



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

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The Humanity of Christ



According to Spirit of Prophecy, “The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. . . The study of the incarnation of Christ is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth.” —*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 244. “When we want a deep problem to study, let us fix our minds on the most marvelous thing that ever took place in earth or heaven—the incarnation of the Son of God” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 904

Yet the humanity of Christ is little studied. Theories abound. Protestant churches at large place it as highly improbable that Christ could be overcome by temptation. As early as in the 1850’s, one prominent church organization has actually put in place an official dogma—the “Immaculate Conception” that is, that Mary, the mother of Jesus our Saviour was preserved free from all stain of original sin. This renders Christ as inheriting a sinless nature.

Even the stance of the nominal Seventh-day Adventist Church seems to take a less decisive and pointed position from their 1914 edition, *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*, where the first sentence forthrightly states: “In His humanity Christ partook of our sinful, fallen nature.” However, in the 1949 edition it states: “Jesus Christ is both Son of God and Son of man. As a member of the human family ‘it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren’—‘in the likeness of sinful flesh.’ Just how far that ‘likeness’ goes is a mystery of the incarnation which men have never been able to solve” (*Bible Readings for the Home Circle*, 1949 edition, p. 143–144)—ambiguous at best. It is either that in His humanity He took our fallen human nature with all its liabilities or came with purely and entirely a divine nature that does not enter into our realm. The 1914 edition rightly questions: “If not, then He was not ‘made like unto His brethren,’ was not ‘in all points tempted like as we are,’ did not overcome as we have to overcome, and is not, therefore, the complete and perfect Saviour man needs and must have to be

saved. The idea that Christ was born of an immaculate or sinless mother, inherited no tendencies to sin, and for this reason did not sin, removes Him from the realm of a fallen world, and from the very place where help is needed. On His human side, Christ inherited just what every child of Adam inherits,—a sinful nature. On the divine side, from His very conception He was begotten and born of the Spirit. And all this was done to place mankind on vantage-ground, and to demonstrate that in the same way everyone who is ‘born of the Spirit’ may gain like victories over sin in his own sinful flesh. Thus each one is to overcome as Christ overcame. Revelation 3:21. Without this birth there can be no victory over temptation, and no salvation from sin. John 3:3–7.” —*Bible Readings for the Home Circle*, 1914 edition, p. 115–116. Says E.G. White “Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam’s position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 117

When viewed in its beauty, in its excellence, the humanity of Christ is too much of an important matter to palliate with. It is high time these inconsistencies be laid aside. Since there are no Scriptures to support any of these theories, then let us go on with the study of this subject in the light of God’s unerring word.

To be sure, the Holy Bible holds for us the definitive answer: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of

flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; . . . For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren." Hebrews 2:14, 16–17. "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." Romans 8:3

Affirms the Spirit of Prophecy: "For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, and in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation." *–Ibid.*, p. 117. "Through sin the whole human organism is deranged, the mind is perverted, the imagination corrupted. Sin has degraded the faculties of the soul. Temptations from without find an answering chord within the heart, and the feet turn imperceptibly toward evil." *–Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 312. But the real truth stands tall, "He was to take His position at the head of humanity by taking the nature but not the sinfulness of man." *–Signs of the Times*, May 29, 1901. "He is a brother in our infirmities, but not in possessing like passions. As the sinless One, His nature recoiled from evil. He endured struggles and torture of soul in a world of sin." *–Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 202

It is clear. He took our fallen nature—"God . . . gave His Son to become bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh". "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. Christ by His human relationship to men drew them close to God. He clothed His divine nature with the garb of humanity, and demonstrated before the heavenly universe, before the unfallen worlds, how much God loves the children of men." *–Sons and Daughters of God*, p 11

Why? ". . . that He might know how to succor those that are tempted." *–Medical Ministry*, p. 181. Christ is called the second Adam. Many confuse the mystery of His incarnation as they cannot fathom this reality. This aspect of it is of a truth a mystery. "The incarnation of Christ has ever been, and will ever remain a mystery. That which is revealed, is for us and for our children, but let every human being be warned from the ground of making Christ altogether human, such an one as ourselves; for it cannot be." *–The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1129

It is for this reason Spirit of Prophecy warns: "Be careful, exceedingly careful, as to how you dwell upon the human nature of Christ. Do not set Him before the people as a man with the propensities of sin. He is the second Adam.

The first Adam was created a pure, sinless being, without a taint of sin upon him; he was in the image of God. He could fall, and he did fall through transgressing. Because of sin his posterity was born with inherent propensities of disobedience." Here it is: "But Jesus was the only begotten Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature, and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity. He was assailed with temptations in the wilderness as Adam was assailed with temptations in Eden." *–Ibid.*, p. 1128

This is the mystery. This is where many wrestle. This is where the enemy seeks to confuse the mind but when understood in the light of the cross we can clearly see that only then He who knew no sin became sin for us. In another profound statement she stated: "In His closing hours, while hanging on the cross, He experienced to the fullest extent what man must experience when striving against sin. He realized how bad a man may become by yielding to sin. He realized the terrible consequences of the transgression of God's law; for the iniquity of the whole world was upon Him." *–Ibid.*, p. 1082

In closing, Christ condescended to be a man, yet He was God with us. His divinity was, however, veiled with his humanity; to be sure, He did no miraculous thing for Himself by using His veiled divinity. At the same time He was "deeply anxious for His disciples to understand for what purpose His divinity was united to humanity. He came to the world to display the glory of God, that man might be uplifted by its restoring power. God was manifested in Him that He might be manifested in them. Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was." *–The Desire of Ages*, p. 664

Have we seriously pondered the humanity of Christ? We should. Truly the words, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" takes on a whole new meaning. Really, what redeeming love, what humility, "He laid aside His glory and His majesty. He was God, but the glories of the form of God He for a while relinquished." *–The Review and Herald*, July 5, 1887. Amazing! "He took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." Oh, redeeming love. Oh, mystery! It will be our theme throughout eternity, like that of the holy angels. Oh, "God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which 'angels desire to look,' and it will be their study throughout endless ages. Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song." *–The Desire of Ages*, p. 19

Rose Powell

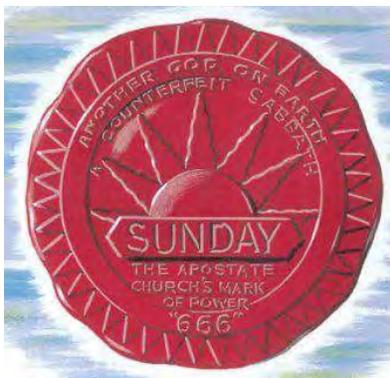
The Mark of the Beast



In reply to a letter of October 28, 1895, to Cardinal Gibbons, asking if the church claimed the change of the Sabbath as her mark, C. F. Thomas, chancellor of the cardinal, wrote the following: "Of course the Catholic church claims that the change was her act. . . . And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.

"Sunday is our mark of authority. . . . The church is above the Bible, and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact." —*The Catholic Record*, London, Ontario, September 1, 1923

Here is an explanation from the pen of inspiration that clearly reveals what it means to accept the mark of the beast: "But when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—'the mark of the beast.' And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive 'the mark of the beast.'" —*The Great Controversy*, p. 449



"The change of the Sabbath is the sign or mark of the authority of the Romish church. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false sabbath in the place of the true, are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath, which has been accepted by the world in the place of the day of God's appointment.

"No one has yet received the mark of the beast. . . . But when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast." —*Evangelism*, pp. 234–235

The great issue that will divide this world will be the commandments of God vs. the commandments of men. His people will not receive the mark of the beast, because they will be loyal to all the commandments, including true Sabbath worship. We are swiftly approaching the final contest that will decide our destiny.

Henry Dering



Divine Law in Science

There are different types of laws written in the Bible. The mostly widely known law is the Ten Commandments as given on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20). Although many Christians believe this law was done away with at the cross of Calvary (quoting Colossians 2: 14–16), it is none-the-less an eternal law (Matthew 5:17–18).

There is another law that was given to Ancient Israel and many religious people do not distinguish this law from the Ten Commandments. This law is the Ceremonial Law—the law of ordinances, feasts, and sacrifices given to the Israelites in the wilderness. It is this law that was done away with at the cross.

Then there are other laws recorded governing man's life such as laws of health, hygiene and temperance, all of which, if violated, are in reality a violation of the Ten Commandments. You are breaking the 6th commandment (Thou Shalt Not Kill), if you violate health laws to the detriment of your health.

Then there are other laws instituted by God—laws that don't govern human behaviour. People that have studied the sciences know that there are many laws in nature. Nature has a different set of laws that it is under; for example, the law of gravity, the law of motion, the law of the water cycle, and so on. These laws were instituted by God also. All nature operates under these laws.

The laws governing human behaviour take an effort on the part of man to keep. The laws of science in nature seem to be spontaneous reactions to certain actions. For example, sunlight on a green leaf can cause photosynthesis, which is a process of producing energy (food) for the plant. In this process it takes in carbon dioxide

and at the end oxygen is emitted back into the air.

In science, every action has an equal and opposite reaction (Newton's Third Law of Physics). We can say that photosynthesis is governed by this law, carbon dioxide in, oxygen out.

Science has another law that was discovered by Newton. It can be, but may not be, an action that is "opposite".

It is Newton's first law of motion, which states that an object is either at rest or at a constant velocity until acted upon by an external force.

These two laws that Newton described (instituted by God) in reality also describe nature and we can learn lessons for the spiritual life of man as well. Any law that comes from God is considered a Divine Law.

NEWTON'S FIRST LAW OF MOTION

We will now look closer as to how we can we apply Newton's first law of motion to nature (an object is either at rest or at a constant velocity until acted upon by an external force). Using the example of the seed, it is at rest in the ground and will not move until acted upon by another force—it is given water, nutrition, sunshine and then it moves—it grows.

Applying this law to humanity, a person continues in the current direction of their life until they are acted upon by another external force—they continue in the way of wickedness and keep on going until the Holy Spirit intervenes and applies a force that will either arrest them in their downward journey, or will cause them to make a U-turn in their lives. This is the only force that can change the direction of a person's life

from bad to good. Without the force applied it is impossible to change the direction of the life. “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.” Jeremiah 3:23. In other words—it is impossible in human strength. “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth.” John 16:13. “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body.” Philippians 3:20–21. Yes, only by a force outside of ourselves can we alter our downward direction that our lives may have been taking.

The same is true, unfortunately, for the opposite. A person may be going on happily serving the Lord until a force comes to alter the course of his life in the wrong direction. It may be the influence of another person, by entertainment, or something like loss or disappointment that causes one to lose hope and alter their course. “Satan is vigilant in his efforts; his perseverance is untiring, his zeal earnest and unabated. He does not wait for his prey to come to him; he seeks for it. To wrench souls from the hand of Christ is his determined purpose.” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 223

The reality though, in the Christian world, is that these external forces that come to alter the course of a person’s life will fail if the person’s will is stronger than the force applied. In this case there is no movement, or alteration from the current course. The force of the Holy Spirit *can be*, but *will not be* applied stronger than the will of man. Satan, on the other hand, will apply a force stronger than the will of man—he is ruthless and uses all his power to move the follower of Christ away from their forward direction. Therefore, it is wise to stay away from Satan’s enchanted ground. There are two forces working for the soul of each person—each working in an opposite direction; each wanting to direct the course of the life. The will of man decides which force is stronger.

“A vigilant foe is upon their track; yet they are in no danger while they make God their trust. But unless they do this, their strength will be weakness, and they will be overcome by Satan.” –*Testimonies for the*

Church, vol. 2, p. 223

Natural law tells us that whatever seed you place in the ground, that type of plant will grow if nurtured properly with the external forces. You will sow what you reap given the correct conditions. This divine law also can be applied to the spiritual life of a person: “Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.” Job 4:8. “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6–7. Be careful what you sow and what forces are influencing your life.

But the promise is given, “and let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9. Never give up doing good deeds, even if you see no results now. It is all written down in the book of remembrance in heaven. When the Lord applies external forces to your good deeds, there will be a harvest.

NEWTON’S THIRD LAW OF MOTION

According to Newton’s third law of motion, each action has an equal and opposite reaction. In the spiritual realm, we can apply this law by saying that each action for the Lord has an equal and opposite reaction in the enemy camp, and vice versa.

Each time a person prays to the Lord, it causes the enemy to go running. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7. “And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armory of heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host fall back, well knowing that their battle is lost.” –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 319

“Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.” James 4:8. “At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan’s whole host trembles.” –*ibid.*, p. 319

On the other hand, “but if we seek the company of sinners, and are pleased with their coarse jests, and entertained and amused with their stories, sports, and ribaldry, the pure and holy angels remove their protection



and leave us to the darkness we have chosen.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p.222. This the Christian may not expect. Many are presumptuous—they love their sin, but want God’s protection. The relish for sin causes an opposite reaction than many may expect.

Many do not expect the results they receive. You may be selfish in this life—hoarding all for yourself, but, what will you reap? Jesus spoke a parable, “And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:16–21. I am sure this man did not expect to die that night.

“The Lord sometimes opens the eyes blinded by selfishness by simply reducing their income to the amount they are willing to give.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 484. It can definitely happen that you work hard, but have little to show for it. You do not seem to be reaping what you sow. In the days of Haggai the prophet, he told the people, “Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it.” Haggai 1:6,9.

They sowed and expected a good harvest, but it never came. The Lord clearly told them the reason for this lack of reaping. “Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of

sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olives, but thou shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine.” Micah 6:14

Rather than putting our own interests first and giving God the remnant coins that are left over at the end of the week, perhaps it would be wise for us to put the interests of the Lord’s work first and then we will have a good harvest. “Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.” Haggai 1:7

David said, “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.” Psalm 126:5. This sounds like an odd statement. How can you reap joy when you have not sown joy, but sown tears? When doing missionary work, often it can be very disheartening when very few are willing to listen to the gospel message. The missionary may spend much time weeping and praying for souls, but when one person accepts, there is much joy. Jesus spent time weeping for souls, but when the resurrection comes, there will be much joy when His chosen children are saved.

“Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.” Ecclesiastes 11:1. And again, if you give to the Lord, (even your last) He will take care of you. If you give away, to a worthy cause, you will not suffer loss. In your time of need, the Lord will take care of you. How can you receive more when you give away more? In application of Newton’s law of motion to this principle, there is an equal and *opposite* reaction. Each action mentioned has an opposite reaction than one would humanly expect.

ENERGY

In science, energy is described in two forms: Kinetic Energy and Potential Energy. Again, these laws were instituted by God. Kinetic energy is movement—the energy that something has when it moves. Potential energy is something at rest—with the potential for movement. However, that potential energy is useless unless converted to kinetic energy and put into motion. Every Christian has potential energy stored inside (talents) and they also will be useless unless this potential energy is put into motion.

A seed has potential energy, having no value, unless the energy is converted to kinetic energy, and it begins to grow, and continues to grow. Plants are constantly growing. You look at the trees—each year they are a little taller, a little rounder. And then one day they stop growing at which point they die and have no energy left. When a Christian runs out of energy they too die—they are spiritually dead and can no longer be reached by the Holy Spirit. “I am rich, and increased with goods, and



shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword. Thou shalt

have need of nothing.” Revelation 3:17. These Christians have no more energy to move or grow.

Peter encourages the Christians to “Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18. Just like the seed cannot grow on its own—without the external force—neither can the Christian grow without external forces (Holy Spirit). There is always room for growth.

When we do missionary work, we can find many satisfied Christians. They are satisfied with their beliefs, as they do not want to alter their lifestyle of ease and pleasure. They are satisfied with their current knowledge and religious experience. There are many, many churches in the world to suit the differing beliefs and lifestyles of all classes of society. Many do not want to change—do not want to grow and therefore have no spiritual energy. They have potential energy but no kinetic energy. Soon they will die.

Even in God’s church, people can be guilty of this. People feel they know all there is to know that is necessary for salvation. These people are spiritual dwarfs—they are not growing. Is your Bible knowledge and knowledge of God greater and deeper than it was a year ago? A month ago? Even from yesterday? Has God taught you something new today? Are you converting your potential energy into kinetic energy? “It is the Lord’s desire that His followers shall grow in grace, that their love shall abound more and more, that they shall be filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the praise and glory of God.” —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 947

To grow as a true Christian is to be giving. The religion of Christ is not a religion of selfishness—keeping your religion to yourself or hiding your light under a bushel. “The law of true Christianity is that the light will shine spontaneously. When one is filled with Christ—it will shine. “Christ does not bid His followers *strive* to shine. He says, *Let your light shine*. If you have received the grace of God, the light is in you. Remove the obstructions, and the Lord’s glory will be revealed. The light will shine forth to penetrate and dispel the darkness. You cannot help shining within the range of your influence.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 420 (emphasis added)

And here is one of the most important laws laid down by God. “**One of the divine plans for growth is impartation.**



The Christian is to gain strength by strengthening others. ‘He that watereth shall be watered also himself.’ **This is not merely a promise; it is a divine law**, a law by which God designs that the streams of benevolence, like the waters of the great deep, shall be kept in constant circulation, continually flowing back to their source. In the fulfilling of this law is the secret of spiritual growth.” —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 947 (emphasis added)

It is written that it is not merely a promise but “a divine law” that a Christian gains strength by strengthening others. It is a divine law that the Christian must be constantly imparting—in order to grow. As the streams constantly flow down the mountains—they never run dry. They keep on giving and giving; God has placed a law in motion to prevent the mountain streams from drying out—the water cycle. The Christian is also as the water cycle—constantly giving fresh water, but never running dry. Their potential energy is constantly being converted to kinetic energy.

Yes, those that are saved are the last ones that will be boasting about their good works—all their good works came in and through the external force applied by the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants to plant His laws in our hearts and minds. “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.” Hebrews 10:16. And we recognize our dependence in Him. “God be merciful to me a sinner.” Luke 18:13

In conclusion, Divine Law dictates that when the Holy Spirit is living in the heart of the person, the individual *will be* led into the full truth (not into erroneous churches), they *will be* growing, they *will be* shining. “Pray that the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit, with all their quickening, recuperative, and transforming power, may fall like an electric shock on the palsy-stricken soul, causing every nerve to thrill with new life, restoring the whole man from his dead, earthly, sensual state to spiritual soundness. You will thus become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust; and in your souls will be reflected the image of Him by whose stripes you are healed.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 267. Amen.

Wendy Eaton



From the Pioneers:

Cultivating Faith

The knowledge of what the Scripture means when urging upon us the necessity of cultivating faith, is more essential than any other knowledge that can be acquired.

Notice that it is the knowledge of what the Scripture means as to the “necessity of cultivating faith,”—not particularly having faith, but cultivating it.

There is not much said in the Scriptures about any necessity of our having faith, while very, very much is said about our cultivating faith.

The reason of this is that to all people there is given faith to begin with: and all they need to do is to cultivate faith. Nobody can have more faith than is already given him, without cultivating the faith that is already given. And there is nothing known to man that will grow so fast as faith, when it is cultivated—“faith growth exceedingly.”

Faith is the expecting that the word of God itself will accomplish what that word says; and the depending upon “the word only” to accomplish what the word says. To cultivate dependence on the word of God, “the word only,” itself to do what the word says, is to cultivate faith.

Faith is “the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8); and that it is given to everybody is plainly stated in the Scriptures: “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Romans 12:3. This measure of faith which “God hath dealt to every man” is the capital with which God endows and starts “every man that cometh into the world;” and every man is expected to trade upon this

capital—cultivate it—to the salvation of his soul.

There is no danger of ever lessening this capital when it is used: as certainly as it is used at all, it will increase, it will grow exceedingly. And as certainly as it grows, the righteousness, the peace, the joy, of the Lord, are assured to the full salvation of the soul.

Again: faith comes by the word of God. Therefore it is written: “The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.” Romans 10:8. Thus faith, the very word of faith, is in the mouth and in the heart of every man.

How is this?—Thus: when the first pair sinned in the garden, they wholly believed Satan; . . . they were taken completely captive by him. . . . But God did not leave it so; He broke up this agreement, He spoiled this peace. And He did it by His word, saying to Satan: “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed.” Genesis 3:15

“It is God alone that can continually put enmity between the seed of the woman and the serpent’s seed. After the transgression of man his nature became evil. . . . Had there been no interference on the part of God, men would have formed an alliance against heaven, and, in the place of warfare among themselves, carried on nothing but warfare against God. There is no native enmity between fallen angels and fallen men. Both are evil, and that through apostasy, and evil, wherever it exists, will always league against good. Fallen angels and fallen men join in companionship. The wise generalship of Satan calculated that, if he could induce men as he had angels to join in rebellion, they would

stand as his agents of communication with their fellow men to league in rebellion against heaven. Just as soon as one separates from God he has no power of enmity against Satan. The enmity on earth between man and Satan is supernaturally put there. Unless the converting power of God is brought daily to bear upon the human heart there will be no inclination to be religiously inclined, but men will choose to be the captives of Satan rather than to be free men in Jesus Christ. I say God will put enmity. Man cannot put it. When the will is brought into subjection to the will of God, it must be through man's inclining his heart and will to be on the Lord's side." —*Unpublished Testimony*

This enmity against Satan, this hatred of evil, which God puts in every person by His word, causes each soul to long for deliverance: and the deliverance is found alone in Jesus Christ. Romans 7:14–25

Thus this word of God, which plants in each soul enmity against Satan,—this hatred of evil that calls for deliverance, which is found alone in Jesus Christ,—this is the gift of faith to men; this is "the measure of faith" which God has dealt to every man; this is the "word of faith,"

which is in the mouth and in the heart of every person in the world.

This "is, the word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:8–10

Therefore say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven, to bring faith to us? Neither say, Who shall descend into the deep; or, Who shall go far off; to find faith and bring it to us?—For "the word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach." Deuteronomy 30:11–14; Romans 10:6–8

Say that: and exercise the faith which God has given to you, as to every other person in the world; for "understanding how to exercise faith, this is the science of the gospel."

*From The Review and Herald, January 10, 1899
Alonzo T. Jones*

Keep the Sabbath Holy

"Those who wish to be blest and approved of the Lord in this world, and who expect to finally be saved, and have right to the tree of life, must keep the Sabbath holy. They should pray daily for grace and wisdom to keep from polluting it in any way. Isaiah says: 'Every one that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; even them will I bring to my holy mountain.'

Dear children, are you as careful as you should be in keeping the Sabbath? You have something to do besides laying aside your work and amusements on that day. If you, on that day, lay plans of what you will do when the Sabbath is past, or talk of your work, amusements and clothes, you pollute the Sabbath. The Prophet has in another chapter told us how to keep the Sabbath from polluting it, and nothing short of doing as he has pointed out will be keeping the Sabbath holy. He says:

'If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, [that is, from treading it down, or breaking it,] from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words,'

When you are speaking of your hope in God, of Jesus and of His soon coming, and of the beauties of the New Earth, you are not speaking your own words. Of these things you may freely speak on the Sabbath. On six days you may talk of business matters, and lay plans that are necessary; but the Sabbath is holy time, and all worldly thoughts must, on that day, be dismissed from the mind. The blessing of God will then rest upon you, and you will have the sweet consolations of His Spirit, and you will also have confidence when you approach the throne of grace." —*The Youth's Instructor, February 1, 1853*

Ellen G. White



What the Bible Says about Jesus' Return

young cadet, "how did it happen that you were all packed and ready for my coming? You were standing on the shore ready to leave at any moment's notice." The rescued man replied, "Sir, you said you would

come back for us, so we never gave up hope. Whenever the sea was partly free of ice, we rolled up our sleeping bags and packed our things, saying, maybe Shackleton will come today. We were always ready for your coming."

One of the most beautiful and well-known passages of the Bible is found in John 14:1-3. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Is it God's purpose to leave us in this world of pain and suffering, my friends? When we look around this world today we see a lot of suffering. Some are tormented by sickness, some are consumed by worries; many have to struggle for their daily bread. Some have problems at home. Many are disappointed by the ones they love. Many feel like slaves at work. For many more life has turned into a heavy burden, my brothers and sisters. Jesus longs to deliver us from all our troubles and to have us with Him in heaven.

When I open my Bible and read words of hope to grieving people, it is there that we find the only hope to which we can turn to when considering the ultimate dilemma of death. We have the hope of Jesus' promise to return; and this is a comfort for all believers. The

The Bible says Jesus will come again someday, and the world, as we know it, will come to an end. There are many ideas and opinions about the end-times, but the Bible tells us exactly what will happen. Most questions have a clear answer in the Bible and Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour gives us a picture and a revelation of what is going to happen prior to His second coming. It is my wish and prayer for each one of you who reads this article to take your spiritual preparation seriously because Jesus is coming and He will come sooner than we ever thought.

Has Jesus forgotten us? Recently, I read an interesting story about how, on an expedition to the Antarctic, Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew ran into trouble. Their ship was crushed by the ice pack, and their only hope was for a small team to strike out for help in a small boat, leaving the rest of the men stranded amid the snow and ice on Elephant Island. With heroic efforts, the leader of the expedition, along with five others, made an extremely perilous journey to a distant Island where they obtained another ship and the needed supplies. Then Shackleton started back for his men. At first, fog, storms, and ice packs blocked the way repeatedly, but Shackleton ran his ship through it all getting his men on board and the ship back out just before the ice pack closed again. The time he had in which to effect his hazardous rescue was just half an hour!

When the excitement was over, Shackleton asked a

Bible tells us about a Man who has promised to free us from the bondage of sin. Is this not good news, my friends? Do we not eagerly wait for that day when Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven to take His people home? But, you may ask, where is Jesus today? Has He forgotten us? Many people today do not believe in Jesus' promises. They are not sure enough what the future holds. In Matthew 24:36 Jesus said, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

Angels confirmed the promise of Christ's return when He ascended. On many occasions, while on this earth, Jesus had promised the disciples that He would come again. As He was ascending to heaven, two angels appeared to remind the disciples of the promise. You can imagine how the disciples must have felt after the events of the previous week, never mind the past three and a half years. They had travelled all across the countryside as they listened to, and learned, from Him. They had witnessed many of His miracles. The Apostle Peter offers more assurances to us when he wrote, "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:16, 19

Yes, Jesus is coming, my friends. Someone has estimated that the Bible records more than 1,500 prophecies of Jesus' second coming. For every prophecy of His first advent mentioned in the Old Testament there are eight texts predicting His second coming. The return of our Lord is mentioned in one out of every 25 verses in the New Testament. We have just ended one more year in our lives, and there is now set before us a new year. What plans do you have for this New Year? Are you planning for eternity? Do you still love Jesus' second coming? How is your faith? Revelation 1:7 tells us that, "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." There is a way to escape eternal death and find yourself in the New Earth. But there is only one way, and that is by thor-

oughly trusting the One who has gone before us, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

We live in a perilous time—a time in which both the conditions within the church and outside are tremendously dangerous. There is so much evidence in both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy which show us that many of God's people are neglecting the needful preparation, and many people in the world do not show any interest in taking a stand for Jesus.

I would like to share with you just four signs which tell us that Jesus is coming soon.

First of all, when we look at the efforts that world leaders put towards peace, have you noticed how fragile peace treaties are these days? The Middle East is a tinderbox waiting to explode.

Christ, upon the Mount of Olives, predicted the fearful judgments that were to precede His second coming: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earth-

quakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Matthew 24:6–8. "While these prophecies received a partial fulfillment at the destruction of Jerusalem, they have a more direct application in the last days." — *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 753

The second sign is regarding the moral condition in society. It will deteriorate

rapidly. Even a casual view of what is going on in our society indicates that something is tragically amiss. Violent crimes are increasing like a plague. Teenage crime is out of control. God's servant wrote about these difficult times. "The terrible reports we hear of murders and robberies, of railway accidents and deeds of violence, tell the story that the end of all things is at hand. Now, just now, we need to be preparing for the Lord's second coming." —*Last Day Events*, p.23

"The nations are in unrest. Times of perplexity are upon us. Men's hearts are failing them for fear of the things that are coming upon the earth. But those who believe in God will hear His voice amid the storm, saying, 'It is I; be not afraid.'" —*Signs of the Times*, October



9, 1901. Amidst all this chaos, we have a wonderful promise, my friends. God has promised to be with us amid these difficulty times.

The third sign is regarding the natural disasters, such as famines, fires, floods, and earthquakes which have become more commonplace. In Luke 21:25 Jesus mentions the roaring sea and waves as a sign. Famines are commonplace today. Two-thirds of all the children born into our world are born in countries that cannot supply them with the nutritious food they need to live a healthy, happy life. Approximately 57 million people die each year because of famine.

“We are not now able to describe with accuracy the scenes to be enacted in our world in the future, but this we do know, that this is a time when we must watch unto prayer, for the great day of the Lord is at hand.” – *Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 35

“What mean the awful calamities by sea—vessels hurled into eternity without a moment's warning? What mean the accidents by land—fire consuming the riches that men have hoarded, much of which has been accumulated by oppression of the poor? The Lord will not interfere to protect the property of those who transgress His law, break His covenant, and trample upon His Sabbath, accepting in its place a spurious rest day.

“The plagues of God are already falling upon the earth, sweeping away the most costly structures as if by a breath of fire from heaven. Will not these judgments bring professing Christians to their senses? God permits them to come that the world may take heed, that sinners may be afraid and tremble before Him.” – *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, p. 311

The last sign I want to mention is that the interest in spiritualism, psychic phenomena and astrology will increase dramatically. The Bible predicts a mighty false revival just before the coming of Jesus. Conditions in our society fit that prediction. If some self-proclaimed

prophet suddenly arose and began drawing crowds with stirring messages, healing the sick, raising the dead, bringing fire from heaven, and revealing knowledge of your personal secrets—would you believe in him or her? The question is, *should* you believe? Your ultimate destiny just might be tied directly to your ability to distinguish between true and false prophets. So it is very important to know what the Bible really says about this timely subject.

Many people go into forbidden places in order to know about their future and the destiny of this planet. Many false prophets are arising in these last days with false teachings, my friends. Do not go after them, but go to the Bible and see for yourself what the word of God says regarding Jesus' coming and last day events on this planet Earth. Go read the prophecies and see for yourself what is said about those things which God has spoken to us through His prophets regarding the time in which we live. I have met people pretending to be prophets, saying they have a message from God. Should we believe them? Of course not, if they are not speaking according to the Bible and Testimonies.

I can tell you from my personal experience that, if you are sincere and are searching the Scriptures daily to see what the word of God tells you, He will reveal the truth to you. If you want to be a part of God's remnant church, waiting for Jesus' coming, there is hope and there is comfort. The hope is found in the soon return of our Master, the second coming of Jesus. Now is the time to make a decision and cling to the Rock of salvation—Jesus Christ. Accept God's invitation today, my friend.

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5:15–17. Amen!

Nicholas Anca

LOOKING FOR YOU...

If you are interested in submitting an item for publication in *The Reformation Messenger*, please submit by email or mail.

SUBMIT: DRAWINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS, ARTICLES, POEMS, PHOTOS, PERSONAL TESTIMONIES AND EXPERIENCES.



A Short View Into The Life Of Our Brother In The Faith, Simon Schmidt

Brother Schmidt was born on March 15, 1926 in Dobring/Siebenbuergen, Romania and was the youngest of five children. As a 17-year old during the war, he had to leave his parent's home. Because of this, he was able to see them again only after 24 years. During these years, he spent many days and months in England and Germany. But God, in His great mercy, protected and took care of him. He learned about the Christian faith and was instructed in the Bible from his grandmother and his mother.

In 1949-1950, Brother Schmidt was introduced to the Advent message, accepted it whole heartedly and, being fully convicted and with great joy, he was baptized. It was on a Friday in October 1950 at a Conference held by the International Missionary Society, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Reform Movement in Esslingen, South Germany, that this solemn act was performed. Since that time, he preached and proclaimed this wonderful message until his last breath.

In September 1949, Simon Schmidt met Lore and on December 20, 1951 they were married. For several years the happy couple lived in Germany, and then the call came that they should move to Denmark to preach this glorious Gospel to the people there. While living in Denmark, they also took missionary trips to Sweden, Norway, Finland and Latvia. They worked in the Scandinavian countries for a total of 8 ½ years.

Then the next call came, to go and work in Africa. Both Brother and Sister Schmidt, one heart and one soul, were convicted and obeyed the call. So, South Africa became their home for 11 years. However, their work

was not only in South Africa, but in many other countries, all the way up to the Equator. Brother Schmidt had the privilege of baptizing many souls there and be a help to the church and to the Lord. Both Brother and Sister Schmidt worked outdoors, in the deep jungle, under great dangers from wild beasts and diseases.

In the summer of 1972, Br. Schmidt was elected secretary of the General Conference, and moved back to Germany. From here he travelled to the Balkans, Australia, the Philippines and many other Asian countries preaching the Gospel of the soon coming of Jesus to

many. It will be wonderful, one day, to see people in the new earth, who were converted to the Lord through his self-sacrificing work.

After he retired in 1987, it was a joy for the late Brother Schmidt to visit the churches and the members at large and serve them with the Word of God.

On December 20, 2011, Simon and Lore Schmidt who grew old together had the privilege to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary together with a small group in their church.



Recently, Brother Schmidt suddenly had a heart attack and, although he was in the care of a physician, he fell asleep at approximately 3:30 a.m. on October 13, 2014 at peace with God and with his fellow men, and in the hope of eternal life.

We carried him to his grave in the wonderful hope of seeing him again in the home above, with our Heavenly Father and Saviour, whom he loved and had the privilege to witness of Him to so many.



One Shall Be Taken, and The Other Left

We all believe in God, read the Bible, keep the Sabbath and pray. Yet it may be that some of us will go to heaven, and others to hellfire and to eternal death. It may seem that the difference between these groups of people is small, but really it is not small. Those that go to heaven are the children of light, “Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.” 1 Thessalonians 5:5

We are children of light because we love our brothers. “He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.” 1 John 2:10–11

The difference between these two companies is love and hatred. Love is light and it comes from God. Hatred is darkness and it comes from Satan. The difference is that one loves everybody, even the worst people; the other does not like or love at least one person. Also, the difference is, one has God's Holy Spirit and the other one has Satan's spirit.

“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.” Matthew 12:43–45

Satan's spirit entered even into the disciples of Jesus:

“And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt Thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias

did? But He turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.” Luke 9:54–56

We must to very careful that the evil spirits will not enter into us. This kind of hatred is seen when someone speaks evil of others, and broadcasts their mistakes and sins to others. Jesus spoke the sins of the Pharisees directly to them and not to others. He said, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.” John 8:44

Ananias and Sapphira were members in the church of God, and they spoke a lie. This took their salvation away. It was a sin against the Holy Spirit. There was no forgiveness for them anymore.

When God is shaking the church He shakes out members who have committed the unpardonable sin, who cannot be saved anymore. They themselves do not realize it. They think that they will be in heaven, when it is not possible for them anymore.

“Light comes to the soul through God's word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial numbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 322

“Closely connected with Christ's warning in regard to the sin against the Holy Spirit is a warning against idle and evil words. The words are an indication of that which is in the heart. ‘Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.’ But the words are more than an indication of character; they have power to react on the character. Men are influenced by their

own words. Often under a momentary impulse, prompted by Satan, they give utterance to jealousy or evil surmising, expressing that which they do not really believe; but the expression reacts on the thoughts. They are deceived by their words, and come to believe that true which was spoken at Satan's instigation. Having once expressed an opinion or decision, they are often too proud to retract it, and try to prove themselves in the right, until they come to believe that they are. It is dangerous to utter a word of doubt, dangerous to question and criticize divine light. The habit of careless and irreverent criticism reacts upon the character, in fostering irreverence and unbelief. Many a man indulging this habit has gone on unconscious of danger, until he was ready to criticize and reject the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, 'Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.'

"Then He added a warning to those who had been impressed by His words, who had heard Him gladly, but who had not surrendered themselves for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is not only by resistance but by neglect that the soul is destroyed." *-Ibid.*, p. 323

Millions today have committed sin against the Holy Spirit, and yet they continue in religion, even being fanatical about it. One member who is led by the Holy Spirit is being sanctified; he is more holy every day. He is doing more missionary work, and being more generous in his donations to the church; he prays more and is more patient, and he does not get offended when criticized. He is moving in the right direction.

Another member is losing ground, he is backsliding. He is not in every meeting anymore; he sees no value in them. He hardly does missionary work anymore, and his offerings are less than before. He is easily irritated and offended. He is being led by Satan, away from God, back into the world.

These two members may look alike from the outside, but one is blinded and the other has clear eyesight. One has Christ's righteousness and the other has self-righteousness. The one that has the Holy Spirit also has the fruit of the Spirit. He loves even his enemies. He has fullness of joy; he never complains, nothing can make him unhappy.

He has peace that passes understanding. He is long-suffering and patient, like Job. He has gentleness, he is tactful and courteous. His goodness is similar to the goodness of Jesus. He has faith to move mountains,

nothing is impossible to him. His meekness is like the meekness that Moses had. Also he has temperance, he can control himself.

Peter writes, "he that lacketh these things is blind." 2 Peter 1:9

These two Christians who look alike from the outside, one of them commits sin, and the other one cannot sin because he is born of God.

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 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." 1 John 3:8-9

He that commits sin will die eternally, for the wages of sin is death. He that does not commit sin will be in heaven and have eternal life.

There is hope for sinners; if they come to Jesus, He will give them power to become the sons of God. "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12

The judgment is going on in heaven, and we all will be judged according to our works, words, and thoughts. We must be fully on the Lord's side; no one who is almost perfect will be accepted. For one sin Adam and Eve were cast out of paradise and for one unrepented sin in our lives we cannot enter in.

One day a separation will come in the church in the same way that it came to the ten virgins. All who have lost the Holy Spirit will be shaken out, and only the ones who are filled with the Holy Spirit will remain. The message that Paul was preaching he called, "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8), the hidden treasure that will turn the sinner into a saint.

Be not satisfied with a false when the true religion is available. Be not satisfied with lukewarm religion, but let the fire of God burn within you. Be not satisfied with human weakness when you can (with Christ's help) be omnipotent, and by faith able to move mountains. Why be wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked, when you are offered gold tried in the fire, white raiment, and eye salve to anoint your eyes. If you make the right choice in your life you will be taken by God into the eternal mansions and not be left to perish. May this be true. Amen.

Timo Martin

My Personal Experiences

Our country, Estonia, changed into a battlefield, where men and women, regardless of their ages, experienced what the Lord had foretold in Isaiah. Our brothers and sisters were tested in their faith; the forests that God had created and the caves of the earth became their places of escape. Yet for some of them the Lord had determined a martyr's death for their faith, for the reason that the number determined for the martyrs will be fulfilled. Especially we remember our minister, Brother Holmstroem, who, with another brother entered this company. It was a great loss to his family and to the church, but we take everything from the hand of God.

Especially the place where I was with my family became a battlefield. Here we could see all the horrors of the war. Many times we were near death. Grenades were flying over our heads, causing death and destruction. We lost our hope for survival, but the Lord allowed a hole in the ground to become a place of escape and a chamber of prayer to us, where we could spend a few days and nights. After the battle we could see the dead lying on the ground everywhere. I tried to go to the city, which seemed to have suffered the destruction of Sodom. Yet our brothers and sisters who lived in this city had survived. We could not thank the Lord enough for it.

Every time I prayed, I got an answer that I needed to leave my home and my country, and head towards an unknown destiny. It seemed a heavy ordeal for me. About three or four months earlier, my son had already been able to escape the war-torn country in a small motorboat. The same kind of escape opened to me also; however, all who planned to escape the country were threatened by the death penalty. But we knew that there is One who is above all human laws. He can void human plans and support us and save us from the danger of the death penalty.

I experienced the same thing that Peter once experienced. When I left in the darkness of night I could take only one of my daughters with me, and begin this dangerous journey. My wife was sick and therefore could not come with us. We were hoping that later she may come also, along with the other children. Thus, a separation occurred in the family. As I am writing these lines, two years have passed since I left



my home and my country. The conditions changed in our home country, so that it was not possible for my wife and children to follow me. The Lord knows why these things happen.

In the darkness of night, a small fishing boat waited for us, and it was filled to the last seat, so that we could not move from the position that we took. The Lord gave us a calm night to travel. We experienced no storm on the way. The guards and the guardian boats did not notice that we had left until the next day, when we had safely arrived on the beach islands of our brother nation, Finland. Here, as refugees, we were received in a friendly manner. Later we were sent by a large steam boat to the refugee camp.

After a few weeks the Lord helped us wonderfully, and we were set free to be with the brothers and sisters of our faith. Other refugees were taken to the army to fight in the war. Great was my joy when I could meet my son again, whom the Lord, after much prayer, had set free from the military service. Great was my joy also when I could see my brothers and sisters of our faith after many years. This meeting was a great surprise, because for many years we had no correspondence, nor any knowledge of each other.

With the help of God's mercy, we spent seven months as refugees in this country. During this time we could attend the annual church conference. After this we were forced to leave this country because of political events, and to try to escape to Sweden, which was a free country. The Lord helped us to cross the sea again. In the larger sailboat we were 160-170 refugees. Every part of the ship was filled. The trip took more than 30 hours. With great difficulty we crossed the sea. The waves brought water over into the boat, making us all wet with the cold water. Many of us became sea-sick. In Sweden we were received in a very friendly way. As a refugee, I have tried to help the work of God the best that I could, even in the countries with languages that are strange to me. I want to thank the Lord from all my heart for His leading.

W. Korpman

Sadly, his wife died before she could leave Estonia and join her husband. Brother Korpman eventually moved to Canada and was one of the pioneers of the work in Canada. Here he remained, remarried, and was a faithful member in the church of God until His death.



I Will Not Kill Also



After being blessed by reading the article of Kurt Dering's experience in the November 2014 Issue of the *Reformation Messenger*, I would like to relate a similar experience.

Way back in World War II, when I was fifteen years of age, I would have been called up to serve the army, navy, or air force in the cause of the Allied Forces. This I did not desire.

However, I was a member of the civil defense, being a messenger in air raids, but I refused to kill in any way, even though I was not a member of the International Missionary Society at the time. In the church I attended at that time, I was taught the commandment that one "shall not kill."

So I volunteered for a civilian position in the merchant navy, and was posted on a trade ship taking Canadian soldiers to Holland. The mission was urgent and if not done soon, most of the Dutch people would have died of starvation. While crossing the sea I went below to talk to the Canadians when a great noise came, which I maintain was a sea mine but it did not explode. The Canadians were able to proceed to Holland to liberate the Dutch people.

My next assignment was on a British Hospital ship assigned to the U.S. Navy Base Hospital, making orange juice for the wounded American, Canadian, French and German soldiers. They were afflicted with terrible injuries. I was instructed by the ship's office to conduct the stretcher bearers to the cabins. These very young men were from about seventeen years of age and onwards. These came to me for direction. This has been on my mind ever since.

Why all this maiming and killing? Many died on the way back to England. This is one reason I count it a privilege to be a member of the IMS, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement.

Being young at the time, it has been etched on my mind ever since.

Love Thy Neighbour as Thyself. And no more war, as with Brother Dering. Thou shalt not kill. Amen and Amen.

Ernie Gale

New Zealand



“Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. 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. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.” Isaiah 1:16–19

“And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” Matthew 17:20–21

When we combine these two scriptures, we find cleansing, spiritually, when we put away evil and learn to do well. Also, we have help for our unbelief and relief for our lack of faith by prayer and fasting.

Prayer, when it becomes a reality and we carry burdens on our hearts for those we love—our family, friends and acquaintances—opens our eyes and directs them to the Unseen. The secrets of the Lord become ours. When we think of fervent prayer, we should also think of fasting, because the true fast is the denial of ourselves for the good of others, as well as to reap a spiritual blessing.

The Bible defines fasting as abstaining from certain kinds of foods, especially harmful or stimulating foods, or abstaining from food altogether. It can be the denial of oneself of a certain pleasure or gratification in order to gain spiritual victories for oneself or for the purpose of pleading intercession for others.

“Jesus taught his disciples that a humble and contrite spirit is an inward principle; that the austere, gloomy countenance is not an index to a humble, submissive spirit. While the heart should have the grace of humility, the countenance should be cheerful, not gloomy and repulsive. His words of instruction to them were: ‘Moreover, when ye fast, be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance, for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.’” —*Signs of the Times*, December 3, 1896

What is interesting here is that Jesus does not say “if” you fast, but “when” you fast. Fasting needs to be a part of every Christian’s life.

Immediately after Jesus’ baptism, “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness, to be tempted of the devil. Matthew 4:1. The first temptation that Jesus was presented with, which was the same that the pair in Eden failed to overcome, was the indulgence of appetite.



Fasting for 40 days and nights, Jesus was weak with hunger, and Satan came to Him, telling him to use His divine power to change the stones into bread. Jesus’ response to Satan was, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone.” We read, “That long fast in the wilderness was to be a lesson to fallen man for all time. Christ was not overcome by the strong temptations of the enemy. . . . That long fast of the Saviour strengthened Him to endure. . . . When Christ was the most fiercely beset by temptation, He ate nothing.” —

Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 186

Christ gained strength through prayer and fasting, and we must follow His example and do the same. When our physical strength is weakened, when we deny our appetite, we are the strongest through prayer, and through our communion with God.

“If the indulgence of appetite was so strong upon the race that in order to break its power, the divine Son of God, in behalf of man, was required to fast nearly six weeks, what a work is before the Christian in order that he may overcome even as Christ overcame! The strength of the temptation to indulge perverted appetite can be measured only by the inexpressible anguish of Christ in that long fast in the wilderness.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol.3, p. 486

Many of the world’s diseases are caused by perverted appetites. Cancers, heart disease, strokes, diabetes—all have, as significant contributing factors, the foods that people eat, and in the use of alcohol, flesh meats, and other stimulating substances.

Many people feel that they must follow Christ's example in performing a 40-day fast. However, The Spirit of Prophecy tells us differently. “All the fasting in the world will not take the place of simple trust in the word of God. ‘Ask,’ He says, ‘and ye shall receive.’ You are not called upon to fast forty days. The Lord bore that fast for you in the wilderness of temptation. There would be no virtue in such a fast; but there is virtue in the blood of Christ.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 189

Especially when should we fast?

The Bible provides us with many examples as to the purpose for fasting. Men of God fasted in repentance for sin, to overcome temptation, for deliverance, in humbling oneself before God, or when in deep sorrow.

“And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.” Acts 14:23

Some sins are only overcome by prayer and fasting. “For certain things, fasting and prayer are recommended and appropriate. In the hand of God they are a means of cleansing the heart and promoting a receptive frame of mind. We obtain answers to our prayers because we humble our souls before God.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 187. However, “Fasting and prayer will accomplish nothing while the heart is estranged from God by a wrong course of action.” —*Counsels on Health*, p. 377. We need to be ready to accept God's leading in overcoming sin.

Any time that we have something important in front of us—especially when it comes to supplicating the throne

of God’s mercy for His mighty hand to move on our behalf should be a reason to fast.

What kind of fasting is best?

The Bible speaks much about fasting and prayer, but what do these fasts consist of? In most references to fasting, the Bible mentions many different individuals and groups of people who fasted, but no further details are given other than that.

In a few places there is more detail. Daniel, in his fast, gave up all pleasant food. “In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.” Daniel 10:2–3

David fasted after his sin against Uriah, for the life of his child. “David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.” 2 Samuel 12:16–17

As Nineveh repented of their sins, the king called a fast. “And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.” Jonah 3:7–8

The Spirit of Prophecy also provides guidelines for fasting:

“Now and onward till the close of time the people of God should be more earnest, more wide-awake, not trusting in their own wisdom, but in the wisdom of the Leader. They should set aside days for fasting and prayer. Entire abstinence from food may not be required, but they should eat sparingly of the most simple food.” —*Last Day Events*, p. 82

In situations when someone is physically ill she gives this counsel, “In many cases of sickness, the very best remedy is for the patient to fast for a meal or two, that the overworked organs of digestion may have an opportunity to rest. A fruit diet for a few days has often brought great relief to brain workers. Many times a short period of entire abstinence from food, followed by simple, moderate eating, has led to recovery through nature’s own recuperative effort. An abstemious diet for a month or two would convince many sufferers that the path of self-

denial is the path to health." —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 189

Fasting is also a way to overcome the sin of appetite. "Indulgence in eating too frequently, and in too large quantities, overtaxes the digestive organs, and produces a feverish state of the system. The blood becomes impure, and then diseases of various kinds occur. . . In such cases the sufferers can do for themselves that which others can not do as well for them. They should begin to relieve nature of the load they have forced upon her. They should remove the cause by fasting a short time, and giving the stomach time to rest. The feverish state of the system should be reduced by a careful and understanding application of water." —*The Review and Herald*, September 5, 1899

At the end of every year, during the Week of Prayer the whole church, worldwide, joins in a day of fasting and prayer. During this day there is a total abstinence from food, where water is only consumed. Water fasts are healthy to relieve the pressure of an overtaxed digestive system. However, fasting while only consuming water is not recommended for a prolonged period of time. Lengthy water fasts can cause electrolyte imbalances, which create significant health risks, and could lead to death. The result of the body's attempt to maintain its balance will result in physical symptoms such as weakness, dizziness, tremors, nausea. Despite claims, water fasting does not detoxify one's body, nor is it effective in helping one lose weight.

There are healthy alternatives to a water fast. Juice fasting is a recommended form of fasting that can be done anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. Vegetable juices are cleansing and also strengthening. The nutrition in solid food takes more of the body's energy to digest, but with a juice fast there is no need for the body to break down all the fibre, fats, etc. Raw vegetable juices contain most of the enzymes, vitamins and minerals that you need for your nutrition. The lack of fibre in a juice fast can cause a slowing down of the bowels. To counteract this effect, psyllium husks can be added to the juice. You can juice almost anything that you can eat raw. Some good choices for vegetable juices include celery, cucumbers, zucchini, lettuce, sprouts, cabbage. Beets and carrots should be used in half strength as they contain a lot of natural sugar. Fruit juices have too much concentrated sweetness when you are fasting.



For every three days that you fast, you should take one day of breaking the fast as a necessary step in getting your bodies back into digesting solid food. This is done so as not to overburden your digestive system. The stomach needs to slowly return to full functioning by the gentle reintroduction of foods, beginning with the simplest and most-easily digested. Begin by eating small amounts of food. Overeating following a fast is worse than overeating at any other time. Many people wonder why they don't feel better after they have fasted. This is because they didn't break their fast in the correct way. They ate way too much, and of the wrong kinds of foods when they broke their fast.

Steps for breaking your fast:

1. Fruit and vegetable juices (with a water fast)
2. Fresh, raw fruits
3. Raw vegetables
4. Lightly steamed vegetables
5. Brown Rice (no oil, or other condiments allowed)

People with certain health conditions should avoid fasting, e.g. kidney disease, liver disease, diabetes, cancer, states of malnutrition, pregnant or breast-feeding women. Young children and the elderly should not fast without supervision. A fast of wholesome, simple food is the preferred method of fasting with these groups, rather than a total abstinence of food.

Besides specific periods of fasting, Sister Whites states that "The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome, simple food, which God has provided in abundance." —*Medical Ministry*, p. 283. This is the type of fasting that needs to be incorporated in our lives daily, as we come closer to Christ's second coming.

"We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future well-being and also the salvation of other souls depend upon the course which we now pursue. We need to be guided by the Spirit of truth. Every follower of Christ should earnestly inquire: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His Word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God." —*A Call to Stand Apart*, p. 69

Joseph Park, Toronto, Canada

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.” Psalm 116:15

Sandiford Joseph Park was born in Guyana on May 2nd 1932. It was there that he found his lovely wife, Therese and at the age of 21 he married his love. They had seven beautiful children: David, Jonathan, Ruth, Racquel, Eva, Hannah and Pearl.

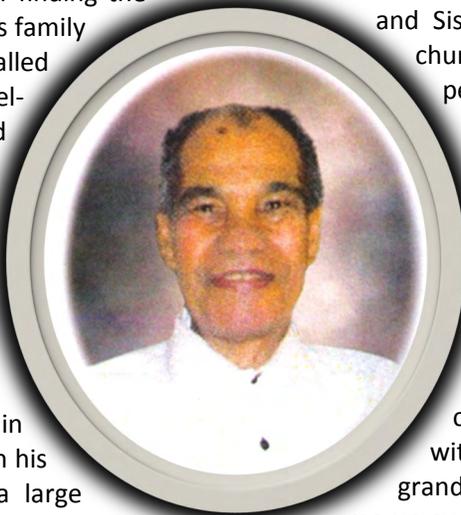
Joseph was a hard working farmer. He would leave the house before the sun rose and would return after the sun set. Joseph and Theresa were a team. They worked together as one to provide for their family. They shared the same faith and were devout Seventh-day Adventists. He lived by the Bible and was forever seeking the truth. He moved to Israel with intentions of finding the Promised Land. He lived there with his family for 10 years in a vegetarian village called Amereem. It was here that he developed his agricultural skills and learned to read and speak Hebrew. They developed every inch of the land they owned, filling it with apples, olives, grapes, oranges, and much more. Joseph was a staunch pacifist and did not want his boys to fight in the war. That went against his beliefs.

He moved his family back to Guyana in 1969, right after the six-day war. Upon his return Joseph bought Grant Niles, a large coconut estate in Pomeroun River. It was his pride and joy. Joseph’s agricultural background led him to spend a summer with the Jim Jones community. They were eager to learn his agricultural skills which he acquired in Israel.

In 1981, Joseph sold his coconut estate and once again moved his family, this time to Venezuela. They owned a convenience store in Amacuro River. Joseph would drive a large boat to the city to acquire goods which he would bring back deep into the rural river of Amacuro.

In 1992 the Park Family arrived in Canada in search of a better life. Joseph got what he wanted. His quality of life was greatly improved.

Joseph always lived a healthy lifestyle and encouraged others by his example. This lifestyle consisted of a healthy diet and a healthy spiritual and mental state.



Joseph’s primary goal in life was to lead others to God in order for them to attain eternal life. God was at the centre of Joseph’s entire being. He had a genuine and true relationship with God.

In Canada, Joseph came into contact with the International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform movement. In July of 2005 he joined the church, becoming a member in Toronto, Canada. His wife joined a few months later. Joseph remained a faithful member until he fell asleep peacefully in Jesus on December 7, 2014. He was 82 years old. His wife, Teresa, although feeble in health, continues to be faithful. Brother and Sister Park have faithfully attended the church meetings as much as their health permitted and were always very active in the meetings.

According to his granddaughter Anita, Joseph was always very affectionate. He would give all the grand children "Mang-Mangs" his version of a kiss. He would say, "come sit with granddad;" we would get on his lap, then he would hold us real tight so we couldn't get away then start to attack us with Mang-Mangs. We loved it. My grandpa would drop me to school and pick me up every day. We would stop by the park on the way home and hang out for a bit. I remember climbing the monkey bars with him. He would show my cousin Jonathan and myself how he could hang upside down and skip bars. Jonathan would say "one last time granddad," when it was time to go. Ten minutes later my grandpa would laugh because we were still there waiting for Jonathan to leave.

He loved to look sharp. He normally wore a suit, a top hat, and carried his briefcase with his Bible and tracts to hand out.

Joseph will truly be missed by all the lives he touched but will live on forever in our memories. We look forward to the day when we can see him again when Jesus returns to the earth to redeem His faithful children. "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Battles in the Bible—Part 1

THE BATTLE BETWEEN JESUS AND SATAN

Jesus was in a battle with Satan after His baptism. “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungry.” Matthew 4:1–2. For forty days Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness where He was alone and hungry. Then Satan went to Jesus and tried to tempt Him into doing the wrong thing.

Satan tried to take advantage of Jesus’ sufferings and tried to tempt Him because Jesus had humbled Himself as a man. First He said, “If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.” Matthew 4:3. Then Satan, to show his power, carried Jesus to Jerusalem and put Him on the highest point of the temple and told Him to throw Himself from there and He would be saved by angels.

Finally Satan took Jesus to a high mountain and showed

Him all the kingdoms of the earth and made the promise, “All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.” Matthew 4:9

Jesus is our example. When we are tempted, we must bear it patiently.

Satan thought that he could make Jesus fall, just like he had done with Adam and Eve. He wanted to have power over Jesus. But what did Jesus answer him? “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” Matthew 4:10

Jesus had placed Himself in the position of Adam and He had won the battle. We can also win the battle. We need to give Jesus our heart and be like Him.

It is my wish and prayer that we may come to the throne of grace, that we may have mercy and obtain grace for the time of need. Amen.

Sarah Newby

PAUL'S LIFE BATTLES

Paul wrote, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Now, who of us can say the same thing as the Apostle Paul?

What battles did Paul fight and who was the enemy that he fought against? The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." These were the battles that Paul fought, plus there were more.

In Romans 7:17-18 it says, "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh.) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." Paul also fought the battle against sin.

Paul knew that his battle against evil would not end so long as life would last. Therefore Paul was always alert, watching to make sure that the things that this life had to offer, the human desires that he had, would not overcome him. He continued to fight, to strive against natural inclinations. He followed Jesus' example, reaching for the high standard that Jesus set. Paul fought the battles to bring himself into willing obedience to the law of God. Sister White wrote about Paul, saying, ". . . his practices, and his passions— all . . . were brought under the controlling influence of the Spirit of God." —*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 4, p. 363

How hard was it to fight this battle? In Hebrews 12:4 it says, "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Fighting this battle was hard, very hard.

The other battles that Paul fought were in winning souls for the Lord. Paul faced opposition; he faced dangers; he suffered loss; he suffered a lot for Jesus' sake. Paul believed; Paul had a strong faith in Jesus and he knew that he was not fighting these battles alone. In

Ephesians 6:13-18 it talks about the armour of God that we are to put on. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Paul needed every piece of that armour and he used every piece in the battles that he fought in order to bring others to Jesus.



In these battles, Paul was beaten, he was bruised, he was injured, and he almost died many times. As Paul's work on this earth was coming to a close and his battles were coming to an end, he finally gave up his life for the cause of God. Being a Roman citizen, he could not be subjected to torture, and was therefore sentenced to be beheaded.

So, at the end, from all the battles that Paul fought, did he win the war or did he lose it?

The answer to that question is found in the words we read in the beginning from Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Let us also fight a good fight, as did the Apostle Paul and obtain victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

James Bessec



Ghana Adventist Mission Institute

For the first time, in Western Africa, a missionary training school was conducted. It took place in Ghana. The school ran over a period of six months and gave the students important tools and knowledge they will need to become efficient workers in the Lord's vineyard.

Students attended from several of the surrounding countries and will be sent to work for the Lord in various different areas.

Let us pray for these students as they go out into the field of labour as servants of the Lord. The enemy will want to stop the truth from going forward, so they need the courage and fortitude of the Lord.

"A vast responsibility is devolving upon men and women of prayer throughout the land to petition that God will sweep back the cloud of evil and give a few more years of grace in which to work for the Master. Let us cry to God that the angels may hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world and shall



proclaim the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 717

"We need missionaries everywhere. We need men and women who will give themselves without reserve to the work of God, bringing many sons and daughters to God." — *Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers*, no. 6, p. 61

St. Marc, Haiti



THIS VEHICLE WAS PURCHASED BY GENEROUS DONATIONS. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP IN GETTING PEOPLE TO CHURCH.



Youth Conference, Switzerland

December 25, 2014 to January 1, 2015



For one week at the end of the year 2014, a group of almost 50 young people spent a week together in a beautiful mountain setting in the Swiss Alps. Every morning they would wake up to the view of the Matterhorn in the distance. This was a skiing conference during which time the youth went skiing for two of the days. The rest of the time was spent in sharing music, fellowship, Bible Study, crafts, missionary work and other recreation. Young people travelled from all over the world to spend time with other dedicated youth who share the same faith. The subjects studied focused on maintaining your relationship with God. "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!" —*Education*, p. 271



MAKING SNOWSHOES



MISSIONARY WORK



SKIING



BIBLE STUDY

Thy Righteousness is Like the Great Mountains

Strong are the mountains, Lord, but stronger Thou!
They rise, a bulwark to the guarded land,
Which foes pass not, nor traitors undermine,
For children's children's safety they shall stand,
And so, O Lord, Thou standest unto Thine,
A mighty guardian, a defense divine.

Strong are the mountains, Lord, but stronger Thou!
Where beats the tempest on the hither side
Beneath their shelter blooms the vine and rose;
So do Thy chosen ones in Thee abide
Nor fear the storm-wind though it wildly blows,
All undisturbed in their secure repose.

Strong are the mountains, Lord, but stronger Thou!
Their far, fair snowy summits fountains are,
Whence fertilizing streams begin their race,
So, from Thy might of mercy stream afar
The overbrimming rivers of Thy grace
Gladdening the wilderness and desert place.

Strong are the mountains, Lord, but stronger Thou!
Immutable they stand from age to age,
Though the world rock and empires shift and pale;
So, though the people war and heathen rage,
The safety of Thy promise shall prevail
Nor ever once Thy love and goodness fail.

Susan Coolidge