

The Reformation
Messenger

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 1, JANUARY 2011



International Missionary Society of the S.D. A Church Reform Movement

The LORD is my
light and my sal-
vation; whom
shall I fear? the
LORD is the
strength of my
life; of whom
shall I be afraid?
Psalm 27:1

I am the light of
the world: he
that followeth
me shall not
walk in dark-
ness, but shall
have the light of
life. John 8:12



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

ABOUT THE COVER
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Inside Cover:
Ireland
Photo by Manuela DiFranca

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Messenger

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My Irish Experiences

One day I read in a magazine an article about Ireland and was immediately fascinated by this country. The green island, as it is also called, was only known to me from my geography lessons and some Irish blessings on postcards. I cut the article out and put it on my desk. Every day I admired the awesome pictures of the Irish landscape and this awoke in me the desire to travel to this country on my own. This dream was soon to become reality.

I study English and German in my secondary education and the English department of my university organizes internships abroad every year. So I found out that they offered such an opportunity in Ireland in September 2008. I could feel my heart beating faster and I gladly told my parents about it. After clearing up some matters I made sure that I was going to travel to Ireland together with five other students to teach German in an elementary school for four weeks. I could hardly believe that I was really going to start on this journey and thanked God for this opportunity from the bottom of my heart!

The day of my departure came quickly and we boarded the airplane from Munich to Dublin. We arrived in the capital city late at night and were quite tired. We still had to take a bus in order to get to our hotel in the city center. I had a suitcase and a big traveling bag with me and was glad to put down my luggage in the bus. When we got off at the bus stop I was looking forward to going to my bed. But all of a sudden I realized that something was missing. In the heat of the moment I had forgotten my traveling bag in the bus! And the bus had already driven on... How could I find my piece of luggage again in this huge city? In that piece of luggage I had some of my clothes for the month and school ma-

terial! I prayed God to help me in this difficult situation. In the meantime it was about midnight when we arrived at our hotel where a friendly hotel keeper greeted us. I told him about my misfortune and he promised me that he would take care of this matter. He made some phone calls and then took me in his company car to the bus terminal where the buses were parked at night.

There we entered a building, probably the lost and found office, and within a short time I got my traveling bag back. I thanked the kind man and he told me with a smirk: "In Ireland nothing is impossible!" But I knew better: "With God nothing is impossible!" Totally exhausted but with a happy and thankful heart I finally fell asleep in my bed. My stay in the "country of the blessings" started this unusual way and I could be sure that God wouldn't leave me alone in this foreign place.

"My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalms 121:2)

The weekend in Dublin went by so quickly and we spent a wonderful time together. I also had the opportunity to talk with my fellow students about my faith and my day of rest because I didn't participate in their activities on Saturday. They were open and understanding.

During my stay in the country I discovered something interesting concerning the Sabbath, which I didn't know before. I did some research on early Christianity in Ireland and Scotland and hit on the Celtic church. I found out that early Christians also kept the Sabbath as their day of rest.

Professor James C. Moffatt states in his 1882 book, *The*

Church in Scotland, p. 140: "It seems to have been customary in the Celtic churches of early times, in Ireland as well as Scotland, to keep Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, as a day of rest from labour. They obeyed the fourth commandment literally upon the seventh day of the week."

However, Rome eventually attacked the Sabbath-keeping Celts. A lot of members offered resistance, but the Celtic Church suffered much persecution and step by step it gave up its apostolic traditions and accepted the Sunday and other Catholic beliefs.

Historian A. C. Flick writes in *The Rise of the Medieval Church*: The monks sent to England (in 596 A.D.) by Pope Gregory the Great soon came to see that the Celtic Church differed from theirs in many respects... Augustine himself (a Benedictine abbot)... held several conferences with the Christian Celts in order to accomplish the difficult task of their subjugation (submission) to Roman authority...The Celts permitted their priests to marry, the Romans forbade it. The Celts used a different mode of baptism (i.e., true baptism: immersion) from that of the Romans... The Celts held their own councils and enacted their own laws, independent of Rome. The Celts used a Latin Bible (i.e., the *Itala*) unlike the (Roman Catholic's Latin) Vulgate, and kept Saturday as a day of rest."

Back to my trip: On Monday we separated because every student was to teach in a different school. Therefore, I got on the train and set off for Cork, which is 250 km away from Dublin and was picked up there by my host family. My school was located in Clonakilty, a small town on the south coast of Ireland.

My host family was a young couple and three children who welcomed me in a very kind manner. Their house was just five minutes away from my school and was surrounded by lots of green pastures. From my window I had a fantastic view of the coast and the sea! At school I immediately became attached to the students and the teachers and I felt at ease there. I had a lot of fun teaching a bit of German and to give insight into the German culture. Thus I could improve my English and take some ideas and suggestions for school life. There was still plenty of time left to explore the country, either alone or with my hosts or with my fellow students. I enjoyed the beauty of Ireland very much: the endless green pastures and hills, the lonely shores, the colorful houses and doors, the beautiful architecture of castles and mansions... During this time I often thought about God and my life. Deep inside I had the desire to speak with Him and realized how my



relationship with Him became closer.

Before leaving for Ireland I had experienced something painful; I had broken off a friendship and still had to come to terms with it. I often struggled with God and couldn't understand His ways but now I could feel how He was talking to me and wanted to heal my wound. The words in 2 Kings 20:5 became very important to me and gave me comfort: "I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you." It became clear to me that God would only heal me if I surrendered to Him all the pieces of my heart. Maybe He had made this trip to Ireland possible so that I might make sense of it all and get closer to Him?!

It was also my wish to pray for an opportunity to strike up a conversation with my host parents about God, because I had noticed that church and faith were just a mere tradition for them. One afternoon my host father was mowing the lawn. All of a sudden he called all of us and asked us to help him look for something. During his work in the garden he had lost a little screw from the lawn-mower which had disappeared in the grass. But how could we find such a tiny piece? It was like looking for a needle in a haystack! I prayed silently and the words of Jesus crossed my mind: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9) We had been searching for some minutes and all at once my host father shouted: "Yippee!!" He had been successful in finding the screw! I was very happy and told him: "You know, I was praying that we might find the screw again." He looked puzzled at me and finally replied: "Well, apparently your prayer did work!"

Manuela Di Franca

Nature of Sin

If people would only understand the nature of sin and the results of it, they would stop committing sin and even learn how to hate sin.

Sin has been compared to leprosy and to a deathly poison. It grows very quickly from small to great sins.

It began by eating a forbidden fruit, and soon it included a murder. A person who turns away from obedience to God has no idea what great sins he will be committing later.

How contagious is sin? We find in Romans 5:12. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned."

By one man sin entered and because of it, billions have been contaminated by it.

When sin enters a human being, it takes control of him completely. It will be the ruling power in the person. Therefore, Paul gives a warning, "Let not sin reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lust thereof." Rom 6:12

A person may know what is right and what is wrong, but sin is ruling over knowledge and causes him to disobey God.

"For the which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." Rom. 7:15, 17, 22, 23

Once sin enters a person, Satan has gained the victory. The sin in his body controls him, and makes him commit greater and greater sins. He is now a helpless captive of the law of sin. And no human power can set him free. The governments of this world have not found any way to change criminals into well-behaving citizens. Spending time in the company of other criminals has not proven successful in changing their behavior.

When the disciples asked Jesus, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus answered and said to them, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matt. 19: 25, 26



Normally, professed Christians would not commit a murder or rob a bank, but they may do small sins that they do not think serious enough to take their salvation away.

But Jesus said, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10.

"These may seem to be little things, unworthy of notice, but the seed thus scattered brings forth a sure harvest. It is these little sins, so common that they often are unnoticed, that Satan uses in his service." 6BC, p. 1080

Many will be outside of heaven for sins that they thought too small to pay attention to.

"Sin, however small it may be esteemed, can be indulged in only at the peril of infinite loss. What we do not overcome will overcome us and work out our destruction." SC 33

The greatest sins are often done by religious people.

"The greatest sins are brought in through those who profess to be sanctified and claim that they cannot sin. Yet many of this class are sinning daily and are corrupt in heart and life. Such are self-sufficient and self-righteous, making their own standard of righteousness and utterly failing to meet the Bible standard." Test. Vol. 5, p. 139

"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth." Were you cold, there would be some hope that you would be converted; but where self-righteousness girds one about, instead of the righteousness of Christ, the deception is so difficult to be seen, and the self-righteousness so hard to be put away, that the case is the most difficult to reach. An unconverted, godless sinner stands in a more favorable condition than such." Test. Vol. 2, p. 176.

If Satan cannot tempt you into an open sin, then he will use another approach. He will make you feel good about your goodness, that you are better than others, and this will lead you to self-righteousness. This was the sin of the Pharisees, whom Jesus called the children of the devil. (John 8:44)

Many people have a great misunderstanding of the nature of sin. They think that sin is not so terrible; they only need to say, "God, forgive me, "and all their sins are forgiven. And they repeat this daily. But there is great danger in it.

"For if we sin willfully after that we have received knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." Heb. 10:26.

Then our sins become unpardonable. They become sins against the Holy Spirit which will not be forgiven.

"The most common manifestation of the sin against the Holy Spirit is in persistently slighting Heaven's invitation to repent." DA 324

Some people, who choose to place their obedience to God into a future time, may never be converted, because they grieved the Holy Spirit. Rejecting the truth and believing false doctrines is another way to commit the unpardonable sin. During the conference in 1888 in Minneapolis, many of the leaders committed this sin.

Sin also destroys our health, spoils our happiness, it separates marriages, it breaks friendships, it destroys our characters, it blinds us to the realities of life, we especially become spiritually confused.

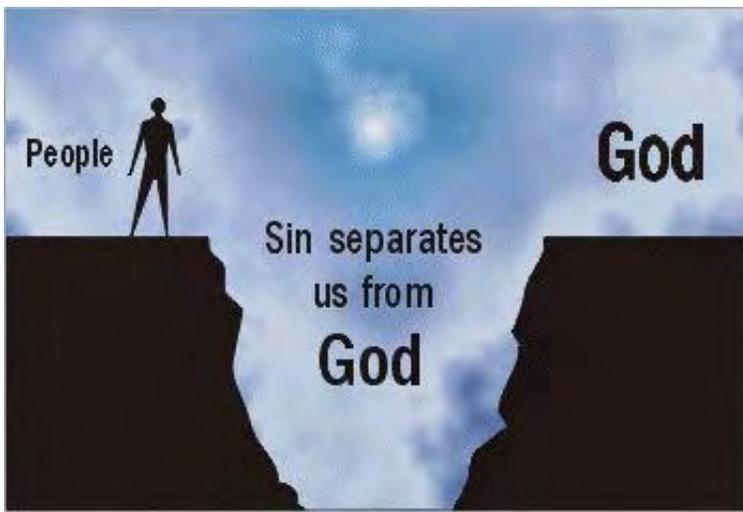
One day we will understand what sin has done to us, but often it may be too late to change.

"These life records declare what every human being will one day understand—that sin can bring only shame and loss." ED 151

"Satan offers to men the kingdoms of the world if they will yield to him the supremacy. Many do this and sacrifice heaven. It is better to die than to sin, better to want than to defraud, better to hunger than to lie." Test. Vol. 4, p. 495.

It is through sin that Satan has gained the control of the human race. And people love sin. In the time of Noah the whole world followed Satan and only one family was still faithful to God.

God has tried to save people from sin since the beginning and the longer they lived, the more corrupt they became. By prophets and messengers and also by dis-



cipline and judgments He tried to save them but often in vain.

“The history of the antediluvians testifies that long life is not a blessing to the sinner; God’s great forbearance did not repress their wickedness. The longer men lived, the more corrupt they became.” PP 325

“So with the apostasy at Sinai. Unless punishment had been speedily visited upon transgression, the same results would again have been seen. The earth would have become as corrupt as in the days of Noah. Had these transgressors been spared, evils would have followed, great than resulted from sparing the life of Cain. It was the mercy of God that thousands should suffer, to prevent the necessity of visiting judgments upon millions. In order to save the many, He must punish the few. Furthermore, as the people had cast off their allegiance to God, they had forfeited the divine protection, and deprived of their defense, the whole nation was exposed to the power of their enemies.

“Had not the evil been promptly put away, they would soon have fallen a prey to their numerous and powerful foes. It was necessary for the good of Israel, and also as a lesson to all succeeding generations, that crime should be promptly punished. And it was no less mercy to the sinners themselves that they should be cut short in their evil course. Had their life been spared, the same spirit that led them to rebel against God would have been manifested in hatred and strife among themselves, and they would eventually have destroyed one another. It was in love to the world, in love to Israel, and even to the transgressors, that crime was punished with swift and terrible severity.” PP 325, 326

There is only one way to overcome sin and its terrible results.

“The only remedy for vice is the grace and power of Christ. The good resolutions made in one’s own strength avail nothing. Not all the pledges in the world will break the power of evil habit. Never will men practice temperance in all things until their hearts are renewed by divine grace. We cannot keep ourselves from sin for one moment. Every moment we are dependent upon God. MH 179, 180

Jesus said, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36.

And it will be complete freedom from sin. Not one sin will remain in our lives.

“Just as a good tree will bear good fruit, so will the tree that is actually planted in the Lord’s garden produce good fruit unto eternal life. Besetting sins are overcome; and evil thoughts are not allowed in the mind; evil habits are purged from the soul temple. The tendencies which have been biased in a wrong direction are turned in a right direction. Wrong dispositions and feelings are changed, new principles of action supplied, and there is a new standard of character. Holy tempers and sanctified emotions are now the fruit borne upon the Christian tree. An entire transformation has taken place. This is the work to be wrought.” 6BC 1080

In the end, every last soul will realize that it was sin that caused their rejection from heaven. It was sin that made their lives miserable, and that God tried to save them to the utmost, but they rejected the offer for complete freedom from sin.

But, not only the inhabitants of this world learn the nature of sin, but the whole universe will understand that God is love when He destroys sin and sinners.

“The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonor to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honor before the universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law.” GC 504.

Timo Martin

Forgiveness

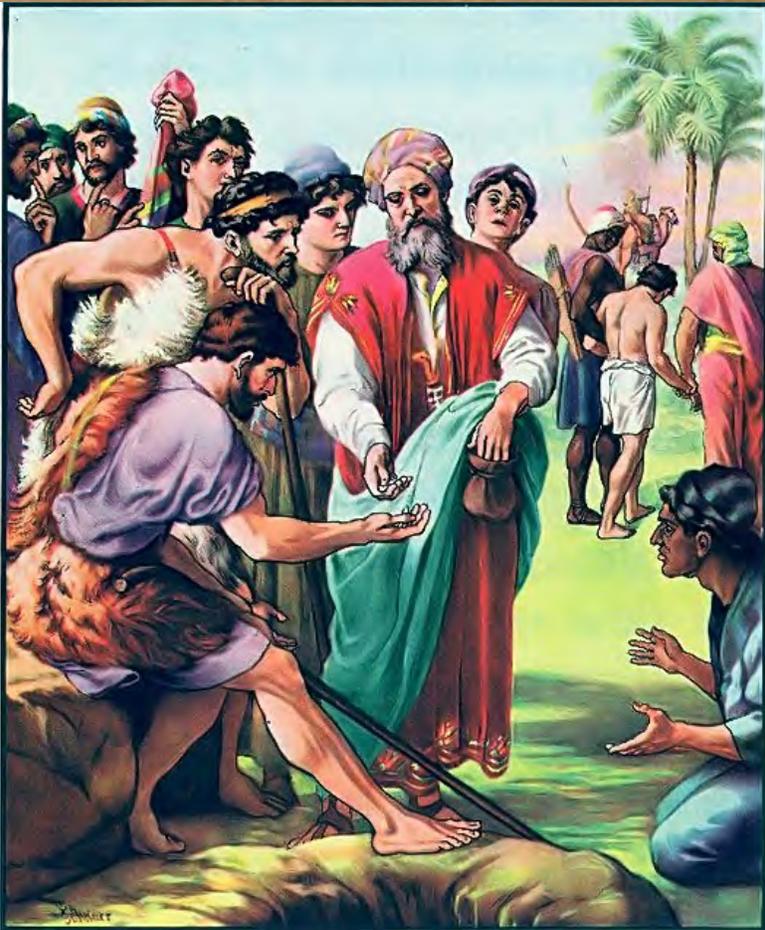
In today's world forgiveness is something that is so often neglected. There are many stories about revenge and they make it seem like it is something heroic, something desirable. In fact many of these stories make it seem like forgiveness is weak. However if you think about it; what is harder, to be wronged and get back at that person; or to be wronged, forgive that person, and wish them well?

There is a famous quote by Gandhi that says, "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." And that is so true; our human nature wants to react. As soon as someone wrongs us, we want to take our revenge, but it takes something more; it takes strength of character and strength from God to find the ability to forgive. And the more you think you about it, the more it becomes obvious that forgiveness is so necessary, not just in our spiritual life but in our entire life. Every relationship that we have in our life, at some point will require us to forgive, so why is it then that we still find it so hard to forgive? We will take a look at the biblical, the practical and the emotional side of forgiveness and how we can take that first step.

If we take a look at the Bible, God gives us many stories of forgiveness, but one of my favourites is the story of Joseph. Genesis 50:20-21 states, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones. Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them."

There are many lessons that can be learned from this story but the most important is about forgiveness. Joseph had the right and the power to punish his half-brothers for doing what they did to him. He could have easily gotten revenge on them, but in his mercy, Joseph forgave his brothers and wept over them when they finally met... A comparison can be made between Joseph and God, in the sense that God has every right and the power to punish us and we deserve it; but rather than punish us, God has freely and generously forgiven us, restored the relationship with us and has blessed us, just as Joseph did to his brothers. God could have punished us but didn't and so Joseph is paralleled to God and God's forgiveness and blessings, freely given.

Also, the Gospel invites us to "love our enemies and do good to them who persecute us;" to be "merciful and



abundant in our forgiveness,” and God will reward us for such a life. This is one of the reasons I find this story so amazing, because Joseph had all the power in the world, he was second in command in Egypt. How many of us forgive because we have to? How many of us, if we could, would get back at the other person? Joseph, despite having all the power to do whatever he liked, chose not only to forgive his brothers but to bless them, and to do them good. In doing so Joseph went the extra mile, while many of us often forgive but we still harbor feelings of anger, and resentment or treat the other person badly. Part of forgiveness is reconciliation and part of it is forgetting, forgetting that the other person wronged you, and treating them the same as you used to or the same as everyone else. In short we must forgive, forget and continue to show them the love of Christ.

Of course in the Bible our greatest role model is Christ. “And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’ And they cast lots to divide his garments.” Luke 23:33-34. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine the amount of pain Jesus was going through, physical, emotional and spiritual pain? Yet in that same moment He forgave them. To make it more real, place yourself in His shoes, in a situation today. Imagine for a moment that someone that you love, someone that you are trying to help is hurting you. They are physically injuring you and insulting you; and at the same time you know you have the power to make them stop. What do you do?

When most people are wronged they have to go through several stages before arriving at forgiveness. In fact at Stanford University, Dr. Frederick Luskin, who has been conducting studies on forgiveness says that we go through four stages in learning to forgive. To begin with, we focus on what others are doing to us. We blame outside people and situations for what happens, and do not see that the anger response is a choice we are making. In the second stage, we turn our focus on what we are doing to ourselves. We realize that anger does not “feel good,” and take steps to release it and forgive. In the third stage, we start to notice our anger responses even to simple, everyday situations. We become aware of anger's discomfort, and realize that the length of time we spend in this state is a choice we can make. In stage four, Luskin says, we have realized that not only is anger uncomfortable and

a waste of “precious life,” it is something that hurts other people. At this stage, we decide to stop reacting to life with anger. Yet Christ forgave His transgressors in that very moment, in that same moment that was causing Him so much pain, He forgave them. How much more should we forgive others?

We read in the Bible, “Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” Colossians 3:13 Because Christ forgave us so freely He wants us to do the same for others.

“Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us.” Luke 11:4.

“Jesus teaches that we can receive forgiveness from God only as we forgive others. It is the love of God that draws us unto Him, and that love cannot touch our hearts without creating love for our brethren.

“After completing the Lord's Prayer, Jesus added: ‘If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.’ He who is unforgiving cuts off the very channel through which alone he can receive mercy from God. We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. It is their part, no doubt, to humble their hearts by repentance and confession; but we are to have a spirit of compassion toward those who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults. However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries; but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God we are to pardon all who have done evil to us.”

But forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose. When God gives the promise that He “will abundantly pardon,” He adds, as if the meaning of that promise exceeded all that we could comprehend: “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 55:7-9. God's forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness *for* sin, but reclaiming *from* sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart.

David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.' Psalm 51:10. And again he says, 'As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.' Psalm 103:12.

God in Christ gave Himself for our sins. He suffered the cruel death of the cross, bore for us the burden of guilt, 'the just for the unjust,' that He might reveal to us His love and draw us to Himself. And He says, 'Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.' Ephesians 4:32, R.V." MB 113, 114

While forgiveness is mandated in scripture, it isn't only for our spiritual walk that we should do it. Forgiveness is something that is beneficial for our physical health as well. The following is an excerpt from an online article entitled "*Forgiveness is good for your Health.*"

"Traditionally, we think of forgiveness as a blessing extended to the transgressor, easing his or her conscience; the person who does the forgiving is seen as engaged in a gallant self-sacrifice. In this traditional view, the forgiven person benefits while the forgiver gains nothing. But what if forgiveness is just as important for the person who forgives as for the person forgiven? What if it's *in your self-interest* to forgive, because you will be better off?

"Increasingly, psychological research has begun to show that being a forgiving person is essential to happiness. Even when someone wrongs you, feeling anger or hatred only causes your life to descend into misery and resentment: You are the one who suffers, not the person you're angry at. Forgiving, on the other hand, can lift the burden. When Buddha and Jesus and other great spiritual figures taught us to forgive those who sin against us, they weren't just pronouncing holy philosophy. Rather, they were giving practical down-to-earth life advice.

"Worthington, who is a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and a pioneer in forgiveness research, has found that people who won't forgive the wrongs committed against them tend to have negative indicators of health and well-being: more stress-related disorders, lower immune-system function, and worse rates of cardiovascular disease than the population as a whole.

In effect, by failing to forgive they punish themselves. Unforgiving people are also thought to experience higher rates of divorce, which also reduces well-being, given that married men and women consistently do better on most health barometers, including longevity.

"In contrast people who forgive, Worthington finds, may have better health, fewer episodes of clinical depression, longer marriages and better 'social support,' another indicator of well-being. This latter means forgiving people get along better with others, who in turn come to their aid in social-support situations.

"Forgiveness research is a comparatively new field. Psychologist Kenneth Pargament of Bowling Green University says that while psychology has long studied the coping mechanisms that people use to deal with anger, resentment, and desire for revenge when they are wronged, only recently has forgiveness--in some cases, the ultimate form of coping--become a common subject of research.

"But research is beginning to say that, in most cases, most people will be better off if they forgive others for wrongs experienced during life--anything from small transgressions to horrific tragedies. Forgive others because it's *good for you*. And if you make the world a more peaceful place in so doing, that's a nice bonus too."

PASTOR CHISALE CONDUCTING BAPTISM IN ZOMBA, MALAWI



In continuing on this same point I'd like to recount a story entitled, **Are your potatoes heavy?**

A teacher once told each of her students to bring a clear plastic bag and a sack of potatoes to school. For every person they refuse to forgive in their life, they had to choose a potato, write the name and date on it, and put it in the plastic bag. Some of the bags were quite heavy.

They were then told to carry this bag with them everywhere they went for one week, putting it beside their bed at night, on the car seat when driving, next to their desk at work.

The hassle of lugging this around with them made it clear what a weight they were carrying physically, and how they had to pay attention to it all the time, to not forget it, and keep leaving it in embarrassing places. Naturally, over time the condition of the potatoes deteriorated to a nasty condition, making the potatoes even more obvious than before. This is a great metaphor for the price we pay for keeping our anger and bitterness. How much better would it be if we could just forgive and forget, yet too often we think of forgiveness as a gift to the other person, when it mainly is for ourselves

We all know the saying "When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile." Well, know you may have a few reasons to hold on to anger, but you have many more reasons to forgive. We have countless examples in the Bible, because forgiveness is received only as much as we have given it, because it is mandated in scripture, because it is good for our health to forgive. But most of all we should forgive because of love, not because we have to, but because we love everyone. It is my wish and prayer that we may forgive as freely as Christ forgives us. Amen

Nidia Romero



Forgiveness

*God's word is clear and simple
About what I must do
When I have been offended
By friend or foe's misuse:*

*"Forgive...and be forgiven"
I dare not keep a score—
Seventy times seven
Times seven hundred more.*

*When I am unforgiving,
The battle I'll not win;
For I need my Father's mercy
To blot out all my sin.*

*Forgiving is not easy
Yet I know it can be done:
I look to Christ my Savior,
the Holy, Sinless One.*

*When Jesus died upon the cross
His words rang clear and true,
"Father, please forgive them,
For they know not what they do."*

*As the Precious Lamb of God
Christ wants me to see:
Forgiving is the power
That sets my spirit free!*

*Forgiveness is God's wondrous gift
That sets my spirit free!*

MISSIONARY WORK IN CALGARY

The Lord has blessed us with many opportunities to spread the gospel in our missionary work in Calgary.

With God's help we started a series of vegetarian cooking classes in Calgary on November 23rd. It was not easy because of a problem that occurred at the last minute. A month prior, we had requested to use the same church that we rent for our meetings on Sabbaths. They had given us permission to use the church's kitchen, but two days prior to the first cooking class, we were informed that we could not use the church's facilities. By this time we had done a lot of advertising through the radio, Internet, and personal invitations. Thank God we were able to use the church after all, but only for the first cooking class. Nine women attended, willing to learn a healthier way to eat; and one of them announced that she has decided to give up meat eating, together with her husband and children. Some women came as a result of our radio program. We taught them how to make gluten and tofu spinach souffle. Please pray for this project that the Lord will give us many sincere souls through these cooking classes. This is our daily wish and prayer.

The radio ministry that we started has given us many interesting experiences with the Lord. In the beginning, while Br. Jerry Eaton was visiting Calgary for a week, we applied at a radio station for air time to present our message. Unfortunately, they answered us two weeks later that they did not have any spaces available for this year. Then we remembered that one of the programs on the air is a religious program. We decided to talk directly with the owners of this program to see if they would allow us a portion of their time slot to preach via the radio. This was very exciting; we prayed to the Lord, asking Him to open doors for us. Then the director of the program who is in charge of the 5-6 pm time slot (a minister from an evangelical church), told us that he has to ask the people in his church about this, because many other churches have requested the same opportunity and have been denied.

We explained that we, as the International Missionary Society, did spiritual work for families and the community. After waiting a couple of weeks, they finally got back with me and asked me to present a theme entitled: "How to deal with rebellious young people." He g

ave us 15 minutes of his one hour time slot. By grace of the Lord, people liked it because many called the radio station to thank us for the message. The subject was initially going to be presented in one session but there was so much interest, so many people calling, in that the minister asked us to come again the next week to continue. The same happened the second week, so he asked us to continue for a third week. This was wonderful because they did not charge us for this initial presentation, which lasted three weeks. The next subject we presented was, "How to educate your sons to be responsible and confident." This material took two programs to cover for the same reason; the good response of the listeners. Praise the Lord. Now we are presenting the subject of, "How offence affects our lives" and then "Finding spiritual healing for our heart."

We thank the Lord for the interesting experiences we have had while we have been on the air. For example, after one of our programs, a woman called to thank us for the program of that day. She told us that it will help her to think about how to change the behavior of her sons.

On another occasion, after the program, while we were with Julio, (who is one of the other speakers in that religious time slot), one of his friends called him asking to meet us. We met him at a Tim Horton's to drink tea together. When he arrived, he told us that part of our program that day touched him deeply and he identified with the theme we were presenting. His name is Angel España and he is the treasurer of the church, a very special elderly man. He told us that he attends an evangelical church and he always listens to the programs on the radio. He gave us his phone number and wants to keep in touch with us. We are praying that the Lord will show us a way to touch his heart with the truth of the gospel.

But the most beautiful experience from these first five programs was the one that we had last week. After we finished the program, a man called me and said he had been praying to God for a few days to show him a church where he can attend, because he is dissatisfied with the church he has been attending. The Lord told him to listen to the radio that day, and when he turned on his radio he heard our program. He told me that he

was attending a Baptist church, but he didn't feel comfortable because he didn't understand the message completely, and he desired to meet with people who speak Spanish. Then he told me that he understood that the Lord has a purpose for him and his family in this country and he is willing to follow the path the Lord is showing to him. Before this, I invited him to the group that we are meeting with in the north of the city, because he and his family live outside of Calgary to the north. The Bible Study that we have with this group is on Sunday afternoons, and the biggest surprise was to see him parked in his car, in front of the house where we hold the study, half an hour before the start. He came out of his car and we joined in a big hug. He then introduced his family to us; his wife Rosa and their three sons Daniel, Ezequiel and little Misael. It was wonderful to have them in our humble meeting in the basement of this house. He told us that he wants to come to our church as well, and wants to help in preaching the gospel. Also he mentioned that the doors of his house are always open for us any time we want to go to study the Bible because he has six people who are willing to study the Bible with us.

It has been a good idea to conduct this group study on Sunday because it has opened door for people to attend who are accustomed to worshipping on Sunday. They have an opportunity to meet with us and study about the true day of rest.

By God's grace we hope that many will be added to His fold in this city, because He has shown us His mercy and has illuminated our way with opportunities, like the radio program, to reach people who will be part of his flock. We encourage you to work with the media, like radio or TV and also the Internet to take advantage of every gift and talent that the Lord has given to His church. Be creative when you spread the Word and this will open many doors. Deal with the necessities of the people, satisfy their needs through the Word and show them God's promises and His love that is with us in every moment of our lives. And finally, humble your hearts before the Lord every moment, every morning, so that He can guide your every step in soul winning. Those who are around us need words of hope in this world without hope. They need to know that God loves them, forgives them, and desires a better life for them.

Please pray with us, so that the work in Calgary will continue to grow in winning souls for Christ.

Elder Hernandez



VISITORS AND BELIEVERS AT COOKING CLASS



RADIO PROGRAM



THE DOOR!

*“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”
(John 10:9)(KJV).*

SEEKER

This is a very beautiful picture of the life we are to live as God’s children. Well, how is that? We can by entering in by our Lord, who is the door, not only once or one time for all when you accept Jesus and the truth, but every day and for everything. Infinitely necessary and useful is Jesus Christ to sinful men as their Shepherd, to seek out, gather, and feed them; as their door and entrance to, and the precious price of salvation. Through Him they receive the most holy liberty, and endless felicity. With what faithfulness, wisdom, and grace He seeks them out, and guides, and protects them through life and death into everlasting blessedness!

But base are the men who, without His commission, thrust themselves into offices in His church, or behave indolently, unconcernedly, or tyrannically therein. Let everyone that regards the life of his soul flee from them! The purpose of God certainly stands firm, whether with respect to men’s salvation or damnation.

TROUBLE?

Is there trouble in the physical part of your life – your domain? Enter in by the Door and be saved. Is there trouble in mental matters of your life – your mind? Enter in by the Door and be saved. Is there trouble in the spiritual part of your life – your prayers, worship, beliefs? Enter in by the Door and be saved. There are a thousand and one things that make up life as it is today – too many to even mention or possibly think about – but in them all, nevertheless, we have to learn to enter in by the Door. Entering in, in the name of Jesus, is the condition of daily salvation. (Rom. 10:13-15). Not salvation in sin but salvation from sin. Not salvation from sin only, but a salvation that keeps us manifestly the Lord’s sheep. In fact, let the name of Jesus Christ be in your daily prayers!

“Sheep are the most helpless and timid of all creatures.” (DA 478). “When lost it cannot find its way back.” (COL 187). “It knows it is lost.” (COL 193). Furthermore, “the lost sheep from God’s fold are scattered in every place.” (6T 315) “A sinner is represented as a lost sheep.” (COL 187-8). “He is just as helpless, straying about in a lost world.” (GW 183-4; COL 190-1; DA193). There are many descriptions of the world today, but I read one that describes it as a place full of distressed – troubled people! “It’s the churches duty to search for these lost sheep.” (6T 22). Ah! “But in doing this, God’s people are to be sheep amid wolves.” (9T236). So, again, entering in at the door in the name of Jesus is the condition of salvation daily and for security.

Are you experiencing this daily salvation or are you shut out from Jesus Christ just now, today, in your bodily life, in your mind, in your spirituality, in your circumstances? Is there any fog, any darkness, any weariness, any uneasiness, or any trouble?

OPEN AND SHUT DOORS

Every day there are things that seem to shut the way up, but you can always enter in by the Door and experience salvation. In Greece and the East it is the body of the shepherd himself that is the door of his fold. “He does not drive his sheep?” (DA 480). He cares for them. Each sheep has his name and responds to the shepherd’s call. “Christ knows each of His followers individually and by name as His sheep.” (DA 479). But, still, many are apt to have the idea that salvation is a kind of a sealed and locked air tight room behind that door, and if we enter in all our liberty – “freedom” will be destroyed! That is not our Lord’s conception or thought. He says, “He shall go in and go out and find pasture.” (v-9). “If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36).

God's ordinances are the green pastures in which food is provided for all believers; the word of life is the nourishment of the new man. It is milk for babes, pasture for sheep, never barren, never eaten bare, never parched, but always a green pasture for faith to feed in. You, see, God gives His saints quiet and contentment in their own minds, whatever their lot is; their souls dwell at ease in Him, and that make every pasture green! Are we blessed with the green pastures of the ordinances? Let us not think it enough to pass through them, but let us lie down in them, abide in them. This is a rest forever; it is a constancy of the means of grace that the soul is fed! (Psalm 23).

The idea, however, that we can have true freedom without restraint or discipline is an illusion. Doing what we please without seeking to do God's will brings slavery to sin and leads to death. But trusting and obeying Jesus Christ gives freedom from guilt, from bondage to sin, from feelings of futility and from the fear of death. That is real freedom! When lured by worldly pleasures, some Christians go astray, and if you do not soon repent, you'll have to pay sin's dreadful price. To be under Christ's control is to have true freedom!

I had a friend years ago, a highly skilled Californian obstetrician-gynecologist, who was very successful and wealthy, but was overweight, smoked heavily, loved his wine, vodka, and roast goose. He said, "no one, not even my doctor, is going to take away my freedom to smoke, eat and drink. He thought of himself as a liberated person; flaunting his immorality and cavalier behavior! What a strange freedom! Little did he know how enslaved he really was. His "freedom" soon killed him!

The greatest abundance is but a dry pasture to an indifferent man, free and easy toward matters of spiritual importance, and who relishes that only in it which pleases the senses; but to a Godly man who tastes the goodness of God in all his enjoyments, and by faith relishes that, though he has but little of the world, it is a

green pasture. (Psalm 37:16; Proverbs 15:16, 17).

Are we entering in by the Door for our daily work, guidance, or only at our Sabbath worship services, a devotional meeting of some sort, or only when in dire distress... "at the end of our rope"?

The "going in and going out to find pasture" is our Lord's picture of the freedom of a son. A servant cannot go in and out as he or she likes, but, Jesus says, "no longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends." (John 15:15). Moreover, "you are all brethren." (Matt. 23:8).

"Nothing is closed to you once you enter in by the Door. It is opened before men, which no man can shut." (6T 467). "The Door, Jesus Christ, is the only Door to God's fold; opened for men by Christ, which Satan cannot close." (7BC 961).



Doors, however, can be closed. The Bible mentions some ways this has happened, and how it can close the door for us. "The door was closed—the Ark—shut Noah and his family in and the world out" (TDG 235:2). "The doors were closed to Sodom and opened to Lot." (TDG 235:4). Furthermore, "when words are spoken that cut, they may cause doors to shut." (VSS 240-1). Isaiah writes (24:10) on his "mini – apocalypse" and impending judgment on earth; the "city of confusion is broken

down. Every house is shut up, so that none may go in." How true today for man is shut up in his home preoccupied with pleasure seeking pursuits, (T.V., fear, etc.). Moreover, "one fanatical streak closes many doors to the truth." (TM 228). But "when the door is closed by enemies of the gospel, it cannot remain closed forever." (AA 179).

Doors can open for us as well, "anywhere God is called upon." (TDG 232). The Law was seen through an open door in the heavenly ark." (OHS 138). "The door is now open to the gospel messenger, but will be closed soon

forever.”(9T 172). “Christ will not force open our heart’s door.”(2T 216-7). The door is still open to Christ now. Therefore, “remember where you have fallen and repent...” (Rev. 2:5).

“But there are church members who come and go like on door hinges.” (6T 426). Moreover, it’s like the word, “if;” small but like the door hinges, important, but for many their lives swing only on the words – “if.” “There are very few who understand the signs of the times or what we are to experience before the end.” (6T 426).

“He invites them to buy of Him “gold tried in the fire, and white robes that they may be clothed, and eye salve that they may see.” (Rev. 3:18).

GREAT AND EFFECTIVE

The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 16:9, when he passed through Macedonia, “for a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.” King Solomon said, “Now Oh Lord my God. You have made your servant King instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.” He asked, therefore, for a “wise and understanding heart and to be able to discern between good and evil.” (1 Kings 3:7-9).

Has a “great and effective door” opened for you in your life? You may say, yes, but is it effective? Pray as Solomon for an understanding heart and to know good from evil; to interpret what we see and hear in God’s will, and then we will know how to “go out or come in the door to find pasture.” Jesus said, “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.” (Rev. 3:7-8). Here, Jesus is talking to the faithful church of Philadelphia. This is the whole gospel message! “You have a little strength; few.” What makes a church faithful? Faithful believers! Few, yes, but “do not fear little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)

“The Lord is at the DOOR! Christ is knocking. The Holy Spirit is working.” (TMK 55:1).

Are you listening? Amen.

John Theodorou, USA

LUTHER'S TREE

As Adventists and reformers we delight in the truth of the gospel and with God’s grace try to live accordingly. We also study the life of the pioneers of the Reformation and are motivated by their life of faith and their courage in hard circumstances. As we approach the close of the time of probation, the lives of Huss, Wycliff, and Luther are for us an example and a light that help us prepare for the time to come.

Some sayings from these great men of the past are also a gospel to us, like Luther’s declaration that we cannot prevent a flock of birds flying over our head, but we can prevent them from building a nest on it. This is a wonderful piece of truth that helps us understand that we need to have control over our thoughts and not dwell on what is negative or implies doubt and lack of faith. But one of Luther’s sayings that is a favourite and is most frequently quoted is when he said that, if he knew that Jesus was coming tomorrow he would still plant a tree today. Have you heard that quotation to justify people’s action when building their mansions, making financial plans for the future, planning exotic vacations,



and mostly talking and living as if this world would never come to an end?

The Bible compares each one of us to a tree. That is how God sees us, fruitful trees. In Psalm 104:16 there is a wonderful assertion, *"The trees of the Lord are full of sap!"* In other words, the children of God are full of the Holy Spirit that keeps them growing upwards, giving fruit and shade to tired wanderers until they themselves reach the stature of Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah writes, *"The Lord called thy name, a green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit."* (Jeremiah 11:16). Depending on the right exposure to the sun and the right amount of water, a tree can produce good or bad fruit. Some years ago, the olives in Tuscany were full of worms and people lost the harvest. The same can happen in our spiritual life. We should be constantly exposed to the Sun of Righteousness and watered by the water of life, otherwise even if we produce fruits, they will not be edible. He who meditates day and night in God's word *"shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."* (Psalms 1:3).

And the Lord Jesus Himself speaks of people as trees when He says, *"For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit."* (Luke 6:43, 44).

We produce that which we are; therefore it is absolutely indispensable that we go through a total transformation of mind so that from bad trees we may turn into good ones. Only thus can we be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Only thus can we stop being the man in Romans chapter 7 and become the man in Romans chapter 8. Only thus can our greatest longing be Jesus' second coming and His kingdom of righteousness.

"You should preserve a true Christian dignity, but avoid all affection. Be strictly honest in heart and life. Let faith, like the palm tree, strike its penetrating roots beneath the things which do appear, and obtain spiritual refreshment from the living springs of God's grace and mercy. There is a well of water which springeth up into everlasting life. You must draw your life from this hidden spring. If you divest yourselves of selfishness and strengthen your souls by constant communion with

God, you may promote the happiness of all with whom you come in contact. You will notice the neglected, inform the ignorant, encourage the oppressed and desponding, and, as far as possible, relieve the suffering. And you will not only point the way to heaven, but will walk in that way yourselves." (CH, p. 383).

Transformation of character is an act outside our capability. We can only make ourselves available so that we may be eligible. We live in a time of earnest preparation because we are facing a time of trouble *"such as never was since there was a nation"* and we need to be prepared if we are to stand. What does our preparation consist of when we do not even know what our personal trials shall be in the future? Well, we do know what our trials are today, and we know that the only way to overcome is by faith. Let us face every present trial in faith, no matter how hard it is, putting our whole being in the Lord's hands; even if things seem to worsen, He can make everything straight in due time. Only thus can we be sure that we will be overcomers when still harder trials will come our way. Let us remember the Lord's words, *"Without me ye can do nothing."* John 15:5.

At the shaking time every one will stand alone, supported by his own faith that he developed during years of trials. Our faith should be as pure as gold, so let us welcome trials, thus we know that the Lord is preparing us for something great. Every trial that we overcome by faith purifies our soul and gives more room for the Holy Spirit to live in us fully.

"The path to freedom from sin is through crucifixion of self, and **conflict with the powers of darkness**. Let none be discouraged in view of the severe trials to be met in the time of Jacob's trouble, which is yet before them. They are to work earnestly, anxiously, not for that time, but for today. **What we want is to have** a knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ now, and **a personal experience now**. In these precious closing hours of probation, we have a deep and living experience to gain. We shall thus form characters that will ensure our deliverance in the time of trouble." (OHC, p. 321).

Our preparation does not mean that we neglect our daily obligations and material needs. We still live in this world and have certain things to take care of, like supporting our family, continuing with our studies, taking every opportunity to progress as long as our success in life does not separate us from God and His principles. But we need to find time to spend alone with the Lord

and not just have routine worships and prayer at every meal. Our heart has to be filled with gratitude when we sit at the table well aware that there are millions in this world who do not have this privilege. Then, whether we say a prayer out loud or not is immaterial because the Lord does not look at our lips, but into the bottom of our heart.

Sister White writes, "In every age Satan has sought to impair the efforts of God's servants by introducing into the church a spirit of fanaticism. Thus it was in Paul's day, and thus it was in later centuries during the time of the Reformation. Wycliffe, Luther, and many others who blessed the world by their influence and their faith, encountered the wiles by which the enemy seeks to lead into fanaticism overzealous, unbalanced, and un-sanctified minds. Misguided souls have taught that the attainment of true holiness carries the mind above all earthly thoughts and leads men to refrain wholly from labour. Others, taking extreme views of certain texts of Scripture, have taught that it is a sin to work—that Christians should take no thought concerning the temporal welfare of themselves or their families, but should devote their lives wholly to spiritual things. The teaching and example of the apostle Paul are a rebuke to such extreme views." (AA, p. 348).

Life is made of extremes though. There is life and death, and in between there is sometimes sickness. There is light and darkness, and in between there is confusion. There is truth and falsehood, and in between there is dishonesty. There is cold and hot, and in between there is lukewarmness. There is conversion and the unconverted, and in between there is self-deceit.

The present truth is that we are living in the very end of times. Today some people are having a direct encounter with the Lord like Abraham, Isaac, Moses and some of our heroes of faith did at their time. The four angels are holding the winds until the number 144,000 is found; then all hell will break loose. We do not know how many have already been counted into that privileged group, how many are being sealed to be among the martyrs who will complete the number of the "souls under the altar", who cry for their blood to be avenged (Rev. 6:9-11). Very little do we know how things will turn out to be in the near future, although we have such a good knowledge of prophecy.

Even if we go about doing our daily work, which we

Even if we go about doing our daily work, which we should, fulfilling our duties and taking care of our responsibilities, our connection with the Lord should be such that we can be ready when the harvest time comes because "I tell you, in that night there shall be two in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, the other left." (Luke 17:34-36).

I do not know what Luther really meant when he said he would still plant a tree today if he knew that the Lord was coming tomorrow. I only know that if he knew how this saying of his is so frequently used, he would regret ever having said it. As for myself, if I really knew that Jesus was coming tomorrow, I would still plant a seed of the gospel in someone's heart because I believe that the Lord can save till the last moment, but I would rather do like that man who had a field of potatoes in 1844, when the Advent people were expecting the Lord. Do you remember the story? He refused to harvest his potatoes; and even when his neighbours offered to do it for him for free he did not accept the offer. He wanted to give testimony of his faith that the Lord was actually coming and he would not need any potatoes that winter because he would be eating manna in heaven. But the Lord did not come. What a great disappointment! Do you remember what happened to that man? Well, there was a pest that came and destroyed all the potatoes; all the people who had harvested their potatoes lost everything, but that man who had a living faith had potatoes for himself and for his neighbours. How wonderfully does the Lord compensate a living faith!

Jesus says to his disciples of all times, "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3).

I close with the Lord's promise for us today, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Amen.

Teresa Corti

2010 Graduating students from Berea Adventist Missionary Institute (BAMI) in Kenya, Africa.

We had a colorful, well-attended, graduation ceremony, and we praised God for the graduate missionaries and we wish them success in Gods' work.

Sevith Moyo, BAMI-Director

Students and staff with Guest of Honor—

Back row: left to right,

- Kelvin Aongola.....Zambia (RSA)
- Emmanuel Darema....Tanzania
- Raymond Chai.....Kenya.
- Judicael Mutapayi.....DR Congo (RSA)
- Desmond Doi.....Rep of South Africa
- Otoo Boniface.....Uganda.
- Dedace Nduwayo.....Burundi.
- Abebe Lumbamo.....Ethiopia.

Front row; left to right;

- Simon Nsengiyumva.....Rwanda.
- Teacher Onesmus Kyalo.....Kenya
- Habte Mulatu Tekle.....Ethiopia.
- Pius Kioko.....Kenya.
- Pastor Bright Fue,GC East Africa SubRegional
Representative;and Guest of honor...Tanzania
- Pastor Sevith Moyo..Director-Berea Adventist Mission
ary Institute (BAMI) andTeacher...Zambia.
- Nancy Mwaro Sidi Kasiwa.....Kenya.
- Lebohng Theresa Madisha...Rep of South Africa.
- Shadrack Nahimana.....Burundi.
- Teacher Daniel Kimeu.....Kenya

Applications are now being accepted for the next intake (2011/2012)



Two female students: Nancy (on left) from Kenya and Lebohng from RSA

Students and teacher Daniel Kimeu (front left)

COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE

PART EIGHT
(REVELATION 18:1-4)

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH AND A CALL FOR REVIVAL AND REFORMATION, CONTINUED

(IMS PUBLISHING APOLOGIZES FOR THE FACT THAT PART 8 WAS
MISTAKENLY OMITTED IN THE SERIES)

1889

The Condition of the church

"How sad, how deeply regrettable, it is that this message of righteousness in Christ, should, at the time of its coming, have met with opposition on the part of earnest, well-meaning men in the cause of God! The message has never been received, nor proclaimed, nor given free course as it should have been in order to convey to the church the measureless blessings that were wrapped within it. The seriousness of exerting such an influence is indicated through the reproofs that were given. These words of reproof and admonition should receive thoughtful consideration at that time." COR 47

Brethren, your own lamps will surely flicker and grow dim until they go out in darkness until you make decided effort to REFORM. Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and repent, and do the first works. The opportunity now presented may be short. If this season of grace and repentance passes unimproved, the warning is given: I WILL COME UNTO YOU QUICKLY, AND WILL REMOVE YOUR CANDLESTICK OUT OF HIS PLACE. These words are uttered by the lips of the long-suffering One.

They are a solemn warning to churches and individuals that the Watcher who never slumbers is measuring their course of action.

"But there are those who see no necessity for a special work at this time. While God is working to arouse the people, they seek to turn aside the message of warning, reproof, and entreaty. Their influence tends to quiet the fears of the people, and to prevent them from awakening to the solemnity of this time. Those who are doing this, are giving the trumpet an uncertain sound. They ought to be awake to the situation, but they have become ensnared by the enemy." COR 48

The message to the Laodicean church is applicable to our condition. How plainly is pictured the position of those who think they have all the Truth, who take pride in their knowledge of the word of God, WHILE ITS SANCTIFYING POWER has not been felt in their lives. The fervor of the love of God is wanting in their hearts, but it is this very fervor of love that makes God's people the light of the world." COR 45

"It is only by reason of His marvelous patience that they are not cut down as cumberers of the ground. But His Spirit will not always strive. His patience will wait but little longer." 5T 611-612

"But there are those who see no necessity for a special ware giving the trumpet an uncertain sound. They ought to be awake to the situation, but they have become ensnared by the enemy." COR 48

"The message to the Laodicean church is applicable to our condition. How plainly is pictured the position of those who think they have all the Truth, who take pride in their knowledge of the word of God, WHILE ITS



SANCTIFYING POWER has not been felt in their lives. The fervor of the love of God is wanting in their hearts, but it is this very fervor of love that makes God's people the light of the world." COR 45

The Call

"It is not yet too late to redeem the neglects of the past. Let there be a revival of the first love, the first ardor." 5T 612

"God has raised up men to meet the necessity of this time who will CRY ALOUD AND SPARE NOT, who will lift up their voices like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Their work is not only to proclaim the law, but to preach the truth for this time,-THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." COR 47-48

1890

The Condition of the Church

"If our brethren were all laborers together with God, they would not doubt but that the message He has sent us during these last two years is from heaven. Our young men look to our older brethren, and as they see that they do not accept the message, but treat it as though it were of no consequence, it influences those who are ignorant of the Scriptures to reject the light. But there is no excuse for anyone's refusing the light for it has been plainly revealed." COR 51

"There is sadness in heaven over the spiritual blindness of many of our brethren." COR 52

"The Lord has seen our backslidings, and He has a controversy with His people..."

"The displeasure of the Lord is against His people. In their present condition it is impossible for them to represent the character of Christ..."

"And when The True Witness has sent them counsel, reproof, and warnings, because because He loves them, they have refused to receive the message, they have refused to come to the light, lest their deeds should be reproved..."

"The time will come when it must be said of the impenitent, Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him alone..."

"Will the church see where she has fallen?" Review & Herald, Dec. 23, 1890 (Extra)

The Call

"For nearly two years, we have been urging the people to come up and accept the light and the truth concerning the righteousness of Christ, and they do not know whether to come and take hold of this precious truth or not. They are bound about with their own ideas. They do not let the Saviour in." COR 51

"We inquire, Is it not time that fresh light should come to the people of God to awaken them to greater earnestness and zeal?" COR 49

"We entreat of you who oppose the light of truth, to stand out of the way of God's people. Let Heaven-sent light shine forth upon them in clear and steady rays." COR 52

1891

The Condition of the Church

"Let us not form unholy bonds of union with the friends of the whole world; for God has pronounced His curse upon all such unions. Let the people of God take their stand firmly for the truth and for righteousness. Already we see the terrible consequences of uniting believers with unbelievers. The result is, the unbelievers are given the confidence that belongs to those only who love and revere God.

"Already has the power of darkness placed its mold and superscription upon the work that should stand forth, untainted, unpolluted, from Satan's cunning devices. We lift our voice of warning upon the social attractions by worldly bids and worldly baits. Keep clear. Touch not the unclean thing. Let not the world's direction and propositions be given to Gods people to control them." TM 227

The Call

"Here are given the characteristics of those who shall be reformers, who will bear the banner of the third angel's message, those who avow themselves God's commandment-keeping people, and who honor God, and are earnestly of the breach, The restorers of paths to dwell in?- IT IS GOD. Their names are registered in heaven as reformers engaged, in the sight of all the universe, in building up the

old waste places. Who is it that calls them, The repairers, restorers, as raising the foundations of many generations." RH OCT. 13,1891

1892

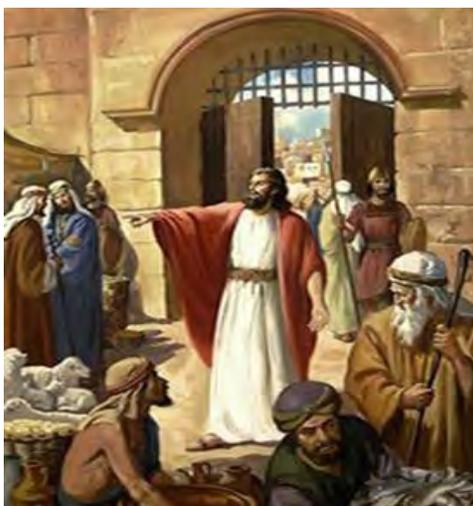
The Condition of the church

"The atmosphere of the church is so frigid, its spirit is of such an order, that men and women can not sustain or endure the example of primitive and heaven-born piety. The warmth of their love is frozen up, and unless they are watered over by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, their candle stick will be removed out of its place, except they repent and do their first works." TM 167-168

The Call

"O that the Lord would awaken those who are in responsible positions, lest they undertake to do work, relying upon their own smartness. The work that comes forth from their hands will lack the mold and super-scription of Christ." TM 168

"The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth." COR 56



1893

The Condition of the church

"It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon.

This half and half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. So many have brought into the church their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined, their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral debasing corruptions, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose, confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians!

Those who claim to be Christians and will confess Christ should come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate.... I lay down my pen and lift up my soul in prayer, that the Lord would breathe upon His backslidden people, who are as dry bones, that they may live." ChS 41

The Call

"Scores of men have preached the word when they themselves had not faith in it, and did not obey its teachings. They were unconverted, unsanctified, unholy. But if we would stand the test, piety must be brought into the life. What we want is inspiration from the cross of Calvary. Then God will open eyes to see that we are not to expect to do any work for the Master successfully, unless we connect with Christ. If we are indeed laborers together with God we shall not have a dead, scientific religion, but our hearts will be infused with a living power, even the Spirit of Jesus." COR 77

BRETHREN, a lot of events followed 1888, and I encourage you to study God's Word daily. I recommend to you, our church, the 20 lessons of the REFORMATION STUDY COURSE.

Would heresies come in amongst the Seventh-day Adventist church since 1888?

Are there heresies in our IMS Seventh Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, since 1914 up until now, in the year 2009?

1. God will arouse His people; if other means fail, HERESIES will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. 5T 707
2. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom. Ibid 707

How true is the solemn statement, MY PEOPLE KNOW NOT THE JUDGMENT OF THE LORD.

John Warncken, Australia



The winter of 2003-04 was frigid in Spokane, Washington. Temperatures dropped below ten degrees Fahrenheit for a week at a time, which is especially cold for that area of the country. Marta and Stephen's home was very old, and at the time still had its original windows. Most of them were broken, at least one in each bedroom. Upstairs, downstairs, and on the main floor the windows were not just cracked but broken, with a chunk of glass missing. Because it was such old glass, when the windows cracked, a corner would fall out, and in many cases the whole pane fell out because the old caulk had chipped away, leaving nothing to hold the pane in place.

Stephen and Marta could not afford to replace the windows, nor did they possess fix-it skills or even an inkling of how to do that type of handyman work. Marta covered most of the broken windows with cardboard and tape, but air continued to flow through. Although it wasn't a permanent solution, they believed that Stephen would soon make enough money to allow them to replace the windows. In hindsight they probably could have replaced the windows with the money they spent on increased heating bills!

They had applied for and had been approved for a low-income housing rehabilitation program available to Spokane residents. Kiemle & Hagood, the organization contracted by the city of Spokane to run the housing rehab program, issues a list of homes in the rehabilitation program needing contractors. After several contractors had to come to their home to bid the job, they chose a contractor—so they thought.

The windows in Stephen's and Marta's bedroom, a large old-style window and a second standard window, were the best windows in the house. In the summer of 2004 while they were on vacation, their neighbour had

caught another neighbour's kid climbing through their bedroom window. Using a power tool and screws, he screwed all of the windows shut. When the family returned, they left the screws in the windows with the exception of two: the boys' room in case of fire and the large window in the parent's bedroom so they could install the window air conditioner.

One day in the early part of winter, their cat Sonic found herself locked in the parent's bedroom. Desperate to get out, she pushed on the windowpane of the large window where the air conditioner had been during the summer. Pressing the glass with her paws, the entire pane fell out and broke, leaving a gaping hole.

Although replacing a few of the windows or at least putting cardboard over the large window in the parent's bedroom would have seemed reasonable, they didn't do anything to correct the situation because they knew the windows would be replaced through the housing rehabilitation program, slated to start in February or March. The broken and missing windows weren't very attractive, yet it didn't seem like a big deal. It simply never bothered the family.

Because Stephen worked nights as a nurse at Holy Family Hospital, the parent's bedroom became the preferred sleeping spot for the rest of the family. The kids—Marquita, Dakota, and Parker—wanted to be with Mom while Dad was working. Amazingly, although they slept in Stephen and Marta's bedroom throughout the winter with cold air flowing through the paneless window, they never felt too cold. Even when the temperature dropped into the low teens or below, they slept comfortably while everything was frozen solid outside. It seems strange, but the colder the weather got the more they liked the window open and the better they slept.

Marquita slept upstairs some of the time, but her bedroom windows were nonexistent. Her bedroom was in the converted attic, a long narrow room the full length of the house. It had a small window at either end, one with no pane and the other missing a quarter of the pane. Both had a makeshift cover of cardboard. Normal airflow through that room makes it freezing in the winter and hot as Arizona in the summer.

Pastor Randy Klein, Senior Pastor of Living Water Church, was also a contractor in Spokane. He had worked on houses in the rehabilitation program in the past, but because he had been building a new home he had not accepted a housing rehab job in over a year.

One day when Pastor Randy stopped in at the Kiemle & Hagood office downtown, he saw the flyer listing the houses needing contractors in the rehabilitation program. God whispered to him, "Pick that up!" So he did. Thumbing through the listing, he felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to call Marta and Stephen. After calling them, immediately he came right over. Marta and Stephen knew the moment that they met Pastor Randy that he was supposed to be their contractor. And he knew it too.

In March 2004 Pastor Randy arrived to replace the windows—and what a beautiful job he did! In less than three days he replaced all windows, including two huge egress windows in the basement and one in the attic. Suddenly the house was sealed tight! Noise normally heard from outside could no longer be heard. With the windows shut, Marta couldn't even hear the kids playing outside.

A remarkable series of events occurred over the next three days. The day Pastor Randy installed the windows, Marta's mom, Marquita McIntire, called her from California. "Marta," she said, "although I don't understand the reason, I know I'm supposed to put some money into your bank account. I don't know why, but I feel you need some money. I happen to have some money right now, and I'm going to put it in your bank account." She had received money from an old debt owed her.

"Okay, Mom. I'm good with that!" Marta said. "I don't know what it's for either, but... cool!" So Marta's mom deposited ten thousand dollars into Marta's account. Little did either of them know that God had divine plans for that money.

The next day Pastor Randy said, "Marta, we can get you a really cheap air conditioner right now because it's off season, and there's not a lot of work right now. You can think about it."

Marta thought, "*Well, that's kind of a weird thing to spend Mom's money on.*"

Marta called her mother, "Mom, how does this sound?" she asked. "I can get an air conditioner for less than half price right now, but it sounds like a weird thing to spend your money on."

"That doesn't sound weird at all," her Mom answered. "I think if you need an air conditioner, and you can get it for half price, then that must have been one of the reasons you needed the money. Go ahead and do it!" At that moment Marta thought, *Great! An air conditioner!*

She called Pastor Randy. "We're going to go ahead and get the air conditioner!" On the third day representatives from Hurliman Heating installed the system. When one of the service people got to the final step of connecting it to the household furnace, he opened it up and realized that the furnace was severely damaged. The heat exchanger was cracked, he said, and the amount of carbon monoxide leaking from it was absolutely deadly. When he removed the heater core he had to tag it. Because of the dangerous condition of the furnace, it wasn't even legal for him to walk away from it as it was. If he left it that way, he could be responsible for the family's possible death.

After removing the heater core, he talked to Pastor Randy and the two of them sat down with Marta to explain the situation. "The amount of carbon monoxide that's been leaking into your home is deadly," he said. "The only reason you and your family are still alive is because your broken windows vented the carbon monoxide to the outdoors. But now that your windows are sealed shut, the first time that heater kicks on, you could all die." Then he added, "There's absolutely no doubt in my mind about this. It's not a situation where a little carbon monoxide might make you sick; this amount would have killed you all."

When Marta realized the representative from Hurliman felt bad about having to take the heater core, she said, "Don't feel bad! You can have it. Take it!"



They now had an air conditioner but no furnace; but they still had their lives, and that's what mattered. That night the temperature dropped, and if the furnace had been connected it would have kicked on. Marta called Mom and shared the situation with her. "Mom, this is outrageous what happened here," Marta said. "Because God allowed the whole broken window thing, we're alive!"

God had given Marta's mother unexpected money, prompted her to give it to Marta, then within three days of the windows being sealed, she decided to take advantage of purchasing an air conditioner. In the process of installing the system, she learned about the life-threatening condition of the existing furnace, which saved their lives. With Marta's mom's approval, they spent the rest of her money on a new furnace.

When God prompted Marta's mother to give Marta the \$10,000, she didn't know the details or the reasons, but she obeyed God anyway. The air conditioner cost \$1900, the furnace \$2000, the family had been about \$4000 behind on the mortgage and other bills, and \$2000 was needed for extra work in the house. God had provided for all of their needs.

The next winter of 2004-05, although Marta realized it wasn't rationally possible, she said, "It's colder in the bedroom this winter with windows closed and a new furnace than it was last winter with the windows open. Everyone agreed. In spite of their eyesore broken windows, God had kept them warm, then in His time made provision for new windows, a new air conditioner, and a furnace—and saved their lives in the process.

Christ proclaimed over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, "I am the resurrection, and the life." He, the world's Redeemer, has bruised the serpent's head, depriving him of all power ever to make men feel his scorpion sting; for He has brought life and immortality to light. The gates of eternal life are thrown open to all who believe on Jesus Christ. . . . In dying, Jesus has made it impossible for those who believe on Him to die eternally. . . .

Christ lived and died as a man, that He might be God both of the living and of the dead. It was to make it impossible for men to lose eternal life if they believe on Him. The life of men and women is precious in the sight of God; for Christ has purchased that life by being executed in their stead. Thus He made it possible for us to attain to immortality

In Christ were united the divine and the human--the Creator and the creature. The nature of God, whose law had been transgressed, and the nature of Adam, the transgressor, meet in Jesus--the Son of God, and the Son of man. And having with His own blood paid the price of redemption, having passed through man's experience, having in man's behalf met and conquered temptation, having, though Himself sinless, borne the shame and guilt and burden of sin, He becomes man's Advocate and Intercessor. What an assurance here to the tempted and struggling soul, what an assurance to the witnessing universe, that Christ will be "a merciful and faithful high priest"!

The SDA Bible Commentary, Ellen G. White comments, vol. 7, pp. 925, 926).

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BRIGHTLY BEAMS OUR FATHER'S MERCY

BY P.P. BLISS

*Brightly Beams Our Father's Mercy, from His lighthouse ever more.
But to us He gives the keeping, Of the lights along the shore.*

*Dark the night of sin has settled, Loud the angry billows roar;
Eager eyes are watching, longing, For the lights along the shore.*

*Trim your feeble lamp, my brother: Some poor sailor, tempest tossed,
Trying now to make the harbor, In the darkness may be lost.*

*Let the lower lights be burning! Send the gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting struggling seaman You may rescue you may save.*

