



The Reformation **Messenger**

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 11, NOVEMBER 2012

“We are to be witnesses for Christ, reflecting upon others the light which the Lord permits to shine upon us. We are to be as faithful soldiers marching under the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel. . . . The Captain of our salvation knows the plan of the battle, and we shall come off more than conquerors through Him.” –*Our Father Cares*, p. 302

WE BELIEVE: The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine, the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

ABOUT THE COVER

Front Cover Photo:
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The Reformation
Messenger

Official Publication of the International Missionary Society the Seventh-Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field.

- **Tel: 905-876-2518**
- **E-mail: ims messenger@yahoo.com**
- **Internet: www.ims messenger.org**

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Sharpen Your Weapons and Your Message

You and I, everyone of us, are called upon to be preachers. And everyone of us are preaching a message today. “Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears: But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock. Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads. So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found. And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.” 1 Samuel 13:19–23

“Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines’ garrison, that is on the other side. But he told not his father. . . . And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few. And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart. Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto these men, and we will discover ourselves unto them. If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them. But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us. And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves. And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing.

And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel. And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.” 1 Samuel 14: 1, 6–12

Jonathan and his armour bearer were preaching a message to the Philistines. And what kind of message did they preach? One of faith and courage, wouldn’t you say? The Israelites didn’t have sharp weapons, but the Lord’s hand is not constrained to save by many or by few. He can bless even a dull weapon or message to make it effective in His service. Do you see what I am saying? “But Brother Jerry,” you may say, “I cannot go door to door like you do, or give a Bible study like you do”—and that may be true. But still, you are preaching a message. You do so by the look on your face, by your attitudes and actions—by the way you eat, and the way you dress. In fact, even without opening your mouth, you are preaching a message with all of these things. So, we may not know it, but we are still preaching a message each and every day.

“Let the members of the church now put away their pride and lay off their ornaments. Each should keep a missionary box at hand, and drop into it every penny he is tempted to waste in self-indulgence. But something more must be done than merely to dispense with superfluities. Self-denial must be practiced. Some of our comfortable and desirable things must be sacrificed. The preachers must sharpen up their message, not merely assailing self-indulgence, and pride in dress, but presenting Jesus, His life of self-denial and sacrifice. Let love, piety, and faith be cherished in the heart, and the precious fruits will appear in the life.” —*Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 293

How are you doing in sharpening your spiritual weap-

ons and your message? Deepening your self-denial, your self-sacrifice? Deepening your repentance and your faith?

“And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by Him do believe in God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.” 1 Peter 1:17–22

It is a solemn thought, that we even have to sharpen our message by deepening our faith and our experience with Christ, isn't it? For what is the human tendency? To take it easy, settle down in complacency and self-satisfaction, right? But of what are we assured if we do this?

“What shall I say to arouse the remnant people of God? I was shown that dreadful scenes are before us; Satan and his angels are bringing all their powers to bear upon God's people. He knows that if they sleep a little longer, he is sure of them, for their destruction is certain.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 263

“In these final hours of probation for the sons of men, when the fate of every soul is so soon to be decided forever, the Lord of heaven and earth expects His church to arouse to action as never before. Those who have been made free in Christ through a knowledge of precious truth, are regarded by the Lord Jesus as His chosen ones, favored above all other people on the face of the earth; and He is counting on them to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into marvelous light. The blessings which are so liberally bestowed, are to be communicated to others. The good news of salvation is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 716–717

“Not one in a hundred among us is doing anything beyond engaging in common, worldly enterprises. We are not half awake to the worth of the souls for whom Christ died.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 148

“If the followers of Christ were awake to duty, there would be thousands where there is one today, proclaiming the gospel in heathen lands. And all who could not personally engage in the work, would yet sustain it with their means, their sympathy, and their prayers. And there would be far more earnest labor for souls in Christian countries.” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 81

How about our dress standards? Are you and I advancing, sharpening our experience in the things of the Lord in this way? Don't we like to think that we are just about all right? We are pretty complacent about that, if we are complacent about anything. And of course, we dress so much more modestly than the world, don't we?



But is that how God's people are to compare themselves—with the world? Here is what inspiration has to say about the subject. “If all our sisters would adopt a simple, unadorned dress of modest length, the uniformity thus established would be far more pleasing to God, and would exert a more salutary influence on the world, than the diversity presented four years ago. As our sisters would not generally accept the reform dress as it should be worn, another, less objectionable style is now presented. It is free from needless trimmings, free from the looped-up, tied back overskirts. It consists of a plain sack or loose-fitting basque, [a short waist coat] and skirt, the latter short enough to avoid the mud and filth of the streets. The material should be free from large plaids and figures, and plain in color. The same attention should be given to the clothing of the limbs as with the short dress.

“Will my sisters accept this style of dress and refuse to imitate the fashions that are devised by Satan and continually changing? No one can tell what freak fashion will take next. Worldlings whose only care is, ‘What shall we eat, and what shall we wear?’ should not be our criterion.

“Some have said: ‘After I wear out this dress, I will make the next plainer.’ Now, if conformity to the fashions of the world is right and pleasing to God, where is the need of making a change at all? But if it is wrong, is it best to continue in the wrong any longer than is positively necessary to make the change? Right here we would remind you of the zeal and earnestness, the skill and perseverance you manifested in preparing your dress according to the fashion. Would it not be praiseworthy to manifest at least equal earnestness to make it conform to the Bible standard? Precious, God-given time and means were used in fashioning those garments; and now what are you willing to sacrifice to correct the wrong example you have been giving to others?” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p.640

What does this testimony mean for you and I?

In *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 4 we read that exhibitions of pride and dress were occasions for church discipline.

How are we doing at uplifting Jesus—and comparing ourselves with Him? We certainly are not sharpening our spiritual weapons or message when we neglect this important counsel regarding our dress. How are we doing at imitating Jesus’ love and self-denial? His wondrous sacrifice for you and I?

How are we relating to the reality of His soon coming? “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Luke 21:25–26

“Signs and wonders appeared, foreboding disaster and doom. In the midst of the night an unnatural light shone over the temple and the altar. Upon the clouds at sunset were pictured chariots and men of war gathering for battle. The priests ministering by night in the sanctuary were terrified by mysterious sounds; the earth trembled, and a multitude of voices were heard crying: ‘Let us depart hence.’ The great eastern gate, which was so heavy that it could hardly be shut by a score of men, and which was secured by immense bars of iron fastened deep in the pavement of solid stone, opened at midnight, without visible agency. –Milman, *The History of the Jews*, book 13.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 29

Have you heard about all of the mysterious sounds and sights that have been appearing in the heavens that

people all over the world have been noticing and talking about? On the news they have shown very strange cloud formations, looking like dark, approaching hands coming over a city. And, of course, we know that many people, not even Christians necessarily, are looking for the world to end this year.

He is coming again, and of this we cannot deny. Will you and I sharpen our spiritual weapons and message accordingly? All the strange happenings—the voices and sounds from the sky, tell us of the approach of an offended God. “Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.” Isaiah 24:1–5

But, He is coming back for His people. He is coming for those who are keeping His commandments, sharpening their spiritual weapons and message, by deep and true repentance.

Did you know that all the ice has melted in Greenland? In the space of three or four days, all the ice has melted in one of the coldest places on Earth—can you believe it? What more can God do to tell us to wake up, to get ready. Deny yourself. Work for others. For everyone of us is preaching a sermon every day. In the way we eat and dress, the way we think and are. Are you and I deepening our faith and experience with Christ? Jonathan and his armour bearer preached a message of self-denial, love and power—and even though it was only the two of them, the Lord triumphed gloriously in putting to flight the enemies of God, even so that those enemies destroyed one another.

May the sermons we preach give honor and glory to Him who is coming again, is my prayer.

Jerry Eaton





The Great Escape

Part 2

THE MASTER PLAN

The link to freedom has been opened. Absolutely divine intervention! Oh dear seeker, this is the great escape! Amazing! This is a master plan as found in Romans 6, the chapter under study. Paul has used it to challenge us to seek freedom. We must want it badly enough to do what is necessary to obtain it. Picture yourself being chained—given a life sentence with no chance for release. Your taskmaster has no mercy. His measly wages is your ultimate death which you will only receive at the end. But here comes a deliverer—a King who is willing to divest Himself of His palatial estate. Even worse than that, He had to die an ignominious death to ransom you, notwithstanding He was faultless. He left you a message which reads: there is a way of escape through Me; there is only one thing—you have to die. The watery grave of baptism is your escape route. You took it. Only one thing, after some time you renege on your promise to be faithful (break your word). You are again made captive.

This is Paul's worrying sentiment: How can you that are dead to sin live any longer therein?

Since God is a merciful God, ("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) who will not allow us to die because He sent His son, Jesus "to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." Isaiah 61:1, second part. All who receive it, "restoration full and complete" is available, as rightly, "whom the Son set free, is free indeed."

This is now where 1 John 3:9 finds its fulfilment, namely: "whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because

he is born of God." This is now where sin cannot find an answering chord. This gives us the hope that when our names come up in review before God, He will just see the similitude of His Son and declare us righteous. Praise the Lord! This should be our joy and our song. Why, the songwriter captured it with the song: "When Jesus comes, the tempter's power is broken; when Jesus comes to stay." It is wholly grace.

Belief must take us there. We must believe that we have been baptized into His death. We must believe that just as Christ died to sin, that our old man—our old nature—is crucified. After which we become new creatures. "Therefore," declares Paul, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

We must come to that point; we must by faith grasp the means provided. We must redeem the time. Paul's inspired lesson is as much for us as it was for his written audience. Truly, what is impossible to man is possible with God. This is the wonder of redeeming love. Undeniably, this is the grand culmination of Genesis 3:15: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel," as spoken by God to the arch deceiver—the enemy of our souls, the founder of the law of sin and death.

ANOTHER QUESTION OF IMPORTANCE

Those who have understood this to be a means to an end, but sense that they have deeply backslidden or never had the full truth with respect to God's binding moral law may be asking: Do I need to be re-baptized? Let us hear what Spirit of Prophecy points out under the title: "*When Rebaptism is Appropriate*": "The honest seeker after truth will not plead ignorance of the

law as an excuse for transgression. . . . He reveres God's law as holy, just, and good, and he repents of his transgression. By faith he pleads the atoning blood of Christ, and grasps the promise of pardon. His former baptism does not satisfy him now. He has seen himself a sinner, condemned by the law of God. He has experienced a death to sin, and he desires again to be buried with Christ by baptism, that he may rise to walk in newness of life. This is a subject which each individual must conscientiously take his position upon in the fear of God. The duty of urging belongs to no one but God." —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 148

In addition, as pointed out in the book *Steps to Christ*, "There are those who have known the pardoning love of Christ and who really desire to be children of God, yet they realize that their character is imperfect, their life faulty, and they are ready to doubt whether their hearts have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. To such I would say, do not draw back in despair. We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes, but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God. No; Christ is at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us—said the beloved John, 'These things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.' 1 John 2:1." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 64

At this time, it is important to point out to a few groups of people that are playing a dangerous game of chance, gambling with their soul's salvation; they do not see the urgency of escape. Example: That one who is shying away or "waiting until they are ready" is forsaking their own escape from the law of sin and death and risk the time when there will be "no more sacrifice for sin," when probation is closed, when the acceptable time is passed. Why will you die when there is hope, when there is deliverance? It is even in your mouth. Tomorrow is not promised. There is the story of a young man who was mortally wounded in battle. On realizing his own life ebbing away, and having known the truth, instead of calling for a Medic, quickly asked for a pastor

to come to baptize him. There was no pastor on the front line. There was no water.

To those who are preparing for baptism, and are studying and never coming to a decision or have doubts, or are procrastinating—leaving it for a more convenient day—to you Paul would say, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16.

Dear Friend, the loudest the Holy Spirit speaks to someone's heart is at the time of his or her initial conviction of light; after that there are often "hooks on which to hang your doubt," placed by the enemy, causing the Spirit's voice to get softer and softer. Of a fact the Spirit of God does not strive with flesh at all times. Therefore, "today if you hear His voice, do not harden

your heart" and seek to be like the Ethiopian man in Acts 8 :26 –39 who, on being taught and being convicted by the Holy Spirit made a decisive move and on seeing water he declared, "Here is water; baptize me."

Finally, those that once were baptized and have backslidden are forgetting that Christ says, "I am married to the backslider." He is seeking to set you free again; to justify you while there is still sacrifice for sin. Sin is not to be trifled with. Sin is offensive to God. It may be that you did not realize the great import of baptism. Christ

is reaching out to you and saying, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18. While mercy lingers He bids, "return unto Me."

Why is baptism so important? Because it is the means through which God has designated to escape from the law of sin and death. Through John the Baptist's work in the wilderness many had the conviction and sought baptism, confessing and repenting of their sins. To Nicodemus, Jesus made it plain: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except (unless) a man be born of water and of the Spirit, **he cannot** enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5. In Mark 16:16 it says "He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved. . . ." Sadly, many miss this simple



yet conditional portal to life everlasting.

Yet again the word of God says, “how can they hear without a preacher?” It is therefore imperative that Christ and Him crucified must ever be placed before the people. So like Paul, men of God, it is incumbent on you to give “meat in due season;” it is incumbent on you, Bible workers, pastors, to have men and women brought to a point where they will sooner rather than later make decisions after consistent Bible studies, bringing the candidate to the foot of the cross where he will see the utter sinfulness of his or her sin; where the Holy Spirit is waiting with its softening dew to rain righteousness and peace; where, under conviction, will say, “Here is water; baptize me.”

In continuation, as you come to the close of this article you may still be asking, where do I start? Start at the cross! Christ said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.” John 12:32. As you kneel, be mindful of what happened to our Sin Bearer. As says the Pen of Inspiration: “The theme that attracts the heart of the sinner is Christ, and Him crucified. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus stands revealed to the world in unparalleled love. . . . Beholding Jesus upon the cross of Calvary arouses the conscience to the heinous character of sin as nothing else can do.” —*The Review and Herald*, November 22, 1892

Appreciate what this freedom cost. You only need to read and believe Isaiah’s report namely:

“Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was

bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned



everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare His generation? For He was cut off out of the

land of the living: for the transgression of my people was He stricken. And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief: when thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities.” Isaiah 53:4–11

Dear one, bring this two thousand year old occurrence to life. Take it from a dry theory to an encounter; grapple with the truth that your sin as well as mine—all of ours, from Adam to Eve—that He who knew no sin, became sin for us. As you reflect on yourself and your conscience has been stirred—it should now make a contentious individual to “hate sin with a perfect hatred,” as stated by the Pen of Inspiration. It should cause us to see the dreadful character of sin and what it cost. With this reality, with this coming to yourself as it did to me, and feeling genuine heart sorrow brought about by the conviction of the Holy Spirit, remember the principles outlined in part one, and by faith believe that you have again entered “**into**” Jesus, “**into**” His death and “**into**” His resurrection and that you have newness of life in Christ.

The Spirit of Prophecy points out, “this is where thousands fail; they do not believe that Jesus pardons them personally, individually. They do not take God at His word. It is the privilege of all who comply with the conditions to know for themselves that pardon is freely extended for every sin. Put away the suspicion that God’s promises are not meant for you. They are for every repentant transgressor. Strength and grace have been provided through Christ to be brought by ministering angels to every believing soul. None are so sinful that they cannot find strength, purity, and righteousness in Jesus, who died for them. He is waiting to strip them of their garments stained and polluted with sin, and to put upon them the white robes of righteousness; He bids them live, and not die.” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 52

LIVING FAITH

“Now the just shall live by his faith,” declares Habakkuk. A verse in the book of Acts enjoins us: “Purify your heart by faith.” We as a people have not tapped into this aspect of life in Christ with its far reaching results. Practice is rare. In principle we have taken a hold of “the faith of Jesus,” but in practice we need a faith that

worketh by love. It may be that our death to sin in baptism may not have previously brought us to the experience of claiming the nature of Christ—the divine nature—hence our lack of living faith, in line with the early disciples, to also receive the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

DIE DAILY

To enter into the experience, to maintain liberty, we are called to die daily to self, to its demands, as Paul says of his own experience, "I die daily;" and like him declare "not I but Christ." The Spirit of Prophecy affirms: "Give all, Take all." Daily give yourself to God. Give Him your will. Take all that He has and is. "Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, 'Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.'" —*Steps to Christ*, p. 70. Thus you are sanctified.

It is worth noting that many make the mistake and think that they have a lifetime to enter into this experience and go back and forth between the flesh and the spirit, thinking that it is their best; not realizing that the sanctification process deems one righteous—holy—at every step of the way, as they continue in the life and will be thus for a lifetime, as they grow in grace. At the same time, bear in mind that when one commits sin as a result of taking their eyes off Christ, justification is again necessary and must be sought.

THE FINAL QUESTION

What do we do with the law? Yea, it is now established, enshrined on the tables of our hearts, as it were, written, where obedience becomes a natural outflow of the inward working of the Spirit. Says Paul: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Romans 3:31. The spir-

ituality of the law, that is. The letter of the law the righteous will go far beyond, as they are now born of the Spirit and are now being led by the Spirit as per 1 Timothy 1:9–10, "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons. . ." And so we find that the written code had its weakness, "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:3-4. Consequently Paul concluded that he "be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Philippians 3:9

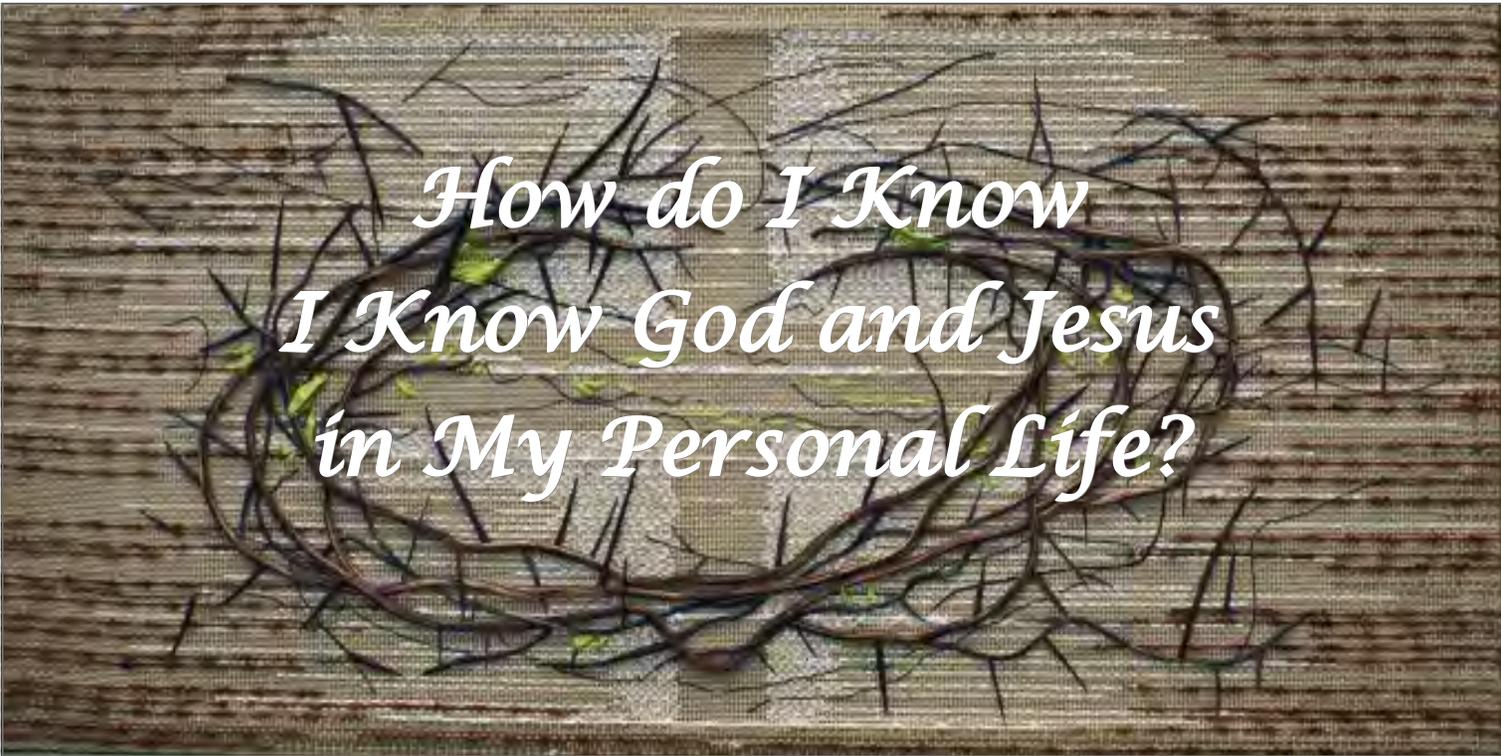
Thank God that we have been delivered from this body of death, and, like Paul, all who can appreciate it will say, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." Romans 7:25

May God grant us His continued grace, as now having been loosed from the bondage of the law of sin and death and made partakers of the divine nature, may we yield ourselves unto Him "as instruments of righteousness" and that we may be, in fact, faithful to Christ, our new Master, where we find rest, where His yoke is easy and His burden light.

Rose Powell



"The religion of Christ is not a selfish religion. It is not to be kept under lock and key, but it is to be an influence of power going forth from every genuine Christian to enlighten those that sit in darkness. Every soul connected with a true Christian will be made better thereby. We are to be God's light bearers, reflecting the steady beams of heaven upon others." —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 205



How do I Know I Know God and Jesus in My Personal Life?

By God's grace we had a wonderful and blessed conference here in Canada. Brothers and sisters, youth and children from far and near came closer to Jesus. The theme was "This is Life Eternal." John 17:3. As I listened, in all of the messages God had given me during this conference, I noticed that Eternal Life is knowing God and Jesus. From the Bible's perspective it means walking with God daily—developing such a closer personal experience with Jesus that all people might see something special in us, not only a simple religion—rather a wonderful relationship with the One who gave so much for us, namely His life, and this is Jesus. In these few words, I want, by God's help, to let you know Jesus and experience Him in your personal life, testifying for Him before people. We saw during that conference how we can experience Jesus through prayer, in our relationships with others, in witnessing for Him in the world, in our church, having unity among us and then receiving the Latter Rain—closing the work God entrusted us with.

Helpful, kind, caring, understanding, patient and loving are some of the words that come to mind when asked to list the qualities of a good person. One usually knows a person is good by what they do. Jesus said in Matthew 7:16 "Ye shall know them by their fruits."

A good place to look for insight into the qualities of a good person is God's word, the Bible. Now don't misunderstand me regarding good deeds because someone can have all the qualities of a good person, but still not make it to heaven. The Bible says that good deeds do

not save people from sin. Salvation is only possible through God's mercy and grace. Remember, the Bible says in Romans 3:23, we "all have sinned." Moreover, no amount of good deeds can save us from our sins.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8–9.

The Bible says that we are all sinful, deserving death. "For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.

God made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and that is through His sinless Son, Jesus Christ. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Jesus is offering you His free gift of eternal life. Will you accept His gift? "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed." Romans 10:10–11

Many Christians in the world today say the following: Christ has done everything on the cross, and that is true regarding our salvation from sin. You and I cannot add anything else except to surrender ourselves completely to Jesus and let the Holy Spirit's work be done through us. But there is something required by God from His children, namely to follow Jesus and give glory to Him with the way we live our life. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of

God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." Colossians 3:17

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:11. The implication of this passage is in the "**doing**" the work. Whatever our occupations, do we see our work and labours as reflective of God's glory? Does our work glorify God or dishonour Him? It is my objective to show in this "work" how we can glorify God every day of our lives and receive abundant blessings.

God's messenger, Ellen White wrote regarding unsanctified people in these last days. "Ten thousand times ten thousand may profess to obey the law and the gospel, and yet be living in transgression. Men may present in a clear manner the claims of truth upon others and yet their own hearts be carnal. Sin may be loved and practiced in secret. The truth of God may be no truth to them, because their hearts have not been sanctified by it. The love of the Saviour may exercise no

constraining power over their base passions. We know by the history of the past that men may stand in sacred positions and yet handle the truth of God deceitfully. They cannot lift up holy hands to God, 'without wrath and doubting.' This is because God has no control over their minds. The truth was never stamped upon their hearts. 'With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.' 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.' Are you doing this? Many are not, and never have done it. Their conversion has been only superficial." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 536

How do I know that I know God and Jesus in my person-

al life? By receiving Him as my personal Saviour and Redeemer and allowing Him to do His work of restoration in me. Jesus said in Matthew 16:24 "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." We will analyze the words of Jesus in this verse. First of all you see that Jesus doesn't force anyone. He simply says, "If anyone desires to come after Me." Throughout the Bible you will find God's sincere desire to save us from our sins in His way and if WE want. He doesn't force our will.

In Revelation 3:20 Jesus said; "If any man hear My voice, and open the door." So, the first condition is, if any man be willing to come after Me. Jesus said, none is forced; but if any will be a Christian, it must be on these terms. Let him deny himself, and take up his cross. A rule that can never be observed too much: let him in all things deny his own will, however pleasing, and do the will of God, however painful. Should we not

consider all crosses, all things grievous to flesh and blood, as what they really are, as opportunities of embracing God's will at the expense of our own? And consequently as so many steps by which we may advance toward perfection? We should make swift progress in our spiritual life if we were faithful in this practice.

God's messenger, Ellen White wrote:

"To become a disciple of Christ is to deny self and follow Jesus through evil as well as good report. Few are doing this now. Many prophesy falsely, and the people love to have it so; but what will be done in the end thereof? What will be the decision when their work, with all its results, shall be brought in review before God? . . . There must be a revival of the strait testimony. The path to heaven is no smoother now than in the days of our Saviour. All our sins must be put away. Every darling indulgence that hinders our religious life must be cut off. The right eye or the right hand must be sacrificed if it cause us to offend. Are we willing to renounce our own wisdom and to receive the kingdom of



heaven as a little child? Are we willing to part with self-righteousness? Are we willing to give up our chosen worldly associates? Are we willing to sacrifice the approbation of men? The prize of eternal life is of infinite value. Will we put forth efforts and make sacrifices proportionate to the worth of the object to be attained?" – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 222

If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. A true disciple of Christ is one that does follow Him in duty, and shall follow Him to glory. He is one that walks in the same way Christ walked in, is led by His Spirit, and treads in His steps, whithersoever He goes. Let him deny himself. If self-denial be a hard lesson, it is no more than what our Master learned and practised, to redeem us, and to teach us.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5–8

Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that He did, self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father. When His mission on earth was about to close, He could say, "I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." John 17:4. And He bids us, "Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart." Matthew 11:29. "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself." Matthew 16:24

If self-denial be a hard lesson, it is no more than what our Master learned and practised, to redeem us and to teach us. Let him take up his cross. The cross is placed here for every trouble that befalls us. We are apt to think we could bear another's cross better than our own, but that is best which is appointed us, and we ought to make the best of it. We must not by our rashness and folly pull crosses down upon our own heads, but must take them up when they are in our way. If any man will have the name and credit of a disciple, let him follow Christ in the work and duty of a disciple. Whatever is the object for which men forsake Christ, that is the price at which Satan buys their souls. Yet one soul is worth more than all the world. He knew the price of souls, for He redeemed them; let us then learn rightly to value our souls, and Christ as the only Saviour of them.

In Luke 9:23, Jesus said; "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily**, and follow Me." When Christ called His disciples, this was the word of command, Follow Me. A true disciple of Christ is one that doth follow Him in duty, and shall follow Him to glory. A disciple of Christ comes after Him, as the sheep after the shepherd, the servant after his master, the soldiers after their captain; he is one that aims at the same end that Christ aimed at, the glory of God, and the glory of heaven: and one that walks in the same way that he walked in, is led by his Spirit, treads in His steps, submits to His conduct, and follows the Lamb, whithersoever He goes (Revelation 14:4).

Let him follow Me, in this particular of taking up the cross. Suffering saints must look unto Jesus and take from Him both direction and encouragement in suffering. Do we bear the cross? We therein follow Christ, who bears it before us. The disciples of Christ must study to imitate their Master, and conform themselves in everything to His example, and continue in well-doing, whatever crosses lie in their way. Ellen White, God's messenger said in *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 560: "Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ."

May we give God glory through praise and rejoicing as we see how God is blessing us. Let us speak openly of these things. Let us be a witness for Jesus and lead many other people to their Saviour and Redeemer, the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. The only thing that makes it a part of your life is that you keep thinking about it. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8

Jesus, I realize I cannot understand Your Word without Your Spirit. As I read Your Word, I give the Holy Spirit permission to convict me of sin, instruct me in righteousness, and impress me of the urgency of living in the judgment hour. Oh, Lord, whatever truth You have for me, I desire it. Whatever changes You want in my life, I want them, so please, my dear Jesus, help me to represent You in this world in the right way and be a light for many people, this is my sincere wish and prayer. Amen!

Nicholas Anca



Faith In The Daily Life

“I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8

1. DEFINING FAITH

“Feeling is not faith. Faith is simply to take God at His word.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 620

DO WE?

“If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions. Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will cleanse us; yet we have a work to do in complying with the condition of acceptance.

“Another element of prevailing prayer is faith. ‘He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.’ Hebrews 11:6. Jesus said to His disciples, ‘What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.’ Mark 11:24. Do we take Him at His word?” *Steps to Christ*, p. 95–96. Taking God at His word in faith is very rare (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 277–278).

THE ENEMY

“As a people we lack faith. In these days few would follow the directions given through God’s chosen servant as obediently as did the armies of Israel at the taking of Jericho. . . Faith is the living power that presses through every barrier, overrides all obstacles, and plants its banner in the heart of the enemy’s camp.

“Man builds his theories, loses the simplicity of true faith, becomes too self-important to believe the decla-

ration of the Lord, and hedges himself in with his own conceits.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 162–163

EXERCISE—NO CROSS, NO CROWN

“Faith will greatly increase by exercise! . . . Learn of Christ. Have faith in His power to help and save you. Faith is the very lifeblood of the soul. Its presence gives warmth, health, consistency, and sound judgment. Its vitality and vigor exert a powerful though unconscious influence. The life of Christ in the soul is as a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. It leads to a constant cultivation of the heavenly graces and to a kindly submission in all things to the Lord.” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 471. “To have strong faith, we must be placed in circumstances where our faith will be exercised. How can one be strong in the Lord without trials?” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 67

EASY RELIGION

“The desire for an easy religion, that requires no striving, no self-denial, no divorce from the follies of the world, has made the doctrine of faith, and faith only, a popular doctrine; but what saith the word of God? Says the apostle James: ‘What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? . . . Wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? . . . Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.’ James 2:14–24. The testimony of the word of God is against this ensnaring doctrine of faith

without works.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 472

2. GENUINE (REAL OR TRUE) FAITH

Genuine faith is rare in the last days (*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 94). “Genuine faith always works by love.” *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1111

STEEL HEARTS

“Though the heavenly Merchantman displays before them the richest jewels of faith and love, though He invites them to buy of Him, ‘gold tried in the fire,’ and ‘white raiment’ that they may be clothed, and ‘eyesalve’ that they may see, they steel their hearts against Him, and fail to exchange their lukewarmness for love and zeal. While making a profession, they deny the power of godliness. If they continue in this state, God will reject them. They are unfitting themselves to be members of His family. . . . Wherein have they manifested a burden for souls? These persons need first to be taught and disciplined at home. True faith and love for Christ would create in them a most earnest desire to save souls right at home.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 426–427

DEAD FAITH

“Do you believe that the end of all things is at hand, that the scenes of this earth’s history are fast closing? If so, show your faith by your works. A man will show all the faith he has. Some think they have a good degree of faith, when if they have any, it is dead, for it is not sustained by works. ‘Faith if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.’ Few have that genuine faith which works by love and purifies the soul.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 704

TEST OF ABIDING IN CHRIST

“Christ changes the heart. He abides in your heart by faith. You are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith and the continual surrender of your will to Him; and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. So you may say, ‘The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.’ Galatians 2:20. So Jesus said to His disciples, ‘It is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.’ Matthew 10:20.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 62

GRAPPLING HOOKS

“While God has given ample evidence for faith, He will never remove all excuse for unbelief. All who look for hooks to hang their doubts upon will find them. And those who refuse to accept and obey God’s word until every objection has been removed, and there is no

longer an opportunity for doubt, will never come to the light.” –*The Great Controversy*, 527

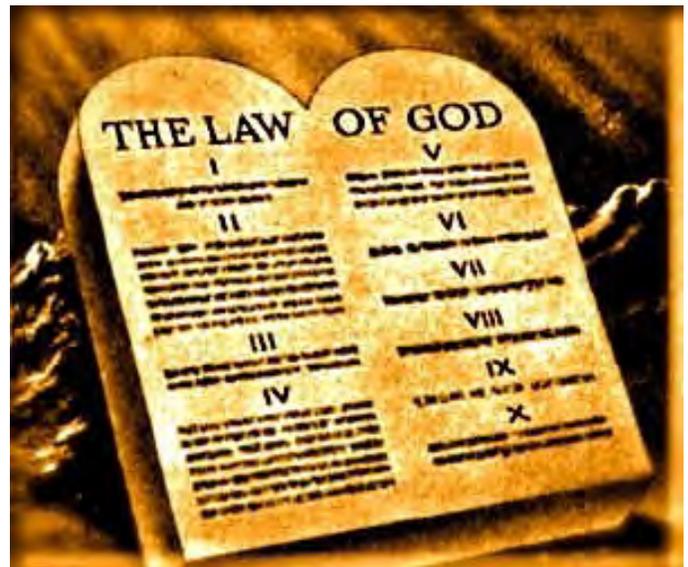
“Faith is the spiritual hand that touches infinity.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 467

3. FAITH IN CHRIST

Faith in Christ is essential to salvation (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347).

ENABLES US TO KEEP GOD’S LAW

A “dangerous error is that belief in Christ releases men from keeping the law of God; that since by faith alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our redemption.



“But notice here that obedience is not a mere outward compliance, but the service of love. The law of God is an expression of His very nature; it is an embodiment of the great principle of love, and hence is the foundation of His government in heaven and earth. If our hearts are renewed in the likeness of God, if the divine love is implanted in the soul, will not the law of God be carried out in the life?” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 60

PEACEMAKER

“When the principle of love is implanted in the heart, when man is renewed after the image of Him that created him, the new-covenant promise is fulfilled, ‘I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.’ Hebrews 10:16. And if the law is written in the heart, will it not shape the life?

“Obedience—the service and allegiance of love—is the true sign of discipleship. Thus the Scripture says, ‘This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.’ ‘He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His command-

ments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.' 1 John 5:3; 2:4. Instead of releasing man from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of the grace of Christ, which enables us to render obedience." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 60

Strength to obey God's law can be obtained only by faith in Christ (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 524).

REFORMATION

"Luther's teachings attracted the attention of thoughtful minds throughout all Germany. . . . A living faith was taking the place of the dead formalism in which the church had so long been held. The people were daily losing confidence in the superstitions of Romanism. The barriers of prejudice were giving way. The word of God, by which Luther tested every doctrine and every claim, was like a two-edged sword, cutting its way to the hearts of the people. Everywhere there was awakening a desire for spiritual progress. Everywhere was such a hungering and thirsting after righteousness as had not been known for ages. The eyes of the people, so long directed to human rites and earthly mediators, were now turning in penitence and faith to Christ and Him crucified." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 133

Christ alone can heal the sting of sin (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 430–432); and supplies the deficiencies of character through faith (*Messages To Young People*, p. 252).

4. KINDS OF FAITH – DESIRABLE

"Christian faith will never harmonize with worldly principles." Beware of the evil heart of unbelief. "Watch, pray, work—this is the true life of faith." —*Testimonies For The Church*, vol. 5, p. 235

THE SCIENCE TO BE MASTERED

"There is a science of Christianity to be mastered,—a science as much deeper, broader, higher than any human science as the heavens are higher than the earth. The mind is to be disciplined, educated, trained; for we are to do service for God in ways that are not in harmony with inborn inclination. There are hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome. Often the training and education of a lifetime must be discarded, that one may become a learner in the school of Christ. . . .

"The precious graces of the Holy Spirit are not developed in a moment. Courage, fortitude, meekness, faith, unwavering trust in God's power to save, are acquired by the experience of years. By a life of holy endeavor and firm adherence to the right the children of God are

to seal their destiny." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 314

CHRISTLIKE—TO BE CHERISHED

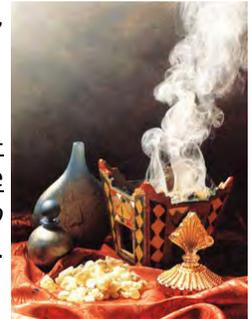
"There is among us as a people an idolatry of human instrumentalities and mere human talent, and these even of a superficial character. We must die to self and cherish humble, childlike faith. God's people have departed from their simplicity. They have not made God their strength, and they are weak and faint, spiritually." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 75

STEADY—SOUND—INCREASING FAITH

"God has ordained that in order to grow in grace and in a knowledge of Christ, men must follow His example and work as He worked. It will often require a struggle to control our own feelings and to refrain from speaking in a manner to discourage those who are laboring under temptation. A life of daily prayer and praise, a life which will shed light upon the path of others, cannot be maintained without earnest effort. But such effort will yield precious fruit, blessing not only the receiver, but the giver. The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character and brings peace and happiness to its possessor. The aspirations are elevated. There is no room for sloth or selfishness. Those who exercise the Christian graces will grow. . . . They will have clear spiritual perceptions, a steady, increasing faith, and prevailing power in prayer." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 605–606

SINCERE—UNCORRUPTED

Faith is to be sincere and uncorrupted, as gold and frankincense and myrrh to Christ (*Counsels To Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 60).



SIMPLE

"Human strength is weakness, human wisdom is folly. Our success does not depend on our talents or learning, but on our living connection with God. The truth is shorn of its power when preached by men who are seeking to display their own learning and ability. Such men display also that they know very little of experimental religion, that they are unsanctified in heart and life and are filled with vain conceit. They do not learn of Jesus. They cannot present to others a Saviour with whom they themselves are not acquainted. . . . Some exalt self, and talk of self; they prepare sermons and write articles to call the attention of the people to the

minister, fearing that he will not receive due honor. Had there been more lifting up of Jesus and less extolling the minister, more praise rendered to the Author of truth, and less to its messengers, we would occupy a more favorable position before God than we do today.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 158

“Simple faith . . . unites the believer to God.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 147. By simple faith, healing and pardon was brought to the paralytic of Capernaum (*The Desire Of Ages*, p. 268).

MAN LOSES SIMPLICITY—VICTIM MENTALITY

“There are deep mysteries in the word of God, there are unexplainable mysteries in His providences; there are mysteries in the plan of salvation that man cannot fathom. But the finite mind, strong in its desire to satisfy its curiosity and solve the problems of infinity, neglects to follow the plain course indicated by the revealed will of God and pries into the secrets hidden since the foundation of the world. Man builds his theories, loses the simplicity of true faith, becomes too self-important to believe the declarations of the Lord and hedges himself in with his own conceits. Many who profess our faith are in this position. They are weak and powerless because they trust in their own strength.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 163–164

5. KINDS OF FAITH—UNDESIRABLE

A casual faith unto salvation, or a cheap faith, unsupported by works does not suffice for a spiritual life (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 137, 381, 392).

FANCY

An undesirable kind of faith is confounded with: blessing that comes through faith, and considered fancy, but is faint and feeble, and which produces a superficial experience which is not true faith (*Selected Messages*, Book 1, 156, 381, 392; *Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 14; *S.D.A Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 936).

“Faith and love are golden treasures, elements that are greatly wanting among God’s people. I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies of warning, encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God’s people. Unbelief is closing their eyes so that

they are ignorant of their true condition. The True Witness thus describes their blindness: ‘And knowest not that thou are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’ (Revelation 3:16).” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 255

STUPIDITY

“Faith in the soon coming of Christ is waning. ‘My lord delayeth His coming’ is not only said in the heart, but expressed in words and most decidedly in works. Stupidity in this watching time is sealing the senses of God’s people as to the signs of the times. The terrible iniquity which abounds calls for the greatest diligence and for the living testimony, to keep sin out of the church. Faith has been decreasing to a fearful degree, and it is only by exercise that it can increase.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 255

FEARFUL

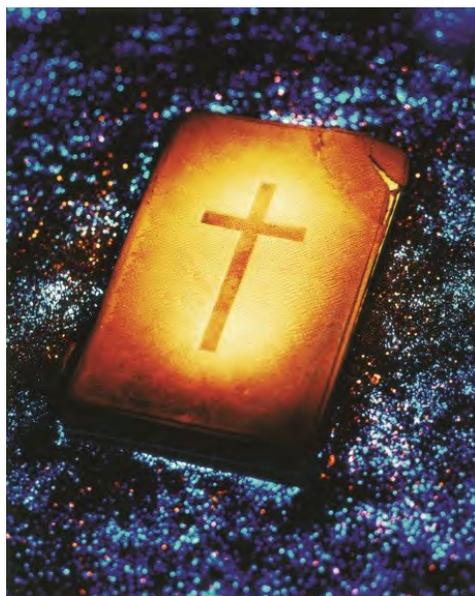
“Great sacrifices have been made and privations endured to place the truth in a clear light before you. Now God calls upon you, in your turn, to make great efforts and to sacrifice in order to place the truth before those who are in darkness. God requires this. You profess to believe the truth; let your works testify to the fact. Unless your faith works, it is dead. Nothing but a living faith will save you in the fearful scenes which are just before you.” —*Testimonies*

For The Church, vol. 1, p. 191

APOSTASY, APOSTASY, APOSTASY

“The spirit of worldly conformity is invading the churches throughout Christendom. . . . When faithful teachers expound the word of God, there arise men of learning, ministers professing to understand the Scriptures, who denounce sound doctrine as heresy, and thus turn away inquirers after truth. Were it not that the world is hopelessly intoxicated with the wine of Babylon, multitudes would be convicted and converted by the plain cutting truths of the word of God. But religious faith appears so confused and discordant, that the people know not what to believe as truth. The sin of the world’s impenitence lies at the door of the church.

“The professors of religion of the present day, in every church, are lovers of the world, conformers to the world, lovers of creature comfort, and aspirers after respectability. They are called to suffer with Christ, but



they shrink from even reproach . . . Apostasy, apostasy, apostasy, is engraven on the very front of every church; . . . they cry, 'We are rich, and increased in goods, and stand in need of nothing.' (Revelation 3:17)." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 388–389

6. LACK OF FAITH

Lack of faith is alarming among God's people and among Seventh Day Adventists (*Testimonies For The Church*, vol. 3, p.253; vol. 4, p. 162).

PAINFULLY HINDERED

"The upbuilding of the kingdom of God is retarded or urged forward according to the unfaithfulness or fidelity of human agencies. The work is hindered by the failure of the human to co-operate with the divine. Men may pray, 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven;' but if they fail of acting out this prayer in their lives, their petitions will be fruitless. . . . 'Without Me,' Christ said, 'ye can do nothing. . . .'

"It is the righteousness of Christ that goes before us, and this is the glory of the Lord, which shall be our rearward." Isaiah 58:8. Ye churches of the living God, study this promise, and consider how your lack of faith, of spirituality, of divine power, is hindering the coming of the kingdom of God. If you would go forth to do Christ's work, angels of God would open the way before you, preparing hearts to receive the gospel. –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 437–438

FATAL RESULTS

The results of lack of faith produce: carelessness, distressing fears, love of self, perplexity, surmising of evil, worldiness *Testimonies for the Church*, vol., 3, p. 475; vol. 2, p. 140; *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1175). Every failure on the Christian's part is due to lack of faith (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 657).

Souls who feel a lack of faith, should throw themselves upon Christ's mercy (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 429).

7. LIVING FAITH

"Living faith in the merits of a crucified Redeemer will carry man through the fiery furnace of affliction and trial." *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 212. Living faith means an increase of vigor and ener-



getic action (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347; *Christian Service*, p. 177).

ESSENTIAL TO A CHRISTIAN'S SAFETY

"Those who profess the name of Christ should not, like the self-righteous Pharisee, find great pleasure in recounting their good deeds, but all should feel the necessity of keeping the moral nature braced by constant watchfulness. Like faithful sentinels they should guard the citadel of the soul, never feeling that they may relax their vigilance for a moment. In earnest prayer and living faith is their only safety." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 575

CULTIVATE

"Again, I would urge that living faith in God be cultivated. There are those who, though thought to be serving God, are fast becoming girded about with infidelity. To them crooked paths seem straight; they are living in continual violation of God's truth; corrupt principles are interwoven into their life practice, and wherever they go they sow seeds of evil. In the place of leading others to Christ their influence causes them to question and doubt. They unsettle minds in the truth by entering into speculative theories which draw them away from the truth. They help forge the fetters of doubt and unbelief." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, P. 281

CONQUER THE ENEMY

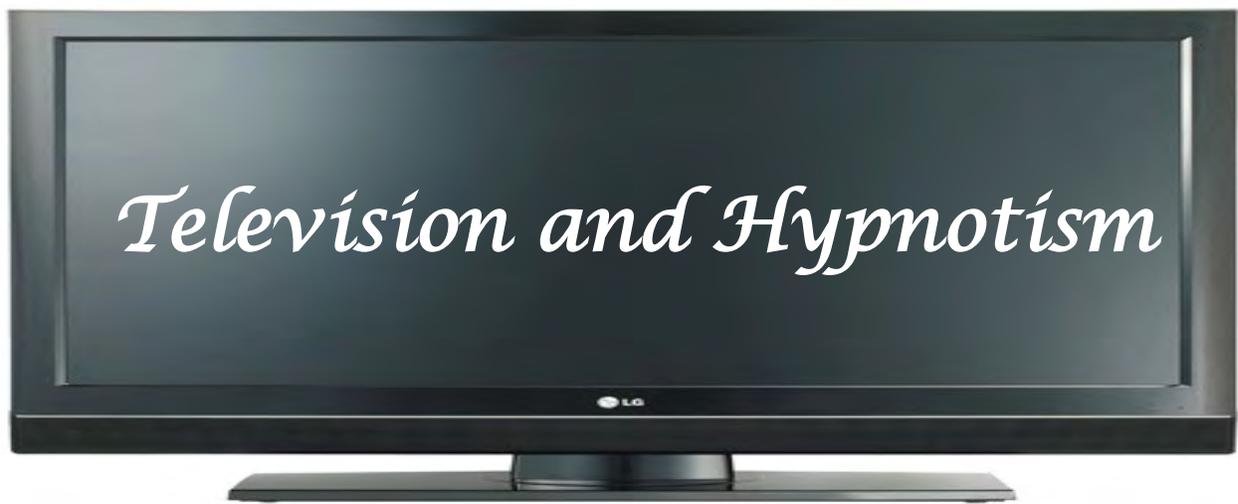
"The habit of brooding over anticipated evils is unwise and unchristian. In thus doing we fail to enjoy the blessings and to improve the opportunities of the present. The Lord requires us to perform the duties of today and to endure its trials. We are today to watch that we offend not in word or deed. We must today praise and honor God. By the exercise of living faith today we are to conquer the enemy." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p.200

NO EXCUSE

"In order to fight successfully the battle against sin, you must keep close to Jesus. Do not talk unbelief; you have no excuse for doing this. Christ has made a complete sacrifice for you, that you might stand before God complete in Him. God is not pleased with our lack of faith. Unbelief always separates the soul from Christ." – *In Heavenly Places*, p. 276

Amen. <><

John Theodorou
U.S.A.



Television and Hypnotism

In most homes in America, there is a device that unwittingly puts you into a type of hypnotic trance—something that you focus your eyes on, flickers every few seconds, and can produce this hypnotic-like trance. This object is one of the most popular devices of our time; more than 96% of American homes have at least one.

WHAT IS THIS DEVICE?

In 1939, at the World's Fair in New York, David Sarnoff introduced a new invention to the world. Mr. Sarnoff was the President of a company, founded in 1919, called the Radio Corporation of America (RCA). Mr. Sarnoff had known of the device called television, but until that time, it had not been determined as to how television could be used for any practical value. When he was put in charge of RCA, which, at that time, had been involved in radio broadcasting, he saw the potential of the television, which not only could transmit sound, but pictures. Over the next 10 years, he worked with the engineers who had pioneered the work of building the television, to produce a product that could be used by the common person. Finally, at the World's Fair, America was first shown the potential for this new invention.

From the first introduction to an innocent public in 1939, television watching, over the past 70 years or so, has become the number one "idle activity" in America. Most of the population engages in watching television, up to 97%.

The classic setting for television (TV) watching or video-watching is similar to the typical environment that is used to induce hypnotism: a darkened room, a flickering light (the TV set) as a single-minded focus, and freedom from all outside diversions.

Does *what* you watch make any difference on your mind and character? Yes. The content you view exerts a

powerful effect on your mind; the medium itself also appears to have profound mental effects. The very vehicle of television is, in itself, usually detrimental. This is due to camera-switching work in most videos and the "rapidly changing scene of reference." Specifically, the average television program changes its scene of reference every three to five seconds.

Several doctors have gone on record to report the negative effects of television. Dr. Morris cites television's rapid change of reference as contributing to the hypnotic-type effect. Dr. Herbert Krugman, a brain wave researcher, has gone on record: "Television is a communication medium that effortlessly transmits huge quantities of information, not thought about at the time of exposure."

Watching television also gives the effects of artificial stimulation. Alvin Toffler details the effects of artificial stimulation. "Constant stimulation of the senses shuts down the analytical processes of the mind and ultimately shuts down the ability to think and face life rationally. This leads to escape techniques and adaptive responses which tend to involve withdrawal, apathy, and rejection of disciplined thinking when faced with difficult duties and decisions."

In the hypnotized state, an *alpha* brain pattern is operative, during which we do not critically analyze information. In this state, an individual will record information and suggestions without interpretation and without frontal lobe filtering. A flickering light that trains the eyes to focus in one place has been noted to easily induce a hypnotic stage. As one continues to focus on the flickering light, he or she does not critically analyze the information being received. None of the information is filtered according to their sense of values or moral worth; *their very reasoning powers are being bypassed. The frontal lobe has been short-circuited.* To

compromise this control center of the brain, even temporarily, is dangerous. In terms of brain power and functioning, the worst thing that could be done is to sit and watch television.

The Spirit of Prophecy has given us warnings about hypnotism. "Be cautious in regard to what you read and how you hear. Satan is waiting to steal a march upon everyone who allows himself to be deceived by his hypnotism." —*Medical Ministry*, p. 102

What is the Spirit of Prophecy telling us? Hypnotism is from Satan. He is our enemy and adversary, who is doing all in his power to prevent us from reaching heaven. Will Satan's hypnotism always be practiced in the same way as in the past? "In the future, Satan's superstitions will assume new forms. Most seducing influences will be exerted; minds will be hypnotized." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 293

What should we, as the people who preach in Zion, do about Satan's hypnotism? "The hypnotism of Satan must be shown in its true bearing." —*The Upward Look*, p. 251

If watching television and videos is hypnotism, and hypnotism is from Satan, are television and videos from Satan? The answer is yes.

"Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God's tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in [Exodus 31:12-18](#). This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely... We are not to tamper with mesmerism and hypnotism—the science of the one who lost his first estate and was cast out of the heavenly courts. The science of a pure, wholesome, consistent Christian life is obtained by studying the word of the Lord." —*Medical Ministry*, p.110–111

Based on these testimonies and the other evidence mentioned in this article, we should not watch worldly television and videos, and even be very careful about the quantity of godly videos and television we watch. We should also witness to our friends and family and our colleagues at work about the powerful hold that television can have on them.

There are many other sources of information that we can access, to find out what is going on in the world, without needing to resort to the television. These sources include: Newspapers, news journals, weekly news magazines, computer websites, On-line services.

Television is, in reality, an entertainment box. Even the network news producers themselves have stated open-

ly that they consider television as an object for entertainment.

What does medical science say? Is television a positive influence on us? Television strengthens negative qualities in children and its watchers. Especially mentioned is MTV, which increases problems with violence.

Television watching also affects the health of our children. The metabolic rate of children ages 8 to 12 during television viewing was significantly lower than when the children were at rest and doing nothing. A lower metabolism, combined with the high fat snacks eaten during the hours in front of the TV places children at high risk for obesity. Children watch 26 hours of TV weekly on average. Childhood obesity now affects one out of four children.

Television also affects our ability to detect when someone is lying. Among television viewers, 52% of the people detected the lie (similar odds to flipping a coin). Of newspaper readers, 64% detected the lie. With radio listeners, 73% detected the lie.

Television has been proven to be addictive. In a 1976 survey and trial conducted by the Detroit Free Press, the results of a one-month trial were amazing. When the television was removed, family members manifested actual withdrawal symptoms. Insomnia and headaches were common.

Television itself has been shown to affect the frontal lobe development of children. Parents who spent long hours in front of the television also affected the frontal lobe development of their children. The lack of parental involvement in the lives of children directly relates back to two other frontal lobe robbers: alcohol and tobacco use. Researchers from Louisiana State University Medical Centre in New Orleans demonstrated this when they studied over 2000 fifth and sixth graders for three to four years. Children who reported that their parents spent more time with them and had more communication with them were less likely to use alcohol and tobacco. They were also less likely to choose friends who used these substances.

Many use television as escapism. Most of the time, escapism occurs on a mental level, and is, indeed, an extension of ignoring the stressor. The person remains in the presence of the stressor, but turns to a mind-altering escape to help forget about its presence. Such an escape can be diverse as watching television, or taking a mixed drink. Viewing television, even in its highest form, takes time away from activities such as exercise that could help enhance your coping reserves or diffuse

stress.

Television viewing is also one reason why North Americans do poorly in the sleep department. The more television you watch, the less time you have to sleep. This is particularly a problem for American youth. Many are not getting enough sleep because of their liberal diet of TV.

“Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?” Habakkuk 2:13

As people of God, we need to remove television watching from our lives. “Cut away from yourselves everything that savors of hypnotism, the science by which satanic agencies work. — Letter 20, 1902.” — *Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 350



Research has demonstrated that 22 to 34 percent of violent male criminals who are serving time for crimes such as murder, rape, and assault, admit having consciously *imitated crime techniques* that they learned from television.

As society generally is getting more violent from TV watching and competitive sports, are we getting closer to the great Battle of Armageddon, the great battle between good and evil, the great battle between Christ and Satan?

Television news is supposed to be entertainment. The Detroit News surveyed 40 TV news broadcasts on four stations in December, 1996, and January 1997 and found that “crime was by far the most common type of story on each station.” Also found was that “disaster stories—accidents, floods, blizzards” were second.

There is a story about some residents of Bombay, India, who rebelled against TV in a dramatic way. Hundreds of people, sick of televised violence and sex hurled their TV sets out their windows in December of 1994. They reported that their family’s lives improved as a result.

SUMMARY OF 16 HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TV WATCHING

1. Produces hypnotic effect, bypassing frontal lobe filtering

2. Reduces interest in reading and learning
3. Weakens brain power
4. Encourages poor lifestyle habits
5. Encourage obesity
6. Increases daydreaming
7. Weakens creativity
8. May reduce our powers of discrimination.
9. Trains people in non-reaction
10. Influences viewers to regard violence lightly
11. Makes children more irritable
12. Increases aggressiveness
13. Addictive
14. Reduces time available for productive achievement
15. Steals time from family interaction
16. Adversely affects spiritual pursuits

Many people have no idea as to what activities to engage in to replace the television. Here are some ideas:

Family Activities

- Family council meetings
- Teach children to express gratitude
- Invite friends who will abide by family rules
- Special weekend meals
- Special occasions with extended family
- Routine phone tradition
- Give inscribed books as gifts
- Make and show home videos

Self-Improvement Activities

- Learn geography, science, math, or art
- Learn to cook and bake
- Develop hobbies and related skills
- Visit the library
- Quilting, sewing, knitting
- Learn to handle money
- Learn a musical skill
- Subscribe to newspapers or magazines
- Read your Bible

Physical Activities

- Outdoor non-competitive exercise
- Grow a garden
- Participate in daily chores
- Make home comfortable and serene
- Help others; offer your services
- Do missionary work

The home should be a place that is comfortable and at times quiet enough to allow creative thinking. Displaying the children’s artwork as well as having “master”

artworks or replicas around that can be studied and contemplated without a distracting television, will bring great rewards.

Seven decades after David Sarnoff, President of RCA, unveiled the first television at the 1939 World's Fair, it is time to ask—what is television doing to our country? More specifically, what is television doing to me?

Exercising the brain will expand it. "The understanding adapts itself to the dimensions of the subjects with which it is required to deal. If occupied with trivial, commonplace matters only, never summoned to earnest efforts to comprehend great and eternal truths, it becomes dwarfed and enfeebled. Hence the value of the Scriptures as a means of intellectual culture." —*That I May Know Him*, p. 8

"The Bible, just as it reads, is to be our guide. Nothing is so calculated to enlarge the mind and strengthen the intellect as the study of the Bible. No other study will so elevate the soul and give vigor to the faculties as the study of the living oracles... As the mind is brought to the study of God's Word, the understanding will enlarge and the higher power will develop for the comprehension of high and ennobling truth." —*Mind, Char-*

acter, and Personality, p. 93

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18

"By beholding we become changed. If you allow your mind to dwell upon the imperfections and moral deformities of others, you will be changed into the same image. You will become deformed in character, and mentally one-sided and unbalanced. Let the mind dwell upon the perfect life of Christ. If the thoughts are centered upon Him, and the conversation is on the heavenly themes, you will be 'changed into the same image from glory to glory.' You will become 'partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.'" —*Signs of the Times*, May 8, 1884

References and statistics in this article are from the book, *Proof Positive: How to Reliably Combat Disease and Achieve Optimal Health Through Nutrition and Lifestyle*, Neil Nedley, 1999.

Linda Kolyn

Flowers of Life

As Flowers in the summer morning bares its beauty in the freshness of its lifecycle

So Man in the morning of life bares all its life forces of vigour and cheer

In the noonday the flowers maintain its fight against Sun,

Wind and Storm

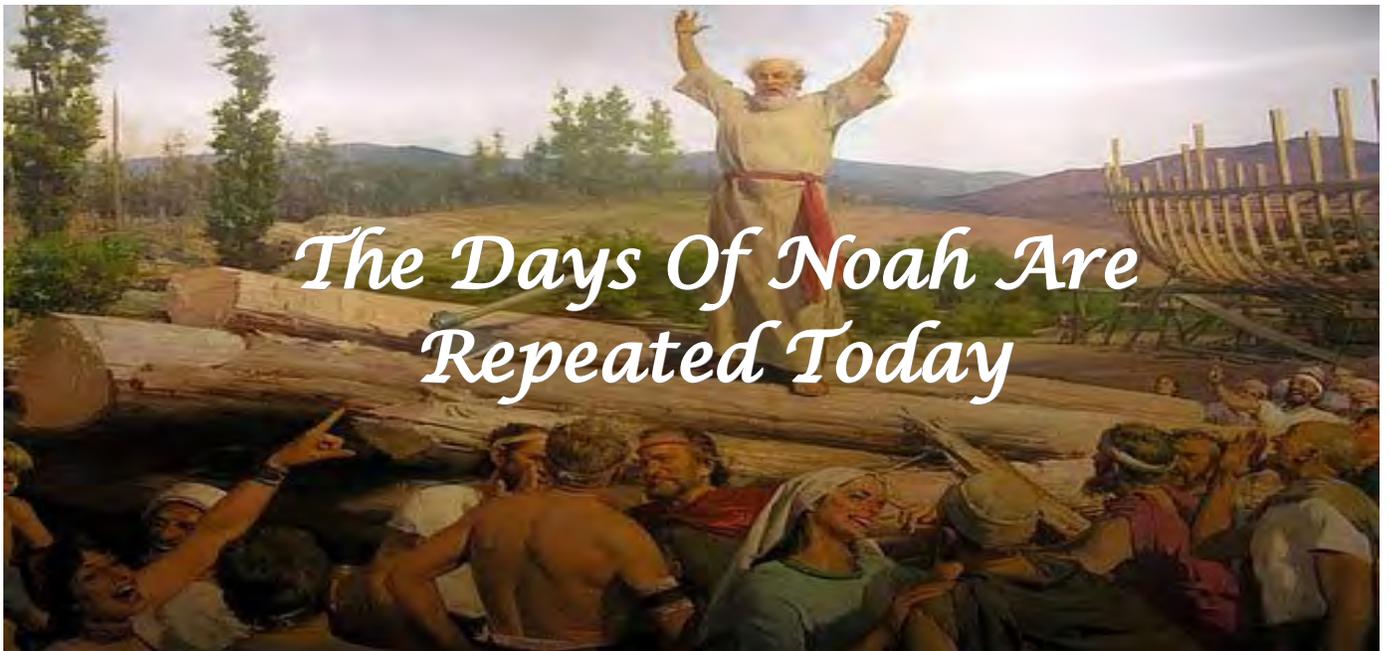
So Youth struggles to be recognized and maintains its unshakable tower of strength

Then the evening beckons: Fold your petals and lull in the darkening hour

So Man in turn shuts the door and He who makes man and flowers draws the curtain close

And says goodnight.

Rose Powell



The Days Of Noah Are Repeated Today

We are nearing the end. Terrible things will happen in the near future. The world is preparing for destruction, while the flock of Jesus is preparing for heaven. Jesus said, "but as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:37

Troubles that we do not anticipate will break upon us. We have already seen wars, terrorism, earthquakes and other events that caused the scientists to conclude that the world cannot continue much longer.

Let us just mention a few of them. For instance, one of them is the greenhouse effect. The ozone layer is thinning down. The result of it is warmer temperatures and ultraviolet rays hitting people, causing skin cancer and other diseases. They say that the ice caps may melt and raise the water level by one meter, which could cause much of Florida and other low land coastal areas to be under water. Some inhabited islands could disappear. Many lakes and rivers would dry out, and much of the farmland may not produce crops. The Bible says there will be famines (Matthew 24:7).

The population of the world is increasing every year, while farmland is reduced by twelve million acres each year. Also, pollution in the air, land and in water are affecting people's lives. Because of it, thousands of lakes have no fish anymore. In the Great Lakes they have found 350 different toxic chemicals. In Mexico City, about 30,000 children die annually because of air pollution.

For these reasons scientists say that in a short time this world would be unfit for living; mankind is committing mass suicide.

A prophet saw this condition developing 2700 years ago. "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants

thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left." Isaiah 24:5-6

And he continues, "The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." Isaiah 24:19-20

Seeing what will happen in the near future it is time to set our lives in order, that we will not perish with the dying world. Sister White writes, "Most trying times are before us. . . Time is short, and all that is to be done must be done quickly. The angels are holding the four winds, and Satan is taking advantage of everyone who is not fully established in the truth. Every soul is to be tested. Every defect in the character, unless overcome by the help of God's Spirit, will become a sure means of destruction." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 573

The scientists write in various newspaper articles that the biggest problem facing our world today is psychological problems. People even in prosperous living conditions are depressed, miserable, and unhappy, and they have no medicine to cure this problem.

The condition in the world is truly similar to Noah's time. Therefore our work as God's people is similar to the work which Noah was doing. Noah had clear instructions for building the ark and warning the people of the coming doom, and he followed the instructions exactly.

We have instructions given to us, to know what to do, and how to live; our message is clearly shown to us, and nothing can be changed from it. We read from the Spirit of Prophecy, "The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages has been located by the Word of Inspiration. Not a peg or pin is to be removed. No human authority has any more right to change the location of these messages than to substitute the New Testament for the Old." —*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 26

Not a pin or a peg can be changed from the message that God gave through Sister White. Noah was very careful not to change anything from the instruction that God gave him. In 2 Peter 2:5, God called Noah a preacher of righteousness; we also have been given the message of righteousness which we are to preach to the world. Great is the reward of those who turn many to righteousness (Daniel 12:3). But before we can be preachers of righteousness we must have it ourselves that we can speak of our own experience.



Noah sacrificed all that he had. When the ark was finished he had nothing left. We are also to sacrifice for the cause of God. When we must flee to the mountains and isolated places, we will leave nothing behind.

Jesus said, "So likewise, whosoever he be that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:33.

The sins that existed in the time of Noah called for the destruction of the people and the whole world. The same sins are existing today. "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water; Whereby the world then was, being overflowed with water perished; But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:5–7

We are nearer to the end than many realize. We have seen the signs of the times being fulfilled. Today only one thing is important and that is to be ready to meet our God.

We need to ask ourselves, am I ready for the storm that is before us; does my character reflect the image of Jesus; are my garments of righteousness spotless?

The most important day in our lives is our judgment day that takes place in heaven. At that time, we will not be in prison nor hiding in the mountains. Jesus said, "And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matthew 24:39–42

In the time of Noah there was one place of safety, the ark of Noah. In the time of the end there is only one place of safety also, and that is the church of God.

"The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world." *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 11. Everyone who remains in the church of God to the end shall be saved.

In this time many become lukewarm and careless, but there is still a little remnant who lift up the banner of truth, who would rather die than commit a sin. In this, you and I, are we like the preachers of righteousness, like Noah, or does God have to look for someone else to warn the world? May the Lord bless us all to be faithful. AMEN.

Timo Martin

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CHILDREN'S CORNER

Careless Gracie

Gracie and Norma were sisters, aged fourteen and twelve. They were very much unlike each other than most sisters. Norma, who was younger, was as orderly a young woman as one would wish to see, while Gracie was just the opposite.

Often their mother would say in a despairing tone, "Gracie, I do wish you would take care of your room and clothing as neatly as Norma cares for hers. Why, you go out with your buttons loose or entirely off your dress. Your dresses are not mended and sometimes wrinkled. And your room, it is always untidy. If only you would take an interest in such things it would gratify me so much. Without an orderly mind, no girl can aspire to become a useful member of society."

Then Gracie would try to make excuses for her shortcomings, pleading this thing or that as the real cause of her negligence. But her poor mother, at her wit's end to devise some way by which Gracie might be aroused to a sense of her duty, would shake her head and say: "Dearest child, there is no excuse for your slighting your work, either on your clothes or in your room. You have plenty of time for both and should force yourself to perform your share of the labour that falls to you to do."

And while Mother was thus advising and entreating her eldest daughter to do her duty in such small household matters, Norma was busy tidying up her little room or sewing her dresses, mending lace, ribbons, or putting on buttons and hooks and eyes. She was such a cheerfully busy little girl that Gracie's laziness was more pronounced in contrast by her industry.

One afternoon, while Gracie was sitting idly in the hammock which swung in the broad, awning-covered porch, the phone rang and Norma answered it. The message which reached her ear made her smile very happily, and she answered, "Oh, yes, indeed, we shall be delighted to go, and thank you from both of us, ever and ever so much. What time shall we be ready—at

four o'clock this afternoon? All right. And shall we prepare some lunch? Yes, all right, we will be most happy to do so. Good-bye."

Then to the porch ran Norma, crying to Gracie, excitedly: "Oh, sister, Mrs. Jackson has invited us—you and me—to go with her and Flora and Tommy for a long car ride. We will stop on the beach—down at Blake Island—and have a picnic supper by moonlight. We'll return home at about nine o'clock. Won't that be splendid? I know mamma will be so happy to have us go, so I accepted for both of us. Mamma won't be home for over an hour. We are to start at four. It is now two o'clock. We'll have to be preparing if we are to be ready when Mrs. Jackson arrives. And she must not be kept waiting."

"Are we to bring some food?" asked Gracie, lazily, not making any sign of getting out of the hammock.

"Yes. Mrs. Jackson said we should bring some food. She said she would bring sandwiches, cookies and jelly. We can bring something else. Suppose we have some boiled eggs. And I will run to our favourite baker's and get a nice cake. Won't it be splendid?"

"What will you wear?" asked Gracie, now stirring herself a bit.

"My pink dress, I suppose," replied Norma. "But I will have to hurry, for the eggs must be boiled right away, so as to give them time to get nice and solid. Otherwise, they won't be fit for the lunch basket."

And away ran busy Norma to the kitchen to put the eggs on to boil.

Within a short time Norma had the eggs nicely boiled and cooling in the ice box while she was getting her dress, shoes, hat and other accessories for her afternoon attire, laid out all ready to wear.

But Gracie was not quite so energetic. She had left the hammock and gone to her own room to look over her

dresses to see which one might be fit to wear. A blue one was selected as being in the best wearing condition, but in looking it over she found a tear in the skirt and two buttons gone.

"Oh, just my luck," she declared. "I never have a dress in shape to put right on. I do believe I will ask mamma—if she has returned—to sew on the buttons and mend the tear. Let me see—the lace is all torn in places. Yes, this blue dress will be the best." So taking it in her arms, she went downstairs to the sitting room.

Mother had just returned from making some calls and was listening to Norma's explanation of the good time in store for Gracie and herself that afternoon and evening. "I knew you would not mind our going mamma," Norma was saying, "so I just accepted the offer at the moment."

"No, indeed, I shall not object," Mother said. "On the other hand, I am delighted that Mrs. Jackson has invited you to go with her and her lovely children. You will have a splendid time, I know. And what about the food? Do you have everything ready?"

"I am just going to prepare the eggs this very minute," explained Norma. "And," turning to Gracie, "can you go pick up the cake and some fruit, sister?"

Gracie frowned. "I don't have the time," she complained. "And," appealing to mother, "mamma, will you be kind enough to fix my dress so I can wear it? I have to wash and comb and to do ever so many other things to get ready."

Mother shook her head. "Gracie, you must have your lesson first or last. Now is a very good time for it. You must fix your own dress, my child. I have urged you time and again to keep your clothes neatly mended. If you let your things go—well, you must suffer the consequences. And, you must assist Norma in preparing the food. It is not fair that she should do most of the work for the preparation. You must do your share of the work."

Gracie, her face red with shame, went upstairs to fix her dress. Hardly had she begun when mother's voice called her: "You need to go and get the cake and fruit, daughter, before beginning to mend. If by any chance you should not be ready to go when Mrs. Jackson ar-

rives for you, Norma must not be disappointed and shall have her basket of food ready."

Gracie began to make excuses, but her mother was firm. "Do as I say, daughter, and start at once to the store."

Gracie had to obey, but she did it reluctantly. She feared she would not be ready to go when four o'clock arrived, for there was so much preparation to be done. She hurried to the store and bought the cake and fruit. But she saw on the town clock that it was only forty-five minutes until the time to start on their outing.

For a moment she felt very much upset over the fact that she had been told to go out to buy the food, but the longer she thought about it, the more she realized it was her own fault. Yes, she had been very indifferent

about her work. And if she missed going on the trip—well, it would be her lesson.

As soon as Gracie gave the food to Norma, she ran upstairs to fix her dress. Norma was all ready, looking as sweet in her fresh pin dress as could be. The food basket was prepared for the picnic, lined with a soft white napkin.

Into the basket Norma put a dozen nicely prepared eggs, wrapped in white paper. Then came the cake, some oranges, and luscious pink peaches and golden yellow pears.

At exactly ten minutes before four, Norma was waiting on the porch. At exactly four o'clock Mrs. Jackson's car came dashing around the corner, Flora and Tommy in the back seat and their mother in the front beside the chauffeur. Room for Gracie and Norma was in the big back seat beside Flora and Tommy.

"All ready?" called out Mrs. Jackson.

Just as Norma was about to offer some excuse for her tardy sister, her mother came to the porch, and, after chatting in a cordial manner for a few moments with Mrs. Jackson, she told Norma to take her basket and go into the car. "It is Gracie's own fault that she is delayed this way, and she will have a lesson to learn today that she will be profited by. I am quite sure she will never miss another picnic through her own idleness."

Then, while Norma was getting into the car, Mother spoke in a soft voice, explaining why Gracie would not



be able to go on the outing that day. Although all expressed regrets that Gracie was to be left behind, they knew it was for the best that she be taught a lesson through disappointment.

As the big car rolled off down the road towards Blake Island, carrying the happy picnic party, Gracie, with tears in her eyes, stood looking from the window after them. And in her heart she knew that her disappointment was due to her own shortcomings. And she vowed to turn over a new leaf from that day.

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.” Proverbs 6:6–11

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” Luke 16:10

“Many littles make much in the end. But the greatest loss is sustained by the ones who digress, for they are violating the principles of right and learning to look upon transgression in small matters as no transgression at all.” —*Counsels on Health*, p. 408

Gracie lost a happy day at the beach because she neglected the little things in life. We are in danger of losing eternal life if we ignore the little things in life also. Little sins that may not seem to have a significant impact on our lives, are enough to undo all the gospel and keep us out of heaven. We need to be determined to do our best always, to the honour and glory of God. “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” Colossians 3:23.

Missionary News

Papua New Guinea Missionary Visit to Alotau, Milne Bay Province

I thought I would never see my brothers and sisters in the Lord again from Alotau, Milne Bay Province, on the bottom eastern part of Papua New Guinea. After a three year absence from them, the Lord made it possible for me to see them and talk with them in April of 2012. We shared together the health message, the sanctuary message, the nature of Christ, the end time prophecy and many more topics.

We were all convinced and convicted by the Holy Spirit through our seminars as we contemplated through His Word by learning more “In the School of Christ” which was our theme. Our hearts were blended together as we saw that we have a work of saving souls, but due to financial crisis in our Union, the work here is pending.

I thank the Lord for making my way possible, for this special trip to Alotau to visit our brethren. Praise the Lord!

We have five baptized members and nine interested souls here in Alotau. “If you fail ninety-nine times in a hundred, but succeed in saving the one soul from ruin, you have done a noble deed for the Master's cause.” —*Christian Service*, p. 101

Peter Dakire

NOTE: Please see pictures on next page. Peter Dakire makes his home in Madang, PNG.





SURROUNDED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS, BROTHER TIMO MARTIN, PUBLISHING HOUSE LEADER, CELEBRATED HIS 81ST BIRTHDAY. MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO BLESS HIM WITH HEALTH AND STRENGTH TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR HIS MASTER.

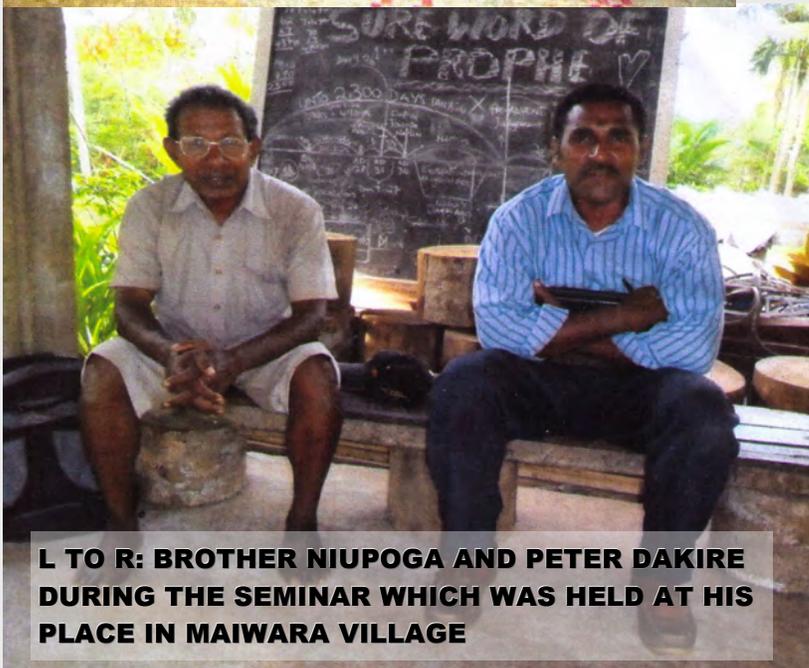
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



LEFT: EVENING STUDY AT SR. OLISO'S RESIDENCE, HAGITA ESTATE



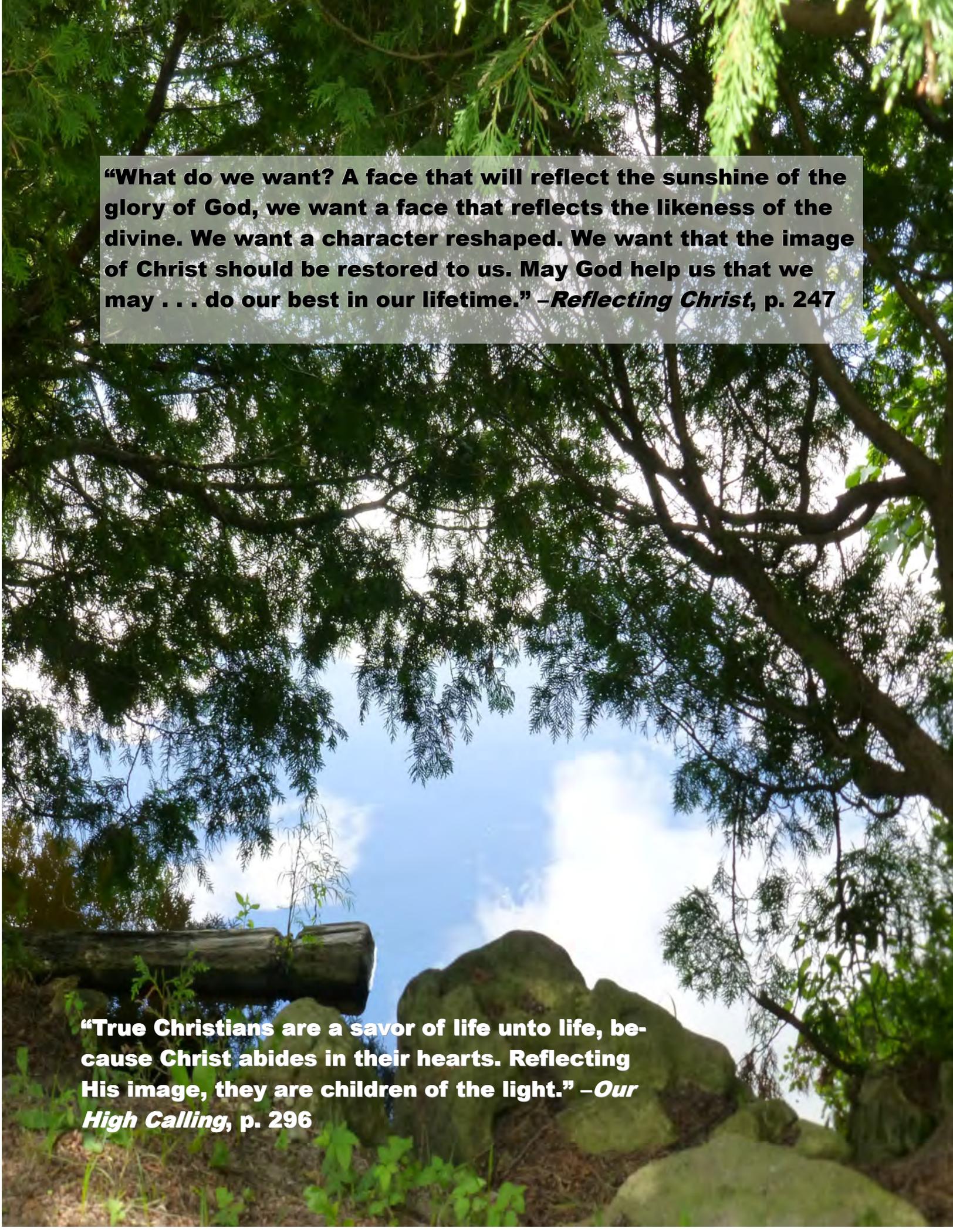
BROTHER PETER DAKIRE TAKING DIVINE SERVICE AT HAGITA ESTATE



L TO R: BROTHER NIUPOGA AND PETER DAKIRE DURING THE SEMINAR WHICH WAS HELD AT HIS PLACE IN MAIWARA VILLAGE



SEMINAR AT MAIWARA VILLAGE



“What do we want? A face that will reflect the sunshine of the glory of God, we want a face that reflects the likeness of the divine. We want a character reshaped. We want that the image of Christ should be restored to us. May God help us that we may . . . do our best in our lifetime.” –*Reflecting Christ*, p. 247

“True Christians are a savor of life unto life, because Christ abides in their hearts. Reflecting His image, they are children of the light.” –*Our High Calling*, p. 296