

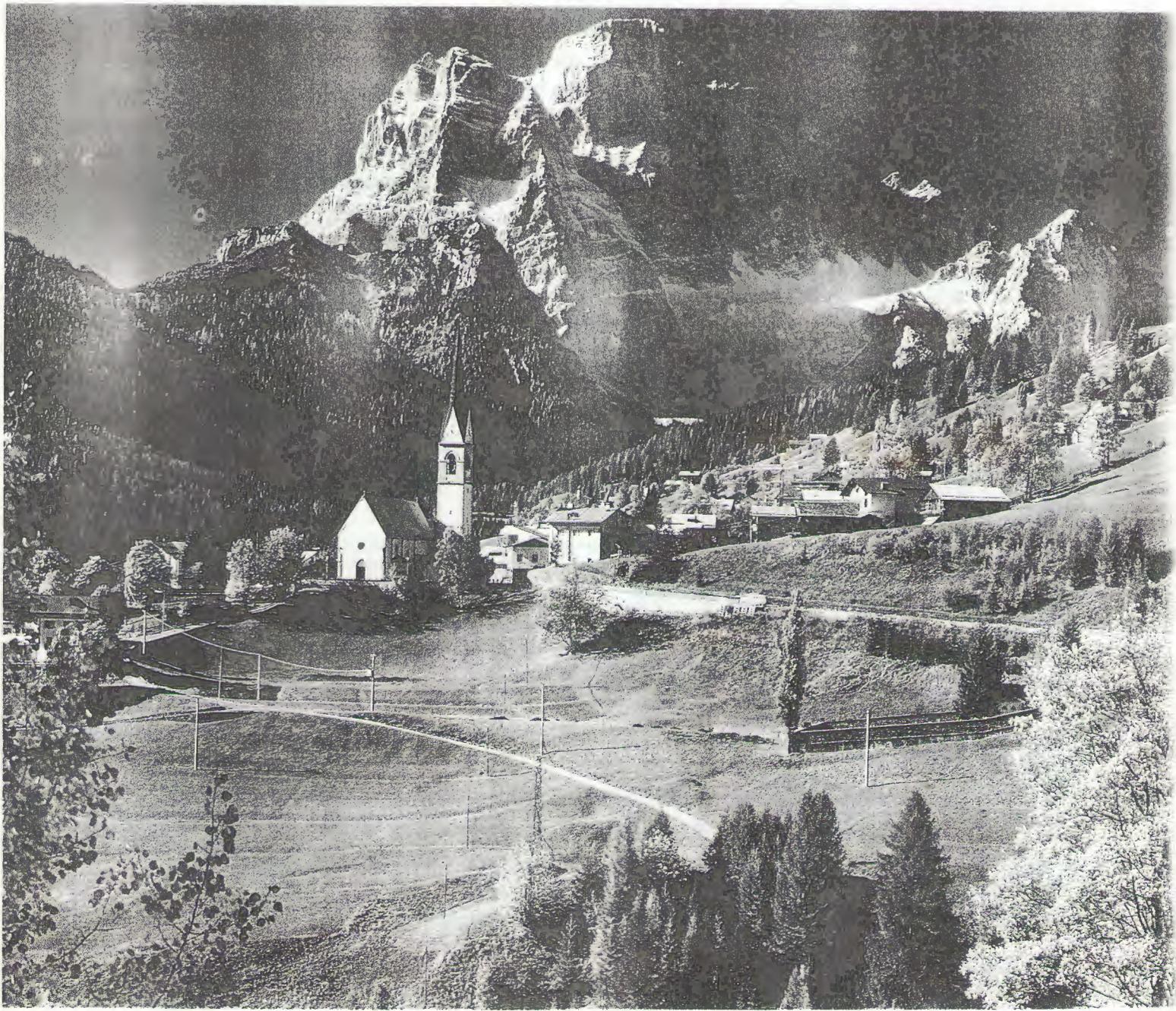
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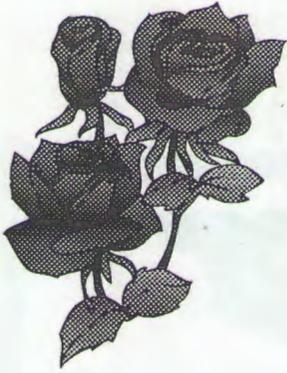


Messenger

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SANCTIFICATION

Part 11

Fruits of Sanctification

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7. This is a law of God. Everything we do bears a harvest, similar to the seed we have sown. Therefore, also our sanctification bears a harvest which we will receive as a reward.

"For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren." Heb 2:11.

They prayer of Jesus, "That they all may be one; as Thou Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us" will then be fulfilled. The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords will not be ashamed to call us brethren if we are being sanctified by Him. Further on the fruits of sanctification, we read:

"Truly spake God's servant Nehemiah: 'the joy in the Lord is your strength.' Neh. 8:10. And Paul says, 'Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, rejoice.' 'Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.' Phil. 4:4. 1 Thes. 5:16-18. Such are the fruits of Bible conversion and sanctification." GC 478. Wonderful are the fruits of sanctification

The joy in the Lord and rejoicing. These blessings when received will fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving to God.

Our world is filled with sorrow and sadness. Even the professed Christians are often unhappy and complaining. And the reason for it is lack of sanctification. Without it there cannot be true joy and peace in the human heart.

Sin brought sorrow to our first parents in the Garden of Eden and separated them from God. If sin is practised today the same results will happen again. It is not only the great sins that destroy our joy in the Lord but even little neglected duties will separate us from our God. And as our joy is gone then also our strength is lost and we become weak, and unable to resist the temptations of Satan.

Paul was in dungeon suffering physically, but yet his words do not express defeat, but victory. We read in Sanctified Life, p. 69: "His words fitly describe the results of that sanctification which we have in these pages endeavoured to set forth: 'I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.'"

The sanctification that had taken place in the life of Paul gave him this security of salvation which in return gave him great joy in the Lord even in these difficult moments in his life.

"He who is being sanctified by the truth will be self-controlled, and will follow in the footsteps of Christ until grace is lost in glory." MYP 35.

The joy and happiness that people seek in the world does not compare to the rejoicing that sanctification gives us. But, the sad thing is that many professed Christians also miss out on the joy of the Lord. As they joined with the Lord the first love filled their hearts and they felt themselves very happy. But, then if they do not continue in the sanctification their joy is gone and they continue in unhappy, formal religion as is recorded of the Laodicean angel. They are wretched and miserable while they profess to be rich and in need of nothing spiritually.

Every day we are to see progress in sanctification. Today we are to be more faithful, loving, and humble as we were yesterday. Today our missionary spirit is greater than ever before. We pray more and study Bible more than before. If we do not see this kind of progress in our life then we are back-sliding—losing ground and how could the Holy Spirit now comfort us and fill our hearts with joy. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him." Ps. 126:5-6.

Many have followed the Lord for many years and have left behind the world and their bad habits. They have done wonderful progress, but then it stops. They have reached the level of other church members and feel satisfied with the standard they have reached. Instead of looking to Jesus and continuing to perfection, they settle down to a lukewarm condition and fall asleep spiritually. As soon as this happens, their joy and happiness is gone. They begin to complain and criticize, finding fault in others, especially in the leaders. These are the fruits of back-sliding when the progress in sanctification has stopped.

Without the joy in the Lord the Christian life is a hard, miserable exercise. And, without sanctification no one can feel the fulness of joy nor perfect peace in their hearts. May the Lord help us to sow the seed of sanctification that we may reap the wonderful harvest in rejoicing.

AMEN



DIVINE POWER NECESSARY TO WIN OTHERS

Whenever man accomplishes anything, it is by co-operation with His Maker, but in the saving of the souls of men, God does all the work, making man His instrument. RH May 6, 1890

By faith in God he will have power to move upon humanity . . . If divine power does not combine with human effort, I would not give a straw for all that the greatest man could do. The Holy Spirit is wanting in our work. RH Feb. 18, 1890.

If you seek to imitate Christ in your character, the impression upon the people will not be made by you, but by the angels of God that stand right by your side; they will touch the hearts of those to whom you speak. RH Apr. 26, 1887.

HOW STRONG IS YOUR FAITH?

The most common definition of faith we have as Christians is found in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." This simple statement has profound meaning and normally we apply this to our spiritual lives. Yes, we believe that Jesus is coming soon. The signs of the times foretell that His coming can't be that far distant in the future. We cannot see it; we often see no clear evidence of His physical presence among us, but we believe that He is here through the Holy Spirit and that He is coming back physically, literally and personally very soon - why? Simply because He said He would and He pointed out various signs to watch out for to signify that His coming is near. We believe that He is with us daily, protecting us and comforting us, and again, because He said, "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Mat. 28:20. Yet, our faith is not completely without evidence. Like the electricity in our home, we do not see the generator but we know that it exists because we have electricity in our home and likewise we do not see our Heavenly Father but we know that He exists because of the evidences that He has given to us. While it is well and good to believe that God exists and that He is in ultimate control of this earth and all its happenings sometimes in the practical side of life our faith may waver.

I am reminded of an experience that a brother related to us. He told us of a Christian couple that he knew who were very devout. They had not been in this country for very long and therefore only had a basic knowledge of the English language. This hampered them in their search for work. For awhile they resorted to the welfare system to meet their needs until they could find work. While on welfare they came by some brief temporary work at which they made a little bit of money. Now the law in Canada says that you must report any money made to the welfare office (while being supported by welfare) and the office would deduct that amount from your next monthly allotment. Well this couple did not want to do this as they might not be able to make their ends meet on the very small sum that welfare gave them. Surely God did not want them to go into want by reporting this since it was almost impossible for them to meet their needs on welfare. This brief temporary work was sent of God, they reasoned, to help them meet their needs for that month. Well this brother saw the error of their thinking and, as much as he didn't want to tell them the truth, the Holy Spirit told him he must. (Often this is how the Holy Spirit works. He will reveal to you a fault or error in a brother or sister because He feels that you are the best one to deal with the matter and bring it to the offender in the Spirit of Christ. Unfortunately, sometimes this trust is not appreciated as it should be and the matter is not brought to the offender but rather to someone else.) This brother saw that the Holy Spirit was telling him he must tell these dear people the truth. With much prayer and Christian love he went to tell them that, while they thought they were gaining something in not reporting this income, in reality they were preventing the blessing of the Lord from being given to them. Thankfully this couple received the counsel and reproof and resolved to report all income in the future. The very next day God provided permanent employment for both of them. They thought they were helping God out since God had not been able to find them employment right away, but in reality they were preventing His blessing.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

We see many cases in the Bible when people tried to help God do His will and it ended in disaster. First of all there is the famous case of Jacob. God had promised him the birthright. He knew it, his mother knew it, his father knew it and his brother knew it. All his life long he was looking for that birthright blessing. Yet, his father stubbornly insisted it be given to his brother. On the day that Esau was sent out to hunt, prior to receiving the blessing, Rebekah became worried. God promised the blessing to Jacob but it appeared that Isaac was going to go against the will of God and give that blessing to Esau and it seemed God was not going to stop it. Something had to be done so she talked her son into deceiving his father. "That was the only way," she thought. She was trying to help God to do His will. Could God have prevented the blessing from being given to Esau had not Rebekah and Jacob intervened? Yes, He certainly could have. It might have been down to the last minute. It might have been when Isaac's hands were placed on Esau's head in preparation for the blessing to be given that God would have intervened. Jacob's

faith was to be tested and God may have tested it to the utmost, had his faith been strong. But, no, he failed the test. He lost his faith and along with his mother thought that it was necessary to lie to bring about God's purpose.

Then there is the case of Abraham. He not only once but twice told a lie that Sarah was his sister. Abraham had believed God implicitly when God told him to leave his country of Ur and go to a new land. He left everything behind and went forward by faith. Yet, we see the human element was also causing problems in Abraham's life. His faith faltered when he entered Egypt. "Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee." Also again when he went to Abimelech king of Gerar. "And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, she is my sister:" Genesis 12:13 and 20:2. Abraham feared for his life and forgot that God could protect him so he resorted to lying to save his life, to help God's will to be done. Isaac his son made the same mistake. "And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon." Genesis 26:6,7. Then Abraham was promised that he would be the father of many nations but once his wife was past the child-bearing age his faith faltered. He thought he had better help God out again so he married Sarah's handmaiden (at Sarah's urging). This way Hagar could produce an heir so that this promise could be fulfilled according to God's plan.

Moses is the next case I want to mention. God had revealed to him that he would be the one who would release His people from bondage. When Moses became a man he thought that the time had come and that he had better take matters into his own hands and start the process of deliverance. He killed an Egyptian and that was enough for God. It was time for Him to tell Moses that he was doing it all the wrong way. It took 40 years of training in the wilderness with sheep before Moses was ready to do it God's way.

King Saul was a very humble man when he was made king. He was so humble and shy that when Samuel was going to present him to the nation as the first king, he was not to be found. He was hiding among the baggage. After being king for awhile he became proud. There was about to be a battle between his nation and the Philistine nation. The Philistine army was big and powerful causing many of the Israelite soldiers to become afraid and desert the army. Samuel had said that he would come by and pray for the battle and offer a burnt offering to the Lord. Well Samuel delayed slightly and King Saul was afraid that his army would soon all be gone. He felt that any more delay would prove ruinous to the battle and to the nation. No, he could not wait any longer for Samuel. He had to step in and do the sacrifice himself. God would understand. I am sure (Saul probably reasoned) that God did not want his whole army to desert and in order to bring comfort and courage to the few remaining soldiers he felt he simply must do the sacrifice himself. Thus again, helping God's will to be accomplished.

And King David I want to mention. He is called "a man after His own heart." God's heart that is. King David was the greatest of the Israelite kings. Even though he made grievous mistakes while on the throne, his repentance was sincere and deep. Before he became king he had to endure the testing of the Lord. He failed in some of them, but through these failures he gained many victories. His first failure was to lie to the high priest. He must have thought that it was better that the fewer people who knew about his plight the less chance there was of discovery. Yes a lie was told to help out God in keeping him hidden. David proceeded to the enemies of the Israelites. Here he had to feign madness in order to escape. Another lie. Many years later we find David living in Ziklag - in Philistine territory. Again he had felt he was safer among the enemies of Israel and his faith that God could keep him while living within the borders of Israel was not strong. While he was king, toward the end of his reign his faith faltered and he went about to number Israel. This sin was grievous in God's eyes but again David's repentance was sure and deep.

THE COST

Now we just looked at several men in the Bible who showed their lack of faith in God at key times. What was the result? Did God simply reprove them and they continued their lives as though nothing had happened? No, there were terrible consequences in some cases.

Jacob became a fugitive. He never saw the face of his mother again. Three times in his life he was deceived in return. (by Laban regarding his wife, by Laban regarding his wages and by his sons in the sale of Joseph). He had to pay dearly for his lack of faith. For many years he suffered greatly from a guilty conscience by that one wrong act.

Abraham was immediately sent out of Egypt after his first lie. Family troubles came from the result of his marriage to Hagar. Sarah and Hagar argued and caused him grief. Ever after - up until today - the descendants of Ishmael (the Arabs) and the descendants of Isaac (the Israelis) cannot get along. They cannot peacefully co-exist. There is tremendous hatred between the two. Such is the result of Abraham's lack of faith. Only God can repair the damage done, and He will if men are willing to allow Him.

Moses, like I said had to spend 40 years in the wilderness with the Lord. When he felt he had to help God out in striking the rock instead of speaking to it, he was banned from entering Canaan because of his unbelief.

In the case of King Saul, since he proved himself unfaithful and he had no special regard for the sacred spiritual matters, the kingdom was taken away from his posterity and given to David.

David suffered many things. His first lie brought on the death of all the priests at Nob. His living in Ziklag almost cost him the life of his wives and the lives of the families of his soldiers. They were ready to stone him. When he numbered Israel, God's wrath was poured out upon the nation and 70,000 men lost their lives.

MODERN TIMES

Now what about us today? We may look at these men and say that we would not have made the same mistakes. Is our faith in God strong?

There are many excuses people give to show their lack of faith. I had one friend who desired to become vegetarian and asked me for advice. She was thankful for the help but then she became pregnant. The doctor simply told her that it was not possible to be a vegetarian and raise a healthy child so my friend decided that it was not God's will she be a vegetarian because she and her husband definitely wanted a healthy child. They were sure that God did not want them to have a sickly child. God could not have intended them to be vegetarians with this knowledge from the doctor. They should have had faith in God that He would produce a healthy child while eating according to His will. How easily she could have found instruction in how to get the proper nutrition on a vegetarian diet if she tried. She has never been interested in vegetarianism since.

In dress reform we hear the excuse that we must dress like the world to have an influence with the world. What could be further from the truth? If we look like worldly people how will any one be able to differentiate those that serve the Lord and those that do not? We are to represent Christ and not be like the world. Then I have heard the excuse from some Christian ladies who insisted that the winters were so cold that God could not possibly expect them to wear a dress in such cold weather. Surely He wouldn't mind if they dressed with pants during the cold weather. Have they tried the alternatives? I have and I find warmth in the winter. God would not require something according to His will that would make us sickly and uncomfortable. He is very practical and wise.

Also the use of cosmetics has caused some to resist being fully committed to the truth. I know of one lady who agreed with all the teachings of the church but could not surrender on this point. She looked too sickly without it she said. Surely God did not expect her to look so unhealthy when she went out. Your church is too extreme for me. And she went to a church that allowed her to wear her cosmetics. She reasoned that she simply could not be a proper witness for God if she looked that pale. She felt she had to help God out with her looks to be a better influence on others. The way God made her was not good enough. The trouble was not how God made her but how she destroyed her looks with the over-use of cosmetics and it simply would take a little time to heal. She should have had patience with God in the healing process instead of finding her own solution, which in reality was not God's solution at all.

One of the hardest trials that people face when they come to a knowledge of the truth is: what to do about their job if they are required to work on the Sabbath, especially if they have a family to support. Some may reason that, "it is not God's will that they do not support their families," (in this they are correct) but they go on to say that God simply cannot take care of their needs should they lose this job (here their faith falters). After all this job was given to them by the Lord after much prayer (before they knew the full truth of the 10 commandments and their obligation to keep them). Perhaps the Lord led them to this job previously, to test them in the future; to see if they would be willing to give it up for Him; trusting Him to take care of them. In this situation there are several different circumstances that could occur. 1) Perhaps there already is another job available but at less pay. (often they don't have the faith to

take this other job, which God is offering - trusting Him to cover their bills). 2) The company perhaps agrees to simply give that day to someone else and they themselves will receive one day's less pay on pay day. Still that is not good enough for some who are weak in faith. How can God supply their needs on 4 days of labour instead of 5? God asks us to prove him. How do you know unless you have proved God's promises true? 3) They may simply just lose their job when they request the Sabbath free. In that case they would have to step out completely by faith, trusting in God to provide for their needs. How simple it is for many who do not have strong faith to decide to go to another church that will agree with their ideas that yes, they can keep their present job, (violating the Sabbath) and get to heaven too. They have found themselves "teachers, having itching ears," that will preach to them what they want to hear. 4) The best situation would be to have a kind and considerate boss who will gladly let the person switch to another day. They must approach their employer with much prayer and fasting and pray that the Lord's will be done. David said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalm 37:25

In the question of finances there is also the temptation to cheat a little here and there, whether on our taxes or whether we refuse to report some income to the government. It is just a small matter. After all we have to do it to avoid excess taxes. Besides the politicians are misusing our taxes anyhow so why should we give them more? Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's". A lie is written as a lie on the book of God. It is not written as a "big lie" or a "small lie" simply, "a lie".

A Christian friend related to me an experience that he had many years ago while collecting Unemployment Insurance. At that time he was briefly out of work and collected the insurance to support his family. He was still actively searching for work when his brother invited him to come to New York to help him out with some work. Knowing full well that he was not eligible for Unemployment Insurance should he leave the country, he decided to go and help his brother anyhow. After one month he returned to Canada but still did not have work in Canada. His wife dutifully handed him the UI tickets and told him to fill them out and turn them in to resume his UI payments. Well his conscience told him that he would have to lie on these tickets in order to get the financial support. What should he do? His family needed to be supported. That night he fell into a troubled sleep and in the middle of the night he had a dream concerning this issue. A voice told him to simply "tell the truth." Upon asking what the truth was, the voice answered, "Whatever you know it to be." That was enough for this man. He fell into a peaceful sleep. In the morning he gathered the tickets and left, without telling his wife of his plan, and headed to the Unemployment office. When he met the clerk, he simply did just what he was told; he told the truth. He was in New York, he received money but how to record that on a Canadian UI slip? He was out of country and was not actively looking for work in Canada yet he needed the UI now since he was not working. The lady took the tickets and said she was going to confer with her supervisor. Upon returning she informed him that the supervisor has decided to allow him to continue receiving his UI payments. This friend could have told a lie, thinking it was necessary in order to collect the UI payments that he so much needed to support his family. His family would go into want otherwise but no, this friend told the truth and God took care of the rest.

Then there is the marriage question. After a divorce some who have very weak faith cannot bear to live alone. God simply did not create mankind to dwell alone. Yes, while this is true they go on to reason that they must get re-married in order to lead a fulfilled life in Christ. It simply cannot be God's will that they live alone for the rest of their lives. The Apostle Paul never was married even once and he lived a very fulfilled life. It all depends where your faith is and how strong it is. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13 If that means living alone after a divorce, yes, God can and will sustain and comfort a person. He will not abandon you. Yes, it may be God's will that some live alone after a divorce. Why should we change God's will to create our own will?

We will meet many people who claim that they don't have to be as strict in the observance of the commandments as we (in God's church) claim to be and yet that God still loves them. "Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. . . It is not faith that claims the favour of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.", *Gospel Workers* p. 260

Many times in our Christian experience we may be brought to the test. We will have to decide whether we will trust in God and keep His commandments - though the outlook may seem disastrous, or

whether we will violate His law even in a small matter, in order to help God relieve the pressure of our situation. We cannot afford to do otherwise than follow God in every tiny detail and submit completely to His will. If we find ourselves trying to help God out, and need to break the 10 commandments to do so, what we are really doing is preventing God from blessing us. We are the cause that His blessings are withheld. We can blame no one else. We must trust in God and exercise our faith so that it will be strong in trying times. There will be trials, tests and troubles, "All who in this world render true service to God or man receive a preparatory training in the school of sorrow. The weightier the trust and the higher the service, the closer is the test and the more severe the discipline." *Education* p. 151

"Faith is trusting in God, - believing that He loves us, and knows what is for our best good. Thus, instead of our own way, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness. Our lives, ourselves, are already His; faith acknowledges His ownership, and accepts its blessing. Truth, uprightness, purity, are pointed out as secrets of life's success." *Gospel Workers*, p. 259

"Faith takes God at His word, not asking to understand the meaning of the trying experiences that come. But there are many who have little faith. They are always fearing and borrowing trouble. Every day they are surrounded by the tokens of God's love, every day they enjoy the bounties of His providence; but they overlook these blessings. And the difficulties they encounter, instead of driving them to God, separate them from Him, by arousing unrest and repining." *Ibid*, p. 261

"Often the Christian life is beset with dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before, and bondage and death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, Go forward. Let us obey the command, even though our sight cannot penetrate the darkness. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every uncertainty disappears, and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey. Faith looks beyond the difficulties, and lays hold of the unseen, even Omnipotence, therefore it cannot be baffled. Faith is the clasping of the hand of Christ in every emergency." *Ibid*, p. 262

"Jesus does not call on us to follow Him, and then forsake us. If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision. Whatever may be our situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities, we have a sure Counsellor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. If, in our ignorance we make mis-steps, Christ does not leave us. His voice, clear and distinct, is heard, saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." "He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper." *Ibid*, p. 263

It is my wish and prayer that our faith will not falter in any emergency. We will meet trials and difficulties but we must trust that God will pull us through. Often He may lead us to these situations in order to test our faith in Him. He has promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5
AMEN

Wendy Eaton



Edwin, Kenny, Richard and Brian singing.

The Nature of Christ in His Humanity



"The study of the incarnation of Christ is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth." 7 BC, 443.

Much discussion has been done on this topic. Books have been written on it. Yet, much confusion remains about it. Questions come up constantly like: Was Christ's nature pre-fall or post-fall? Was He in every respect the same as we are? Was it easier for Him to overcome sin than it is for us? Many similar questions have been asked which have caused many heated debates.

Those who believe that Christ took upon Himself the human nature after the fall into sin, support their idea with the following quotations:

"In Him was no guile or sinfulness; He was pure and undefiled; yet He took upon Him our sinful nature." ST, July 30, 1902.

"He took upon His sinless nature our sinful nature." Letter 67, 1902.

"He assumed human nature, with its infirmities, its liabilities, its temptations." Manuscript 58, 1890.

"For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham." Heb. 2:16.

"Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Matt. 8:17.

Others who believe that Christ took the nature of Adam before his fall quote the following:

"Christ is called the second Adam. In purity and holiness, connected with God and beloved by God. He began where the first Adam began. Willingly He passed over the ground where Adam fell, and redeemed Adam's failure." YI, June 2, 1898.

"Christ is a perfect representation of God on the one hand, and a perfect specimen of sinless humanity on the other hand." 7 BC, 907.

"There was no sin in Him that Satan could triumph over, no weakness or defect that he could use to his advantage. But we are sinful by nature, and have work to do to cleanse the soul-temple of every defilement." Rev. & Her., May 27, 1884.

"He stood before the world, from His first entrance into it, untainted by corruption, though surrounded by it." 7 BC, 907.

Both of these beliefs are wrong since Christ did not come in the physical strength nor the mental vigor as Adam. Nor did He come corrupted by sin with sinful propensities as the children of Adam.

""And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35.

"In our humanity, Christ was to redeem Adam's failure. But when Adam was assailed by the tempter, none of the effects of sin were upon him. He stood in the strength of perfect manhood, possessing the full vigor of mind and body. He was surrounded with the glories of Eden, and was in daily communion with heavenly beings. It was not thus with Jesus when He entered the wilderness to cope with Satan. For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, and in moral worth; and Jesus took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity." DA, 117.

"When Adam was assailed by the tempter in Eden he was without the taint of sin. He stood in the strength of his perfection before God. In what contrast is the second Adam as He entered the gloomy wilderness to cope with Satan single-handed. Since the fall the race had been decreasing in size and physical strength, and sinking lower in the scale of moral worth, up to the period of Christ's advent to the earth." Rev. & Her., July 28, 1874.

""Do not set Him before the people as a man with the propensities of sin. He is the second Adam. The first Adam was created pure sinless being, without a taint of sin upon him; he was in the image of God. He could fall, and he did fall through transgressing. Because of sin his posterity was borne with inherent propensities of disobedience. But Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature, and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity." 5 BC, 1028.

In a letter to Brother Baker in Tasmania, Sister White wrote: "Not for a moment was there in Him an evil propensity... Never, in any way, leave the slightest impression upon human minds that a taint of or inclination to corruption rested upon Christ, or that He in any way yielded to corruption."

Christ did not have to fight against habitual sins, as smoking or drinking. Once a sin is committed it strengthens the temptation for the next time to fall easier into it. And, when a habit is formed it takes greater effort to overcome it as if it had never been practised. Christ did not need to be born again. He was holy from His birth. He did not need a Saviour to save Him from sin. He was the Saviour Himself.

"He was to take His position at the head of humanity by taking the nature but not the sinfulness of man." ST, May 29, 1901.

"We should have no misgivings in regard to the perfect sinlessness of the human nature of Christ." 5 BC, 1131.

"He is a brother in our infirmities, but not in possessing like passions. As the sinless One, His nature recoiled from evil." Test. Vol. 2, 202.

Was Jesus different than what we are?

"Let every human being be warned from the ground of making Christ altogether human, such an one as ourselves; for it cannot be." 5 BC, 1129.

"No one, looking upon the childlike countenance, shining with animation, could say that Christ was just like other children. He was God in human flesh. When urged by His companions to do wrong, divinity flashed through humanity, and He refused decidedly... Christ wrought miracle after miracle when He was on this earth. In this work He showed what God can do for afflicted souls. This work He began when He was but a child." YI, Sept. 8, 1898.

"He had not taken on Him the nature of angels, but humanity perfectly identical with our nature, except without the taint of sin." Manuscript 57, 1890.

"Christ's humanity alone could never have endured this test (Satan's temptation in the wilderness), but His divine power combined with humanity gained in behalf of man an infinite victory. Our Representative in this victory raised humanity in the scale of moral value with God." Rev. & Her., Oct. 13, 1874.

"Man could not atone for man as his sinful, fallen condition would constitute him an imperfect offering." Rev. & Her., Dec. 17, 1872.

"Christ had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could triumph over, no weakness or defect that he could use to his advantage. But we are sinful by nature, and have a work to do to cleanse the soul-temple of every defilement." Rev. & Her., May 27, 1884.

Was it easier for Jesus to overcome sin and temptation than it is for us, since He was the Son of God?

"It was as difficult for Him to keep the level of humanity as it is for men to rise above the low level of their depraved natures, and be partakers of the divine nature." Rev. & Her., April 1, 1875.

"Christ was not insensible to ignominy and disgrace... He felt it as much more deeply and acutely than we can feel suffering, as His nature was more exalted, and pure, and holy than that of the sinful race for whom He suffered." Rev. & Her., Sept. 11, 1888.

"Man can never know the strength of the temptations to which the Son of God was subjected. All the temptations that seem so afflicting to man in his daily life, so difficult to resist and overcome, were brought to bear upon Him in as much greater degree as He is superior in His excellence of character to fallen man." ST, Aug. 4, 1887.

"Some may think that Christ, because He was the Son of God, did not have temptations as children now have. The Scripture says He was tempted in all points like we are tempted. And Satan made stronger attacks upon Christ than he will ever make upon us... No, children, you can never be tempted in so determined and cruel manner as was our Saviour. Satan was upon His path every moment. The strength of Christ was prayer. He had taken humanity, and He bore our infirmities and became sin for us." YI, April 1873.

"If Christ had been deceived by Satan's temptations, and had exercised His miraculous power to relieve Himself from difficulty, He would have broken the contract made with His Father, to be probationer in behalf of the race." Rev. & Her., April 1, 1875.

In Hebrews 2:16-17 we read that: "He took on Him the seed of Abraham", and "to be made like unto His brethren".

Are His brethren the same as Christ was? Is the seed of Abraham similar to Him?

"Christ reaches us where we are. He took our nature and overcame, that we through taking His nature might overcome. Made 'in the likeness of sinful flesh'. Rom. 8:3. He lived a sinless life." DA, 311, 312.

"We must realize that through belief in Him it is our privilege to be partakers of the divine nature, and so escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. Then we are cleansed from all sin, all defects of character. We need not retain one sinful propensity." 7 BC, 943.

"The Saviour is wounded afresh and put to open shame when His people pay no heed to His word. He came to this world and lived a sinless life, that in His power His people might also live lives of sinlessness." Rev. & Her., April 1, 1902.

"According as His divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath 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." 2 Peter 1:3-4.

When we accept Christ and His righteousness then our sinful nature will change to Christ's divine nature. Every sinful propensity will be overcome and the perfect image of Jesus will be seen in us. Even in this sinless condition, Satan will continue to tempt us, but we have a promise that we can overcome even as He overcame.

By faith we can move mountains and nothing will be impossible to us.

AMEN.

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THE TRUE MISSIONARY SPIRIT

ELLEN. G. WHITE

The true missionary spirit is the spirit of Christ. The world's Redeemer was the great model missionary. Many of His followers have laboured earnestly and unselfishly in the cause of human salvation; but no man's labor can bear comparison with the self-denial, the sacrifice, the benevolence, of our Exemplar.

The love which Christ has evinced for us is without a parallel. How earnestly He labored! How often was He alone in fervent prayer, on the mountainside or in the retirement of the garden, pouring out His supplications with strong crying and tears. How perseveringly He urged His petitions in behalf of sinners? Even on the cross He forgot His own sufferings in His deep love for those whom He came to save. How cold our love, how feeble our interest, when compared with the love and interest manifested by our Saviour! Jesus gave Himself to redeem our race; and yet how ready are we to excuse ourselves from giving all that we have for Jesus. Our Saviour submitted to wearing labour, ignominy, and suffering. He was repulsed, mocked, derided, while engaged in the great work which He came to earth to do.

Do you, my brethren and sisters, inquire: What model shall we copy? I do not point you to great and good men, but to the world's Redeemer. If we would have the true missionary spirit we must be imbued with the love of Christ; we must look to the Author and Finisher of our faith, study His character, cultivate His spirit of meekness and humility, and walk in His footsteps.

Many suppose that the missionary spirit, the qualification for missionary work, is a special gift or endowment bestowed upon the ministers and a few members of the church and that all others are to be mere spectators. Never was there a greater mistake. Every true Christian will possess a missionary spirit, for to be a Christian is to be Christlike. No man liveth to himself, and "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Everyone who has tasted of the powers of the world to come, whether he be young or old, learned or unlearned, will be stirred with the spirit which actuated Christ. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour. Those who do not possess this desire give evidence that they have lost their first love; they should closely examine their own hearts in the Spirit of Christ; they should pray for a deeper comprehension of that wondrous love which Jesus manifested for us in leaving the realms of glory and coming to a fallen world to save the perishing.

There is work for everyone of us in the vineyard of the Lord we are not to seek that position which will yield us the most enjoyment or the greatest gain. True religion is free from selfishness. The missionary spirit is a spirit of personal sacrifice. We are to work anywhere and everywhere, to the utmost of our ability, for the cause of our Master.

Just as soon as a person is really converted to the truth there springs up in his heart an earnest desire to go and tell some friend or neighbor of the precious light shining forth from the sacred pages. In his unselfish labour to save others he is a living epistle, known and read of all men. His life shows that he has been converted to Christ and has become a colabourer with Him. . . .

The reason why there is no deeper religious fervor and no more earnest love for one another in the church is that the missionary spirit has been dying out. Little is now said concerning Christ's second coming, which was once the theme of thought and of conversation. . . .

My brethren and sisters do you desire to break the spell that holds you? Would you arouse from this sluggishness that resembles the torpor of death? Go to work, whether you feel like it or not. Engage in personal effort to bring souls to Jesus and the knowledge of the truth. In such labour you will find both a stimulus and a tonic; it will both arouse and strengthen. By exercise your spiritual powers will become more vigorous, so that you can with better success work out your own salvation. The stupor of death is upon many who profess Christ. Make every effort to arouse them. Warn, entreat, expostulate. Pray that the melting love of God may warm and soften their icebound natures. Though they may refuse to hear, your labour will not be lost. In the effort to bless others your own souls will be blessed.

We have the theory of the truth, and now we need to seek most earnestly for its sanctifying power. I dare not hold my peace in this time of peril. It is a time of temptation, of despondency. Everyone is beset by the wiles of Satan, and we should press together to resist his power. We should be of one mind, speaking the same things, and with one mouth glorifying God. Then may we successfully

enlarge our plans and by vigilant missionary effort take advantage of every talent we can use in the various departments of the world.

The light of truth is shedding its bright beams upon the world through missionary effort. The press is an instrumentality by which many are reached whom it would be impossible to reach by ministerial effort. A great work can be done by presenting to the people the Bible just as it reads. Carry the word of God to every man's door, urge its plain statements upon every man's conscience, repeat to all the Saviour's command: "Search the Scriptures." Admonish them to take the Bible as it is, to implore divine enlightenment, and then, when the light shines, to gladly accept each precious ray and fearlessly abide the consequences.

The downtrodden law of God is to be exalted before the people; as soon as they turn with earnestness and reverence to the Holy Scriptures, light from heaven will reveal to them wondrous things out of God's law. Great truths that have long been obscured by superstition and false doctrine will blaze forth from the illuminated pages of the Sacred Word. The living oracles pour forth their treasures new and old, bringing light and joy to all who will receive them. Many are roused from their slumber. They rise as it were from the dead and receive the light and life which Christ alone can give. Truths which have proved an overmatch for giant intellects are understood by babes in Christ. To these is plainly revealed that which has clouded the spiritual perception of the most learned expositors of the word, because, like the Sadducees of old, they were ignorant of the Scriptures and of the power of God.

All who take the word of God as their rule of life are brought into close relationship with one another. The Bible is their bond of union. But their companionship will not be sought or desired by those who do not bow to the Sacred Word as the one unerring guide. They will be at variance, both in faith and practice. There can be no harmony between them; they are unreconcilable. . .

All who are born of God will become co-workers with Christ. Such are the salt of the earth. "But if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?" If the religion we profess fails to renew our hearts and sanctify our lives, how shall it exert a saving power upon unbelievers? "It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden underfoot of men." That religion which will not exert regenerating power upon the world is of no value. We cannot trust it for our own salvation. The sooner we cast it away the better, for it is powerless and spurious.

We are to serve under our great Leader to press against every opposing influence, to be labourers together with God. The work appointed us is to sow the gospel seed beside all waters. In this work everyone must act a part. The manifold grace of Christ imparted to us constitutes us stewards of talents which we must increase by putting them out to the exchangers, that when the Master calls for them, He may receive His own with usury. *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, pp. 385-389



Believers from four different countries

CHURCH BUSINESS MATTERS

"It is necessary that the same order and system should be maintained in the church now as in the days of the apostles. The prosperity of the cause depends very largely upon its various departments being conducted by men of ability, who are qualified for their positions"

Pastoral Ministry, p. 255



WHO SHOULD BE ENTRUSTED WITH POSITIONS IN THE CHURCH.

Once a year, each local church holds elections for various positions in their respective churches to carry on the work of God. Each one of the members has been entrusted by God the work of proclaiming His last message of mercy to the world. But also each one has been given by God specific talents in specific areas. "And he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ". Eph. 4:11, 12.

Every secular business organization, in order for it to produce the maximum profits, elects its boards, committees, CEOs, directors, managers, supervisors, etc. from amongst the most competent individuals of that organization. The selection process is very exhaustive and thorough. Nobody wants to hire an individual who can with one wrong decision, cause the whole organization immeasurable amount of damage and loss of revenue. How important it is then that the **most important business organization on this earth**, the work of God, should exercise even more wisdom in the choice of its officers and committees! But how sadly it is that more often that not, the criteria for choosing the officers are not based on competence but on human elements such as

- ◆ friendship
- ◆ partisan voting or
- ◆ voting in just anyone regardless of qualifications, out of sheer human malice in order to eliminate someone whom you don't like but who may have an excellent record of service.

As a result, we will have officers with

- ◆ no qualifications - "he/she'll learn on the job"
- ◆ lacking in knowledge and experience
- ◆ lacking in knowledge in organizational procedures
- ◆ lacking in leadership and organizational qualities

and God's work is in instant chaos and begins to suffer. Cliques are being formed within the church and the members lose sight of the mission of the church as they become embroiled in planning and scheming against one another. They no longer use the privilege of their offices to plan the Lord's work. Their primary goal at each committee meeting or business meeting is to get even with that brother or that sister. And because they have been elected to an office, that office does empower them. What we must never forget is that every word, thought and action that is being done whether for good or evil is recorded in the books of heaven and an account must be given on the day of judgment.

Sister White made a statement in the book Gospel Workers on p. 422, "God has burdens for you to bear, but if you carry lines of work for which you are not adapted, your efforts in presenting the Word will prove unsuccessful. This will bring upon you discouragement that will disqualify

you for the very work you should do, - a work requiring careful discrimination and sound, unselfish judgment." In light of this, each member should be very careful in choosing persons for positions in the church. We should come to business meetings with much prayer and meditation and asking the Lord to guide us in our choices.

I believe that the same statement applies in the church voting as applies in political voting. The reason why we as Christians cannot participate in political voting is because by our choice, we will make ourselves responsible for every decision and act that politician will make. Therefore, in the same way we should be mindful of this when we recommend someone for an office in the church. We should carefully examine the person's conduct and Christian experience before we cast our vote, to ensure that the person has shown to be a faithful member who lives up to the truth and fulfills those promises he/she has publicly made in the church, because whatever the person's conduct is in this office, whatever decisions that person makes, ultimately each one of us who voted that person in will have to give account of those actions. However, if during the term of office, the person begins to deviate from the church's principles, making decisions contrary to the teachings of the Bible and the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy, it then becomes our responsibility to speak out and request appropriate measures to be taken for the official's removal, if necessary.

"Experience is of great value. The Lord desires to have men of intelligence connected with His work, men qualified for various positions of trust in our conferences and institutions. Especially are consecrated business men needed, men who will carry the principles of truth into every business transaction. Those placed in charge of financial affairs should not assume other burdens, burdens that they are incapable of bearing; nor is the business management to be entrusted to incompetent men. Those in charge of the work have erred sometimes in permitting the appointment of men devoid of tact and ability to manage important financial interests.

Not one business man now connected with the cause needs to be a novice. If men in any line of work ought to improve their opportunities to become wise and efficient, it is those who are using their ability in the work of building up the kingdom of God in our world. In view of the fact that we are living so near the close of this earth's history, there should be greater thoroughness in labour, more vigilant waiting, watching, praying and working. The human agent should strive to attain perfection, that he may be an ideal Christian, complete in Christ Jesus." **Gospel Workers, pp 422-424**

What are the qualifications that we should look for in an officer to be elected for a position in the church?

"At this time God's cause is in need of men and women who

***possess rare qualifications and good administrative powers;
men and women who will make patient, thorough investigation of the needs of
the work in various fields;
those who have a large capacity for work;***

***those who possess
warm, kind hearts,
cool heads,
sound sense, and
unbiased judgement;
those who are sanctified by the Spirit of God, and
can fearlessly say No, or Yea and amen, to propositions;***

*those who have strong convictions,
clear understanding, and
pure, sympathetic hearts;
those who practice the words, "All ye are brethren;" (Matt. 23:8)
those who strive to uplift and restore fallen humanity*
(italics and bold the author's) **Test. for the Church, Vol. 7, pp 246-249**

MINISTERS AND BUSINESS MATTERS

"God has entrusted to His ministers the work of proclaiming His last message of mercy to the world. He is displeased with those who do not throw their whole energies into this all-important work. Unfaithfulness on the part of the appointed watchmen on the walls of Zion endangers the cause of truth and exposes it to the ridicule of the enemy. It is time for our ministers to understand the responsibility and sacredness of their mission. There is a woe upon them, if they fail of performing the work which they themselves acknowledge that God has placed in their hands.

Not a few ministers are neglecting the very work that they have been appointed to do. Why are those who are set apart for the work of the ministry placed on committees and boards? Why are they called upon to attend so many business meetings, many times at great distance from their fields of labour? Why are not business matters placed in the hands of businessmen? **The ministers have not been set apart to do this work.**

Ministers are not to be called hither and thither to attend board meetings for the purpose of deciding common business questions. Many of our ministers have done this work in the past, but it is not the work in which the Lord wishes them to engage. Too many financial burdens have been placed on them. When they try to carry these burdens, they neglect to fulfill the gospel commission. **God looks upon this as a dishonour to His name.**" **Test. for the Church Vol. 7, pp 254-255**

Here is something that we as members would do well to remember when we are tempted to call the Minister to participate in work other than what his calling entails. Every time we want a minister to come and participate in the business dealings of the church, we in essence are responsible for the time he is not doing the work which the Lord has given him to do. We become partakers of bringing "dishonour to His name". The minister does not need to be a member of any of our committees. He may choose to attend if his time permits, but he should never be an elected member.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

"Let those who attend committee meetings remember that they are meeting with God, who has given them their work. Let them come together with reverence and consecration of heart. They meet to consider important matters connected with the Lord's cause....Let them not waste a moment in unimportant conversation; for the Lord's business should be conducted in a businesslike, perfect way. If some member of a committee is careless and irreverent, let him be reminded that he is in the presence of a Witness by whom all actions are weighed.

I have been instructed that committee meetings are not always pleasing to God. Some have come to these meetings with a cold, hard, critical, loveless spirit. Such may do great harm; for with them is the presence of the evil one, that keeps them on the wrong side. Not infrequently their unfeeling attitude toward measures under consideration brings in perplexity, delaying decisions that should be made...In the hope of reaching a decision, they continue their meetings far into the night. But life is too precious to be imperiled in this way. **Let the Lord carry the burden. Wait for Him to adjust the difficulties. Give the weary brain a rest.**

...Often when there should have been unanimity of sentiment in the affirmative, decided negatives have entirely changed the atmosphere pervading a meeting. These results have been presented to me again and again.

Let everyone who sits in council and committee meetings write in his heart the words; **I am working for time and eternity; and I am accountable to God for the motives that prompt me to action. *Let this be his motto.*** (bold and italics author's) **Test. for the Church, Vol.7 pp. 256-259**

"When our brethren keep on the board, men whose hearts are as hard as stone, men who have not hearts of flesh, what can you expect! How can these men know what those sacrificed in the building up of the work. They have no spirit of sacrifice themselves, and how can they understand those who dressed cheaply, and who denied self, who placed themselves in any position that the cause of God might prosper. They know nothing of this, it is Greek to them.

Satan attends every board meeting, every business meeting, every committee meeting and if he can impress anyone's mind to make objections or to throw in suggestions that will delay the work hours and weary out those who are called upon to attend these meetings, he is wonderfully pleased." **Pastoral Ministry p.252-253**

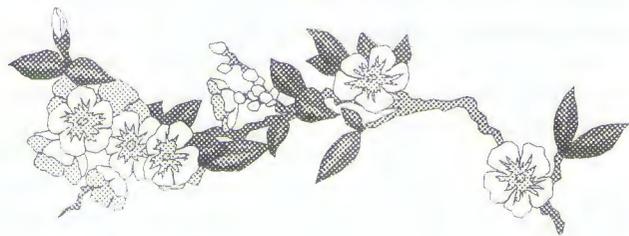
The Spirit of Prophecy also stresses the fact that the same persons should not serve for years on the same boards and committees. Those who are capable should rotate to different committees. Also, if one person is elected to sit on various levels of the committees, ie local, field, union all in one year, the committees will become stale, no new ideas can be brought forward and the work suffers because decisions will be rubberstamped from one level to another and no real progress is being made. There will be no voices lifted in an opposite direction, no fresh ideas can be brought forward and the work of God will be looked upon as a common thing.

Another important issue that often is lacking in our church committees is communication to the church members of the plans and decisions the committee makes. We often have this concept of a church committee as some kind of a secret inner circle that meets every so often, not as as a proactive group but as a reactive, damage control entity. It may be true in some instances and in some local areas that the latter is exactly the role in which the committee functions. As mentioned earlier, the sole purpose for the committee to meet should be, **"to consider important matters connected with the Lord's cause"**. Furthermore, "So far as possible, committees should let the people understand their plans in order that the judgment of the church may sustain their efforts." **Test. for the Church, Vol. 7 p.259**

If the committee does not have the support of the congregation in its decisions, the committee becomes ineffective and the work of God suffers as a result. Any decisions that the committee makes that impacts on the work of God and the church, should be reported to the church. The open communication will make the members aware of the direction the work of God is taking and it also will arouse their interest in the progress of the cause of God. The success of the work of God involves many levels of church administration working together. Especially in our age of instant information, information empowers the church and its members for a greater combined and sustained effort for the common cause so that each one of them may become that ideal Christian, who is complete in Christ Jesus. Only then can we fulfill the commission which Christ gave to His disciples and to us, to lift up the crucified and risen Saviour "before those who are without God and without hope in the world". When we behold the matchless love of the Saviour, it will elevate us in thought, purify our hearts, and transform our characters.

We will then go forth with divine power to be a light to the perishing world. AMEN

"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**



James and Tina



Sister Rose teaching at the cooking class



Current Scene

From the *Washington Post*, Sept. 29, 1997: "Yeltsin allows law restricting some religions."

"President Boris Yeltsin swept aside objections from the United States, the Vatican and human rights critics Friday and signed into law a bill to restrict religious practices in Russia.

"Critics contend the legislation in effect overturns Russia's constitutional guarantee that all religions are equal and that it marks the waning of the liberal democratic euphoria that gripped Russia in the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Russian Orthodoxy is listed first among 'traditional' religions that include Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

"Individual faiths that weren't registered officially 15 years ago, during the repressive era of Soviet rule, now face complicated bureaucratic requirements to become legal. The limitations will affect the use of property, tax relief, public assembly and the ability of foreign missionaries to proselytize.

"Yeltsin's action followed a last-minute appeal earlier this week from U.S. Vice President Al Gore to reject the measure. The U.S. Senate had threatened to cut off aid to Russia if the bill became law.

"The Russian Orthodox Church threw its considerable weight behind the measure from the beginning. In most pronouncements in favor of the bill, church officials focused on a handful of cults outside the religious mainstream.

"However, the church also has been grappling with unaccustomed competition from revitalized mainstream organizations in Russia's religious marketplace.

"Churches with long roots in Russia, such as the Lutherans, Baptists and Roman Catholics, have been making comebacks. Other churches, particularly Protestant groups, also have been trying to make converts. Meanwhile, the rush to Orthodoxy evident in the waning years of the Soviet Union has slowed.

"The law divides religions into 'traditional' and 'nontraditional' categories, and even denominations that fall into the traditional grouping face laborious registration procedures. Denominations that are designated as 'groups' must wait 15 years before being able to qualify for the upgraded status of 'organization.' "

Thus God's people, who would no doubt be labelled a "cult", have no religious freedom to go preach and baptize as Jesus gave in the Great Commission. Everyone seemed to know that the doors into the former Soviet Union would not stay open for very long, and surely, they have closed - even more quickly than many suspected. We need to pray as never before for the faithful that will be brought into strait places because of this law. Once again, God's people have to go "underground" with no official status, or right to exist as a recognized church. I'm sure that this will remind us here in the West that soon the "night is coming, when no man shall be able to work" just as Jesus said. The Sunday law will proscribe anyone who does not preach and teach the accepted doctrine of Sunday, immortality of the soul and other soul-destroying errors. Thus God's people will be made to look like law-breakers, when in actuality it is the fallen churchmen that are really law-breakers - of the most important and higher law, the Ten Commandments. Only God's law is without repression or manipulation.

This past winter, Sikh hard-liners at a Vancouver-area temple threw chairs and tables out the door and pushed anyone aside who had been sitting at them. It seems that Sikhism says everyone is to eat on the floor, so these "fundamentalists" used this issue to push their own political agenda - namely wresting control of the temple from the moderates who had recently gained power.

This from the *Vancouver Sun*, Feb. 8, 1997: "Fundamentalists by any other name:..." "Militants have good reasons for growing anxious when they're called fundamentalists. It's a negative term to most people. In some countries, the label may attract government retaliation. The World Sikh Organization in Ottawa asked the *Vancouver Sun* to stop using the term. Nevertheless, if the label fits, you end up wearing it.

"A team of 125 international scholars recently spent years studying rising 20th-century fundamentalist movements. They produced a book called *The Glory and the Power* and a five-volume academic series called *The Fundamentalism Project*.

"The scholars placed Sikh fundamentalists in the same category as fundamentalists in Muslim Hezbollah, Sinhalese Buddhism, Jewish Gush Emunim, Guatemalan Pentecostalism, Christian Operation Rescue, Hindu Vishwa and Parishad and other movements fighting back against secularism, science and moral relativity.

"The Fundamentalism Project set extensive criteria for defining a fundamentalist. People are not fundamentalists if they meet just one criterion or two. But the Sikhs who fought against sitting at tables fill virtually all criteria of a fundamentalist.

"A fundamentalist is a person who:

1. **Allows no criticism:** Sikhs who have questioned doctrine have been harassed, censored and even gunned down by fundamentalists.
2. **Is a separatist, makes enemies:** Sikh fundamentalists make black-and-white distinctions between "true Sikhs" and others. They have strict definitions of what is good and evil. They attribute absolute and exclusive inerrancy to Sikh scriptures. They outlaw heretics.
3. **Has Utopian ideals:** Sikh fundamentalists aspire to live in their own country, Khalistan.
4. **Sees religion and politics as inseparable:** Khalistan would be a theocracy.
5. **Is patriarchal:** Sikh fundamentalists do not allow women to hold positions of authority.
6. **Follows a charismatic, authoritarian leader:** This leader will often deceive or intimidate followers into doing things that go against the Ten Commandments.
7. **Scandalizes opponents:** Just as some Muslim fundamentalists don't mind horrifying outsiders by cutting off the hand of a thief, Sikh fundamentalists scandalized North Americans, for example, by openly celebrating the murder of Indira Gandhi.
8. **Selectively ransacks the past for the 'truth':** Sikh fundamentalists emphasize two of the faith's 10 gurus-the sixth guru, Hargobind, who justified the sword in self-defence, and the 10th guru, Gobind Singh, who originated the order of the Khalsa, or holy warriors.
9. **Constantly sets new boundaries between insiders and outsiders, often over mundane things:** Could anything appear more insignificant to the uninitiated than whether followers eat at chairs or on the floor? Moderates at dozens of temples in North America and Britain maintain Sikhs remain equal as long as they eat at the same height.
10. **Uses modernity, while attacking it:** Fundamentalists, ironically, 'are fully at home with electronics, missiles, and aircraft, among other gifts of modernity,' says the Fundamentalism Project. Like Christian fundamentalists who use high-tech TV crusades, Sikh fundamentalists know how to use sophisticated weaponry. Fundamentalists charged in connection with the Vancouver riot also hired a high-profile lawyer."

While we can understand anyone of faith that responds to "secularism, science and moral relativism" with a desire to preserve the truth, it is the methods that they resort to, with which we take issue. We cannot use the methods and means of Satan to build up the kingdom of God. To be violently opposed to violence is obvious hypocrisy. Anytime we resort to redoubling our efforts while we have forgotten our aims, we are imbalanced and fanatical. Especially if we try to take God's vengeance into our own hands, we leave Jesus behind and frustrate the grace of God that is working to transform hearts with whom we are dealing. Isn't this why professedly Biblical religion has got such a bad name in many circles today? Precisely because basic Bible truths are not acknowledged, while a leader's personal agenda is pushed? May the Lord help us to be truly built up on the foundation (fundamentals) of the truth, but leave the results of preaching and teaching in God's hands.

Cracking God's Code?

This from **Shift>magazine**, Sept. 1997: "According to Michael Drosnin, author of the new book, *The Bible Code*, everything from the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Yitzhak Rabin to the Gulf War, the Holocaust and many other significant events had been accurately predicted 3,000 years ago. With the help of a computer, Drosnin has broken the divine code and has made God's secrets public...."

"As a former reporter for the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and a secular Jew, Drosnin has credentials for his apocalyptic soothsaying...Drosnin relies on the work of respected mathematicians Doron Witztum and Eliyahu Rips, who pioneered a technique called Equidistant Letter Sequence.

"First, they removed all spaces from the original text of the Old Testament, leaving one long strand of 304,805 Hebrew characters. A computer then looked for words that emerged when the letters were read at specific intervals, such as every twentieth or every hundredth letter.

"For example, Yitzhak Rabin's name was found at skip sequences of every 4,772 characters. By crossing his name in that same sequence, the words 'assassin that will assassinate' also appeared. Drosnin was so shocked by this discovery that, in 1994, he warned Rabin that he was in danger. Rabin ignored him, and was killed within the year. This convinced Drosnin that he was really onto something providential, and he started tracking down other events-election results, disasters, scandals. Of course, he found them all encoded. He also discovered, among other things, that there will be a massive earthquake in California in the year 2010, and a nuclear war in Israel before 2001.

"...Drosnin himself states openly that the Bible only offers possible futures which, happily, we have the chance to change. This gives him good excuse when, as has happened already, the predictions don't come true."

Prophecy that comes from God never fails-it must be true 100 % of the time. God's word will also challenge us to holy living; that we will live out the words of God in our personal lives, and thus be cooperating with Divine agencies in preparing for a certain, rather than uncertain, future. Rev. 1:1-3.

The resemblance of this new method of Biblical interpretation to ancient Babylonian numerology is striking. Satan is just trying the same old thing over again: appeal to the people's sense of curiosity about the future, while leaving God's principles behind.

By Jerry Eaton

Jamaican Field Youth Conference

December 26-29, 1996

The Youth Conference was held at the Nuttshell Baptist Conference Centre, with the theme of the conference being, "Arise O Youth of God". The conference was opened by the Field President, Elder Raul Escobar. He spoke of the youth living in the world today. The youth of the church are the ones who should be converting the world and not the world converting them. At age twelve, because of the level of maturity reached, youths should be encouraged to give their will to the Lord. Children should be taught to memorize passages of the Scriptures, bearing in mind the time that is shortly upon us when there will be no Bibles to read. The Ten Commandments should be memorized by all, and repeated often.

He added that our friends and co-workers should be invited to these camp meetings, to learn the truth--this is planting the seed. We need to have the Holy Spirit as He is the only means by which the seed can be planted and grown.

In the youth hour conducted by Srs. Grant and Lindsay, the youth all gave of their varied talents in songs and poems. Sis. Grant read from Messages to Young People. The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that the people of God should be minute people, ready at all times to answer questions on the Word of God.

"Arise, shine for thy Light has come", was the topic of our evening worship led by Sis. Donna Moodie. As a candle should not be hid under a bushel, so must we be lights of the world, always shining for the Lord. She encouraged the youth who are younger and stronger to serve the Lord and let their light shine for Him.

On Friday, the meetings started at 6 a.m. with Sis. Marlene Campbell who opened with Rev. 22:12. Referring to the people's preparation for a hurricane which had been threatening the island, we should be even more prepared for the second coming of Christ which is sure to come. For the unprepared, this will be total destruction. The time to prepare is now. We need to wake out of our slumber for the enemy is as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

Our first workshop was entitled "The True Missionary Spirit", conducted by Br. Gowie. He talked of various ways to do missionary work. The most effective way is to get to know the people you meet so that you learn their beliefs and inclinations and find ways of reaching them.

Br. Gowie had a brief talk on foods that we should avoid, including ketchup and pepper. Ketchup contains vinegar and black pepper irritates the stomach.

Following Chorus Time, we had another workshop entitled "Work Around the World". We learned from Br. Escobar of the progress of the work from the time that Apostle Paul started preaching the gospel. The church has gone through many stages. In all these stages, there were faithful people who, because of apostasy left the church and carried on the work of spreading the gospel. He brought out various examples ending with the apostasy of the S.D.A. church and the start of the Reform Movement. God always has a people who stand for Him. There is much work to be done around the world. We must humble ourselves if we are to be used by God.

In welcoming the Sabbath, we learned of

its importance. The Sabbath is a memorial. God intended for man to honour this day throughout eternity. Those who acknowledge this day also acknowledge that the Lord created heaven and earth.

On Sabbath, the morning worship was "What is man?" Job 4:17, conducted by Br. Gowie. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. A leopard cannot change its spots. Our only hope is to turn to God who is unchangeable, who is righteous. Br. Gowie encouraged all to turn to the Lord and ask Him to cleanse us from all our sins.

Sis. Gowie read from the book Child Guidance. We are not to forsake the hour of prayer in our homes. We are to place our children before the Lord and let them hear us praying for them and allow them also to pray. She gave a list of examples that we should be setting for our children in terms of modesty of dress, reverence in the hour of prayer and in the church. We need to correct our children in love and not with wrath.

The Divine Service was conducted by Elder Raul Escobar entitled, "What Does it Mean to Be Free?". The Son of Man has made us free and we are free indeed. We must be born again and become free from the curse of sin which is unto death. He ended with the plea that we use our liberty wisely so that our lives may be pleasing to the Lord.

Another youth hour was led by Br. Gowie and Sis. Gordon. The youth choir sang a song entitled "Triumphantly the Church Will Rise". The Kingston church presented a cantata.

Br. Moodie moderated a panel discussion on family life. Marriage should occur when the two partners are of a mature age, and should be with partners found in the church.

Two brothers, Br. Moodie and Gowie were ordained as elders by Elder Escobar. He talked about the duties of an elder. The two brothers asked the congregation for support and their prayers.

In the evening worship, Sis. Fay Wellor brought out that this church needs a revival.

In a workshop titled, "Using our Time and Talents Wisely" emphasis was made on the watching of television, which keeps us focused on carnal things. We need the mind of Christ and need to spend time reading and speaking about Him. We also need to spend more time in missionary work.

The highlight of the conference was the decision made by two people, Br. Bennett and Br. Johnson to walk with the Lord, and to make it known to all through baptism. Elder Escobar, who performed the baptism spoke of its importance in that it symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It also shows our acceptance of Christ as our personal Saviour.

This conference truly was wonderful and we thank the Lord for His continued presence and His encouraging words.



Sis. and Br. Schmidt

BREAD UPON THE WATERS



Ah! Jacob, now you see how all your hopes are gone. Here we are worn out with age - all our children are removed from us by the hand of death, and ere long we must be the inmates of the poorhouse. Where now is all the bread you have cast upon the waters?

The old, white-haired man looked up at his wife. He was, indeed, bent down with years, and ages sat tremblingly upon him. Jacob Manfred had been a comparatively wealthy man, and while fortune had smiled upon him he had ever been among the first to lend a listening ear and a helping hand to the call of distress. But now misfortune was his. Of his four boys not one was left. Sickness and failing strength found him with but little, and had left him penniless. An oppressive embargo upon the fishing business had been the first weight upon his head, and other misfortunes came in painful succession. Jacob and his wife were all alone, and gaunt poverty looked them coldly in the face.

"Don't repine, Susan," said the old man. "True we are poor, but we are not yet forsaken."

"Not forsaken, Jacob? Who is there to help us now?"

Jacob Manfred raised his trembling finger toward heaven.

"Ah! Jacob, I know God is our friend, but we should have friends here. Look back and see how many you have befriended in days long past. You cast your bread upon the waters with a free hand, but it was not returned to you."

"Hush, Susan, you forget what you say. To be sure I may have hoped that some kind hand of earth would lift me from the cold depths of utter want; but I do not expect it as a reward for anything I may have done. If I have helped the unfortunate in days gone by, I have had my full reward in knowing that I have done my duty to my fellows. Oh! of all the kind deeds I have done to my suffering fellows, I would not for gold have one of them blotted from my memory. Ah! my fond wife, 'tis the memory of the good done in life that makes old age happy. Even now, I can hear again the warm thanks of those whom I have befriended, and again I can see their smiles."

"Yes, Jacob," returned the wife, in a lower tone, "I know you have been good, and in your memory you can be happy; but, alas! there is a present upon which we must look - there is a reality upon which we must dwell. We must beg for food or starve!"

The old man started, and a deep mark of pain was drawn across his features.

"Beg!" he replied, with a quick shudder. "No, Susan, we are -"

He hesitated, and a big tear rolled down his furrowed cheek.

"We are what, Jacob?"

"We are going to the poorhouse!"

"O God? I thought so!" fell from the poor wife's lips as she covered her face with her hands. "I have thought so, and I have tried to school myself to the thought; but my poor heart will not bear it!"

"Do not give up," softly urged the old man, laying his hand upon her arm. "It makes but little difference to us now. We have not long to remain on earth, and let us not wear out our last days in useless repinings. Come, come."

"But when - when - shall we go?"

"Now - today."

"Then God have mercy on us!"

"He will," murmured Jacob.

That old couple sat for a while in silence. When they were aroused from their painful thoughts it was by the stopping of a wagon in front of the door. A man entered the room where they sat. He was the keeper of the poorhouse.

"Come, Mr. Manfred," he said, "the selectmen have managed to crowd you into the poorhouse. The wagon is at the door, and you can get ready as soon as possible."

Jacob Manfred had not calculated the strength he should need for this ordeal. There was a coldness in the very tone and manner of the man who had come for him that went like an ice-bolt to his heart, and with a deep groan he sank back into his seat.

"Come, be in a hurry," impatiently urged the keeper.

At that very moment a heavy covered carriage drove up to the door.

"Is this the house of Jacob Manfred?"

This question was asked by a man who entered from the carriage. He was a kind-looking man, about forty years of age.

"That is my name," said Jacob.

"Then they told me truly," uttered the new-comer, "Are you from the almshouse?" he continued, turning toward the keeper.

"Yes."

"Then you may return. Jacob Manfred goes to no poorhouse while I live."

The keeper gazed inquisitively into the face of the stranger, and left the house.

"Do you remember Lucius Williams?"

"Williams?" repeated Jacob, starting up and gazing earnestly into the stranger's face. "Yes, Jacob Manfred - Lucius Williams, that little boy whom, thirty years ago, you saved from the house of correction; that poor boy whom you kindly took from the bonds of the law, and placed on board your own vessels."

"And are you -"

"Yes, - yes, I am the man you made. You found me a rough stone from the hand of poverty and bad example. It was you who brushed off the evil, and who first led me to the sweet waters of moral life and happiness. I have profited by the lesson you gave me in early youth, and the warm spark which your kindness lighted up in my bosom has grown brighter and brighter ever since. With an affluence for life I have settled down to enjoy the remainder of my days in peace and quietness. I heard of your losses and bereavements. Come, I have a home and a heart, and your presence will make them both warmer, brighter, and happier. Come, my more than father - and you my mother, come. You made my youth all bright, and I will not see your old age doomed to darkness."

Jacob Manfred tottered forward and sank upon the bosom of his preserver. He could not speak his thanks, for they were too heavy for words. When he looked up again he sought his wife.

"Susan," he said, in a choking, trembling tone, "my bread has come back to me!"

"Forgive me, Jacob!"

"No, no, Susan. It is not I who must forgive - God holds us in his hand."

"Ah!" murmured the wife, as she raised her streaming eyes to heaven, "I will never doubt him again."



ACCEPTABLE CONFESSION

If there have been difficulties... if envy, malice, bitterness, evil surmising, have existed, confess these sins, not in a general way, but to your brethren and sisters personally. Be definite. If you have committed one wrong and they twenty, confess that one as though you were the chief offender. Take them by the hand, let your heart soften under the influence of the Spirit of God, and say, "Will you forgive me? I have not felt right toward you. I want to make right every wrong, that naught may stand registered against me in the books of heaven. I must have a clean record." Who, think you, would withstand such a movement as this? There is too much coldness and indifference -- too much of the "I don't care" spirit -- exercised among the professed followers of Christ." RH Dec. 16, 1884.

"Seek and ye shall find, Knock and it shall be opened unto you"

Beginning October 1996, one of the sincere prayers in Montreal, Quebec was that the Lord would lead honest souls who are hungering and thirsting to truth. (John 14:6).

During that same time, 3000 miles away from Montreal, a hungry, thirsting soul was offering the same prayer. Well, these two prayers went on for months until in August 1997, one man by the name of Richard Lapensee, decided to visit his sick mother in Montreal. So, he started his trip back to the home where he had left 17 years ago. While attending to his mother, his heart was still yearning to find deeper truth. He still had not given up that search for a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God.

One Sabbath morning, in the month of September, Richard came to visit the church in Montreal. After the services, he expressed the joy he had experienced during fellowship. I was very happy to hear this from him. So, we started a conversation. We spoke for over two hours on subjects like the love of God and how He is trying to save a perishing world. When the time came for us to part, we made arrangements to talk the following weekend seeing he had promised to return then.

It was very difficult to stick to the initial appointment because we both had this enthusiasm to talk again, so we continued our discussion the following morning. We met every day during that week, and on Friday night, after welcoming the Sabbath together, we went on talking until almost midnight. Then I asked him if he would be willing to make a decision. He was so overjoyed with the appeal that he responded immediately by saying, "To God be the glory. I am willing and ready to do that now."

Arrangements were then made for his baptism which was done the next day. Richard was thankful to God for answering his prayer. He had found truth, and made a vow to follow his Lord, by His grace, as long as he lives.

Prayer is a powerful tool in the hand of the child of faith. It is such a strong magnet, that it can bring people together. Prayer can span the globe and unite God's children. We should never cease to pray even though at times we might have to wait a whole year for an answer from God. But, we must still trust Him because He is wise enough to know when is the best time to respond to our petitions.

Let us work and pray while we still have this limited time. We can see already that the sun is over the mountain and swiftly setting. Soon it will be midnight, and this day of opportunity and light will be forever past, and there will only be darkness and despair.

It is true, there is a war going on. We know who the enemy is, and we are ordinary people. But, with prayer, we can do extraordinary things. We serve a God who can bring water from a rock, and make a highway through the sea. He can even turn water into wine. But, His greatest miracle is transforming sinners into saints. Friend, don't give up! Just go to Him in prayer. He will come through to you!

It is true, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27. May our dear brother Richard continue to listen to the voice of Jesus and follow Him as long as he lives. AMEN.

Br. Ian Grant

BEST KEPT SECRET IN MONTRÉAL

A year ago, I came to Montréal with the intention to share "The Good News." With three years in the Colporteur ministry in southern California, I had a burning desire to return to Canada and continue the ministry. Similar to Jonah, the Lord had other plans.

First, I sent a letter to a dozen or more publishers for material in French, English and Spanish. Only one responded and forwarded the materials. Now, I had material and was eager to go. Suddenly, I found myself on my back repairing my vehicle for 4 days. This situation not only delayed me, it caused my momentum to cease. I returned to southern California with the intended assignment unaccomplished.

Some weeks later, a couple that I studied with requested that I meet some brethren. I stated that I had seen, heard and was not interested in pursuing new theology. Their persistence won and I met the brethren. After follow-up Bible studies, I acknowledged the Reform message. This message was what I needed for Montréal and why I fell short in my endeavors. I Praise the Lord.

This year, I returned to Montréal to assist my Mother for her surgery. I searched the phone directory for a Reform church. Aware that there were two organizations in the Reform Movement, I inquired which one. The brethren responded that we are the Reform Movement. I was reluctant to go. A couple of months past and I met a brother at a camp meeting who visited the reform church in Montréal. Sisters and other brethren at the meeting asked if I had visited the Montréal church, my reply was no. They encouraged me to visit. I later called the brother to confirm his view and he encouraged me to visit, since he likewise visited the church occasionally.

I met Brother Ian and Brother George on the last Sabbath in September and shared that this day was my birthday. A blessing was received from the Sabbath message on the topic of "Hide and Seek" to confess our sins. After the study, Bro. Ian invited me to stay and we shared several experiences.

Throughout the week I met Brother Ian and Brother George and felt as if I had known the brethren for years. We shared testimonies, sang praises, prayed and collectively agreed on the importance on Christ Our Righteousness. On Thursday, our Bible studies with a dear family affirmed a theme to proclaim **Washed in the Blood** that we continued later discussing till the 11th hour. Brother Ian and Brother George love the Lord and their enthusiasm to share Jesus with others is a blessing.

Friday Bro. Ian asked me to consider becoming a member of the church family. I shared principles and confessed hindrances in the past year for delaying to step forward. The Sabbath drew near, we sang praises, Bro. Ian asked if I opened the study. I shared the chapter on Revelation 5, **Worthy is the Lamb**. Later we prayed and I accepted by faith the appeal in my heart. Sabbath afternoon I accepted by profession of faith the joy of membership into the church body in Montréal, a **Best Kept Secret**.

I appeal to the reader, who is wrestling in the "Valley of Decision" listen to the still voice, follow by faith and share Jesus Christ Redeeming Love Purchased For All.

A Lasting Record

*Alone I walked the ocean strand;
A pearly shell was in my hand:
I stooped and wrote upon the sand
My name, the year, the day,
As onward from the spot I passed,
One lingering look behind I cast:
A wave came rolling high and fast,
And washed my lines away.*

*And so, methought, 'twill shortly be
With every mark on earth from me:
A wave of dark oblivion's sea
Will sweep across the place
Where I have trod the sandy shore
Of Time, and been to be no more,
Of me, my day, the name I bore,
To leave nor track nor trace.*

*And yet, with Him who counts the sands,
And holds the waters in His hands,
I know a lasting record stands,
Inscribed against my name,
Of all this mortal part has wrought,
Of all this thinking soul has thought,
And from these fleeting moments caught
For glory or for shame.*