or Saracen warriors of the Ottoman Empire. It's quite descriptive about the power of the Saracen hordes and how they fought so effectively from horseback. Especially during the Protestant Reformation they were used of the Lord to keep the Catholic armies busy. The armies of Emperor Charles were so busy fighting the Saracens that they couldn't fight against the Reformers.*

*Maybe we could mention a parallel of some kind in our time for God's people have the world to warn today before the national Sunday law comes into effect. Today is our opportunity to overcome the armies of Satan and sin and to show how they work on you and I. We know that the very work that the church has failed to do in the time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in the most forbidding circumstances.*

*So if the world's attention is on the extremist Muslims as the enemy right now, then they won't be looking at God's people as the enemy. Is that what you are telling us, Lord?*

*To get ready, get ready, get ready? To warn everyone we can that Jesus is coming soon?*

“But as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be at the coming of Christ. As men resist the Spirit of God, His Spirit will be less and less manifested in the Earth. It will be a fearful time when the angels fold their wings and cease their watchcare over those who have resisted the Spirit of God. It will then be too late for wrongs to be righted. There will be no more prayers to prevail in behalf of the rejecters of light. The cities around us are filled with wickedness, and after the message of warning has been given to them no more words of peace will be given. Christ is coming, and God will laugh when their fear cometh. But while probation continues, Christ is ever willing to help us to resist evil. But oh, the iniquity that is in the world! It is high time we put on the whole armor, lest we drift down the current and be swallowed up with the besom of destruction. A record is kept of how we treat the Spirit of God. Our characters are recorded in the books of heaven, as are our faces on photo-plates here. So our character photos are in heaven, and by these records we shall be judged. May God help each one of us to do his whole duty and get ready for what is before us, is my prayer.” (“The Ladder to Heaven,” Sermon at Nimes, France, Oct. 20, 1886)

*This parallel about the day, month and year would only be an interesting footnote to history if it wasn't for this: Do you think the Muslims, or whoever did this have insight about prophecy so they knew what they were doing bringing these attacks? No, of course not, they don't even believe in the Bible, if they did, they wouldn't have done these attacks in the first place. So why did God allow them to come now? To emphasize the role that you and I have to play in bringing out Bible prophecy. So that the people can listen to God's voice and understand what He is saying in all of this! It's only those who have the foundation of this message right and build upon it in their own confession that will be able to see and understand.*

Yes, the threat of terrorist violence is coming closer to us here in Australia, but isn't that something that God's people in ancient times took for granted?

I mean, in the time of Jesus there was constant threat from wild beasts or robbers, the occupying army of Rome, or even your own countrymen, especially if you happened to be a Christian. It is getting to the time that we must stand for the faith courageously, no matter what dangers present themselves. *“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” Daniel 11:32*

And who must we warn, other than the professing people of God, other Christians? But the vast majority of them are given to idolatry like drunkenness and sensuality just like those young people in Bali. Here is a testimony that can show us what God was saying to His people in the time of Sister White in relation to their duty: *“The barren fields in America have been presented to me. In every city in Michigan there should be a monument erected for God. You have been long in the truth. Had you carried the work forward in the lines in which God intended you to, had you done medical missionary work, trying to heal soul and body, you would have seen hundreds and thousands coming into the truth. But this will not be seen while you crowd into Battle Creek, leaving unworked the places which should have the truth. The Lord has said to his people, ‘Get out of Battle Creek.*

*Work for souls ready to perish,’ and they should get out of Battle Creek. Go to places where the people have not heard the truth, and live before them the gospel of Jesus Christ. Do among them practical missionary work. Thus many souls will be brought to a knowledge of the truth. “The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials” pg. 1750*

Isn't it a solemn thought that some of the very ones that we warn today, may not live to see tomorrow? But that is the very work to which we committed ourselves in this message. And we are not to say: “Stay thy hand, O Lord, for when His judgments are in the land, then it is that the inhabitants of the world will wake to righteousness.

Does anyone upon the face of the earth have this insight into the future and how to prepare for Christ's Second Coming? No, only God's people do. It's no longer the physical sons of Abraham, nor even those who profess to be His children, but those who show with their lives that they are His children.

Isn't it about time that we learn to be more effective missionaries? And what must we include in our presentation of the message if we would be effective missionaries in this time of getting ready for our Lord's return?

Not in vengeance, but in prayer and work for the lost can we find and give healing. Think of all those who are not listening to the Lord Jesus, nor trusting Him, they cannot be happy nor fulfilled without Him, they need the truth. May the Lord help us to hear what He is saying to us today. If we hold on to any sin that will effectually block His voice out of our ears, and we won't be able to hear. But as we strive to be the most blessing to those around us, we will overcome the world, flesh and devil. This is what He is telling us today, isn't it? That the only thing that we have to fear is that we will forget the way that the Lord has led us in the past and our teaching in our past history. Once the extremist Muslims are neutralized then you and I that are faithful to this message will be perceived as the enemy. May the Lord grant us grace to listen to His voice today, that we can prove faithful tomorrow. Amen.

**Jerry Eaton**