

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The background is a deep blue. In the foreground, there are various types of coral: a large, branching red coral on the left, a white and yellow porous coral in the center, and a large, fan-shaped red coral on the right. Several small, yellowish fish are swimming around the coral.

*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 8, AUGUST 2016

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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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nature's ten thousand voices speak His praise. In earth and sea and sky, with their marvelous tint and color, varying in gorgeous contrast or blended in harmony, we behold His glory. The everlasting hills tell of His power. The trees that wave their green banners in the sunlight, and the flowers in their delicate beauty, point to their Creator. The living green that carpets the brown earth tells of God's care for the humblest of His creatures. The caves of the sea and the depths of the earth reveal His treasures. He who placed the pearls in the ocean and the amethyst and chrysolite among the rocks is a lover of the beautiful. The sun rising in the heavens is a repre-

“In the beginning, God was revealed in all the works of creation. It was Christ that spread the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. It was His hand that hung the worlds in space, and fashioned the flowers of the field. ‘His strength setteth fast the mountains.’ ‘The sea is His, and He made it.’ Psalm 65:6; 95:5. It was He that filled the earth with beauty, and the air with song. And upon all things in earth, and air, and sky, He wrote the message of the Father's love.

“Now sin has marred God's perfect work, yet that handwriting remains. Even now all created things declare the glory of His excellence. There is nothing, save the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself. No bird that cleaves the air, no animal that moves upon the ground, but ministers to some other life. There is no leaf of the forest, or lowly blade of grass, but has its ministry. Every tree and shrub and leaf pours forth that element of life without which neither man nor animal could live; and man and animal, in turn, minister to the life of tree and shrub and leaf. The flowers breathe fragrance and unfold their beauty in blessing to the world. The sun sheds its light to gladden a thousand worlds. The **ocean**, itself the source of all our springs and fountains, receives the streams from every land, but takes to give. The mists ascending from its bosom fall in showers to water the earth, that it may bring forth and bud.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 20–21

“Wherever we turn, we hear the voice of God and behold His handiwork. From the solemn roll of the deep-toned thunder and old ocean's ceaseless roar, to the glad songs that make the forests vocal with melody,

representative of Him who is the life and light of all that He has made. All the brightness and beauty that adorn the earth and light up the heavens speak of God.

“Shall we, then, in the enjoyment of His gifts, forget the Giver? Let them rather lead us to contemplate His goodness and His love. Let all that is beautiful in our earthly home remind us of the crystal river and green fields, the waving trees and living fountains, the shining city and the white-robed singers, of our heavenly home—that world of beauty which no artist can picture, no mortal tongue describe. ‘Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.’ 1 Corinthians 2:9.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 53–54

“All the heavenly beings are in constant activity, and the Lord Jesus, in His lifework, has given an example for every one. He went about ‘doing good.’ God has established the law of obedient action. Silent but ceaseless, the objects of His creation do their appointed work. The ocean is in constant motion. The springing grass, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, does its errand, clothing the fields with beauty. The leaves are stirred to motion, and yet no hand is seen to touch them. The sun, moon, and stars are useful and glorious in fulfilling their mission. . . . And man, his mind and body created in God's own similitude, must be active in order to fill his appointed place. Action gives power.” —*My Life Today*, p. 130

**Ellen G. White**



# Do Not Make A Mistake

Many people, even professed Christians, have made mistakes, and later repented of them, and wished that they had never made them. Mistakes can cause loss of property, money, also happiness and peace. Mistakes can cause loss of health, and even death.

Adam and Eve made a mistake by eating from the forbidden tree. Cain made a mistake by killing his brother, Abel. Jacob made a mistake by lying to his father. Moses made a mistake by hitting the rock to get water for the people. David made a mistake by laying with Bathsheba, and killing her husband, Uriah. Judas made a mistake betraying Jesus to His enemies. Ananias and Sapphira expected to gain money to themselves by lying. All of these people who committed a mistake thought that they would benefit from them. Adam and Eve thought that they will become like God, and receive knowledge of the good and evil. Jacob expected that the blessing of the first born will come to him. David thought of the pleasure of sin. Judas expected 30 pieces of silver. They all expected something good would come to them by their mistakes. They did not consult God beforehand; they all went in their own way.

“All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned every one to his own way.” Isaiah 53:6

Our own way may seem good to us, but in the end we realize that it was a great mistake. It is always the opposite to God’s way. God says, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8–9

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” Isaiah 5:20–21

How many times did Adam and Eve say, we wish we had never eaten the forbidden fruit, when they saw the evil in the world. Jacob spent 20 years in exile, and he was deceived by his children and by Laban. Judas did not enjoy the money he gained. David lost four of his children prematurely. Moses was not allowed to lead the people all the way to the Promised Land. What they expected to be a gain ended up to be a great loss.

Let us compare the way of God to the way of man. On the way of God we need to endure hardness and strive for masteries.

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned except he strive lawfully.” 2 Timothy 2:3–5

Man’s way is to seek an easy life, comforts, and much fun and pleasure. This is what appeals to many people more than God’s way, but what is the end result?

“Many are ruined by their desire for a life of ease and pleasure. Self-denial is disagreeable to them. They are constantly seeking to escape trials that are inseparable from a course of fidelity to God. They set their hearts upon having the good things of this life. This is human success, but is it not won at the expense of future, eternal interests? The great business of life is to show ourselves to be true servants of God, loving righteousness and hating iniquity. . . . The greatest loss which any one of you in Battle Creek can suffer is the loss of earnestness and persevering zeal to do right, the loss of strength to resist temptation, the loss of faith in the principles of truth and duty.

“Let no man flatter himself that he is a successful man unless he preserves the integrity of his conscience, giving himself wholly to the truth and to God.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 70

“It pains me to say, my brethren, that your sinful neglect to walk in the light has enshrouded you in darkness. . . . He sees His love despised. The soul’s temple courts have been converted into places of unholy traffic. Selfishness, mammon, malice, envy, pride, passion, are all cherished in the human heart. His warnings are rejected and ridi-

culed. His ambassadors are treated with indifference, their words seem as idle tales." *—Ibid.*, p. 71–72

To seek an easy, comfortable life means to seek death and separation from God. Man's way to rejoice is to have feasts, much food and drinks with friends, joking, laughing, making much profit, and taking advantage of others. God's way to rejoice is completely different.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with much exceeding joy." 1 Peter 4:12–13

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matthew 5:11–12

How different is the rejoicing in the way of man than in the way of God. Man's way is to love your friends and hate your enemies. Many professing Christians change it a little. They say, "Love your friends and avoid your enemies, ignore them," yet it means the same as hating them.

"The first thing recorded in Scripture history after the fall was the persecution of Abel. And the last thing in Scripture prophecy is the persecution against those who refuse to receive the mark of the beast. We should be the last people on the earth to indulge in the slightest degree the spirit of persecution against those who are bearing the message of God to the world. This is the most terrible feature of unchristlikeness that has manifested itself among us since the Minneapolis meeting. Sometime it will be seen in its true bearing, with all the burden of woe that has resulted from it." *—Miscellaneous Collections 1888*, p. 1013

It was not a persecution with weapons, it was a persecution in words, and in ignoring them, and voting against them. It was speaking evil of them, and influencing others to dislike them. This is the same spirit of persecution that Cain had against Abel when he killed him, or the spirit of the Catholics when they killed over 50 million true Christians. To love your enemies is one of the most difficult lessons that we must learn before we can be children of God.

Jesus said, "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and the children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same

shall be saved." Mark 13:12–13

That the brother will betray the brother has been witnessed since the time of Cain and Abel. The disciples of Jesus wanted to call fire from heaven to consume the Samaritans. In the year 1914 and after, Seventh-day Adventists betrayed one another. Letters were sent to the police to give the names and addresses of Reform Adventists so that they would be persecuted and placed in prisons.

Are we perfectly free from this spirit of hatred that is so strange to the spirit of love that Jesus had? Can it be that there is a root of bitterness against someone, even a little dislike against someone? This has spoiled our world, that the spirit of unity has been lost. This spirit of hatred has brought so much misery to the human family. It is a satanic spirit that has taken over our world, even many Christians and churches. Love toward one's neighbour is gone, also love towards erring brethren.

A brother who has fallen into sin needs our greatest love and sympathy, but this is often lacking. We stop praying for him, and avoid him, and do not invite him to our home any more. The greatest Satanic character is that we tell his sin to others, that they stop liking him also. Jesus said, "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?" Matthew 5:46–47

Jesus was called, "a friend of publicans and sinners." Luke 7:34

When brotherly love dies we become blinded and lose our faith, and the separation in the church is near. Selfishness and self-pride are poisons that kill us spiritually. Paul overcame his selfishness and he writes, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints." Ephesians 3:8

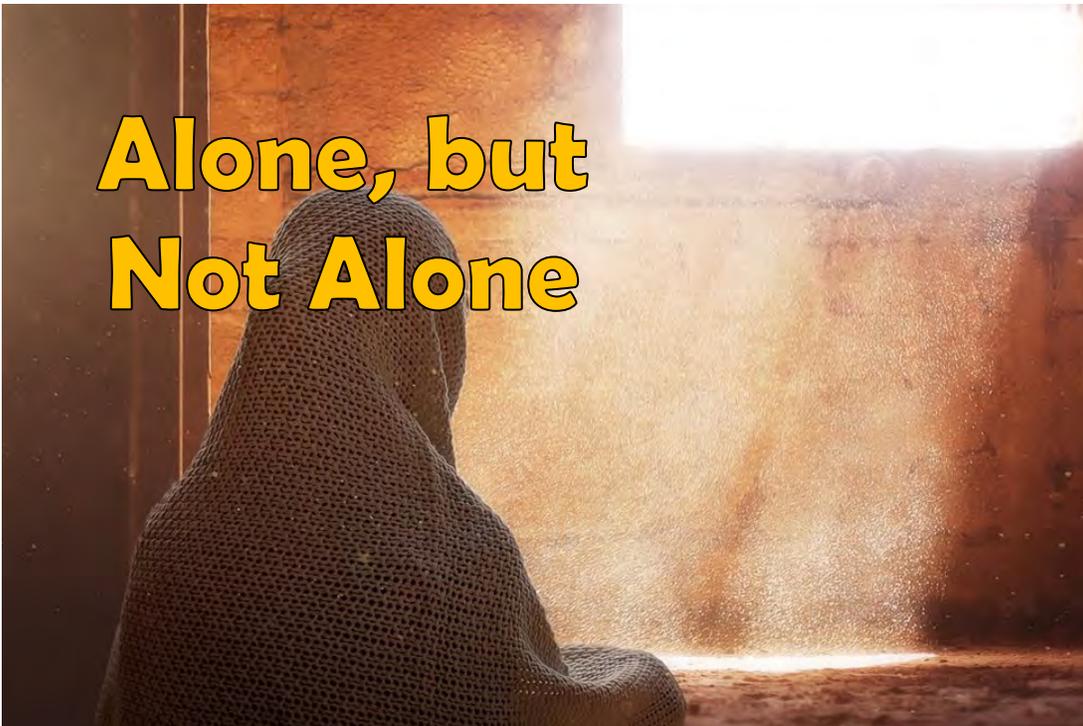
He did the same as Jesus did; he left the ninety-nine sheep and went to seek the one lost sheep. It is a mistake to ignore and leave alone the lost sheep—that is, to leave alone the sinner and go after the righteous ones. "Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day." Isaiah 65:5

Self-righteousness is a great mistake. Sister White says, "It is almost incurable." When we humble ourselves the spirit of Satan will leave us alone and the spirit of Christ will fill our hearts. Then we can love our brothers and sisters, and all mankind, even sinners.

May the Lord help us to avoid all mistakes and live a life of true holiness. Amen.

**Timo Martin**

# Alone, but Not Alone



“O LORD, Thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. Whither shall I go from Thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there.” Psalm 139:1–3, 7–8

## NEVER ALONE

Do not think you are ever alone—never. When you feel all alone on this earth remember that the universe sees you. The unseen world is all around you.

Some people like being alone. Some fear being alone. Many like a combination of the two. Time alone, but not always alone. Social time is important also.

Enoch was like this. He took “time out” from his busy schedule of preaching to be alone with God. “In the midst of a life of active labor, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. He continued to exclude himself, at certain periods, from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart.” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 86–87

While living a life of constant activity, Jesus took time alone also. “And He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed.” Luke 5:16

Sadly, some people have felt so alone—neglected, rejected—like no one loves them or is there to help them, and they end up committing suicide. If only they knew that they were not really alone, ever.

Some fear being alone on earth so much that they must constantly have some “background noise”, whether the radio or the TV, or then they spend endless hours on social media so they do not feel so alone. They think that being alone from worldly noise is something fearful.

***The reality is that we are never alone. Is this a good thing or a bad thing?***

“This world is a theater. The actors, the inhabitants of the world, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama.” – *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1106

“The whole heavenly universe are intensely interested in every penitent soul that comes to Jesus; and they are interested, too, in the impenitent—in those whom they hope to see saved by repentance and reformation. Angels are watching our every act. They are familiar with every word uttered.” – *Reflecting Christ*, p. 250

“The heavenly universe is more interested than we can imagine in all that concerns God’s people, who are being fitted up for an inheritance among the sanctified and blessed. All that concerns His people concerns Himself, with whom they and all their interests are one.” – *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, p. 363

Do not think you are ever alone on this earth. Not only the unseen world, but the seen world is watching God’s professed people, expecting them to live up to their profession (co-workers, friends, family, neighbours, and even strangers). Does your appearance and behaviour indicate that you are a follower of Christ, without you having to even open your mouth?

“Every one of us is exerting an influence upon some other soul; and we shall each be held accountable for the effect of that influence. Words and actions have a telling power, and the long hereafter will show the re-

sults of our life here. Yet how few consider these things! The members of the church listen to the word of God, spoken by His servant, and then one goes to his farm, another to his merchandise; and by their absorbing interest in the affairs of this life, they declare that eternal things are of secondary importance to them.” – *The Review and Herald*, January 19, 1886

How important that we are aware of this and are careful of how we speak and act. You are not your own; you are not alone. Nothing is secret. “Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance.” Psalm 90:87

### ALONE WITH THE LORD

The Lord sometimes speaks to His children in darkness. “And I will give thee the treasures of darkness.” Isaiah 45:3. “Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.” Exodus 20:21

He separates them from friends and family, from varied activities and brings them to a place where they feel alone. It may feel very dark, and lonely, but this is what He sometimes has to do to get your attention. When you are alone with no other distractions, then He can speak to you more clearly.

We often can get too busy with the affairs of this life and He wants “alone time” with us. So He orchestrates circumstances to enable this to happen. Do we complain? Or appreciate the time alone? Time out? “When I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.” Micah 7:8

God sometimes speaks in darkness. “He made darkness His secret place; His pavilion round about Him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.” Psalm 18:11

### LOVED AS IF YOU WERE ALONE

Jesus loves you as if you were alone—the only person to be saved. He loves you as if you were the only person on the earth who sinned and needs a Saviour. He takes a careful interest in the salvation of each and every person on this earth. He orchestrates circumstances suited to each particular case, specifically what is needed for their salvation; and each person has a completely different experience.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of

them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” Matthew 10:29–30. “He who stoops to notice even the little birds has a special care for all



branches of His work. All . . . are under the eye of the infinite God.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 564

“Every soul is as fully known to Jesus as if he were the only one for whom the Saviour died. The distress of every one touches His heart. The cry for aid reaches His ear. He came to draw all men unto Himself. He bids them, ‘Follow Me,’ and His Spirit moves upon their hearts to draw them to come to Him. Many refuse to be drawn. Jesus knows who they are. He also knows who gladly hear His call, and are ready to come under His pastoral care. He says, ‘My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.’ He cares for each one as if there were not another on the face of the earth.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 480

What a wonderful thought. How comforting. He is a loving Father, and has given all of heaven for our salvation. We are never alone because He is always with us as long as we do not walk away from Him. It is a reality that “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.” Isaiah 59:2. If the Lord’s presence is not there then does that mean we are really and truly alone? No, if the Lord is not there then the evil one is. “It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not cooperate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 324

### DURING JACOB’S TROUBLE

The time of Jacob’s trouble will be a very trying time for God’s people. They will be tempted into thinking they are alone and rejected. The world will be against them. But, although it may seem so from outward circumstances, the reality is they are not alone.

“Could men see with heavenly vision, they would be-



hold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ's patience. With sympathizing tenderness, angels have witnessed their distress, and have heard their prayers. They are waiting the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril. But they must wait yet a little longer. The people of God must drink of the cup, and be baptized with the baptism. The very delay, so painful to them, is the best answer to their petitions. As they endeavor to wait trustingly for the Lord to work, they are led to exercise faith, hope, and patience, which have been too little exercised during their religious experience. Yet for the elect's sake, the time of trouble will be shortened. The end will come more quickly than men expect. The wheat will be gathered and bound in sheaves for the garner of God; the tares will be bound as fagots for the fires of destruction.

"The heavenly sentinels, faithful to their trust, continue their watch. In some cases, before the time specified in the decree, enemies will rush upon the waiting ones to put them to death. But none can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul. Some are assailed in their flight from the cities and villages; but the swords raised against them break and fall as powerless as a straw. Others are defended by angels in the form of men of war." —*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4, p. 447

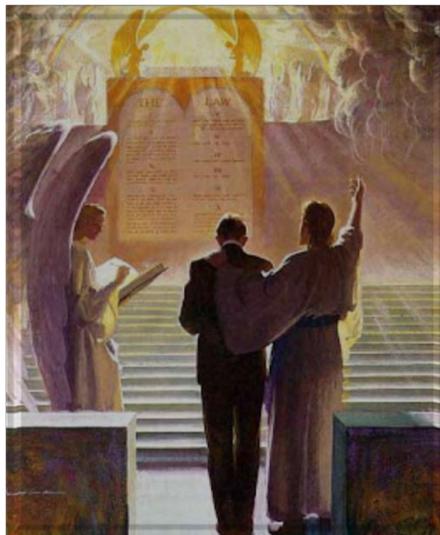
"Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God's people shall be accomplished." —*Maranatha*, p. 266

### JUDGED AS IF YOU WERE ALONE

Although God loves each individual as though there was no one else on earth, the solemn thought is that also, you are judged with such scrutiny, as if you were the only one being judged.

"Though all nations are to pass in judgment before Him, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being on earth.

"All heaven is interested in our salva-



tion. The angels of God are walking up and down the streets of these cities, and marking the deeds of men. They record in the books of God's remembrance the words of faith, the acts of love, the humility of spirit; and in that day when every man's work shall be tried of what sort it is, the work of the humble follower of Christ will stand the test, and will receive the commendation of Heaven." —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 986

"He sees whether their duties are performed with strict integrity or in a careless, dishonest manner. . . . Angels are constantly ascending to heaven, bearing up the record with joy or sadness. Every act of fidelity is registered, every act of dishonesty also is recorded, and every person is finally to be rewarded as his works have been." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 564



You are not alone. The angels are watching your every move and documenting all your activities and thoughts.

"All of us, as beings blessed of God with reasoning powers, with intellect and judgment, should acknowledge our accountability to God. The life He has given us is a sacred responsibility, and no moment of it is to be trifled with; for we shall have to meet it again in the record of the judgment. In the books of heaven our lives are as accurately traced as in the picture on the plate of the photographer. Not only are we held accountable for what we have done, but for what we have left undone. We are held to account for our undeveloped characters, our unimproved opportunities.

"As the artist takes on the polished glass a true picture of the human face, so the angels of God daily place upon the books of heaven an exact representation of the character of every human.

"God judges every man according to his work. Not only does He judge, but He sums up, day by day and hour by hour, our progress in well-doing." —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 987

"Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face." —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 360. Alone, face to face with the heavenly Judge. No

family, friends or church minister will be by your side.

## RUNNING A RACE

Salvation is likened to running a race. In a race, you must run alone and keep your eyes on the finish line. You cannot be distracted by looking at the crowd.



Some will be for you and some against you. You cannot look at your running companions, comparing your progress with them. You must keep looking at the finish line. And the beautiful part about this race is that, not only the first person who crosses the finish line gets the prize, but everyone who crosses, undistracted, will also receive a prize. "The race is not to the swift." Ecclesiastes 9:11. "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly." 1 Corinthians 9:26

"Not one who complies with the conditions will be disappointed at the end of the race. Not one who is earnest and persevering will fail of success. The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. The weakest saint, as well as the strongest, may wear the crown of immortal glory. All may win who, through the power of divine grace, bring their lives into conformity to the will of Christ." *—The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 313

You cannot turn to the right or to the left. You cannot look around. You cannot stop. You must keep looking forward and running forward. "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21. Or you could substitute the word "walk" for "run" in the previous verse, "run ye in it." "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62. Or you could say, no man having started to run the race and looks back will be fit to win. "Remember Lot's wife." Luke 17:32. Go forward. Do not stop or look around.

"Let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1

## CANNOT BE SAVED ALONE



"There will be no one saved in heaven with a starless crown. If you enter, there will be some soul in the courts of glory that has found an entrance there through your instrumentality." *—Last Day Events*, p. 282

"All who are partakers of this great salvation wrought out by Jesus Christ are under obligation to work as la-

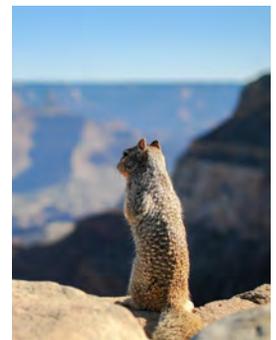
borers together with God. In the heavenly courts the roll is called, on which every name is registered, and the heavenly agencies respond to the call. The service given by every human being upon earth is there recorded. If any are negligent, it is recorded; if diligent, the same is reported; if idlers, the fact stands against their names. In all the great mass of humanity, not one is lost sight of. Then let every one be ready to answer the call, saying, 'Here, Lord, ready for action.'

"The world has claims upon you. If you fail to shine as lights in the world, some will rise in the judgment, and charge upon you the blood of their souls. It will be seen that you were an agent in the hands of the enemy of God and man to mislead and deceive by your profession of Christianity. You did not lead souls to piety and devotion. You had a name to live, but were spiritually dead. You had not the vitalizing influence of the Spirit of God, which is abundantly provided for all who, in faith, make demands upon it." *—The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 987. This will be a very sad time. These people will really truly feel alone.

"Oh that Christ's followers might realize that it is not houses and lands, bank stock or wheat-fields, or even life itself, that is now at stake, but souls for whom Christ died! We should ever remember that the men and women whom we daily meet are Judgment-bound. They will stand before the great white throne, to testify against us if we are unfaithful to duty, if our example shall lead them away from the truth and from Christ, or to bear witness that our fidelity has encouraged them in the path of righteousness. These souls will either live to offer praise to God and the Lamb through ceaseless ages, or they will perish with the wicked. Christ suffered and died that they might enjoy a blissful eternity. What sacrifices are we willing to make for their salvation?" *—The Signs of the Times*, October 8, 1885

We all need time to be alone from earthly activities, but if we are faithful to God, His presence will be with us. Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20. We may feel alone at times on this earth, away from human contact, but we are never alone. May God help us to make a good use of our lives and remember to always live as if in the immediate presence of God, because that is the reality. We are never alone. Amen

**Wendy Eaton**





# The Kingdom of God

In Daniel 2 we read of a prediction of who would rule the world and how it would end. In March

1941 the German leader gave a significant speech to his people stating, "See my people, we do not need anything from God! We do not ask anything from Him, except that He may leave us alone. We want to fight our own war, with our own guns, without God. We want to gain our victory without the help of God." Hitler arrogantly believed he could conquer Europe with the strength of his armies; and, in 1941, who would dare say he was wrong? We know from history that Hitler failed in his proud ambition.

The good news that we read in the book of Daniel is that God is in absolute control of every event in human history. This is very comforting, because we do not have to fear the future, as we already know from the Bible who is the next superpower. Daniel chapter 2 gives a clear explanation of this.

What is the kingdom of God? When we speak about Heaven or the Kingdom of God, people today have different opinions about it. Some say it is a state of mind, an inner peace, a state of calm. Let us read what Jesus Himself had to say. "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 4:17

It is very interesting that Matthew is the only one using this term "the kingdom of heaven". Mark, Luke, and John referred to it as the "kingdom of God". Paul called it "the kingdom of Christ and of God," Ephesians 5:5; and Peter referred to it as "the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," 2 Peter 1:11. Considering these passages we see that the predominant name is the kingdom of God, and that is where He resides. According to the book of Daniel and Revelation we know that the kingdom of God will be the next superpower on this earth and it will last forever. The kingdom of God is currently in heaven. But it will be established on earth when Jesus returns.

What is a superpower? A superpower is a state that can influence global affairs. It can influence, to its own benefit, other nations. Keeping in mind these two things, the

"kingdom of God" and the "next superpower," we will go through Daniel chapter 2. Daniel chapter 2 is not only history told in advance but it is confidence in the future through a prophetic dream given to an ancient pagan king called Nebuchadnezzar. The king's dream revealed events that would take place at the end of Earth's history. The things God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar through Daniel the prophet, are really yet another way of showing that God cares. God wants us to know where history is heading. He wants us to feel confident and secure about the future.

"As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and He that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass." Daniel 2:29. Nebuchadnezzar was thinking about the future of his kingdom when he was going to bed. God knew what the king was thinking. He can read our thoughts also. God said to Nebuchadnezzar, "do you want to know the future? I will give you a dream." The idea is that the Chaldeans believed that the gods communicated with humans through dreams. You see how wise God is? He said "well, you and your people believe in dreams, so I will give you a dream, and let you know what will happen in the future."

This dream shows us that the future is in God's hands. Daniel chapter 2 challenges the psychics head on, and God reveals Himself as the only One who really knows the future. In this chapter God clearly outlines 2,500 years of history in advance, accurately foretelling the rise and fall of the empires. "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying; My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure."



Isaiah 46:9–10. God alone can foretell the future, according to the Bible. “Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His.” Daniel 2:20. Wisdom and might are God’s prerogatives and throughout the book of Daniel we will see how God intervenes in favour of His people.

This prophecy begins at night in the king’s bedroom. As Nebuchadnezzar went to sleep that night, he had a remarkable dream. “And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.” Daniel 2:1. He sensed that the dream had great implications for the future, but he did not understand the meaning of the dream, nor could he remember the dream. The king then summoned his wise men to tell him his dream and the interpretation, but they utterly failed. It was God who hid the dream from Nebuchadnezzar’s mind. If the king could have remembered the dream, the “wise men” would have made up an interpretation. The king called in his brightest minds, but they failed. They asked the king to tell them his dream in order for them to give an interpretation, but he could not because God hid the dream from the king’s mind. There was a conversation between the king and the wise men back and forth. “O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.” Daniel 2:4

Of course they could not give the interpretation and finally, “The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king’s matter: therefore, there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” Daniel 2:10–11

King Nebuchadnezzar then became angry and gave a death decree for all the wise men of Babylon. Arioch, the king’s captain, came to execute Daniel, although he was not with the Babylonian wise men when they were asked to reveal the king’s dream. However, he was one of the city’s educated elite, trained as a servant for the king and thus regarded as a “wise man”. When Daniel asked why he must die, Arioch told him what had happened. Daniel then went in to see the king and asked for time so that he and his friends could pray to the God of heaven who reveals secrets. Daniel had utmost confidence that the God of Israel would solve the problem. He prayed together with his friends and during a night vision God did reveal to Daniel the dream and its interpretation.

Daniel knew where to go when he needed strength, power and wisdom. Maybe you are facing some decision in your life! Maybe you need wisdom which is beyond hu-

man ability. Daniel found that wisdom on his knees before God. “I thank Thee, and praise Thee,” he said. “[You have] given me wisdom and might.” Daniel 2:23

Have you ever felt that you just do not have the strength to go on and are falling apart? Have you ever felt that in your own life you have a problem that is unsolvable? Daniel knew where to go, let us follow his example. Daniel did not take the glory of God to himself, but he said to the king, “But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.” Daniel 2:28. Daniel gives glory to God. Daniel was a humble servant and that is why God could work through him. He showed the king a time span of more than 2,500 years of history. The dream takes us from Nebuchadnezzar’s time 600 years before Christ, down past the days of Jesus, down the stream of history and it speaks to you and me about the end of the days or latter days. This dream in Daniel 2 is the key to unlock all Bible prophecy. It is the most fundamental and basic of all the Bible prophecies. It will help us to unlock the mysteries of Revelation.

What did the king see in his dream? “This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.” Daniel 2:32–35

Gold is a fitting symbol for Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom ruled the world from 605 to 539 B.C. It was located in modern-day Iraq, some 100 km south of Baghdad. The capital city of Babylon was the most powerful nation in the Middle East at that time. Its chief god, Bel-Marduk was crafted of solid gold. The prophet Isaiah also calls Babylon “the golden city.” Isaiah 14:4

Yet Babylon would not last forever; it would be overthrown by another dominant power, according to the prophecy. From history we know that the Medes and Persians overthrew the Babylonians in 539 B.C. on October 12. It was prophesied 150 years earlier that Cyrus the general would lead the Medo-Persian armies. He is mentioned by name in Isaiah 44:28: “That saith of Cyrus, He is My shepherd, and shall perform all My pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.” “Thus saith the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of

kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut." Isaiah 45:1. The Medes and Persians ruled the world from 539 to 331 B.C.

The Medes and Persians ruled the world for nearly two centuries, but Nebuchadnezzar's dream did not end there, and neither did history. Time marches on, one kingdom replacing another just as God had foretold. The nation of Greece overthrew the Medes and Persians. Once again we find an appropriate representation. Alexander the Great, a young man, marched his men 11,000 miles, conquering almost all of the then known world before he died of malaria in a drunken stupor before he turned 33. What did his soldiers take into battle? Bronze breastplates, bronze helmets, bronze shields. Once again God describes the kingdom that would rule the world from 331 B.C. to 168 B.C. But history did not end with the third kingdom, it goes on; the last kingdom to rule the ancient Mediterranean world was Rome. The English historian Edward Gibbon wrote it like this, "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: The images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome." For more than 500 years Rome appeared to be invincible. They extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Euphrates River and beyond. But were the Romans the last ruling empire of the world? "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay." Daniel 2:41

The prophecy that Daniel related from God predicted that the Roman empire would be divided. The break-up of the empire occurred from A.D. 351 to 476. No fifth world empire overthrew the Romans. We know that from history Rome was divided exactly as the prophet predicted. The barbarian tribes from the North invaded the Roman Empire and it was divided into ten separate distinct states. These were the nations of Europe today known as Germany, England, France, Spain, Italy, etc. God's word is clear and steadfast. It stands forever.

These seven prophetic words "they shall not cleave one to another" (Daniel 2:43) have stopped every political leader such as Charlemagne, the king of Franks (747–814 A.D.), Charles V the king of Germany (1500–1558 AD), Louis XIV (1638–1715 A.D.), Napoleon Bonaparte (1769–1821 A.D.). The Battle of Waterloo, June 18, 1815, demonstrated once again the veracity of Bible prophecy. Also Kaiser Wilhelm Emperor of Germany (1859–1941 A.D.), and Adolph Hitler (1889–1945 A.D.).

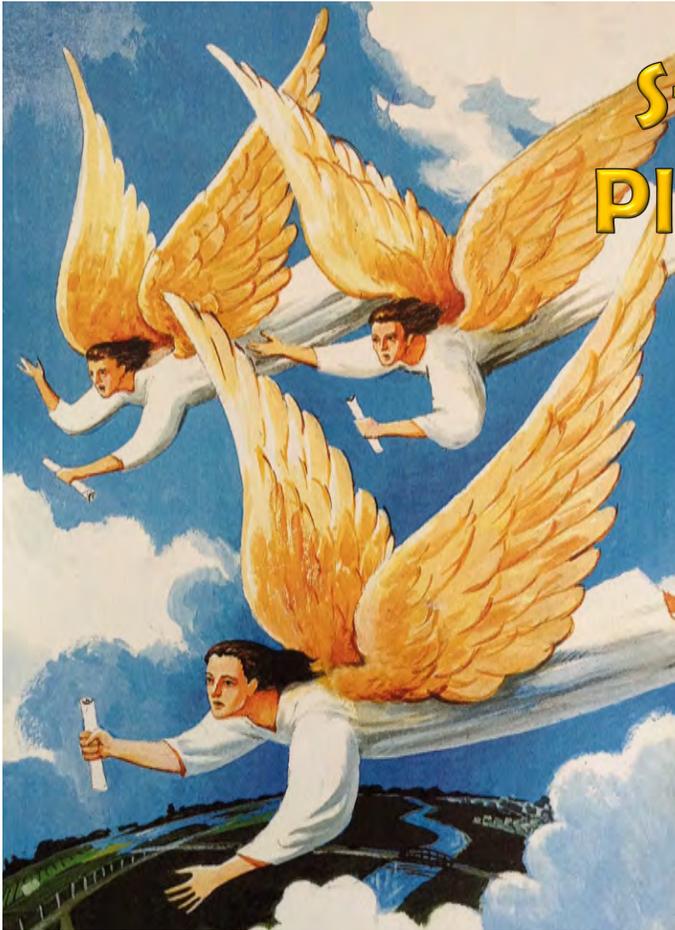
Charles Downer Hazen wrote in *Modern European History*, p. 229, "Europe has always refused to be dominated by a single nation or a single man. It has run the risk several times in its history of passing under such yoke, but it always, in the end succeeded in escaping it." Why? Because Daniel 2:43 says, "they shall not cleave one to another." All of them failed although they tried both inter-marriages and wars; it did not work because God said "even as iron is not mixed with clay, they shall not cleave one to another."

Bible prophecy is accurate, the future is in God's hands; He can be safely trusted. History has followed this prophecy like a blueprint and will continue to do so. We have hope on the horizon according to the Bible. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Daniel 2:44. In the days of these kings, this is our time. The rock that was cut out without hands is in reference to God, and represents the coming kingdom of God. "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever." Revelation 11:15. The final superpower will be divine. Daniel concluded saying, "the dream is certain and the interpretation thereof sure." Daniel 2:45

Today, we can have hope, because tomorrow is in the hands of God. History has played itself out. Only one kingdom remains to be established. Soon, Jesus Christ, the One who came to our planet 2000 years ago, will pay us yet another visit, and He is going to reward His faithful servants. Are you ready to meet Him? To be in the kingdom of God we must first know the King. The repentant thief on the cross said to Jesus; "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." Luke 23:42. Have you crowned Jesus as your Lord and King? If not, now is the time to do it. How will you do it? Receiving Jesus' sacrifice on the cross in your behalf, acknowledge Him as your personal Lord and Saviour. Then confess your sins and abandon them through a genuine repentance and live for Him, a new and fresh life, telling others what He has done for you. Amen!

**Nicholas Anca**





# Stepping on the Platform of Truth

## A sure foundation for God's people

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3

James White; Joseph Bates; Hiram Edson; Uriah Smith; J.N. Andrews; J.N. Loughborough; S.N. Haskell; J.H. Waggoner; John Byington; M.E. Cornell; G.I. Butler and E. Farnsworth. These men of faith found the way into the Most Holy. They were led by the Holy Ghost and found it through a belief in a literal Father. Then they were convinced that God had called the Advent people to lead out in a work of responding to God's call, calling them to ascend to a higher level which we call the platform of truth. This was brought about through much prayer, fasting and diligent study of the scriptures.

According to the Spirit of Prophecy those who reach the top of this platform will have managed to attain what is commonly known among Seventh-day Adventists as the "truth as it is in Jesus".

What is meant by the truth as it is in Jesus? In the Spirit of Prophecy we are told that believers are able to reach the top of the platform of truth through a belief in the three angels' messages found in Revelation 14:6–12. It is a correct understanding of The Three Angels' Mes-

sages that leads every believer to stand firmly on this platform.

The pen of inspiration correctly points out that there are three steps that are designed to assist God's people in reaching the platform; a platform that has made the Advent people what they are today—the knowledge of the principles that they uphold and teach. "I was shown three steps—the first, second and third angel's messages." —*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 53

The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which these messages are received.

This leads me to think deeply regarding the meaning of the "*manner in which these messages are received*." Can we be careless and lack attention whenever the subject of the three angels' messages is brought before us? The Spirit of Prophecy states that the destiny of souls depends on how correct these messages are understood.

To simply just know that these messages exist and are to be preached to the world is really not enough; we must know their import and ask God for continued strength to keep moving in order to reach the platform.

"Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms, where the truth is kept in the outer court. God calls for a revival and reformation." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 626

The three steps (three angels' messages) go upwards and the people of God must travel up these steps in order to reach the required level, the point where God wants them to be on top of the platform.

God's people are represented to be standing on this platform. But exactly what is this platform? What would be the posts (pillars or landmarks) that are holding this platform together so that it is kept firm?

These steps that are directing God's people up to the platform of truth are described in the first vision that Ellen White received, a vision that depicts God's people walking up a narrow way to the holy city. She saw them walking up, and up, and up. What led them in their walk? It was the three angels' messages represented by the three steps that were leading the people of God to the solid, immovable platform.

The most interesting thing about this first vision is that, as they were going up above the world and the way became too narrow for a solid footing, there were cords that came down. They would grab hold of these cords and swing across into the heavenly city. Those who did not walk up the steps could not reach the cords, because the cords did not reach down to the level where they were—the world. The cords only reached down to the level of the platform.

Therefore, those who do not embrace these three messages will not have the required faith to enter the time of Jacob's trouble, because the cords represent faith—the true faith as it is in Jesus.

Ask yourself if you have given yourself enough time to really put an effort into not only knowing *about* the three angels' messages, but to familiarize yourself with the importance of all their requirements. Are you willing to practically apply the three angels' messages in your life?

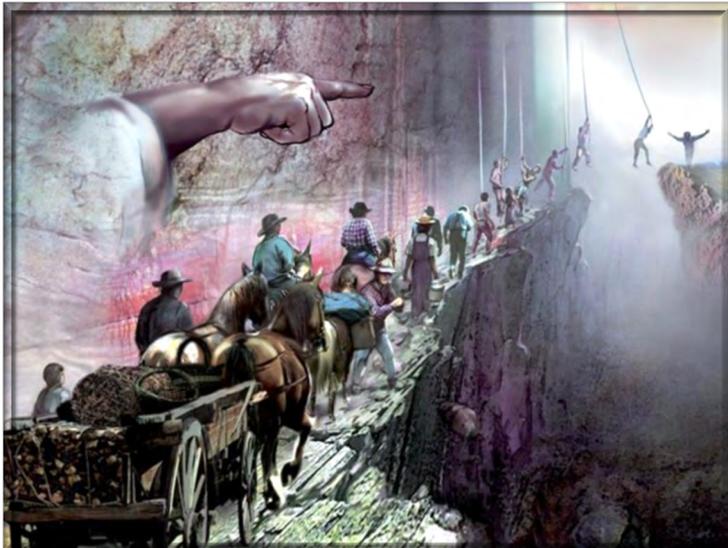
Is the message important and still just as relevant today as it was to the Adventist pioneers who lived in the nineteenth century? We read earlier that the destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which these messages are received. With this thought in mind, it should cer-

tainly spark a sense of awe in our hearts; it should inspire us to seriously consider these messages and give them the gravity they deserve.

As I stated, the cords only reach as far as the top of this platform where the three steps led. They did not reach down to the ground level where the people in the world are found, those who chose not to walk up the steps to the required level—God's platform of truth. It is certain, then, that if we do not have the faith to take these three steps we will not have the faith to go through the time of Jacob's trouble. Oh, we need that faith!

How did our heavenly Father work to lay down this solid foundation? "The passing of the time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening to our astonished eyes the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven, and having decided relation to God's people upon the

earth, also the first and second angels' messages and third, unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, 'The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.' One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of



the Sabbath of the fourth commandment flashed its strong rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God's law. The non-immortality of the wicked is an old landmark. I can call to mind nothing more that can come under the head of the old landmarks." —*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 30

The message given prior to 1844 was that Christ was coming to this earth in 1844 and there was going to be a judgment. This was accompanied by the cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven.

Besides this we hear that, "I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had

placed them upon a solid, immovable platform.” —*Early Writings*, p. 259

Do we understand these things as they did in 1844—the three angels’ messages with all its bearings? Have we ensured that we incorporate these in our lessons that we teach to those who attend our baptismal class? Have any ever been baptized that do not fully understand these three angels’ messages, the platform or landmarks? Have some churches knowingly discarded some of these principles of truth in order to gain multitudes into the ranks of their churches, thereby increasing church membership? This has been done many times in the Christian world as there are a variety of standards and principles.

Ellen White says that the message of health reform is the right arm of the third angel’s message. If we believe this we will be practicing vegetarianism, dress reform, and all other related principles as laid down by our pioneers. Souls are not to be baptizing who we know do not live according to these standards.

This is one of the original doctrines of Adventism. It is what the Adventist pioneers built and advocated as right principles of living; what shapes the religion they loved and cherished. These are the principles they adhered to personally, and that they set before the congregation so they can attain to the top of the platform.

Nonetheless, this is only part of what it means to be an Adventist. In fact, Adventism itself has not established any of these pillars since they were in place and practiced before the commencement of Adventism in 1844. Doctrines such as vegetarianism, health reform, dress reform, Sabbath keeping have always been there. The book of Daniel and Revelation were sealed until the time of the end, and it is now at the end of time when God is revealing these truths to His people. Prior to this

time, these truths were hidden from God's people.

These other doctrines have always marked the character of the men and women who have devoted themselves wholeheartedly to the service of God. And still today these doctrines define His people who are now living in the period that is commonly known as the Great Anti-typical Day of Atonement—a time that commenced simultaneously with the investigative judgment that is currently going on in heaven since October 22, 1844 (Daniel 8:13–14; Matthew 25:6; Revelation 11:19).

Whilst the three angels’ messages were being proclaimed on earth there came into the scene what is commonly known as the Reformation Movement in 1925! This Movement came as a result of the great apostasy among the majority of the original Seventh-day Adventist church where 98% supported the taking up of arms and joining World War I in Europe. Did the advent of this movement alter any of these platforms or landmarks as laid down by the pioneers? No, not at all. They sought to bring the minds of the believers back to meaning of the original beliefs.

Who were there early reformers? Did they come about to change or discard these grand truths by misrepresenting the three angels’ messages? No, they have placed their emphasis on teaching the people to understand these messages with their bearings (emphasizing the importance of health, dress reform, righteousness by faith, and all the pillars of the truths of Adventism). You be the judge as to who are the true Advent people.

Are you sure that you are standing high above the platform of truth given to God’s people for this time?

**Br. Bishop George, South Africa**

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# The True Church and Pure Religion



Is there really any Church deserving of this trust?

A man was once asked, “Are you a believer in the Christian religion?” “Oh, certainly!” “You are a member of some church, then, I suppose?” “Member of a church? No, indeed. Why should I be a member of a church? It is quite unnecessary; the dying thief wasn’t a member of a church, and he is going to heaven.” “But of course you have been baptized; you know the command—” “Been baptized? Oh, no; that is another needless ceremony! I am as safe as the dying thief was, and he never was baptized.” “But surely, since you will not join a church or be baptized, you will do something in acknowledgment of your faith. You will give of your means—you will help the cause in some way?”

“No, sir; I do nothing of the kind. The dying thief—” “Let me remark, my friend, before you go any further, that you seem to be on pretty intimate terms with the dying thief. You seem to derive a great deal of consolation from his career. But, mind you, there is one important difference between you and him. He was a dying thief—and you are a living one.”

Have you ever experienced the same or entertained the same idea? If not, how can you help and face people with this mindset and consideration? This article will bring us answers to some questions as the following:

- “Is it necessary to belong to an organized religion?”
- Are All Religions the Same? Do They All Lead to God?
- Is there any religion deserving of trust?
- Why Are There So Many Christian Denominations?
- How Can I Find the True Religion?
- What is the remnant church in these last days?

If we consider the enormous number of churches that there are in the world, we then ask ourselves, “Which one is God’s remnant church?” All of them claim to have

the truth; all Christian churches claim to have their foundation based on the Bible, but do they all really follow its teachings? How wonderful it is to feel really secure! How important it is to know where to take our children and the souls we work for! Some have been disappointed and ask themselves: “Is it necessary to belong to an organized religion?” If a particular religion has disappointed you, you may find it hard to trust any religion. But, be assured, a religion worthy of your confidence does exist. When He was on earth, Jesus gathered a group of faithful followers and taught them to live by God’s standards. Genuine followers of Christ—conscientious individuals who endeavor to live by Christian standards—still exist. And to the question above, the Bible’s answer is “Yes”, because God wants people to gather for worship. The Bible says: “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24–25

Jesus indicated that His followers would form an organized group when He said to them: “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35. As a primary way of showing this love, the disciples of Christ would associate with fellow believers. They would be organized into congregations that meet regularly for worship (1 Corinthians 16:19). Collectively, they would form a worldwide brotherhood. “Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” 1 Peter 2:17

“Never entertain the thought that you can be Christians and yet withdraw within yourselves. Each one is a part of the great web of humanity, and the nature and quality of your experience will be largely determined by the experi-

ences of those with whom you associate. . . . Then let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. If Christians would associate together, speaking to each other of the love of God, and of the precious truths of redemption, their own hearts would be refreshed, and they would refresh one another. We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing. . . . The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labour for souls, are God's appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain." —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 246

### **More is needed than just belonging to a religion.**

While the Bible shows that people should gather to worship God, it does not teach that a person can please God by just being a member of a religion. To be approved by God, a person's religion must affect his everyday life.

### **Are All Religions the Same? Do They All Lead to God?**

No, all religions are not the same. The Bible contains many examples of religions that displease God. These fall into two basic errors.

#### **1: Worshipping false gods**

The Bible describes the worship of false gods with such terms as "delusion," "futility," and "useless." (see Jeremiah 10:3–5; 16:19–20) The Lord commanded the ancient nation of Israel: "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Exodus 20:3; 23:24. When the Israelites worshipped other gods, the anger of the LORD was kindled against them." (Read Numbers 25:3; Leviticus 25:3; Leviticus 20:2; Judges 2:13–14)

God still has the same attitude toward the worship of such "so-called gods." (1 Corinthians 8:5–6; Galatians 4:8). He commands those who want to worship Him to stop associating with those who practice false religion, saying: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate." 2 Corinthians 6: 14–17. If all religions are the same and lead people to God, then why would God give such a command?

Also, we should not worship images. Exodus 20:4–5. Since God requires "exclusive devotion," He is not pleased if we praise or worship images, pictures, idols, icons, statues, or symbols. "I will not let statues take the praise that should be mine." Isaiah 42:8, Easy-to-Read Version. "I am the LORD: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images." Isaiah 42:8, KJV. God rejects worship given to Him through images. When some Israelites tried to worship Him using the statue of a calf, God said that they had committed a terrible sin (Exodus 32:7–9).

"We ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." Acts 17:29. In contrast to pagan worship, which often uses images "sculptured by the art and contrivance of man," Christians should be "walking by faith, not by sight," as the Bible says. 2 Corinthians 5:7

"Keep yourselves from idols. Amen." 1 John 5:21. In commands given both to the nation of Israel and to Christians, the Bible consistently exposes as a myth the teaching that God approves of the use of images and icons in worship.

#### **2: Worshipping the true God but in a way He does not approve**

At times, the Israelites worshipped God using beliefs and practices borrowed from the worship of false gods, but the Lord rejected this attempt to mix true religion with false. (Read Exodus 32: 8; Deuteronomy 12:2–4). Jesus condemned the religious leaders of His day because of the way they worshipped God; they made an outward show of being religious, yet they hypocritically disregarded the weightier matters of the law, namely, justice and mercy and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23).

Likewise today, even today, only religion that is based on truth leads people to God. This truth is found in the Bible (John 4:24; 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16–17). Religions whose teachings conflict with the Bible actually steer people away from God. Many teachings that people think come from the Bible—including Sunday observance, the immortality of the soul, and eternal torment, Christmas, secret rapture—were borrowed from those who worshipped false gods. Worship that promotes such teachings is "in vain," or useless, because it replaces God's requirements with religious traditions (See Mark 7:7–8).

God detests religious hypocrisy (Titus 1:16). To help people draw closer to God, a religion must affect their everyday lives and not just consist of rituals or formalities which have no relation with salvation. For example, the Bible says: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:26–27. The expression, "pure religion" means clean and unhyphocritical worship.

#### **Why Are There So Many Christian Denominations?**

People have used the teachings of Jesus Christ to form a variety of "Christian" denominations. However, the Bible indicates that there is only one true form of Christianity. Consider just three reasons for reaching this conclusion.

1. Our Saviour Jesus Christ said that He taught "the

truth,” and early Christians referred to their religion as “the truth.” John 8:32; 2 Peter 2:2; 3 John 1:3. These verses show that those who promote doctrines that conflict with Jesus’ teachings are not practicing a true form of Christianity.

**2.** The Bible teaches that Christians should all speak the same thing—speak in agreement (1 Corinthians 1:10). However, many Christian denominations disagree on teachings as basic as what it means to be a Christian. Such denominations cannot all be right (1 Peter 2:21).

**3.** Jesus prophesied that many would claim to be Christians yet fail to obey His commandments and that He would reject such ones (Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6: 46). Some people would be misled by religious leaders who corrupt true worship to further their own interests (Matthew 7:15). However, other people would actually prefer an imitation Christianity because it would tell them what they want to hear rather than the truth from the Bible (2 Timothy 4: 3–4).

In His illustration Jesus foretold a great rebellion (apostasy) against true Christianity (Matthew 13:24, 30, 36–43). For a long period of time, true Christians and false Christians would be indistinguishable. Just as Jesus foretold; the apostasy flourished after the apostles died (Acts 20:29–30). While apostate teachings may vary, the various forms of imitation Christianity have all deviated from the truth (2 Timothy 2:18). Jesus also predicted that the distinction between true and false Christianity would eventually become clear. This has happened in our time.

### **How Can I Find the True Religion?**

Illustrating how to tell the difference between those who practice true religion and those who do not, the Bible says: “Ye shall know them by their fruits.” Matthew 7:16. Just as you can distinguish a grapevine from a thorn bush by what it produces, you can distinguish true religion from false religion by its fruits, or by the following identifying features.

**There are three clear and unmistakable signs**, two of which must agree with each other exactly. Which are they?

**1. The Doctrine:** It has to coincide 100% with the teachings of the Word of God. “To the law and the testimony: If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20), because the church is “the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1Timothy 3:15. The church cannot leave aside any one of the commandments, but it must defend all of them. Its teachings cannot contradict anything of what the prophets of old times wrote.

**2. The Prophecy:** It appears in the prophetic annals. Its characteristics are foretold. Everything takes place in its due time.

**3. Its Origin:** It cannot be the result of human quarrels, administrative or personal disagreements. It should not be founded on financial interests, but it must be a genuine movement, with the characteristics of the great reformers of old times. It cannot have the appearance of a rebellion.

1. True religion teaches the truth that is based on the Bible, not on human philosophies (John 4:24, 17:17). This includes religious truths about the origin of the mankind, the plan of redemption, Christ our righteousness, God’s Ten Commandments, Spirit of prophecy, three angel’s message and the hope of everlasting life on the new earth (Revelation 14:6–13). It also does not hold back from exposing religious falsehood (Matthew 15:9; 23:27–28).

2. True religion highlights Jesus Christ as the one through whom God grants salvation (Acts 4: 10, 12). Its members obey God’s commandments and strive to follow Christ’s example (John 13:15, 15:14; 1 John 2:3–4).

3. True religion focuses on God’s kingdom as mankind’s only hope. Its members actively tell others about that Kingdom and the end of the world (Matthew 10:7; 24:14; 28: 19–20; Acts 1:11).

4. True religion promotes unselfish love (John 13:35). It teaches respect for all ethnic groups and welcomes people from all races, cultures, languages, and backgrounds (Acts 10:34–35). Moved by love, its members do not go to war (Micah 4: 3; Isaiah 2:2–4; 1 John 3:11–12).

5. True religion does not give high-sounding religious titles to any of its members (Matthew 23:8–12, 1 Peter 5:2–3).

6. True religion is completely neutral in political affairs and military services (John 17:16; 18:36). However, its members respect and obey the government where they live, in harmony with the Bible’s command: “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s [representing the civil authority], and to God the things that are God’s.” Mark 12:17 (Roman 13:1–2).

7. True religion is a way of life, not just a ritual or a formality. Its members adhere to the Bible’s high moral standards in all aspects of life (Ephesians 5:3–5; 1 John 3:18). Rather than being grim, though, they find joy in worshipping “the happy God.” (1 Timothy 1:11).

8. True religion is in harmony with the Bible teaching about health reform—temperance principles in eating,

drinking, and dressing and in all (1 Corinthians 10:31)—and its members respect the four pillars which God gave to humans in Eden: Proper marriage, Sabbath, Tithe, Health reform (Gen 1:29–31; 2:1–3; 1:28; 2:17).

9. Those who practice true religion will be in the minority (Matthew 7:13–14). Members of the true religion are often looked down on, ridiculed, and persecuted for doing God’s will (Matthew 5: 10–12).

10. The true church helps people to know God and prepare to meet the Lord at His soon coming in the clouds.

### God has only one church

The following verse shows that there is only one true church and the remaining constitutes the great Babylon, the harlots or concubines who abandoned their husband, Jesus: “There are threescore queens and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her. Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?” Song of Solomon 6:8–10

### The Birth of Two Religions

“Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam, differed widely in character. Abel had a spirit of loyalty to God. . . . But Cain cherished feelings of rebellion, and murmured against God. . . .

“The two brothers erected their altars alike, and each brought an offering. Abel presented a sacrifice from the flock, in accordance with the Lord’s directions. ‘And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering.’ Fire flashed from heaven and consumed the sacrifice. But Cain, disregarding the Lord’s direct and explicit command, presented only an offering of fruit. There was no token from heaven to show that it was accepted. . . .

“So far as birth and religious instruction were concerned, these brothers were equal.

Both were sinners, and both acknowledged the claims of God to reverence and worship. To outward appearance their religion was the same up to a certain point, but beyond this the difference between the two was great. . . .

“Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the

world till the close of time. One class avail themselves of the appointed sacrifice for sin; the other venture to depend upon their own merits. . . .

“True faith, which relies wholly upon Christ, will be manifested by obedience to all the requirements of God. From Adam’s day to the present time, the great controversy has been concerning obedience to God’s law. In all ages there have been those who claimed a right to the favor of God even while they were disregarding some of His commands. But the Scriptures declare that by works is ‘faith made perfect;’ and that, without the works of obedience, faith ‘is dead.’ James 2:22, 17. He that professes to know God, ‘and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.’ 1 John 2:4

“Cain. . . angry with his brother for choosing to obey God instead of joining in rebellion against Him. . . . And wherever there are any who will stand in vindication of the righteousness of the law of God, the same spirit will be manifested against them.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 71–77

“Abel was determined to worship God according to the directions God had given. This displeased Cain. He thought that his own plans were best, and that the Lord would come to his terms.” –*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 77

Since that time there are two kinds of worshipers and two kinds of religions: Abel’s’ and Cain’s; both of them are believers, since they both built similar altars. Some people obey, others disobey God’s orders. Some try to live as God commanded while others live as it is more convenient for them, they prefer the wider way.

### How can we recognize Cain’s religion today?

a) It does not sacrifice a lamb but fruits. It does not emphasize the imputed and imparted justice of Christ that by faith in our Saviour saves us and leads us to obedience.

b) For Cain it was easier to sacrifice fruits since he was a tiller of the ground. The religion of Cain tends to do whatever is easier, not exactly what God commands. This may be in eating, dressing, etc. It seems that for them it is not important what God orders but what is suitable for the majority.

c) Cain persecuted his brother because he did not join him in his rebellion. Cain’s followers despise and perse-



cute, in some way, those who want to be faithful to God.

**d)** Cain killed Abel. The religion of Cain has to do with war, the transgression of the sixth commandment. He was the first murderer.

**e)** Cain argued, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Genesis 4:9. With the excuse of a false liberty of conscience, his followers permit their members to go to the battle field saying that they are not other people’s conscience.

**Which kind of followers do you want to identify yourself with?**

The Word of God advises us: “Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain.” Jude 1:11

### **Most churches fail the biblical test**

True religion is not just ‘the right religion for you.’ There is danger in choosing a religion based solely on how it makes us feel. The Bible foretold a time when people would “heap to themselves [religious] teachers, having itching ears.” 2 Timothy 4:3. In contrast, the Bible encourages us to follow the religion that is pure and undefiled *from the standpoint of our God and Father*, even if that religion is unpopular (James 1:27, footnote; John 15: 18–19).

### **God’s church of the last days—the remnant church**

According to the prophecy of Revelation 12, the remnant church would rise after the persecution of the 1260 years (538–1798 AD). They are characterized as those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 12; 19:10). Also, God’s church in these last days is to warn the world of the judgment and prepare the people for the translation. Its members are to proclaim the last warning message of the three angels.

This church is the International Missionary Society of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement.

From the above descriptions we can see that the Bible identifies the true church. No one can challenge their application to the Church of Jesus Christ in the end of time. That remnant church will be identified as possessing all four of these biblical descriptions:

1. Arise after 1798
2. Keep all the Ten commandments
3. Have the spirit of prophecy
4. Preaches the message of the three angels (Revelation 14) on a world-wide scale.

### **Does any church meet these four tests?**

Fulfilling the prophetic description of Christ’s church in the last days, the Seventh-day Adventist Movement

started in 1844, after the 1260 years of persecution. As the message of the third angel is proclaimed with a loud cry the Laodicean period is a time of shaking; a large number of believers were shaken out and apostatized in 1914 during World War I. The International Missionary Society stood faithful, making them the prophesized reformation.

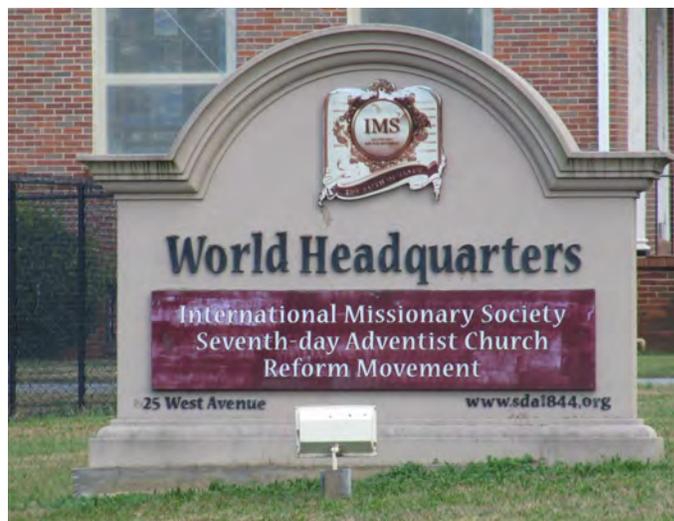
Throughout the years there have been many shakings in God’s church and the number of members has lessened. Why? “The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them.” —*Early Writings* p. 271

The International Missionary Society of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement is the only one fulfilling the description of the remnant church; a visible church proclaiming the last message of mercy to the fallen world. This movement began by restoring the pillars of truth including the seventh-day Sabbath, judgement, fallen Babylon, the mark of the beast, etc.

“I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power.” —*Early Writings*, p. 271

“Let all be careful not to make an outcry against the only people who are fulfilling the description given of the remnant people, who keep the commandments of God and have faith in Jesus. . . . God has a distinct people, a church on earth, second to none, but superior to all in their facilities to teach the truth, to vindicate the law of God.” —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 57. Amen.

### **Victor Shumbusho, DR Congo**



## HEALTH MATTERS

### GMO's: A Modern Dilemma Part 3

# The Future of GMO's



seed for the following year—forcing them to buy new rice seeds from the companies every year. Most farmers in underdeveloped countries cannot afford to buy these seeds on a yearly basis.

As we learned in the last two articles, most GMO's currently are designed to resist herbicides and pesticides, for the purpose of increasing crop yields. But this is just the beginning of the plan in developing GMO's, with a goal to benefit mankind and improve the food supply of the world.

Scientists are now doing research into "second-generation" GMO crops that will feature increased nutritional and/or industrial traits, which, they claim, will provide more direct benefits to consumers. Examples include: Rice enriched with iron, vitamin A and E, and lysine; potatoes with higher starch content, and inulin; edible vaccines in maize, banana and potatoes; maize varieties with low phytic acid and increased essential amino acids; healthier oils from soybean and canola; allergen-free nuts. No longer are scientists just looking at increasing crop yields, but they are looking to enhance the nutritional value of the GMO's they engineer.

One GMO product that was engineered for the market was Golden Rice, which contains a large amount of A-vitamins in the form of beta-carotene. For the Golden Rice to make beta-carotene three new genes are implanted: two from daffodils and the third from a bacterium. The benefit is that the rice can be considered a particular advantage to poor people in underdeveloped countries to increase Vitamin A intake. The disadvantage is that Golden Rice seeds are patented by large companies. By making the plants sterile these large companies can prevent farmers from growing plant-

Some opponents of genetic modification see Golden Rice as a method of making genetic engineering more widely accepted. They fear that companies will go on to develop other genetically modified plants from which they can make a profit, and thus control access to seeds via patents. On August 8, 2013 an experimental plot of Golden Rice being developed in the Philippines was uprooted by protesters. Because of controversy surrounding this new rice, as of January 2016, Golden Rice has not yet been grown commercially in any country.

Up until last year, GMO's for human consumption were only plant-based. However, in November 2015, the first genetically modified animal for human consumption was approved. This is the first time that a genetically altered animal has been approved. The new species, The "Aqua Bounty" salmon, named by the company which developed it, contains a growth hormone from the Chinook salmon and a "genetic switch" from the ocean pout, an eel-like creature, that keeps the transplanted gene continuously active, so that the salmon would continue to grow all year round. Typically a salmon's own growth hormone is active only during parts of the year. These genetically modified salmon grow at a faster rate, allowing the salmon to reach market weight in 18–20 months, as opposed to the usual 28–38 months. Hence, bigger profits for producers of this salmon.

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) in USA determined it could regulate the genetically engineered

salmon under the new “animal drug” provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act because the new DNA introduced into the animal meets the definition of a “drug.” The FDA also determined that the fish does not need to be labelled as genetically engineered. The FDA also ignored millions of Americans, and more than 40 members of Congress. They also ignored the concerns of more than 300 environmental, consumer, health, and animal welfare organizations, salmon and fishing groups and associations, food companies, chefs and restaurants, who have expressed opposition. Many companies, stores, and restaurants are refusing to sell GMO salmon. The public does not want GMO foods. However it appears that the companies who manufacture GMO’s are not listening, and continue to play around with nature as God designed. What will scientists do next? How long until they introduce animal DNA into plants? This will be a nightmare for people who choose not to have any animal products in their diets.

#### HOW CAN RISKS FROM GMO FOODS BE REDUCED?

There must be an obligation of the technology innovators (i.e., scientists), producers, and the government to assure the public of the safety of GMO foods. This needs to be a commitment taken on by all stakeholders involved. Not only must human safety be taken into consideration, but they must ensure that the GMO foods have no negative effect on the environment. There is a widening economic gap between developed countries who are able to access the technology versus the developing countries who cannot. GMO foods were promoted to increase crop yields; however, developing countries are unable to afford GMO seeds, which are owned by the companies who patent GMO’s; therefore this technology does not increase food availability to these countries. Some countries are acknowledging what research is has proven, and have either limited GMO crops, or they are labeling foods as GMO to allow consumers to make informed choices on what they eat. However, many governments, including Canada and the United States have ignored all evidence from studies that independent laboratories have done that conclude that GMO’s and the use of the herbicide, glyphosate, which is used on GMO crops have risks to human health. They have chosen to side with the large companies that create profits, that pour large amounts of money into the economy. Therefore, we as consumers need to ensure that we have all the information needed to make healthy food choices, and avoid GMO’s as much as possible.

#### HOW TO AVOID GMO FOODS

In countries that do not use labeling to identify GMO foods, avoid eating products that are made from the



top GM foods. This includes eating processed foods that contain corn, soy, cottonseed and sugar. As the risks of GM foods become more widely known, many food companies are

choosing to label their food products as non-GMO to promote their food as a healthier alternative to GM foods. As you go to the grocery store, notice that there is an increasing number of products labeled “non-GMO”. Due to the lack of government cooperation in labelling GMO foods, non-profit organizations such as the Non-GMO Project are committed to preserving and building the non-GMO food supply, educating consumers, and providing verified non-GMO choices.

In Canada, always look for the Canada Organic logo. Organic products are not allowed to contain genetically modified foods. This label also extends to non-food organic products. This “organic” labeling also has the same application in other countries.



Since so many alternatives to dairy products are made from soybeans, be aware that they may contain GM materials. Always buy ORGANIC soy products, which will not contain GM soy. Many soy products may also contain non-GMO labeling.

Most corn, soybean, cottonseed, and canola oils produced in North America almost certainly contain genetically modified products. To avoid GMO’s, choose pure olive, coconut, sesame, sunflower, safflower, almond, grapeseed, and peanut oils.

Choose preserves, jams, and jellies made with dehydrated cane sugar, not unspecified “sugar”, which will likely contain GMO’s in the form of beet sugar or corn syrup.

For those who still consume dairy products, the following caution should be noted. Cows are injected with the genetically engineered hormone, rbGH, into their cows to boost milk production. Many dairy products with labels that indicate they do not use rbGH. So, one may

think that this would be a healthy product to use. However, their cows may still be fed with GMO feeds. Organic dairy products are, however, all rbGH-free and do not use GMO grains as feed.

Milk or soy protein is the basis of most infant formulas. The ingredients in these products are often GMO soy, or milk from cows injected with rbGH and fed GMO feeds. Many brands also add GMO-derived corn syrup, corn syrup solids, or soy lecithin.

In looking for snack items, look for snacks made from wheat, rice, or oats, and ones that use sunflower or safflower oils. There is no GM popcorn on the market, nor is there blue or red GM corn.

Other than corn, no GM grains are sold on the market. Look for 100 percent wheat flour, pasta, couscous, rice, quinoa, oats, barley, sorghum, and dried beans (except soybeans).

While baking ingredients such as wheat flour, rice, and oats are not genetically modified, many packaged breads and bakery items contain other GMO ingredients such as corn syrup, soy flour, and sugar from sugar beets. Many frozen and packaged meals are highly processed. Keep an eye out for the Big Four at-risk ingredients (corn, soy, canola, cotton) and non-cane sugars. Stay away from frozen/packaged meals that contain them, unless they are marked organic or non-GMO. The more natural we can keep our diet, the less chance we have of eating GMO products.

With the mounting evidence that GM foods are not beneficial to mankind, why are GM seeds and crops so prevalent? The main reason is money. Monsanto and other GM conglomerates are becoming very rich from GM foods. They also have a lot of money to lobby governments to accept the cultivation of GMO foods in their countries.

#### **ARE GMO'S WHAT GOD INTENDED FOR OUR FOOD?**

I think that the readers would all agree that the obvious answer to this question would be "no". God created the perfect diet for us. Adherence to the original diet would ensure that mankind would be able to feed the world. However, man has perverted his appetite for food that is harmful. Land to feed and house livestock

used for food uses a lot more of the earth's resources than if all the land for feeding mankind was used for plant crops. If mankind adhered to a plant-based diet, the amount of food available to feed the world's population would be much higher. Many of the developing countries that are becoming more affluent are increasing the demand for meat and dairy products, which are considered the food for the rich.

An increasing percentage of crops previously used solely for food are now being funnelled into providing bio-fuels for the rich countries. The demand for biofuel feedstocks is overwhelming a food supply system that was already overextended by a surging demand. Moreover, the demand for biofuel affects even non-feedstock crops, such as rice and wheat, as farmers plant biofuel feedstocks instead of food. Because of this, world-wide, prices for food have begun soaring.

Man has also destroyed the climate with various chemicals and affected the ability for crops to grow, e.g. years-long drought in California.

There also continues to be a problem with food distribution—the rich have too much food, the poor have too little. Some 795 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life. That's about one in nine

people on earth. Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of deaths in children under five, 3.1 million children each year. According to the United Nations, about 21,000 people die every day of hunger or hunger-related causes. This is one person every four seconds.

As GMO foods continue as a food crop for both man and animals, in ever increasing numbers, the negative impact of GMO's on the health of mankind will also increase. Man has destroyed this earth with his "many inventions." "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." Ecclesiastes 7:29

As Christians and health reformers, we need to be armed with the knowledge to choose our diet wisely, this includes being well informed about GMO foods and their impact on our health. The more knowledge that we have about GMO foods, and how to avoid them, will allow us to "glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:20





A woman was walking down the street and noticed a large poster tacked to a tree in her neighborhood. The first word that caught her eye was printed in big black letters: "REWARD! \$100.00!"

The woman was curious, and certainly interested in a reward, so she read on:

## **REWARD \$100.00!! LOST DOG!**

**Black and tan dog of Poodle and  
German Shepherd descent.**

**Flea-bitten  
Missing left hind-leg  
No hair on rump  
Going blind  
Too old for tricks  
Might bite if cornered  
Answers to the name of "Lucky"**



Lucky! The woman had to chuckle to herself. How could anyone call a mongrel, flea-bitten, three-legged, mangy, nearly blind, old, and dangerous dog "Lucky"? And who would be crazy enough to pay a \$100 reward to get such a dog back?

Then the woman stopped laughing and a big smile broke over her face. Stop to think of it, this may be one of the luckiest dogs in town. This lucky dog belonged to a family that loved him no matter what. It did not matter where he came from or what he looked like. It didn't matter whether he could perform tricks or was getting old. All that mattered was that he belonged to the family, and he was lost.

Jesus came to our world because we were lost in sin. He left His home in heaven and offered His life as a reward to get us back and reunite us with God's family. It does not matter where we come from or what we look like. It does not matter whether we are smart and clever, young or old. All that matters is that He created us and He wants us to be a part of His family forever. And that makes us very "lucky" too. That is the reason we come to church to sing and praise and pray to our God every week.

# ***Why is Jesus Christ for Me “All and in all?”***

***He is my Lord and my God. John 20:28***

***He is my Strength. Psalms 77:14; 86:16***

***He is my Righteousness. Psalms 23:3; 119:144***

***He is my Counselor. Isaiah 9:6; Romans 11:34***

***He is my Way. John 14:6***

***He is my Light. John 1:4-9***

***He is my Helper. Psalms 46:1***

***He is my Friend. Proverbs 18:24***

***He is my Refuge. Psalms 62:7***

***He is my Rock. Psalms 62:2***

***He is my Provider. Matthew 6:30-33***

***He is my Salvation. Psalms 18:2***

***He is my Saviour. Isaiah 60:16***

***He is my Defense. Job 22:25; Psalms 59:9***

***He is my Redeemer. Isaiah 49:26***

***He is my Commander. Isaiah 55:4***

***He is my High Tower. Psalms 18:2***

***He is my Creator.***

***He is my Life. John 1:4-5; 4:13-14; 6:48-58; 14:6***

***He Is my Resurrection. John 11:25***

***He Is my Door. John 10:7***

***He Is my Leader. Isaiah 55:4***

***He Is my Burden-Bearer. Psalms 55:22***

***He Is my Shepherd. I Peter 2:25.***

***He Is my Beloved. Song of Solomon 7:10, 11***

***He Is my Truth. John 14:6***

***He Is my Teacher. John 13:13***

***He Is my Witness. Isaiah 55:4***

***He Is my Advocate and Mediator. 1Timothy 2:5; 1John 2:1; Romans 8:34***

***He Is my Judge. Isaiah 33:22; Acts 10:42***

***He Is my High Priest. Hebrews 3:1***

***He Is my Hope. Titus 2:13***

***He Is my Beginning. Revelation 21:6***

***He Is my End. Revelation 21:6***

***He Is my King. Revelation 19:16 1Timothy 6:15***

***He is ... “all and in all. Colossians. 3:11.”***

***By Victor Shumbusho***



**Cedar Christian School**

“Cedar Christian School (CCS) has now reached its ninth academic year thanks to your support, staff excellence and God’s providence. . . . CCS students have obtained high marks on national examinations and benefited from the implementation of educational strategies borrowed from Ivy League universities. As a result, CCS now has hybrid programs that provide students one-on-one instruction with teachers and also the use of online courses, something that is popular in higher education. CCS students develop their skills and performance by interacting with other students at different grade levels in a mixed classroom setting.” **Idel Suarez Jr., President and Headmaster**

“The school theme for 2015-2016 was ‘Recycling and Reusing.’ Not only is it good for physical items that are unnecessarily thrown away, but in a spiritual sense this theme teaches us to look for character traits in ourselves and others that, with some remaking, can be creatively changed into something brilliant and new.

“The students took this concept and wove its precious lessons into their Arts & Crafts Fair projects; in the performance of their concert, ‘Emmanuel;’ in the science fair, in

which dirty water was filtered through many layers of materials before it came out clean; and also in the sewing and wood-working projects and survival lessons.” **Pablo Hunger, Principal**

“The school has morning and evening worship each day to prepare the students for their daily work. No classwork is completed without first connecting with God, the Source of all wisdom. Later, the students participate in Bible class, which increases their knowledge of Scripture and prepares them to stand boldly for their faith.

“The gardening and cooking classes effectively prepare every student to be a self-sufficient Christian, with the ability to provide healthful food for themselves and their families. This is of key importance considering the Biblical teaching that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. . . .

“There is no doubt that Cedar Christian School prepares its students to be beacons of light shining brightly in a world filled with darkness and sin. May the school continue to be an upholder of truth and righteousness.” **Richard Eaton, Assistant Principal**

“As the hillsides and the plains open a channel for the mountain stream to reach the sea, that which they give is repaid a hundredfold. The stream that goes singing on its way leaves behind its gift of beauty and fruitfulness. Through the fields, bare and brown under the summer's heat, a line of verdure marks the river's course; every noble tree, every bud, every blossom, a witness to the recompense God's grace decrees to all who become its channels to the world.” —*Education*, p. 103–104



## PHILIPPINES

**Asian symposium meetings**

**June 5–13, 2016**

# GHANA



Greetings with Proverbs 27:18. "Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured."

By God's grace, we have completed the six month course in HOLISTIC HEALTH COUNSELLING and the graduation was conducted on June 26, 2016 at Accra, Ghana.

The graduation ceremony was officiated by Brother Alfred Ngwenya, the General Conference Evangelism Department Leader.

All eight students came from eight different African countries (Cameroon, Liberia, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, Ethiopia and Ghana). They completed their studies in good standing.

At the graduation, the Field leaders from Benin, Togo and Ghana (Brothers Simon, Issa and Theophilus) were present.

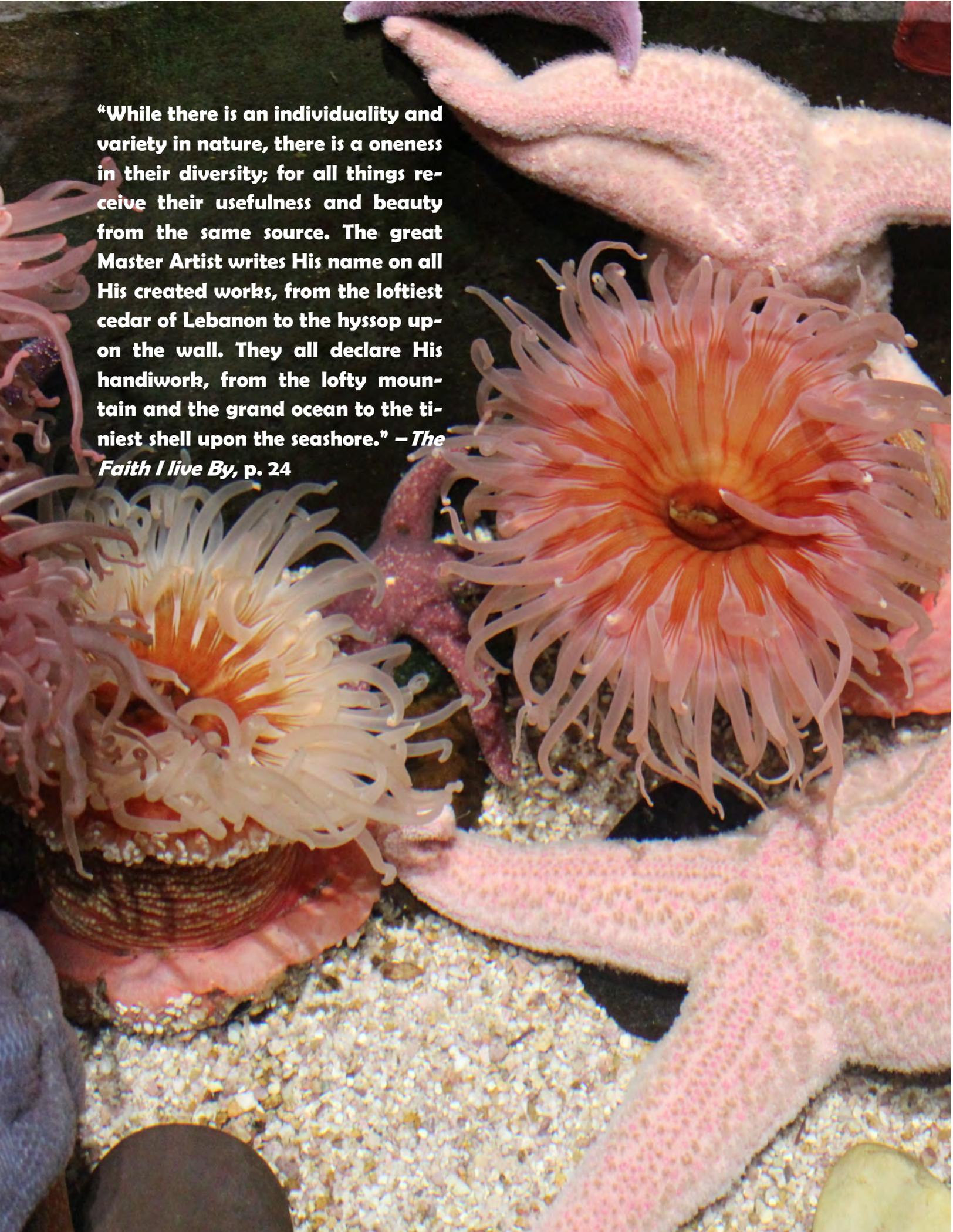
From June 27th to July 2nd, an outdoor crusade was held under the leadership of Brother Alfred, helping the students to learn practical missionary work.

A special thank you to the General Conference for their support. Sister Leila has also been a great blessing for this Institution. We also appreciate all visiting teachers as well as resident teachers for their sacrifice.

# PHILIPPINES



**Asia missionary students during their graduation.**



**“While there is an individuality and variety in nature, there is a oneness in their diversity; for all things receive their usefulness and beauty from the same source. The great Master Artist writes His name on all His created works, from the loftiest cedar of Lebanon to the hysop upon the wall. They all declare His handiwork, from the lofty mountain and the grand ocean to the tiniest shell upon the seashore.” – *The Faith I live By*, p. 24**