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The Reformation Messenger



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The Reformation *Messenger*

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WE BELIEVE:

The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Owner and Sustainer.

He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.

The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness.

The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine, the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.

His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.

Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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A close-up photograph of autumn leaves on a branch, with some leaves showing signs of being eaten by insects. The leaves are in shades of yellow, orange, and brown, set against a warm, golden-brown background.

Count Your Blessings

By Ellen G. White

"The year... is fast passing into eternity, and what record have the angels made of it? Have you, dear readers of the Instructor, kept in your diary a faithful account of your neglect of duties? Have you made a record of your mistakes and errors? Have you recorded the victories gained over the inclination to gratify self? You may have traced your disappointments and trials; you may have been convicted of your impatience and fretfulness; you may, too, have recorded your successes in resisting temptation, in conquering some habits and practises that were deforming your character; but there are blank pages that ought to have been filled in counting up the favors and blessings you have received, and in returning the thanks that are due to your Heavenly Father. You have no time to stop and enumerate your difficulties. Jesus Christ is your attendant through every rough passage; therefore devote your mind and your time to reckoning up your mercies.

"Have you looked upon God's created works as prepared by His hand to minister to the happiness of man? Out of His own fulness, God has ministered to you in providing you with food and clothing and with educational advantages. He has blessed you with a home, with kind friends, with father and mother to help you with their sympathy and kindness; He has given you all the blessings of life." *—The Youth's Instructor, August 19, 1897*

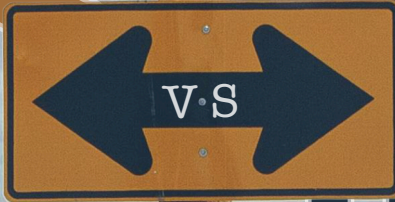
"Every time you are called upon to meet temptation, it is your duty to obtain a victory through the grace of Christ; and when you endure temptation in the strength of Christ, you are a conqueror. Cease worrying, and begin to count up your blessings and

privileges. Your temper will be tried. Your patience will be tested. Prayer alone, and earnest faith, will bring you through these things like a Christian. We are in the school of Christ. We are to be disciplined and trained, until our characters shall become Christlike. We are to grow daily in spiritual loveliness. We shall fail often in our efforts to copy the divine Pattern. We shall often have to bow down to weep at the feet of Jesus, because of our short-comings and mistakes; but we are not to be discouraged. Pray more fervently. Believe more fully, and try again with more steadfastness to grow into the likeness of your Lord. As we distrust our own power, we shall trust the power of our Redeemer, and we shall praise God who is the health of our countenance.

"The enemy of our souls is constantly seeking to urge upon us his temptations. He would have us weave self into all that we do. It is his delight, to have us demerit others, and find fault with the brethren. 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 dishonor 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." *—The Review and Herald, August 7, 1888*

Amen.

Love



Hatred

Adapted from a sermon by Timo Martin

Love and hatred are basic attributes in every person. We all love some things, and we also hate other things. And what one man loves, another man can hate. What you hate, someone else will love.

People in the world love drinking alcohol, smoking, feasting, rock music, drugs, and sensualism. On the other hand, Christians hate these things. They love purity, holiness, and righteousness.

Happiness is to have and to do what you love, and to get rid of the things that you hate. Many times we must do unpleasant duties, which we hate, out of necessity. We must do them. Then we complain and murmur; we are unhappy.

Many come to church and obey the laws and rules, yet they do not love them. They often are unhappy, loudly complaining. But to have eternal life they must perform those duties that they consider unpleasant.

Yet, the Bible teaches us that if something in the requirements of God is unpleasant to us, and we do it grudgingly, our service to God is in vain.

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

They did not receive the love of the truth, that they could be saved. They know the truth, they believe the truth, but they do not love the truth. For this reason they cannot be saved.

We have a choice. How we treat others, our relationships with each other, is our choice. Brothers and sisters in the church are to be closely knit together with the cords of love. If there is one brother or sister that you avoid, you are not speaking to him, or are not friendly to him, then you are not ready for heaven. If there is someone you dislike so much, that you cannot be social with them, or be kind to them, then you are a stranger to God. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 1 John 4:8

Angry words are an incense on the altar of Satan. We must love all people.

What is the truth that we should love? "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." John 17:17. God's word is the Bible and the testimonies—they are the truth.

Therefore, if anyone loves the truth, He reads the Bible every day. The Bible is with him everywhere he goes. And not only does he read the Bible, he follows it, he obeys it, because he loves it. Only the one who loves Bible reading hates worldly literature, shows, and movies, all worldly practices, because they are sin. The one who does not love the truth, reads the Bible very little. Every word in the Bible is truth. We are to love it, or else we will be lost.

Now the question comes—is love voluntary or is it involuntary? Can we control it? Can we demand it? Can we love at will, and hate as we decide?

“God’s power alone can change the human heart and imbue it with the love of Christ.” —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 143

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love...” Galatians 5:22

God is offering His Spirit to us. And also at the same time He is offering love to fill our hearts. Therefore, Paul writes in Thessalonians, “Because they received not the love of the truth, whereby they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” 2 Thessalonians 2:10–11

We must receive love from God when it is offered to us. If we do not receive it from God, then we do not have it.

When we receive this love, the whole of our religion is nothing else but love. Love to God. Love to our neighbour. Love to our enemies. Love to the truth. Love to obey the word of God. This love comes to us as a gift from God. He freely gives it to us.

Along with the principle of love comes something else. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Because God loves us, He gave us His Son.

Along with love comes giving. “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” Luke 6:38. When you give, the more will be given unto you.

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

“There is nothing too precious for us to give to Jesus. If we return to Him the talents of means which He has entrusted to our keeping, He will give more into our hands. Every effort we make for Christ will be rewarded by Him, and every duty we perform in His name will minister to our own happiness.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 19

“A conscientious few made returns to God of about one third of all their income for the benefit of religious interests and for the poor.” —*Ibid.*, p. 467

“Those who are selfishly withholding their means need not be surprised if God’s hand scatters. . . . God can scatter the means He has lent to His stewards, if they refuse to use it to His glory.” —*Ibid.*, vol. 2, p. 661

If those who profess to love the truth are holding on to their riches and do not seek opportunities to do good with that which He has entrusted to them, God will come and scatter their means. Many losses will be sustained.

In this, Jesus did not only mean giving money and goods, but also giving knowledge and spiritual blessings, encoura-

gement to others. The Bible is clear on this principle. The merciful will obtain mercy. Those who forgive will be forgiven. When you teach others by giving Bible studies, God will give more knowledge to you. When you encourage others, you will be encouraged to continue. When you perform the free labour of love, you will receive help. When you make others happy, you will find your own happiness.

A few days ago, I talked to a 50-year old businessman. He had money, family, a house, a job. He was healthy. He was provided everything he needed. Yet he said, I am bored of life, doing the same thing, day after day. He told me that he does not enjoy life. He gets depressed and frustrated. Another time, another person told me that sometimes in the middle of the night, he starts beating his wife, hitting her for no reason. He said he is so frustrated and there is no one else to take it out on. Yet this man had all his material needs provided for him.

One rich businessman told me that he has provided for his wife everything money can buy—clothing, entertainment, the best food, vacations, a beautiful home. But his wife does not appreciate it. She constantly yells and screams at him, for no reason at all. Then one day he came home half an hour later than he had promised. She met him at the door, screaming, and using abusive language, threatening to divorce him. It was not really his being a half hour late that was the problem. She was bored, frustrated with her life, and used any little reason to vent her frustrations. By not giving happiness to others, they cannot receive happiness for themselves.

Jealousy kills love in a moment. This has broken many marriages. In the place of love comes suspicion, fault-finding, and even open hatred. When a husband or wife becomes jealous of the other, love is gone from that marriage. Jealousy can separate best friends. Covetousness and love cannot dwell in the same heart.

Covetousness and the love of money have separated many friends. Love to a friend can be strong, but love to money can be stronger and defeat the love towards a friend.

Judas was so concerned that Mary wasted the precious alabaster box of ointment, which could have been used in helping the poor, and in doing missionary work. Judas did not care for the poor; Judas did not love missionary work. No, he was covetous, trying to hide his love of money by pretending to care for the poor.

“It is the want of genuine religion that produces gloom, despondency, and sadness. . . . A hearty, willing service to Jesus produces a sunny religion. Those who follow Christ most closely have not been gloomy. In Christ is light and peace and joy forevermore.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 431

David was Saul’s friend, but what came over Saul? “And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul’s hand. And Saul cast the

javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice. And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. Therefore Saul removed him from him." 1 Samuel 18:10-13

An evil spirit came over Saul at that moment. He lost control of his better judgment, and threw the javelin at David twice. Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him. The Lord blessed David and Saul had a curse upon him. Therefore Saul removed David from his presence to another place. Their friendship was broken, and hatred came in its place. In the end, Saul died and David became the king.

"The LORD preserveth all them that love Him: but all the wicked will He destroy." Psalm 145:20

"And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians." Exodus 14:25. Who was winning? Israel or the Egyptians?

When we read the story of Mordecai and Haman, who was the winner and who was the loser?

Love is therefore the best life insurance policy that we can have, the best protection.

The Lord freely offers divine love to us, love that is stronger than hatred, in that can love the worst person. It is greater than the love for money; we can love someone who cheated us out of money.

Jesus loved Judas and tried to save him. Jesus knew that Judas was stealing money from the church treasury. But, He did not expose him to the other disciples. He gave him also the power to perform miracles and sent him out to do missionary work. Jesus was hoping that eventually Judas would learn the lesson of true love, which was stronger than the love for money. Eventually the Holy Spirit left Judas and an evil spirit entered in. That moment, Jesus said to Judas, "That thou doest, do quickly." John 13:27. Jesus practically told him to leave the company of the disciples.

When the Holy Spirit leaves a person, the church cannot help him any more. That is when God shakes him out of the church, and spiritual darkness comes upon him. He then blindly joins in a strong delusion, in an error.

There are millions of hypocrites in the Christian churches, who claim to love God above all and their neighbour as themselves. However, all their religious experiences were a result of selfishness, self-love, obeying rules and performing unpleasant duties, expecting a reward in the end.

With love every duty becomes a joy to us. Cheerfully we sacrifice all we have, even life itself, for others and to God. Then we will love purity, holiness, and righteousness, and hate sin and selfishness.

Amen.

Canadian Field Newsletter

New Family in the Lord



In a joyous celebration of faith, three souls - Sister Lynne Martinen, Brother David Kendell, and Sister Tiffany Kendell - were baptized on October 27th marking a significant spiritual milestone in their lives. Surrounded by family, friends, and members, they publicly declared their commitment to Christ and were warmly welcomed into the church of God.

The welcoming service in Bloor Street Church was filled with heartfelt prayers, and an uplifting message about renewal and grace. Each shared their testimonies about the transformative power of faith and the love of God.

Let us keep these new members in our prayers as they begin their journey of faith, and may their lives continue to be a light to those around them.



New Missionary for Canadian Field

Elder Finagnon Bruno Allamon has arrived in Canada from Benin, Africa, on October 30th. He is starting his service for the Lord in Calgary, Alberta, as a temporary work assignment.

May God bless him richly as he starts his new calling.

The Transfer of Pastor Nicholas Anca and Family to Sweden



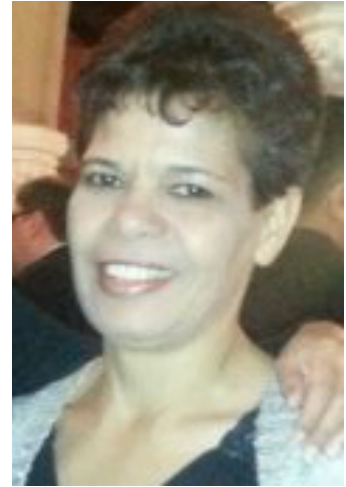
Brother Anca and his family have accepted the call to transfer to Sweden, and to help the Work of God in Europe. Pastor Anca's transfer to Sweden is a great loss to the Church in Canada but will be a great blessing to the Church in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway.

Brother Nicholas and his family arrived in Canada at the end of the year 2010. He has faithfully served the Canadian Field for 14 years.

An online farewell meeting was held on November 20th to share appreciation and encouragement to the Anca family. The recording of the program is available to watch on Canadian Field Official Youtube (IMS Canada)

The family departed Canada on November 25th. May God continue to bless and strengthen the Anca Family as they embark on a new phase and location of their service to Jesus Christ and the Gospel Work.

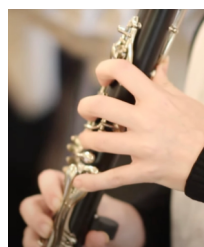
Asleep In Jesus



With heavy hearts, we mourn the passing of our beloved sister Eva Park (April 5th, 1962 - November 5th, 2024). Her life was a beautiful reflection of Christ's love, marked by faith, kindness, and service to others. Sister Eva touched countless lives through her unwavering dedication and compassion.

While we grieve her earthly absence, we take comfort in the promise of 2 Corinthians 5:8: "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." We rejoice in knowing that Sister Eva now rests in peace with the Lord.

Her legacy of faith and love will continue inspiring us, and we look forward to the day when we will be reunited in heaven. Until then, we cherish her memory and find strength in the hope we have in Christ.



Music Day

Music Day Fall 2024 was held with the theme "The Path of Life." Different age groups - children, youth, families, middle-aged, and older adults - praised God with songs describing grati-tude and trials in their stage on the path of life. The video recording is available to watch on Canadian Field Official Youtube channel (IMS Canada)



Where Is God?

Years ago the Seventh-day Adventists had 27 fundamental beliefs but now there are 28. “God does exist, but we cannot scientifically prove this, as Maths do to describe the axioms or physical principles or Maths postulates. We just know that God exists but none can show it by any scientific formula to demonstrate this. We know by faith alone.” This was a declaration of an SDA Pastor, my Lecturer at U.A.Go (Université Adventist de Goma), the Adventist University of Goma, in 2007, where I studied Psychology and Education Sciences. This lecturer was an Adventist pastor who is still alive today. The subject was “Biblical doctrine” on the chapter on “GOD.” Is it true that we cannot show or prove the existence of God?

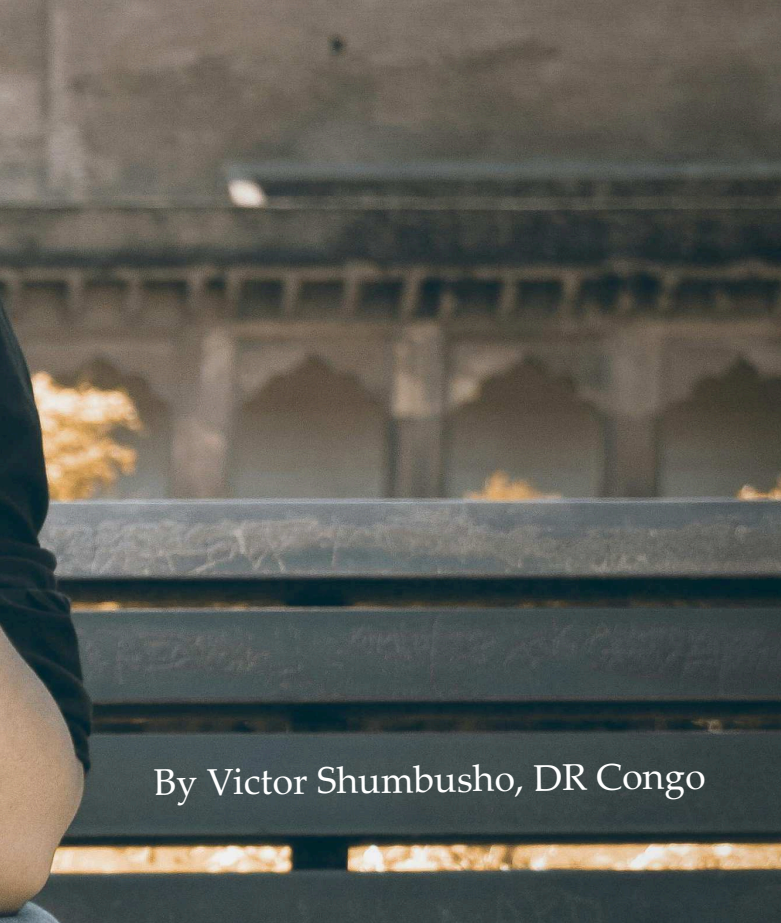
Have you ever been asked this question by others or have you asked yourself—“Where is God?” I am sure that this question has been, and is still being asked, in all corners of the world. But, why? For two reasons. On one side, this question is asked by those who do not believe in the existence of God. Because they do not see Him, they say, “I am not sure that God exists. Where is He so that I can believe in Him?” This was asked by Pharaoh: “And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.” He responded in this way after meeting with the two brothers. “Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let My people go, that they may hold a feast unto Me in the wilderness.” In other words, Pharaoh said, “Where is that Jehovah God? I want to see Him; then will I believe and obey His voice.” Exodus 5:1–2

However, on the other side, “Where is God?” is asked by people who really believe strongly in His existence. They may know that God exists, and that He loves them. However, when hardships, issues, problems, privation, persecution, disappointment, loss, abrupt changes, etc. come, they ask this question. A father who has one son, the only begotten son, asks with tears and sorrow, “Where was the Lord when my son died in an accident?”

Where is My God?

When do people usually look for God? In good times? During hardship and privation? When do you look for God yourself? Every day, all the time? Or only during specific situations when you are tempted to ask, “is God with me?”

Gideon asked the same question. “And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all His miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” Judges 6:13. Where was the Lord who did numerous miracles in the wilderness? At that time “the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of the Midian prevailed against Israel.” They took everything from them. “And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. For they came up with their cattle and their



By Victor Shumbusho, DR Congo

tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it. And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD." They said, "where is God?" See Judges 6:1–14

Here we read that Gideon asked: I want to see God. "Oh, that I knew where I might find Him!"

Many times I hear people say, "If I could see God, I could ask Him some questions." Have you ever thought the same? Have you met people who want to see God and ask Him some hard questions for which they see no answer?

In the Bible, Job had ten children: Seven sons and three daughters. He was very rich: seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred she asses and a very great household. This man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

He suffered much after losing all his property, and burying all his ten children who died one day, remaining alone with his wife. Job considered that he was upright,

because the Bible says he "was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." He was then tempted to ask "Where is God"? "Even to day is my complaint bitter: my stroke [hand] is heavier than my groaning. Oh that I knew where I might find Him! that I might come even to His seat! I would order my cause before Him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which He would answer me, and understand what He would say unto me." Job 23:2–5

The Lord, in His providence, brings men where He can test their moral powers and reveal their motives of action, that they may improve what is right in themselves and put away that which is wrong. . . . He often permits the fire of affliction to assail them that they may become purified." –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 54. "God is the refiner and purifier of souls; in the heat of the furnace the dross is separated forever from the true silver and gold of the Christian character." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 85

At times when we experience difficulties, we believe that God is not near. This was a temptation to **Job**, and it is still a strong weapon that Satan uses to tempt God's people to lose faith.

Job could say, "Behold, I go forward, but He is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive Him: On the left hand, where He doth work, but I cannot behold Him: He hideth Himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him." Job 23:8–9. He recognized that God is trying him, and that afterwards the reward would be great for his patience and longsuffering. "But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10

Job did not find God behind or in front, or on his left hand... but God was with Him, at the right hand. He was not far from him. And so he said, since God is with me, even when I am in trials, "I shall come forth as gold."

Job overcame the temptations of the devil. "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." Job 19:25–27

Job's God can be our God if we truly obey, trust and believe in Him. His God was not far from Him, but was at the right hand of the faithful, suffering man amid the

"Not with sorrow, but with **rejoicing**, should they meet persecution. Each fiery trial is God's agent for their **refining**. Each is **fitting** them for their work as colaborers with Him. Each conflict has its place in the great battle for **righteousness**, and each will add to the **joy** of their final triumph. Having this in view, the test of their faith and patience will be **cheerfully** accepted rather than dreaded and avoided." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 306

severest trials and privation ever known to any human recorded in the Bible. This is the same for us today. He is there when you cross the dark pages in your life. Let us lead some other examples from the Bible:

Isaac lost his mother before his marriage. Where was His God, the God of Abraham? He was without a child for around twenty years. Where was the God of Isaac? He met trials and opposition from his neighbours and even from the king of the land (read Genesis 26). As he had possession of flocks and herds, and a great store of servants (husbandry), the Philistines envied him. The Philistines had stopped all the wells that his father Abraham had dug, and they filled them with earth. This was done many times until even King Abimelech said unto Isaac, "Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we. And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there." Genesis 26:16–17. Where was his God in allowing all these issues to come upon him? God was still with him. "Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phichol the chief captain of his army. And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you? And they said, We saw certainly that the LORD was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath betwixt us, even betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee." Genesis 26:26–28

God is with His people, His faithful ones, even if you cannot see Him. Even if no special miracle is done to prove that the Almighty is there, He is. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and He will guide your steps in wisdom, and your interests will be safe for this world and for the next." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 427

Jacob left his father's house and went to live with his uncle, Laban. His life was not easy there. "Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee." Genesis 28:20–22

Laban changed Jacob's wages many times, but Jacob trusted that God was with him in all his trials. "Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah. . . . And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me." Genesis 31:4–5 (Read Genesis 31)

Joseph was hated by his older brothers and one day they said: "Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams." Genesis 37:20. The dreams that came from God stated that Joseph would rule over his brothers. As hard as they tried, they were not able to stop the fulfillment of

these dreams. He whom God has blessed, none could curse. God was with him, even though there was no special miracle, audible or visible, to save him. God allowed them to cast Him into a pit where anything could happen (to be hurt, to die by hunger, to be bitten by a snake or scorpion, maybe some of them could even stone him afterwards...), but God was with him. They finally sold him; yet God was still with him. In the house of Potiphar, the Lord was at his right hand. Where was God when Potiphar's wife lied that he attempted to lie with her?

Nothing could be proven and Joseph was innocently accused. "And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison." Where was His God? "But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison." Genesis 39:20–22. Even in prison God was with him. He finally proved that Jehovah is greater than the Egyptian gods: from the prison, he was made prime minister and an honoured leader over the land, because he was blameless. Even though he passed through many trials, he was upright in all and forgave his wicked brothers who attempted to kill him and sold him into slavery in Egypt. Joseph saw everything positively, and thus was rewarded.

Daniel was taken prisoner when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in 506 BC, but God did not leave him. He was still with Him. When, because of the jealousy of the Chaldeans, the King was deceived into making a decree that put Daniel in danger, his Redeemer was there. He was cast into the lion's den, but God went with him. The jealous Chaldeans only wanted to catch Daniel. The king, however, said, "Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee. In the morning, the king spake, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me." Daniel 6:16, 20–22

We know that we serve a living God as we see from Daniel's experience. We need to believe and trust that He will not forsake us, whatever may happen. We may not see Him, we may be put into prison innocently, be put under oppression when we have done nothing wrong, we may even die, but God is still with us. It is possible to die with, and in, Him.

Dear reader, in all your trials, "you have a work to do to die to self and to cultivate a spirit of forbearance and patience." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 424

Jeremiah, a prophet, was taken "and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire." Jeremiah 38:6. Where was

"All trials that are received as educators will produce joy. The whole religious life will be uplifting, elevating, ennobling, fragrant with good words and works. The enemy is well pleased to have souls depressed, downcast, mourning and groaning." –Testimonies for



the God of this prophet? Have you been in one or another difficult situation? The Lord was still with His prophet in the dungeon; there was no water, but mire. When Jeremiah had sunk into the mire, God was with him. This is a big lesson for us. How many of us get discouraged and say, "Where is that God?" "God has abandoned me." "If God is with me, why has this... or that happened?"

This is the key to overcoming sin and trusting in God: "In order to be conformed to the image of our Saviour, we pass through a most painful process of refining. . . . We may be tested and proved, for God sees it best to put us under a course of discipline which is essential for us before we are fit subjects for the blessing we crave. We should not become discouraged and give way to doubt, and think that our prayers are not noticed. We should rely more securely upon Christ and leave our case with God to answer our prayers in His own way. God has not promised to bestow His blessings through the channels we have marked out. God is too wise to err and too regardful of our good to allow us to choose for ourselves. The plans of God are always the best, although we may not always discern them. Perfection of Christian character can be obtained only through labor, conflict, and self-denial." *–The Upward Look*, p. 109

The Presence of God

In the hidden room where adultery could have taken place, Joseph saw God's presence and said, "how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9. Amid his severe suffering, Job saw God. When God asked him hard questions, he humbled himself and recognized that God is everywhere (Job 41). God was in the fiery furnace where three young people were cast. They cast in three, but Jesus was the fourth one in the fire. They said, "Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Daniel 3:24–25

"We must let patience have its perfect work, remembering that there are precious promises in the Scriptures for those who wait upon the Lord." *–The Ministry of Healing*, p. 231

God exists and is present. Even if no miracle is performed to prove God's existence to the people who mock the righteous, He will stand, sooner or later. In the fires of life, in the forest where no human eye can see, in the plane flying in the clouds over the land, in the water underneath, He is there. Jonah was cast into the big sea, to hide from God; but remember, all creation is there to obey and to serve Him for His glory. The big fish swallowed him. Therefore, where is God?

He is everywhere. But why does He allow hardships, privation, etc. to His children? Does He wish that they suffer and endure hardships? We must be looking to Jesus through everything. The inspired word says, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 1 Peter 5:10

Christians may look to Jesus during happy times, but complain and even blame God when suffering comes. Remember that God allows suffering as one of the means to strengthen our faith and fulfill his purpose? We must maintain our faith, our trust, our faithfulness, —and our determination to be all that we can be in service to our God. When traveling through life's experiences, Peter advises, "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings." 1 Peter 4:13

You can see God beyond the clouds of life. Even in darkness, there is still His light. This requires wisdom. When Jesus was born, some wise men looked and found Him in "darkness" where others could not see Him. But, because they were wise, they looked and saw Him through "His star." "Let us look at the light behind the cloud. Our happiness comes not from what is around us, but from what is within us; not from what we have, but from what we are." *–My Life Today*, p. 185–186

What precious lessons do you learn when you discover from the life of Job who looked for God when He was already with him? Doing what is right, will ensure us that God is always near us. His promises are to help us. "I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope." Psalm 16:8–9

May God help each of us to have meekness as defined here: "Meekness is a precious grace, willing to suffer silently, willing to endure trials. Meekness is patient and labors to be happy under all circumstances. Meekness is always thankful and makes its own songs of happiness, making melody in the heart to God. Meekness will suffer disappointment and wrong, and will not retaliate." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 335

Why Tribulations?

Why does God permit trials to come upon us?

"In Christian experience, the Lord permits trials of various kinds to call men and women to a higher order of living and to a more sanctified service. Without these trials there would be a continual falling away from the likeness of Christ, and men would become imbued with a spirit of scientific, fanciful, human philosophy, which would lead them to unite with Satan's followers." – *Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 160

To every Christian it is said: "In the world ye shall have tribulation," says Christ; but "in Me ye might have peace." John 16:33

"The trials to which Christians are subjected in sorrow, adversity, and reproach are the means appointed of God to separate the chaff from the wheat. Our pride, selfishness, evil passions, and love of worldly pleasure must all be overcome; therefore God sends us afflictions to test and prove us, and show us that these evils exist in our characters. We must overcome through His strength and grace, that we may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 'For our light affliction,' says Paul, 'which is but for a

moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.' Afflictions, crosses, temptations, adversity, and our varied trials are God's workmen to refine us, sanctify us, and fit us for the heavenly garner." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 115

Character Building

"It may be that much work needs to be done in your character building, that you are a rough stone, which must be squared and polished before it can fill a place in God's temple. You need not be surprised if with hammer and chisel God cuts away the sharp corners of your character until you are prepared to fill the place He has for you. . . . He knows your infirmities and works to restore, not to destroy." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 264

"The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that the Lord Jesus sees in us something precious which He desires to develop. If He saw in us nothing whereby He might glorify His name, He would not spend time in refining us. He does not cast worthless stones into His furnace. It is valuable ore that He refines." – *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 471

"God has always tried His people in the furnace of affliction. It is in the heat of the furnace that the dross is separated from the true gold of the Christian character. Jesus watches the test; He knows what is needed to purify the precious metal, that it may reflect the radiance of His love. It is by close, testing trials that God disciplines His servants. He sees that some have powers which may be used in the advancement of His work, and He puts these persons upon trial; in His providence He brings them into positions that test their character and reveal defects and weaknesses that have been hidden from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects and to fit themselves for His service." – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 129

"When perplexities arise, and difficulties confront you, look not for help to humanity. Trust all with God. The practice of telling our difficulties to others only makes us weak, and brings no strength to them. It lays upon them the burden of our spiritual infirmities, which they cannot relieve. We seek the strength of erring, finite man, when we might have the strength of the unerring, infinite God." – Christ's Object Lessons, p. 146



"The Lord permits trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, unchrist-like traits of character. . . . Often we enter the furnace of trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 174

"God would have His servants become acquainted with their own hearts. In order to bring to them a true knowledge of their condition, He permits the fire of affliction to assail them, so that they may be purified. The trials of life are God's workmen to remove the impurities, infirmities, and roughness from our characters, and fit them for the society of pure, heavenly angels in glory.... The fire will not consume us, but only remove the dross, and we shall come forth seven times purified, bearing the impress of the Divine." —*My Life Today*, p. 92

"Not in freedom from trial, but in the midst of it, is Christian character developed." —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 330

During the hard times, it is our duty to strengthen one another. "In this time of trial we need to be encouraged and comforted by one another. The temptations of Satan are greater now than ever before, for he knows that his time is short and that very soon every case will be decided, either for life or for death. It is no time now to sink down beneath discouragement and trial; we must bear up under all our afflictions and trust wholly in the Almighty God of Jacob. The Lord has shown me that His grace is sufficient for all our trials; and although they are greater than ever before, yet if we trust wholly in God, we can overcome every temptation and through His grace come off victorious.

"If we overcome our trials and get victory over the temptations of Satan, then we endure the trial of our faith, which is more precious than gold, and are stronger and better prepared to meet the next. . . . When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God and agonize with Him in prayer. He will not turn us away empty, but will give us grace and strength to overcome, and to break the power of the enemy." —*Early Writings*, p. 46

Conclusion—Where is God?

God is with me, with you, and with all. It is our duty to please Him always by obeying His word. It may come to pass that we go through trials and temptations. At all times God is with us. There may come a time that you are tempted to doubt: "is God still near me?" But, He is. "Words cannot describe the peace and joy possessed by him who takes God at His word. Trials do not disturb him, slights do not vex him. Self is crucified. Day by day his duties may become more taxing, his temptations stronger, his trials more severe; but he does not falter; for he receives strength equal to his need." —*My Life Today*, p. 51

A bitter cup may be given you. "God has shown me that He gave His people a bitter cup to drink, to purify and cleanse them. It is a bitter draught, and they can make it still more bitter by murmuring, complaining, and repining. But those who receive it thus must have another draught, for the first does not have its designed effect upon the heart. And if the second does not effect the work, then they must have another, and another, until it does have its designed effect, or they will be left filthy, impure in heart. I saw that this bitter cup can be sweetened by patience, endurance, and prayer, and that it will have its designed effect upon the hearts of those who thus receive it, and God will be honored and glorified. It is no small thing to be a Christian and to be owned and approved of God." —*Early Writings*, p. 47

King David suffered many times when Saul sought to kill him. He even fled from his anger and his life was in danger for a long time. But He could still sing:

"Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass. And He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass... But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37: 3–7, 11

Do not weep. We often do not see God because we are mourning, as did Mary after the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Sunday morning. "In the garden Mary had stood weeping, when Jesus was close beside her. Her eyes were so blinded by tears that she did not discern Him. . . . How many echo Mary's despairing cry, 'They have taken away the Lord, ... and we know not where they have laid Him.' To how many might the Saviour's words be spoken, 'Why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?' He is close beside them, but their tear-blinded eyes do not discern Him. . . . Mourn not as those who are hopeless and helpless." —*My Life Today*, p. 183

Let us remember that God who joined His servants in the furnace of fire, who was with all the patriarchs in their hard times, has been with you also in all. Only your tear-blinded eyes do not discern Him, as it was with Mary. He was in the deepest sea when Jonah was swallowed by the whale. Job was not forgotten nor forsaken. In all the steps of Joseph, Jacob, Jephthah, and many other faithful patriarchs, He was there. May God help us all to see His presence everywhere, at all times, and in all circumstances. Amen.

Only with the Help of God

Experiences from
the Life of Johannes Altwein

Part

2

ASSISTANCE WITH THE HARVEST IN LIESSOW

During the War, almost all men had to fight at the front. I was in year six, just 12 years old. At that time, 28 boys from my school were sent to an estate in Liessow to help with the harvest. When we arrived, the people there were very kind to us. We were allowed to sleep up in the hayloft, and they really tried to feed us town boys well. So, the next day they killed a pig in front of our eyes, and for breakfast they served sausage sandwiches. Since I was already a vegetarian as a child, I had to go without breakfast.

We worked hard all day long, and after the oat harvest, we had to gather up the sheaves with our hands and stand them up. The land we were working on was about 190 acres, that is approximately 750,000 m². We didn't have more than two days to finish the job. Not surprisingly, we boys were very hungry.

But pork was on the table again. From then on it was pork - three times a day. There was not one meal without meat. We got potato salad with bacon for lunch, and at supper lots of meat and sausage were served

again, but no cheese or vegetables. So it seemed I would have to go to bed very hungry.

After we had done our work, before going to bed, we were allowed to play around on the grounds. I was suddenly sent to see the landlord's wife. She asked me why I had not eaten anything. I explained to her that I had been a vegetarian all my life and just could not eat any meat. She asked me: "What are we going to do with you? You are going to stay here for ten days. You cannot work hard and not eat anything for ten days!" I answered: "I don't know. I just know that I cannot eat any meat." I was then allowed to go back to the other boys. After about half an hour I was called to go to the landlord's wife again. Since she had a three-year-old son who did not tolerate meat, she offered to cook the same food for me as she did for her own child. At the big round table, at which all 28 boys were seated, she put a white chair that was intended for me, so she knew where to place the vegetarian meal.

"You must be very hungry", she said and gave me some butter sandwiches and a big glass of milk. Of course, I was very happy. Now I could go to bed satisfied.

Since our stay on that estate included the weekend, I was also there on the Sabbath. Saturday was a common working day for my mates, but not for me. On Sabbath morning I explained to the squad leader that I could not work. I did not feel well. This was not just an excuse, for the thought of having to work on a Sabbath caused me trouble. The leader asked me: "Are you able to come with us to the field? You can lie down there on the straw." I agreed and thus was able to recover and to think of God on my Sabbath. In the evening I felt better again. Thanks be to the Lord!

It was very unusual that none of the boys made fun of me, and I felt that God was looking after me again.

WHEELCHAIR IN SCHWERIN

One nice summer day, when I was about 12 years old, I went for a swim at the Lankow lake. On my way to the lake I came across two men who seemed to be quite happy with each other's company. One of the men was sitting in a wheelchair, the other man was pushing him. I heard the paralyzed man in the wheelchair constantly giving directions to the one pushing him: "More to the right, more to the left, straight ahead." Then I saw that the man who pushed the wheelchair was blind, and he could not have done many things without the paralyzed man's eyes. Without the blind man's legs, the paralyzed man could not have enjoyed the day outside as he did. That way, both could complement each other, and both weren't nearly as helpless as they would have been on their own. At that moment I understood how much we human beings depend on each other. This was a lesson for me which I will never forget.

AIR-RAID WARNING ON THE TRAIN TO SUKOW

At about the same age I went by train from Schwerin to Sukow. The traveling time was about an hour. The train was packed. Suddenly, about halfway, there was a sudden air raid. The often low-flying aircraft also attacked the trains. The train stopped and all passengers took refuge in the adjoining forest. There was no shooting, so after a while the all-clear was given and our journey could be continued.

The passengers were all very frightened. They were totally uneasy and felt that there was no security wherever they would go. But me, although I was only a schoolboy, I was not frightened at all, because I had God protecting me.

When everybody was sitting in the compartment again, I felt the urge to tell these complete strangers that I had prayed and asked God for His protection before starting the journey, and that I was sure that my prayer had been heard. All the passengers in the compartment listened attentively. Even soldiers were present.

Once again, my faith in a strong God had proved to be worth it.

CROWBAR IN FRONT OF THE DOOR IN NEUMÜHLE

In 1946 my parents again moved back from Schwerin to Neumühle. Shortly after moving, we heard that the Russians were plundering in the neighborhood. When they broke into houses, they used their machine guns to force the whole family to sit in one room of the house, and then they felt free to steal everything which was of any value. Everybody was very scared of them.

I remember one night that someone was banging on our front door. "Open up! Open!", someone ordered, with a loud and angry voice. And we knew: here they are. But my father decided not to open the door. Instead, he got us all together to kneel and pray, asking our heavenly Father to stand by us again, as He had done so many times before. It didn't take long, and all was quiet at the front door. We thanked our Lord that we were out of danger.

Shortly after we went back to bed, we heard the same noise again. This time even louder. Again, we came together for prayer and concentrated on God rather than on the Russians. Suddenly, before we even finished our prayers, everything was quiet. We spent the rest of the night without any further disturbances or violent incidents.

The next morning my father was surprised to find a crowbar which did not belong to him, in front of the door. The Russians must have intended to force our front door but left the bar behind when fleeing from our house in a hurry. Only God knows how our guardian angels protected us. To this present day, the crowbar is still in my possession. This happened more than 75 years ago, but this crowbar is a constant reminder of the most caring God we **had** on our side then, and **still have** on our side now, and will have on our side in the future.

IN FRONT OF THE CART

One day my father and I traveled together by bicycle. The streets were muddy and slippery, and the weather was bad. This made our ride rather dangerous.

In front of us a farmer rode on his cart, which was drawn by two horses. We decided to overtake the horses and the cart. Suddenly my bike slipped on the muddy track, and I landed directly in front of the horses. In an instant, both horses raised their front legs, trying to stop the cart with their hind legs. I was lying in the mud with the horses' hoofs above me. The horses kept their hoofs up in the air until I was able to raise myself up and move away from under them.

Even though I was very frightened at the time, I was even more thankful that I had not been injured in that accident, for this had really been quite a dangerous situation.

A RUSSIAN STEALS MY BIKE

At that time many Russian soldiers deserted from their own troops, and those who did, were ruthless, lawless, unscrupulous, and inflicting great harm on the people.

We had very little to eat at that time and were always hunting for food. When I had been in Sukow, my grandmother had given me a basket full of potatoes, which was to help us out for the time being. On my way back home from Sukow to Neumühle, I rode my bike along a dirt road near Zietlitz. Just as I was passing the village, I was stopped by a fierce looking Russian who was armed with a machine gun. He forced me off my bike by holding the gun to my chest and said to me with a low angry voice: "You gone!"

Obviously, he was after my bike, since during the war there was no way to obtain bikes other than to steal them from people. I begged him at least to leave my potatoes, which he generously agreed to. He took the bike off me and rode directly into the woods. I gazed at him with disappointment. I had just lost my bike, but at the same time I was happy to still have my life. While I was gazing after him, I saw him stop, jump off the bike, sling the machine gun off his shoulder, turn around, pull up the gun and aim directly at me. It all happened so fast. I quickly jumped behind the nearest tree before the shot went off. There I stood, behind the tree. I did not breathe until I heard him ride off, on my precious

bike, but thanking God that I was still alive, and able to take the potatoes home, by train, to my hungry family.

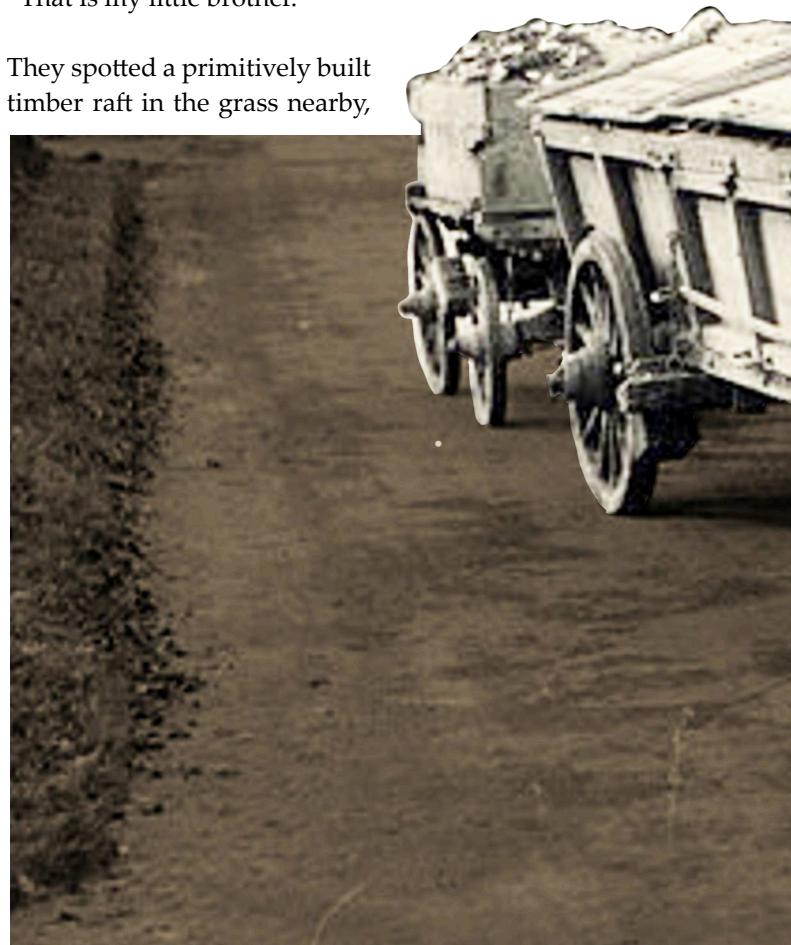
INFLATABLE BOAT AT LAKE SCHAAL

The border between East and West Germany went directly through Lake Schaal. In search of food, we sometimes had to cross the border to organize food in West Germany.

Lake Schaal was less than 100 meters wide at its narrowest point. To cross the lake, my father used his yellow, one-man inflatable boat and two yellow air mattresses. He paddled across the lake in the boat and pulled his bike on the two mattresses behind him. That way he was mobile in the West. I remained on the eastern side. On arrival, my father stacked up the boat and the air mattresses, leaning them against each other, so they could dry out in the sun on the green grass next to the lake. Then he rode off.

My brother swam across the lake a little later, but after he had barely arrived on the other side, I watched two border police officers approaching him. I was in shock when I saw them, praying that the Lord may render them blind to the boat and the air mattresses, for the bright yellow color could not be overlooked on the meadow in broad daylight. The officers asked my brother: "Who is that over there?" He answered simply: "That is my little brother."

They spotted a primitively built timber raft in the grass nearby,



which almost certainly was used by some people to flee from the East to the West. When they saw the raft, one of the police officers immediately took off his clothes and went into the water and destroyed the raft. He threw the pieces of wood into the water to prevent anyone from using it again.

The distance to our yellow inflatable boat was only about ten meters, and, under normal circumstances, the two border guards could not have missed seeing it, nor the air mattresses, for the guards had a free view across the green meadow. So, if they regarded it important to destroy the raft to prevent people from sneaking over the border, why didn't they lay hands on our boat?

Later, when my father returned to the lake, sadly without the much-needed food, we could cross the lake without any problems.

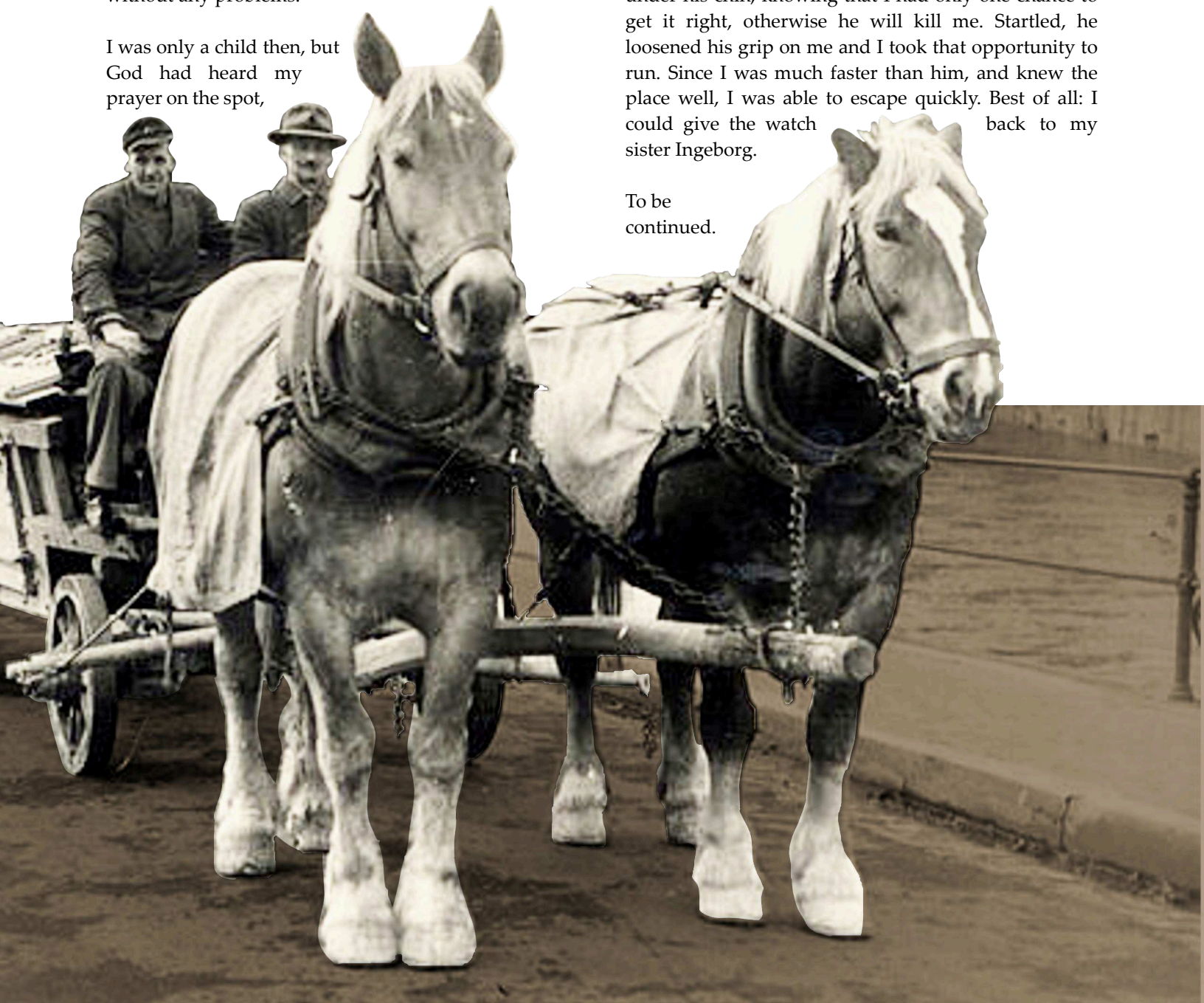
I was only a child then, but God had heard my prayer on the spot,

and answered with a miracle, rendering our things invisible to the border police. I never want to miss this experience. Here again we can clearly see how our heavenly Father allowed a miracle to happen.

RUSSIAN GETS AN UPPERCUT

The defected Russian soldiers frequently stole people's property. One day, while I was walking along a dirt road, a Russian wanted me to give him my watch, but what he saw was my sister's watch and I did not want to give it up so easily. The Russian was a tall, strong, young man. Suddenly he grabbed me by my throat with both his hands, strangling me. I thought: "Now, this is the end!" By nature, I am a peace-loving person, violence is far from me. But in the spur of the moment, I took the opportunity and hit him full force with my fist under his chin, knowing that I had only one chance to get it right, otherwise he will kill me. Startled, he loosened his grip on me and I took that opportunity to run. Since I was much faster than him, and knew the place well, I was able to escape quickly. Best of all: I could give the watch back to my sister Ingeborg.

To be continued.





God's Character

Part 2 of 5

Gracious

By Ylenia Gallo

Dear reader,


Welcome back to the second part of our little series of articles dedicated to the study of God's character. As you may remember already, we based our meditation on the Bible verse found in Exodus 34:6: "And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." The essence of God's glory is disclosed in this verse, and each attribute helps us understand it deeper and deeper. How wonderful!

In this reading, we will focus on the study of the second attribute: "gracious".

It comes from the Hebrew adjective "*khanun*", which derives from the noun "*khen*", translated as "grace" or "favour". Within the Bible, this term is often used to describe someone offering a gift, doing a favour or just doing something good for someone else unconditionally. What is interesting is that someone who shows "*khen*", does it in a disinterested way, and the motive behind the gesture is love for the receiver. Let us take an example.

"Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request." Esther 7:3. We all know the story very well. Queen Esther went against the royal custom and showed herself before the emperor, with a heartfelt petition. Although she did not deserve it, she was pleading for "*khen*". And the king, who took delight in Esther, was gracious enough to grant her request. This context surely helps us understand the way our God is a gracious God. But let us keep studying.

Another interesting Bible passage where the term "*khen*" appears is found in the story of Jacob who reunites with his brother Esau, after 20 years. It was not an easy task for him, since Jacob had wronged his brother by stealing his birthright and cowardly running away from home. "And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me." Genesis 33:10



With contrite heart, ashamed of his wrongdoings, Jacob now approaches his brother with humility, asking for “grace”. He does not ask to be treated as he deserves, instead, he begs Esau for forgiveness and asks to be gracious to him. Thankfully, forgiveness was exactly what Esau was ready to give to him. He decided to take delight in his brother and show “grace”. “*Khen*”, means not treating someone the way they deserve. This explains a lot about God’s generous spirit and unconditional love. The Lord is a gracious God, and He proved Himself so many times in the Bible history, especially with the people of Israel, who kept going back and forth from the way of conduct God had instructed them to follow. As an example, right after He had set them free from Egypt’s slavery, they did not hesitate to build a golden calf and worship it as their god. How terrible that must have felt for the Lord! Understandably, God’s anger kindled against the people of Israel, and Moses had to plead for them not to be totally consumed. Moses “reminded” the Lord of His “*khen*”, which is unconditional. Sister White comments about this episode: “He [Moses] has borne an overwhelming weight of responsibility; when the people sinned, he suffered keen remorse, as though he himself were guilty; and now there presses upon his soul a sense of the terrible results should God leave Israel to hardness and impenitence of heart. . . . Moses presses his petition with such earnestness and fervency that the answer comes: I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in My sight, and I know thee by name.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 99

This is how God shows His grace: without considering our merits, He is ready to bestow His grace upon us whenever we come before Him with a contrite heart and sincere repentance. The Lord was already going to forgive His people even before Moses pleaded for them. However, this experience was necessary for Moses so that he could fully understand God’s “*khen*,” which only He can give. Our God is a gracious God. How wonderful!

When we move to the New Testament, the authors translate the Hebrew “*khen*” with “*kharis*,” which means “gift of grace” in the Greek language. Interestingly enough, this word appears for the first time in the gospel of John talking about Jesus.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

Jesus is the Word, full of grace (“*kharis*”) and truth. He made Himself flesh and dwelt among us who, as Paul would say, are like living dead. Because men have chosen darkness over light, far from God’s approval,

they suffer the consequences of their selfish choices. But the Bible tells us that the Lord is so gracious that through His “*kharis*”, we are saved.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8

Christ—His life, death and resurrection—embodies God’s grace. Through the immense gift that Jesus represents for us, we have access to a new life stronger than death. You see, “*kharis*” is a gift, which means all we can do is to simply accept it.

“Grace is unmerited favor. . . . It was grace that sent our Saviour to seek us as wanderers and bring us back to the fold. No man can look within himself and find anything in his character that will recommend him to God, or make his acceptance sure. It is only through Jesus, whom the Father gave for the life of the world, that the sinner may find access to God. Jesus alone is our Redeemer, our Advocate and Mediator” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p.182

How many times may we look at our sinful, helpless state and think: “I have no merit so that I can come before God,” and humbly shaking, we may plead for forgiveness? Will the Lord answer us? Will He not be gracious unto us?

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

Our heavenly Father will respond generously to those who rely on Him. Let us have faith that through Christ, we are depositaries of God’s grace.

See you in the next episode!

May God bless you!

Amen



Missionary Experience in Senegal

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:7

I would like to share with you my missionary experience with my friend Simon. Simon Sene is a native of Senegal but lives in Spain. I met him through his sister while I was on a foreign missionary assignment in Senegal.

I spent almost five years in Senegal serving in this very difficult land in which 95% of the population is Muslim with only 3% Christian, mostly Catholics. Door-to-door canvassing was almost an impossibility in Dakar, but I began to make some small progress through the medical missionary work.

Through the right hand of the third angel, I made friend with a pastor who was a colleague of Simon's youngest sister who needed my service for their sick father who was diagnosed with prostate cancer. I was taken to his home about 80 km from Dakar. After four months of treatment, the old man was diagnosed cancer free. I once shared this experience in one of our Sabbath Watchman magazines in 2016.

I was invited to meet the family. They all wanted to meet me and thank me in person. Simon, who was still

in Spain, made a call the day that I was with his family. He also had a health issue that has troubled him for years. He spoke to me about it and we agreed to send him some herbs for his treatment.

He then visited home and passed by my office where we spoke for quite a long time. He was smoking and drinking at the time. I have advised him to change his lifestyle to enjoy good health. We exchanged contact details and began to communicate with each other after his return to Spain. That was in 2016.

At that time I also began to make and share some French Sabbath School lessons and sermons on YouTube to be able to reach as many people as possible. I would also share them with him. I was also sharing with him some health videos. One day I shared a video about the dangers of smoking. He was then led to make a decision to stop smoking.

Though he was of Catholic background, after a few months he called me to tell me that he wanted to become a Seventh-day Adventist like me. Though I was overjoyed, I knew that would mean trouble for him. In Senegal, when one changes his faith to another, especially from Catholicism or Islam to another Christian faith, they can be disowned by their family and even rejected by the community.



By Elder Judicaël Mutapayi Luboya

I asked him if I could give his contact details to our church in Spain. I quickly requested contacts in Spain from the Evangelism leader, pastor Pablo Hunger. I sent him Simon's WhatsApp number. From there, two sisters, Melva and Lolly have been in contact with him. These sisters played a big role in his spiritual mentoring. This was in 2017.

Simon went through some hardships because of his newly embraced faith. He was severely tried in his marriage but he stood firm. Even after we left Senegal, we all continued to encourage him. I continued to share studies with him. Though he was very far from where our churches are in Spain, the sisters continued to have Bible studies with him. They would invite several ministers to their aid. He fell in love with the truth and became very active in church activities, and financially supported the work through his tithes and offerings, though not yet baptized. He has been very committed.

My wife and I continued to encourage him to be baptised. This was a challenge for him. He worked in the hotel industry and Sabbath-keeping was an issue. He did not want to go into the water, and then betray his covenant with the Lord. He had (still has) a lot of financial responsibilities toward his family and children. He knew somehow that he might lose his

employment. We continued to pray for him and with him. He would say that he would be baptized only after he finds a job that will allow him to have a free Sabbath.

Each year, I would speak to him about his baptism. I will tell him that this year is the year for the Lord is coming soon and it may be this year. Finally, early this year he told my wife and I that after hearing a sermon from one of our pastors, he understood that he cannot give God conditions, but only to submit to His will. HE then made up his mind on being baptised. He first resigned from his job to look for another job. It is quite difficult to get work in his profession that would give him free Sabbaths.

He went from interview to interview. The interview would go well but once he tells about his faith and that he cannot work on Sabbath, he was not hired, though the companies were happy about his experience. The sisters, Melva and Lolly, and our pastors prayed. One day we also made a call and prayed together with him. We told him that he took a leap of faith and God will reward him. It was not long after that he got a new job without being required to work on the Sabbath.

He was baptised on Friday, October 18, 2024. My wife and I were overjoyed. The Lord is good. I imagine how when our Lord "shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." Isaiah 53:11

I hope this experience will encourage many evangelists and missionaries out there to know that travail for the salvation of souls is never in vain. Never give up. The Lord is with you.

I thank God for the life of my friend Simon. I thank God for sisters Melva and Lolly and all the ministers that participated in this missionary work. One lost sheep is worth leaving the ninety nine others and going to search for the one that is lost.

"The value of a soul, who can estimate? Would you know its worth, go to Gethsemane, and there watch with Christ through those hours of anguish, when He sweat as it were great drops of blood. Look upon the Saviour uplifted on the cross. Hear that despairing cry, 'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?' (Mark 15:34). Look upon the wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet. Remember that Christ risked all. For our redemption, heaven itself was imperiled. At the foot of the cross, remembering that for one sinner Christ would have laid down His life, you may estimate the value of a soul." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 196

Amen



Scientific Facts *written* In the Bible *before* Human Discoveries

By Makoto Matsumoto

As we navigate the 21st century, it is impossible not to be awestruck by the advancements our race has made in science and technology. We have charted the farthest reaches of our planet, journeyed to the moon, dispatched satellites beyond our solar system, and even captured an image of a black hole. Smallpox, a disease that once claimed more lives than any war, has been eradicated. We can now see each other's faces in real time, no matter how far apart we are. We can traverse the globe in mere hours. And we have created a virtual reality that rivals our wildest fantasies. Artificial intelligence has even surpassed us in certain tasks, such as painting and chess.

With all these achievements, many scientists boast of their wisdom. Their ego and pride lay in their education and degrees. However, what would you think if all this knowledge had been written in a very old book thousands of years ago?

Anatomy and Physiology

Elements of Our Body: The knowledge that our body has the same elements as the earth's crust required the collaborative efforts of scientists over time and in various disciplines. One of the earliest works was of Antoine Lavoisier, a French chemist often called the "Father of Modern Chemistry." He identified oxygen,

carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and other elements as fundamental components of living organisms. Starting from this point, different research followed, and the fact that we are made of the dust of the ground was established by the late 19th and early 20th.

However, the Bible has shown us this truth for many years: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7. (See also Genesis 3:19; Job 4:19, 10:9, 34:15; Psalm 103:14; Ecclesiastes 12:7)

The Blood: Although the fact that blood is the essence of life might be common knowledge, it was not established in science until the early 17th century. An English physician named William Harvey suggested that blood circulates continuously around the body, pumped by the heart. This was published in 1628. It took a few more centuries to establish that blood carries oxygen and nutrients.

However, ignorance about the importance of blood continued. Until the late 19th and early 20th centuries, physicians believed that removing blood from a patient's body was beneficial, thinking it would stop the spread of disease within the body. This was typically done by cutting or puncturing a vein. This

treatment led many patients to die of loss of too much blood, including the first American president, George Washington.

Meanwhile, the Bible tells us that the blood is the essence of life. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul" Leviticus 17:11 (See also Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 17:14; Deuteronomy 12:23)

Genetics: The concept of genetics, which states that genes determine our physical characteristics, started with the work of Gregor Mendel, an Austrian biologist, in 1868. Many studies followed, and the Human Genome Project was completed in 2003. Through these discoveries, it was found that it is possible to know what the baby will look like, even before cells show human form.

The Bible indicates this fact as follows: "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." Psalm 139:16 (See also Jeremiah 1:5; Isaiah 49:1)

Biotechnology: Research on DNA editing is still ongoing. In the early 1970s, Paul Berg, an American biochemist and molecular biologist, pioneered the development of recombinant DNA technology.

The Bible shows us a successful case of human DNA modification. "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." Genesis 2:21–22

However, the Bible also clarifies that this belongs to God's power, warning against genetically modified organisms. "Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled." Deuteronomy 22:9 (See also Leviticus 19:19)

Medicine

Sanitization Techniques: French chemist Louis Pasteur developed the idea that germs cause diseases in the 1860s. The handwashing policy was first implemented by Ignaz Semmelweis, a Hungarian physician, in 1847 after he observed medical students assisting pregnant women right after touching cadavers in the lab downstairs. It was only

in 1865 that Joseph Lister, a British surgeon, first introduced antiseptic surgery.

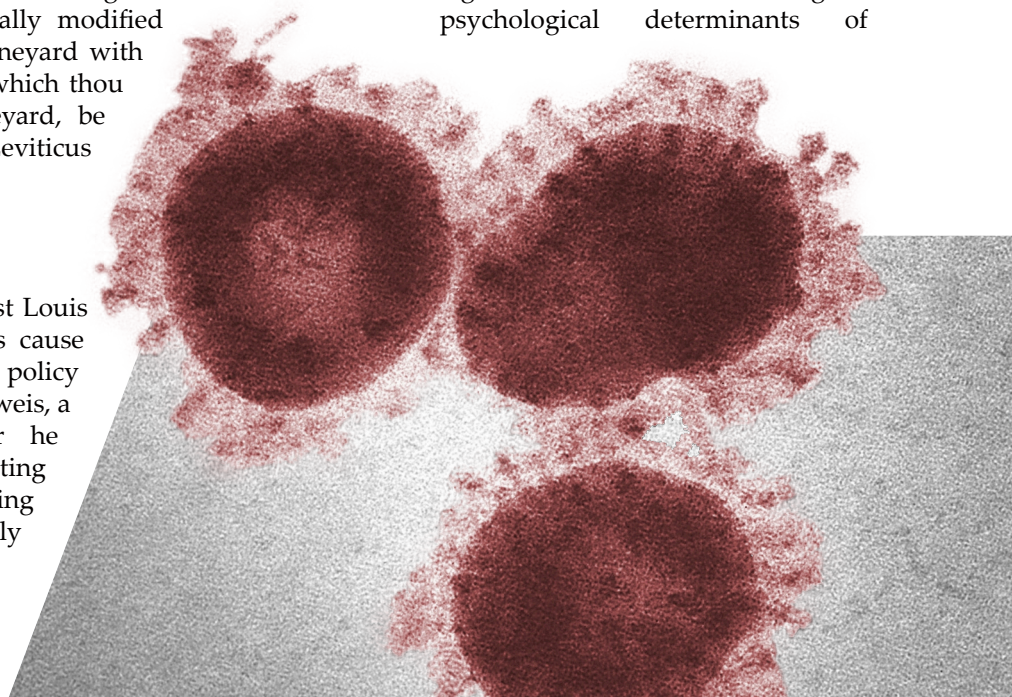
Long before their discoveries, The Bible teaches the right sanitizing techniques to stop the spread of diseases caused by bacteria, such as isolating patients with leprosy or bodily discharge, burning or washing the clothes, vessels, house, etc. "And whomsoever he toucheth that hath the issue, and hath not rinsed his hands in water, he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even." Leviticus 15:11 (See also Leviticus chapters 13–15)

We can also find the example of cleaning the wound with alcohol. "And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him." Luke 10:34

Anesthesia: For centuries, surgeries were done without anesthesia. The first surgical operation using anesthesia was in 1842 by Crawford Long, an American physician and surgeon. James Young Simpson, a Scottish obstetrician, who discovered chloroform anesthesia in 1847, reported that he took inspiration from the following verse:

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof." Genesis 2:21

Psychology: When did scientists make a formal exploration of the connection between physical health and psychological factors, such as stress, emotions, and personality traits? The pioneer work is found in the late 19th century. George Beard, an American physician, introduced the idea that stress can exhaust the nervous system. Sigmund Freud, the popular Austrian physician, developed a theory on the unconscious mind and laid the groundwork for understanding the psychological determinants of



physical health. And finally, in the early 20th century, Walter Cannon, an American physiologist, introduced the term “fight or flight response” to describe the body’s physiological reaction to stress.

What does the Bible say? “A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.” “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” Proverbs 14:30, 17:22 (See also Proverbs 4:22-23, 16:24, 18:14; Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7)

The Shift in Medical Paradigm: Until the late 20th century, physicians’ main interest was defeating disease, not caring much about a patient’s mental and spiritual state. The holistic approach, which involves understanding the patient, merged around 1986 when the Ottawa Charter was published.

However, Jesus showed the concept thousands of years before. “And when He saw their faith, He said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. . . . But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (He said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.” Luke 5:20, 24

For more detail on this topic, please read *The Reformation Messenger*, May/June 2023, p. 19–23

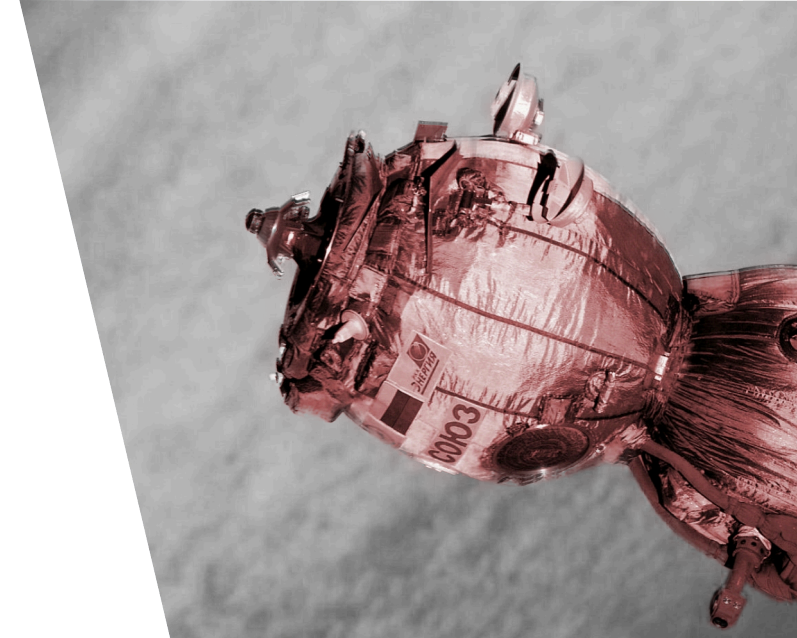
Sanitation: Until the 19th century, Europeans used to throw their excretions into the street from their windows. This often caused a huge outbreak of numerous infectious diseases such as Typhoid fever, dysentery, cholera, etc. Finally, in 1854, John Snow, a British physician, identified the cause, further leading to public health measures.

Once again, the Bible was far ahead of human science. “Thou shalt have a place also without the camp, whither thou shalt go forth abroad: And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee” Deuteronomy 23:12–13

Biology

Taxonomy: The work of modern taxonomy started with Carl Linnaeus in the 18th century, who classified living organisms into species, genera, families, orders, classes, phyla, and kingdoms.

Thousands of years before him, the first man had already done it: “And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for



him.” Genesis 2:20

Linnaeus believed in the possibility of classification because of the fixity of species. This is also shown in the Bible as “after its kind.” (See Genesis 1:11, 21, 25)

Astronomy

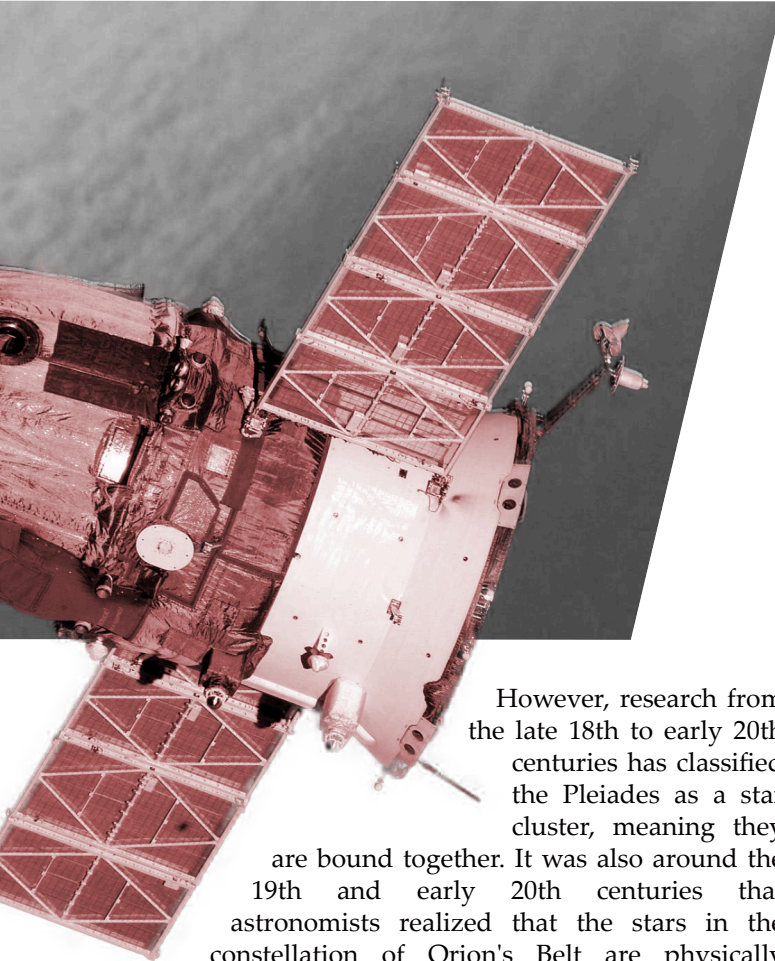
Ordinances of Heaven: God asked Job, “Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven?” (Job 38:33), indicating that there are principles of physics that run stars and planets.

Little by little, scientists started finding these laws, mostly since the 17th century, such as Kepler’s Law, Newton’s law of universal gravitation, Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity, Hubble’s Law, The Laws of Thermodynamics, etc. Yet, there is more to discover.

Number of Stars: Until modern astronomy came into place around the 16th and 17th centuries, scientists insisted that the number of stars was around a few thousand. Nowadays, it is reported that there are a minimum of 100 billion stars found, and scientists are continuing to discover more.

The Bible said, “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.” Jeremiah 33:22 (See also Genesis 22:17)

Pleiades and Orion: Job 38:31 says “Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?” The Bible says God bound the Pleiades together and disconnected the bands of Orion. For a long time, scientists laughed at this verse, believing the Pleiades, also known as seven sisters, are only stars, not clusters. They also argued that the three stars at the center of Orion are connected, forming a band.



Earth Science

The Circulation of the Air: One of the earliest known figures to propose the concept of air circulation was Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher, in the 4th century BC.

Centuries before, the Bible reports as follows: “The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.” Ecclesiastes 1:6 (See also Isaiah 55:10)

The Atmosphere as a Shield: In the 17th century, the French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal was one of the earliest proponents of the idea that the atmosphere serves as a protective shield for Earth. Later, John Tyndall and Joseph Fourier discovered the greenhouse effect in the 19th century. G.M.B. Dobson and Susan Solomon discovered the protection of the ozone layer against ultraviolet radiation in the 20th century.

Regarding this, the Bible says: “It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.” Isaiah 40:22

Sun Causes Wind: The wind is caused by the difference in air temperatures caused by the sun. This fact was discovered by French mathematician and physicist Pierre Simon de Laplace in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

What does the Bible say? “By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?” Job 38:24

The States of Water and The Hydrological Cycle: One of the earliest known descriptions of the states of water comes from ancient Greek philosophers, such as Empedocles and Aristotle. Robert Boyle and Joseph Priestley started the systematic study of the different states of water in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Bible states centuries before: “When He uttereth His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of His treasures.” Jeremiah 10:13 (See also: Job 38:30, 37:10, 36:27–28; Psalm 135:7; Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 55:10; Job 36:27–28)

Oceanography: In the 1950s and 1960s, Marie Tharp and Bruce Heezen used data collected from echo soundings to create detailed maps of the Mid-Atlantic

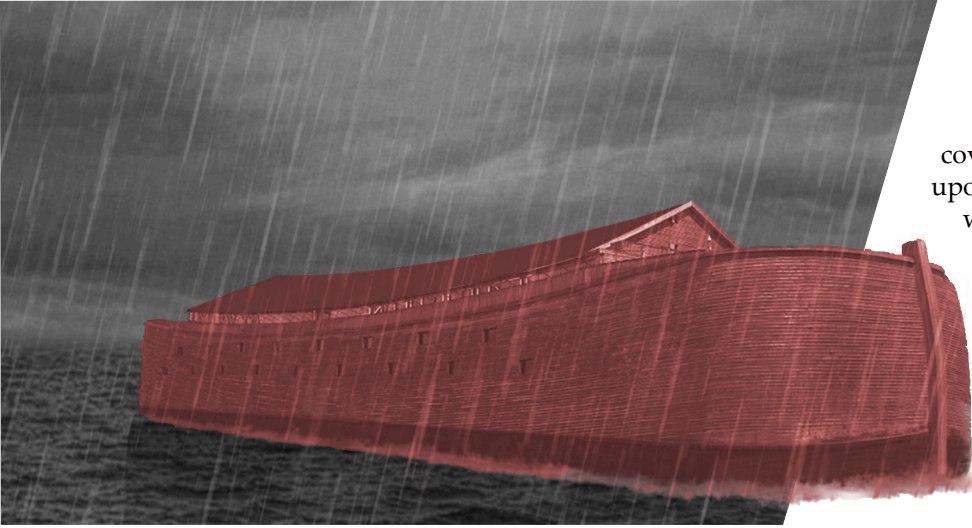
However, research from the late 18th to early 20th centuries has classified the Pleiades as a star cluster, meaning they are bound together. It was also around the 19th and early 20th centuries that astronomers realized that the stars in the constellation of Orion's Belt are physically unrelated and located at vastly different distances from Earth.

The Size of Space: The realization that the size of the universe is essentially immeasurable began to emerge in the early 20th century. Until then, different cultures and astronomers had their own estimations of its size.

However, the Bible states clearly: “Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord.” Jeremiah 31:37 (See also Isaiah 55:9; Job 22:12)

Sphere Earth Suspended in Space: Ancient people suggested different ideas about the shape and state of the Earth, such as the Earth being flat or on the back of a turtle. The first people who suggested the Earth as a sphere and suspended in space were Greek philosophers such as Pythagoras, Plato, and Aristotle in the 6th to 4th centuries BC.

However, way before these discoveries, the Bible states as follows: “He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” “It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.” Job 26:7; Isaiah 40:22



covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." Ezekiel 28:14

Technology

Shipbuilding: The ratio of height, weight, and length of the ship is the core of shipbuilding techniques, as these determine stability. This has been developed over centuries.

Ridge and other underwater features. Their work revealed the presence of submarine mountain ranges, rift valleys, and other geological formations previously unknown to science.

However, the Bible shows us that there are paths under the deep water, where humans' eyes cannot see: "The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas." Psalm 8:8 (See also Job 38:16; Proverbs 8:28; Psalm 33:6–9)

Uniformitarianism: The Bible also states that there will be a rise of false scientific theories. The Bible prophesized that at the end of the time, there will be people who believe in uniformitarianism, which is the assumption that the same natural laws and processes that operate in our present-day scientific observations have always operated in the universe in the past and apply everywhere in the universe.

"And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Peter 3:4

Physics

Molecular Vibration: The fact that every matter vibrates at a molecular or atomic level was discovered in the 19th and early 20th centuries by many scientists such as Joseph Fourier, Louis de Broglie, James Clerk Maxwell, Ludwig Boltzmann, Max Planck, Albert Einstein, and Peter Debye.

The Bible says: "And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." Hebrews 12:27

Radiation: Marie Curie discovered radium and polonium in 1898, which are radioactive elements. Who would have known that there could be a stone that shines?

Well, the Bible did. "Thou art the anointed cherub that

The Bible shows us the perfect ratio. "And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it." Genesis 6:15–16

In 1992, the Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials experimented with the stability of Noah's ark. Scientists made 1/50-size model arks according to the ratio indicated in the Bible and 12 models with different ratios. The result showed that Noah's Ark is 13 times more stable than the standard of the American Bureau of Shipping. It is reported that many scientists involved in this experiment converted after witnessing these tests.

Conclusion

There are many more discoveries in the Bible. The history of Noah's flood explains much about fossils, dinosaurs, oil, and geological change. The history of Babel explains the origin of different languages. In regards to Eve, it was in the late 1970s when Allan Wilson discovered through mtDNA that all humans came from a common maternal ancestor. There are many more verses like these.

If we extend our studies to the testimonies, we find even more. For example, Sister White warned against smoking when doctors advertised its use. There might be many more discoveries to be made in the future, only to come back to simple verses in the Bible.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain." 1 Corinthians 3:19–20

Amen

Abram

Based on Genesis 11-25:10

By Edda Tedford



Thera, one of Shem's descendants lived with his family in Ur in the land of the Chaldeans. One day he departed out of Ur, taking his son Abram, Sarai – Abram's wife and Lot, son of Haran – his son's son and settled down in Haran in Canaan.

In the stream of time, at the age of 205, Thera passed away.

Haran, like Ur, was the centre of a Moon cult (SDA, Bible Commentary, vol. 8, p.639), corrupting the people of God with this pagan worship of old.

Ever since the Babylonian language confusion, all scattered nations prompted their own version of religion, in open rebellion against the God of creation.

Then God spoke to Abram, a pious, God-fearing man to open before Abram

His divine plan.

"Get thee out of this country, away from thy father's house and kindred to a land

I will show thee, make of thee a great nation, bless thee and in thee shall all families of earth be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3

Then Abram age 75, left Haran with Sarai his wife, his nephew Lot, with all possessions, herds and servants he in Haran got.

Leaving that beautiful, prosperous place was a great leap of faith

moving to a land he did not know what he would face,

a journey into the unknown, but God had spoken, it was to Abram a safe token.

Trekking through the land, to the place of Moreh they had come.

*Here God appeared to Abram saying:
"Unto thy seed will I give this land."*

There Abram built an altar to the LORD, then moving onward, southward.

*Briefly settling east of Bethel on a mountain,
Building an altar unto God and called there on His name,
Leaving the altar for a witness to remain.*

.....

After weeks and days of tedious journeying the travel band reached the South

of the land, but alas, there was a grievous famine in the land.

Did God lead them here to perish for want of food with all his camels,

goats and sheep? There was no grass for them to feed.

But Abram simply kept on going aiming toward Egypt, trusting thus the famine to escape it.

Being afraid for his life, he told Sarai not to say she is his wife, because of this dishonesty, his life and all his company

could have been in dire jeopardy!
The Egyptian princes brought Sarai to Pharaoh.
Enchanted by her beauty, he desired Sarai to become his wife.

He gave Abram cattle, asses, oxen, sheep, camels, maidens,
servants, silver, gold,

Enriching all his household.

But for Sarai's sake God did interfere,
Casting over Pharaoh's house great plagues and fear!

Then in his distress Pharaoh rebuked Abram
for his untruthfulness:

"Take now your wife and leave, helping men I give
To guide you on the way, no longer here to stay!

So Abram returned to Bethel where he had raised up
an altar unto God before,

Lived and worshipped there.

.....

He and Lot had grand possessions, flocks, large herds,
but the land

Was not able to bear this grand large band.

And the Canaanite and Perizzite dwelt there in the land.

There was need to separate, Abram graciously let Lot chose

The rich and fertile plain of Jordan to move onward,

And Lot pitched his tent near Sodom eastward.

.....

And the LORD said to Abram:

"Lift up thine eyes and look in all directions,

All land you see I will give thee and your seed,

And I will make thy seed as numerous like dust.

Arise, walk through all the land it will be yours indeed."

Then Abram moved
and came to the plain of Mamre in Hebron,

Building an altar unto God, residing there
with all he brought along.

.....

It was not too long that Lot moved on to Sodom.

The city had a king, Bera was his name,

Against that same and other kings of four,

The king of Elam, Chedolamer, with three kings made war
Against them for rebelling to serve Chedolamer any longer.

Bera and the four kings with him were defeated,

Fled up to the mountain, their armies being sore depleted.

King of Elam with his allies looted Sodom and Gomorrah,
Animals, victuals and families, among them Lot
and all he had,

Then far away were led.

Abram learning of this tragedy, at once set up his strategy,

Armed his 318 well-trained servants, pursued the spoilers
on even unto Dan.

With heroic might, fighting in the night, he recovered Lot,
All captive taken people, all the goods, the animals and victuals.

Melchisedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God,

Met Abram on the way – it was a glorious day,

As Melchisedek brought bread and wine,

Blessed Abram who by the hand divine,

Had gained the victory over the fierce enemy.

And Abram gave him tithes of all he had,

Then moved on being very blessed and glad. . . .

.....

At his home in Mamre, Abram was well known for his wealth,

Pious, kind demeanor, was held in great honour

By the heathen nations in Canaan's land there.

Even so he felt himself a stranger and fear in him did linger.

Then God appeared to him in vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am

thy shield and thy great reward."

Abram inquired in regard of the reward,
what God would give him,

as he had no son of his own, but a steward born in his house
would be heir in this whole affair.

Then he was to look up to heaven if he would be able to count
the stars out.

God then points – so shall be his seed coming
from his loins!

And Abram believed the word of the LORD in his faithfulness,

And it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Then was Abram a sacrifice of several clean animals to bring,
And God made with him His covenant, consuming the offering.

And speaking in a vision, that Abram's seed will be a stranger

In a strange land, ruled by a strong hand four hundred years

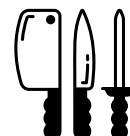
With affliction. But God will judge that nation
and in the 4th generation,

Will lead out His people by His own hand into this very land
with great substance for their possession.

End of Part 1. To be continued.

THE REFORMATION MESSENGER

LENTIL SOUP WITH DUMPLINGS



Ingredients:

1 medium onion, chopped
 1 large carrot, peeled and diced
 1 medium parsley root, diced
 1 stalk celery, diced
 2 garlic cloves, minced
 1 cup brown lentils, sorted and rinsed
 1 large yellow potato, diced
 1 tsp. red paprika, mild
 8 cups water
 2 bay leaves
 ½ cup parsley, chopped
 2 tsp. dry lovage
 2 Tbsp. organic coconut oil
 Himalayan salt to taste

Instructions:

In a large pot on low heat, sauté onion, carrots and celery in the coconut oil for a couple of minutes. Then add the garlic and paprika and continue stirring for another minute or so. Now add the parsnip, lentils, potatoes, bay leaves and water. You can also add a little salt at this time, then cover and simmer.

About 15 to 20 minutes before the soup is done, you may spoon in the dumplings in teaspoon size portions. When the soup comes back to the boil, let simmer until dumplings are done. Now stir in the parsley, lovage and the salt, to taste.

Whole Wheat Cream of Wheat Dumplings

½ cup whole wheat flour	¼ cup cream of wheat
1 Tbsp. chickpea flour	½ cup water
¼ tsp. salt	½ tsp. ground nutmeg

In a bowl stir all the dumpling ingredients together and let rest for 10 to 15 minutes, then spoon the mixture into the soup.

This lentil soup is loaded with fiber, protein, iron and folate as well as potassium and several B vitamins and more. I hope you enjoy!!

If you prefer barley over dumplings, you can stir in ½ cup of cooked pot barley when the soup is done.



Argentina



Mongolia



United States



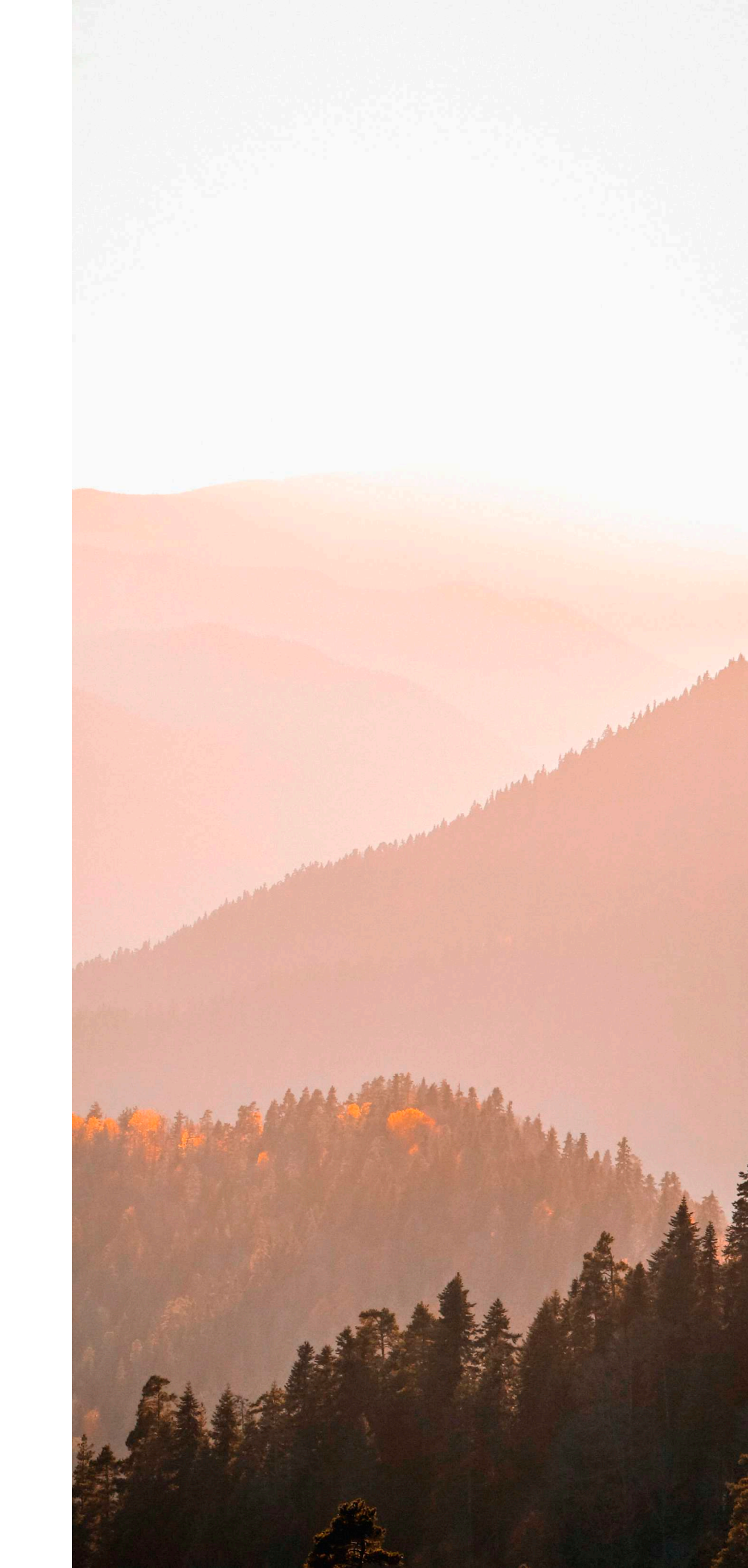
Ecuador



Malaysia



Tanzania



“What is traced in your diary
this year?

Does it record an experience
gained by ministering to the
suffering, the poor, and the
needy?

Those who are suffering for
Christ's sake, who will not
yield the truth for error, who,
perhaps, are incarcerated
within prison walls,—these
need comfort and
encouragement.

This is the kind of work that is
deciding our destiny.

There is a precious reward
awaiting those who are faithful
in their ministry.

They will have a home in the
mansions that Christ has gone
to prepare for them that love
Him and wait for His
appearing.”

—*The Youth's Instructor*,
August 19, 1897



**International
Missionary Society**

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Reform Movement