

the Reformation **Messenger**

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 2, FEBRUARY 2003

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

"Give the king thy judgments, O God,
and thy righteousness unto the king's
son. He shall judge thy people with
righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.
The mountains shall bring peace to the people,
and the little hills, by righteousness. He shall
judge the poor of the people, he shall save the
children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the
oppressor. They shall fear thee as long as the sun and
moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down
like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth
In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long
as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the
river unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before
him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall
bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.
Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him."
(Psalm 72:1-11)



We Believe

The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its 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.

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

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HOMeward BOUND

The heritage that God has promised to His people is not in this world... We must live as pilgrims and strangers here if we gain 'a better country', that is heavenly." PP, p. 169-170.

"We are homeward bound. He who loved us so much as to die for us hath builded for us a city. The New Jerusalem is our place of rest. There will be no sadness in the city of God. No wail of sorrow, no dirge of crushed hopes and buried affections, will evermore be heard. Soon the garments of heaviness will be changed for the wedding garment. Soon we shall witness the coronation of our King. Those whose lives have been hidden with Christ, those who on this earth have fought the good fight of faith, will shine forth with the Redeemer's glory in the kingdom of God.

"It will not be long till we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. And in His presence, all the trials and sufferings of this life will be as nothingness. 'Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.' Verses 35-37. Look up, look up, and let your faith continually increase. Let this faith guide you along the narrow path that leads through the gates of the city of God into the great beyond, the wide, unbounded future of glory that is for the redeemed. 'Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.' James 5:7,8." Test. Vol. 9, p. 287-288.

"O what an assurance! What a hope! Let us ever reveal to the world that we are seeking for a better country, even an heavenly. Heaven has been made for us,

and we want a part in it. We can not afford to allow anything to separate us from God and heaven. In this life we must be partakers of the divine nature. Brethren an sisters, you have only one life to live. O let it be a life of virtue, a life hid with Christ in God! Unitedly we are to help one another gain perfection of character. To this end, we are to cease all criticism. Onward and still onward we may advance toward perfection, until at last there will be ministered unto us an abundant entrance into the heavenly kingdom." Rev. & Her., May 26, 1904.

"When the Holy Spirit moves upon human minds, all petty complaints and accusations between man and his fellow man will be put away. The bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness will shine into the chambers of the mind and heart. In our worship of God there will be no distinction between rich and poor, white and black. All prejudice will be melted away. When we approach God, it will be as one brotherhood. We are pilgrims and strangers, bound for a better country, even a heavenly. There all pride, all accusation, all self-deception, will forever have an end. Every mask will be laid aside, and we shall 'see him as he is.' There our songs will catch the inspiring theme, a praise and thanksgiving will go up to God." Rev. & Her., Oct. 24, 1899.

Of the zealous, self-sacrificing disciples of Christ, it is written that Jesus was not ashamed to call them brethren, so fully did they manifest His Spirit, and bear His likeness. By their works they constantly testified that this world was not their home; their citizenship was above; they were seeking a better country, even a heavenly. Their conversation and affections were on heavenly things. They were in the world, but not of the world; in spirit and practice they were separate from its maxims and customs. Their daily example testified that they were living for the glory of God. Their great interest, like that of their Master, was for the salvation of souls. For



this they toiled and sacrificed, counting not their lives dear unto themselves. By their life and character they made a bright track heavenward. Upon such disciples, Jesus can look with satisfaction as His representatives. His character will not be misrepresented through them." Signs of the Times, Dec. 22, 1890.

"By our watching position we are to show that we are truly strangers and pilgrims upon the earth. The difference between those who love the world and those who love Christ is so plain as to be unmistakable. While worldlings are all earnestness and ambition to secure earthly treasure, God's people are not conformed to the world, but show by their earnest, watching, waiting position that they are transformed; that their home is not in this world, but that they are seeking a better country, even a heavenly." Test. Vol. 2, p. 194.

“It is recorded of the holy men of old that God was not ashamed to be called their God. The reason assigned is that instead of coveting earthly possessions or seeking happiness in worldly plans or aspirations they placed their all upon the altar of God and made disposition of it to build up His kingdom. They lived only for God’s glory and declared plainly that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth, seeking a better country, that is, an heavenly. Their conduct proclaimed their faith. God could entrust to them His truth and could leave the world to receive from them a knowledge of His will.

“But how are the professed people of God today maintaining the honour of His name? How could the world infer that they are a peculiar people? What evidence do they give of citizenship in heaven?... Puritan plainness and simplicity should mark the dwellings and apparel of all who believe the solemn truths for this time... Our dress, our conversation, should testify of our consecration to God.” Test. Vol. 5, p. 188,189.

“And still our General, who never makes a mistake, says to us, ‘Advance; enter new territory; lift the standard in every land. ‘Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.’”

“The time has come when through God’s messengers the scroll is being unrolled to the world. The truth contained in the first, second, and third angels’ messages must go to every nation, kindred, tongue and people; it must lighten the darkness of every continent, and extend to the islands of the sea. There must be no delay in this work.

“Our watchword is to be, Onward, ever onward! Angels of heaven will go before us to prepare the way. Our burden for the regions beyond can never be laid down till the whole earth is lightened with the glory of the Lord.” Gospel Workers, p. 470.

Our lifework must consist of preparation for eternity. We do not know how soon our lifework will end, and how essential

it is that our base and sinful nature be overcome and that we receive the image of Christ. We have no time to lose; every day we must prepare for eternity. Time has been granted to us in this life to seek the gift of eternal life. God has given us probationary time, and if we live our seventy years, how short is this time for working out our salvation! Let us then compare this short time with the life of God. Our short probationary time can end at any moment. Then how fervent we

should be in the purpose to secure a sure title to the home in the new earth.

May the Lord help us that one day we can be together in the New Jerusalem and in the New Earth. **AMEN**

Your brother in the faith of Jesus,
Guillermo Gamallo



North American Bible & Health Youth Seminar

2003

Date: Sunday, June 22, 2003 to Sunday, July 5, 2003
Location: Camp Ithiel, 2037 Hempel Ave., Gotha, Florida 34734, (10 miles west of Orlando)
Telephone: 407-293-3481
Manager: Mike Neff
Cost: \$12/day for sleeping accommodations/day
 \$18/day for 3 meals/day
 Total: \$30/day/person
Total Cost: 14 days @ \$30 = \$420/person
Max Capacity: 140 persons

Description: Nice country chapel
 A/C in meeting room and chapel
 Kitchen and cafeteria
 Beautiful large dining hall/reception area
 Bunk beds with rest rooms
 Outdoor chapel overlooking lake
Recreation: Canoeing, trails, soccer field, basketball courts
Airport: Orlando International Airport
Sponsors: Canadian Field and North American Union
Contact: Idel Suarez, jr. Ph.D.
Information: Tel. 1-813-880-9183
 e-mail: hemomed@aol.com

Classes:	Instructor	Subject	Instructor	Subject
	Gary Foster	Herbology	Timo Martin	How to Give Bible Studies
		Christian Family		SDA and Reform History
	Henry Dering	Revelation	Idel Suarez, jr.	Physiology
		Gospel of John		Bible Health

-five hours of instruction per day, Monday through Thursday
 -canvassing or outings on Sunday and Friday

Outings: Holy Land Experience, \$17/person/day
 Sea World, \$42/person/day

Prerequisites

Age limit: At least 15 years old
Preference: Given to baptized members
Recommendation: Present letter of recommendation from local church leader, elder or minister
Gender: Both males and females will be accepted
Dress code: Modest clothing appropriate for occasion. Females are to wear dresses. Males are to wear pants. No jewelry or make-up.
Curfew: Lights out at 10:00 p.m.
Class Attendance: Students will be expected to attend all classes, participate in class discussion, present homework assignments as requested. Plan to stay entire two weeks.
Language: Must be fluent in English.
Requirements: Have a prayerful attitude, bring a humble teachable spirit, and spending money.
Books: Bible in English Sabbath School Lesson Ministry of Healing
 Hymnal Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
Health Ins: Must present proof of health insurance
Copies & Notes: Estimated to cost \$16/student
Financial: The American Union will pay half the cost for youth who are baptized and have a financial need. Those who are interested in financial assistance should write to: AU Board of Directors, c/o Mr. Idel Suarez, Jr., 6015 Sheldon Rd., Tampa, FL 33615-3111.

MISSIONARY SEMINAR IN TORONTO

On December 25th we were gathered together to begin our seminar. Brother Timo Martin spoke about the importance of the missionary work.

The purpose of the church is saving souls. In the first place our own souls and next our brothers and sisters and finally the souls outside. The next question comes, what is the purpose of our lives in this world? Again the answer is saving souls – our own and others.

God has given us talents which we must use in this work or we will be found as the man with one talent and being cast out.

“All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men.” D.A. p. 822.

Paul said, *“Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel”*. 1 Cor. 9:16

Is there an incentive to labour for souls? Sister White writes, *“To see souls saved in heaven, this alone should be an incentive to labour for them.”*

“Many would save their own souls if they would enter into the missionary work.” Test. Vol. 5 p. 390

The whole church will be revived when the members become active in the missionary work. Jesus said, *“The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest.”* Luke 10:2.

And the first person that the Lord should send, let it be you. Say to the Lord, *“here am I, send me”*. Then your whole life will change, as the

life of Paul when he responded to the call to become an apostle to the Gentiles.

The next speaker was brother Oscar Oviedo. His topic was necessary qualifications needed for the successful work.

1. Earnest desire to save souls.
2. Compassion for the unsaved.
3. Consecration, self-sacrifice, love.
4. Childlike simplicity.
5. Without expecting praise
6. Not to care for our own feelings nor reputation
7. Cheerful spirit.
8. The presence of the Holy Spirit.
9. Practice what we preach.
10. Avoid business entanglements.
11. To be sincere
12. No harsh spirit, it denies Christ.
13. Talk of faith.
14. Not to criticize other workers.
15. To be hewn and polished in behaviour.
16. To imitate no one else except Christ.
17. Courtesy and kindness to those who defer from our doctrines.
18. Without selfishness.
19. Put on Gospel shoes. Eph. 6:15
20. Sense of sacred responsibility.
21. Avoid jesting and joking.
22. To have energy and to be thorough.
23. Obey the church leadership.
24. Self-discipline and order.
25. Methodical service leads to success.
26. To be ready to work 24 hours a day.
27. Willing to work at nights.
28. Eye single to honour of God.
29. Guard your health.

After lunch we continued with the presentation by Brother Ivo Ionov titled *“Methods for the soul saving work”*. There are different methods we can use in the soul saving work.

We need to choose the right methods that go along with our talents. General rules apply to everyone. There are also methods that we should not use.

The Do's and Don'ts of Witnessing

“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.” (Col. 4:5-6)

Like most things in life, witnessing had guidelines. Following is a list of 20 Do's and 12 Don'ts. They should aid you while witnessing and help prevent serious errors. If, however, you choose to ignore them, witnessing will be difficult and awkward.

Do's.

1. Do pray.
2. Do speak to please God.
3. Do read your Bible.
4. Do start with a positive witness for Christ.
5. Do keep things simple.
6. Do share your salvation experience with them.
7. Do know what you believe.
8. Do have a genuine love.
9. Do be simple and define your terms.
10. Do memorize appropriate Scriptures if possible.
11. Do be ready to learn from the people you witness to.
12. Do be patient and gentle.
13. Do listen attentively.
14. Do answer their questions.
15. Do ask questions.
16. Do let him save face.
17. Do bring him, if possible, to a decision about Jesus.
18. Do encourage him to study the Bible by itself.
19. Do use Scripture in context.

20. Do remember that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

Don'ts

1. Don't attack directly or make fun of someone.
2. Don't jump from one subject to another.
3. Don't expect too much from him.
4. Don't have a spiritual chip on your shoulder.
5. Don't lose patience.
6. Don't come on too strong.
7. Don't debate peripheral issues or doctrines.
8. Don't get sidetracked defending your denomination.

prove this teaching wrong: 1 Thess. 4:16-17, Luke 17:26-37, Matt. 24:27, Ps. 50:3, Rev. 1:7. The second false teaching he presented was Immortality of the soul. To prove this teaching wrong he used texts, 1 Tim. 6:15-16, Eccl. 12:7, Gen. 2:7, Ps. 146:4, Ps. 6:5. Also the parable of Lazarus and the rich man was discussed.

Eternal torment was the next problem question. To this we found Bible texts Mal. 4:1-3, Ps. 37:10, 11, 20, 28, Jude 7, 2 Peter 2:6, Rev. 20:9, Heb. 12:29.

Sunday sacredness was discussed at length and several other questions

Brother Ivo continued with the interesting topic "the Church Key". He presented 10 different keys to have a healthy successful church based on Acts 2:42-47.

The believers were associated together. They studied the Bible and prayed to God. They had fear and reverence toward God. They were united and had love among them. They had great joy and gladness. They were praising God.

After lunch Brother Augustus Ratneiyya presented a unique way to do missionary work by Tele Evangelizing.

He has experience himself with it, spending most of his time in a wheelchair. He has difficulty reaching people other ways. He spends an hour at a time on the telephone calling people from the phone book. Then he passes the names and addresses of the people who are interested to the worker who will visit them.

Brother Joaquin Hidalgo continued with a study of meetings. Different kinds of meetings are conducted. Some are a great blessing to all present, other types of meetings can drive people away from the church. Brother Mike Newby spoke about the Sabbath School, how important a medium for the soul saving it is. The teacher needs to be careful that no controversies and debates will arise. Also the teacher must not sermonize but ask questions of the subject.

The last topic in the evening was presented by Sister Reyna Conde about work among youth and children. She presented the following guidelines:

1. See Christ in the youth.
2. Show love and interest in them.
3. Meet them at their level.
4. Be patient with them.
5. Pray for them.
6. Be enthusiastic with them.
7. Make them feel needed and important.



9. Don't be uptight.
10. Don't assume.
11. Don't argue.
12. Don't speak too fast or unclearly.

Brother Abel Conde had chosen a topic of health. Health reform is the right arm of our message.

By wrong diet, people commit suicides. Our work is teaching people the proper diet and living habits. Jesus and many prophets connected the work of healing with the Gospel message.

Brother Kanagarajah presented a topic of problem questions which come up in the Bible studies.

The first one he mentioned was Secret Rapture. The following Bible verses

were studied. This concluded our first day of the seminar. December 26 we continued. Brother Timo Martin spoke about Bible studies. One important point is to keep up the interest. Begin with the studies that would be most interesting to the people. Use illustrations especially in the studies with children present. Cut short the study at the most interesting part and promise to continue the following week. Never keep them too long to tire the people. The personal discussions have always before the study rather than after.

The best way to find Bible study contacts is canvassing. Some people can canvass all day and be relaxed, others are under tension for the fear of strangers and for rude refusals. The only way to overcome this fear is to continue canvassing.

On New Year's Day our seminar continued. Brother Timo Martin spoke about the literature work. The tools we have for the missionary work. It includes canvassing and other methods to distribute our literature out as leaves of autumn. Our literature work includes writing books, articles and flyers. The work in the print shop also is part of the missionary work.

Then all the books, magazines and flyers were presented which we have available in the I.M.S. publishing. Each one was invited to take some of the literature with them to distribute them in their neighbourhoods. With these tools even children can spread out our saving message.

Next Brother Abel Conde spoke about canvassing and colporteur work. He spoke about the experiences that he had during his canvassing years. In canvassing we do not gain only money but souls, great joy in the company of angels. He mentioned seven different wages that canvassing work gives us.

He brought an example of a canvasser in the Bible, Eliezer who was sent out on a mission by Abraham.

George King was one of the first canvassers in the Adventist Church. He became very successful in selling Adventist publications in the United States as well as in his home country Canada. He had a special method that he had developed in his 28 years of canvassing work.

Brother Kanagarjah continued with the topic of influence of example in the soul saving work. Our example can drive members and visitors out of the church or can help them to stay in. David writes: "Let not them that wait on Thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my

sake: let not those that seek Thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel." Ps. 69:6

He spoke about our influence on the members of the church and on those who are still outside. We need to lift up Christ in our behaviour, then we will have a good influence on others.

Brother Oscar Oviedo spoke about personal ministry which is done on a one to one basis. First we begin with sowing the seed. Once it starts to grow, then we continue to cultivate the plant to give it water and nourishment and finally comes the harvest, the baptism. This personal ministry we can do with our neighbours also in our work places and schools. He also presented a method to call together three to five people for prayer bands without teaching the doctrines for a while. Eventually it will lead to personal work.

Brother Timo Martin concluded the missionary seminar with an appeal to each one to use their talents in this work. Even children can do their part. Others are to pray for those who go out to sow the precious seed.

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest." Matt. 9:37-38.

Let your prayer be that the first one whom the Lord will send will be yourself. Let us make this New Year a year of soul saving efforts. Beginning with ourselves, our families, our churches and to the uttermost parts of the earth. **AMEN**

Timo Martin





Another year has gone by and another Field conference is scheduled. Visitors travelled from the far corners of Australia to enjoy the spiritual fellowship from their fellow believers. People travelled from Brisbane by car (1500 km) and from Melbourne (1500 km) and Adelaide (2000 km). And also once again several dear believers made the long journey across the continent (over 4000 km) by car to partake of the spiritual feast that was to be experienced. Also from outside of Australia, Brother Joel Barnedo arrived from the Philippines and two sisters from Canada were present. Once again our tent city was set up in the back yard of the church. With our small chapel full to overflowing, our conference commenced on Thursday evening.

Two days before the main conference, two days were dedicated to the young people. On the first day, we travelled by car for one hour to the Blue Mountains to hike to the bottom of the valley. Going down was easy, but coming back up required more energy and not everyone was able to make the journey to the bottom. The strongest young people did the entire hike, while some of the older ones took a more gentle hike, remaining close to the top.

On the second day three workshops were held for the young people on issues that concern the youth today. They were entitled, "Youth in Prophecy," "Church Membership," and "Love, Courtship and Marriage." We are living very close to the end of time and Satan has many enticements for the youth to get their eyes off the goal ahead. He is trying

to distract them from what is important today. Prophecy is fast fulfilling and the youth need to use their energies for the Lord rather than waste them with the things of this world. It is time for them to decide to serve the Lord, make their decision in baptism. While it is natural for every young person to want to fall in love and be married some day, this idea must not consume all their energies so that they have little left for the Lord. In the days of Noah they were 'eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage' with no thought that very soon they will perish in the waters of the flood. Counsel was given to the youth regarding proper methods of courtship and what true love is. It is much different from the ways of this world as Satan has perverted this institute that God has created. Our young people need our prayers so that they will not be distracted, but keep their eyes on Jesus, on the goal that is set before them.

Thursday:

The theme of the conference was, "Arise, Shine." This theme was taken from the Bible verse, Isaiah 60:1, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

Brother Jerry Eaton, the president of the Australian Field opened the conference in the evening, welcoming those who had come from far away places. He compared the church to light, since we are called to be the light of the world. If you look at light closely, it is made up of particles. White light is a mixture

of all the colours. The particles making up light may seem to be moving around chaotically in their own small area, however they are all travelling uniformly in the same direction, spreading light in the darkness. This is how the church is to move. We are active in our own small sphere, but we are all moving together, unitedly, in the same direction.

Brother Barnedo continued by reminding us of the serious time in which we live. Momentous events are taking place in the world today. Terrorism is on the rise. However in this time of darkness, Ellen G. White saw in vision streams of light going around the world. We are to be a part of this light. We are praying for the Latter Rain. In order to receive the Latter Rain, Br. Barnedo shared with us several conditions which we must adopt in our lives and in the church. First we must be an enlightened people. We cannot share what we do not have. Then we must overcome and be a victorious people, as well as a loving people. For spiritual growth, we must all be a praying people and in order to have a clear mind, we need to be a temperate people. Last of all, in order to receive the Seal of God, we must be a Sabbath Keeping people. In order to be a lighthouse for the Lord we need to keep our connection with Him strong.

Friday:

On Friday morning, Brother Glen Higgins from Perth, Australia spoke of the Latter Rain and how we will survive. To many the future brings

only fear. For the people in the world, they have no concept of the future that the Lord has prepared for us. They only see what this world has to offer and it is not good. For the Christian that is not connected with Jesus, they see the trials and persecutions that are to come to God's people and they are filled with fear. How will we survive? What prepares God's people? It is the 3rd Angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. It is the Latter Rain that revives and strengthens God's people to go through the Time of Trouble. Some feel that they will leave all needful preparation until the time of the Latter Rain, but we must prepare for the Latter Rain today. It will not automatically come up on us without any preparation on our part. A seed will not grow unless we take the seed and plant it. This is compared to the Word of God. It will do nothing for us unless it is planted in our hearts – we must pick it up and study it. The growing season for spiritual seed is a lifetime. In the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, there are several reasons given why the seed of truth will not grow. Satan has many distractions to keep people from making the necessary preparation. It will be a sad time for some people who will come to the realization that, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20.

Brother John Thiel continued by sharing with us, "The Glory of God in Earthen Vessels." We need to see the glory of God intelligently before we see it physically. What is this glory of God? Is it a surge of supernatural thrill? The Glory of God has to do with a covenant. God has promised, "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me." Jer. 32:40. The Lord will not turn away from them. If you don't take hold of the glory of God, you will be bitterly disappointed. You don't have to go to heaven or across the sea because the Word of God is very close. All you have to do is feel your pulse and you will see how close He is to you.

For Sabbath opening, Brother Joel Barnedo shared some thoughts regarding Creation and the beginning of the Sabbath. The Lord gave us six days to labour and work, but gave us one day to rest. He went on to share many of his personal experiences he made in his missionary endeavours. We were blessed to hear of how the Lord is still working miracles in human hearts today.

Sabbath:

Sabbath morning dawned, bright and sunny. Our small chapel was full to overflowing for the Sabbath School. The divine service was conducted by Brother John Thiel. He brought our attention back to the theme, "Arise, Shine." There is a tone of immediacy in these words. Why? The bridegroom is coming – hurry – it's nearly too late. The SDA church, Christianity and Judaism all suffer under a disease called futurism. They are looking far into the future for the fulfilment of prophecies that are happening right around us today. Truly our time is as it was in the days of Noah, when people are so occupied with the affairs of this world that they have no time to pray and study. Jesus is anxious for our salvation but often we are so busy with family affairs that we have little time for Him. He wants us all to be saved. We all need to be changed if we were to be ready. We must let the beauty of Jesus sink into our heart and then it will change. His love will permeate our hard hearts. It will work until the whole being is cleansed. Today, time is almost finished. If you're a spiritual desert, don't worry, there is still a little time left, however we must act quickly. We must arise and shine. Let the rain come in and things will grow in our hearts. The angels are hurrying to and fro and what are we doing? This is a solemn time in which we live and we are to examine ourselves and let Jesus change and sanctify our hearts so we will be ready when He comes.

In the afternoon the children and young people presented a study on the "Gifts of the Spirit." Each young person took one

gift and shared with us the full meaning and duties required by the person who received the gifts. They were given to the church for the perfecting of the saints and believers are to work together with their varying gifts.

Brother Glen Higgins again presented a subject concerning young people. "Arise and Shine for youth." No one is too young to shine for Jesus. He related to us stories from the lives of various pioneers of the Advent message. James White began preaching the first angel's message at the age of 21. He was baptized at the age of 15. Many other young men went out to preach the message at a young age. Who will God use to finish the work of the other Angel in Revelation 18? Not necessarily those that are most perfect or talented, but those who are the most willing to deny themselves for the gospel. Those who cherish and share the light they have, more will be given to them.

For Sabbath closing, Brother John Altwein shared some of his experiences. When Joshua was about to enter the Promised Land, the Lord promised him, "arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, until the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Be strong and of a good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:2,6. We are today on the borders of the Heavenly Canaan and we are to arise and go forward, and the Lord will be with us. The world will be against us, but we can't allow that to deter us. Daniel continued to pray and give thanks to the Lord even when the law of the land said he cannot pray to anyone except the king. Paul and Silas were singing while suffering in prison. We must thank God for His leading and for His promise to be with us until the end of time.

Sunday:

Sunday was devoted to the health message. Being the right arm of the message, we planned to share some of our knowledge of health principles and



healing practices that we have come to know. Brother John Thiel began the day. God created us wonderfully – perfect. Sin came in and marred that perfection. God gave Adam and Eve everything to enjoy, but when they started to enjoy that which was not theirs, it became sin. It is the same with us. Because of sin, today our bodies are totally deranged and we are to understand the health message and healing practices in order to reverse the deranged condition. Brother Thiel spoke of the healing virtues of massage. Even good healing practices have been perverted by Satan, but massage, when used in the proper way soothes the body rather than stimulates the body. Our habits of living need to be changed slowly in order to bring our spiritual temples back into a condition that the Holy Spirit would delight to dwell in.

Sister Wendy Eaton continued by sharing some principles from the Bible and Testimonies regarding correct eating habits. In the Bible we read, “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” James 4:17. This Bible verse refers also to the health message. If we eat something that we know is not good for us, it is sin. Being a health reformer means much more than giving up meat eating. Many of us are familiar with some of the counsels in Ellen G. White’s book, *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, therefore, rather than list good foods and bad foods, Sister Eaton counselled everyone to think carefully about what they know is right and wrong. The sin against the Holy Spirit is continuing in sin when you know it is wrong – making an effort to change the sinful habits. Could a person who refuses to give up some foods that they love, but

know are not good for them, eventually commit the sin against the Holy Spirit? This is a solemn thought which we each need to consider. Brother Eaton then gave some counsels regarding the importance of dressing for the honour and glory of God. Not only is modesty an issue, but practicality and dressing for the benefit of our health.

After lunch Sr. Nada Jeremic shared some spiritual reasons for following the health message. To maintain health we have to care for our health in the first place. Originally the brain was made by God as the capital of the body but sin has perverted the noble powers of the brain. The electrical power of the brain, promoted by mental activity is a potent aid in resisting disease. The body should be servant to the mind, not the mind to the body. It is only through the central nervous system that God can speak to human souls. Our body is not our own, but God’s property. We can’t do anything with our bodies and still glorify God. The question is why are so many people sick today? Why are there so many diseases? It is the lack of harmonious action of the body that brings disease. The physical penalty of transgression is a ruined constitution. A continual transgression of physical law is a continual transgression of the 10 commandments. Through transgression man’s power became perverted and he could no longer resist the force of temptation. God’s desire is for us to give Him back our bodies in a pure and clean condition.

Sister Jenny Nalder spoke about poultices and how to use them. They are a valuable first aid treatment for various ailments. Different people then shared their experiences with health and natural remedies that have worked for them. Brother Barnedo then shared missionary experiences in the Philippines regarding health lectures. The truth is simple, if it is not simple, it is not true. He encouraged us all to go out with the health message and bring souls to Christ.

After supper, Brother Bill Wood spoke of

the two classes of people in the world. Those in light and those in darkness. God’s people are not to cease communication until they encircle the world. We are all called to be missionaries for Jesus. We can be missionaries in our own neighbourhoods. A missionary is someone who spreads the gospel.

We now shared the Lord’s supper together. Brother Barnedo spoke of Jesus Christ. He became a man like you and me. Without Christ we must admit that we can do nothing. We must then submit ourselves to the Lord so we can transmit the light He has given us to others. If we follow Christ’s example in doing good, hearts will open to us as they did to Him. Jesus did not fight for his rights, but bore insults patiently.

Monday:

Monday morning it was time to say farewell. First we heard from Brother John Thiel who spoke to us about the demoniacs who met Jesus. Can Jesus shine out of a mad man? The disciples fled, but Jesus did not. Neither do we need to flee if we meet demoniacs today. The demoniacs say, “don’t bother me,” but they stay in Jesus’ presence. The flesh says, “I want to be in pigs,” but the heart says, “I want to be with Jesus.” It has happened to all of us at one time or another. We want to say something but it comes out all wrong. This was the condition of the demoniacs, but in the presence of Jesus there was a struggle but the demons finally left. These demoniacs desired to remain with Jesus, however Jesus sent them out as missionaries. They had spent very little time with Jesus and had heard no sermons of His, but He sent them out with their testimony. So if you feel you have very little knowledge or that you shine very little, remember what those demoniacs had. They were the very first missionaries that Jesus sent and they had no training, but they bore their testimony that Jesus was the Messiah. Later, when Jesus came to Decapolis the whole city went out to see Him. Many of those who preach the Loud Cry Message will be as those recovered demoniacs.

Their training is directly from the Holy Spirit, but mighty works will be done through them.

Brother Barnedo shared his favourite text, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the Just shall live by faith." Romans 1:16, 17. If we are only serving the Lord 90% we still have to give another 10%. He counselled us that if there are only a few members in a city, don't go to fallen churches for fellowship. Begin Sabbath Services in your own home. Invite your neighbours and friends. Be like Elijah, and don't worry if you are alone – let your light shine. If you go to a fallen church for fellowship, you will slowly become like those in the

fallen church. The Lord does not need 10 or 20 thousand lukewarm believers, He only needs 2 or 3. They can have a great impact like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had in Babylon. He encouraged the literature evangelism work which is important in reaching the hearts of people in the final days of this world's history.

Brother Eaton shared 1 Kings 20:28. "And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the Lord, Because the Syrians have said, The Lord is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hands, and ye shall know that I am the Lord." We have all had a mountain top experience at the conference. Now we must go back home to the valleys. The Syrians said that Israel can't fight in the valleys, but God is also in the valleys.

Our valley is what God is using to draw us closer to him.

We then were blessed by hearing testimonies from the other believers. For several hours we heard experiences of God's providence in people's lives. Our spiritual feast then came to a close. Our tent city came down and we all began returning to our homes determined to shine even brighter for Jesus in our different corners of the continent. In many areas of Australia there is only one believer, or one family or just a few believers, however God only needs one faithful soul to shine out of the darkness that envelops their corner of the country. If we all would do our part to shine in our corner, soon this message will reach the entire world and Jesus will come. May we all be ready because the time is not far in the future. **AMEN.**



C. Ivan Rizo



George & Ivan

STUDY

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

God wants the youth to become men of earnest mind, to be prepared for action in His noble work, and fitted to bear responsibilities. God calls for young men with hearts uncorrupted, strong and brave, and determined to fight manfully in the struggle before them, that they may glorify God, and bless humanity. If the youth would but make the Bible their study, would but calm their impetuous desires, and listen to the voice of their Creator and Redeemer, they would not only be at peace with God, but would find themselves ennobled and elevated. It will be for your eternal interest, my young friend, to give heed to the instructions in the word of God, for they are of inestimable importance to you. {MYP 21.1}

Beware how you neglect secret prayer and a study of God's word. These are your weapons against him who is striving to hinder your progress heavenward. The first neglect of prayer and Bible study makes easier the second neglect. The first resistance to the Spirit's pleading prepares the way for the second resistance. Thus the heart is hardened, and the conscience seared. {MYP 96.2}

We must study every day to be able to stand up to the attacks of Satan. The Bible is our weapon with which to combat his attacks. Every Victory makes the next one easy. Whereas every time we give in to temptation it becomes harder to stop the next time. It is like being tied up with thin string, it is easy to break just one strand of it, but wrap many strands together, and it becomes nearly impossible to break.

The Old and the New Testament Scriptures need to be studied daily. The knowledge of God and the wisdom of God come to the student who is a constant learner of His ways and works. The Bible is to be our light, our educator. When the youth learn to believe that God sends the dew, the rain, and the sunshine from heaven, causing vegetation to flourish; when they realize that all blessings come from Him, and that thanksgiving and praise are

due to Him, they will be led to acknowledge God in all their ways, and discharge with fidelity their duties day by day; God will be in all their thoughts. . . . {MYP 189.2}

There was a farmer that was on his deathbed, who called his sons together and said to them, "There is a treasure buried in my fields. It is a great treasure, very valuable. If you look very carefully you will find it" Soon after this the man died, and his sons thought about how he had said, 'There is a treasure buried in the fields'. So they decided to get to work. They got out their shovels and hoes and started to work. They dug every inch of that field to a depth deeper than it had ever been dug. But they did not find anything. Of course the sons were all very disappointed and wondered what their father had meant. Because they had dug the field over they thought they might as well sow it with wheat. When it came to harvest time they reaped the grain, but they couldn't believe their eyes. There was more grain than there ever was in any other harvest on this field. The ground had brought forth a hundred fold. The grain when sold was worth more than any treasure they might have found in the field was worth. This was the treasure their father had been talking about. They had dug that field looking for some gold, or coins or other treasure, but instead they had a bountiful harvest. So it is with us. The deeper we search into the Bible, the more we will reap in the day of harvest.

Open the Bible to our youth, draw their attention to its hidden treasures, teach them to search for its jewels of truth, and they will gain a strength of intellect such as the study of all that philosophy embraces could not impart. The grand subjects upon which the Bible treats, the dignified simplicity of its inspired utterances, the elevated themes which it presents to the mind, the light, sharp and clear, from the throne of God, enlightening the understanding, will develop the powers of the mind to an extent that can scarcely be comprehended, and never fully explained. {MYP 254.2}

The disciples of Jesus slept instead of watching and praying with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. As a result they were not firmly planted on the solid rock of truth and were swept away by the storm. Let us not make the same mistake but let us study, and pray, and make sure we know what we believe and can prove it by the Bible. Satan knows exactly what points we are weak in and will make his strongest attack there. Therefore we should strengthen the weak links and remember -- a chain is only as strong as its weakest link! **AMEN**

BENJAMIN DAMMASCH
QUEENSLAND,AUSTRALIA

JERUSALEM VERSUS BABYLON

Our religious world has been divided into two sides. On one side is the church of God, the small remnant people. On the other side is the vast number of church organizations which fall under the name Babylon. This includes a great variety of different beliefs and doctrines. Some are far from the truth and others very close so that humanly it is hard to see the difference. All the churches included in Babylon are led by Satan while the church of God, also referred to as Jerusalem is led by God and by the Holy Spirit. Yet many honest children of God are still in Babylon and our work is to call them out that they would not receive their sins and the plagues that will come upon these churches. Any church



that is teaching errors and that is calling people out of the church of God is an enemy of God.

Once a canvasser from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church came to me asking for a donation for their ingathering. I said to him, “how can I support the church that I have tried to destroy by calling members out of it to our church?” We must see the clear line between the church of God and Babylon. They cannot work in unity.

Zechariah writes, “Thus said the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem

shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain.” Zech. 8:3.

Paul writes, “Which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1 Tim. 3:15.

It is a great privilege and blessing to belong to the church of God, instead of listening to the errors of Babylon. Yet the vast majority of professed Christians do belong to the churches that Satan controls. We have not much confusion in regard to the churches that are far from the truth. But Satan has established churches that are very close to our teachings. Sister White wrote, “I saw that the mysterious signs and wonders and false reformations would increase and spread. The reformations that were shown me were not reformations from error to truth.” EW, p. 45.

“I saw two companies, one bowed down before the throne, deeply interested, while the other stood uninterested, and careless... Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest and pray, ‘My Father, give us Thy Spirit.’ Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace. I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, ‘Father give us Thy Spirit.’ Satan would breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet, love, joy, and peace. Satan’s object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God’s children.” EW, p. 55-56.

As it happened in 1844 that less than one from every 1000 believers who expected the Lord’s return received the Holy Spirit from God and others received Satan’s spirit and even that it had much light and power, it had no sweet love, joy, and peace. So it will be in the last days. Satan gives to his followers much light, knowledge, and power to do miracles yet he cannot give them sweet love, joy or peace because he does not possess them himself.

Sister White wrote that, “Satan appeared to carry on the work of God.” The false churches do mock the church of God saying, “You are so few and with limited means, how could you finish the work of God on the earth?” The false churches have preachers, buildings and mediums to do the missionary work, yet God does not depend on them.

“There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.” 1 Sam. 14:6.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord.” Zech. 4:6.

“Many apparently good things will need to be carefully considered with much prayer, for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from it.” *Evang.*, p. 590.

The Pharisees were in some points stricter than Jesus and His disciples. They fasted twice a week. They would not eat without washing their hands. They condemned Jesus for healing on Sabbath; yet Jesus called them the children of the devil.

When Korah, Dathan and Abiram rose up against Moses, the question was not on doctrines or practices of the church. It was strictly organizational. God was not with them, but rather punished them severely.

In Babylon, many miracles are performed. Satan does not require faithfulness from his followers. He gives the power to do miracles to the proud, selfish, and covetous people. God, on the other hand requires strict obedience before He gives us the power to do miracles.

In Babylon, no shaking takes place. Sinners are permitted to remain. In the church of God, the shaking continues all the time. “And this word, yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.” *Heb. 12:17*.

There are faithful members in the church of God that cannot be shaken. They may be offended by others but they do not take offense. They rather pray for the ones who offend them that God would forgive them. Others when they are offended are looking for another church where they can go from the church of God. Jesus said, “For it must needs be that offenses come.” *Matt. 18:7*.

Also shaking comes by heresies. False doctrines will be introduced to them and being blinded they believe these heresies and leave the church of God. Others find the way too narrow and are seeking a church which is not so strict in the commandments.

The destiny of Babylon and Jerusalem are very different. The prophesy concerning Babylon is, “And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.” *Rev. 18:21*.

Another prophesy concerning Jerusalem is very different, “But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a

joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.” *Isa. 65:18-19*.

God is calling everyone, “Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity: for this is the time of the Lord’s vengeance, He will render unto her a recompense.” *Jer. 51:6*.

Everyone who remains in the church of God to the end will be saved. Jerusalem is the city of refuge where sinners find shelter from the avenger of blood, Satan. “The church is God’s fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only begotten Son.” *AA*, p. 11.



Since the beginning the church has remained. Mighty kingdoms have fallen but the forces of the enemy have not been able to destroy the church of God. Sister White refers to the church as the apple of His eye to God upon which He bestows His tender care.

May the Lord help us to support and to build up the church which is the only agency of salvation in this world. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin

THIRD YOUTH CONFERENCE

MAY 10-12, 2002, AMBUR, TAMILNADU, INDIA

Dear brothers and sisters, greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of the Indian field Youth Department.

In India our church is situated in four different states. One such state is Tamilnadu, whose capital city is Chennai. From Chennai, about 200 km, there is a town called Ambur. In this place the youth conference was held from May 20-12. the person behind the success of this conference was Pastor G. Daniel, the president of the Indian Field, who gave us full support, confidence and spirit to complete this conference.

We started the meeting on the morning of May 10th. Br. G. Daniel, the Indian Field president gave a good message to the youth with suggestions which inspired them to make changes in their life, including a passage from Ephesians 5:14. After this lunch was served. In the following days the Karnataka state youth leader and Dorcas leader, Sis. Mary Daniel gave a message regarding the service rendered by Dorcas, Acts 9:36-40. She gave an inspiring message to the women and conveyed to each one their role and service to the people. This was useful to all the members who participated in this conference. She distributed clothes to many which had gathered. We believe this service will continue in India in the coming days.

In the evening was the opening of the Sabbath day service in which Pastor G. Daniel gave a message from Obadiah 15. In that meeting even the public gathered with the members of the church. They were very happy with the meetings and asked us to continue it for 3 or 4 more evenings.

On Sabbath morning, Sabbath School lessons were taught by Br. Samson John. Thereafter followed Tamilnadu's youth leader Br. S. Ruben David's and Jayanthi's child's dedication and naming ceremony. This was followed with the divine service by Pastor G. Daniel on Amos 9:9. Br. Dennis Charlie



and Br. Rahul were given baptism. Thereafter lunch was served.

The field youth secretary Br. S. John Sunder Raj and Tamil Nadu youth leader Br. S. Ruben David held the youth meeting. Many youth participated in this and gave witness and sang many songs.

These two brothers were given the acceptance service followed by the communion service, followed by the

Sabbath closing service. After this our workers went home visiting where they prayed for people, gave them God's message and good suggestions. On the morning of the 12th, the meeting started with songs, prayer and Bible studies. Pastor G. Daniel taught the participants regarding the sanctuary for more than 2 hours. This study was joined by the public also.

Hundreds of youth participated in this youth conference which was held for 3 days. All the participants were issued certificates at the end of the conference. More than 20 of the members were from Bangalore. They inspired the meeting with music and songs. By grace and blessings of the Lord the conference was held more successfully than what we expected.

On May 14th, a free eye camp was held in behalf of the church in a place called Karkoor (near Ambur). A doctor from Bethesda Hospital, Ambur was called to conduct the public free eye camp. This eye camp was started with a prayer by Br. G. Daniel, president. In this camp, Indian field treasurer, P. Albert, church worker S. Ruben David and myself joined this. More than 125 members participated and received a free eye check up. This was a great blessing and was helpful in establishing our church in that place. In days to come we have decided to conduct free eye camps similar to this.

Pray for us to conduct may such camps in India. Also for the youth department, Good Samaritan Dorcas Department, and Indian field missionary work. We will also pray for you. **AMEN**
S. John Peter
 Leader of the Youth Department
 Indian Field

BE NOT ANXIOUS FOR THE 'MORROW'

PHIL. 4:6, 1 COR. 7:32

These consoling words were spoken by the greatest of all Preachers, in the grandest of all sermons, to the largest of all congregations. (RH, vol. 1, p. 307). These divine words and lesson gives us an excellent motto and message for the beginning of the New Year, as we slowly creep into the year 2003.

Yet, living in a world in which one is surrounded by the hostilities of heathenism would naturally give rise to anxiety; countries, peoples, cultures, that are uncivilized, unenlightened, irreligious, idolatrous, and barbarous. Their heathen customs, beliefs, behaviours, and ideas are like a virus loose in a world of quarreling nations which is plaguing mankind. This is to be dispelled, however, "by prayer and supplication." This means, "in everything," and "anything" sufficient to cause anxiety if not prayed about.

Lets for a moment look into the world... anxiety, and its meaning. It means full of mental distress or uneasiness because of fear of danger or misfortune: greatly worried; solicitous... anxious forebodings. It's derived from the Latin, "angere"... to strangle, pain, distress. (Random House Dic., 2nd Ed.)

What then is the prescription for receiving God's peace... the key for happiness? Don't worry about anything, and pray about everything in a spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude. Happiness, therefore, is freedom from all painful anxiety, and anticipating or "predicting" harmful care or circumstances. This means, furthermore, not all the harm, cruelty, wickedness we know, but those we "fear," affect us the most.

Many fail to enjoy the delights and blessings of the present life. Why?

Because their lives and minds are sorrowfully filled with fearful apprehension of the impending and uncertain future. The fear of coming events creates sadness, a complex, a stumbling block to enjoying the radiant light beaming around them.

The hilarious festivities of Christmas and New Years are now suppressed by the anticipated restrictions of the Lenten period of fasting, for those who believe thusly. The energy of youth and the high spirits of health are suppressed by the fear of aging and the fear of sickness. The brightness of spring, the beauty of summer, richness of autumn, become less and less as blustery winter approaches and is upon one. For many it even produces a medical problem called "seasonal affective disorder (SAD)", resulting in or characterized by oversleeping, overeating, and irritability.

From all of this we can see a pattern developing, and it becomes downright disturbing, troublesome... and vanity. The Lord does not approve of an anxious spirit, and fearful and distrusting heart about how the future will affect us, and of course, those around us. Some scientists believe that it is normal and advantageous to have some anxiety (stress) in our lives based on the "fight or flee" response factors. The children of God have not reached that level in their lives... yet. The Lord, again, has clearly shown us that anxiety is contrary to nature, the spirit of the gospel, and His plan of salvation. Consequently it is not normal, necessary, or wise.

Our being, our life, and its conditions are beyond our control as we often so foolishly and innocently plan... actually naively. For our lives are wholly in the hands of God. So, therefore, it's

unnecessary, unbelieving, and futile, to have anxiety. Laconically, it's a waste!

Moreover, He cares for us. He will not withhold His gifts from us. If He gave the gift of His son, He will not withhold anything less from us. He has given us the power of looking forward to the future, to lift us up, do a great work, so we may exercise our faith and trust in God. In addition, to lean on His promises and to put our treasures above. The "unseen" and the "future," thereby, will have a better influence over us.

We have the ability to think about the future (not "predict") and not to be overwhelmed or buried with breathless and gnawing anxiety and haunting fear, but to be happy in hope and expectations with a sound foundation in the truth. This is the key to happiness, free from anxiety. All anxious thought comes from a worldly nature and an unbelieving heart and is an enemy to happiness and holiness. Faith and hope in God is absolutely necessary to human happiness. "To care is a virtue, but to foster cares is sin." (Muller)

The deepest, searching question in our lives concerning any event, circle, school, state, church, institution, law, or any such agency or their influence in our lives is... what character does it form? These are all agencies for training the human soul in one way or another. A further question is... What nourishment does it furnish for the soul? Does it develop a greater or meaner manhood? Does it develop a weaker or stronger faith? So, the importance now of the Lord's question, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36,37)

Many overlook this and are only “anxious about your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, not yet for your body, what ye shall put on.” (Matt. 6:25). These are only interested in the “morrow,” in outward, temporary things, social advancement, material progress, politics, sports... vanity.

Behind all of these activities and ambitions, God has His gracious purposes and ministries of mercy to our world. Every new discovery, invention or triumph of human genius or skill, gives a wider area for the culture of the soul. The material world of today is advancing technologically at a mind-boggling pace, a maddening state of the world. (Dan. 12:4).

This should not cause more anxiety or fear, for the material world is only a theatre for the display and discipline of the moral and spiritual display in man. We are the “actors”. Just as we are required (impelled) by nature to feed the body, cultivate the mind, improve the taste, and have love and natural affections-emotions, then more so, we are required (impelled) to love righteousness and worship God. (Ps. 34:19). David says, “many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all”. It’s all, not partial deliverance, but complete deliverance!

So, then shouldn’t we be, therefore, more interested (anxious) to have and maintain a life of faith and love, purity, and holiness, than to have merely only present and material things only? In the end, then really, is success in life won by the Christian, only rather than the Godless? If so, then how?

True religion, a true church, honours, respects the body, recognizes present duties and interests, and puts faith into everything! A true spiritual life

penetrates, and goes deeply, changes transforms, and outlives all! All else passes away. When the end of life comes, the only thing remaining is the character. All relations, contacts, possessions of earth are abandoned, given up... surrendered. What remains? Only love, truth, spiritual victories.

This is the highest life and needs and demands all our best care and thoughts. Why should our spiritual life be buried or burdened by the anxieties, concerns, pursuits or pleasures of the world? Or,



furthermore, our confidence in God, peace of mind, and our enjoyment of life be destroyed or affected by vain and shallow things?

Each day has its own care or need, so why burden it or obstruct it with sorrow and anxiety? “As the day thy strength shall be.” (Deut. 33:25). God will give us strength for any burden, every day... day by day. But, did you know that by looking back... looking back to the past year, we double our problems in our lives by worrying and thinking over them?

The person that grieves and worries over past misfortunes and mistakes in

life weakens the ability to overcome them! The Christian that does this, discounts and ignores the promise of God. “If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9). Our natural weaknesses in life may have covered our pathways with a constant cloud of regrets. But, we may remember that, “where sin abounded, grace did much more.” (Rom. 5:20) When we confess them, God forgets them all.

According to a recent report, anxiety

has overtaken and passed depression as the number one mental health problem in the USA and most likely in the world today. How could that be? The years of the ‘90’s were years generally of peace and prosperity, political stability. The beginning of the year 2000, however, was a time of decline and instability, wars, disasters, until the present with fearful onslaughts of terrorism and declining economies. Even so, with peace and prosperity or war and poverty, drug use and abuse has been astronomically rising to allay and fight anxiety primarily; the top selling pharmaceutical product. But, still, worry and apprehension can

never be cured with a pill, drug or even a herb. When David composed Psalm 55, his mind was disturbed by the same problems we fight with today. He was shocked by violence, anger, abuse, in the streets. (Ps. 55:9-11). He was even betrayed by close friends (v. 12-14). He wanted to escape to a place of peace (v. 4-8). David's anxiousness is much like our own for many of us today. But his prescription for relief can be our too, as well, to heal our pressing anxieties. (Ps. 55:16, 22) See for remedy!

If your heart is weighed down today, the Lord is ready to bear every burden for you. Let's begin the New Year with a firm faith in God's providence and His care and guidance. Trust in His mercy and have hope in His promises; claim His promises. Put aside all anxious thoughts and fears. Direct your energies to the work before us. Believe! "He will make all things work for the good to them that love Him." (Rom. 8:28).

He will reward everything done for Him. Don't doubt! God will crown the creeping New Year—2003—with His goodness!

But, let's devote ourselves to works of faith and labours of love. A faith more mighty and love more generous than the past year.

In some other churches of the North Atlantic States and Southern and South Midland States of the United States, there is an "anxious seat" or "bench" reserved at revival meetings for those troubled by anxiety and conscience and that are eager for spiritual assistance. Where will you be sitting in the year 2003? "Be Not Anxious For the 'Morrow'!"

***A Happy and Blessed New Year!
AMEN.***

***John Theodorou
USA/Greece***

N-2,4-DNP-DL-GLUTAMIC ACID

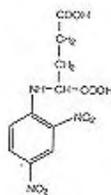


Column: CHIRAL-HSA 1K

Mobile phase: 10% 2-pro
sod.ph.b.p

Detection: UV 225 nm

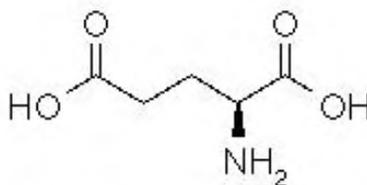
Sample conc.: 0.1 mg/ml



HEALTH ALERT: "Chinese Rest Syndrome." An amino acid salt called glutamic acid or glutamate can be a potent nerve toxin and cause swelling of nerves 90 seconds after eating monosodium glutamate (MSG). (Proteins are made up of amino acids of which glutamic acid is one.) This is why some individuals develop severe stabbing headaches after eating (MSG).

Some scientists believe the MSG stimulates an influx of calcium, disturbing the electrolyte balance in nerve cells inducing swelling. Also, people with head trauma sometimes develop a greater sensitivity to MSG because the brain cells are more likely to leach calcium upon stimulation of glutamate. There may also be new evidence that glutamate is involved in the nerve tangles of degenerative brain cells found in Alzheimer's patients.

MSG is on the list of additives commonly used, and is used as a flavoring substance in meats, pickles, some soups, candies and baked goods. (Read the labels carefully). MSG is on the additive list for further study being made to determine whether it causes cancer, birth defects or reproductive problems. MSG did show an induction of brain damage in some animal studies. MSG offers no nutritional benefit other than stimulating taste buds. Comment: If in a Chinese restaurant, ask for MSG free food; then you can still enjoy that delicious oriental food; or better yet, cook it at home.



glu e Glutaminsäure



NEW YEAR'S MEETING



The Toronto Church came together on the last day of the year to make plans for the upcoming New Year.

Brother Timo Martin spoke about the peace that is missing in our world. Therefore our need is for peacemakers. We need peace and unity in our churches because Satan is constantly trying to bring discord between the members. Also he presented a challenge to live a perfect day as the first day of the year, and if we liked it let us then live another perfect day. Let us live each day thinking that it may be the last day of our life.

Reyna Conde had prepared a program with the young people about the different customs in various countries to receive a new year. Beginning with ancient

Babylonians and then about Jewish customs in the ancient times and today. Kenny Urizar spoke about the Chinese customs which is very much different from other countries, which goes back to 3000 years B.C.

Abel Conde spoke about Vietnamese customs and Raquel Conde about

the Islamic way to receive the New Year.

They all had also some similarities in cleaning their house and giving gifts. We were also delighted with special music and songs.

Also part of the meeting was a late wedding party for Oscar and Magnolia Oviedo. To finish we held hands and closed with prayer. **AMEN**



Toronto Brothers & Sisters Celebrate God's Blessings on New Years In Toronto

**“COME TO ME,
ALL YE WHO LABOUR
& ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I
WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY
YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF
ME; FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN
HEART: AND YE SHALL FIND REST FOR
YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND
MY BURDEN IS LIGHT.”**

“Jesus invites you, in words that touch the heart with their compassionate love and pity...

Do you pour out your trials and grievances into human ears? Do you go for help to those who cannot give you rest? Have faith in God. Believe in the precious promises. GO to JESUS in childlike simplicity, and say, “LORD, I have borne these burdens as long as I can, and now I lay them upon the BURDEN-BEARER.” DO NOT gather them up again, but leave them all with JESUS. GO AWAY FREE, for JESUS has set you FREE.

**Kathleen Ross,
Alberta, Canada**

ARE YOU EXHAUSTED?

SALT

Salt is used to cure olives. Ripe olives are bitter, but processing in salt transforms them. Bitter people need the salt of Christ's love in their hearts. We who know Jesus can have a transforming impact in the world.

A Flavour Enhancer

How does soup taste without salt? How about pizza? We are the salt of the world, or salty Christians. "The savour of the salt represents the vital power of the Christian, the love of Jesus in the heart, the righteousness of Christ pervading the life." M.B. 36.

Love, as displayed in Christians, is a powerful influence in an otherwise bitter world. People are bitter toward their bosses, teachers, the government, parents, children, and churches. Just as salt is used to cure the bitterest of olives, the salt of God's love can be sprinkled by Christians onto the hearts of the disheartened, and a transformation will take place. "If it [love] is dwelling in us, it will flow out to others." M.B. 36. Christians feed the hungry, clothe the naked, help the discouraged, and pray for others.

Some supermarket employees were once instructed to be extra kind and extra helpful to customers and to smile always. It did not come naturally; they had to be told to do it. Many began to complain that their bosses asked too much.

As Christians we need to model joy and enthusiasm, but mostly love. Have we lost our love for our neighbours? Like the priest and the Levite in the story of the good Samaritan, have we lost our concern for our fellow man? Do we simply pass by when we see others in need?

In the Amplified Bible, Matthew 5:13 reads, "If salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no good for anything any longer." Flavourless salt is worthless. A Christian without salt is one in name only. Salt that has lost its flavour represents "every soul from whom the power of the grace of God has departed, and who has become cold and Christless." M.B. 37.

Salty Christians will present the gospel in an attractive and appealing manner.

The simple beauty of the gospel can be lost in a list of "don'ts":

- ***Don't smoke***
- ***Don't wear jewelry***
- ***Don't dance***
- ***Don't go to movies***

A good cook carefully adds just the right amount of salt. If a dish has too much or too little, its flavour is ruined. As a salty Christian, be just as particular when witnessing to others. Don't present all the truth in one session.

An Ice Melter

A while back there was a snow storm in my town. I couldn't get down my driveway because of the slippery ice. Afraid I wouldn't get to church in time to give the morning service, I quickly called Jim Schendel to come pick me up. But while he was on his way, I experimented. I sprinkled a few handfuls of table salt on the driveway. The ice melted, and I was able to back my car down the driveway just in time to apologize to Jim for his unnecessary trip.

As salt melts ice, Christ's love melts even the coldest of hearts. The world is cold and indifferent. It tries to influence us to become cold and indifferent to others too, to take on a "don't care" attitude. Some churches are cold. Some Reformers are cold. Are you "a cold Christian" or a salty one? "A cold, sunless religion never draws souls to Christ." G.W. 478.

A Healer

We use Epsom salts for foot baths. We gargle with salt water when we have a sore throat. Salt is a proven remedy for infection.

During World War II, a ship named the Athena was attacked by a German U-boat. Although the passengers of the Athena were badly wounded, not one died. Because they had no medical supplies, the wounded

dipped their bodies into the salty sea water and found healing.

Today, people are wounded, hearts are hurting. The church ought to be a refuge where hurting people find healing. "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." Isa. 61:1.

There are many hurting people in the world. How do we treat them? Do we help them or drive them away? Some people leave the church because of how they are treated by other church members. One resigning church member wrote this: "For the most part, I was a nameless, unnoticed face... The church can be doctrinally pure, but please, please, let that doctrine be richly enshrined in a love that manifests itself in welcoming smiles,

warm handshakes, follow-up, and friendships."

Let's bring healing to others. Let's be the first to reach out. Let's go to people and mingle with them as the salt is mixed with the food. Salt is sprinkled on food, not vice versa. You are the salt, not food waiting to be salted.

A Combination

Salt is composed of two chemicals--sodium and chlorine. Sodium by itself is not salt. It must be combined with chlorine. Similarly, our humanity must combine with the divinity of Christ. Then we become salty Christians.

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:4,5.

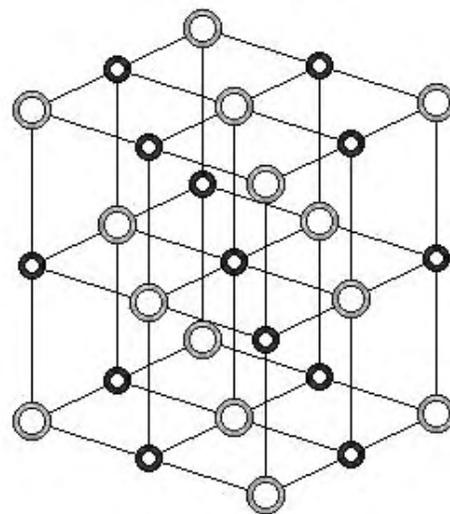
Unity with Christ leads to unity with our brothers and sisters. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:21.

There is unity in diversity too. One time I looked at some granules of salt under a magnifying glass. I saw large ones, small ones, square ones, and

round ones. Each was unique, yet all formed one compound--salt.

Let's be salty Christians, filled with the love of Jesus, that those who know us may thirst for Him

Atomic Arrangement of the Common Salt Crystal



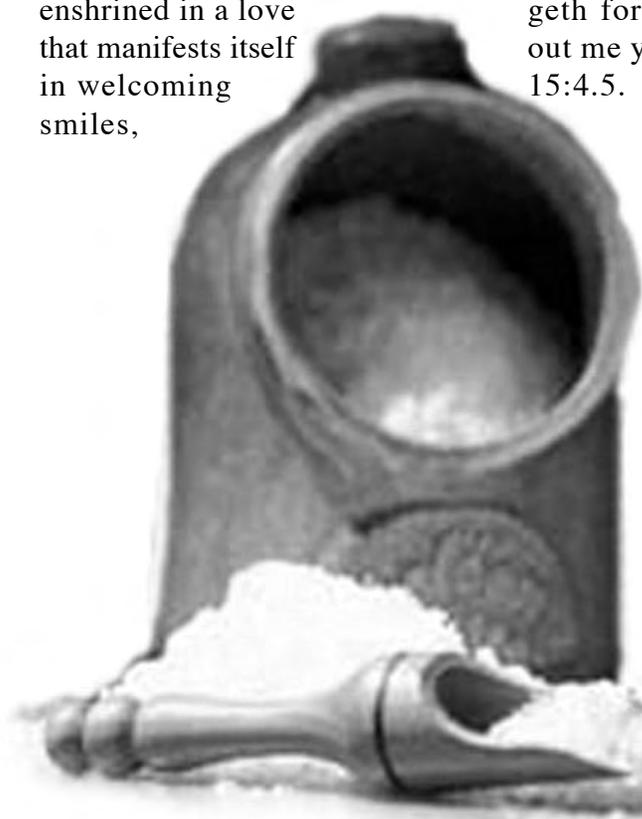
Sodium Atom = ●
Chlorine Atom = ○

and be preserved from death. May our saltiness cure bitterness, melt hearts and heal the wounded. United with Christ and one another, we will salt the world with His love. **AMEN**

A sermon delivered by:

Henry Dering

Recorded by: **Margie Seely**



CHOOSE CHERRIES

Main players

There are an estimated 1000 different varieties of cherries. They fall under two species, sweet and sour. (In Ontario, they don't like to call them sour but Red Tart). Sweet cherries are further divided under tender and hard categories. Bing is considered king by most sweet cherry connoisseurs. It is large, meaty, sweet and firm with a rich, crimson-purple colour. You will also find bright red and yellow sweet cherries.



Ontario Red Tart Cherries

- These sour cherries (or pie cherries) grow in Niagara Peninsula and in southwest and central Ontario.
- The season commences in July but you have to order them. Speak to your supermarket produce manager.
- Ontario Red Tart cherries are sold (sweetened, chilled and already pitted) in 5 kg pails. It is recommended that you use them immediately and/or freeze them in 2-4 cup quantities.
- These cherries are highly perishable with only a four-day fridge life. Eat or freeze ASAP.
- Avoid any sticky cherries... they are overripe and leaking their juices!
- Good colour is important. A sweet cherry should have a deep red or yellow colour.

Storage

- Refrigerate as soon as possible.
- Pick through your cherries and discard any crushed ones. (Their juice can spoil the fruit around them).
- Store in a plate or bowl lined with paper towel. Cover loosely.
- Chilling not only preserves cherries, but improves their flavour, too.

Cherry it up!

- Ontario Red Tart cherries are too tart to eat on their own. Put them in pies, jams, sauces or pancakes. Pair them up with sweeter fruits like peaches or apricots and make a crisp or cobbler. Try them in chutney or salsa.
- Sweet cherries can be eaten out of hand, sprinkled into pancakes, tossed into muffin recipes or even made into a sweet, cold soup.



Healthy attributes

An American study found cherry juice to be a potent antibacterial agent in the fight against tooth decay.

The study showed that cherry juice could block up to 89 per cent of the enzyme activity leading to plaque formation.



THE STRANGER



All night Hilda had been worried. Now she waited until Grandfather fastened the last buckle on his saddlebags, then she asked anxiously, "Are you going to be gone long?"

"Only long enough to make you glad to see me come back," he teased. "No, honey, the trip will only take a few days. Mind Grandmother and your chores. Before you know it I'll be back home again."

Hilda hugged her grandfather. She wanted so much to tell him that she was worried. But if she did she knew he would not go and leave her and Grandmother alone, and she had heard him tell Grandmother that this trip was very important.

Anyway, had she really seen someone at her window last night, or had it been only a dream?

Hilda and her grandparents lived a long time ago in a part of Germany where their neighbours were several kilometres away. There weren't any automobiles, and Grandfather drove a wagon or rode a horse to town to get supplies. This time he wasn't going after supplies. He had to board a train to go to the city on business.

The trip had been planned for weeks. All the extra chores had been done and Grandfather had cut a large supply of firewood. There were only the cow and the chickens to be cared for, and Hilda and Grandmother knew they could manage these until Grandfather returned.

Hilda watched Grandmother give Grandfather a basket of food. "You

have a good trip and don't worry about us," Grandmother said. "Hilda and I will be fine."

Hilda hoped they would be fine as they waved good-bye to Grandfather. When he had ridden out of sight, Grandmother put her arm around Hilda.

"What is upsetting my girl?" she asked.

Hilda was so surprised she jumped. She hadn't meant Grandmother to know that she was worried, and she didn't want to tell Grandmother about it until she knew there was actually something to tell. "May I tell you later?" she asked. "Of course," Grandmother said. "You run along and play while I do some baking."

Hilda nodded. She waited until she knew Grandmother was busy in the kitchen before she hurried to the back of the house. Her heart beat faster as she thought again of how she had been awakened last night by a strange sound.

The sound had been a kind of scraping noise like something sliding against the rough boards outside her window. Hilda had turned over quickly in bed, and for an instant she had seen a man's face close to the glass. But the face had disappeared so fast that she wondered if she had been dreaming.

Now she would find out. If someone had stood outside her window the grass would be trampled.

Hilda trembled as she neared her window. Then she stood still. The tall grass by the house not only was

twisted and bruised but a barren spot of damp ground showed the print of a boot heel. Grandfather wore flat-heeled shoes. Some stranger had stood by her window!

Hilda turned to run inside and tell Grandmother. Then she stopped. What if the stranger had gone on his way by now? He could have been someone who only wanted to ask directions but hated to wake them. Maybe there wasn't any need to worry Grandmother. "I won't tell her yet," Hilda decided.

But she couldn't keep Grandmother from seeing how frightened she was. "Hilda, you are very troubled," Grandmother declared, putting away her dough board as Hilda came into the kitchen. "Let us pray and ask Jesus to help us. Then we will get out the treasure chest."

Hilda nodded. She was glad for the chance to tell Jesus her troubles, and she was always happy to look through Grandmother's treasures.

As always, Grandmother and Hilda knelt before the low table where Grandfather kept the family Bible. Hilda did not pray aloud. She silently asked Jesus to keep her and Grandmother safe until Grandfather returned.

When the prayers were over, Grandmother rose. "Now, for the treasure chest," she said and walked to the fireplace.

Hilda watched as Grandmother touched the mantel and a small door in the wall sprang open. Grandfather had worked a long time making the door and the little cabinet in the wall behind it. When the door closed, it couldn't be seen.

Reaching inside, Grandmother took out a small battered wooden chest. As she turned around the outside door of the house flew open. "I'll take that!" a rough voice rapped out.

"Oh – h – h !" Hilda screamed and ran to Grandmother.

But Grandmother was not surprised. "You probably are the one who has been frightening my granddaughter," she said. "What do you want?"

The man came into the room. "That chest!" he snapped. "You said it was a treasure chest. So it must have something valuable in it."

"Yes, there are valuable things in it," Grandmother told him. Then she turned to Hilda. "Hilda, have you seen this man before?"

Hilda swallowed hard. "I thought I saw him at the window last night. But he was gone so quickly I thought I might be having a dream."

"I'm no dream, little girl. Bring me that chest," the man laughed hoarsely.

Grandmother handed the chest to Hilda. "Take it to him," she said.

The man took the chest and opened it quickly. He rummaged around, pushing aside the faded pictures of Grandmother as a little girl. Then he took out a piece of cloth with the Lord's Prayer embroidered on it that Grandmother had made when she was ten years old. Hilda saw a puzzled expression come into the man's eyes.

"Lady, you said this was a treasure chest!" the man exclaimed. "Where is the money? There is nothing valuable here."

Grandmother smiled a slow smile. "Oh, yes, there is. My granddaughter thinks a lot of those pictures and that piece of cloth with the Lord's Prayer. And I

do too. I plan to keep them always. My husband made the secret cabinet just for fun, but it is a nice place for my keepsakes."

The man seemed dazed. "But I thought you had money in this box," he insisted. "When I saw your husband ride away I knew it was my chance to rob you. Then I heard you tell the girl you were going to get the treasure chest. I was sure you meant money."

Grandmother shook her head. "We have no money. My husband took what little we did have with him. There are many things in the world that are much better than money. Do you need money badly?"

The man nodded. He fingered the Lord's Prayer cloth and seemed to be reading it. Then he looked up at Grandmother. "I haven't had a meal in two days, and I'm a long way from home. I tried to get work, but people don't seem to need anyone at this time of year. I must have money for food."

"No, you don't," Grandmother told him in a strong voice. "Not in this house. I'll have a meal for you in a few minutes." The man's eyes widened. "You mean you will feed me after I tried to rob you?"

"Of course." Grandmother put her hand on the Bible as she spoke. "Our Lord tells us in His Book never to turn a stranger away from our door."

The man looked again at the Lord's Prayer cloth. Then he laid it carefully on the table. "Is this from the Bible?" he asked.

"Yes," Grandmother answered. "That is the Lord's Prayer. Now, I'll get you some food."

The man ate hungrily while Grandmother packed a much larger basket of food for him than she had for Grandfather. When he has finished

eating, he stood up and looked at Hilda. "I'm sorry I frightened you," he smiled. "I never meant to hurt you or your grandmother."

"We know you didn't," Grandmother told him and gave him the basket of food. "May you think of God's blessings often."

When the man had gone Hilda ran to Grandmother. "I wanted to tell about him, but I didn't want to worry you or keep Grandfather from going on his trip."

"I know." Grandmother gave her a gentle hug. "I'm glad you didn't say anything, and I'm glad the man came. Jesus kept us safe, and I think I gave the man something that may help him learn about Jesus."

"What was that?" asked Hilda. "The food?"

"No," smiled Grandmother, "my Lord's Prayer cloth. Since he seemed to like it, I put it in the basket."

Hilda smiled back at Grandmother. She had liked the cloth too. She would be sorry not to see it anymore, but she was glad the stranger had it to remind him of Jesus.





Bong Bong Church
Philippines



Oscar & Magnolia Wedding
In Columbia



Chester & Edeline
Wedding in the Philippines



Br. Augustus



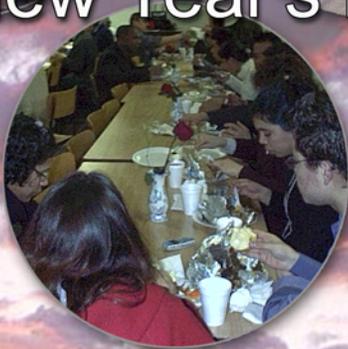
Oscar & Magnolia



Kenny, Brian & Mable



New Year's Meeting In Toronto



Workman of GOD

- ① Workman of GOD, O lose not heart,
But learn what GOD is like;
And on the darkest battle field
Thou shalt know where to strike.
- ② Thrice blest is he to whom is given
The instinct that can tell
That GOD is on the field, when He
Is most in visible.
- ③ Blest, too, is he who can divine
Where truth and justice lie,
And dares to take the side that seems
Wrong to man's blinded eye.
- ④ Then learn to scorn the praise of men,
And learn to lose with GOD;
For JESUS won the world thru shame,
And beckons thee His road.
- ⑤ For right is right, since GOD is GOD,
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin.

— Frederick W. Faber, 1849