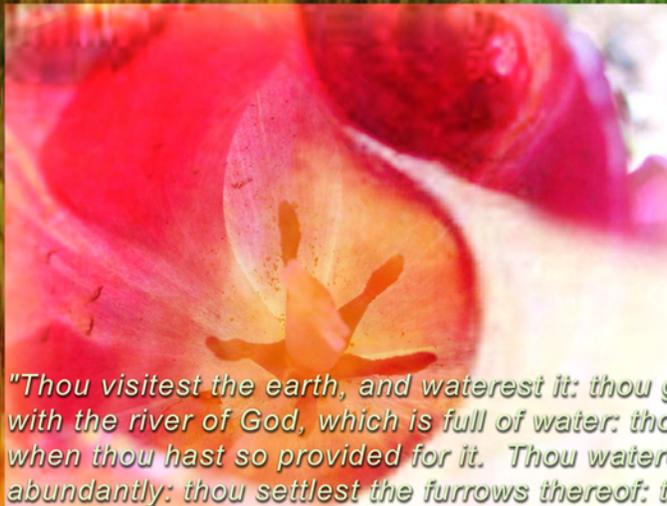


The Reformation Messenger

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



"Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing."
(Psalm 65:9-13)



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.

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Revival



The greatest need in our churches is spiritual revival. We need new life individually and as a church. As a dry ground is revived by rain, so we need to be revived by the showers of blessing that the Lord has promised to His people.

“I will cause the showers to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.” Ezek. 35:26.

“A revival of true

godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.” Rev. & Her., March 22, 1887.

Satan is working with all his deceiving power to bring into the church cold formalism which in return will bring spiritual weakness. It is not so much a lack of knowledge but not practising it nor transmitting it to others. Many possess a self-complacent feeling that all is well with them; that they are “rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing.” They may have good intentions and a desire to do good, but are waiting for better opportunities, which may never come. Because they are not responding to the present needs, it will be said to them, “Ye knew your Master’s will, yet did it not.”

When this deadly formalism enters into the church, the missionary spirit dies out also. The spirit of sacrifice and self-denial will be gone and a l s o

difficulties between the members will arise and then the unity in the church will be lost. When the love between members dies out the spirit of accusation and fault finding enters in. Similar to Adam and Eve, when their love to one another died as a result of their sin, they started accusing each other. Only remedy to this kind of spiritual sickness is a new spiritual revival. David asked in prayer, “Wilt thou revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?” Ps. 85:6.

A true revival is a work of God. Without the Holy Spirit a revival is not possible. But there are conditions that we must fulfill in order to have a revival in our personal life as well as in the church.

“I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Isa. 57:15.

The first requirement is to have a humble and contrite spirit. When we realize our helpless condition, that alone we can do nothing, then all human greatness and pride will disappear and deep humility will take place.

The second condition for true revival is prayer. “But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be accepted only in answer to prayer.” 1 Sel. Mess. P. 121.

In our prayer meetings and in private prayers we are to plead earnestly for the revival.

“I saw some with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God.

Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive in their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them." EW p. 269.

She continues that the ones who did not participate in this agonizing prayer were left alone by the angels and darkness covered them in.

The third condition that we must fulfill is repentance, and confessing our sins. "Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19. Even the little sins can hinder the revival that we need. For this we need deep heart searching to find out any hidden sins that we may not be aware of.

The fourth condition is unity in the church and in the family. Before the early rain was poured out, the church

was in perfect unity. This requires effort and work by every member in the church. We need to make sure that we are not the Achan's that may keep the blessings away from the church.

When all this is done we can expect the revival to take place in our



churches.

There are also false revivals which are not from the Holy Spirit. There may be seen excitement and emotional arousals. The truth and error are mixed together and people accept the errors because they think that God is working among them causing this emotional excitement.

How can we tell the difference from

the false revival brought about by Satan and true revival that is by the Holy Spirit?

False revival dies out after a while and no change is seen in the life of the people.

True revival always goes together with reformation. "A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend." Rev. & Her., Feb. 25, 1902.

"Everyone needs now to seek the Lord. God's people will not endure the test unless there is a revival and reformation. The Lord will not admit into the mansions He is preparing for the righteous, one soul who is self-sufficient." Test. Vol. 7, p. 285.

We need revival and reformation or otherwise all will be lost. The Lord is waiting for us to do our part, and then He will surely pour out a blessing upon us as a rain and a new power will take hold of us. Then our missionary work will bring results. Souls will be converted and great joy and peace will fill every heart. Let us not wait any longer but start preparing for the great spiritual revival and then our reformation will not be in the name only but in reality. May the Lord help each one of us in this. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin

Theocratic Confusion Resolved

Introduction - Theocracy Defined

This study is entitled “Theocratic Confusion Resolved.” It sounds complicated but as we go through you’ll begin to understand.

You may have heard of the term “theocracy” but do you know what that term means? I wanted it to be clear in my own mind so some research proved helpful. Let me list a few facts about a theocracy from the encyclopedia:

Fact 1: A theocracy is a government in which God is regarded as the sole sovereign -- so God is king.

Fact 2: The laws of a theocracy are seen as divine commands -- so the laws of that government are seen as God’s laws.

Fact 3: By extension a theocracy is a government, which is controlled by the clergy -- so it’s a church controlled government, more or less

Fact 4: The government established by God through Moses was a theocracy.

Theocratic Laws

The beginning of the theocratic government of Israel was at Mt Sinai. There God made laws for the Israelites to keep. Making laws to bring order to nations is what government is all about. A government makes laws or articles of covenant. These laws or articles of covenant the government sets before the people to obey.

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy

nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.” Exodus 19:5,6

Here God is speaking to the children of Israel through Moses saying that if you agree to obey my laws then you can be my nation, under my government. The Israelites agreed to this and so they came under God’s government. They became a theocracy. God made laws for them to keep and these laws are in the books of Moses.

“These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.” Leviticus 26:46

Here are the statues, judgments, and laws, which they were to obey. A theocracy is a government of God under the immediate direction of God, where men inspired of God direct the affairs of state. The government of Israel was a true theocracy. It was a government of God. Men inspired of God like Moses, Joshua, Samuel, etc. directed the affairs of state.

“The government of Israel was administered in the name and by the authority of God. The work of Moses, of the seventy elders, of the rulers and judges, was simply to enforce the laws that God had given; they had no authority to legislate for the nation. . . . From age to age men inspired by God were sent to instruct the people and to direct in the enforcement of the laws.” PP 603.1

Come and look at some of the laws men inspired of God would have enforced.

“Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.” Exodus 22:18

“A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.” Leviticus 20:27

When these laws against witchcraft were enforced a witch was put to death. It was considered a divine judgment. God had authorised it and commanded it. It was according to the theocratic law of Israel that these people were to be put to death. Come look at another law of the theocracy.

“And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.” Leviticus 24:17

Murder had the death penalty. God had said, “Thou shalt not kill.” Those who killed were put to death. Now those who actually executed the sentence and put the murderer to death were not under the same condemnation as the murderer himself. They were simply carrying out the sentence of divine judgment.

That’s just a few laws of the theocracy. Well come back to those laws later on

The Theocracy of Israel

First, let’s trace the progress of the national theocracy of Israel. God was regarded as the sole Sovereign of the theocracy. He was king. But in the days of Gideon the Israelites desired that Gideon should be king.

“Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son’s son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian. And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.” Judges 8: 22, 23

*Gideon knew the principles
of the theocracy.*

“The people of Israel, in their gratitude at deliverance from the Midianites, proposed to Gideon that he should become their king, and that the throne should be confirmed to his descendants. This proposition was in direct violation of the principles of the theocracy. God was the king of Israel, and for them to place a man upon the throne would be a rejection of their Divine Sovereign. [God is Sovereign of the theocracy] Gideon recognized this fact; his answer shows how true and noble were his motives. “I will not rule over you,” he declared; “neither shall my son rule over you: the Lord shall rule over you.” PP 555.4

To have a man on the throne was in direct violation of the principles of the theocracy. God was their ruler; He was their king. But again in the days of Samuel the Israelites desired to have a king. They wanted to be like the other nations.

“Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.” 1 Samuel 8:4-7

Did this mean this was the end of the theocracy? They wanted a king to reign over them. They rejected their Divine Sovereign. So was this the end of theocratic government. You’d think so wouldn’t you?

“The Lord foresaw that Israel would desire a king, but He did not consent to

a change in the principles upon which the state was founded. The king was to be the vicegerent of the Most High. God was to be recognised as the Head of the nation, and His law was to be enforced as the supreme law of the land.” PP 603.2

Israel continued to be a theocratic government; God was still the recognised Sovereign of the nation. The kings of Israel became the vicegerents of God as in vice president or vice chancellor. God was still head of the nation. King David was the vicegerent of God. Now the line of kings continued down until the Babylonian captivity. Then after that the nation of Israel was re-established and continued as a theocracy until the time of Christ. When Christ appeared on the earth He was still Sovereign of the nation. Let’s follow this through.

“Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2

“All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.” Matthew 21:4,5

“And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.” Matthew 27:11

And look what the Jews did to their King, the King of the theocracy.

“When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried

out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.” John 19:13-16

These words are very significant. Pilate took his place on the judgment seat and he presented Jesus to the people saying, “Behold your King!” They cried “away with him, crucify him.” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” Do you really want to do this? From the blasphemous lips of the chief priests went forth the words, “We have no king but Caesar.” The religious leaders, the priests and teachers led the people to this. They led the people to choose an earthly government above God’s government. Remember that it was the religious leaders that led the people to this. These words are very significant, “We have no king but Caesar.”

“Thus by choosing a heathen ruler, the Jewish nation had withdrawn from the theocracy. [They chose an earthly government above God’s government. That was their government an earthly government] They had rejected God as their king. Henceforth they had no deliverer. They had no king but Caesar. To this the priests and teachers had led the people. [Remember it’s the leaders that did this] For this, with the fearful results that followed, they were responsible. A nation’s sin and a nation’s ruin were due to the religious leaders.” DA 737.6

That was the death of the theocracy of Israel. They rejected God as their king. They killed their own king. And as in the parable they virtually said, “We will not have this man to reign over us.”

“But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.” Luke 19:14
Henceforth they had no king but

Caesar. Their government was the government Caesar. They were no longer the government of God, it was the end of the theocracy
Religious Constitution

Now the religious constitution of the Old Testament was based on theocratic principles. And we have followed the



story of the old theocracy through to its conclusion. But what about the religious constitution of the New Testament on what was it based? Did Jesus come to this earth to establish another theocracy? Did he come to

establish a Christian theocracy to replace the defunct Jewish theocracy?

“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” John 18:36

Jesus said “My kingdom is not of this world.” Now is my kingdom no longer temporal. Not from here anymore, not from hence. Because there at the trial before Pilate the people rejected him as King. The Jews were no longer God’s special nation. They rejected Him.

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:6-8

The disciples said to Jesus, “Lord are you going to restore the old theocratic kingdom of Israel at this time.” And what did He tell them? Jesus turned their attention to the kind of kingdom He had come to establish. He said to His disciples, “you shall receive the power of the Holy Spirit.” This would be the kingdom. It’s a spiritual kingdom, a kingdom of grace.

“Before leaving His disciples, Christ plainly stated the nature of His kingdom. He called to their minds what He had previously told them concerning it. He declared that it was not His purpose to establish in this world a temporal, but a spiritual kingdom. [No temporal kingdom anymore but a spiritual kingdom] He was not to reign as an earthly king on David’s throne.” DA 820.1

Jesus didn’t come to establish another theocratic earthly kingdom.

He came to establish a spiritual kingdom, with a spiritual body of people -- his church. This would be a spiritual nation not an earthly nation. A spiritual nation called Israel.

“To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.” 1 Peter 2:4,5,9

The religious constitution of the New Testament is based on spiritual principles not theocratic principles. Therefore the spiritual body of God's people can't put into effect the laws of the old theocracy. We are not an earthly government that can do that. When the Old Testament says, put to death a witch, put to death a murderer, put to death an adulterer we cannot do that because we are not under the constitution of the Old Testament. We can't carry out death sentences.

"Since the kingdom of Israel passed away, God has never delegated authority to any man or body of men to execute his laws as such. 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.' Romans 12:19." PP 763.4

False Theocracy

That puts a question in our minds. During the dark ages why did the Catholic Church burn witches? Since the constitution of the Old Testament was no longer relevant. We've all heard the stories about how the Catholic Church used to burn witches. But not only witches they also burned heretics; basically anyone who wouldn't submit to the Papacy. Why did they put people to death? Upon what principles did they do this? Let me ask you what is the Papacy? What does the Pope claim to be? He claims to be the vicegerent of God on earth. Isn't that a feature of theocratic government? The kings of Israel were the vicegerents of God in the old theocracy. So the Papacy itself appears to be a theocracy. But what sort of theocracy? Let's read about it from the very words of Martin Luther, he should know, he was there.

"It is a horrible thing," says he [Martin Luther], "to behold the man who styles himself Christ's vicegerent displaying a magnificence that no emperor can equal. Is this being like the poor Jesus, or the humble Peter? He is (say they) the lord of the world! But Christ, whose vicar he boasts of being, has said, My kingdom is not of this world.

Can the dominions of a vicar extend beyond those of his superior?" History of the Reformation, 188

Christ says "My kingdom is not of this world" -- it's not temporal. Christ maintains no temporal kingdom on this earth. And yet the pope rules as a temporal king, lord of the world. You see what sort of theocracy the papacy is? It is a false theocracy. Because the pope's dominions extend beyond what God has given carrying out judgments that were not theirs to carry out. Burning witches and heretics etc.

A true theocracy is a government under the immediate direction of God. But a false theocracy is a government under the direction of a man in the place of God. A man governing in the place of God is the pope. A man ruling the world in the place of God is all that the pope has ever claimed to be. He claims to be the vicegerent of God on earth. Pope Leo XIII said, "We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty." He might as well have been quoting Scripture. Because that's exactly what the Scriptures said he would claim to be.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

2 Thessalonians 2:3,4

Now because the papacy is a false theocratic government she inflicts temporal penalties falsely in the name of Christ.

"In the former dispensation, while sins against God were visited with temporal penalties, the judgments executed were not only by divine sanction, but under his direct control, and by his command. Sorcerers were to be put to death.

Idolaters were to be slain. Profanity and sacrilege were punished with death. Whole nations of idolaters were to be exterminated. But the infliction of these penalties was directed by him who reads the hearts of men, who knows the measure of their guilt, and who deals with his creatures in wisdom and mercy. When men, with human frailties and passions, undertake to do this work, it needs no argument to show that the door is opened to unrestrained injustice and cruelty. The most inhuman crimes will be perpetrated, and all in the sacred name of Christ." PP 764.1

All through the ages the papacy has inflicted her terrible penalties all in the name of Christ. By sword, by flame, and by the rack the papacy justifies herself in this by appealing to judgments executed under the old theocracy. Look what the Israelites did they put people to death and destroyed whole nations.

"Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. And the LORD said unto me, Fear him not: for I will deliver him, and all his people, and his land, into thy hand; and thou shalt do unto him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. So the LORD our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him remaining. And we took all his cities at that time, there was not a city which we took not from them, threescore cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many. And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city." Deuteronomy 3:1-6

If the Israelites did that and completely destroyed all the cities of Bashan and put to death all the people, says the

papacy, surely a crusade to destroy heretics is no different. Except, as we know, their whole thinking was based on theocratic error. But still the pope Innocent III launched his crusade to destroy the Albigenses. In the early 1200's his brutal crusade repressed the Albigenses and desolated much of southern France. Whole cities were destroyed and thousands were massacred. Only small groups of Albigenses survived in isolated areas. These were subsequently pursued and destroyed by the Inquisition. Now was pope Innocent III a man inspired by God to do this? Were those crusaders under the direct control of God when they slaughtered the Albigenses or were they carrying out a judgment that was not theirs to carry out?

Century after century the blood of the saints had been shed. [Note that blood of the saints. Now read who they were] While the Waldenses laid down their lives upon the mountains of Piedmont "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ," similar witness to the truth had been borne by their brethren, the Albigenses of France. GC 271.2

The Albigenses were God's people. They were the saints. And here the papacy, that false theocracy, slaughtered them in the name of Christ, 'Wearing out the saints of the most High.'

"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High" Daniel 7:25

World War I

Now that we know the principles of a true theocracy established in Israel of old and we can identify the principles of false theocratic government. Come and look at the history of our church. In World War I the Seventh-day Adventist church came to a terrible crisis. All through Europe Adventists were forced to bear arms and those who refused were put into prison and some were executed. The government put the

church leadership under a great deal of pressure to compromise so that Adventists could bear arms. And that's what happened the leadership compromised.

"The German Adventist leaders taught that under the existing conditions participation in the war was no violation of the sixth commandment and that war duty on Saturday was no violation of the fourth commandment, since war was a work of necessity, allowable on the Sabbath." HSDARM 175.1



This was a big compromise. But not only that, the leadership was forced to deal with dissenters and conscientious objectors which were disfellowshipped from the church. This occurred in 16 different European nations so it wasn't an isolated occurrence. After the war the disfellowshipped minority sought reconciliation with the church. They met with the General Conference leaders and to the General Conference president they put four questions. Look at just one of these questions; the question with reference to the commandments of God. The question they asked was this:

"What stand does the General Conference take toward the resolution adopted by the German leadership, since 1914, in regard to the fourth

and sixth commandments?" HSDARM 52.2

What was the view of the General Conference president in regard to this compromise of the commandments? Read his answer, the part relevant to our study

"We believe that you brethren are completely wrong in the position you represent. [He said that to those who were disfellowshipped] We do believe in the fourth commandment as we have ever believed in it. But we cannot agree with your interpretation in connection with it. [Ok not agreeing, so what was their interpretation of the Sabbath commandment? Read on to find out] What would you have said about Moses a few days after he had received the law on mount Sinai, if he had told you to go and kill the king of Bashan, and all the men, women, and children? Would you have accused him of murder? But God commanded him to violate the sixth commandment. You see that there are many things to be found in the interpretation of the commandments, and we must have freedom to read and understand them, without being bound to the interpretation of any small corporation." HSDARM 54.1

Can you see the glaring error? Can you see how far that answer is from the truth? It's the old theocratic error, using Old Testament judgments when we are under the constitution of the New Testament. It was the same error the papacy used to excuse herself in acts of bloodshed. Will Adventists also use this to excuse themselves in acts of bloodshed? Tell me was Germany a theocratic state under the direct control of God? Was Kaiser Wilhelm a man inspired of God? Should they fight for him causing the bloodshed of others? Do you know what Kaiser Wilhelm wrote when it was requested that Adventist men be free from military duty on the Sabbath?

"The request was refused by Emperor Wilhelm, who himself wrote on the margin

of the petition, ‘No pardon for Adventists.’” HSDARM 172.2

Here’s the man they obeyed above God. Was it right to do this? Was it right in a time of war to obey man above God? In the American Civil War the precedent was set for Adventists. Early Seventh-day Adventists did not participate in war. They obeyed God in preference to man.

“I saw that it is our duty in every case to obey the laws of our land, unless they conflict with the higher law which God spoke with an audible voice from Sinai, and afterward engraved on stone with His own finger. “I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people.” He who has God’s law written in the heart will obey God rather than men, and will sooner disobey all men than deviate in the least from the commandment of God. God’s people, taught by the inspiration of truth, and led by a good conscience to live by every word of God, will take His law, written in their hearts, as the only authority which they can acknowledge or consent to obey. The wisdom and authority of the divine law are supreme.” 1T 361.1

It goes on to say that they could not take part in the American Civil War. Even though it was purported to be a just war against slavery. They could not take part in it.

“The ten precepts of Jehovah are the foundation of all righteous and good laws. Those who love God’s commandments will conform to every good law of the land. But if the requirements of the rulers are such as conflict with the laws of God, the only question to be settled is: Shall we obey God, or man?” 1T 361,362

That’s the question, shall we obey God or shall we obey men like Kaiser Wilhelm? Will we choose a heathen ruler? Will the religious leaders drive us to this? Shall we cry out, “We have no king but Caesar” and choose an earthly government above God’s heavenly government? Where does our loyalty lie? What is worse, to die on the battlefield breaking God’s commandments or to die in prison keeping God’s commandments? Take your pick! Do you know how many German Adventists were slain on the battlefield in World War I?

“More than two thousand Seventh-day Adventists, including scores of missionaries, were among the millions of soldiers in the German army from 1914 to 1918. This number represented about ten per cent of the total Adventist membership in Germany Of these two thousand German Adventists engaged in the war, 257 were killed in action.” HSDARM 173.5

What a pity! Can it be said about them “here are they that keep the commandments of God”? To use the religious constitution of the Old Testament to do away with the commandments is false and deceptive. To reinforce the point, read what happened in the church at Bremen in the words of Oscar Kramer:



“In the absence of their elder, Brother Staubert, an ordained minister, spoke to the congregation at the 11:00 o’clock service. And what a wonderful service it was! He admonished all to stand faithful to God’s holy law, to which the church seemed to agree.

The following week brought a series of German victories, which fanned the patriotic spirit of the people and enthused many church members. When Elder Staubert spoke to them again the following Sabbath, things had visibly changed, but not for the better. In a rather reluctant voice he turned to Old Testament stories of warfare in the time of Israel, trying to excuse and defend the waging of war and the involvement of God’s people in it. . . . He compared our time, when spiritual Israel is scattered all over the earth, to the time of Theocratic Israel (which was both a church and a nation). [But today God’s people are scattered everywhere. They are not an earthly nation]. There were, nevertheless, enough earnest and staunch-hearted believers in that meeting who dared to vindicate the honour of God. They promptly rose to their feet, protesting aloud against such perversion of truth. But they were

then informed that this new stand was not taken by the minister alone; it was now the position of the entire German Union. To this effect, the leaders had sent word to the German government on August 4, 1914.” HSDARM 179

Soon after the dissenters from this position were disfellowshipped from the church at Bremen. The leadership led the people to obey the governments of this world above God. They obeyed Caesar as their king in preference to God. Let it be a lesson for us all.

Conclusion

In this study we have followed the true theocracy of Israel through to its end. We have seen the false theocracy of the papacy and the evils of it. And we have seen the false theocratic sentiments used to justify participation in World

War I. In answer to our title “Theocratic Confusion Resolved” if there was any confusion in our minds about it perhaps now we have some clearer views. AT Jones uses this quote about 8 times in his writings. It’s a good summary of the confusion that exists among Christians.

“There had in fact arisen in the church a false theocratical theory, originating not in the essence of the gospel, but in the confusion of the religious constitutions of the Old and New Testaments” - A.T. Jones

There is a lot of false theocratic reasoning out there and one day we’re going to meet up with it. How will we react in a time of crisis? Will we give way to false sentiments? We don’t want to let the Lord down.

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29

We have the choice when the laws of the land conflict with God’s laws. Will we obey Caesar; that is, the earthly governments or will we obey God? **AMEN**

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What can Christians expect from Psychology and Psychotherapy?

PART 2 of 2



Carl Gustav Jung

Beside Freud, Jung is one of the most important and known founders of psychology - the psychoanalytical therapy.

“The discussion of (C.G.) Jung’s psychic participation must begin with taking a deep breath. It is a story so unbelievable ... that, ever since it was fully revealed, analytic psychologists have been staggering under the impact, psychoanalysts have ignored it as a fairy tale, and parapsychologists have found it a diet so rich that up to now they have not been able to digest it. ... Jung’s ... doctoral thesis of 1899 (was) on *The Psychology and Pathology of So-Called Occult Phenomena*.” - Hunt, *Invasion*, p. 432.

Jung’s Ancestors

From the father’s line:

Jung’s grandfather, Prof. M. D. Carl Gustav Jung (he had the same first name) was an “enthusiastic mason.” “He was Master for eight years at the chair of the Basel Lodge and later became Grand Master of the Swiss Grand Lodge ‘Alpina’ and was as such a high initiate in esoteric practices.” - Nannen, p.13.

“C.G. Jung ... became an active spiritist. His grandfather vehemently criticized Goethe, but his grandson was fascinated by him. ... The deceased grandfather Jung ... visited him (C.G. Jung) often.” - Ibid., p. 14.

In his year-long correspondence with Freud (1906 until their breaking up in 1913) he mentions about his “contacts” with his grandfather. On record are the words of Freud: “Dear friend! (he means C.G. Jung) Next time you are talking to grandpa, would you tell him...” - Letter, Freud to Jung, Jan. 20, 1912.

Another letter of the correspondence “between Freud and Jung contents Jung’s

counsel to Freud to seduce a patient with the name of Sabina Spielrein.” - Hunt, *Invasion*, p. 447.

From the mother’s line:

Jung’s grandfather, Samuel Preiswerk was Senior pastor at the Basel Cathedral.

“Pastor Preiswerk thought he could unite his pastoral office with spiritualism. ... In his study room he had a special chair reserved for the spirit of his deceased first wife Magdalena. Every week, much to the chagrin of his second wife Augusta, Preiswerk would converse with the spirit of Magdalena.” - Nannen, p. 18.

Augusta Preiswerk herself did have the gift of fortunetelling. Her son’s father-in-law Rudolf, his brother and sister were also so-called “visionaries.” The sister of Preiswerk, Helly, became a medium for his nephew Carl Gustav Jung. Four sisters of this Helly were spiritists. - Acc. to Nannen, p. 18.

“End of August 1897 the first congress of the Zionists took place in Basel. Theodor Herzl called in his speech Samuel Preiswerk the forerunner of the Zionist movement. In the first spiritistic session after the congress which Jung had organized, his medium Helly received “from her grandfather” the order to complete the work he had begun, to bring the Jews into their land and to chastise them.” - Ibid., p. 19.

This information about the settlement in Israel by the Jews gives a totally new picture. With this information the constant problems there in Israel can perhaps be better understood.

Of course Christians know that the dead are sleeping, they “rest from their works.” Therefore must the appearance of a dead one be not his personal appearing, but the emerging of a demon and therefore a satanic spirit?

Many descendants of Preiswerk’s grandparents occupy themselves with the spirits of their dead relatives (demons thus with spiritualism) as this would be the most natural thing. ... Jung’s mother Emilie, maiden name Preiswerk, was also a talented medium.” - Ibid., p. 20.

“Jung’s mother had always had an interest in the occult. When her 15 year old son Carl talked with his cousin Luggi about ‘supernatural things’, she mostly participated. Later on she took part in seances which her son Carl, still under age then, organized since June 1895. ... Besides, it was obvious that already after the first seance, that the spirit leader of Carl’s medium, who spoke with a bass voice through his ‘favorite granddaughter’ Helly, was her own father and the grandfather of most of all the participating females present. The ‘leader and guardian’ was the deceased pastor (and songwriter) Samuel Preiswerk, so they falsely believed.” - Ibid., p. 21.

Carl Gustav Jung

At the age of four Jung had his occult key-experience: A terrible nightmare. He saw a horrible underground creature, the underworld god as the opponent to Jesus Christ. Later, when already influenced by Freud, Jung indicated that this child dream played a decisive role in his turning to Freudism. - Acc. to Nannen. p. 26.

He commented on his dream: “Through this child dream I was introduced to the secrets of the earth. There was so to speak a funeral taking place in the earth, and it had taken years till I have come up again. Today I understand that it happened to bring the greatest possible amount of light into the darkness. It was a kind of initiation into the realm of darkness. With that my spiritual life had its subtle beginning.” - Jaffe, p. 21.

When twelve he had another key-experience which he later described this way: "God in His omniscience prepared everything in such a way, that the first parents had to commit the sin. It was therefore the purpose of God, that they had to sin. ... This thought immediately delivered me from my dreadful torment. ... I was certain, that according to His opinion, I myself had to seek for the way out." - Nannen, p. 33.

Jung distorted the character of God to the opposite. Besides he thought he could walk the way without Jesus and would have to. In other words: I can do it, I do not need the grace of Christ. To this comes the blasphemy concerning Adam and Eve. Later we read of him: "Who is guilty of that sin? Last but not least it is God who created the world and sin, and who in Christ has to suffer the fate of mankind." - Jaffe, p. 220.

"In a BBC Television interview (Nov. 1959) John Freemann asked him if he believed in God. Jung answered: 'I do not need to believe in God, I know.' - Nannen, p. 35. As reaction to this TV interview he answered in a letter dated Dec. 5, 1959: "I know of a god beyond good and evil who dwells in me and everywhere." - Ibid., p. 35. This statement is classic pantheism. A danger against which E. G. White had sent a strong warning in the church already a century ago. But nowadays we can describe pantheism as a part of the New Age concept.

"His subjective and occultic experiences were all through his life his authority and standard. Unfortunately he never took a critical look at his personal experiences. Neither did he consent to anyone's investigations, for fear that he may lose his beloved secrets through criticism." - Ibid., p. 37.

His mother, as we know was a spiritist, said to him: "You have to read Goethe's Faust, ... and I did. It flowed into my soul like a wonder-balm. At last, there is someone who takes the devil for real! And even makes a blood covenant with him. ... In that respect Goethe became a prophet to me." - Ibid., p. 47.

Now we can see Jung's respect for Goethe. Evidently there are two versions of "Faust" around. Goethe put only the "mild version" in circulation. Goethe researcher Schoen describes the unpublished version as such:

"In comparison (analogy) to the Christian rites of the gospel, this is Satan worship, a Satan mass, a satanic Sermon on the Mount, a witch sabbath, a sex-orgia, a bloodsucking heretic tribunal - amidst that orgiastic-seething caldron Dr. Faust." - Meskemper, p. 162.

C. G. Jung expressed his relation to this work of Goethe like this: "Later on I intentionally tied into my works what Faust (had) skipped." - Jaffe, 239.

Through Goethe Jung got acquainted with the in-the-occult interest Schoppenhauer, then to Kant, and to the occult-inspired Nietzsche. Just graduated, Jung occupied himself intensively with occultism, especially spiritualism. Under his initiative and management then barely twenty years old, the first three spiritistic experiments were organized in the Presbytery of Kleinhuningen. "Several days after the first experiment the medium said (through the body of Helly), 'My good spirits prepared me from childhood on to serve my family and you as medium to bring messages from grandpa (the Songwriter). Carl wants to explore the mind and the world beyond. I am chosen for that. This is my destiny and it makes me happy.'" - Nannen, p. 53.

Beforehand, Helly's spirit had said: "Fear not! Look, I am with you all the days, your father Samuel, who is with God. Pray to him the Lord and ask him that my beloved grandson will reach his goal." - Ibid., p. 53.

Shortly after his father died, who in less than six weeks after his death, he appeared to him as a demon.

The beginning and medial lead of Jung's analytic psychoanalysis had its basis in spiritualism. Jung's thesis consisted of the by-himself-conducted spiritism. Now the occult became a decisive source of insight for his psychology.

Jung was already a see-and-hear medium, now he became a write-medium: "I wrote down the fantasies as good as I could. ... But I did not know what it was all about. So I had no choice, but to write all this down in the style as subconsciousness had selected..." - Ibid., p. 97. Altogether there are three spirit leaders by Carl Gustav Jung, one of them is known by the name of Philemon.

C. G. Jung as Therapist

We talked about the sources of his thoughts. A single sentence of Jung doubtless explains everything: "In cases of difficult diagnosis I usually get a horoscope." - Hunt, Invasion, p. 456.

C. G. Jung and New Age

"New Age apostles declared Jung as their 'spiritual saint,' and consider him as 'forerunner on the way to a better future world.' ... It must be the spiritual affinity, ... pantheism, the orientation to the irrational, the spiritual experiences, the east Indian religions and the occult, the longing and search for self, that connects New Age followers with Jung. ... They have a similar goal. They dream like Jung about a new imminent age, and make effort to prepare themselves for the blessed Age of Aquarius." - Nannen, p. 340.

C. G. Jung and Pastoral Care

Eduard Thurneysen who still placed the word of God above atheistic psychology examined Jung's psychology on that divine, absolute measuring stick. He therefore warned that pastoral care with her use of psychology, has to be "extremely cautious and concerning Jung, especially cautious. But alas, more and more theologians orient themselves on C. G. Jung." - Ibid., p. 368.

C. G. Jung and the Charismatic Movement

"In the beginning of 1977 the paper 'Charismatische Gemeinderneuerung,' within the Lutheran church in Germany stated: 'C.G. Jung plays among the many responsible for the charismatic renewal an important part.'" - Ibid., p. 372.

Morton Kelsey, a student of Jung, former professor in education sciences at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, occupied himself for twelve years with Jung's analytic psychology.

Through correspondence he came to a personal contact with C. G. Jung. This pastor dares to compare the Holy Spirit with the "Self" of Jung. He interprets the Bible with the help of Jung's theories. Kelsey believes that his mother died 'for him like our Lord did.' Thanks to Jung's occult methods of imagination Kelsey met 'his deceased mother.' - Acc. to Nannen, p. 372.

Conclusion

Before giving a biblical view, I would like to quote something from an unchristian source: "Even the well-known German magazine 'Der Spiegel', in a July 1994 feature article, raised the possibility of demonic involvement through Freudian and Jungian psychology." - Hunt, Invasion, p. 448.

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." - Matt. 7:15.

What are we lacking in Jesus Christ, that we have to follow counsel from unbelievers, even demon inspired mediums? What is the matter with Christianity, when she gives more ear to occultists than to the true word of God? What does it mean to use ideas and concepts from such satanic sources? Under which influence are we then giving ourselves? What can come from such a source? What can come from such a person, whom demonic spirit leaders told he should take a look at his own soul? How do we classify the works of one used by demons?

Carl Rogers

The new man whom Carl Rogers imagines would believe in the occult, in meditation and in one's own experience. His foremost goals in psychotherapy are: self-realization, self-expression, self-determination, self-discovery, and self-knowledge. Rogers tells his readers that with the means of spiritualism he has contact with other worlds. In his writings we find hints to the oracle book I Ging, about Tarot, biofeedback, astrology, the supernatural and the occult. "Suspicious is also the circumstance that Rogers is not revealing details about the sources of his knowledge, but says that his train of thoughts are based upon experiences and that his proclaimed sources of insight can be tapped through intuition and other occult techniques." - Franzke, p. 29.

The following statement from C. Rogers describes the quality of his work: "To me experience is the highest authority. ... Neither the Bible, nor the prophets, neither Freud nor science, neither the revelation of God nor of men can take the place before my own direct experience." - Gassmann, p. 14.

With this C. Rogers makes himself the final criterion and authority. He puts himself above God. "Roger was honest enough as to declare his psychotherapeutic system with all the ideological basis as "speculative." - Gassmann, p. 41.

St. Grof

Grof is letting us also know that ... C. G. Jung (and others) are inspiring her in her scientific work. According to Mrs. Grof out of body travel is possible. Such journeys include journeys into realms "inhabited by beings of darkness, as we know them from mythology (books) about hells and underworlds of the various cultures." - Acc. to Franzke, p. 36.

Mrs. Grof's developed transpersonal psychology includes among other things: invulnerability, insensitivity to pain, fire-walk, UFO-phenomenon, stigmatization and Spirit-healing. It is emphasized that these abilities are always only possible in the state of trance, when the gods take possession of the body. - Acc. to Franzke, p. 36.

Other examples from other psychologists could be added. Just one more quote:

"A surprising number of today's psychotherapists are following Jung's advice (about consulting a horoscope)." - Hunt, Invasion, p. 456.

What should Christians think about these sources?

The biblical view reveals those sketched founders of psychology, the named psychologists and "their psychotherapeutic models, methods, the door to the world of darkness, to the realm of gods, spirits



and demons to which most writers as a rule openly agree. According to the Bible nothing good is to be expected from these powers of darkness. Though they may in

some cases perform miracles, assist or even cure; but as a rule a terrible price must be paid sooner or later." - Franzke, p. 43.

Nevertheless psychology, psychoanalysis and psychotherapy enjoy scientific recognition. All universities in the world in their psychological education centers, call those in some areas absurd views of these founders, science, and are taught without contradiction or opposition.

Everyone practicing these disciplines refers to the works and insights of Freud, Jung, Rogers, etc. They're by satanic powers inspired ideas, theories and opinions, run through the whole understanding of the "Science of the mind". The opponent of God succeeded to bring a whole medical discipline under his influence, a subject which sad to say is gaining increasing popularity.

Unfortunately it is also a discipline whose fundamental ideas are gaining more and more acceptance in Christian circles, even though their founders openly admit, that their insights originate from powers of the beyond. It has not been proven until today, why the "memory" of ones own birth should be a healing factor. Prof. Franzke comes after his working on the subject of psychology to this conclusion: "Most of the scientific recognized psychotherapists are of occult, magical, shamanic, or religious origin or character. ... This circumstance is among others therefore veiled with mystery, so that the old gods, spirits and demons got 'scientific' sounding names (because of not understanding) and highly paid scientists do not examine, even less uncover or bring to discussion essential fundamental teachings and assumptions of psychotherapy. ... In truth the professors opened the door to magic, having no interest in a true and pure science that would uncover the crossing of the border into the realm of magic or prevent it." - Franzke, p. 46.

Here I would like to add one excerpt from Eugenio Fizzotti, professor of religious psychology in the Vatican, published February 12, 1997:

"The core of the problem, which psychological and psychiatric research has not resolved yet, and is unlikely to resolve, consists in a correct distinction between pathological behavior of a psychic nature and demonic invasion." - Hunt, Invasion, p. 436.

“Man’s problem is that he is separated from God by sin. Psychology has turned sin into sickness, a sickness of the mind that requires not repentance and reconciliation with God, but therapy and reconciliation with one’s “inner truth.” - Ibid., p. 437.

From the biblical view are these here selected practices and models (of psychotherapy) on account of the spiritistic sources of their originators, tools of the occult, and in no wise of any benefit to pastoral care. As a matter of fact, they are in effect the opposite of the gospel:

affliction according to His will and time!” - Franzke, p. 52.

“Do you have time for me? It will be a longer talk,” said he. We sat down. He gave his name, talked shortly about his study and said that since a few years he became a Christian. Then he began to speak about his problem.

Some weeks prior to our meeting he began to think about what his life would look like if there was no God. In theory he thought through every possibility and came finally

He wanted to pray and read again the Bible, to trust Jesus again. But to his utter dismay he discovered that he could not. Suddenly thoughts flashed through his mind: “God is the imagination of man, a pious wish, nothing but an illusion.” He took the Bible, but could hear only the arguments of infidel authors. The text in the Bible no more spoke to him. He knew it was God’s word, but no more for him. He was absolutely sure that Jesus lived, but there was an ice cold power of unbelief, a power that would no more allow anything to get through.



“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.” Acts 26;18. “The gospel liberates; the powers of darkness enslave. Bible and psychotherapy have nothing, absolutely nothing in common: they are incompatible opposites. A Christian psychotherapy is a contradiction in terms.” - Franzke, p. 47.

The Solution

“Christians (atheists alike and rationals) should in no case turn to the powers of darkness, but solely to their Lord and Redeemer, who also does miracles and is able to deliver His children from every

to the conclusion that only practice could give information about it. So he decided to go for an experiment. For a few weeks he was going to live in such a way as God would be only an idea, the Bible a fairy tale book, and Christianity a mere fantasy. He got himself some atheistic literature, stopped praying, pushed decisively every thought about God aside and avoided all contact with Christians. But then he sensed that with every passing day it got darker and darker in his heart, a feeling of meaninglessness came over him, and a very strange coldness was enshrouding him. After a few weeks he realized that he never wanted to live like that. This experiment showed him the total hopelessness of a life without God.

“If this continues like that,” he said in despair, “I will go crazy. I cannot take it any longer. I opened myself to a spirit that has me totally in his grip.” I was going to say something, but he interrupted me with these words: “You do not need to explain anything. I know God is a reality, I know the Bible is God’s word, but I cannot believe anymore that is my problem!”

There I realized that I had to act here in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. I got up and placed my hands upon the head of the young man. I commanded the spirit of unbelief to leave. In that instant he collapsed and fell to the floor. But after a few moments he

got up, embraced me weeping. "I can believe," burst from his lips, "I can again believe!" And then he uttered a most moving dedication prayer to Jesus Christ.

After some weeks he wrote to me: "I again know that I belong to Jesus. The many doubts I told you about are all gone. Thoughts of criticism about the word of God have no more room in me. I do not want to give my talents to the works of the devil, but to live as a witness and follower of Jesus." Here I could only say: "Thank you Lord Jesus, that you have given authority over your disciples." - Vogel, p. 169.

In all the discussions about psychology and sickness of the mind, one concept is as good as never mentioned. Let us simply look at a little story taking place this way:

A certain man, I do not know his name nor his age, became paralyzed and thus bound to his bed. His family takes him from one doctor to the next. The more they consult the more discouraged the sick man became. Nobody was able to help him. Then one of his neighbors tells him he heard about a new physician in the area. Immediately they put the paralytic into their vehicle and off they went to take him to that "miracle healer," but to their disappointment they had to learn, that the waiting room was already overcrowded, the hall, the house, even to the street. Nobody gave way despite the remark of the long journey and the critical condition of the sick man. What to do now? Give up? No! All at once his companions climbed to the roof, removed the tiles and let the paralytic down into the midst of the doctor's office. The surprised doctor looked in the eyes of the man and said: "Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee." Matt. 9:2.

The point about modern psychology is that it is as good as never mentions forgiveness. Forgiveness is so imperative a factor, that Jesus included it into the model prayer, the Lord's Prayer: "And forgive us our sins..." Luke 11:4. In the example mentioned above we can see, that guilt and sin can lead to signs of paralysis and confinement to bed.

Jesus Christ offers us unconditional forgiveness. We do not have to bring any preliminary works. He takes every guilt, all sins without conditions. He does not ask

for age, name, sex, family tree, nationality or profession.

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.

With God there is no partial forgiveness. Only forgiveness full and complete. Yet He ties one "little" condition to it. We must lay down our sins at the foot of the cross and leave them there. Everything, I emphasize everything we leave there is forgiven once and for all. The pardoned load is gone, blotted out, no more there, just as it had never happened. This is Divine Christian forgiveness.

Any other place for unloading our faults and sins is of no avail. It will make matters only worse. Not alone is that pardon missing, no, this not-forgiven load of guilt takes us so far as to become confined to our bed.

"For what is man profiteth, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Matt. 16:26.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

From the biblical standpoint we do not need a so-called "therapist" – neither Christian psychology nor psychotherapy.

We are familiar with these words: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; behold old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17.

"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself." Gal. 2:20.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19.

With the Holy Scriptures in the hand is the man who gave himself to God, "fully furnished unto all good works." 2. Tim. 3:17.

We may yield our life or leave it at the cross of Jesus and accept the life of Christ. We may leave our dead body (the old man) at

the cross and arise to a new life in Christ Jesus in body, mind and especially in the spirit. Therefore this psychology of Jesus and that psychotherapy of the cross is the only true remedy for us.

Those who claim we need human aid and therapeutic methods to become free, do not believe in Jesus, the cross, the word nor the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells and works in the believer. Jesus is able to deliver us and we do not need human assistance; "For if the Son therefore make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 9:36.

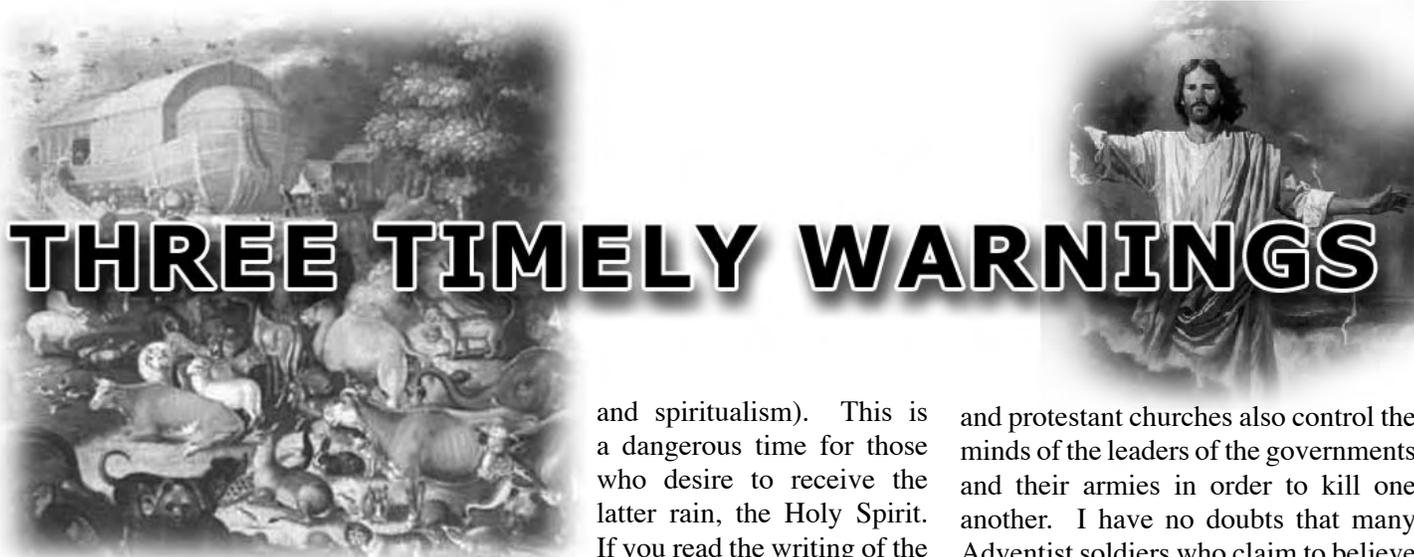
This divine liberty cannot be given to us by anyone else nor through any other means.

*By Helmut Welker, Germany
Translated by Edda Tedford, Canada.*

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THREE TIMELY WARNINGS

In these last days in which we are living I am thinking of the following text, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” 2 Peter 1:19.

Two thousand years ago, Apostle Peter wrote this letter to the brethren in faith who were waiting for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The same Peter and other disciples when they were with Jesus according to Matthew 24, felt the need and preoccupation to know when the end of the world would be and also the second coming of Christ. If you read carefully the whole chapter 24, you will see the order of the events which are fulfilling today.

The First Warning

“Take heed that no man deceive you.”

The old serpent, Satan and his angels have more than 6000 years experience in seduction and deception and know perfectly well how to use people to his advantage in this time of spiritual darkness, even that there are more than 5000 different Christian religions which are using the Bible, but do not know the interpretation of the prophesies. They are ignorant of the fact that all these evangelical organizations form part of the false prophet (Rev. 16:13), the beast (papacy), the dragon (Cathecism

and spiritualism). This is a dangerous time for those who desire to receive the latter rain, the Holy Spirit. If you read the writing of the Spirit of Prophecy as well

as the interpretation of the Adventist pioneers you will understand much better that God has in this earth a remnant people who are able to interpret and teach correctly the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, sanctuary and the present truth. This people is our International Missionary Society, even though among its members and pastors possibly may have someone in disguise who is like Judas and a thief, drunkard, liar, adulterer, idolater, meat eater, traitor of the truth, Sabbath breaker or any other commandment, yet nevertheless God is leading the faithful ones in His church and they are the ones who will receive the power of the outpouring of the latter rain in order to finish the work of the three angels messages.

The Second Warning that the Lord Gives to His Disciples

“Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars.”

The whole world is concerned about the wars that are being fought in the Middle East, about the three unclean spirits like frogs in Rev. 16:13,14. “They are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world.”

The same devilish and satanic spirits, which are leading the leaders of the religious organizations like the papacy

and protestant churches also control the minds of the leaders of the governments and their armies in order to kill one another. I have no doubts that many Adventist soldiers who claim to believe in the three angels messages are cooperating in the massacre of the war-going countries, brothers against brothers, most likely of the same faith, guided by the unclean spirits. I am asking ironically, when these soldiers pray to God asking for a victory over their enemies and protection, if God can answer such prayers? Apostle Paul answers this question, “In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” 2 Cor. 4:4.

On the other hand the Lord’s servant says, “I was shown that God’s people, who are His peculiar treasure, cannot engage in this perplexing war, for it is opposed to every principle of their faith. In the army they cannot obey the truth and at the same time obey the requirements of their officers. There would be continual violation of conscience. Worldly men are governed by worldly principles. They can appreciate no other... The ten precepts of Jehovah are the foundation of all righteous and good laws. Those who love God’s commandments will conform to every good law of the land. But if the requirements of the rulers are such as conflict with the laws of God, the only question to be settled is: Shall we obey God, or man?” Test. Vol. 1, p. 361.

The Third Warning in Which Also

You and Me are Included and the Church and those who Believe the Last Message of Admonition:

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Sodomy is a clear characteristic that we see in any country. Men marry with men instead of with women. The Lord hates this sinful practise as much as or more than any other sinful idol worship against the human body.

Apostle Paul declares clearly, “For this cause God gave them up into vile affections: for even their women did change natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly,... They which commit such things are worthy of death.”

Romans 1:26, 27, 32.

Besides this they have a form of godliness, that is to say, they practise some false Christian religion. We must take care of ourselves and of our brethren in the faith that Satan will not overtake us with perversity, injustice, fornication, covetousness, evil, envy, pride, etc.

Finally, Apostle Peter reminds us, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.” 2 Pet. 3:9-10.

May the Lord have mercy on us and give us wisdom and His spirit that we may understand the time in which we are living and that we bring this salvation to the souls that are perishing. **AMEN.**

*Your brother in Christ,
Guillermo Gamallo*

THE MYSTERY OF PRAYER

1 CHRONICLES 4:10

For many prayer is a deep mystery. I “pray”, this day, with the help of the Holy Spirit, that this mystery will be removed, for those who are troubled or confused by it; what to pray for, how often to pray, why prayers are unanswered and more.

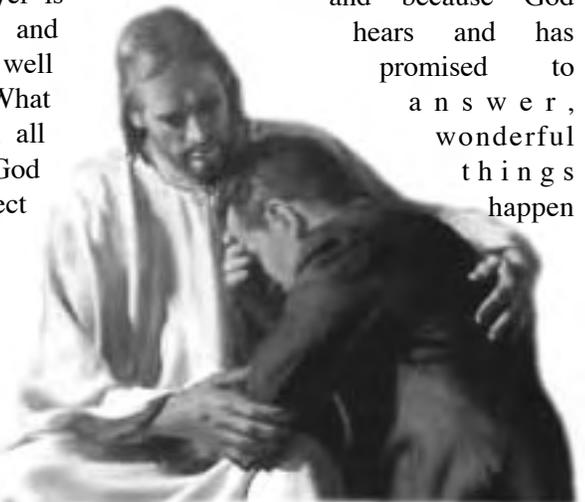
Prayer is a biblical doctrine of our faith, to start with. The doctrine of prayer is not just insignificantly added on after we have finished the doctrines of God and man, and therefore, allow prayer to remain in the shadows of the unknown.

We need to look at prayer seriously, as one’s view of God’s relation to the world and man’s relation to God. It’s “as essential as daily food.” MYP 115). But “to have a life of prayer it must be maintained b earnest effort.” (ST 607).

Prayer, by definition, means to intervene, intercede, arbitrate, mediate. Intercessory prayer has incredible possibilities for enlarging our territory of service, our scope, when tied in with a knowledge of Biblical scriptures. We may pray for someone in our homes, next door, or one-half way around the world. Some think prayer can affect only the one who prays, as a kind of psychological therapy. Others, still, consider it as merely communion with God. The Bible tells us prayer is effective for one who prays and others for whom he prays... as well as for the general world! What power! Prayer has power in all that is in God’s power. God can, in answer to prayer direct any circumstance in the world which He controls and sustains. Think about it. Today also as always, there is an urgent need for us to pray for “all who are in authority.” (1Tim. 2:2). But does the word “all” include the most wicked of leaders? Are

there ever people in positions of power and influence who are beyond the help of prayer? The answer is in 1 Tim. 1:12-17, where Paul admitted he was a sinner... “of whom I am chief.” Paul was really saying, “If I, the worst of sinners, can be saved, anyone can.” Paul, therefore, exhorted us to pray for “all” authority, because God desires that all be saved. So, let’s not only pray that honourable leaders will act wisely, but also that ungodly leaders will be saved. God can save “anyone”! But, of course when righteous people pray. So, God really hears those prayers in heaven. The lives for whom we pray are then influenced from above.

In 1 Chronicles 4:10, or our opening verse, Jabez prayed for enlarged borders and protection from harm. His name, Jabez, sounds like the Hebrew word for “distress” or “pain”... maybe so... and his “pleading” prayer. But, God gave him what he asked for! When we pray for others, our “territory” of service can be large and limitless. The prayers of the Bible were for specific things concerning nature and man’s body. Jabez prayed for enlarged borders and protection from harm. When we pray, too, for others our territory for service can be without limits! Our prayers can reach “anyone”, “anywhere”, “anytime”, and because God hears and has promised to answer, wonderful things happen



when we pray, not only did Jabez pray for larger borders and protection, but we find others, too, who prayed and asked for deliverance from trouble (Ps. 34:15-22), neither poverty or riches (Prov. 30:7-9), deliverance from belly of fish (Jonah 2:7-10), daily bread (Nath. 6:11), healing of sick (Jam. 5:17,18), and more.

When the disciples prayed, the whole building around them shook (Acts 4:31) and an earthquake occurred, opening the doors of the prison (16:25,26); the prayer of a righteous man has great power. (Jam. 5:16).

Prayer is one of the most unselfish and noble gifts we can give to another. Why? Because only God knows, and He alone receives the glory for the end results. Whether we are asking in prayer to know Him better, for Him to do something in the life of someone else, or for Him to provide for a need, He loves to answer. God delights to give; He's full of compassion, and loves to answer those requests for those who come unto Him in faith. He gives to us so we can help others, and so become like Himself. (COL 141). He loves to have us approach Him like His children—expecting Him to hear and to answer, and He loves to have us call him our Father. It makes the relationship more real in our minds. He gives us the privilege of calling the Infinite God our Father. It's a sign for us, of our love and trust to Him. When we pray and ask Him for a favour or blessing, it's like music to His ears. (COL 142). He taught us that we are to ask from Him so we may give to others and learn how we can give in love to others.

When we ask for something in prayer from Him, He may see that it's necessary for us to search our hearts and repent of sin. Therefore, He takes us through test and trial. "He humbles us so we can see what's stopping or

interfering with the working of the Holy Spirit through us." (COL 143).

In Old Testament times the Hebrew language had no word for "impossible"! Maybe that was because God's people knew that if they were obedient there's nothing He couldn't or wouldn't do for them. Today answers are still promised on conditions of obedience. But, he gives these conditions as guidelines, not to discourage, but to point the way! God has a heaven full of blessings for those who cooperate with Him. All who obey Him can claim His promises. (COL 145).



Our Father wants us to trust Him and to know that He can be trusted. James tells us, we need to "Ask without hesitating." Abraham believed God and as a result was called "God's friend." Often He delays His answer to our prayers to try our faith or test the truthfulness of our desires. When we ask, then believe His promise and press your requests or desires with determination that will not be denied. (COL 145).

When we have difficulties, our very first thought should be to pray! Trust all with God. The habit of telling our difficulties to others only makes us weak (COL 146). Who hasn't asked for

more wisdom, guidance, information, or help in critical situations?

Here's hope about this. It's that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have less confidence in man and more confidence in God. He loves or longs to see you reach up to Him in faith and expect great things from Him. (COL 146).

But, how do we learn to "pray more"? (ST 571) Many, today spend 1-3 hours a day in prayer! How in the world do they do it? Some say they couldn't possibly find that much time or know how to spend it if they did. We must make time! If we do, He'll reward us in abundance. It's like paying tithes. Those who never paid tithe don't understand that they can have more by giving 1/10th to the Lord. The more we give, the more we have to give. He blesses us in other ways. It's the same with our time. When we give Him our time, He makes the rest of the day more effective and efficient... try it!

Although there's many different ways to pray, the important thing is to spend time as Mary did, sitting at the feet of Jesus learning, growing, yielding to Him. Then, too, some write their prayers... remaining, thereby, focused on the Lord. We'll find a communication with heaven never experienced before. Many prefer to pray silently; others aloud and some speak with God as they do their daily activities and chores, talking to Him as to a guest in the house.

When we are praying, just as when you're jogging or walking, it helps to have a route to follow. The Lord's Prayer is perfect prayer. It's simple but comprehensive and covers everything. We need to study it. Begin any prayer or every prayer with praise. In Ps 22, David tells us that God inhabits our very lives in praises of His people. As we come into His presence with

praise, gratitude, worship, confession, our anxiety then vanishes. This is true, isn't it. God changes us. His Holy Spirit transforms us. "Pray morning and evening, and pray before you speak. (2T 82; 4T 616). Finally, end every prayer with praise.

As we seek for God's will in our prayer, He will answer us with a better way, better answer than we could ever imagine! The Lord never answers our prayers because we force Him to, but because of His loving and free grace. He gives us more than we could possibly think to ask.

No prayer is ever wasted, even prayers we thought were not heard. He answers in His own and perfect way and His time. Prayer exposes the kingdom of Satan, however establishes the kingdom of God. Prayer presses back the wicked forces of darkness, and battles evil and horror.

The more we pray the more our horizons and perspective expands and the more we can expect from God. But, to ignore prayer leaves us only with a worldly outlook and basis. We deny His powers and guidance, and protection. A fearful thought! As God's last-day people we must use His infinite power.

Now after all of the above, what can our church do to grow strong in prayers? Firstly, the church is made up of those who have asked forgiveness and is called as "fellowship of prayer." So, what needs to be done?

1. A powerful church has leaders who make prayer a priority. If we look closely we'll discover our church's greatest deficiency is not in programs, strategies, materials, ideas, more members, workers, potluck dinners, books, money, but in "prayer"!

2. Prayer, Bible study and personal ministry should be joined together as "one". To pray and do Bible study without serving and sharing with others can create complacent, self-centered

Christians and work only in the "power of the flesh."

3. Many find one way to grow in prayer life is to form small groups; friends, brethren. This encourages consistency, regularity in prayer. We strengthen ourselves and others.

4. Have family worship and personal worship. Private prayer, by far, is the most spiritual. But, if we neglect personal and family worship then other ways or attempts of praying are like sprinkling the leaves of a plant with water while leaving the roots to dry and die.

Furthermore, what can prayer do for you?...for the one that prays? Well, it



can supply our most urgent needs of life. The one praying can receive freedom from fear (Ps. 118:5,6); strength of soul (Ps. 138:3); guidance and satisfaction (Isa. 58:9-11); wisdom and understanding (Dan. 9:20-27); deliverance from harm (Joel 2:32); reward (Matt. 6:6); good gifts (Lk. 11:13); fullness of joy (John 16:23,24); peace (Phil. 4:6,7); freedom from anxiety (1 Pet. 5:7), and more!

Prayer, then is our response and request to the Lord. In our howling, troubled world, men need to make this response to God; believing men need to make request as "never before"! Also, "pray for children as never before." (CG 494)... and children... "pray for your parents." (CG 148). Now, how often should we pray? "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:17). But, a word of caution at this point. "He

who does nothing but pray will soon cease to pray." (SC 101). This can develop into "fanaticism." (2T 147).

This solves the mystery of what we should pray for (Ps. 28:1,2)... pray, therefore, "about everything"! If we are close to Jesus we shall ask what He wants us to ask, whether we are conscious of doing so or not. "Ask what you desire," whatever your will is, like a relation of a child to his father. "Your Father God, knows the things you have need before you ask Him." (Matt. 6:8). If God, therefore, knows all these needs why ask or why pray? The whole meaning of prayer is that we "know God." Our minds must be saturated by the revelation of prayer until we learn in every detail to pray in the Holy Spirit. Are we, then, in the habit of constantly praying... or talking to Jesus about everything? Prayer is not an exercise... it is "life"! All our acts are to be acted prayers.

There are stages in life when there is no storm, no crisis, when we do our human best; it is when a crisis comes that will show on whom we trust; where we go in the time of trial, proves what the great underlying power is in our lives.

When Jabez grew up, "Jabez was more honourable than his brothers." (v9) What made Jabez "more honourable"? From his prayer we can see he took his relationship with God seriously. There was no mystery in the words of his prayer. Rather, he knew that God is the giver of all things. Remember it is important to see that the Giver, the Lord, is more important than the gift.

Jabez was "honourable," because he honoured the Lord. He lived to please God. So, when we pray, ask, "what honours God"? Then, "seek His will and way." The purpose of prayer, therefore, is not to get what we desire, but to become what God wants... and then let the Lord have His way. **AMEN.**

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USA/Greece

OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

PART 2

What can I do for God in return?



How much can I do for God?

If you have a friend and you never bothered to take the time to talk with them or spend any time with them, how long would they remain your friend? Friends are there for us when we need them. They help us when we are in need, they encourage us when we are despondent, but what if we never returned the favour and did anything for our friend in return? The last article showed us how much God has done for us. What great love He has shown toward us by giving His life on the cross of Calvary, and to what lengths He is going to, today for the salvation of mankind. Yet God cannot fully save man without man's cooperation. What is our part in the process of salvation?

What do you owe to God?

Many in world say "nothing – God hasn't done anything for me," but if their life is a mess, they often blame God for not being there for them. When things go well, they feel they have no need of God.

Others will say, "Everything, He's done so much for me." However when God makes some requirement of them – asking them to give up some worldly habit or cherished idol, to change their diet, manner of dress, or to keep the Sabbath, they refuse.

Do these people really believe they owe all to God? They must be in debt because they are not giving what God asks and He asks us to surrender our lives, our hearts and whole being to Him.

Are we in debt to God?

If you compare what God has done for us to what we've done for God, who has paid more? We owe our life when we sinned – however Jesus cancelled our debt. What do we owe Him in return for this favour? We owe our sinful hearts, which include our worldly habits. Some have difficulty paying this debt – they see it as something so overwhelmingly difficult and they only want to pay off a part of their debt. When we talk about worldly music, TV, unhealthy foods, or incorrect dress, is it really we

(the church) who are saying this? Or is it God speaking through His church? Is it our private interpretation of what is right or wrong? Or is God talking to you and telling you that these habits are a part of your debt that you have to pay? If it is written in the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy, then it is directly written from God. Unfortunately some are in the habit of picking and choosing which part of the Spirit of Prophecy books they will take more seriously and which they will put aside as not so important. Also, God has given wisdom to the leaders and older people in the church. In the church there are people who have come from the world and know what is out there – people who have made experiences throughout their lives about right and wrong principles.

Some people are looking to do the bare minimum in order to keep this friendship with Jesus alive. However that is not enough, we should be doing all that we can in this friendship. We need to give it our all and what God asks for is not unreasonable. He's our friend and wants what is best for us and if we decide to make Him our friend we will understand this and accept it.

GOD'S CURSES VS. HIS BLESSINGS.

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." Deut. 11:26 – 28.

Our Friend has promised great blessings for us if we obey His commandments. If we choose to disobey, curses will come upon us. The choice is ours. He wants blessings for us but we must choose if we want them or not.

God has promised: "And said, If thou

wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee." Ex. 15:26. It was true, not only in Ancient Israel, but it is also true today that the physical well-being of the human race is to a large extent dependant on their regard for divine law. Those who disregard the laws that govern healthful living have only themselves to blame for the consequences. God is interested not only in man's spiritual state but also in his physical state.

"God brought the Israelites from Egypt, that He might establish them in the land of Canaan, a pure, holy, and happy people. In the accomplishment of this object He subjected them to a course of discipline, both for their own good and for the good of their posterity. Had they been willing to deny appetite, in obedience to His wise restrictions, feebleness and disease would have been unknown among them. Their descendants would have possessed both physical and mental strength. They would have had clear perceptions of truth and duty, keen discrimination, and sound judgment. But their unwillingness to submit to the restrictions and requirements of God, prevented them, to a great extent, from reaching the high standard which He desired them to attain, and from receiving the blessings which He was ready to bestow upon them." PP 378

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Ps. 34:7 The continual presence of guardian angels is one of the Christian's sweetest assurances. This protection is promised for those who fear Him; those who have made Jesus their best friend.

Snakes in the wilderness: Jesus, our best friend, is a powerful friend. He is a friend that no enemy on this earth can defeat. It would do well for us to ally ourselves with Him. He wants to help and protect us; unfortunately many people refuse this offer of help. The offer of help comes on

condition of obedience. Would you want to help a friend who was constantly refusing to spend time with you and even blaming you for every trial and difficulty they faced? Often we would not even consider these people our friends, however Jesus will not be easily turned aside. He tries over and over again to reach us and to teach us of His great love and His protection until we sever that connection with Him through our sin. “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear; But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” Isaiah 59:1,2.

This is how the Lord felt with Israel in the wilderness. He was protecting them from so many unseen dangers and they did not appreciate all that He had done for them. In order to show them clearly how close He was to them and what He was doing to protect them, He decided to withdraw His protection for a short time when they had done some murmuring and complaining.

“And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.” Numbers 21:5-7

The deaths were due to the withdrawal of the protecting hand of God. The part of the country through which they were travelling was infested with snakes, scorpions etc. therefore they needed a daily miracle to provide protection from them. But now the Lord withdrew His protection and allowed the snakes to attack the people. We also have God’s protecting hand over us to keep us safe from many unseen dangers since we have an enemy that is as angry as a roaring lion and would love to devour us.

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” Ps 66:18. If I regard iniquity in my heart – love the things of the world, my prayers are not even acceptable. What a sad occurrence if our best friend will not even hear us.

However, “When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man’s best service, and He makes up for the deficiency with His own divine merit.” ST 03-16-90

GOD ASKS US TO PROVE HIM...(as we discussed in the last article) DOES HE IN TURN PROVE US?

Our Friend has made us many promises and He invites us to prove Him (as mentioned in the previous article). He is not afraid of proof because He knows how weak our faith is. In return He also proves us. Do we really mean what we say when we call ourselves Christian? Sometimes He will allow some crisis to come in order to prove our character. Will we remain faithful as did Job? Or will we curse God as his wife encouraged him to do?

In Ancient Israel: “Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.” Exodus 16:4

“And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.” Deut 8:2

Feeding the 5000 “When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.” John 6:5,6

Ask God to prove: “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.” Ps 26:2. Sometimes we don’t even know what is in our hearts and we should not be afraid to invite God to examine and prove us.

Prove yourself “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” 2 Cor. 13:5 “But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.” Gal. 6:4. Make your own test. Prove yourself according to the Law of

God. See if you are truly living your life as you should – is there some worldly habit that you are still clinging to, refusing to give up? Are you really treating Jesus as you would your best friend on earth?

ISRAEL’S DESIRE FOR EGYPT

While Israel was travelling in the wilderness, Jesus had great concern for their welfare. Even though they murmured numerous times, He still was there for them. He still was a friend to them and provided them with food and water and also protection from their enemies. He didn’t just provide any food, He gave them the best.

However Israel was not happy. They had good healthy food in the wilderness but they felt something was lacking. Manna was like wafers with honey. It could be made into bread. This one item of food had all the nutrition required for health – not like our food today that we need to have a variety of in order to obtain all the nutrients required for health. That was angel’s food.

Yet they were not satisfied – they were crying for the food they had in Egypt. “And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting; and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks and the onions, and the garlick: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.” Num. 11:3-6. They didn’t like what God had to give.

“Our habits of eating and drinking show whether we are of the world or among the number whom the Lord by His mighty cleaver of truth has separated from the world. These are His peculiar people, zealous of good works. God has spoken in His word. In the case of Daniel and his three companions, there are sermons upon health reform. God has spoken in the history of the children of Israel, from whom for their good He sought to withhold a flesh diet. He fed them with bread from heaven; “man did eat angels’ food.” But they encouraged their earthly appetite; and the more they centred their thoughts upon the fleshpots of Egypt, the more they hated the food which God gave them to keep them in health physically, mentally, and morally. They longed for the fleshpots, and

in this they did just as many in our own time have done.” CDF 379,380

Israel wanted to go back to Egypt under the leadership of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. They were dissatisfied with Moses’ leadership. Moses was a friend of Jesus and was encouraging the rest of the Israelites to make Him their best friend also. However they disliked the restrictions. “And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? Was it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.” Numbers 14:3,4

Egypt is symbolically used to describe the world “The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt.” T5 217 (Regarding the SDA church)

“They shall not dwell in the Lord’s land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.” Hos. 9:3. They didn’t literally go to Egypt. The Assyrians took them into captivity and they were scattered, however by stating that they returned to Egypt, this was a prophecy that they would return to the world.

So today people may be in the church, but they are complaining and longing for the things of the world. What is wrong with this kind of music, or this kind of food – we dislike the plain foods set out in the Spirit of Prophecy. It just does not taste very good, as it is too bland. What is wrong with this kind of dress? Just a little of this and a little of that won’t hurt. We put our worldly books and music away, 1 min. before Sabbath starts. We walk off the job 2 min. before Sabbath begins... Guard the edges of Sabbath as we are instructed to be ready 30 min. before. Some youth are asking for a little of the world. They see nothing wrong with just a little bit. They moan and groan and complain about things they see as restrictions to their happiness, but our Friend would not ask us to give up anything that was not bad for us. He loves us and wants the best for us.

**WHO WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN?
WHO WANTS TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE
ON THIS EARTH?** These two ideas go hand in hand.

“And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.” Mark10:29,30. If we follow our Friend closely on this earth, we are not only promised eternal life in heaven, but we are promised a good and happy life on this earth. It may not be what the world looks at as happiness. They equate happiness to a mass of material possessions, or fame. Yet this does not bring lasting peace. Peace, contentment and true happiness are promised to us. This the world cannot give to us.

HE IS A GOD OF LOVE EVEN THOUGH AT TIMES HE DOES APPEAR AS A TOUGH GOD?

“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man’s foes [shall be] they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Mat 10:34-37.

Christ came to set sinners at peace with God, but in so doing He also inevitably set them at variance with all who refuse the offer of peace. The Christian must never seek, or be content with, the peace that comes through compromise with evil. When a man accepts Christ as his best Friend his closest friends often turn out to be his most bitter and relentless enemies. This is often true, not only in heathen lands, but also in Christian lands and among professed Christians who practice a form of religion but know little if any thing of its power to transform the life. No human obligation is a valid excuse for not taking up the cross of loyalty, obedience, and service to Christ.

IS GOD FAIR?

Does He give unreasonable requirements? “Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not

my way equal? Are not your ways unequal? When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done he shall die. Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. Because he considereth and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. Yet saith the house of Israel, are not my ways equal? Are not your ways unequal?” Ezk 18:25-29.

Often Christians are tempted to think that God is unequal or unfair in His requirements. But it is really we who are unfair. Jesus, as our best friend, wants the best for us. All the restrictions that seemingly are placed upon us are not really restrictions, but guidelines to healthy and happy living. As our friend He wants the best for us.

So why are certain things prohibited? Certain types of music, food, and fictitious TV shows? Is our friend simply trying to deny us some fun and pleasure in life, making life uninteresting? These things are not from our friend, but they come from our enemy with the sole purpose of turning us against our Friend and all the good things He has in store for us in Heaven. Our enemy wants us to perish with him. Our enemy wants to distract us, to take our minds off from our Friend, hoping we will forget about Him.

What does Jesus tell us through the Spirit of Prophecy about novel reading? Can this principle apply also to any TV shows that are fictitious?

“In the education of children and youth, fairy tales, myths, and fictitious stories are now given a large place. Books of this character are used in the schools, and they are to be found in many homes. How can Christian parents permit their children to use books so filled with falsehood? When the children ask the meaning of stories so contrary to the teaching of their parents, the answer is that the stories are not true; but this does not do away with the evil results of their use. The ideas presented in these books mislead the children. They impart false views of life and beget and foster a desire for the unreal.” MH 446/447

All these tools our enemy uses to take our minds away from our Friend who is doing so much for our salvation right now in Heaven. Our Friend is coming soon to take us back to Heaven with Him and our enemy does not want us to be ready. Those only will be able to return with Him to Heaven who have made Him their best Friend on earth and done all they could to maintain, and preserve that friendship, working in cooperation with Him.

DO SOMETHING

When we are friends with someone we will do things to help them. Imagine a marriage where the wife tells her husband she loves him. She really does, however she sits at home all day watching TV, refusing to cook for him, clean his house, wash his clothes or take care of their children. Does she really love him? She says she does. She will give him a lot of hugs and kisses, but will not do any housework. A true friend will do things to help their friends and loved ones. Saying is not enough, it is doing what counts.

We need to not only pray, but also act. If we simply go to church and perform our church duties, we look good in the eyes of our brethren, but that is not enough. Not for our Friend. We need to get up and do something. "If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency." 3T 281.

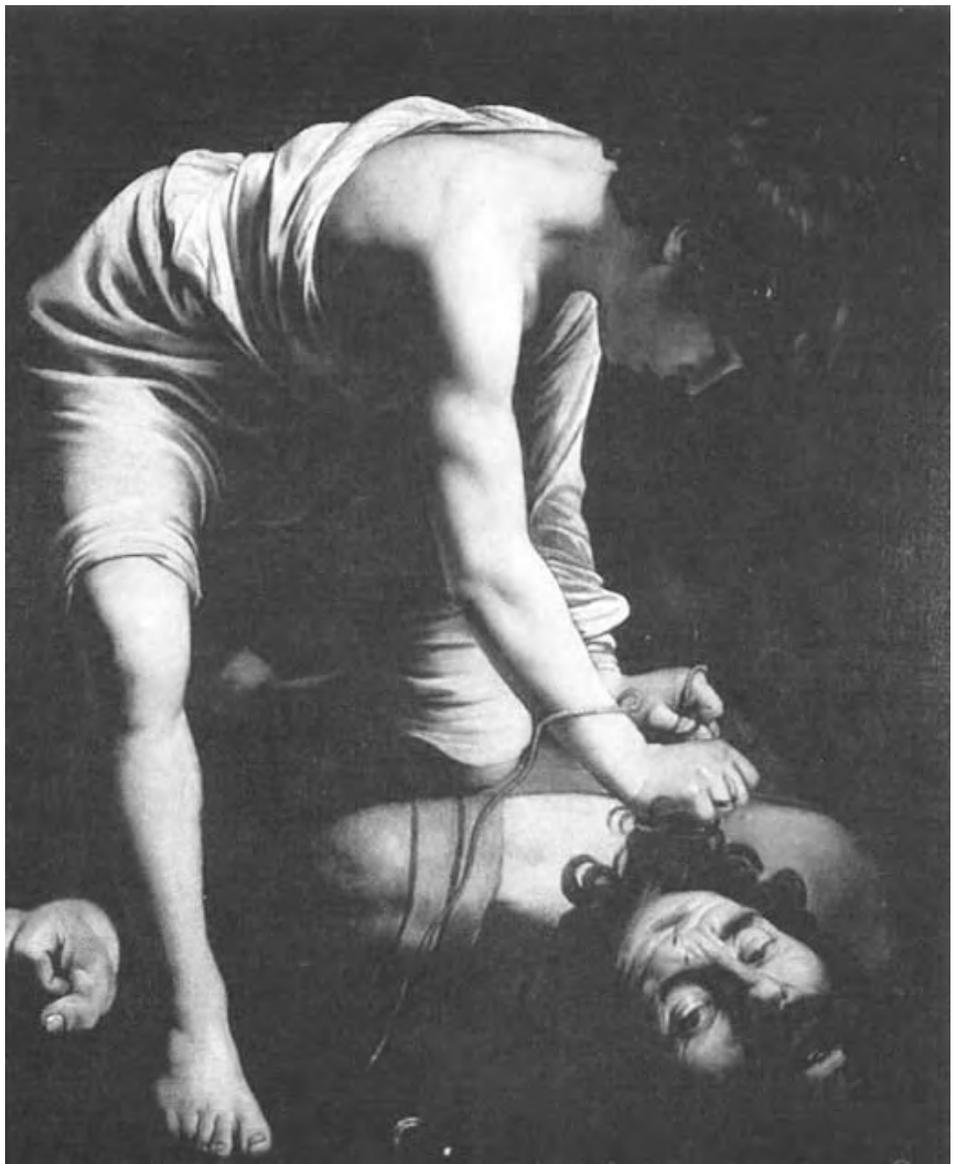
In the time of Jonathan – they were fighting the Philistines. Most of the Israelites were frightened. Many had fled the army and went to hide in the mountains. Jonathan was the son of King Saul and if he had chosen to stay with the king and wait for Samuel to come to perform the sacrifice and hope that the courage of the soldiers would be bolstered up he would have been fine. No one would have thought any less of him as a person, as a soldier, or as the king's son. He would have been ok no one would hold it against him to stand at his father's side in this crisis. After all it was not really his job to lead the army. It was his father's job. However he decided to take action. No one asked him to do it, and it was not a requirement that he go and do it. He just got up – took his armour bearer – saw a need and decided to take action. He went secretly with his armour bearer and knew that if God was with him, the two of them could win the battle. God is

not dependent on numbers; He only needs willing, diligent workers.

"And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for [there is] no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few." 1 Samuel 14:6. He prayed for God to move a mountain and He did. The battle was won with their small beginning. "Jonathan did not depend so much on his armour as on the unlimited power of God. He simply used that which he had at hand, and God blessed his humble dependence on Heaven. Even if the king should turn aside from the path of obedience, God proposed to prove to all Israel that salvation is a matter of individual choice and action, and not so much a mass movement. How tragic the situation would have been had God rejected all Israel when the king chose not to obey." 2BC 515.

Also David, when he went to fight Goliath, had he decided not to do anything about it in the first place, no one would have thought any different of him. He still would have been loved by his family and respected by his friends. However he saw a problem; he saw the lack of faith on the part of the king to solve this problem, so, armed with the strength of God, he decided to step forward and go in the strength of the Lord. He won a great victory that day. God moved a mountain for him.

"My brethren and sisters, do you desire to break the spell that holds you? Would you arouse from this sluggishness that resembles the torpor of death? Go to work, whether you feel like it or not. Engage in personal effort to bring souls to Jesus and the knowledge of the truth. In such labor you will find both a stimulus and a tonic; it will both arouse and strengthen. By



exercise your spiritual powers will become more vigorous, so that you can with better success work out your own salvation. The stupor of death is upon many who profess Christ. Make every effort to arouse them. Warn, entreat, expostulate. Pray that the melting love of God may warm and soften their icebound natures. Though they may refuse to hear, your labor will not be lost. In the effort to bless others your own souls will be blessed." 5T 387

If you choose to continue sitting in church every week, not doing anything else for your Friend, no one will condemn you. You can look like an ordinary church member and everything will appear fine. However the Lord is looking for extraordinary helpers and friends. Friends who will do more than warm a pew every week – friends who will go and share the good news to their associates, the good news that there is a Friend named Jesus who can solve all their problems and give them comfort and help in time of need.

WE MUST HAVE COURAGE!

God will fight for us – but we need courage, so when we are in difficult situations we can ask God to move a mountain and He will, according to His will. He's our Friend.

"Christian life is more than many take it to be. It does not consist wholly in gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindness. These graces are essential; but there is need also of courage, force, energy, and perseverance. The path that Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path. To enter that path and press on through difficulties and discouragements requires men who are more than weaklings.

"Men of stamina are wanted, men who will not wait to have their way smoothed and every obstacle removed, men who will inspire with fresh zeal the flagging efforts of

dispirited workers, men whose hearts are warm with Christian love and whose hands are strong to do their Master's work." MH 497

Our true Friend has promised, "and lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world." Mat. 28:20.

ABRAHAM DID SOMETHING when he heard about the up-coming destruction of Sodom. He is an example of someone with strong faith. When he heard that Sodom was going to be destroyed, he didn't just accept the news as a judgment from God, but decided to see if he can do something about averting the impending doom. He could have just agreed with God, that yes, they are wicked and deserve punishment. No, he decided to see if he could do something about it. Abraham was called the friend of God. As a friend they had good communication between them and he wanted to do something for his fellowman in requesting that they be granted a little

more time on this earth to get to know Jesus as a Friend as he knew Him to be.

"And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?" The discussion went on until finally they concluded with, "And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake." Genesis 18:23, 24, 32. "God conferred great honour upon Abraham. Angels of heaven walked and talked with him as friend with friend. When judgments were about to be visited upon Sodom, the fact was not hidden from him, and he became an intercessor with God for sinners.... Abraham had honoured God, and the Lord honoured him, taking him into His counsels, and revealing to him His purposes." PP 138,139 This man of faith pleaded for the inhabitants of Sodom.

Once he had saved them by his sword, now he endeavoured to save them by prayer. Love for perishing souls inspired Abraham's prayer.

May God help us to make Jesus our best Friend. We are facing a crisis in the near future. Our faith will be tested to the limit. The only way we will survive is by the help of our best Friend. However, unless we make Him our Friend today, He may not be there when we need His help. It would be fearful to hear Him tell us, "I know you not" when we come to Him for help. Mat. 25:12. By maintaining our Friendship today, we are promised that He will be with us in our times of need. **AMEN**

Wendy Eaton
Australia





George was an athletic young student who was chosen as athlete of the year. He was liked and respected by most of the students in his Grade six class. The school he attended had children from all over the world. George was from Scotland. His friend Derek was from England, while Andrew had grown up in Hong Kong.

On the day of the hurricane the class was noisy, while outside, flurries of rain were scurrying across the playground. Raincoats, books and bags were being gathered together by the children who were enjoying an unexpectedly early end to the school day. Number 8 storm signal had been hoisted at the weather observatory to warn the city that Hurricane Henry was travelling towards the coast.

‘Right,’ said Miss Davis, ‘file out quietly to the buses, but make sure first that all the windows are closed.’

Andrew hung back, waiting for George and Derek. George was cracking jokes and pretending to fall over with the force of the wind that swept through the open door across the classroom.

‘Get a move on there.’ Miss Davis had turned to see the three dawdlers and sounded rather cross. George pretended to be Miss Davis, walking across the room wearing a pair of high-heeled shoes. Miss Davis looked back at the giggling group of boys and sighed in exasperation.

‘You three boys can close the windows, but you’d better hurry up!’

Dropping their armloads of satchels and raincoats, the boys climbed on the desks and slammed the windows shut. Outside, the wind was already howling across the playground, driving leafy branches against the fences. Andrew followed George and Derek out into the corridor and pulled the door shut behind him. He could see the buses lined up in the street below him; the school was already empty.

He and Derek clattered down the stairs where pieces of paper were swirling in a mad frenzy as the wind gusted up the stairs. Andrew glanced back up the stairs and saw George still leaning over the railing, watching the lashing rain. As he caught sight of the boys below, he grinned cheekily.

‘Look out!’ he called. ‘I am coming down the fast way.’

He dropped his satchel and raincoat over the banisters with a thud and then swung his legs over the edge. With a whoop of joy he slid around the corner of the stairs and vanished behind the concrete wall while the boys waited impatiently below.

‘He must have gone through the back gate,’ said Derek, looking anxiously towards the waiting buses already crowded with children. Bending low against the driving rain, they hurried around the corner of the school to stop in horror at the sight of George lying on the raindrenched playground. On the side of his head was a large lump and he looked dazed and sick. Andrew raced towards the rapidly dwindling bus line and pulled at Miss Davis’ arm.

‘George has fallen off the railings of the stairs,’ he gasped. ‘He seems to have hurt his head and he’s all funny and won’t talk to us!’

‘Tell George to get up and stop being so silly. That boy will just have to stop fooling around or he will miss the bus. She turned away from him and Andrew realized in panic that she did not know how serious the accident was. Miss Davis was used to George’s antics and seemed sure that he was pretending to be hurt as he had done many times before.

Derek was crouching by George’s head as Andrew came back with the news that Miss Davis certainly was not going to be much help to them. George’s face was white and he muttered incoherently. The boys stood

by helplessly, not knowing what to do next.

‘Right,’ said Derek, taking the lead, ‘we’ve got to get him inside out of the rain and then we’ll phone his mother. She can drive here and collect him.’

They half dragged, half carried the moaning George into the shelter of a downstairs classroom. Andrew covered him with one of the raincoats and with the other made a pillow for his head. Derek came back quickly from the phone – the office was well locked and the phone out of reach inside. The last bus pulled out from the school as the boys watched anxiously from the window.

‘We’ll just have to stay here now. Perhaps his mother will come and look for him when he doesn’t get off the bus.’

Andrew nodded in agreement, but he was worried about his friend also. George complained about feeling sick and was sobbing quietly into his hands. Andrew sat by his head and tried to be cheerful.

‘Look,’ he said, ‘your mother is bound to come soon and we’ll just stay here until she does.’ George sobbed more, and Derek, who had never seen his friend in tears before, was plainly frightened, too.

The wind was now shrieking around the building and the rain was being driven straight against the windows. Rivulets of water ran down the walls and began to dribble across the dusty floor. Together they made a platform of desks to keep George out of the water and sat next to him. He was quieter now, though he still complained that his head was hurting.

Andrew looked at his watch. Was it really only half an hour since the buses left? Slowly the minutes ticked by – an hour passed. A crash startled them as one of the windows suddenly shattered. Derek’s scream caused George to begin crying again.

Andrew moved closer to him, 'Would you like me to pray for us?' He felt embarrassed and the words sounded weak and a bit silly. George was too upset to care. The pain in his head throbbed behind his eyes and he found it difficult to make sense of anything that was happening. He nodded miserably, but Derek seemed relieved and rather pleased.

Andrew did not know what to pray. It was easy praying at home, but what would his friends think if they heard that he had been praying in school? Worse, what would George say afterwards? Perhaps he would make fun of him.

Sighing heavily, Andrew began to ask God to help them. The others muttered, "Amen" at the end and then they sat in silence, listening to the fury of the hurricane and the crash of smashing windows as debris was flung by the wind against the school windows.

Outside on the streets several lampposts had already been twisted into incredible shapes and lay bowed to the ground. Wires, looped to the ground, were tangled in fallen trees and the road was littered with sheets of galvanised iron roofing, fresh green branches and bushes.

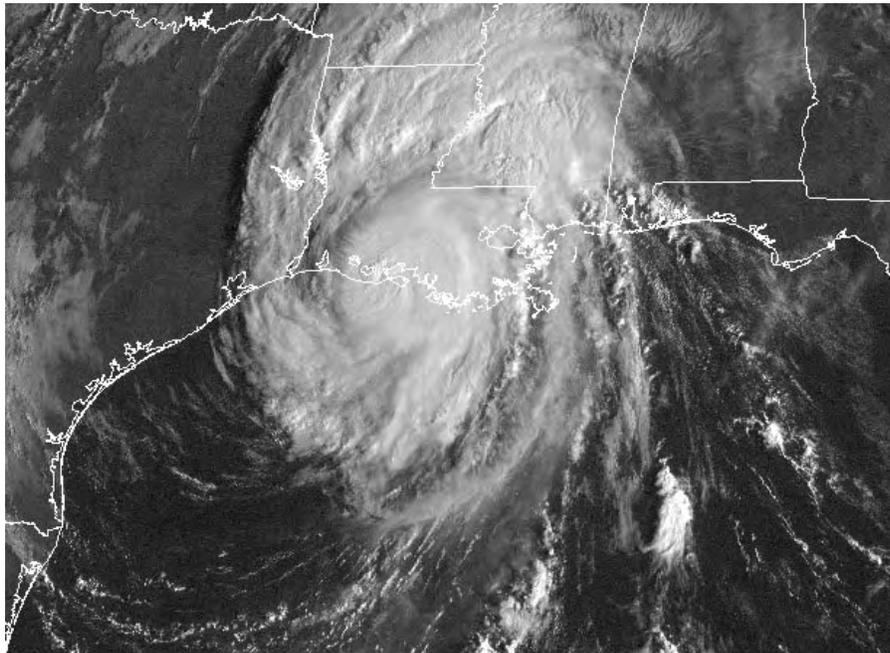
The boys wandered around the classroom as time dragged by and George fell into an uneasy sleep. Most of the toys and books in the classroom belonged to the infants department and so were boring. For awhile they chalked on the board and then wandered back to the windows to watch the storm. They pressed their hands against the glass and felt it moving in and out with the changing pressure.

Afterwards Andrew could only remember the explosion as the glass erupted into a million wicked slivers which slashed their faces and hands. They stumbled back to the platform of desks and began picking off the tiny fragments. Derek had a thick stream of blood oozing down his chin and

tiny dots of blood over his arms where the glass had been embedded by the force of the breaking window. Andrew had a deep cut on his cheek, and his face and arms stung and ached.

It was hard not to be frightened and lonely. Did God really care? Where were their parents? Even solid old Derek was whimpering now in pain and fear. George lay quietly, but his face was still a queer white colour and the lump on his head now extended to a large blue-black bruise near the side of his eye. It was Derek though who realized that George was not asleep but unconscious. He drew close to Andrew and they huddled together in the darkening classroom.

The hurricane was in fact swirling around a central area of peace and quiet. As the storm passed over the city it began to die away, giving the residents an hour or two



of peace before the shrieking wind returned to blow with the same intensity, only from a different direction. The playground outside the classroom was littered still with branches, bits of wood, pieces of iron roofing and sodden paper, but the wind was quieter now and the boys soon noticed that, although the rain was still eddying down the window pain, the wind was no longer as strong and the noise of the storm was dying.

They realized it was still useless to go for help. The whole city was safely locked away in buildings, with large storm shutters

over doors and windows. No-one would be stirring until the hurricane had completely left the area and that could mean several more hours for George before they could safely take him to the hospital.

Andrew looked at George's still body and began to talk to God in his mind. He told him how scared he was and how he did not know what to do. After a while he found it easier to pray and he did not feel so silly about it.

Derek sat up. 'I hear a car!' he said excitedly. 'I'm going to see who it is.'

In no time at all he was back, running in his relief, to announce that George's father had come to find them. Together they carried George to the car and drove him to the hospital where their own parents came to meet them.

Later that evening George's mother rang to tell them the good news that he was feeling better, but would have to spend a few more days in the hospital.

"George tells me that you boys prayed for him," she said. "His dad and I want to thank you very much."

Andrew thanked the Lord for answering his prayers and was glad he had the courage to pray in front of his friends.

The door was now open for him to share his faith further with George in the future.

Sometimes the Lord leads us through unusual or dangerous circumstances in order for us to be able to share our faith with someone. We just need to have the courage to turn to Him for help no matter who is around.



**Church Group
in Brisbane, Australia**



**Marlene Reid
of Brisbane**



**Sis: Edda, Marlene & Leila
in Brisbane**



**3 New Members
in FIJI**



Olga & Remzi Isinov

(Olga from Ukraine & Remzi Isinov from Bulgaria, met each other at the Youth Conference in Italy 2002. They were married by Br. Alexander Zaloznij in Ukraine)



**Hilda Wagner
of Brisbane**



CHRISTIAN, Dost Thou See? Andrew of Crete.

- ① Christian, dost thou see them,
On the holy ground,
How the powers of darkness
Rage thy steps around?
Christian, up and smite them,
Counting gain but loss,
In the strength God giveth,
Soldier of the cross!
- ② Christian, dost thou feel them,
How they work within,
Striving, tempting, luring,
Goading into sin?
Christian, never tremble;
Never be down cast;
Gird thee for the battle,
Watch and pray and fast.
- ③ Christian, dost thou hear them,
How they speak thee fair?
"Always fast and vigil?"
Always watch and prayer?
Christian, answer boldly,
"While I breathe I pray!"
Peace shall follow battle,
Night shall end in day.
- ④ Hear the WORDS of Jesus:
"O My servant true;
Thou art very weary —
I was weary too;
But that toil shall make thee
Someday all Mine own,
And the end of sorrow
Shall be near My throne."
AMEN.

