



The Reformation
Messenger

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 8, AUGUST 2013

“All the beasts of the field seek their meat from God, [Psalm 147:8; 104:20, 21.] and every living creature, from the smallest insect up to man, is daily dependent upon his providential care.” – *Christian Education*, p. 195

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

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A Storm Is Coming!!

Build A Place Of Safety!

NOAH

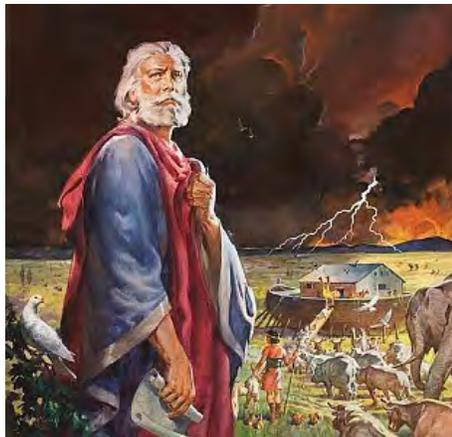
“And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.” Genesis 6:13–16

God gave Noah strict instructions on how to build a safe house, because God wanted all to be saved. It was three stories high, which is about the height of 45 feet. The ark was made of gopher wood and sealed with pitch within and without—storm-resistant material!

“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.” Luke 17:26–27

“God did not condemn the antediluvians for eating and

drinking; He had given them the fruits of the earth in great abundance to supply their physical wants. Their sin consisted in taking these gifts without gratitude to the Giver, and debasing themselves by indulging appetite without restraint. It was lawful for them to marry. Marriage was in God's order; it was one of the first institutions which He established. He gave special directions concerning this ordinance, clothing it with sanctity and beauty; but these directions were forgotten, and marriage was perverted and made to minister to passion.



“A similar condition of things exists now. That which is lawful in itself is carried to excess. Appetite is indulged without restraint. . . . Multitudes feel under no moral obligation to curb their sensual desires, and they become the slaves of lust. Men are living for the pleasures of sense; for this world and this life alone. . . . The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening.

“As the time of their probation was closing, the antediluvians gave themselves up to exciting amusements and festivities. Those who possessed influence and power were bent on keeping the minds of the people engrossed with mirth and pleasure, lest any should be impressed by the last solemn warning.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 41

Before the flood God sent Noah to warn the world, that the people might be led to repentance, and thus escape the threatened destruction. As the time of Christ's second appearing draws near, the Lord sends His servants with a warning to the world to prepare for that great event. Multitudes have been living in transgression of God's law, and now He in mercy calls them to obey its sacred precepts. All who will put away their sins by repentance toward God and faith in Christ are offered pardon.

The Lord merciful, the Lord righteous, instructed Noah to build the ark of a precise length, breadth and height. One inch out of the measurements would have been disobedience on Noah's part. If Noah did not follow the exact measurements, material and instructions of God, he and his family would have perished!

CRIME

"We are living in the midst of an 'epidemic of crime,' at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails, it is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud. Every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide. Who can doubt that satanic agencies are at work among men with increasing activity to distract and corrupt the mind, and defile and destroy the body?" —*Ministry of Healing*, p. 142

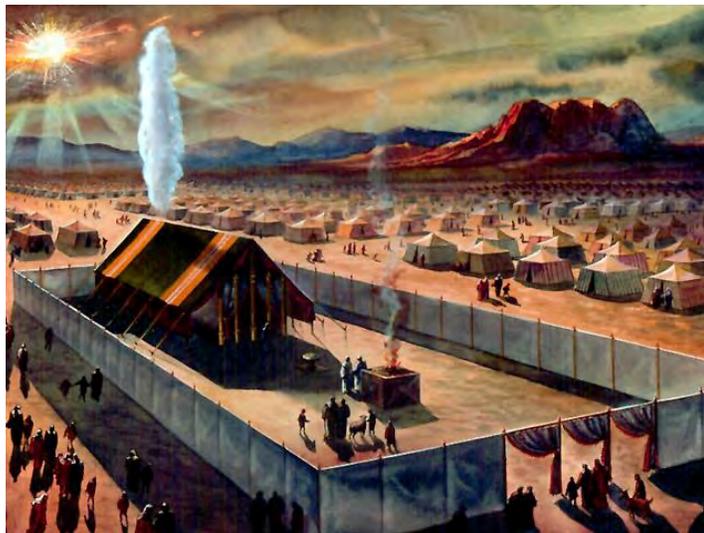
"The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation. The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world, represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening. Even now, in the present century, and in professedly Christian lands, there are crimes daily perpetrated, as black and terrible as those for which the old-world sinners were destroyed. Before the flood, God sent Noah to warn the world, that the

people might be led to repentance, and thus escape the threatened destruction." —*Christian Service*, p. 53

MOSES

God loved communicating with Moses. "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." Exodus 25:8. "And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount." Exodus 25:40

Every detail of the sanctuary was given to Moses. If Moses was not obedient to every detail of God's instruction, would God have dwelt among them? In the building of the earthly sanctuary we can clearly see



who our God is and the materials that He uses are of enduring quality. Strict instructions were given to Aaron and those ministering in the temple.

JESUS

"Christ does not lessen the claims of the law. In unmistakable language He presents obedience to it as the condition of eternal life—the same

condition that was required of Adam before his fall. The Lord expects no less of the soul now than He expected of man in Paradise, perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness. The requirement under the covenant of grace is just as broad as the requirement made in Eden—harmony with God's law, which is holy, just, and good." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 391

"Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, 'I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart.' Psalm 40:8. When on earth, He said to His disciples, 'I have kept My Father's commandments.' John 15:10. By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of

Jehovah.” –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 311

I would like to appeal to the husbands, pastors and leaders in God's church. Whose measurements are you using to build a church in your home in a time of great moral decline? As in the days of Noah, so it will be in the time of the end.

What material are you using to bring to the Lord a tabernacle that He may dwell among you?

The servant of the Lord, Sister White was labeled as a FANATIC because of the straight testimony, because she lived up to every ray of light that was given her.

“The people before the flood mocked at God's warnings. They called Noah a fanatic and alarmist. Great and learned men declared that such a flood of waters as he foretold had never been known, and that it would never come.” –*The Story of Jesus*, p. 181

“Our life, if hid with Christ in God, will not be discerned or appreciated by the world. Christian character is sometimes admired by some classes of the world who desire to see consistency, but generally the world is at enmity with God and His people. The world generally will not be pleased with real, vital godliness, with a firm, steadfast character that will not be swayed by any of their sophistries or by science falsely so called.

“Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. The living stones in the temple of God do not attract the man of the world. He does not understand their position in the building, and sees nothing in them that he appreciates. He sees talent and sharpness of character and begrudges every particle of it. Whatever the Christian may do religiously, conscientiously, for Christ's sake, is not understood or appreciated because the world know not the power of the truth, and know not the Lord or Jesus

Christ.

“Let a Christian walk with the Lord in all humility of mind and he is called narrow, bigoted, exclusive. If he is zealous, the world will call him a fanatic. Let him speak the truth decidedly with pen and voice and go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah to proclaim the day of the Lord, and he is called by the world excitable; they say he is denouncing everything but that which he believes. Let the Christian be whatever grace can make him, and the world cannot understand it. It is the unseen, inner life that is woven with the life of God, represented as hid with Christ in God, that the world cannot discern.” –*The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, vol. 3, p. 928

We live in a time where the leaders and home priests are accepting the compromise and standards of the world. When the directions are given on dress and health reform, why do you fathers and leaders allow your wives and children to overthrow the materials and measurements of God?

Are you fearing to be called a fanatic or will you, like Noah, Moses and Jesus stand and be numbered among the faithful, so that your ark may stand the storm that is approaching? God's wrath is real and this time it will not be mingled with mercy.

Please, my IMS friends and spiritual family, a time of revival and reformation precedes the Latter Rain. Let us return to the old paths. Lift the standards of righteousness first in your own heart, in your own home and in the church. MARANATHA!

Sr Milly Frieslaar
Cape Town,
South Africa





There is a saying that goes, "Physician, heal thyself." The meaning of this phrase is that physicians can be going about bringing healing to other people and not taking care for themselves. They may not take the time to heal themselves, or they may or may not be aware of the fact that they are sick. So the saying is for the physician to heal himself, also.

We can bring this thought into our Christian life. The title "Know Yourself" has the same idea as the physician healing himself. There are people out there who do missionary work, and are very zealous in the cause of God, who are spiritually sick and may not be saved. "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." —*Maranatha*, p. 196

Also, there definitely will be those leaders/ministers, who do not know themselves, yet God will not let His work languish. "We have been inclined to think that where there are no faithful ministers there can be no true Christians, but this is not the case. God has promised that where the shepherds are not true He will take charge of the flock Himself. God has never made the flock wholly dependent upon human instrumentalities." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 80

To know yourself is very important. Some people do not want to know themselves. It can be disheartening to know the real state of your human heart. They prefer to not know their inner heart. If you try to help these people and show them their errors, they get angry or make excuses for their sins, as did Adam and Eve or King Saul.

Some think they know themselves, but really do not, as with the believers comprising the Laodicean church (Revelation 3:17). They are blind to their true condition

before God. To be saved, you must know yourself.

There are others who readily repent when they are shown their errors, like King David. He even went as far as to ask God to search his heart—his inner heart—to find all the dark spots, so they could be cleansed. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23–24

EXAMINE YOUR LIFE

Paul counsels Christians to, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." 2 Corinthians 13:5

And David asked the Lord to, "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart." Psalm 26:2

Paul also reminds us that, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:31. Sometimes it is better for us to humble ourselves and submit to the Lord, rather than leaving it to the Lord to humble us. Oh, He will, but it may not be that pleasant an experience.

When we read the word of God, are we promised only pleasant experiences? Paul tells us that, "the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12. The Word of God cuts away the sin and dross in our character. It may be an unpleasant experience, but the end result is peace if we submit to be worked by God.

The counsel to know oneself is for all, including teachers, deacons, preachers, missionary workers and leaders, also. None are infallible. The most successful workers in the cause of God are those who recognize the

true condition of their inner self and do something about it.

“To know oneself is great knowledge. True self-knowledge leads to a humility that will open the way for the Lord to develop the mind and mold and discipline the character. No teacher can do acceptable work who does not bear in mind his own deficiencies and does not put aside all plans that would weaken spiritual life. When teachers are willing to lay aside that which is unessential for the life eternal, then it can be said that they are working out their own salvation with fear and trembling, and that they are building wisely for eternity.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 419

SHOW MYSELF TO ME

Our prayer to the Lord should be, “Show myself to me as You see me.” This can be frightening, when we think of our righteousness as being filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6), but praise God He has promised to clothe us with His righteousness (Zechariah 3:4). Our prayer should be that we see ourselves—not as we see ourselves, but as we study the Bible, that the Lord will reveal to us how He sees us. Although the answer may be disheartening, thankfully He does not leave us in this condition, but provides a remedy.

“Sins that have not been repented of and forsaken will not be pardoned and blotted out of the books of record, but will stand to witness against the sinner in the day of God. He may have committed his evil deeds in the light of day or in the darkness of night; but they were open and manifest before Him with whom we have to do. Angels of God witnessed each sin and registered it in the unerring records. Sin may be concealed, denied, covered up from father, mother, wife, children, and associates; no one but the guilty actors may cherish the least suspicion of the wrong; but it is laid bare before the intelligences of heaven. The darkness of the darkest night, the secrecy of all deceptive arts, is not sufficient to veil one thought from the knowledge of the Eternal. God has an exact record of every unjust account and every unfair dealing. He is not deceived by appearances of piety. He makes no mistakes in His estimation of character. **Men may be deceived by those who are corrupt in heart, but God pierces all disguises and reads the inner life.**” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 486 (emphasis mine)

You can hide your inner life from mankind, but not forever. Today, you may keep your inner life secret from man, and only God may see your heart, but in the not

too distant future, “be sure your sin will find you out.” Numbers 32:23. “The time is near when the inner life will be fully revealed. All will behold, as if reflected in a mirror, the working of the hidden springs of motive. The Lord would have you now examine your own life, and see how stands your record with Him.” —*The Review and Herald*, November 10, 1896. Yes, examine your heart today and make it right with the Lord. You don’t want to leave it until the judgment day. You don’t want to see your inner heart post-millennium. “While it is said, To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.” Hebrews 3:15. Today, let Him search your heart and bring out the deep inner workings of your heart and let Him make it right.

TO KNOW ONESELF BRINGS PEACE



To some, a knowledge of self, brings distress and dismay. Why? They love themselves so much that they have a difficult time tolerating any knowledge that would potentially wound their pride.

Self is alive. Self needs to die. When one truly knows themselves, they have true peace.

“It is the love of self that destroys our peace. While self is all alive, we stand ready continually to guard it from mortification and insult; but when we are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God, we shall not take neglects or slights to heart. We shall be deaf to reproach and blind to scorn and insult. ‘Love suffereth long and is kind’ (1 Corinthians 13:4, R.V.).” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 263

Every person has a built-in response called self-preservation. When self is alive the person will do their utmost to guard it from mortification (death). These people are reactive, always trying to preserve self from outside attacks.

“We cannot afford to let our spirits chafe over any real or supposed wrong done to ourselves. Self is the enemy we most need to fear. No form of vice has a more baleful effect upon the character than has human passion not under the control of the Holy Spirit. No other victory we can gain will be so precious as the victory gained over self.

“We should not allow our feelings to be easily wounded. We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls. As we become interested in the salvation of souls we cease to mind the little differences that so often arise in our association with one another. Whatever others may think of us or do to us, it need not disturb our oneness with Christ, the fellowship of the Spirit. ‘What glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.’ 1 Peter 2:20.” —*Ministry of Healing*, p. 485

HOW DO WE KNOW SELF IS ALIVE?

1) Spirit Of Self-Justification

After Adam and Eve sinned, the Lord came to speak with them. “When the woman was asked, ‘What is this that thou hast done?’ she answered, ‘The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.’ ‘Why didst Thou create the serpent? Why didst Thou suffer him to enter Eden?—these were the questions implied in her excuse for her sin. Thus, like Adam, she charged God with the responsibility of their fall. The spirit of self-justification originated in the father of lies; it was indulged by our first parents as soon as they yielded to the influence of Satan, and has been exhibited by all the sons and daughters of Adam. Instead of humbly confessing their sins, they try to shield themselves by casting the blame upon others, upon circumstances, or upon God—making even His blessings an occasion of murmuring against Him.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 58

Rather than humbly admitting their faults, and confessing their sin, when their errors are pointed out, those who have not died to self will be making excuses for their sins. They will always be trying to justify their actions. Their actions were misinterpreted. They did not really mean it that way, and so on. This is the spirit of Satan.

2) Defaming Others

Then there are other people who are constantly looking at the faults of others and bringing them to the notice of their brothers and sisters in the faith. This is an attempt to divert attention from oneself.

“Although we do not acknowledge that the object of defaming another is to exalt self, self-exaltation is behind the practise of noting the shortcomings of others. Let every soul remember it is best to be on guard, and to make straight paths for his own feet, lest the lame (spying ones) be turned out of the way. None of us are in danger of being too devotional, or of possessing too

much Christ-likeness of character. The remedy for unlikeness to Christ, for giving occasion for your good to be evil spoken of, is to live humbly, to keep looking unto Jesus in prayerful watchfulness, until changed into the likeness of His beautiful character.” —*The Review and Herald*, May 12, 1896. This is the remedy.

3) Exalting Self

“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.” Philippians 3:3–6. Paul was a good Pharisee and he was proud of it. He kept the Jewish law with exactness.

God has given truth to us. Why? So that we can pride ourselves as to how well we keep the truth? No, to share it with others. We are not given it to hide it under a bushel, either.

There is very great danger that God’s people can become spiritually proud because they have been entrusted with the truths for this time. However, with greater light comes greater responsibility.

“No man can of himself understand his errors. ‘The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?’ Jeremiah 17:9. The lips may express a poverty of soul that the heart does not acknowledge. While speaking to God of poverty of spirit, the heart may be swelling with the conceit of its own superior humility and exalted righteousness. In one way only can a true knowledge of self be obtained. We must behold Christ. It is ignorance of Him that makes men so uplifted in their own righteousness. When we contemplate His purity and excellence, we shall see our own weakness and poverty and defects as they really are. We shall see ourselves lost and hopeless, clad in garments of self-righteousness, like every other sinner. We shall see that if we are ever saved, it will not be through our own goodness, but through God’s infinite grace.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 159

A classic case is the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. (Luke 18:10–13). The Pharisee was very thankful for his righteousness and he pointed out his good points to the Lord. The publican recognized the sinful nature of his inner self and prayed for mercy

from God. He was forgiven. He knew himself while the Pharisee did not.

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14

“The Bible may be studied as a branch of human science would be; but its beauty, the evidence of its power to save the soul that believes, is a lesson that is never thus learned. If the practice of the Word is not brought into the life, then the sword of the Spirit has not wounded the natural heart. It has been shielded in poetic fancy. Sentimentalism has so wrapped it about that the heart has not sufficiently felt the keenness of its edge, piercing and cutting away the sinful shrines where self is worshipped.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 203

THE DAILY BATTLE AGAINST SELF

The battle against self and sin is a daily battle. “I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.” 1 Corinthians 15:31. “So long as we are in the world, we shall meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If Christ dwells in us, we shall be patient, kind, and forbearing, cheerful amid frets and irritations. Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self, and grow into a noble heroism. This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer.



Each one has a personal battle to fight. Not even God can make our characters noble or our lives useful, unless we become co-workers with Him. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 477

“Self must be dethroned, pride must be humbled, if we would know the glory of the spiritual kingdom.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 57

“Genuine conversion is needed, not once in years, but daily. This conversion brings man into a new relation with God. Old things, his natural passions and hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong, pass away,

and he is renewed and sanctified. But this work must be continual; for as long as Satan exists, he will make an effort to carry on his work. He who strives to serve God will encounter a strong undercurrent of wrong. His heart needs to be barricaded by constant watchfulness and prayer, or else the embankment will give way; and like a millstream, the undercurrent of wrong will sweep away the safeguard. No renewed heart can be kept in a condition of sweetness without the daily application of the salt of the Word. Divine grace must be received daily, or no man will stay converted. . . .

“Test and trial will come to every soul that loves God. The Lord does not work a miracle to prevent this ordeal of trial, to shield His people from the temptations of the enemy. . . . Characters are to be developed that will decide the fitness of the human family for the heavenly home—characters that will stand through the pressure of unfavourable circumstances in private and public

life, and that will, under the severest temptations, through the grace of God grow brave and true, be firm as a rock to principle, and come forth from the fiery ordeal, of more value than the golden wedge of Ophir. God will endorse, with His own superscription, as His elect, those who possess such characters.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 215

When we do come to a realization of our true inner self, we do not need to be remorseful. “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.” 1 John 3:20. Jesus came, not to call the righteous, but the sinners, to repentance. Remember

“There is none righteous, no, not one.” Romans 3:10. Who is it that responded to Jesus’ ministry while He was on this earth? The publicans and sinners, and they found the true peace for which they were searching. They recognized the poverty in their inner heart. They appreciated the self-knowledge from Jesus, repented and found forgiveness.

It is my wish and prayer that we would see ourselves as God sees us and be willing to be changed and molded into His image. Amen.

Wendy Eaton



Love The Truth

Many people accept the truth as the condition for salvation and for eternal life. But they do not love the truth. They follow a healthy diet but they do not love it. Many would like to divorce and get married again to someone else a second time, but because of the church teaching they do not do it. But they do not love this part of the truth. Some do not love Sabbath keeping or tithe paying, but they do it for the purpose of gaining heaven.

Of such people Paul writes, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:5

There are millions of professing Christians of whom Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Matthew 5:13

Their feet bring them to church. Their mouths say the prayers. Their eyes read the Bible, but their hearts are not in it.

"The people who profess the truth are backsliding from God. Jesus is soon to come, and they are unready." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 400

In 1882 Sister White wrote, "The church has turned back from following Christ, her leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 217

It is possible for the whole church to go backwards to-

wards Egypt and the world, yet believe at the same time that they are on the way to heaven. Meetings were held, ceremonies were conducted, missionary work was done, and people were added to the church, but they were going in the wrong direction.

We need to look into our compass and find out our direction. Is our love to God is growing greater? Is our love for His truth, that is, every part of the truth, getting stronger? Is our missionary spirit increasing and also our prayer life? How is our daily Bible study, and also our appearance? Do our clothing make us look like a Christian? Are we more faithful in health reform now than before? Daily, we need to see change in our spiritual life, especially in our humility.

Paul writes to us, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18

Those who love God and His truth receive from the preaching of the cross a mighty power, that makes them the angel of Revelation chapter 18, and the world will be lightened with their glory.

They will be like Elijah, who alone stood on Mount Carmel against King Saul and his men, against the hundreds of priests of Baal and Ashtaroth and the people of Israel. He did not hide the fact that he was on the Lord's side. And this is what the Elijah of the last days needs to be.

Love is a great power; also our faith works by love. Without love our faith is dead (Galatians 5:6). Even dur-

ing the Sunday law we must make it publicly known that we are Sabbath keepers. Love takes away all our fears. A professed Christian who does not have this power of God has lost his way and the preaching of the cross means nothing to him. His love has become cold toward God, toward the truth and toward his neighbour. This is the condition when we lose the Holy Spirit, because love is part of the fruit of the Spirit.

If we do not love the truth, God will send us a strong delusion that we will believe a lie. "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

Many professed Christians fall into a delusion of sin, and of the world without realizing it. Delusions of heresies, false doctrines will cause them to leave the church of God. If we love the truth, our love to God and to our fellow men will grow, and it is seen in more earnest efforts in missionary work.

The burden for souls is the thermometer of our love to God and to our fellow men.

If our love for the truth is dying, then our missionary spirit will die also. We do less Bible reading, religious meetings are seen as having little value. We will hardly ever attend prayer meetings. Then finally comes the terrible choice—to sin with knowledge. We know it is wrong, but we do not care. At this point the Holy Spirit is about to leave us, and never to return, slowly, silently man passes beyond salvation. Yet he may remain in the church, doing all the outward ceremonies like the Jewish people who crucified Jesus. One day they will wake up from their deathly sleep.

"It is impossible to describe the horror and despair of those who have trampled upon God's holy requirements." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 639. They cry to the mountains and rocks, "fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." Revelation 6:16

The other scene we find in *The Great Controversy*, p. 650, "The heirs of God have come from garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains, from deserts, from the caves of the earth, from the caverns of the sea. On earth they were 'destitute, afflicted, tormented.' Millions went down to the grave

loaded with infamy because they steadfastly refused to yield to the deceptive claims of Satan."

Love to God and to our fellow men comes from the preaching of the cross. Jesus dying upon the cross for us is the fountain of love. We need to meditate on it and keep it in our minds daily; this will make us strong Christians, and we become fountains of love to others, and then we will be the Elijah of the last days, whose glory shall lighten the earth.

Then the truth that we learned to love will be preached to the world by us. May the Lord help us to make right decisions in this trying time in which we live. Amen.

Timo Martin



*God Always Sends Rainbows
After a Rain*

*Whatever your pain,
Whatever your cross;
There will always be
sunshine after a rain.*

*Perhaps you may stumble,
Perhaps even fall;
But God's always ready,
to answer your call.*

*He knows every heartache,
sees every tear.
A word from His lips;
Can calm every fear.*

*Your sorrows may linger,
Throughout the night.
But suddenly vanish,
In dawn's every light.*

*Whatever your pain,
Whatever your cross;
God always sends rainbows
After a rain.*

Cheryl T. Mañago

Doubting?

“Then saith He to Thomas, Reach here thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach here thy hand, and thrust it into My side; and be not faithless, but believing.” John 20:27

PAINFUL LETTERS

Many today are struggling with their most basic religious beliefs. In sharing a portion of the following letters written by students away from home or college, although not so pleasant, reflect a great deal of doubt. One young man wrote to his parents, “I have reached the place where I cannot affirm belief in any Christian precept. I can but cling to one principle. I believe that it is right to do right, and that it is wrong to do wrong. I have been praying to that abstract principle, even though it is an awfully dark prayer.” Another young man, a college student, wrote these words to his mother, “I have made a decision to sweep God out of the universe. I must start again, taking nothing for granted.”

Maybe these letters are similar to ones you have received from sons or daughters away from home, or as a church committee or pastor, may have received from a member—resigning from church roles—for many sundry reasons. Or, maybe they remind you of a letter you once wrote, or perhaps felt like writing. Ah! But most of us who are adults are realistic enough to know that there are in each of our lives those dark times of doubt when we are even afraid to admit all the questions that we have about our faith, Scriptures, God, or even—Jesus! Hope falters!

THORNY QUESTIONS!

So what can we do then when we find ourselves speculating in the deep, dark recesses of our soul about the truly hard questions of life? Thorny questions such as:

- What if the Bible is not true?
- What if God does not exist?
- What if the whole world is just a figment of my imagination?
- Why was I created?

What is the truth?

These are some of the deeper dimensions of doubt that some of us may have known—and many, many more. The church cannot pretend these questions have never been asked.

CLOUDY DOUBT

Yes, the sea of faith ebbs and flows. Sometimes it's easy to believe, and life is so beautiful. Oh! But there are those times of doubt when it is very difficult even to say the words, “I believe. . .”

While the Bible is primarily a book of faith, we can be grateful that it deals realistically with—doubt! Many stories in the Bible are interwoven with shades of doubt. Abraham, the father of faith, is an excellent example of a person who lived by faith. Ah! But in those bleak days, while he waited for the birth of a son, even Abraham wondered if God was really with him. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, felt that God had abandoned him. Job was full of questions in the midst of his suffering. Judas Iscariot suggested doubt to the other disciples. The Psalms are full of expressions of questioning and doubt about God's presence. Nearly one-third of the Psalter comprises psalms of lament—the anguished cries and prayers of Israel which are psalms of doubt as well as of faith.

In the New Testament, moreover, we find great saints who knew the struggle of doubt. John the Baptist, for instance. He was called by God to be the forerunner of Christ. Yet when John was imprisoned by Herod, he must have gone through an intense period of doubt, for he sent his followers to ask Jesus, Are you He who is to come, or shall we look for another? (Luke 7:19). The question is a clear indication of doubts. Philip's doubt questioned the identity of Christ (John 14:8) (*Reflecting Christ*, p. 354). Yet, Paul did not yield to doubt while in a

Roman prison (*The Sanctified Life*, p. 96).

“Satan stands at the head of the great army of doubters, and he works to the utmost of his power to beguile souls into his ranks. It is becoming fashionable to doubt.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 526. “Satan has the ability to suggest doubts and to devise objections to the pointed testimony that God sends, and many think it a virtue, a mark of intelligence in them, to be unbelieving and to question and quibble” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 255 (emphasis mine)

All of us have been wounded in some way, whether by violence, disease or other personal tragedy, but although we can never pretend we have not been touched by adversity, we can refuse to be held by it. . . . and begin doubting!

JESUS?

Dare we even consider the possibility that Jesus was tempted by doubt? We are told and reminded that our Savior is one “who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4: 15). I believe Jesus was tempted by doubt, even though He was the Son of God. I believe it when I hear His prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.” (Matthew 26:39, NIV). Jesus was tempted by doubt, in His Father (*Confrontation*, p. 40). However, He was our example in that Satan could not tempt Him to doubt. We read of Christ in the wilderness. “Satan flattered himself that he could lead Christ to doubt the words spoken from heaven at His baptism. If he could tempt Him to question His sonship, and doubt the truth of the word spoken by His Father, he would gain a great victory. . . . He [Jesus] did not for a single moment doubt His heavenly Father’s love. . . . Satan’s temptations, though skillfully devised, did not move the integrity of God’s dear Son. His abiding confidence in His Father could not be shaken.” –*Confrontation*, p. 40–41

How could He have been fully human without having been tempted by doubts? If the greatest spiritual giants or prophets had temptations to doubts, and if Jesus himself was tempted by doubts, then our doubts begin to seem small in comparison. Surely there have been times when even the most steadfast and serious Christian has doubted his or her faith. So, then we can personally identify with Thomas.

TOYING WITH DOUBT

Ah! But let us reflect for a moment to realize that doubt does not always lead to disaster! Our doubts may just

as easily lead us to deeper convictions. We can also concede that it is not good for doubt to become a way of life, gnawing away at our souls. You see, doubt can become debilitating and destructive. If we toy with our doubts too much, they may wreak havoc upon our faith—and health; it can lead to depression and depression can lead to more doubt!

If we give too much credence to our doubts then we can never work through them to discover the certainties that will give us an anchor in the storms of life! Furthermore, “indulging in doubt attracts devils, dishonors God, drives away the angels, makes them harder to overcome, to grow, and when indulged further—rivets upon the soul fetters that are seldom broken!” (1T 428; 2T 319; 1T 428; 4T 558; 1 SM 46).

There are, as a suggestion, three ways to deal with our doubts so this does not happen:

1) FIRST, when doubts come we should try changing our perspective. Looking at something from only one perspective may be very deceiving. If we look at life, or one aspect of life, from a single viewpoint we may draw misleading conclusions. We may be just like the fellow who said, “Indians always walk single file. At least the one I saw did!”

If one is living in the relatively closed world of the college or university campus, caught up in modern philosophies, it will be hard to keep up the faith. A change of perspective, perhaps seeking out a faculty person of faith, or another Christian student for fellowship, or a local church of believers will do wonders for the spirit—a faith community.

The same can be true at your place of work. If your faith is contradicted you may begin to doubt your convictions. This is time to change your perspective—going for a walk on your break, reading your Bible, writing a letter, calling a believer, going to the gym. A change of perspective helps us maintain our mental and spiritual health. Try it! If you are too preoccupied with work and terribly busy, you might need a quiet spiritual retreat, with your time spent in Scripture and prayer. Or, on the other hand, a camp meeting, a conference, a hospital or nursing home visit.

Oh! If, on the other hand, you live a very quiet, relatively isolated life, it might be well for you to break out of that cycle in order to spend time with people who are task-oriented rather than idea-oriented. Perhaps being with people in the working world or working with your hands would help you change your perspective. Social

interaction is a predominant longevity factor! People need people!

Our opening Bible verse is the story of Thomas (John 20:24–29). The disciple is often known as “doubting Thomas.” We find also a similarity in the story of Mary Magdalene. Interesting, as two very different people both struggled with doubt; Thomas with intellectual doubt like many in this scientific age. He needed empirical proof that Jesus was really risen. “Thomas boasted that he would not believe upon the evidence which the disciples rehearsed, and which they credited, that Christ had indeed risen and appeared to them.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 696. Thomas was always troubled with doubt (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 663).

Moreover, Thomas, although faithful and earnest, was yet slow of heart to believe (*Education*, p. 85). His slowness and backwardness to believe may help to strengthen our faith. Thus “out of the eater came forth meat.” Either Thomas would have his fancy gratified or he would not believe (see Matthew 16: 1; 27: 42.) His open avowal of this in the presence of the disciples was an offence and discouragement to them. It was not only a sin, but a scandal! As one coward makes another man a coward, so does one believer make another believer,

and as one skeptic, making his brethren’s heart to faint like his heart (Deuteronomy 20:8). It was not their veracity that he questioned but their prudence. It may be conjectured, by what he said (John 11:16; 14:5), and by his unbelief and conduct, that he had been a man of a rough, morose temper, apt to speak peevishly; for all good people are not alike happy in their temper. He had either not heeded or not duly regarded what Christ had so often said, and that too according to the Old Testament that “he would rise again the third day!” (Hosea 6:2; Psalm 50:17; Luke 18:33)

Jesus said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing (GR: *me ginou apistos*—do not thou become an unbeliever) (John 20:27). Thomas was then fully satisfied of the truth of Christ’s resurrection—and the same Jesus that was crucified

was now alive.

This warning is given to us all. Be not faithless; for if we are faithless, we are Christless and graceless, hopeless and joyless; let us therefore say, Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief! Thomas believed Him to be Lord and God, and we are to believe Him so. We must believe His deity—that He is God; not a man-made God, but God made man!

There is nothing, however, to demonstrate that Thomas touched the Saviour. Ah! The sight of Him had been enough. But, what about the multitudes who would not have this opportunity of sight? A blessing is pronounced on such who dare to make the venture of faith (1 Peter 1:8). Thomas had another name—“Didymus”—Greek, meaning “twin.” Who was his twin? We don’t know but sometimes you and I feel as if we might be his twin! How often we have refused to believe and have insisted that God prove Himself to us!



Now, returning to Mary Magdalene. Like others of us she had a different kind of doubt—an emotional doubt. When she came and saw the risen Jesus, she feared He might leave her again and so she clung to Him. Notice that Jesus responded differently to Mary by saying, Do not touch me (John 20:17). Jesus wanted Mary to realize that she could walk on her own and

still know that His Spirit would be with her. Ah! But to Thomas, Jesus said, “Touch me,” But to Mary He said, “Don’t touch me.” Jesus sensed the differing needs of individuals, recognizing that each of them needed a change in perspective to help deal with their doubts.

2) SECOND, give yourself time while dealing with doubt. William Buckley, a conservative author, once said, “If I felt I was losing my faith, I would lie down until I got over it!” So, if you’re struggling with doubt, give yourself some time. Your doubts may disappear altogether. You say, “I don’t have time!” “You will never ‘find’ time for anything. If you want time you must make it.” (Charles Buxton, English author (1823-1871).

With the passing of time your faith will be tested, but so will your doubts. A genuine Christian faith will stand up to the tests of time, while doubts will not! There-

fore, “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 reprobrates?” 2 Corinthians 13:5

Furthermore, “Do all things without murmurings and disputings.” Philippians 2:14

So what are the ways to deal with doubt? Try changing your perspective! Give yourself time!

3) **THIRD**, staying close to the community of faith is very important! You are not the first to have doubts. Others have asked the questions you are asking. Having walked that difficult road before you, they can help you along the way. If you want to grow in your faith, it is best to stay close to those who have faith or at least are trying to grow in their faith.

In Hebrews 10:23–25 we are told that this kind of togetherness is to be the pattern for the community of faith, “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised; and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Thomas is a good warning to all of us not to miss meeting with God’s people in church. Because Thomas was not there, he missed seeing his Master, Jesus Christ, risen, hearing His words of peace, and receiving His gift of spiritual life.

Remember Thomas when you are tempted to carelessly stay home from the solemn assemblies of Christians. You never know what special blessing you might miss! Thomas’s words help us to understand the difference between “doubt” and “unbelief.” Doubt says, “I cannot believe! Too many problems!” Unbelief says, “I will not believe unless you give me the evidence I ask for!” In fact, in the Greek text, there is a double negative: “I positively will not believe!” Thomas represents the “scientific approach” to life—it did not work! Hence, being more grounded in the church helps us deal with doubts.

Our doubts, furthermore, become most oppressive



when we are in isolation. Alone in our little pockets of silent skepticism, our doubts may overwhelm us. But if we stay close to one another, encouraging one another, strengthening one another, sharing candidly our doubts and our faith as well, I am convinced that we will mature spiritually. The community of believers is an important ingredient in this formula for dealing with doubt. “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2 (Psalm 22:22).

IN CONCLUSION: Now let us go back to our three college students who wrote rather “resigning” letters. I will put you at ease, first of all, by assuring you that these are not students even from our own church or denomination! In fact, none of these two were even born in this century!

The first student, who could not affirm belief in any Christian precept, was Horace Bushnell (1802-1876). Bushnell became the most eloquent proponent of the Christian faith in his day, preaching from the prestigious pulpit of his Congregational Church in Harford, Connecticut. At the end of his career, many called him “the prince of the pulpit.” Remember, he began his jour-

ney of faith from a moment of dark and dismal doubting.

The second student was determined to “sweep God out of the universe.” Things got even worse for him, for at one point he experienced what can clinically be called an emotional breakdown. Shortly after that, however, he wrote one of the most wonderful volumes on prayer, and spoke of discovering the healing presence of God through prayer. He was Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), one of the most celebrated American preachers in this century.

Ah! If you have been counting, you may have realized that I never did tell you about the third student, or read from his letter. Let me tell you about him now. He was a student at the University of Glasgow. He was Scotland born and eldest of eight. His letter was not to his parents, but to the little church where he grew up. He wrote to request that his name be stricken from the rolls of membership, for he confessed that he no longer could even say that he actually believed in God! You

may not recognize his name, **Dr. George Matheson (1842-1906)**, but you may have seen it, maybe, in the small print of a hymnal, for after many years of struggling through his doubts he came to an ardent faith, and he gave us a beautiful hymn:

O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO

I trust in your unfailing love (Psalm 13:5)

O Love that wilt not let me go,

I rest my weary soul in thee;

I give thee back the life I owe,

That in thine ocean depths its flow

May richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,

I yield my flickering torch to thee;

My heart restores its borrowed ray,

That in thy sunshine's blaze its day

May brighter, fairer be.

(Jeremiah 31:3)

George Matheson had partial vision as a boy and by the time he was 18, he was completely blind. Yet, he

amazingly obtained the BA, MA, and BD degrees with honors, and an LLD (1903) honorary degree. He composed this hymn and others when 40 years old. He was a pastor, evangelist and eloquent preacher attracting large crowds (101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth W. Osbeck, Kregel Pub., 1982).

Should you fall upon this hymn somewhere, try to understand it in the context of the doubt and struggle from which it was born; Matheson described his writing as, "fruit of much mental suffering," "an anguish of spirit." It was not physical pain, or the blindness he incurred that penned an immortal hymn. As his heart moaned, he was divinely moved; as words welled up in his mind, words of comfort. In less than five minutes the poem (hymn) was complete!

The "Blind Preacher" saw quite well!

Let us, therefore, celebrate it with the saints that **our doubts** can lead us to **deeper certainties**. Always leave the worship service with a song in your hearts and in your memory! Oh! One more thing! **Do not doubt!** Keep looking **UP!**

Amen! <>< <>< <><

"Every soul is to minister. He is to use every physical, moral, and mental power, through sanctification of the Spirit, that he may be a laborer together with God. All are bound to devote themselves actively and unreservedly to God's service. They are to cooperate with Jesus Christ in the great work of helping others. Christ died for every man. He has ransomed every man by giving His life on the cross. This He did that man might no longer live an aimless, selfish life, but that he might live unto Jesus Christ, who died for his salvation. Not all are called to enter the ministry, but nevertheless they are to minister. It is an insult to the Holy Spirit of God for any man to choose a life of self-serving.

"Ministry means not only the study of books and preaching; it means service." -Manuscript Releases, vol. 19, p. 24



The Ladder to Heaven

Behold a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it (Genesis 28:12).

In our previous study, we learned that there is a “Gate to Heaven” and that gate is Jesus, the only door that leads us to heaven. Jacob, the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham, was fleeing from his twin brother Esau, who had vowed to kill him. Esau was furious with Jacob because Jacob had stolen Esau's birthright. On his way to his relative's house at Haran, Jacob lay down for the night. As he was dreaming he had a vision of a ladder, or stairway, between heaven and earth. God's angels were on it, ascending and descending. Isn't it amazing when it comes to our salvation, to see God employing all of heaven in order to save one person's life from total ruin and the degradation of sin? You see, God is not like us; we have this tendency to react in a negative way when someone hurts us.

Our heavenly Father is a wonderful God. In Exodus 34:6–7, Moses said; “And the LORD passed by before him and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...” This is our God whom we serve, merciful and gracious; and He is the same God whom Abraham, Isaac and Jacob served. One of the greatest men in history was the patriarch, Abraham. Three religions look to him as their spiritual progenitor—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Christians view him as “the father of all them that believe.” Romans 4:11. “The Faith of Abraham” was based upon revelation; God revealed Himself to Abraham and that led him to an obedient faith, a trusting faith, a growing faith—this should be our experience also.

Before leaving this narrative of Jacob's ladder, let us

turn to the New Testament and John 1:51. There you will find that Jesus made reference to this dream as He spoke to Nathaniel. Nathaniel was amazed at the supernatural powers demonstrated by Jesus. But Jesus promised him that he would see even greater things. He promised Nathaniel that he would see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. In this clear reference to Jacob's dream, Jesus puts Himself in the position of fulfilling this dream or vision. Heaven has opened and God has come down to dwell among men. Angels, messengers of God, come and go upon the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. He is the Word become flesh, the living word of God. Nathaniel, you and I are wonderfully blessed, for in Jesus Christ we have something more awesome and wonderful than even the dream of Jacob. “He who has seen Me has seen the Father,” said Jesus.

Three times in the last book of the Bible—Revelation—Jesus promises to come quickly, and He said that His reward is with Him to give each one of us accordingly. This is good news, brothers and sisters, friends; we still have time to prepare ourselves for eternity. Do you have time for Jesus, my friend? Do you take Him seriously? Are there things between you and Jesus that make you stumble, not letting you go forward in your walk with Jesus?

Today, let us look at this man, Jacob, as he was fleeing from his parent's house and friends, fleeing into a solitary place, and followed by the consequences of his wrong doing. Let us look at him from God's perspective and let us identify ourselves with Jacob, because in one way or another all of us at a certain point in our life have done something wrong, something that we are ashamed of. Do you think God forsakes any person when he needs Jesus most? Certainly not. Let's think for a moment, do you love your child only when he

obeys you? Is he not your child also when you hear good things and bad things as well? The circumstances do not affect your love towards him, do they? Certainly not. He is still your child and we as parents should love our children with an unconditional love just as our heavenly Father loves us. There are, unfortunately, cases where parents abandon their children when they need them most. What would have happened to us if Jesus would have done the same when we made mistakes?

Jacob indeed was a liar, thief and deceiver and he ran away from the place where he had committed those sins, thinking now in his wanderings that God had forsaken him. In those moments, Jacob thought of how God would treat him—a God ready to punish when a mistake was made, a God following behind us to see if we have done wrong, in order to punish us. Sometimes we have the tendency to tell our children to follow us and our faith which we have formed, and not the faith of Jesus. We tell them, “look, my son, you have to follow the Lord Jesus the way I follow Him,” and if not we may say, “look to the door, children; if you do not obey me, look at that door, my child, and go wherever you want, I deny you from this moment on.” I have heard about people like that and I ask myself, if Jesus would have done this with me, how would I feel? Our problem is within us, my friends, and it is our ego, it is the false god we have formed, thinking that the real God is like us—human beings. This is a false and pagan religion that we should condemn and not approve.

But look at how wonderfully our heavenly Father reveals Himself to Jacob, showing him a stairway out from that pit of sin; and that stairway is Jesus Christ Himself in His divinity and humanity, making it possible for us all to receive sufficient power from on high, in order to live a righteous life through the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

Many times, my friends, we are like Jacob. We fall into sin and then we lose our faith, thinking that God cannot forgive us. I have seen many people in this situation—a perplexing one. Praise God there is still a remedy. I present to you, my friend, the One who can make your life happy no matter what this life will bring you—in the sorrows of life, in the joys of life, in the disappointments of life, He is there to help you. He never makes a mistake; Jesus never loses a case; if we put all our trust in Him, our lives, my friends, will be lives which will have an eternal continuity. Although we might go through the experience of death there is hope when Jesus comes, because the Bible speaks about those who

die in Christ, that they will rise again and will be with Jesus forever (1 Thessalonians 4:15–16).

Look at Abraham, how he trusted God’s promises, without even knowing where he was. He obeyed God’s voice; he left his house, relatives and friends, obeying God without murmuring. Had he known from the beginning and all the way through his life, he would have known how to avoid those mistakes. There is a Bible principle there and also a saying—what we sow, that we will reap. If you deceive, then you will be deceived. Sometimes Abraham thought that he had to lie in order to save his life. This was sin, and it brought consequences with it.



When we look at the lives of these three patriarchs we notice the mistakes they made and the lessons they learned. This is a very important lesson to learn—to make mistakes is human and no one is exempt—but learning from mistakes, this is a wisdom and a science. When we learn from the mistakes of others, this is the most wise; and I believe God gave us His word to show us how important it is to obey His voice and trust Him completely.

Isaac followed the Lord and he followed in the footsteps of his father, and now we see that Jacob followed in the footsteps of his father also. Interestingly enough, we see how they were all tested individually. There will come a time when each and every one of us will be tested individually, as if no one else exists but you and God.

The Three Angel’s messages are going around the world and is being proclaimed with a loud voice, calling people from all corners of the world to worship God and fear Him, because the hour of His judgment has come. Do you hear that voice, my friend, calling you to a personal encounter with Jesus? Unless you have a personal experience with Jesus and His word there is no constancy in your life. There are people who think that life is all about money; if you have money, you have everything. Or if you are healthy then you will be healthy until you die, but that is not the case, my

friend. There is no constancy unless you have a personal experience with Jesus. The only One who can bring constancy in our lives is Jesus and His sacrifice in our behalf. At the cross He showed humanity how much He cares for us.

I like what someone said about the Three Angel's messages and the relationship between them. He said that we need the faith of Abraham in these last days of earth's history, the life of Isaac and the faithfulness of Jacob, my brothers and sisters.

The first angel's message is our relationship with God. "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come."

The second angel's message has to do with the world, how we walk through the world. And that means Babylon and its attractions, which genuine Christians will have nothing to do with.

The third angel's message is asking us to stand before the enemy—those who are opposed to or are against God's law—against us. That is why the prophecy speaks about "Jacob's trouble," a trouble as we have never seen before. What was Jacob's trouble? How did he meet that trouble? How are we going to come out from that trouble? In the same way, my friends, as Jacob went through.

We are not to be afraid because the same God, the God, the mighty God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (later called Israel, which means *overcomer*) is yours and my God, my friend. In Hebrews 13:8 it speaks about Jesus being the same yesterday, today and forever—there is no change at all in this mighty God we have—He is the same and has the same power in His words. The ladder represents Christ. The angels are God's messengers, sent to all the earth to help God's people. Throughout the Bible we find that angels were sent as protectors. Psalm 91 and Psalm 46 are chapters where you will find assurance—complete assurance in time of need.

Let us read Genesis 28:12–15. "And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, be-

hold, I am with thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."

What a mighty God. What a wonderful Saviour we have. Shall we not say, Amen? Instead of a curse we receive a blessing. Instead of being punished we receive a reward. This is the God we serve, my friends. Trust Jesus and receive Him today as your personal Saviour. God is not coming after us to catch us when we make mistakes, my friend; He comes to help us to overcome those mistakes. God gives each one of us free choices to make and our salvation depends on us, and the choices we make determine our destiny. Will you let Jesus Christ lead you through this life? Will you say, "Yes Lord Jesus, I want to surrender myself completely to You?" The next time, with God's help, we will learn about "The House of God." Because Jacob, after having that dream, said "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."

May our loving Father bless you richly.

Nicholas Anca



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Looking to the Great Physician



“Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness *is it!* and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought *that which was* torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.” Malachi 1:13

“The feeble and suffering ones must be educated line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, [Isaiah 28:13] until they will have respect for and live in obedience to the law that God has made to control the human organism. Those who sin against knowledge and light, and resort to the skill of a physician in administering drugs, will be constantly losing their hold on life. . . .

“Conscientious physicians should be prepared to enlighten those who are ignorant, and should with wisdom make out their prescriptions, prohibiting those things in their diet which he knows to be erroneous.

“He should plainly state the things which he regards as detrimental to the laws of health, and leave these suffering ones to work conscientiously to do those things for themselves which they can do, and thus place themselves in right relation to the laws of life and health. When from an enlightened conscience they do the very best they know how to do to preserve them in health, then in faith they may look to the Great Physician, who is a healer of the body as well as of the soul.

“We are health reformers. Physicians should have wisdom and experience, and be thorough health reformers. Then they will be constantly educating by precept and example their patients from drugs. For they well know that the use of drugs may produce for the time-

being favorable results, but will implant in the system that which will cause great difficulties hereafter, which they may never recover from during their lifetime.” – *Medical Ministry*, p. 224 (emphasis mine)

“Remember that your responsibility is measured, not by your present resources and capacities, but by the powers originally bestowed and the possibilities for improvement. The question which each one should ask himself is not whether he is now inexperienced and unfit to labor in God's cause, but how and why he is in this condition, and how it can be remedied. God will not supernaturally endow us with the qualifications which we lack; but while we exert the ability we have, He will work with us to increase and strengthen every faculty; our dormant energies will be aroused, and powers which have long been palsied will receive new life.

“So long as we are in the world, we must have to do with the things of the world. There will ever be a necessity for the transaction of temporal, secular business; but this should never become all-absorbing. The apostle Paul has given a safe rule: ‘Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.’ [Romans 12:11]. The humble, common duties of life are all to be performed with fidelity; ‘heartily,’ says the apostle, ‘as to the Lord.’ Whatever our department of labor, be it housework or field work or intellectual pursuits, we may perform it to the glory of God so long as we make Christ first and last and best in everything. But aside from these worldly employments there is given to every follower of Christ a special work for the up building of His kingdom—a work which requires personal effort for the

salvation of men. It is not a work to be performed once a week merely, at the place of worship, but at all times and all places." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 459 (emphasis mine)

"If the living machinery were properly cared for, there would not be today one-thousandth part of the suffering that there is. We are God's children, and we are to be apt students in studying the philosophy of health. If we are well, we should learn how to keep well by studying to some purpose the principles of health reform. Seventh-day Adventists should not follow the health-destroying customs of the world because it is the fashion to follow these customs.--Manuscript 4, 1905, p. 2. ("The Prevention of Consumption," December 27, 1904.)" –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, p. 181

"Christ is the Great Physician, not only of the body, but of the soul. He restores man to his God. God permitted His only-begotten Son to be bruised, that healing properties might flow forth from Him to cure all our diseases. Physicians are to act in Christ's stead. Every physician who has planted his feet upon the Rock of Ages draws from the Great Physician his restoring power. Christ's plans are to be carried out more definitely by the Christian physician.

"As Christ was about to leave His disciples, those who were to represent Him to the world, He gave them a



new commandment. 'A new commandment I give unto you,' He said, 'That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one for another.' [John 13:35]. That love they knew not until they saw the suffering and death of Jesus Christ upon the cross of Calvary. The new commandment of love was given in behalf of the weak, the wretched, and the helpless.

"To the heart of Christ the very presence of trouble was a call for help. The poor, the sick, the desolate, the outcasts, the discouraged, the desponding, found in Him a compassionate Saviour, a Mighty Healer. 'A bruised reed shall He not break, and smoking flax shall He not quench, till He send forth judgment unto victory.' Christ identifies His interests with those of suffering humanity, and He tells us that whatever we do to relieve a sufferer, we do for Him." –*Medical Ministry*, p. 120–121

While we are crossing the path of this world, are we ready to give Jesus our heart, mind and soul wholeheartedly? Do we look Jesus as our Great Physician? God said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

May God bless us all! Amen.

Cheryl Mañago

"It is the greatest and most fatal deception to suppose that a man can have faith unto life eternal, without possessing Christlike love for his brethren. He who loves God and his neighbor is filled with light and love. God is in him and all around him. Christians love those around them as precious souls for whom Christ has died. There is no such thing as a loveless Christian; for 'God is love,' and 'hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.' . . .

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." This is the fruit that is to be given back to God" –Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1141



Do Unto Others

"Hurrah! hurrah! Such a splendid morning for skating. Come ahead, boys; there's no telling how long this weather will last."

So said Roger to his two friends, whom he met on his way to the park. His eyes sparkled, his cheeks were almost as bright as the scarlet muffler he wore around his neck, and the dangling skates told for themselves the expedition upon which he was bound. The other boys readily agreed to join him, and after running home for their skates, the boys started off in such high spirits that the bus driver begged them to be a little more quiet.

"Not quite so noisy, please, young gentlemen," he said, as they paid their fare.

While Bob made a face when his back was turned to them, it gave Frank the opportunity of noticing the large patch on his overcoat. He made some funny speech about it, at which the others laughed heartily.

After a while the bus stopped for another passenger; the conductor assisted the person in getting on, and Roger, thinking more time was taken than usual, called out:--

"Hurry up, hurry up—no time to lose!"

The new-comer was a boy about his own age, but sadly deformed; he had a hunchback, and a pale, delicate face, which spoke of sorrow and painful suffering.

"Now do give him a seat," said the conductor, as the boys sat still, not offering to make room; but when he spoke, they all crowded together, giving much more room than was necessary,—the three together trying to occupy the space that one would comfortably fill. They continued talking and joking noisily, until the bus stopped at the entrance of the park.

Bob and Frank pushed out ahead of all the other passengers. Roger was pushing out after them when the bus driver laid his hand on his shoulder.

"Don't crowd, don't crowd; plenty of time, young man."

His words came too late, for Roger, in his impatience to get out, unheeding of what he was doing, caught one of his skates in the scarf of the crippled boy, who had been sitting next to him. He gave his skate strap a rude pull, knocking the boy rather roughly, and stepping on a lady's toes.

"Bother take it!" he exclaimed impatiently, and giving the scarf another jerk, ruder than before, he succeeded in disentangling it; then he rushed out, hurried over to the boys who awaited him on the pavement, where they stood stamping their feet and whistling. Roger made no reply to the crippled boy, who said to him gently:--

"It wasn't my fault, was it?"

"That cripple caught his scarf in my skate," Roger said. "I thought it never would come out. It's kept me all this time!" he exclaimed.

"Hush, Roger," interrupted Frank in a low tone of voice.

The boy was just behind them; he had evidently heard what had been said, for his pale face turned scarlet, and lingering behind to see which path the boys intended taking, he walked off in the opposite direction, and they soon lost sight of him.

Roger was hasty and impulsive, but his nature was kindly, after all; and when his skates were fairly on, the ice tried, and the first excitement of the pleasure over, he thought of his unfeeling speech, and the pale, sad face of the boy rose before him.

"Was it my fault?" the question rang in his ears. Was it the boy's fault that his legs were crooked and his back misshapen and awkward? Was it his fault that he must go through life, receiving pity or contempt from his more fortunate fellow-creatures, whose limbs were better formed than his own?

The more Roger thought, the ruder his treatment of the poor lad now seemed, and putting himself in the boy's place, he felt if such words were spoken to him, it would

have hurt him badly.

"I say," said Bob, who had been cutting his initials on a smooth, glassy spot of ice: "I say, Roger, what makes you so glum? Why I do declare, there's the little crippled boy sitting over there on the bank, looking at the skaters."

Roger looked in that direction, and saw him sitting alone, his only enjoyment consisting in watching without at all being able to take part in the pleasure of others.

"What can a poor fellow like that do with himself, I wonder?" added Bob. "I don't think he can skate or do anything else that is fun and exciting."

"That's probably true," said Roger thoughtfully, wondering how he could make up for his rudeness, or take back his own words. He concluded to let it all pass for this time. In the future he would be more careful, and less hasty in speaking; for Roger did not have sufficient manliness to go over to where the boy was sitting, and say frankly; "I ask your forgiveness for my rudeness."

The boys decided to play a game of tag. Roger was a splendid skater; he engaged in the game with great zest; his spirits rose, and the crippled boy and the reproaches of his conscience passed entirely out of his mind as he skated on, knowing that he could keep his balance as well and skate, perhaps, better than any fellow on the pond.

The swiftest and strongest, however are not always the most successful, and as he swooped around, curving in very near the shore, a strap gave way, and before Roger could help himself, it tripped him, and he sprawled at full length on the ice.

The boys shouted; some laughter, but a fall is such a common occurrence that no one was very much concerned until Roger attempted to stand up again, to show them all that he didn't mind it in the least,—he would be all right again in a minute. Then he tried to stand; but when an awful pain shot up from his ankle, he then realized that it was quite impossible to stand.

They ran to his assistance, but before they reached him, a soft hand was held out to him, and a gentle voice asked:

"Have you hurt yourself badly?"

Roger saw the deformed boy standing by his side, and then remembered that he had seen him sitting near by on the bank.

"I think I must have sprained my ankle," he replied.

The deformed boy knelt on the ice, and while the others clustered around, asking questions and offering suggestions, he quietly unbuckled his skates for him.

"I'll have to get home, I suppose," said Roger faintly; "but, boys, don't let this spoil your fun—don't come with me."

"May I go with you?" said the deformed boy. "I am not going to stay here any longer."

Roger thanked him, and a policeman coming up at that moment to inquire about the accident, a carriage was procured, Roger was put in, the deformed boy followed, and Roger was driven home.

"My fun is spoiled for this winter," he said, with a moan.

"I know a fellow who sprained his ankle last year, and the doctor says perhaps he will never be able to skate again. What an unlucky thing for me!—it wasn't my fault either."

"No," added the deformed boy gently. "It was not your fault; and it was not my fault that my nurse let me fall when I was a baby and injured my back. I sometimes think it would have been better if she had killed me outright, though strong and well-formed people think it wicked for me to wish that."



The colour which had left Roger's pale cheeks from his pain, rushed back for a moment, as he held out his hand and said:--

"I was a brute to you in the car this morning, but I didn't think what I was doing. Will you forgive me?"

"I know you didn't think before you acted. Please don't say anything more about it. It is hard to pity the suffering of others unless we have felt pain ourselves."

Roger's sprain prevented him from skating again that season, and also taught him a lesson which, let us hope, he will remember all his lifetime.

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Matthew 7:12
"In your association with others, put yourself in their place. Enter into their feelings, their difficulties, their disappointments, their joys, and their sorrows. Identify yourself with them, and then do to them as, were you to exchange places with them, you would wish them to deal with you. This is the true rule of honesty." —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 134



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Youth Retreat, London, Canada

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

With God's help, the church in London had a youth retreat on Sabbath, June 22, 2013, where, just as Paul advises us to give thanks, we did so at this occasion. I am very happy to see that God listened to our prayers and worked everything out in bringing the youth from around the GTA together to London.

We spent the morning at the church, studying our Sabbath School Lessons, with Sister Esther Garcia teaching the review lesson and Brother Leo Chiatto, the new lesson. Afterwards we were blessed by the Lord in the divine service with a message entitled, "God's Calling For You." (Isaiah 6:8). After lunch we went into nature to a beautiful place called "Longwoods Road Conservation Area," where we studied from the inspired book "Messages to Young People," by Ellen G. White. Brother Eric Song was the coordinator of this program and I praise the Lord it was indeed a blessing for those people who attended. In this program God was glorified through songs and experiences and study.

Sister Emelina and Brother Leo led us in the study, "A Call to the Youth," encouraging us to consecrate ourselves to God daily, searching the Scriptures. Life without Christ makes no sense, therefore we have been blessed by the Lord with the opportunity to grow and share our spiritual life with other people around us. There are so many things we can be thankful for; just look around and see all the blessings of the Lord.

Brother Adrian Lowe spoke on "The Youth Called to be Labourers." He talked about the benefits of working for the Lord in a very practical way. Two groups had a discussion for several minutes about the blessings that come from working both spiritually and physically for the Lord. A very interesting discussion derived from that. Everything we have in life is given from above to sustain us and to keep us, and to share God's precious love. Blessings come in different ways and sometimes can be missed, so thank the Lord who gave them, and for all that He is.

Brother Eric led us in "Acceptable Service." He talked about the privileges and blessings we have in this country, for there is much that we can be thankful for—the blessings of God in our lives, the people that God has blessed us with, and the hope that we have in Christ.

I just want to thank all of you who participated in the program and also those of you who came from near and far with the unique purpose of worshipping God and encouraging one another. I want to say how precious our youth are and what a blessing for the Canadian Field to have such powerful young people, with wonderful talents that God has blessed them with. I want to encourage them to put their talents to work in God's vineyard. Jesus said in Luke 10:2, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few."

My dear brother, my dear sister, go forth with these gifts and use them for God's glory and mankind's salvation because Jesus is soon to come. In the last chapter of Revelation Jesus mentioned His coming three times—and He is saying, "Behold, I come quickly."

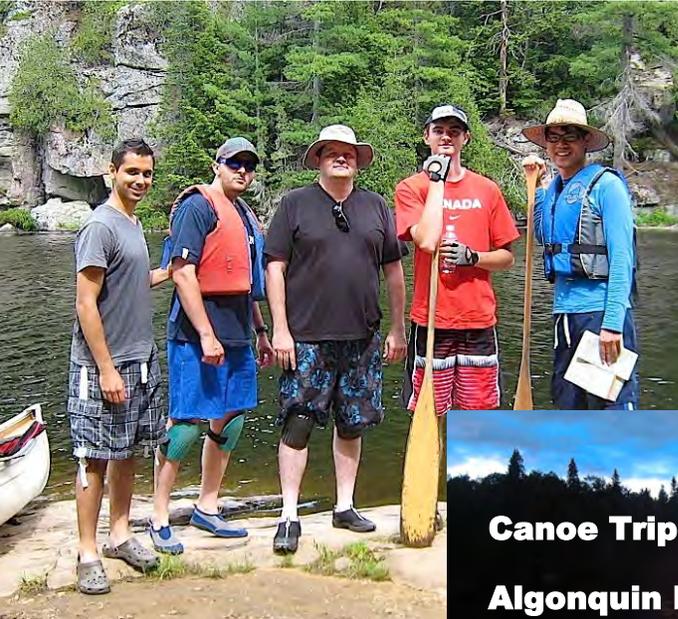
May God richly bless us as we do His will, is my wish and prayer. Amen!

Nicholas Anca

See Photo Next Page.



Youth Retreat, London, Canada





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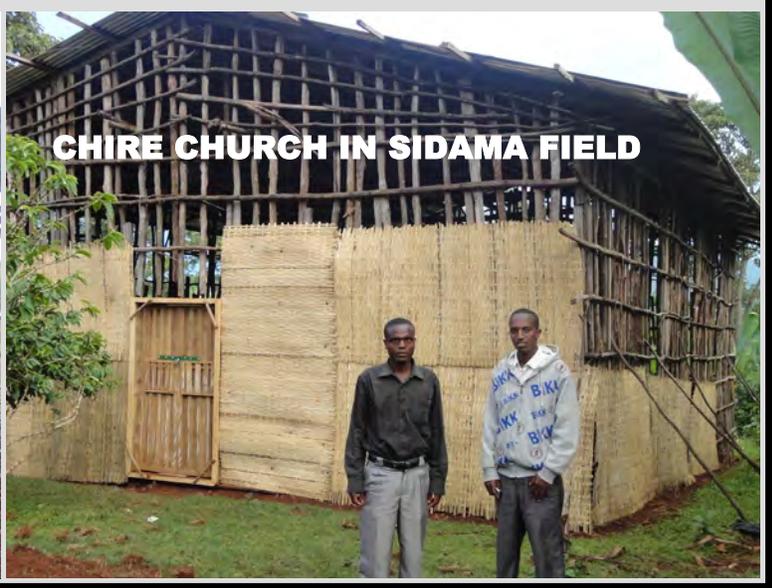
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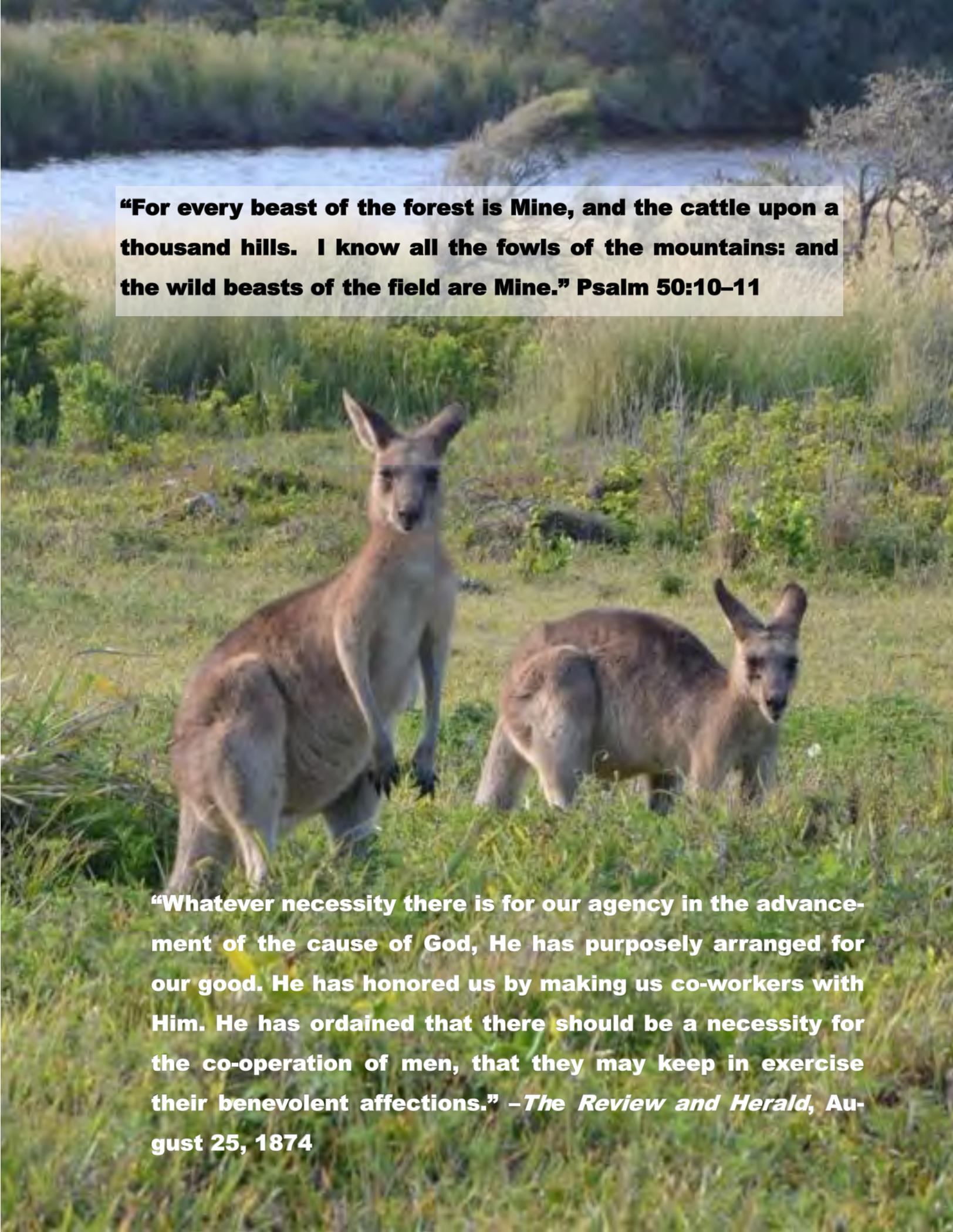
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**DARIMU CHURCH,
WEST FIELD**



CHIRE CHURCH IN SIDAMA FIELD

A photograph of two kangaroos in a grassy field. One kangaroo is standing upright on the left, looking towards the camera. The other is sitting on the right, also looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a river and some trees. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the upper left quadrant.

“For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are Mine.” Psalm 50:10–11

“Whatever necessity there is for our agency in the advancement of the cause of God, He has purposely arranged for our good. He has honored us by making us co-workers with Him. He has ordained that there should be a necessity for the co-operation of men, that they may keep in exercise their benevolent affections.” –*The Review and Herald*, August 25, 1874