

The background of the cover is a photograph of several purple orchids in bloom, with green leaves and stems. In the upper right corner, there is a small, stylized illustration of a white dove with its wings spread, perched on a branch. The title 'The Reformation Messenger' is written in a large, white, serif font, with 'The Reformation' in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font above it.

The Reformation Messenger

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 5, MAY 2006

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

"Nevertheless
when the Son of man cometh,
shall he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:8



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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KISSING LIFE GOODBYE



John 13:21-30; 18:1-9

Judas The Judean

Judas Iscariot was the disciple that betrayed Jesus. Judas was the son of Simon (John 6:7), or of Simon Iscariot. The term “Iscariot,” is used to distinguish Judas from the other disciple named Judas (Luke 6:16). Judas Iscariot was from Kerioth, in southern Judah. Thus, Judas was a Judean, the only one of the Twelve who was not from Galilee.

When one hears or mentions the name of Judas, it is fraught with mixed emotions. Why? Well, he had amazing and distinguished abilities. Not only was he brilliant, but had this commanding and striking ability to apply them in an astonishing manner; although crafty in nature they are still rare attributes. Moreover, he had the additional privilege and glorious opportunity of being with Jesus for three and one-half years. This is unparalleled, matchless! But, one may wonder if this was looked upon merely as a money-making opportunity?

Miracle Watcher

What changed Judas? What was the turning point in his life? Jesus’ ministry was punctuated by many miracles. Judas saw it all! Jesus demonstrated His power over nature by:

- Calming a storm (Mt 8:23-27)
- Walking on water (Mt 14:25)
- Multiplying food (Mt 14:15-21)
- Pulling a coin from a fish’s mouth (Mt 17:24-27)
- Turning water into wine (Jn 2:1-11)
- Catching fish (Lk 5:4-11)
- Causing a fig tree to wither (Mt 21:18-21)

What else did Judas witness? Well, he saw Jesus healing people with:

- Leprosy (Mt 8:2-4)
- Paralysis (Mt 8:5-13)
- Chronic bleeding (Mt 9:20-22)
- Blindness (Mt 9:27-31)
- Fever (Mt 8:14-17)
- Demon possession (Mt 8:28-34)
- Dropsy (Lk 14:1-4)
- A shriveled hand (Mt 12:10-13)
- Crippled limbs (Lk 13:11-13)
- A severed ear (Lk 22:50-51)

Judas, furthermore, witnessed the miracle of miracles - Jesus bringing dead people back to life:
(Mt 9:18-25; Lk 7:11-15; Jn 11:1-44)

Demons And Diseases

The apostle John wrote the reason why he documented the miracles of Jesus, writing, “Jesus did many other signs... but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is

the Christ, the Son of God, and believing, that you may have life in His name.”(Jn 20:30-34)

In the ministry of Jesus, He gave His apostles the power to cast out demons and heal diseases (Lk 9:1-6). These miracles served to give credence to the apostles’ message.

The apostle Paul, also, spoke of this, saying, “Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.” (2 Cor12:12). Nowhere in the New Testament do we find believers in general performing the types of dramatic miracles of the apostles.

You Judas!

The apostle Judas, being sufficiently exposed to a multitude of miracles, and being with Jesus for three and one half years, however, became a detestable traitor. He became the most treacherous man in the history of mankind. Nothing can ever compare to it in its scope and magnitude on planet earth. Do you know of anyone named Judas? Would you name your child Judas? No child would be disreputably named Judas! If one is monstrously accused of a villainous or treacherous activity or act, he

is referred to as, “you Judas”!

A Perfect Gentleman

Yet, Judas appeared quite normal. He was not a sinister looking figure. In fact he was a model citizen; a man of means, educated, respectful, and scholarly. Furthermore, he was very congenial, and even cared for the poor. Consequently, he was made the treasurer for the apostles; he kept the money-bag. Why the apostle Judas? Well, the apostle John was busy preaching and meditating; he might be too forgetful. The apostle Peter was too fiery, unpredictable. Yet, I doubt if anyone would choose a crook to be a treasurer. Judas was never a suspect, up to the very end, that he would play the role of a hideous, and shameless betrayer. The fact remains that he utterly rejected Jesus Christ!

Gene Mapping Church

Judas has many descendents. What do we mean by this? It doesn't mean DNA gene mapping to search for roots of our past, reaching even into ancient Israel, and earlier, which has become a national scientific craze. Admittedly, there is some merit into these exploratory searches. But, the descendents in question are those today; “gene matching” church attendees that have often heard the gospel message, even preached from the pulpit, scholarly students of the Bible, knowing the scriptures thoroughly, and can quote passages in their entirety, and have a form of godliness. For many this slowly develops into a formalism, a routine, of attending and merely participating, but for many more, as indifferent spectators. They are respectful, and in essence know the message, the truth, and are looked up to by many believers, and even non-believers. Many have been there. Maybe you have been there. They attend a convenient church, but to be sure are living, as Judas, behind a shroud; living a “lie,” and as idolaters, deceivers, and fornicators.

Hear And Hear

Judas, although he had heard the gospel often, and heard Jesus Christ speak in the flesh, he had the heart of a “hypocrite,” assuming the false appearance of virtue... insincerity-critical (GR). The same “song” which can ignite the hearts onto fire, can just as quickly defuse the same heart. Many can believe, “unto death,” and can hear, and hear, and “be near” to Jesus Christ, but never respond in heart. Judas enjoyed the

miracles he witnessed, even healing and casting out demons as the other apostles, but when a crisis point was reached, a trial or test came into being, a time to “examine the heart,” he fell, abandoning his fellow apostles, and the only One that could save him.

White-Washed Church

Likewise, in church it is nice to be around fellow believers, friends, family, and fellowship together, hear specials, and be excited when new guests and friends of the church appear, to sing, pray and worship together, and pot-luck dining. Nobody denies that this is a lovely gathering and uplifting; to edify one another and the church. On the other hand, if your friends did not come to church, would you come? If you were all alone would you come to church? Even so, if no one came to church, would you go... alone? Indeed, is the reason for attending church, social reasons?

Political Platform

Judas had a social, but more so a subtle and cunning political agenda. Firstly, the Jews fiercely despised the Romans. Judas had a heart to follow Jesus and a heart to overcome the Romans at the same time... a paradox... absurd but true.

This was true of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and the Pharaoh. Many Egyptians joined the Israelites as curiosity seekers; taking with them their idols and customs, but really had no conviction. For many, when the trials come, at the moment favorable circumstances change, they will abandon a cause, a person, or leader. Consequently, the heart hardens, and they are cut off from their “Life Source.” Isaiah says, “there is no remedy,” and furthermore, says, “the whole head is sick and the whole heart faint.”(Isaiah 1:5).

Cancer Of the Soul

Even so, Judas had a fatal flaw that clearly shows up. We find this in John 12:1-8, in which Jesus was anointed by Mary with a pound of expensive spikenard ointment. As she broke the jar containing it and anointed the feet of Jesus, Judas said, “Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” Judas thought this was an extravagant gesture, but in fact was an act of love, for which Mary was criticized. Judas did not, in essence, care

for the poor nor had the slightest interest or love for them. Judas held the money bag, and was stealing from the treasury of the disciples.... a cancer of the soul, an entrenched and misdirected greed.

Stop Thief!

Many steal from God, today. But, who could be so bold as to do this? The Jews of old were warned of this in the book of Malachi 3:7-15; “How have we robbed God? In tithes and offerings.” Today the same spirit of Judas persists. Many are guilty of this greediness, and have a hypocritical heart. This does not come on suddenly, but slowly grows and festers in the heart for a long time. The intention of Judas was to be loved by Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus Christ washed the feet of the disciples, and indeed, the feet of Judas Iscariot, His betrayer. Yet, Jesus knew, in fact the motives of Judas all along.

Second Chance

Yet, Jesus Christ gave Judas a chance to repent. He could have prayed, as the prodigal son on his return to his father, “I've sinned against you and heaven.”(Luke 15:11). Judas was suffering from spiritual instability. But one, admittedly, cannot live a holy life apart from Jesus. It's easy to fall away from God into despair, but God has a solution for all. “The entrance into the kingdom of heaven is through the pangs of repentance.” The only secure place in this earth is in the hands of Jesus, and our dependence on Him, as a child with his father. Satan, however, took over the heart of Judas, and convinced and possessed his heart. Judas went along with Satan's ideas, and bought himself into Satan's slavery of doom. Judas walked out of the upper room into the darkness from the light, a fugitive slave for Satan's camp.

Follow The Crowd

In the garden of Gethsemane scene, the frenzied mob came with soldiers numbering anywhere from 200 to 6000, along with hostile masses of people. (John 18:1-9). Who were the people of this vulgar crowd? They were the same ones that only a few days earlier laid down olive branches before his path and were praising Him, but now turned against Him. Many were caught up in this combative spirit and “followed the crowd.”

Many today flee into the perilous night and betray Jesus Christ, and “put Him into an

open shame.” (Heb 6:6).

I Am

The vindictive priests who were seeking Jesus Christ approached Jesus, and Jesus “said unto them, Whom seek thee? They answered Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus said unto them, I am He.”(John 18:4-5). The great I Am is recognized as the chosen name of God. “I am the Alpha and Omega, The beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” (Rev 22:12). When Jesus answered them, “I Am, they all fell to the ground like dominoes, with the power of God. Judas kissed Jesus, not his hand or feet, but came as a beloved betrayer, yet the act of kissing was not one of adoration and love, but in fact it was a treacherous kiss. Jesus said to Judas earlier, “what thou doest, do it quickly.” (John 13:27).

Get Back Now

Many today fervently and vibrantly sing, “Oh how I love Jesus.” They sing and worship in church and kiss one another, and then flee into the dark shadows of night, lusting unto immorality, deception and to death.

Judas Kissed Life Goodbye. He went his own way, the pernicious way, where the end is death (2 Peter 2:2). He returned the money to the priests, but they were not interested. Their objective was accomplished through his treachery. Judas fatefully hung himself, forever separated from God. In his heart he lived a lie and died a lie. We, too, can agonizingly suffer a similar ungracious and dismal fate. Remember, “if any man has got out of touch with God... he can get back now.”

**Don't KISS LIFE GOODBYE.
AMEN.**

**John Theodorou
USA**

PERFECT WORK

“Spend more time alone with me. A strength and a joy come from such times that will add much to your friendship, and much to your work.

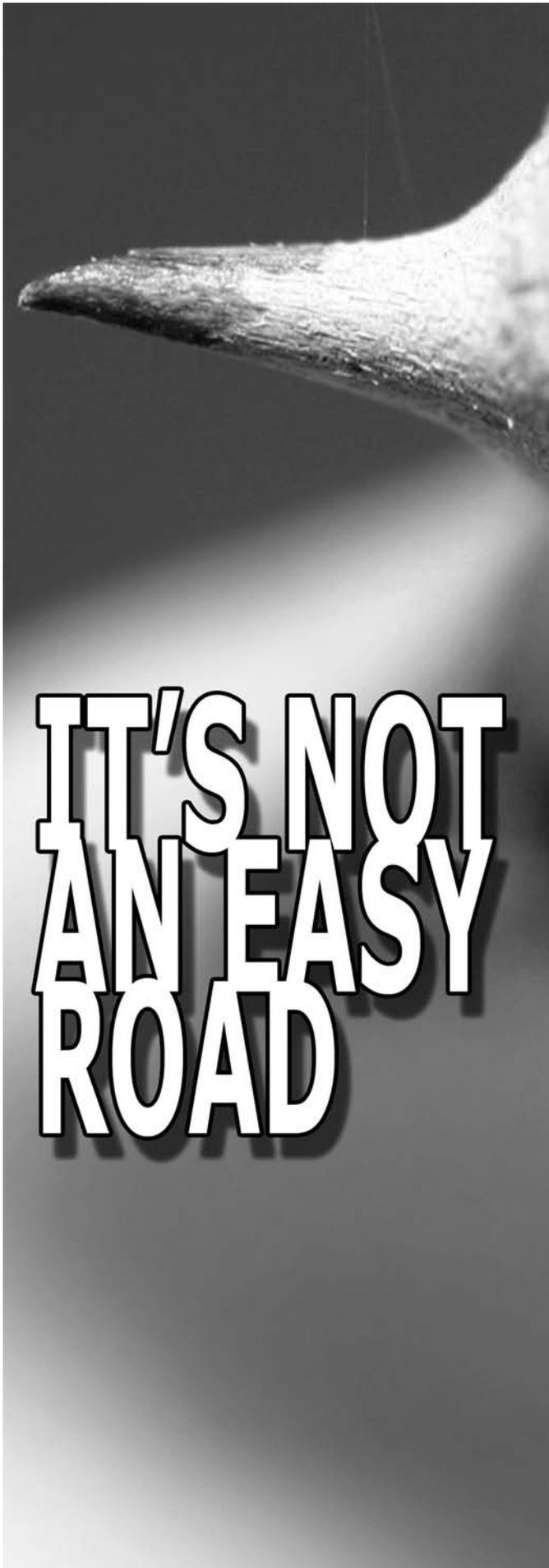
Times of prayer are times of growth.

Cut those times short and many well-filled hours of work may profit less. Heaven's values are so different from the values of earth.

Remember that from the point of view of the Great Worker, one poor tool, working all the time, but doing bad work, is of small value compared with the sharp, keen, perfect instrument, used only a short time but doing perfect work.” God Calling, p. 47.

Submitted by Kathleen Ross
Alberta, Canada





When we decided to take our journey to Heavenly Canaan, many expected easy and smooth traveling, but soon realized that it is not an easy road. It is easy to go down, but difficult to go up.

Adam and Eve fell down so easily. In one moment they lost their purity, holiness and their love to God and to one another. But it takes a lifetime of struggle to reach the perfection that they had before.

God made a plan how to save man from his fallen condition, and with a supreme sacrifice, a way of return was made for every human being. Jesus had to die and man himself had to put out a great effort to change his sinful nature to holiness.

God sent to the people, messengers and prophets to call them to salvation. Noah preached to the people, but very few decided to follow God's plan. They were satisfied in their sinful lives and did not want to put out the effort to reach the standard of God.

By modern inventions our life is made easy. With a flip of a switch a room is lighted. Kitchen appliances make cooking easy. Traveling by air is comfortable and fast, compared to the old ways of traveling. But there is no easy way to develop a character fit for heaven.

We are singing in our gospel hymn:

*"I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I onward bound,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."*

This does not give us a picture of quiet, peaceful living in ease and comfort. Jesus said, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke 13:24

Many have started eagerly on the Christian way. They leave the world behind and join with the travelers toward the celestial city. But then what happens? "But, soon some grew weary and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before... they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below." EW, p. 14-15.

Some years ago, I took a language course in night school. We started out with 40 students, each one eager to learn a new language. Three months later we were down to 20 students. When the course was finished, there were only six of us left.

People love ease and comfort, the constant strife and struggle does not appeal to them. But Amos writes, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!" Amos 6:1

These ease-loving persons are in the church, but the punishment of the Lord will fall upon them. "Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed." Amos 6:7

"Many are ruined by their desire for a life of ease and pleasure. Self-denial is disagreeable to them. They are constantly seeking to escape trials that are inseparable from a course of fidelity to God. They set their hearts upon having the good things of this life. This is human

success, but is it not won at the expense of future, eternal interests?" Test. Vol. 5, p. 70.

The old Israel constantly murmured and complained because of the hardships in the wilderness journey, and the Lord said, "Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against Me." Num. 14:29.

The Lord had made a perfect plan to develop the characters of His people in the wilderness, and this plan included hardships and trials, but because they complained and were dissatisfied of the leading of God, they all perished.

Only two of the adults entered the Promised Land of the old Israel. But today, Satan's temptations have multiplied, therefore it is harder to develop our characters to the perfection now when all the worldly attractions surround us on every side.

In the plan of God, Adam had to work, sweat in his forehead to earn his living. Joseph had to spend years as a slave and prisoner to learn the lessons that were necessary. Moses spent 40 years in caring sheep to learn meekness. Even that Job was already a perfect man, he was put into a fiery trial to further develop his character.

Jesus said to His disciples that in the world they shall have tribulation; it was not an easy road to them after they joined with Christ. The Sunday law and persecution for the people of God in the last days is necessary to prepare them for heaven. Not one pang of pain or suffering is given to any child of God needlessly. God in His wisdom has seen it necessary.

"The strongest evidence of man's fall from a higher state is the fact that it costs so much to return. The way of return can be gained only by hard fighting, inch by inch every hour. By a momentary act of will, one may place himself in the power of evil; but it requires more than a momentary act of will to break these fetters, and attain to a higher, holier life. The purpose may be formed, the work begun; but its accomplishments will require toil, time, and perseverance, patience and sacrifice." Test. Vol. 8, p. 313.

It is not an easy road. Many seemingly honest and sincere Christians will fail in the end. They were satisfied with a low standard instead of reaching the perfection that God requires. But some did put out an earnest effort and reached the condition from which man fell off.

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of 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... As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them." EW, p. 269, 270.

The church of God has two classes of members. Some are lukewarm and careless. They are slowly backsliding and eventually they will be shaken out. Others are developing their characters daily. They become more faithful, more humble, more missionary minded, and they give thanks to God for the fiery trials that they have to go through. They see the importance of them.

The fallen condition of human beings is so bad that without God's help it cannot be changed. "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it." Jer. 17:9

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me: but how to perform that which is good I find not." "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from

the body of this death?" Rom. 7:18, 24.

Yet this miserable, poor, blind and naked person is claiming to be righteous. He says that, "he is rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing."

There is no greater deception than this. It is self-righteousness. The self-righteous Pharisees hated Jesus. They saw nothing good in the righteousness of Christ.

In 1888, at the Conference of Minneapolis the self-righteous leaders saw nothing good in the message of Jones and Waggoner, and therefore they ridiculed and rejected it.

Paul writes to Timothy, "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession, before many witnesses." 1 Tim. 6:11, 12.

This is the greatest battle that anyone is called to fight, and it is a lifelong struggle.

"The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness." SC, p. 43.

Our enemies are selfishness, pride, covetousness, envy and love of the world, and all these enemies are in us. It means that we must fight against ourselves. And this is the reason why the restoration to holiness is not an easy road, but it involves self-denial and carrying a cross.

Very soon our time will be up. The end will come upon us, and if we have not completed our character development, then all will be lost.

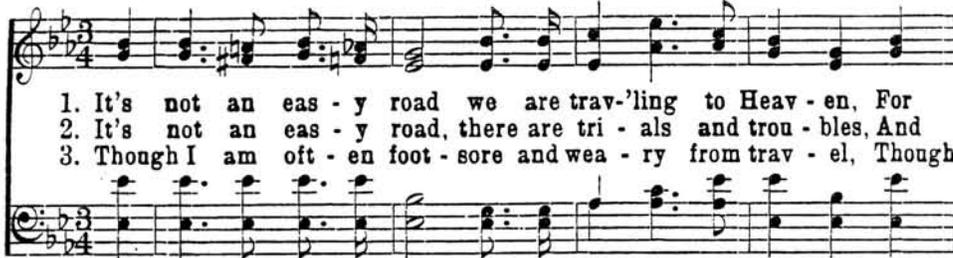
If the Lord must place you in the furnace fire, do not complain, but try to learn the lessons that He is trying to teach you, and the end result will be a perfect Christlike character, fit for heaven. May the Lord help each one of us to reach the perfection that Adam had before his fall. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada

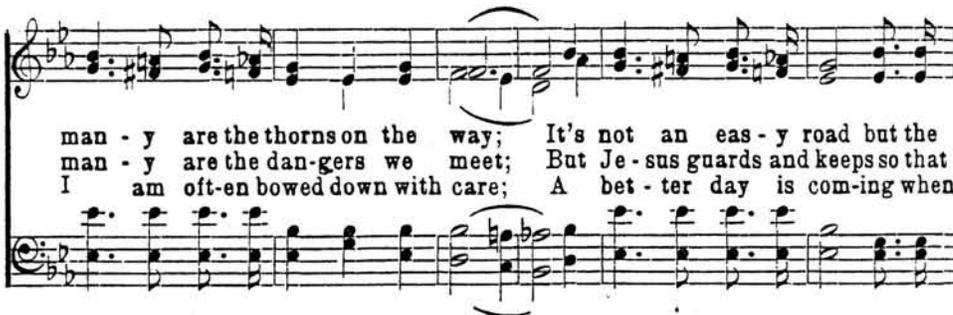
It's Not an Easy Road

J. W. P.

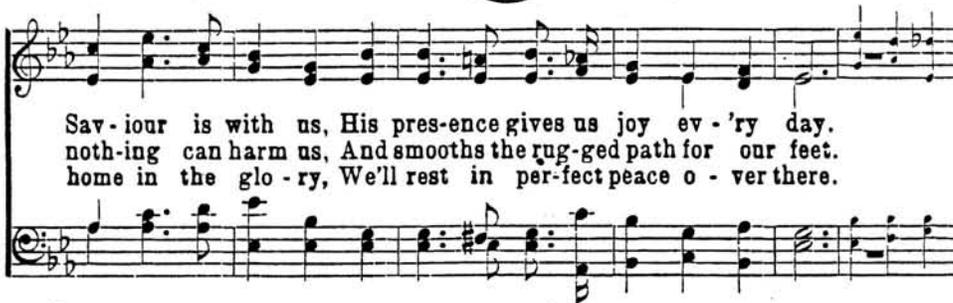
JOHN W. PETERSON



1. It's not an eas - y road we are trav-'ling to Heav - en, For
2. It's not an eas - y road, there are tri - als and trou - bles, And
3. Though I am oft - en foot - sore and wea - ry from trav - el, Though

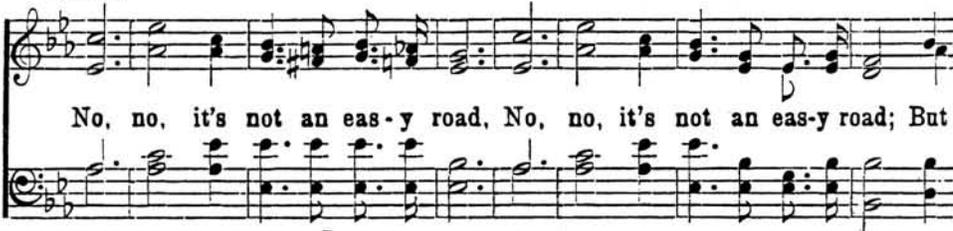


man - y are the thorns on the way; It's not an eas - y road but the
man - y are the dan - gers we meet; But Je - sus guards and keeps so that
I am oft - en bowed down with care; A bet - ter day is com - ing when



Sav - iour is with us, His pres - ence gives us joy ev - 'ry day.
noth - ing can harm us, And smooths the rug - ged path for our feet.
home in the glo - ry, We'll rest in per - fect peace o - ver there.

CHORUS



No, no, it's not an eas - y road, No, no, it's not an eas - y road; But



Jesus walks beside me and brightens the journey, And lightens ev'ry heavy load.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



In our preparation to meet our Lord, there is a very important experience that we all need to have daily which is expressed in a very few words with a deep meaning, *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* John 3:30.

John the Baptist, Jesus’ forerunner, called people to repentance and when someone acknowledged his sinfulness and confessed his sins to the Lord, he was baptized in the waters of the Jordan River.

Once, the disciples came to John and told him, *“Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all [men] come to him.”* (John 3:26), and John answered, *“Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I [must] decrease.”* John 3:28-30

This was quite an unexpected answer; the answer of a converted and sanctified man.

John’s words, which were inspired by the Holy Spirit, were powerful and guided people to repentance. Many people followed him because they were interested in his teachings; he spoke about the Light that enlightens all men. He preached about the kingdom of God, where there will be no tears, no death, no sin. He prepared the way for Jesus, the only one who could forgive sins and cleanse the character of man. When Jesus appeared, John did not feel threatened by His presence; he did not fear that Jesus would now take his position and that his disciples would follow another Teacher, but he said, *“He must increase, I must decrease.”*

We live in an age in which man struggles to be the best, to reach the highest position, to be acknowledged in society, to be successful. There is much antagonism and competition, even among children. Parents want their children to be the best at school, to learn as much as possible: foreign languages, several instruments, get information about everything possible so that they can survive in an ever more demanding society. Therefore, it is not surprising to meet children with a very sensitive nervous system, victims of stress and depression. Man wants to grow in knowledge, in acknowledgement and in success.

Already in paradise, the woman was tempted to reach a higher level of knowledge, similar to the one of God. Something impossible! Much knowledge, richness, and success give authority and power, but often make people proud.

In 1 Corinthians 8:1, we read, *“Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.”* What is the problem with pride? We get the answer to this question in Proverbs 16.18, *“Pride [goeth] before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*

Only when we are aware of our sinfulness, can we remain humble even if we have many talents. There was a man who declared, *“I am the first of sinners”* and it was only after this declaration that his growth in grace and knowledge of the true, living God started.

“He must increase I must decrease.” Does God want us to be dwarfs? Does He want us to remain ignorant and not to grow? By no means!

The plants, the animals and people grow. The Holy Spirit is called our Teacher, who guides us in the way of salvation. The measure of our growth is the stature of Jesus Christ. Such a high expectation has our Father from us! Someone said that we reach the highest level of growth on our knees, when we humble ourselves before the Almighty and are connected with heaven!

Yes, God does want for all of us to grow, but in which direction? Heavenwards! How can we do that? Light, nutrition and water are indispensable elements for growth. Jesus is the Light of the world; He is the Bread of life and the Living Water. We need to feed our soul with His Word daily, in the same way that we feed our body several times a day to keep it alive and healthy.

What does this growth consist of? Let us read some verses:

“Not boasting of things without [our] measure, [that is], of other men’s labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly.” 2 Corinthians 10:15.

“But grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and for ever.” 2 Peter 3:18.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58.

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all [men], even as we [do] toward you.” 1 Thessalonians 3:12.

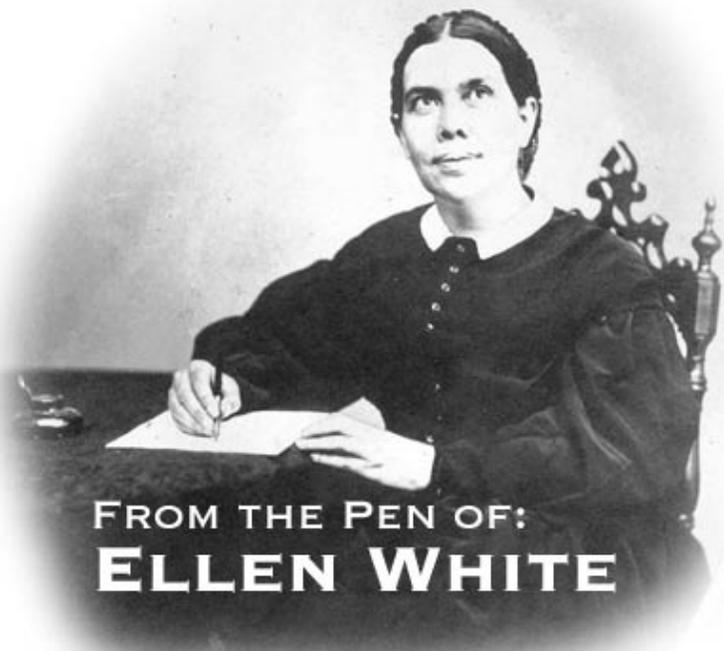
The Lord wants us to grow in faith, in grace, in service, in love so that when Jesus will appear in the clouds of heaven, He may take us with Him.

May the Lord help us to say together with John, *“He must increase I must decrease”* and may we all increase *“with the increase of God.”* Colossians 2:19. **AMEN**

Teresa Corti

Jesus Did Not Suppress

“Jesus did not suppress one word of truth, but He uttered it always in love. He exercised the greatest tact and thoughtful, kind attention in His intercourse with the people. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He spoke the truth, but always in love. He denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity; but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. He wept over Jerusalem, the city He loved, which refused to receive Him, the way, the truth, and the life. They had rejected Him, the Saviour, but He regarded them with pitying tenderness. His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others. Every soul was precious in His eyes. While He ever bore Himself with divine dignity, He bowed with the tenderest regard to every member of the family of God. In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save. Steps to Christ, p. 12



FROM THE PEN OF:
ELLEN WHITE

PRAISE THE LORD

Two months ago, when I was reading the Bible text Mark 7:25-30 at 7.00 PM in my home, the telephone rang. One of my friends, our church member, Brother S. Jayaseelan talked to me. He requested me to come to his village immediately, because one of his neighbours was sick, a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, and was also requesting prayer for her.

Really it was very interesting to me. Why? The same time I was reading the Bible text Mark 7:25. "For a woman whose young daughter had a unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet." Then afterwards we offered prayer and submitted everything to the Lord. Myself, Brother Ruban David and Ramesh traveled 50 km to the place called Thamallaree Muttur.

We started the prayer meeting at 9.30 pm. We praised the Lord with many songs and many Bible texts. Within a half an hour, unfortunately, not the girl, but the mother of the young girl had an unclean spirit, dancing and shouting. Then we, the two Brothers went near her and offered prayer. The Lord heard our prayer and the unclean spirit left her. Then the family members and church members requested us to continue the prayer meeting. So, we were teaching them Bible thoughts. We preached to them that Jesus is the only way for redemption from the bondage of sin, disease and from unclean spirits. Then the young girl, who was suffering from an unclean spirit, was dancing, shouting and crying until 12.30 am midnight. We continued in prayer until the evil spirit went away from the young girl.

At 12.30, after the prayer meeting the same young girl saw us, and said to me, "Hello Pastor, when did you come here, why have these people gathered here at the midnight hour?" We told her

everything that happened there, and how our loving Lord healed her and her mother. She was surprised and praised the Lord. The family members, church members and village people started praising the Lord; we also praised the Lord for this wonderful miracle. My dear Brethren, praise the Lord with us. Our loving Lord will do miracles in our life also. "And he [but here 'she'] departed and begins to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and also marvelled." *Amen*

S. RAJ ISRAEL, India

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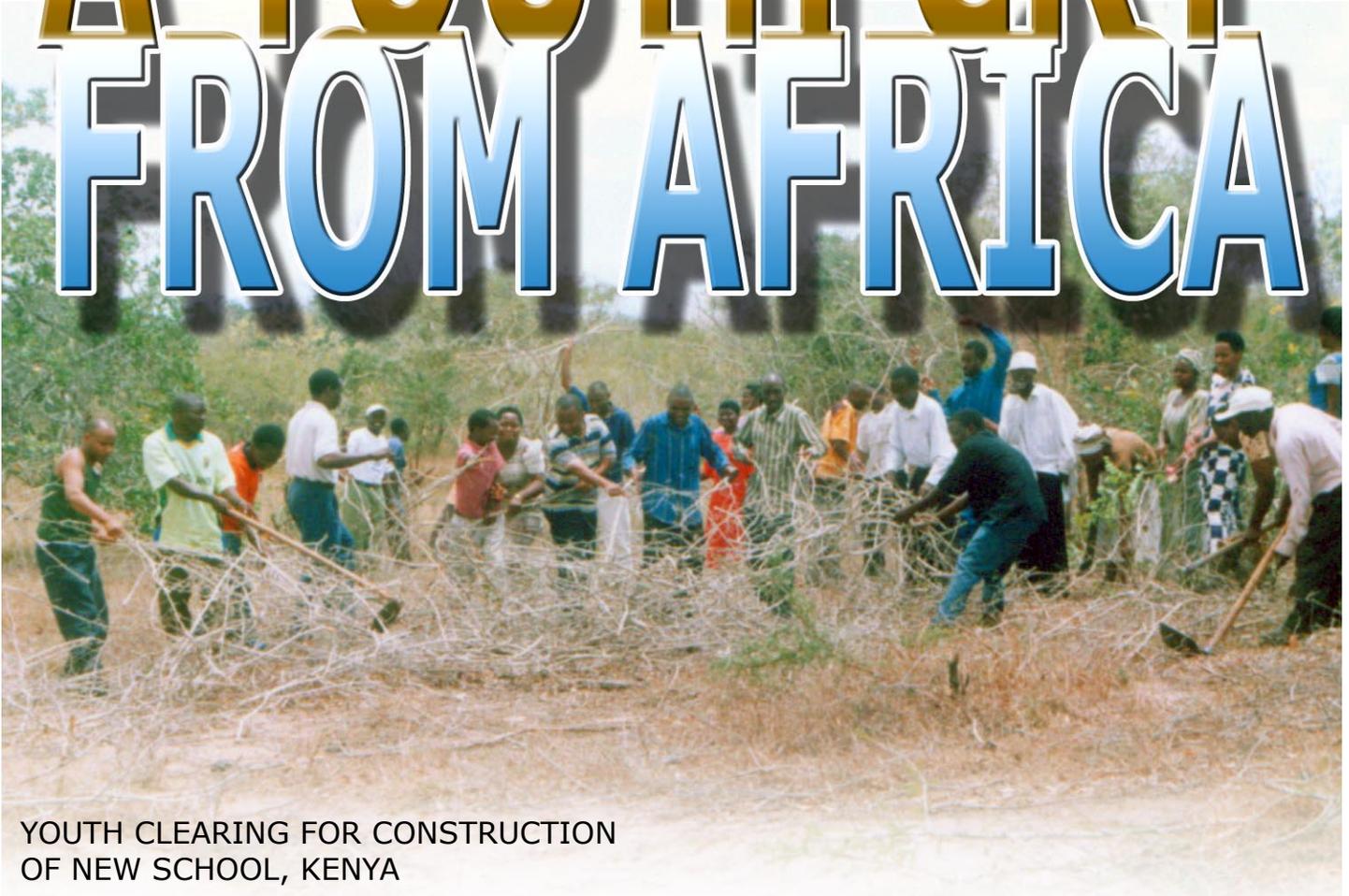
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2006

A YOUTH CRY FROM AFRICA



YOUTH CLEARING FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF NEW SCHOOL, KENYA

Peace and grace of our Saviour be with you. Many greetings with our annual text in Hebrews 4: 16: *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

In my visits to Africa to conduct seminars for the youth work, I was surprised that the majority of our brothers and sisters are young people, approximately 70 %. We had a blessed time together in Seminars for the youth and in some conferences. There are many beautiful youth, full of enthusiasm and joy, but with a very sad reality. Most of them have not been able to study to obtain a profession, are

without work and face big difficulties for their future.

A young man of about 25 years came to me and said, “Brother, help me!! I want to get married, and I don’t know how to, because I have nothing to maintain a family, and I don’t know what to do.” Which solution could I give him? These young people are in big danger, since they can’t form a family without having a source of regular income and how to maintain it. All this creates a chain of problems.

Which solution can we offer them as a church and as a Youth Department? Money is very quickly spent, and helps just for a short time.

As the Youth Department we prepared a project to supply this necessity.

We believe that the solution is to educate our youth and give them the possibility to have an income from professional work. For this we are working on the creation of an educational centre; in other words we will open a Secondary School for the purpose of learning a profession. Its purpose is to prepare youth to know how to work with tools which they will use for their future work. Among others there will be taught carpentry, forging, electricity for young men, and seamstress for young ladies.



YOUTH CONFERENCE , KENYA

Until now we could achieve with Gods help:

1. Buying a plot of about 5 hectares in Tanzania, in the accumulation of capital for the construction of the mentioned project. The youth of the area have already cleaned this ground. There needs to be the connection of water and light, as well as the construction of the building.

2. We agreed to build the basics to begin classes in January 2007. For this we need to collect 15,000 Dollars for the construction of the first classrooms, sleeping rooms and dining room, with one working room for young men.

3. As the budget indicates, there will be needed about 45,000 Dollars to construct the building and basic equipment.

It would be a great blessing for the youth of Africa to have such an institution. For this we appeal to your hearts, as far as it is possible to support these youth which suffer without work. We thank you in advance for your donation. Many youth will have the opportunity of hope through your donation and will be very thankful.

As you have read in the report in the Sabbath School Lesson, the first missionary school will be opened in Africa in Kenya. In coordination with the leadership of that school, we will support this project in sending a couple of missionaries, which have successfully finished the missionary school in Argentina. Their job will be to establish a self-supporting financial system through canvassing and other sources, so that each student can pay for his study by himself.

This support works only with your help. We will have following expenses:

1. Flight expenses for the transfer of the missionaries: 4000 Dollars
2. Paying them a minimal salary for the first year, until they establish the self-supporting of the school, which would



YOUNG PEOPLE, KENYA



LEADER SEMINAR, KENYA

be 150 Dollars per month.

Since the school will start this year, we kindly ask our brothers which feel the call of the Lord, to support our youth in their preparation to serve the Lord, and sending your donations as soon as possible.

Those and other projects we have started with the words in mind: "For we walk *by faith, not by sight*" 2Cor. 5:7. God has given us the means to start it and we trust that the Lord will touch hearts. We thank you in advance for what you send for the improvement of the situation of our poor young brothers in Africa.

Account of Youth Department - Banc: Kaerntner Sparkasse – Name of account: Jugendabteilung; Number of account: 01401073349; International codes: IBAN: AT 6420706 01401073349 - BIC: KSPKAT2K

Pablo Hunger – Tel. 0043 4273 26239; Email: hungerpablo@yahoo.com

He who co-operates with the **divine purpose in imparting to the youth a knowledge of God**, and molding the character into harmony with His, **does a high and noble work...**— *Education, pages 18.*

Let us do what is possible to support our youth and prepare them for the big final work, to be witnesses for the Lord in a turbulent world.

May God bless the youth, the hearts who give and all them who receive this report.

Your brothers of
General Conference Youth Department



YOUTH IN TANZANIA

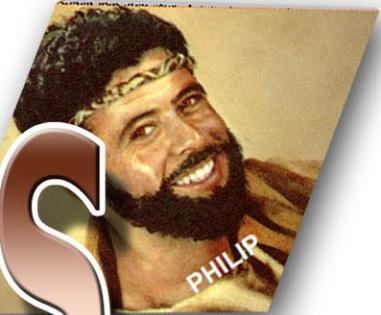


YOUTH LEADER, TANZANIA

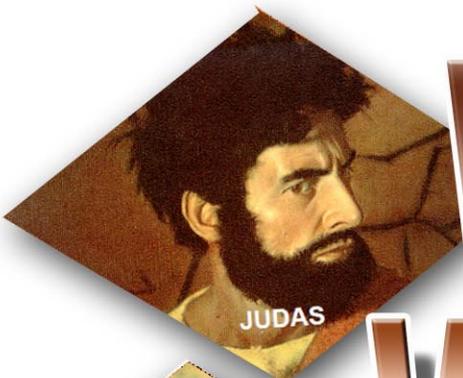


SITE OF NEW SCHOOL, KENYA

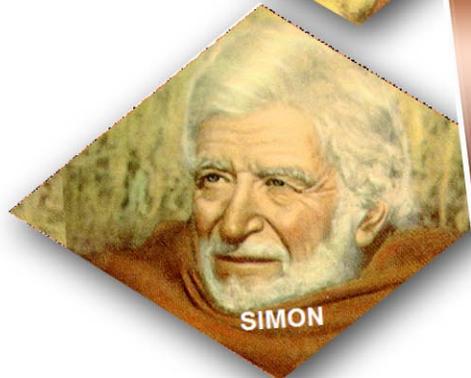
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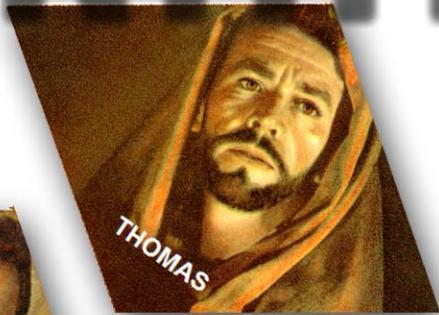
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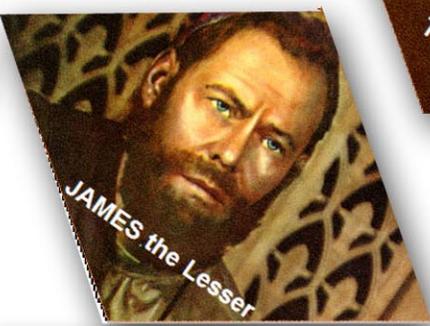
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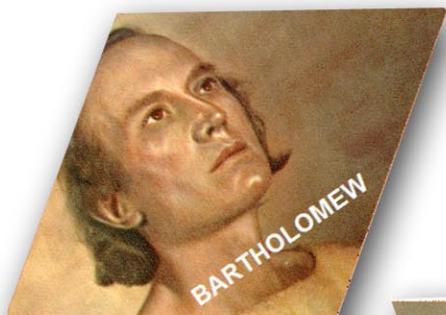
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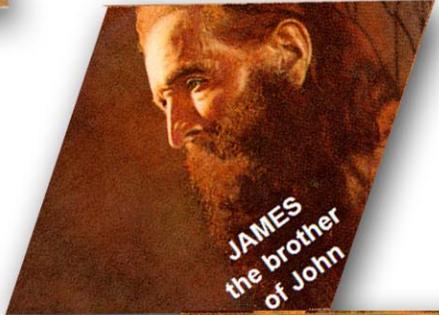
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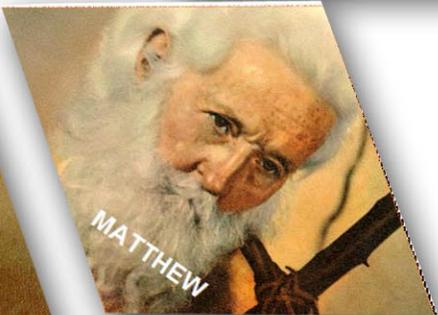
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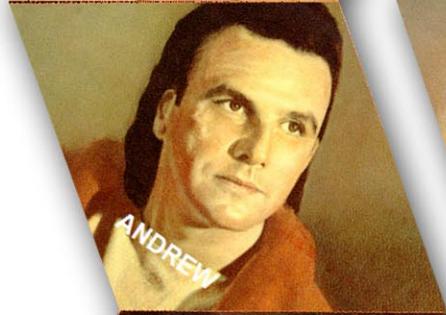
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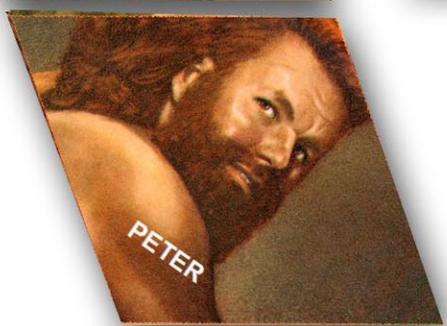
JAMES the brother of John



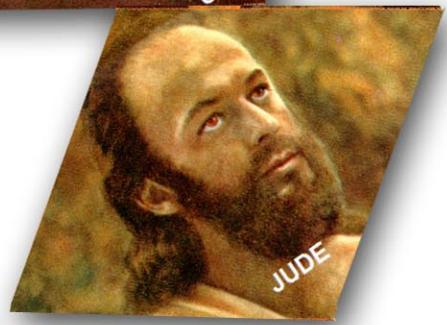
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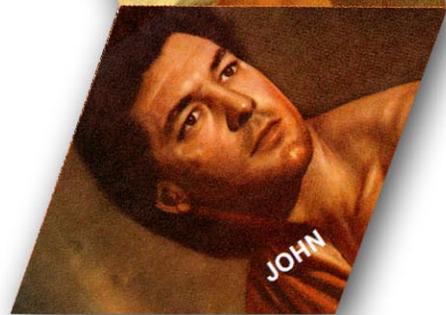
ANDREW



PETER



JUDE



JOHN

What does the word “worthy” mean? It comes from the root word – Worth – meaning to have value. Things can either be worth something, or they are worth nothing. Spiritually, what is our worth?

Without Christ, many men think they are of great value. They believe some people have more value than others. When a politician here in Australia becomes ill and needs to go to the hospital, they get the best treatment – they have the best nurses and are treated in the private hospitals almost immediately. When a homeless person requires treatment, they are often put on a long waiting list in public hospitals (unless they are critical) and never are treated with as much care as the politician. Why? Is one more worthy than another? If there are two people who are compatible for a kidney transplant that has become available – one is homeless, living on the street and one is a university professor, who gets the kidney? Usually the university professor.

Many successful people feel that they are irreplaceable in their line of work and therefore demand more money and a higher position. But what is man in the eyes of God? “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” James 4:14 This applies to all men.

If all men were equal and were treated equal, there would be much less sorrow on this earth. Everyone would be helping everyone.

One day while Jesus was travelling with His disciples, they were talking amongst themselves and when they reached their destination, Jesus asked them, “What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.” Mark 9:33,34. Unconverted humanity has always strived to be considered the greatest. It grieved Jesus and this was His response. “And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.” Mark 9:35. Jesus never strived to be first. In fact we see Him humbly washing the disciples’ feet.

The lesson of true greatness that Jesus was aiming to impart to the disciples is

this, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” Phil 2:3,4

All throughout Biblical history, we can read about men striving for recognition - for the highest place. There were a humble few who realized they are not worthy of all the great blessings that God has bestowed upon His faithful followers. Then there are others who thought they were very important until they came face to face with the Lord and realized their worthlessness and made a U-turn in their lives. “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4. We can learn much from the experiences of our forefathers.

JUDAS

“Judas was highly regarded by the disciples, and had great influence over them. He himself had a high opinion of his own qualifications, and looked upon his brethren as greatly inferior to him in judgment and ability. They did not see their opportunities, he thought, and take advantage of circumstances. The church would never prosper with such shortsighted men as leaders. Peter was impetuous; he would move without consideration. John, who was treasuring up the truths that fell from Christ’s lips, was looked upon by Judas as a poor financier. Matthew, whose training had taught him accuracy in all things, was very particular in regard to honesty, and he was ever contemplating the words of Christ, and became so absorbed in them that, as Judas thought, he could not be trusted to do sharp, far-seeing business. Thus Judas summed up all the disciples, and flattered himself that the church would often be brought into perplexity and embarrassment if it were not for his ability as a manager. Judas regarded himself as the capable one, who could not be overreached. In his own estimation he was an honour to the cause, and as such he always represented himself.” DA 717

Some people like to do everything in the church. They may be leaders or elders and feel that no one else is as qualified as they are, so they do it all. The members become dependent on this person and are unable to do the duties themselves should

this person be removed. Perhaps they may have a few more talents than others, but they do *not* possess *all* the talents. God has given talents to others in the church – talents which they themselves may not possess. This is not an easy matter for some to accept and when they lose their position, they envision the church falling to pieces. However, Jesus takes care of the church as it is the “Apple of his eye.” Zech 2:8.

Is the work of the Lord dependent on men? If someone has a high opinion of himself, this proves that he is the most unworthy to be in God’s service. No, the work of the Lord is not dependent on any man, the Lord can impart gifts and talents to the most humble servant.

Just over 150 years ago, God entrusted His messages to two notable men in the church. They failed to bear the message to the people so God chose as His servant one who was the most feeble – one who was considered outwardly the least worthy to bear the messages of the Lord. Her name was Ellen G. White. God can use any willing humble servant.

“The promise of the Spirit is not appreciated as it should be. Its fulfilment is not realized as it might be. It is the absence of the Spirit that makes the gospel ministry so powerless. Learning, talents, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment, may be possessed; but without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner be won to Christ. On the other hand, if they are connected with Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, the poorest and most ignorant of His disciples will have a power that will tell upon hearts. God makes them the channel for the outworking of the highest influence in the universe.” COL 328

JACOB

Jacob worshipped the Lord more faithfully than his brother Esau. His mother noticed it and she loved him for it. I am sure Jacob also noticed the wayward life of Esau and felt that he was more worthy of the birthright blessing than was his brother. In fact it had been pronounced to his mother at his birth that “the elder shall serve the younger” Genesis 25:23. Unfortunately, he did not trust God to give it in His time. He took matters in his own hands. He was a proud man. Because of his pride, he made a terrible mistake and had to leave home for

20 years. It took 20 long years before he learned the lessons of humility. On the way home he met Jesus one night and wrestled with Him. When we read this story we see that he was a changed man. "And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: *I am not worthy* of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast showed unto thy servant;" Genesis 32: 9,10. He now trusted in God. He knew that he was not worthy of any of the blessings of the Lord, so his name was changed to Israel meaning 'Overcomer'. In the eyes of God, Jacob now was counted worthy of the kingdom of Heaven.

JAMES AND JOHN

James and John thought they were worthy of high positions in the Lord's kingdom. Their mother entreated Jesus to "Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom." Matthew 20:21. They thought they were worthy of this honour, but were they? Why were they called the "Sons of Thunder"? (Mark 3:17). When the Samaritans rejected Jesus, they got angry, and showed their true temperament. "And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?" Luke 9:54. No, they were not worthy. Not until they had humbly sat at Jesus feet and learned to be meek and lowly as their Master, were they worthy of salvation.

PETER

Was Peter worthy to be a worker for the Lord? He stated that he was ready to sacrifice all for the Lord, "And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death." Luke 22:33. Unfortunately he proved himself unworthy in the Garden of Gethsemane when he pulled his sword and "smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear." Luke 22:50 Later that evening we see Peter confronted with the fact that he was a follower of Jesus, "But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak." Mark 14:71. No, Peter was not worthy to be a missionary yet. The look of Jesus in the judgement hall broke His heart and he ran out and wept bitterly. Now he realized how unworthy he really was. After humbling himself, he became a

worthy worker for the Master.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

When John the Baptist was in prison, Jesus commended him. "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Matthew 11:11. John, however, had a different view of himself. "And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose." Mark 1:7. John saw nothing of value in himself. He gave all honour and glory to Jesus and therefore was counted worthy for the kingdom of heaven.

ELDAD AND MEDAD

"But there remained two of the men in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: and the spirit rested upon them; and they were of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp." Numbers 1:26. Who were they? They were two of the Seventy Elders that were chosen as leaders in Israel. All seventy were to gather at the tabernacle so that the spirit of the Lord could be poured out on them. Eldad and Medad did not feel worthy of such great an honour so, although they were chosen, they did not assemble. However the Spirit of the Lord recognized their humility and was poured out upon them where they were. They were worthy of the honour.

MANY MORE

Those who seem most unworthy of salvation by the world have been considered the most worthy by the Lord. People like the thief on the cross, Mary Magdalene, the Prodigal Son, the Samaritan woman and the widow who put her two mites into the treasury all were looked up on with contempt by the religious leaders, however they were counted worthy of salvation by Jesus.

Why were these people worthy? They repented and confessed – they saw nothing in themselves with which to glory.

There is also the Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:10-14). Which one did Jesus count worthy? The one who realized he had nothing in himself in which to glory. The Pharisee was proud of his personal accomplishments. There are Christian

people who are always talking of their great accomplishments – taking glory to themselves and talking as if they are invaluable to the cause of God. We are counted worthy only through the blood of Christ.

DEMONIACS

The Lord can use any willing servant to do His work. They do not need to be trained in universities and possess the greatest eloquence. The demoniacs whom Jesus cast the devils out of were the last ones that anyone would have expected to be missionaries. They had little training, and had few talents, but they could share their experiences.

"Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to thine own house, and show how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him" Luke 8:38-40. They accomplished a great missionary endeavour. They were more worthy than Judas.

MEN DON'T CALL THEMSELVES - God calls them

God sees and judges man's character and chooses men for His service as seen in the early Christian church. God communicated with the devout prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch. "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." Acts 13:2

"No one is to bind himself to serve for a term of years under the direction of one group of men or in one specified branch of the Master's work; for the Lord Himself will call men, as of old He called the humble fishermen, and will Himself give them instruction regarding their field of labour and the methods they should follow." 9T 170

"God has made His church on the earth a channel of light, and through it He communicates His purposes and His will. He does not give to one of His servants an experience independent of and contrary to the experience of the church itself.

Neither does He give one man knowledge of His will for the entire church while the church--Christ's body --is left in darkness. In His providence He places His servants in close connection with His church in order that they may have less confidence in themselves and greater confidence in others whom He is leading out to advance His work." AA 163. Just because God called them doesn't mean that they are infallible. Some faithful leaders have apostatised as seen with Jones and Waggoner after they brought such stirring messages to the General Conference in 1888. "Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness. Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness." PK 188.

If Jesus chooses a person to work full-time in His vineyard, should we not support these people? "And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is *worthy* of his hire. Go not from house to house." Luke 10:7 "Let the elders that rule well

be counted *worthy* of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is *worthy* of his reward." 1 Timothy 5:17,18

"My brother, you have not taken a course to encourage men to give themselves to the ministry. Instead of bringing the expense of the work down to a low figure, it is your duty to bring the minds of the people to understand that 'the labourer is worthy of his hire.' 'The churches need to be impressed with the fact that it is their duty to deal honestly with the cause of God, not allowing the guilt of the worst kind of robbery to rest upon them, that of robbing God in tithes and offerings. When settlements are made with the labourers in His cause, they should not be forced to accept small remuneration because there is a lack of money in the treasury. Many have been defrauded of their just dues in this way, and it is just as criminal in the sight of God as for one to keep back the wages of those who are employed in any other regular business.'" 5T 374

EVERYONE WORTHY OF SOMETHING

The reality is that everyone is worthy, but what are they worthy of?

We are either worthy of life or worthy of death.

Life: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted *worthy* to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Matthew 21:36. "That ye might walk *worthy* of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" Colossians 1:10

Death: "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are *worthy of death*, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." Romans 1:32 "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought *worthy*, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto



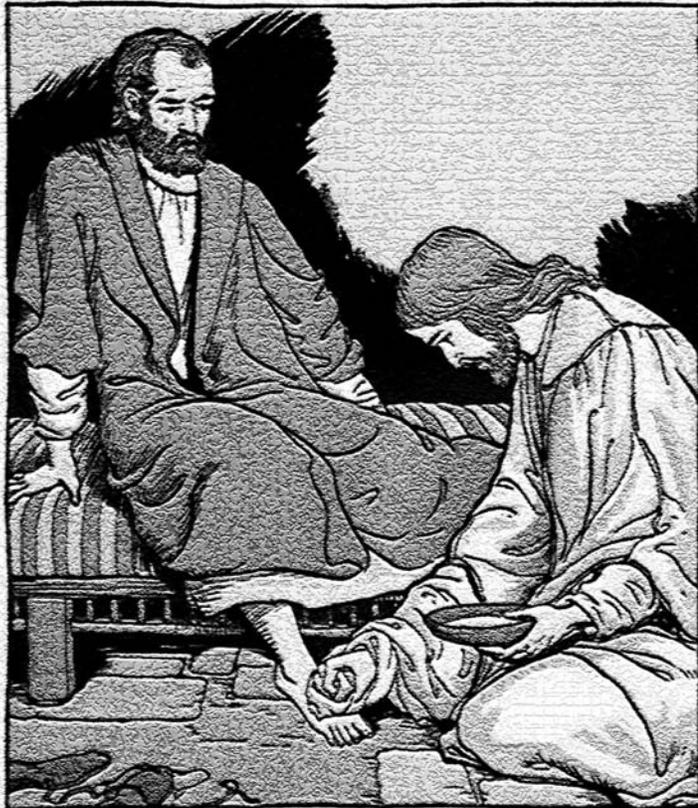
the Spirit of grace?" Hebrews 10:28, 29

Those that are worthy of only death have proven that they are not worthy of Jesus. "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. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." Matthew 10:37-38 "Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy." Matthew 22:8

Every one is worthy of something, some are worthy of life – others are worthy of death. The dichotomy is that those who think they themselves are worthy of life are the ones who are worthy of death and those who think themselves worthy of death are worthy of life.

Those who think themselves best suited for a certain position, are the least worthy of the position – those who think themselves least worthy are the ones who are most worthy – the ones who God can use.

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Isaiah



64:6 Who is this talking about? Is it talking about the members of the church who are not in position? Or is it talking about all the members in God's church? I'm sure we all know this answer.

TIME OF END

God will use simple means to finish the work on earth. Often not the most talented or the one in the highest position – rather the ones who are most humble – who see nothing in themselves in which to glory does the Lord see worthy to use for His work.

"Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.-- Those who are accounted good workers will need to draw nigh to God, they will need the divine touch. They

will need to drink more deeply and continuously at the fountain of living water, in order that they may discern God's work at every point. Workers may make mistakes, but you should give them a chance to correct their errors, give them an opportunity to learn caution, by leaving the work in their hands." TM 300

WORTHY TO SUFFER

Those who are worthy of life are also happy when they suffer. They find it a privilege to suffer for Jesus' name. This sounds

so strange to the people in the world, but when you love someone who has done so much for you, to suffer reproach for His name is counted an honour. "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." Acts 5:41. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18. We are close to the end of time at which time we will face the real possibility of suffering for Jesus' name.

JESUS IS WORTHY

Jesus is the only one worthy to receive praise and honour. Not that He is a proud being, but He is a perfect sinless person and the praise and honour will not make Him proud and self-righteous. "Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." Revelation 5:12 Yes, Jesus is worthy.

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11

His greatest joy is not for Himself, but in making sacrifices so the creatures He has created are happy and safe.

WHAT MAKES US WORTHY TO GOD?

"Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves." Luke 3:7

"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Revelations 3:4,5

May God help us to be found worthy of life when He appears in the clouds of glory.

AMEN

Wendy Eaton, Australia

Daniel's Temperance Principles



By Ellen G. White
Chap. 2

(As you read this chapter about Daniel's strict adherence to health principles, read it in light of the Health Reform message – not simply abstinence from flesh food only. This would include any articles of food that are harmful to the health, such as those written in Counsels to Diet and Foods. Foods such as those filled with harmful chemicals, preservatives, stimulating spices, dairy-sugar combinations etc. It would also include health principles such as overeating and eating between meals.)

“The prophet Daniel was an illustrious character. He was a bright example of what men may become when united with the God of wisdom. A brief account of the life of this holy man of God is left on record for the encouragement of those who should afterward be called to endure trial and temptation.

“When the people of Israel, their king, nobles, and priests were carried into captivity, four of their number were selected to serve in the court of the king of Babylon. One of these was Daniel, who early gave promise of the remarkable ability developed in later years. These youth were all of princely birth, and are described as ‘children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them.’ (Dan. 1:4) Perceiving the superior talents of these youthful captives, King Nebuchadnezzar determined to prepare them to fill important positions in his kingdom. That they might be fully qualified for their life at court, according to Oriental custom, they were to be taught the language of the Chaldeans, and to be subjected for three years to a thorough course of physical and intellectual discipline.

“The youth in this school of training were not only to be admitted to the royal palace, but it was provided that they should eat of the meat and drink of the wine which came from the king's table. In all this the king considered that he was not only bestowing great honour upon them, but securing for them the best physical and mental development that could be attained.

Meeting the Test

“Among the viands placed before the king were swine's flesh and other meats which were declared unclean by the law of Moses, and which the Hebrews had been expressly forbidden to eat. Here Daniel was brought to a severe test. Should he adhere to the teachings of his fathers concerning meats and drinks, and offend the king, and probably lose not only his position, but his life? Or should he disregard the commandment of the Lord, and retain the favour of the king, thus securing great intellectual advantages and the most flattering worldly prospects?

“Daniel did not long hesitate. He decided to stand firm in his integrity, let the result be what it might. He ‘purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.’ (Dan. 1:8)

Not Narrow or Bigoted

“There are many among professed Christians today who would decide that Daniel was too particular, and would pronounce him narrow and

bigoted. They consider the matter of eating and drinking as of too little consequence to require such a decided stand--one involving the probable sacrifice of every earthly advantage. But those who reason thus will find in the day of judgment that they turned from God's express requirements and set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They will find that what seemed to them unimportant was not so regarded of God. His requirements should be sacredly obeyed. Those who accept and obey one of His precepts because it is convenient to do so, while they reject another because its observance would require a sacrifice, lower the standard of right and by their example lead others to lightly regard the holy law of God. 'Thus saith the Lord' is to be our rule in all things.

A Faultless Character

"Daniel was subjected to the severest temptations that can assail the youth of today; yet he was true to the religious instruction received in early life. He was surrounded with influences calculated to subvert those who would vacillate between principle and inclination; yet the Word of God presents him as a faultless character. Daniel dared not trust to his own moral power. Prayer was to him a necessity. He made God his strength, and the fear of God was continually before him in all the transactions of his life.

"Daniel possessed the grace of genuine meekness. He was true, firm, and noble. He sought to live in peace with all, while he was unbending as the lofty cedar wherever principle was involved. In everything that did not come in collision with his allegiance to God, he was respectful and obedient to those who had authority over him; but he had so high a sense of the claims of God that the requirements of earthly rulers were held subordinate. He would not be induced by any selfish consideration to swerve from his duty.

"The character of Daniel is presented to the world as a striking example of what God's grace can make of men fallen by nature and corrupted by sin. The record of his noble, self-denying life is an encouragement to our common humanity. From it we may gather strength to nobly resist temptation, and firmly, and in the grace of meekness, stand for the right under the severest trial.

God's Approval Dearer Than Life

"Daniel might have found a plausible excuse to depart from his strictly temperate habits; but the approval of God was dearer to him than the favour of the most powerful earthly potentate--dearer even than life itself. Having by his courteous conduct obtained favour with Melzar, the officer in charge of the Hebrew youth, Daniel made a request that they might not eat of the king's meat or drink of his wine. Melzar feared that should he comply with this request, he might incur the displeasure of the king, and thus endanger his own life. Like many at the present day, he thought that an abstemious diet would render these youth pale and sickly in appearance and deficient in muscular strength, while the luxurious food from the king's table would make them ruddy and beautiful and would promote physical and mental activity.

"Daniel requested that the matter be decided by a ten days' trial--the Hebrew youth during this brief period being permitted to eat of simple food, while their companions partook of the king's dainties. The request was finally granted, and then Daniel felt assured that he had gained his case. Although but a youth, he had seen the injurious effects of wine and luxurious living upon physical and mental health.

God Vindicates His Servant

"At the end of the ten days the result was found to be quite the opposite of Melzar's expectations. Not only in personal appearance, but in physical activity and mental vigour, those who had been temperate in their habits exhibited a marked superiority over their companions who had indulged appetite. As a result of this trial, Daniel and his associates were permitted to continue their simple diet during the whole course of their training for the duties of the kingdom.

"The Lord regarded with approval the firmness and self-denial of these Hebrew youth, and His blessing attended them. He 'gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams' (Dan. 1:17). At the expiration of the three years of training, when their ability and acquirements were tested by the king, he 'found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood

they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.' (verse 20)

Self-control a Condition of Sanctification

"The life of Daniel is an inspired illustration of what constitutes a sanctified character. It presents a lesson for all, and especially for the young. A strict compliance with the requirements of God is beneficial to the health of body and mind. In order to reach the highest standard of moral and intellectual attainments, it is necessary to seek wisdom and strength from God and to observe strict temperance in all the habits of life. In the experience of Daniel and his companions we have an instance of the triumph of principle over temptation to indulge the appetite. It shows us that through religious principle young men may triumph over the lusts of the flesh and remain true to God's requirements, even though it cost them a great sacrifice.

"What if Daniel and his companions had made a compromise with those heathen officers and had yielded to the pressure of the occasion by eating and drinking as was customary with the Babylonians? That single instance of departure from principle would have weakened their sense of right and their abhorrence of wrong. Indulgence of appetite would have involved the sacrifice of physical vigour, clearness of intellect, and spiritual power. One wrong step would probably have led to others, until, their connection with Heaven being severed, they would have been swept away by temptation.

"God has said, 'Them that honour me I will honour' (1 Sam. 2:30). While Daniel clung to his God with unwavering trust, the Spirit of prophetic power came upon him. While he was instructed of man in the duties of court life, he was taught of God to read the mysteries of future ages and to present to coming generations, through figures and similitudes, the wonderful things that would come to pass in the last days."

Sanctified Life, pages 18-24

HEALTH MATTERS: LOSS OF HEARING

Noise is the number one cause of hearing loss, it is making us deaf before our time. Add up all the other causes of hearing loss—age, injury, and congenital problems, and they still amount to only a fraction of the damage caused by noise. Therefore, it only makes sense that turning down the volume can save your hearing. Many objects in your home can damage your ears—vacuum cleaners, garbage disposals, leaf blowers, and shop tools.

Sound is measured in units called decibels. To get an idea of how loud a decibel is, normal conversation is about 60 decibels. Any sound above 75 decibels has the potential to cause hearing loss. A sudden loud noise, like an explosion, or loud noises over a long period of time, like continuous sounds in your workplace, can damage the delicate hair cells or hearing nerves in your ears. Noise damage is additive, it builds up over the years, gradually destroying your sense of hearing. Loud noise overstimulates the cells in your inner ears that conduct sound to the auditory nerve, it exhausts the chemicals in the cells. If the noise is just a brief exposure, the cells can

recover. But if the noise lasts a few hours, the damage is permanent. The cells are destroyed—they have done so much work they burn themselves out. This can lead to hearing loss or tinnitus.

According to the American Tinnitus Association, everyday noises that might cause hearing loss include:

- Blow dryer: 100 decibels
- Subway: 100 decibels
- Power lawn mower: 105 decibels
- Chainsaw: 105 decibels
- Motorcycle: 120 decibels
- Fireworks: 120 decibels
- Screaming child: 115 decibels

Recreational activities like woodworking, riding snowmobiles or go-carts endanger your ears. More than 30 million people are exposed to high-decibel sounds on a regular basis, whether at work, at play, or at home. Any time you have to raise your voice to have a good conversation, you are in an environment that is noisy enough to damage your hearing in time. And, if you leave a noisy environment and you have

ringing in your ears, you have traumatized your ears. Here's how to protect yourself:

Know your enemy. Be aware of what noises might harm your ears. Make sure your family, friends, co-workers, and especially children are protected against noises louder than 75 decibels.

Block your ears. Wear earplugs or earmuffs when you participate in a loud activity. These can prevent both kinds of hearing loss—that caused by a brief impulse (explosion) or the kind caused by continuous exposure. You can find them at hardware and sporting goods stores.

Protect your head. Head injuries—from car, motorcycle, and bicycle accidents—are a common cause of hearing loss. The impact compresses the inner ear fluid, which then squeezes against the hair cells so strongly it damages them. So wear your seatbelts and helmets.

Beware of fat. Saturated fat can block the tiny arteries feeding your ears just as



it does the big arteries that feed your heart. The inadequate blood flow that results keeps your ears from recovering from noise damage as quickly as they should. Watch your diet, for your heart and your ears.

Eat a balanced and varied diet. Eating well goes beyond cutting back on fat. Zinc, calcium, magnesium and vitamin A all have been shown to benefit the sense of hearing. These nutrients are readily available in a healthy, balanced diet.

Get a check-up. Sometimes hearing loss is so gradual you might not notice it until it's too late. Schedule an examination by an ear, nose, and throat specialist and a hearing test by an audiologist, a health professional who can detect and measure hearing loss.

Taking these precautions will make your day-to-day encounters with noise a little easier on your ears. And remember, before you plug in that vacuum cleaner, put in some earplugs.

What is tinnitus? Tinnitus is ringing or buzzing sound that only you can hear. Almost any ear disorder, some type of head injury, or certain medications—even aspirin—can cause it. This problem usually goes hand in hand with hearing loss. Symptoms include: periodic or constant sounds—ringing, buzzing, hissing, roaring or whistling; hearing loss.

“There is no question that stress and tension do exacerbate tinnitus,” says Jack Vernon, one of the foremost experts on the condition. “So you want to avoid that if at all possible.”

While there is no cure for tinnitus, there are plenty of management strategies. Read on to discover how you can take steps to deal with tinnitus, handle stress, and get the rest you need.

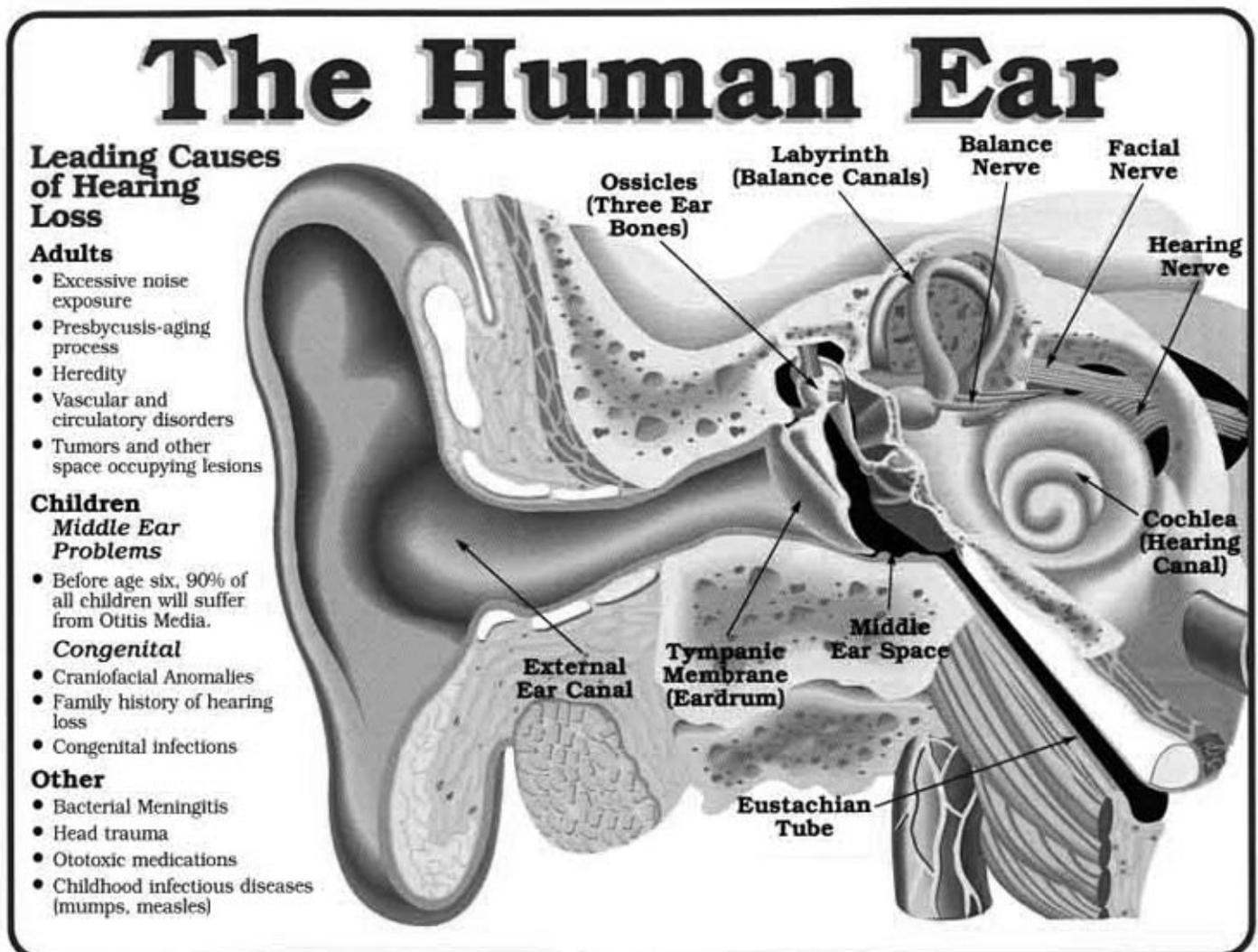
Relaxation therapy and visualization. By using focused breathing and positive imagery, you learn to relax. That means

less stress and possibly, less severe tinnitus.

Biofeedback. This helps you monitor and control your body's reaction to stress. Often used in conjunction with relaxation therapy, biofeedback uses your own nervous system as an ally in the fight to stay healthy.

Exercise. Sometimes activity can be distracting. While you're jogging or playing tennis, you're not focusing on the tinnitus.

Limiting your exposure to loud noise helps guard against tinnitus. But noise isn't the only threat to your ears. According to the American Tinnitus Association, the following common items can make your tinnitus worse: certain medications, high-sugar foods, tonic water, stress, fatigue.



ONE SUFFERING ONE



CHILDRENS CORNER

When seeing her, she portrayed the combination of innocence and courage. She was about 10 or 12 years old. It was hard to be sure about her age from her appearance, as her stunted, malformed frame made her look younger than she was. But her small oval face wore an expression more appropriate to a grown woman.

Her eyes were large and dark, fringed by long, thick lashes. She had the habit of gazing steadily for a long moment at all newcomers to the children's ward. If she liked what she saw, her face would light up and she would come over and introduce herself.

She had a smile, the nurses said, that could light up a room—and you could forget her misshapen body and painful, awkward movements.

She smiled often. I never saw her cry, although she had experienced a great deal of pain, rejection, and disappointment. I gathered that Valerie had already shed all her tears several years and countless operations ago.

Valerie would come to the children's surgical ward for long periods. Then she would disappear, only to return within a few months for further corrective surgery—surgery that could only, at best, make life manageable for her. She had, what was called, multiple birth defects.

Whenever she was recovering from one of her operations, Valerie would tumble out of her bed, shuffle around the ward, helping with the care of the other children.

The small patients liked Valerie in spite of her appearance and way of moving around. She could get them to do things when the nurses couldn't. Pain was a fact of life for Valerie, yet in her small, misshapen frame, she had enough courage for a ward full of children.

Valerie's parents didn't visit her every day,

as many of the other children's parents did. Possibly her parents were both working or had other children to care for. They came once or twice a week, and Valerie didn't seem to care desperately whether her mother came or not. Her mother always gave the impression of embarrassment, and she moved away from her daughter when other parents stopped by.

Valerie's father was outgoing and affectionate. He would wait at the end of the ward for Valerie to shuffle across to meet him, her face lit up. He always greeted her in the same way, "Hello, beautiful," he'd call. He made it sound as if he really meant it. And just for a moment, as the little girl reached the end of her shuffling run toward him, dropped her canes, and fell into his arms, he was right.

Then one cold and windy autumn night,

Billy came into the ward. He came up from emergency surgery, the victim of a car accident on the expressway.

His parents were relatively unhurt, but Billy had been pinned in the wreckage for a long time. He had severe injuries to his lower legs. The doctor felt that 8-year-old Billy had taken his last steps.

Billy was sunk in deep depression. He would never walk again, let alone run, jump, play soccer, or do any of the other things that made his life worth living.

But Valerie had other ideas. After summing up the situation, she decided that the doctor's prognosis was nonsense. "Billy will walk," she declared. She had been there. She knew.

When, fairly well along in his



convalescence, Billy still refused to get out of bed, put his feet on the floor, and try to stand, Valerie took over his case. After breakfast one morning she issued her first command. "Out of that bed, Billy, it's time to get up."

Billy tearfully protested that he couldn't walk. He demanded that she go away and leave him alone. But by sheer force of will she coaxed him out of his bed and into an upright position, then into the metal walker.

She spent exhausting hours with him every day. And at the end of the day she would crumple in an untidy heap on the floor. She would be asleep before a nurse came by to lift her onto her bed.

She put up with all kinds of protests from her

unwilling patient. Once, early on in the rehabilitation programme, Billy lost his temper and stormed at her. "Valerie, why can't you leave me alone? What do you know? You are strange."

Valerie stopped dead. Her oval face went white and her chin quivered. She looked as close to tears as I ever saw her. But only for a moment. Then she stuck out her chin and fixed the boy with her eyes.

"I know it," she said, "But I can't help it—and you can! Come on." After that, things went better. Billy became more cooperative.

Some weeks later he began to share her faith that he would recover. He became enthusiastic, and the two children grew to be best friends.

Then, close to three months after he'd entered the hospital, Billy closed the curtains around his bed. He dressed himself in the new suit his excited parents had brought, packed his things into his small suitcase, and walked with his family to the parking lot in front of the hospital.

Valerie and some staff workers were

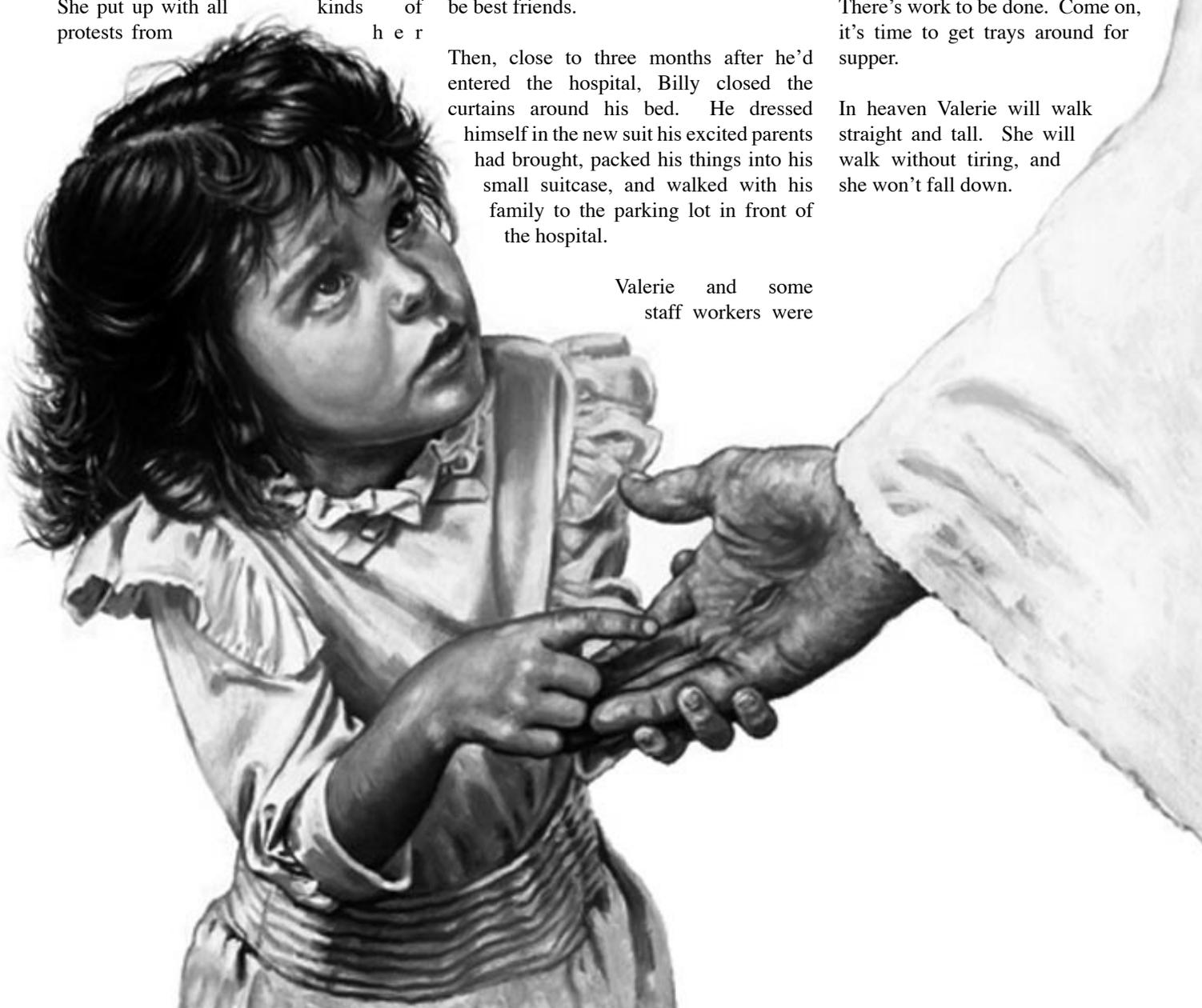
there. Billy, grinning from ear to ear, turned and waved. Everyone waved back except Valerie. She couldn't. Her face showed no sign of emotion, but her tiny knuckles clutching the handles of her walking canes were very white. The contrast was hard to bear. The excited, happy little boy who had learned to walk again, and the tiny, misshapen girl who would never walk properly.

Billy got into the car with his parents and young sister. And with a final wave he was gone.

Onlookers and hospital staff stood staring out into the courtyard, unwilling to move.

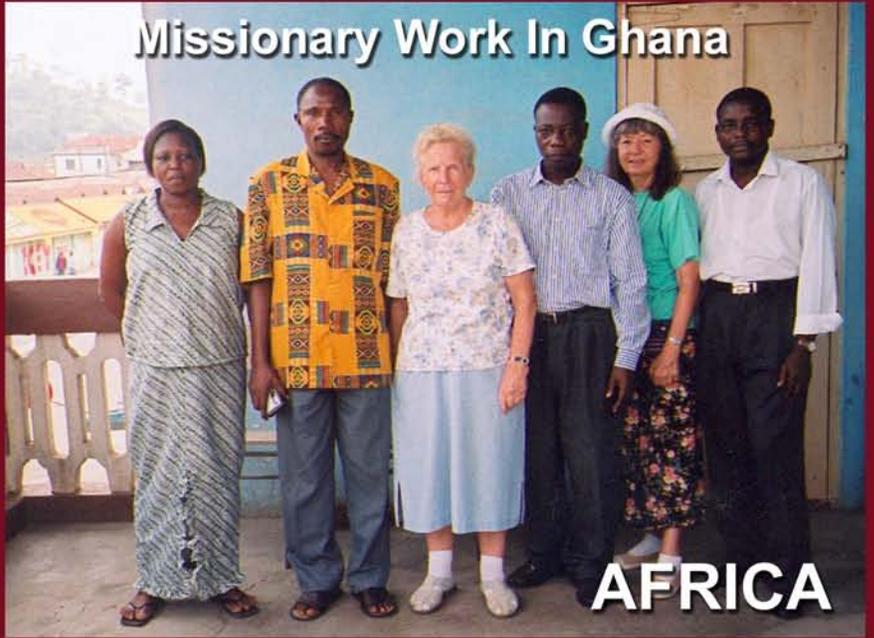
Valerie was the first to speak. "Well," she said, "what are we all staring at? There's work to be done. Come on, it's time to get trays around for supper.

In heaven Valerie will walk straight and tall. She will walk without tiring, and she won't fall down.





Interest in Benin



Missionary Work In Ghana

AFRICA



Ghana



Sis. Nada & Elvira

Baptism of Sis. Josephine in Adelaide



around the world

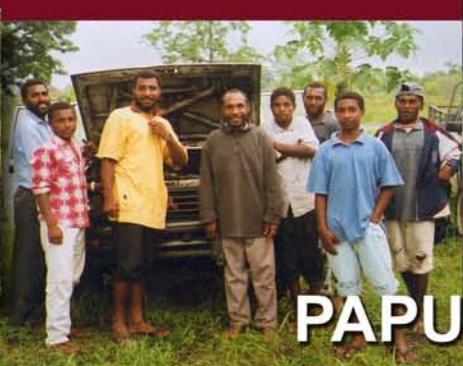
AUSTRALIA



Believers @ Baptism



Believers in Sydney



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Sister Velinka Radin

Our dear sister Velinka Radin passed away peacefully on April 3, 2006, after a year-long sickness.

Velinka Radin, or Vinka as she was known to everyone, was born on October 6, 1920 in a village called Sakule, in the Province of Banat. Her father was Milan Nedic and her mother's name was Ruza.

Velinka also had three sisters and one brother. Her sister Mira died in Yugoslavia. Her brother Svetozar died in Australia. Her sister Zagorka is still living and is in Loznica, and her sister Veska is living in Novi Banovci, both in Yugoslavia.

At the age of 17, in April of 1937, she married Nikola Radin. They had four children—son Zivan (and his wife Gisella of Sacramento, California), nursed her other throughout her illness (and her husband Josip), son Dorde (and his wife Dragica of Niagara Falls), and son Jovan (and his wife Tanya of Oakville).

Shortly after they were accepted their present Adventist truth, which throughout their whole lives. Both Velinka and her husband sacrificed self for truth and righteousness. They always sheltered their children from the evil influences of the world and raised them to be good Christians and commandments. to fear God and keep His

With their family, they escaped from the former Yugoslavia in 1960 to a camp for displaced persons in Austria and, from there, they emigrated to Canada on February 22, 1961. They worked hard all their lives with an untiring love to keep their family happy, and healthy, and together.

Velinka always put the needs of self-sacrificing love. This is called love. They loved everyone and their home was open to all. They always enjoyed having many friends over to visit. Velinka's hospitality was second to none... she was an exceptional hostess and her cooking was legendary. In fact, on Sunday, her last day, even in her groggy condition, she kept saying... "Make sure everyone has enough to eat out there..." Even in the last hours of her life, her concern was for those who had come to see her.

The passing of Velinka has left a gaping hole in her family and in her church. But we have the blessed hope that we will see her again at the resurrection morning. May the Lord comfort her relatives, friends, and her brothers and sisters in the faith. AMEN.

