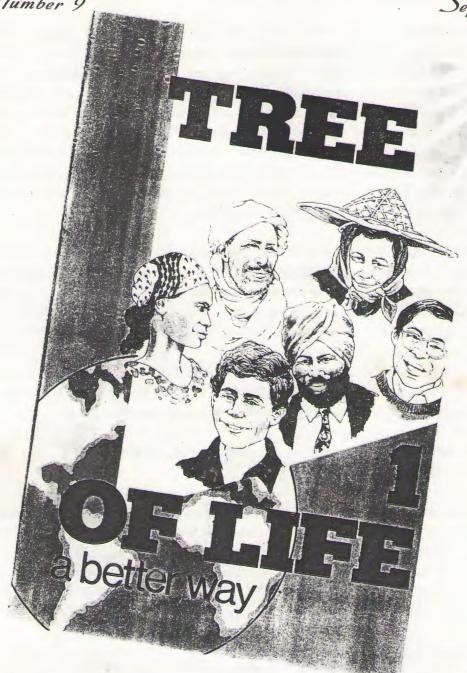
### The Canadian-Caribbean Union

# Messenger

Volume 3, Number 9

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new canvassing book "Tree of Life #1" is now available from IMS Publishing

### Christ Our Righteousness

Part 13

#### The Ten Virgins

In this parable two classes of believers are represented. In the beginning no outward difference was seen between them. Both classes, the foolish and the wise fulfilled the outward ceremonies. They were members of the church. They were all awaiting the second coming of Christ.

Christ's righteousness was offered to both these classes equally. The wise accepted the offer, the foolish were satisfied with the righteousness of their own.

The Spirit of Prophesy describes these two classes in the following manner: "The five foolish virgins had lamps [this means knowledge of the scripture truth], but they had not the grace of Christ. Day by day they went through a round of ceremonies and external duties, but their services were lifeless, devoid of the righteousness of Christ. The sun of righteousness did not shine in their hearts and minds, and they had not the love of truth which conforms to life and character, the image and superscription of Christ. The oil of grace was not mingled with their endeavors. Their religion was dry husk without the true kernel. They held fast to the forms of doctrines, but they were deceived in their Christian life, full of self-righteousness, and failing to learn the lessons in the school of Christ, which, if practiced, would have made them wise unto salvation." Rev & Her, March 27, 1894.

The foolish virgins represent a class of church members who perform all the ceremonies and the external duties. They can be blameless outwardly in keeping the law, as was the apostle Paul before his conversion. "Touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless" Phil 3:6. Yet lacking the saving grace and being without the righteousness of Christ. They had kept the letter of the law but were lacking in keeping the spirit of the law.

The foolish virgins had the knowledge of the Bible but were not living a sinless life. Therefore to them applies the verses of Heb.10:26. "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins."

The greater our knowledge, the greater is our danger to fail in practicing it. And the greater is our danger to sin against the Holy Spirit.

Jesus spoke of a second mile. The first mile was according to the law and therefore their duty. The second mile was not required by the law but was done from love. The second mile fulfilled the spirit of the law. Yet many professed Christians are struggling to keep the letter of the law which is required for membership in the church. So they fail to walk the second mile which would qualify them for eternal life. The Holy Spirit finally leaves a person who is satisfied with a dry, formal religion.

When the cry is heard "Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," all the virgins wake up. This cry is the voice of God spoken by the signs of the times. The Sunday

law, and other events declare that the end is upon us. This cry is heard before the latter rain is poured out, then the church is pure and blameless. The separation of the wise and the foolish virgins takes place before the latter rain.

The cry, behold the bridegroom cometh is heard after the judgment of the church members. All the members who receive the seal of the Living God will have the Holy Spirit. Their vessels which refer to the temple of the body will be filled with the oil, while the foolish virgins were left without the oil. The Holy Spirit left them in outer darkness and the result is separation in the church.

It is terrible when they wake up from their comfortable sleep realizing that they are lost, with no chance of salvation. "It is impossible to describe the horror and despair of those who have trampled upon God's holy requirements. "G.C. pg. 639. Now they "wander from sea to sea, and from north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." Amos 8:11. The wedding garment was offered to them, but they refused it. The pure spotless life of Christ did not appeal to them. They were satisfied with their own righteousness and the door was shut and they were outside.

Today the door is still open. Today Jesus is still calling you. His tender voice is speaking words of love, offering you the "fine linen, clean and white" of His own righteousness.

Daily you have to make a choice between Christ and Barabbas. When you take your Bible to read you choose Christ. When you choose a worldly book or a worldly television program you choose Barabbas. When you decide to do missionary work you choose Christ. But by wasting precious time in idleness you choose Barabbas. Daily you are gaining oil into your vessel or losing the little you had.

The decision in heaven over our eternal destiny is made when the wise and foolish virgins are comfortably sleeping. Jesus said: "then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. The women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Matt 24:40-41.

It is not the time of persecution or Sunday law when we are judged but a quiet peaceful time. May the Lord help each one of us to use the remaining, short time wisely and not to rest or give up until our vessels are filled with oil and the wedding garment covers us.

Amen

"A neglect to do what we might do, and what God requires us to do in His cause, is a sin which cannot be palliated with excuses of circumstances or conditions, for Jesus has made provision for all in every emergency." Test.3 page 505.

#### When Jesus becomes a Mountain

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream which was interpreted by Daniel, we see four great kingdoms which ruled the world one after the other. The 10 toes are clearly presented as the 10 kings which rose out of the iron kingdom.

### But the question arises, what does the stone which became a great mountain which filled the whole earth represent?

The Spirit of Prophecy vol. #3, pg. 41: "But when Christ shall visit the wicked, His judgments will not fall only upon the Jews but upon all who have refused the heavenly benefits of the grace of God. The stone that was passive, bearing humbly all the abuse heaped upon it, will then lift itself in life and power above those who despised and rejected it. They will see in this their rock of offense, an avenging mountain falling upon and crushing them."

#### When will this happen?

"Daniel, speaking of the destruction of the earthly kingdoms, says: "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. For as much as thou sawest that stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it break in the pieces of the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver and the gold: the great God hath made known... what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to his works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Selection from Testimonies pg. #7.

"Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Rom. 12:19. Jesus becomes the avenging mountain and falls upon the sinners to crush them.

#### STRIKING EXPERIENCES IN HAITI

Haiti is a country which has been unstable since the beginning of its written history, with ethnic, racial, political and military, etc. uprisings. It is one of the poorest countries in the world and has survived inhumane conditions brought about as a result of long lasting exploitations, inhumane ways of treating its people, and systematic destruction of natural resources of the country. Nothwithstanding the dramatics of these words, there is not a least exaggeration in them because even in our own ranks sadly we must grieve the shed blood of a young pastor.

"About 2:00 in the morning I woke up to a knock at the door and two men with guns demanded to see the pastor who according to them carried money on him. At a distance I heard my brother's moaning while being cruelly beaten. Another brother who slept next to our room fled the house. We heard gun shots and cries until there came a terrible silence. The assailants fled and our neighbours came to help and as I was recuperating I wanted to take my brother to the hospital but his wounds were fatal." This was told by the brother of the slain pastor.

This brother was in charge of our work in Haiti, he had told the members of the church that he was looking for a meeting place for them, and that he had \$1,000 US which had been collected in other countries for this purpose. This amount was a fortune considering the situation in the country and this was the reason for the robbery and killing. After this tragic incident there was hardly any communication with the church in Haiti because of the danger in travelling there. In January 1996, the Canadian-Caribbean Union planned to visit this country to revive the work again, counting on interested people who had returned to Port au Prince from Santa Domingo.

As the Lord leads in all things, we were grateful to hear of a Haitian brother who lives in New York City and who was willing to accompany us to visit his country. After a visit to Cuba we agreed to meet in the capital city of Haiti, Port au Prince. With fear but also with joy and being encouraged by the love of our Lord Jesus we undertook the journey together with brother Clemene Guerrero, who is the president of the Dominican field.

Our arrival was rewarded with a pleasing surprise to find out that our brethren had remained faithful during this terrible time in the country and being separated from the rest of the church. We listened to the experiences of the brethren who had passed through great dangers. Especially I like to relate shortly about brother Thomas who had to flee to a mountain village and there he requested a permit to hold evangelistic meetings which was granted, and then he explained his desire to present prophetic truths. This had quick results and this brother started a small school which had an enrollment of more than 300 students, although at the moment because of lack of equipment only 191 students up to seventh grade receive teaching from four teachers. Also of the interested souls who had prepared themselves for baptism, thanks to God and His Name I could baptize 46 souls, among whom was one Methodist pastor who learned the message in the Dominican Republic. With the existing members the number reached 60 baptized members, while another 20 souls are yet waiting for baptism in this beautiful but devastated country.

In spite of the joy of the members and their firmness in the truth, the condition is really shaky considering that one day's wages to the workers is 50 cents. These three organized groups come together understanding the dangerous situation in the country which pass the limits of what is considered poverty. I have submitted these lines with a special appeal to all the members to help our church in Haiti.

RAUL ESCOBAR.

#### THE STONING SYSTEM

ELLEN G. WHITE

I had a dream. I saw **A** in close conversation with men and with ministers. He adroitly would make statements born of suspicion and imagination to draw them out, and then would gain expression from them. I saw him clap his hands over something very eagerly. I felt a pang of anguish at heart as I saw this going on. I saw in my dream yourself and **B** in conversation with him. You made statements to him which he seemed to grasp with avidity, and close his hand over something. I then saw him go to his room, and there upon the floor was a pile of stones systematically laid up. Every stone had a name - some report gathered up - and every stone was numbered.

The young man who often instructs me came and looked upon the pile of stones with grief and indignation, and inquired [of A] what he had and what he proposed to do with them. A looked up with a sharp, gratified laugh. "These are mistakes of C. I am going to stone him with them, stone him to death." The young man said, "You are bringing back the stoning system, are you? You are worse than the ancient Pharisees. Who gave you this work to do? The Lord raised you up, the Lord entrusted you with a special work. The Lord has sustained you in a most remarkable manner, but it was not for you to degrade your powers for this kind of work. Satan is an accuser of the brethren."

I thought A seemed very defiant and determined. Said he, "C is trying to tear us to pieces. He is working against us, and to save our reputation and life, we must work against him. I shall use every stone to the last pebble here upon this floor to kill him. This is only self-defence, a disagreeable necessity."

And then said the young man solemnly, "What have you gained? Have you in the act righted your wrongs? Have you opened your heart to Jesus Christ, and does He sit there enthroned? Who occupies the citadel of the soul under this administration of the stoning system?"

"You have a higher calling, a more important work. Leave all such work of gathering stones for the enemies of God's law. You brethren must love one another, or you are not children of the day, but of darkness."

I then saw **C** engaged in a similar work, gathering stones, making a pile, and ready to begin the stoning system. Similar words were repeated to him with additional injunctions, and I awoke.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 12, pages 10,11



Cooking Class in Vancouver



Patrick Hemerha



Anala Ch.

### LIFE INSURANCE

"I was shown that Sabbathkeeping Adventists should not engage in life insurance. This is a commerce with the world which God does not approve. Those who engage in this enterprise are uniting with the world, while God calls His people to come out from among them and to be separate. Said the angel: "Christ has purchased you by the sacrifice of His life. 'What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.' 'For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." Here is the only life insurance which heaven sanctions." Testimonies for the church vol. #1. pg. 549.

"Life insurance is a worldly policy which leads our brethren who engage in it to depart from the simplicity and purity of the gospel. Every such departure weakens our faith and lessens our spirituality. Said the angel: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light." As a people we are in a special sense the Lord's. Christ has bought us. Angels that excel in strength surround us. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without the notice of our heavenly Father. Even the hairs on our head are numbered. God has made provisions for His people. He has a special care for them, and they should not distrust His providence by engaging in a policy with the world.

God designs that we should preserve in simplicity and holiness our peculiarity as a people. Those who engage in this worldly policy invest means which belong to God, which He has entrusted to them to use in His cause, to advance His work. But few will realize any returns from life insurance, and without God's blessing even these will prove an injury instead of a benefit. Those whom God has made His stewards have no right to place in the enemy's ranks the means which He has entrusted to them to use in His cause." Testimonies to the Church vol.#2. pg. 550.

"How uncertain is life! today many of you may go out in usual health, and you may be brought home lifeless. Your unfinished work is left for other hands to do. Today is the time to enroll your name with those who love God, and who keep His commandments. Today make your calling and election sure. Peter gives a copy of the best life insurance policy in the world. He says: "Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who has called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And besides this giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to

temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he has been purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be administered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." The Youth's Instructor 12-07-1893.

"Let us not lower the standard, but keep it lifted high, looking to him who is the Author and Finisher of our faith." L.S. pg.437.

"As the truth is brought into practiced life, the standard is to be elevated higher and higher, to meet the requirements of the Bible. This will necessitate opposition to the fashions, customs, practices and maxims of the world. Worldly influences, like the waves of the sea, beat against the followers of Christ to sweep them away from the true principles of meekness and the grace of Christ; but they are to stand as firm as a rock to principle."

F.E. pg. #288

We may be firm in one point of truth but if we fail in another point we are not faithful before God. The firmness in one commandment will not make up for the laxity in the other. "Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful." Test, vol. #5. pg.53.

BAPTISM IN

HAITI



### NATURE'S MOST BASIC REMEDIES

"We cannot be too often reminded that health does not depend on chance. It is a result of obedience to law." MH p. 128

#### FRESH AIR:

"One may live many days without solid food, and several days without even liquid food, but death comes in a few moments without air.

"The lungs can and should be greatly improved by systematic exercise.

"The detrimental effects of breathing impure air, especially in a room where there are several people, are headache, nervousness, dullness, and aggravation of all diseases pertaining to lung affections."

"Walking increases the inhalation of oxygen threefold. Regular exercise in the open air is one of the most important factors for preservation of health and prolongation of life.

"Proper exercise in the open air and sunshine are among God's greatest gifts to man.... It gives buoyancy and strength, and maintains a healthful mental balance, free from the extremes resulting from artificial life." *Back to Eden*, By Jethro Kloss, pp. 53 - 56.

#### EXERCISE

"Exercise in open air should be prescribed as a life-giving necessity." MH p. 265 "Inactivity is a fruitful cause of disease...." Ibid p. 240

"More people die for want of exercise than through overfatigue; very many more rust out than wear out..." Test Vol. 2 p. 525

"Exercise will aid the work of digestion. To walk out after a meal, hold the head erect, put back the shoulders, and exercise moderately, will be of great benefit." Ibid, p. 530 "Invalids often deprive themselves of sunlight. This is one of nature's most healing agents." Ibid p. 527

"The lungs are constantly throwing off impurities, and they need to be constantly supplied with fresh air. Impure air does not afford the necessary supply of oxygen, and the blood passes to the brain and other organs without being vitalized." MH p. 274

#### PURE WATER

"In health and in sickness, pure water is one of heaven's choicest blessings. Its proper use promotes health. It is the beverage which God has provided to quench the thirst of animals and man. Drunk freely it helps to supply the necessities of the system and assists nature to resist disease." MH p. 237

"When one drinks an abundance of pure, fresh water the blood and tissues are bathed and purified, thereby being cleansed of all poisons and waste matter. Water is also an essential constituent of the tissue cells and all body fluids, such as digestive juices, etc." *Back to Eden*, By Jethro Kloss, p. 120

#### PHYSICAL REST

"The habit of sitting up late at night is customary; but it is not pleasing to God,... These untimely hours injure health, unfit the mind for the next day's duties,..." Test. Vol. 3, p. 44, 45

"Proper periods of sleep and rest and an abundance of physical exercise are essential to health of body and mind. To rob nature of her hours for rest and recuperation by allowing one man to do the work of four, or of three, or even of two, will result in irreparable loss." Test. Vol. 7, p. 247

"It is not wise to be always under the strain of work and excitement, even in ministering to men's spiritual needs; for in this way personal piety is neglected, and the powers of mind and soul and body are over-taxed ...... God would have all study the laws of health, and use reason when working for Him, that the life which He has given may be preserved." GW p. 243

#### WHEN SICK

"... the sick should be taught that it is wrong to suspend all physical labour in order to regain health. In thus doing the will becomes dormant, the blood moves sluggishly through the system and constantly grows more impure....

"Those who have broken down by physical exertion must have less labour, and that which is light and pleasant. But to shut them away form all labor and exercise would in many cases prove their ruin ...... Inactivity is the greatest curse that could come upon such." Test. Vol. 1 p. 555, 556

#### CLEANLINESS

"A neglect of cleanliness will induce disease. Sickness does not come without a cause."

AH p. 22

Our homes are to be clean and in order, as well as our appearance, and God will be pleased. When our homes are messy, germs and bacteria collect, leading to sickness. We are to keep our bodies clean also with regular washing and bathing, and we will avoid many diseases.

#### DRESS

The clothes we wear are "an outward sign of inward purity." CH p. 101

"Christians are the light of the world, the salt of the earth. Their dress should be neat and modest, their conversation chaste and heavenly, and their deportment blameless." Test. Vol. 1, p. 425

"Articles of luxury, fashion craze, unnecessary showy trimmings, morally offensive dress, as the cutting-out of parts of the dress, or the using of transparent material, unhealthful and ill-fitting footwear, health-destroying lacing of the body, or the baring of the neck and shoulders, are unbecoming to a Christian." *Principles of Faith of the SDA church Reform Movement*. p. 12

"To protect the people of God from the corrupting influence of the world, as well as to promote physical and moral health, the dress reform was introduced among us. It was not intended to be a yoke of bondage, but a blessing, not to increase labour, but to save labour, not to add to the expense of dress, but to save

expense. It would distinguish God's people from the world and thus serve as a barrier against its fashions and follies." Test Vol. 4, p. 634

God will ask us for an account of the money He has given us to spend. Will we be guilty of unnecessary extravagance or be found as faithful stewards? Do you buy clothes when you need them or because you like a certain piece of clothing and you want it for outward display? Ask yourself these questions before buying.

Clothes are also to be clean, for when the clothes are dirty, your skin will absorb the dirt from your clothes. Also, when you have your clothes dry cleaned, it is a good idea to air them out outside for a few hours at least to get rid of some of the chemicals that have been used in cleaning, or your skin will absorb these chemicals

#### ATTITUDE

"Disease is sometimes produced, and is often greatly aggravated, by the imagination. Many are lifelong invalids who might be well if they only thought so. Many imagine that every slight exposure will cause illness, and the evil effect is produced because it is expected. Many die from disease, the cause of which is wholly imaginary. Courage, hope, faith, sympathy, love, promote health and prolong life. A contented mind, a cheerful spirit, is health to the body and strength to the soul.....

"In the treatment of the sick, the effect of mental influence should not be overlooked. Rightly used, this influence affords one of the most effective agencies for combating disease." MH p. 241

"We are waging a warfare upon which hang eternal results. We have unseen enemies to meet. Evil angels are striving for the dominion of every human being. Whatever injures the health, not only lessens physical vigour, but tends to weaken the mental and moral powers. Indulgence in any unhealthful practice makes it more difficult for one to discriminate between right and wrong, and hence more difficult to resist evil. It increases the danger of failure and defeat." MH p. 128

"By obedience the people were to give evidence of their faith. So all who hope to be saved by the merits of the blood of Christ should realize that they themselves have something to do in securing their salvation. While it is Christ only that can redeem us from the penalty of transgression, we are to turn from sin to obedience. Man is to be saved by faith, not by works; yet his faith must be shown by his works. God has given His Son to die as a propitiation for sin, He has manifested the light of truth, the way of life, He has given facilities, ordinances, and privileges; and now man must co-operate with these saving agencies; he must appreciate and use the helps that God has provided - believe and obey all the divine requirements." Patriarchs and Prophets, Page 279



#### MAD FISH DISEASE

An invasive bacteria caught from a cut when handling fresh fish has been discovered by Metro doctors.

"It's a brand new disease," Dr. Donald Low, head of micro-biology at Mount Sinai and Princess Margaret hospitals, said yesterday. "This is the first time it's been described in the world."

Sharp-eyed doctors at Scarborough Grace Hospital found four cases of streptococcus inaie infection between December and March and linked all four to the handling of whole, freshwater fish.

Since then, three more cases have been traced in Metro, Low said. "Two people are in hospital right now."

"It causes mad fish disease," he said. "It causes meningoencephalitis, so these fish have their eyes bulge out and they swim erratically before they die."

Once considered a threat only to fish, it's now clear that the bacteria can spread to humans, said Low, one of Canada's foremost microbiologists.

"We have put together a task force to address this and alert emergency departments."



"A neglect to do what we might do, and what God requires us to do in His cause, is a sin which cannot be palliated with excuses of circumstances or conditions, for Jesus has made provision for all in every emergency." T3 page 505.

### MANAGING ARTHRITIS

Most people associate arthritis, or joint inflammation, with aging. That may be because osteoarthritis, or degenerative joint disease, will be experienced by anyone who lives into old age. Rheumatoid arthritis is another type, more frequently found in women than men. About 14% of adults have arthritis, and next to high blood pressure and colds, it is the main reason people purchase prescription and non-prescription medications.

Arthritis can strike any time, come on suddenly or gradually, be chronic and very painful, and result in loss of mobility. Or it can be temporary and fairly mild, what our grandparents probably referred to as rheumatism.

If you are over forty and feel pain and stiffness in your hands or wrists, you may be experiencing mild osteoarthritis. But don't worry, many adults experience some level of arthritis in a few joints from time to time. Typically, the disease flares up for a while and then goes into remission, sometimes for long periods. Rheumatoid arthritis is more likely to be accompanied by redness, swelling and heat in the joint

Then there is gout, which we sometimes make fun of because it is associated with too rich a lifestyle. But people who have it don't laugh. It comes on suddenly (usually in the big toe) and is extremely painful. It is caused by too much uric acid in the body.

Fibromyalgia is another common variety of arthritis. It results in generalized muscular pain, stiffness, fatigue and often bowel problems or headaches. Fitness and muscle strengthening regiment is the usual treatment.

In general, arthritis may not be curable, but it can be controlled and improved. Therapies are aimed at reducing pain, slowing joint destruction, and minimizing disability. For anyone suffering from arthritis, following the therapy is important to long-term management of the disease.

#### CONTROLLING ARTHRITIS

1) Physiotherapy. Exercise won't return the joints to normal but by building up the muscles and the ligaments around them, you can maintain flexibility,

and reduce stress on them. Isometric exercises are helpful and non-stressful method of exercising during a flare up.

- 2) Heat, ice and massage therapy. All of these reduce the stress which causes tightening of the muscles around the joint.
- 3) Diet, good nutritious food to strengthen the body. Avoid acid foods and honey and sugar.



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## WOULD YOU WIN A SAVIOUR'S BLESSING?

CHRIST HAS NO FEET, OTHER THAN YOUR FEET, TO GO ON DEEDS OF MERCY,

CHRIST HAS NO HANDS, OTHER THAN YOUR HANDS, TO DO THOSE DEEDS OF LOVE.

CHRIST HAS NO LIPS,
OTHER THAN YOUR LIPS,
TO TELL OF HIS GRACE AND TRUTH.

WOULD YOU GO WHERE CHRIST'S FEET HAVE TROD?
THEN YOU MUST BE CALLED THE FRIEND OF GOD.

"A MAN THAT HATH FRIENDS MUST SHOW HIMSELF FRIENDLY: AND THERE IS A FRIEND THAT STICKETH CLOSER THAN A BROTHER." (PROVERBS 18:24)