

The Reformation **Messenger**

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 8, AUGUST 2008

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



"I am the living bread which came down from heaven:
if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:
and the bread that I will give is my flesh,
which I will give for the life of the world." John 6: 51

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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The Reformation
Messenger

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- Tel: 416-252-1197 Fax: 416-252-6625
- Email: timom@sympatico.ca
- Web: www.imsmessenger.org

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The Father And The Family

A well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached. Such a family gives evidence that the parents have been successful in following God's directions, and that their children will serve Him in the church.

I read in a daily about the controversy between parents and teachers over the use of a cane in schools in order to instill discipline in Children. Daily Nation Thursday April 3, 2008. Those who object caning stated that "caning--whether by a parent or a teacher--amounted to violation of human rights and child abuse under the children's Act." Therefore it should be made known to all that "corporal punishment is a crime and can land one in prison"

The rate of crime has doubled across the globe. Maybe I thought that the main reason could be attributed to the failure of parents to teach and instruct their children in the way of the Lord.

When I read the life of the servant of God, Job, I discovered that he continued offering sacrifices for his children because he thought they might have sinned. Please read Job 1:5 "And it was so, when the days of [their] feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings [according] to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually."

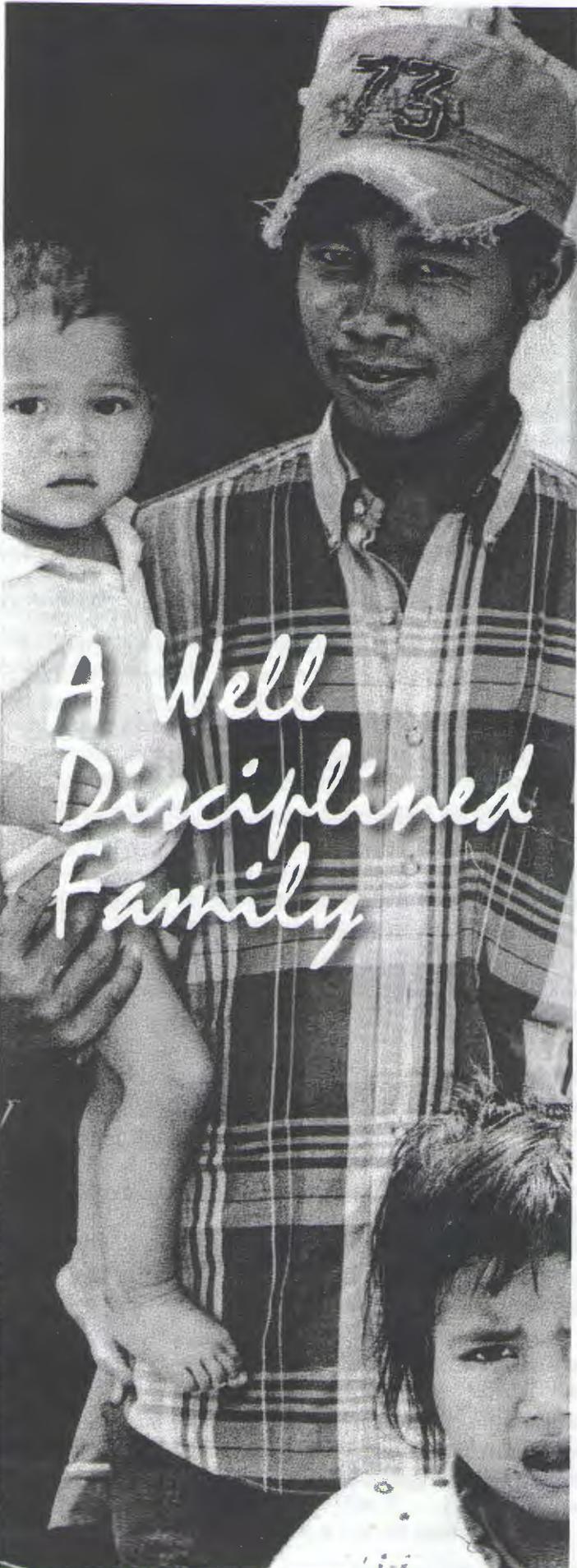
Apart from Job, another parent called Noah lived in the most violent generation. During the time of Noah, the earth had become so corrupt to the extent that God lamented having created the people who were continually rebellious. He decided to destroy the people with the flood. He (The Lord) told Noah "...every thing that [is] in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee." Genesis 6:12-18.

Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. As a father he did his duty to keep his family in the ways of the Lord. As a result of His obedience, he was saved from the destruction.

Most fathers and mothers do not take the responsibility of bringing their children to Jesus; they do not teach them how to pray and believe in the word of God. If parents would decide to carry out this responsibility, angels will be by their side.

I was 12 years old for the first time when the verses below were read in the congregation when parents complained of the stubbornness of their children:

- Proverbs 6:11 "Foolishness [is] bound in the heart of a child; [but] the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
- Proverbs 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for [if]





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thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

• Proverbs 23:14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

• Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

After the reading, it was perceived that parents were allowed to severely punish their youth for their mistakes. The scripture does not allow parents to overuse the cane, neither should they completely do away with it.

Parents should be careful while disciplining their children lest they abuse the use of the cane.

Psychologists' research indicates that children need not be caned but instead be counseled and given guidance to abandon bad behaviour. It leaves the child uncorrected, but instills fear. Caning does not correct an undisciplined child. Fathers are commonly associated with authority and strictness. What should we know of a husband and the father of the house? What important role does a father have in the family?

Fathers have an important part to act. The husband is the house-band of the home treasures, binding by his strong, earnest, devoted affection the members of the household, mother and children, together in the strongest bonds of union. {AH 211.2} His name, "house-band," is the true definition of husband. . . . I saw that but few fathers realize their responsibility. {AH 211.3}

As a father of the family, he is looked upon as the trainer of the children as well; he is looked upon by the wife for love and sympathy. The scriptures point out clearly that the father is the lawmaker and priest of the household. He is described with the following virtues: energy, integrity, honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness. As the priest of the household, he should lay upon the altar of God the morning and evening sacrifice. What is the role of the other members of the family--wife and children?

The wife and children should be encouraged to unite in this offering and also to engage in the song of praise. Morning and evening the father, as priest of the household, should confess to God the sins committed by himself and his children through the day. Those sins which have come to his knowledge and also those which are secret, of which God's eye alone has taken cognizance, should be confessed. This rule of action, zealously carried out by the father when he is present or by the mother when he is absent, will result in blessings to the family. {AH 212.1}

Then during the day He should not show a tyrannical spirit in the home. Tyranny is bad character possessed by Satan. Husbands and fathers should make their wife's life pleasant and happy. When the father lives the teachings in the home, as well in the church and in the workplace, angels of God will cooperate with him to reveal Christ in the world.

Fathers should exercise authority but with humility. In the book, Adventist Home we read: "It is no evidence of manliness in the husband for him to dwell constantly upon his position as head of the family. It does not increase respect for him to hear him quoting Scripture to sustain his claims to authority. It will not make him more manly to require his wife, the mother of his children, to act upon his plans as if they were infallible. The Lord has constituted the husband the head of the wife to be her protector; he is the house-band of the family, binding the members together, even as Christ is the head of the church and the Saviour of the mystical body. {AH 215.1}

In most cases, fathers excuse themselves from their part in the work of educating their children for life and immortality. Dear fathers, "lead on softly" do not harass or provoke your children especially your sons. Learn from Jacob, the faithful shepherd of God. When urged to undertake a rapid and difficult journey, made answer: {AH 218.1} "The children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die." Gen 33:13 "I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure." Verse 14.

Fathers, do not overdrive your sons in one day. The life's journey is long. "The father of boys should come into close contact with his sons, giving them the benefit of his larger experience and talking with them in such simplicity and tenderness that he binds them to his heart. He should let them see that he has their best interest, their happiness, in view all the time. {AH 220.3}

He who has a family of boys must understand that, whatever his

calling, he is never to neglect the souls placed in his care. He should not leave his restless boys wholly to the care of the mother. This is too heavy a burden for her. He must arrange matters for the best interests of the mother and the children. It may be very hard for the mother to exercise self-control and to manage wisely in the training of her children. {AH 220.4}

Fathers, be pleasant, kind, and affectionate toward your children, but not foolishly indulgent. Let them bear their little disappointments, as every one must. Do not encourage them to come to you with their petty complaints of one another. Teach them to bear with one another and to seek to maintain each other's confidence and respect. {AH 222}

Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home. There is no missionary field more important than this. . . . {AH 35.3} The greatest evidence of the power of Christianity that can be presented to the world is a well-ordered, well-disciplined family. This will recommend the truth as nothing else can, for it is a living witness of its practical power upon the heart. {AH 32.2}

God would have our families symbols of the family in heaven. Let parents and children bear this in mind every day, relating themselves to one another as members of the family of God. Then their lives will be of such a character as to give to the world an object lesson of what families who love God and keep His commandments may be. Christ will be glorified; His peace and grace and love will pervade the family circle like a precious perfume. {AH 17.2}

*Compiled from the Adventist Home (A.H)
By Charles Mogunde, Morcha2005@yahoo.com*

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying 'http://ismessenger.org/'. The page title is 'The Reformation Messenger - Official Publication of the Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field'. The main content area features a large banner with the title 'The Reformation Messenger' and a navigation menu with links for Home, Subscriptions, Downloads, Advanced Search, Catalogue, and Contact Us. A central message reads: 'Welcome to The Reformation Messenger. We are offering the Online version of "the Reformation Messenger". It is the official magazine Published by the International Missionary Society, Canadian Field. To date we have served over 37,000 visitors. The revised website now has added features including the entire catalogue of the magazine published from 2000 to 2007. This includes more than 94 issues comprised of over 1400 articles that are available in both text and PDF format. Both formats may be searched by various methods. The use of the website and access to all of the articles continues to be free.' On the left, there are sections for 'Online Magazines' (listing years 2000-2007) and 'PDF Downloads'. On the right, there is a 'Favourites' section with options like 'Bookmark Website', 'Bookmark Page', 'Make homepage', and 'Print Page', and a 'Subscribe' form with fields for Username and Password, and a 'Login' button.

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Sin brings death in its wake. The person who abides in Jesus can say in the resurrection morning, "where is death's sting?" as sin has been removed from the sinner's character.

This is what is being considered in these last days as we are soon to stand without a mediator. We need to understand what sin is, and what it can do. We can identify with Jesus what pain he experienced because of sin; we can do the same and flee from it.

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." Philippians 3:10, 11.

We need to have fellowship with Christ's sufferings and to be made conformable unto His death.

The mother of John and James had the desire for her sons to sit on either side of Jesus in heaven. It was a foolish question she asked, as Jesus then asked her, "are you able to drink the cup that I will drink?" The cup that Jesus drank, when was it? At Gethsemane. The disciples were also to drink the same. God will allow us to be tempted more than which we are able. The cup we have to bear is in connection with our spiritual life. Jesus had His cup which had bigger dimensions than what we will have.

God's church collectively will drink the cup which Jesus drank of. As Jesus was the Lamb of God, He calls his disciples "lambs." He said, "ye are lambs among wolves."

Apostle Paul says, "that I might know the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings."

"How few have any conception of the anguish which rent the heart of the Son of God during His thirty years of life upon earth. The path from the manger to Calvary was shadowed by sorrow and grief. He was the Man of Sorrows, and endured such heartache as no human language can portray. He could have said in truth, 'Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow (Lam. 1:12). His suffering was the deepest anguish of the soul.'" TMK 66.2

What sort of pain was it? The deepest. The bosom is the deepest part of our being. The place where we protect everything. That is where the anguish was.

"And what man could have sympathy with the soul anguish of the Son of the infinite God? Hating sin with a perfect hatred, He yet gathered to His soul the sins of the whole world." TMK 66.2

He opened himself wide, opened to be damaged. With hatred of sin He gathered so our bosoms can be free from it. What did Adam do with his iniquity? He hid it in his bosom. In order for us to have the resurrection, Christ had to draw sinners to His bosom to such an effect that He became sin. We are called to follow in His



footsteps. Without Christ aren't we 100% sin?

The Bible says that from the soul of the foot to the crown of the head there is no sound flesh. If we desire to partake of salvation, we need to have fellowship with his sufferings and to be made conformable unto His death. Christ gathered the sins of mankind into His bosom and He died. Do you know what we gathered into our bosom? Light. He gathered our sins so He could give us righteousness. When you hear a message and it hurts or offends and the truth cuts, when someone says something true and it offends, you can take offence at the truth. "It hurts me but I'm going to keep holding the truth." The Bible says the truth will set you free. It's not magic, and if you keep loving it, it will change you. If you keep pushing it away in your mind it won't change you.

"...as He trod the path to Calvary, suffering the penalty of the transgressor. Guiltless, He bore the punishment of the guilty; innocent, yet offering Himself to bear the penalty of the transgression of the law of God. The punishment of the sins of every soul was borne by the Son of the infinite God. The guilt of every sin pressed its weight upon the divine soul of the world's Redeemer. He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. In assuming the nature of man, He placed Himself where He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, that by His stripes we might be healed." TMK 66.2

We need to place ourselves where we are wounded for the truth's sake.

"Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up." Hosea 6:1.

Consider the wording of the first text. The call is to go to a place where you've already been hurt. He will heal. The healing hasn't happened yet. Here are people that have been damaged by the Lord and it has hurt them. The call is, let's go back to that. He has torn us but He will heal us. This is so out of synchronicity with human thinking. If something hurts, you don't touch it, you leave it alone and do things that are pleasurable. We need to learn this text.

"After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight." Hosea 6:2. Does that sound like the resurrection? What does Paul say? That I may know the power of his resurrection. Here these people have been wounded. Let's go and let's be dead. Let the sin in our character be killed and then we will know the power of his resurrection. The church triumphant is the church resurrected. It's the glorious church. It's not changed and made glorious at the Second Coming, it's already glorious. Only the frame is changed. We are privileged to have this opportunity in these last days to have the bosom-hurting relationship with Jesus. When will you know the power of his resurrection? If you follow on through the pain and don't give up. If you don't get offended and walk out.

"Then shall we know, [if] we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter [and] former rain unto the earth." Hosea 6:3.

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful, and were looking to the time of 'refreshing' and the 'latter rain' to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord, and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation, therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God." CET 112.3

What is the preparation of the latter rain? By continuing in a "thus saith the Lord." People are neglecting the preparation. People neglect the assembling of ourselves. Why were they staying away? So they wouldn't get wounded.

"Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets, and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still.'" CET 112.4

I once read a sermon and the first words by Sis, White were spoken out very hard against some that didn't come. If anyone were to say that today, it would not be tolerated at all. People don't want to be hewed by the prophets at all.

"I saw that none could share the 'refreshing,' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord, and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy, and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence." CET 113.1

We are to overcome pride; the thing we carry in the bosom of our selves. We need to overcome that and let the arrows of truth destroy it. If you ever wonder why you keep getting hurt by the truth, this is why.

"Then shall we know, [if] we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter [and] former rain unto the earth." Hosea 6:3. What is God saying? Judah, your goodness is like a cloud, its there and it's gone...

"O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness [is] as a morning cloud, and as the early

dew it goeth away. Therefore have I hewed [them] by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments [are as] the light [that] goeth forth. For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me." Hosea 6:4-7.

In the margin it says, "they like men, like Adam." How did Adam transgress? Job said he hid it in his bosom. Secret sins that no one knows but you are hiding. This is the type of sin that God is addressing.

"I was shown that the follies of Israel in the days of Samuel will be repeated among the people of God today, unless there is greater humility, less confidence in self, and more trust in the Lord God of Israel, the Ruler of the people. It is only as divine power is combined with human effort that the work will abide the test. When men lean no longer on men or on their own judgment, but make God their trust, it will be made manifest in every instance by meekness of spirit, by less talking and much more praying, by the exercise of caution in their plans and movements. Such men will reveal the fact that their dependence is in God, that they have the mind of Christ." LS 323.1

What did the people of Israel want in the days of Samuel? A King.

"Again and again I have been shown that the people of God in these last days could not be safe in trusting in men, and making flesh their arm. The mighty cleaver of truth has taken them out of the world as rough stones that are to be hewed and squared and polished for the heavenly building. They must be hewed by the prophets with reproof, warning, admonition, and advice, that they may be fashioned after the divine Pattern; this is the specified work of the Comforter, to transform heart and character, that men may keep the way of the Lord..." LS 323.2

It is a clearer illustration of what it means to be hewed by the prophets. This is the work of the Comforter; the voice from heaven. As the truth is shared with power, God has the ability to speak to hearts. Those who don't share the truth don't know what's in the heart of the people. Only God knows the core. If your core is being tapped, it's not man, it's God. Let it hew and square you so you can go into the glorious building.

The Bible says we are to walk in the light whilst it is light lest the darkness come and you walk in darkness. To walk in the light while it is light...

It is my desire that we will be cleansed from sin just like Jesus. As we have that one mind, we can fulfill the prayer of Christ. Cherish every moment we have together in the bosom of Christ. Cherish the blood of Jesus in the truth and God will look after the rest.

Amen. Paul Godfrey



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We human beings have a nature; and if we are treated according to it we are pleased. But if something is done to us which goes against our nature, it will hurt us.

If you cut wood, your work is easy if you cut it along the grain, but if you try to cut it crossways to the grain it is much harder work.

The human philosophy today is, do your own thing, do what you enjoy, and what gives pleasure to you. In other words, do what is natural to you, without feeling guilty about it, even if it happens to go against the established behaviour of society; because that is the way you are, that is your nature.

Already children and young people want to do things what they enjoy, without questioning if it is right or wrong. Even the Christian churches are catering to the natural tendencies of men and women, by removing the cross and self-denial from the way to heaven.

Parents also find it easy to bring up their children if they go along with their nature. But if they try to cross it, they have a rebellion in their hands.

The result of this permissive upbringing and following the corrupt human nature is seen in the present condition of the world. So much crime, murders, deception and misery, even mental and physical sickness are results of men doing their own thing.

God has shown a better way to live, which would guarantee true happiness and joy in this life, but because it goes against the evil and selfish nature of man it is considered as foolishness.

"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 Cor. 2:14.

Who are these natural men and women who do not understand the spiritual things of God? Certainly the unbelievers and the sinners, but often also professed Christians.

It is foolishness to them to be so strict in moral purity. It is foolishness to them to spend so much time and money for the church. It is foolishness to them not to fight for your rights.

Jesus spoke to the Jewish people, who were His church at that time, "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you heavenly things?" John 3:12.

"Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believe not: the works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of My sheep, as I said unto you." John 10:25, 26.

"Many therefore of His disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" John 6: 60.

The words of Jesus went against the nature of the Jewish people. When Jesus told them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's," it went against their wishes. Also when He said, "Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you," it went completely against their nature. It meant that they should love the Romans who oppressed them.

Some ignored His words, others hated Him and planned to kill Him; others ridiculed His words and made fun of them.

Those who heard His message and did nothing deceived themselves. "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1: 22. They may have even believed the word but did not practise it. They will be lost in the end.

Others hated Him and His words. Today we find similar reactions to the word of God. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves, teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables." 2 Tim. 4: 3, 4.

Some people made fun of the message and the Messenger. When children made fun of Elisha and of his message, two bears came out of the woods and tore 42 children to death.

To reject the message of God becomes a sin against the Holy Spirit and there is no more salvation after it. Anyone who hears our Reformation message and rejects it, does commit an unpardonable sin.

But then there are some who hear the word, and even that it goes against their natural tendencies, they do not reject it.

"To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My words." Isa. 66: 2.

God is good, God is love, He will help us to change our corrupt nature to the likeness of His divine nature. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 1 Pet. 1:4.

We need to be born again and then miracles start to happen in our human nature.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1 Pet. 1: 23.

Paul writes, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Rom. 8: 6.

A carnally minded person asks of his stomach what kind of food it wants. He asks of his eyes what they want to see. His mind is a servant to his flesh. A spiritually minded person asks of the Holy Spirit that dwells within him, what to eat, or what to see, and what

to do. One who is spiritually minded walks with God as Enoch did. He tries to please God in everything that he does.

God wants to change our natural human nature to a perfect divine nature. The human heart that is deceitful above all things He will take away and give us a new heart.

"And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in My statutes, and keep Mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God." Ezek. 11: 19, 20.

Now it becomes possible to love God above all, and our neighbour as ourselves. Now a sinless life becomes possible. Now we become omnipotent.

Jesus said, "Ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place: and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you." Matt. 17:20.

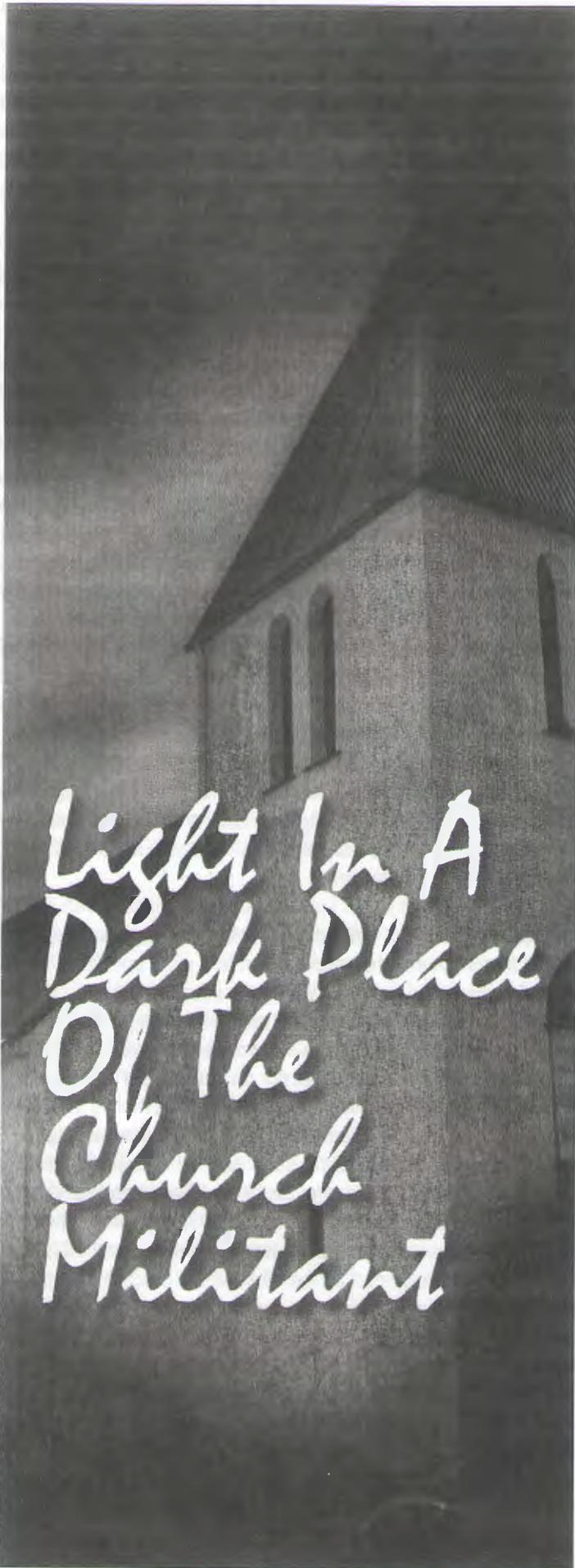
A wonderful change happens in the human nature. "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Eph. 2: 2-6.

Once we fulfilled the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature the children of wrath, but now God has raised us up into heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Now looking back to the world, it seems so vain and empty and our desire is to be nearer to God and still nearer to Him who died for us. Daily the lovely image of Jesus will be seen in us more and more and we will be homesick for the better land and to see Jesus face to face.

May the Lord help us that this is not a broken dream to us, but a reality, soon to be fulfilled. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada



“Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!”
Zephaniah 3:1.

We are living in dark, trying times for God's genuine people. We need that God illumines our pathway, the light that shines in a dark place to illuminate our pathway. We all have our personal dark spot, which is our human heart where God brings Jesus into close inward proximity so that the dark place in our heart, the light of Jesus shines in our heart. Now we want to examine the dark place in the church militant. This may sound strange--in God's church is there a dark place in the church militant? How do scriptures relate to the church militant?

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” 2 Peter 1:19.

This verse talks about prophecy that deals with the church militant. A suggestion that the church militant could have a dark place? That prophecy can illuminate? We see prophecy referring to the final church, the church in the last days, the church militant in the transition as it enters into the church triumphant. This is what we need to consider, the prophecy of the transition of the church militant to the church triumphant.

Let every one who is seeking to live a Christian life remember that the church militant is not the church triumphant. Those who are carnally minded will be found in the church. FE 294

Is that a dark place in the church militant? In the church militant there can be found a dark place, a dark chapter just like it was in the church that Jesus chose when He chose His 12 disciples. There was a dark chapter there. Clearly, then, in the church militant we must remember there are dark places.

What is written in the prophecy so that the day star can illuminate this spot? This dark carnality in the church militant? This study will explore Zephaniah 3 as the prophecy to enlighten our minds in regards to the church militant and the dark spot in the church. What time frame can we see that these words apply to?

“Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination [is] to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, [even] all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.” Zephaniah 3:8.

Here in the midst of Zephaniah 3 is an identification prophecy that Zephaniah is talking of. It is the time of God's indignation which is included in this prophecy. Let us read some other scriptures that speak of that period.

“For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send

thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me." Jeremiah 25:15-17.

He then goes into the detail of all the nations that exist at the time of God's outpouring of His wrath.

"For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the LORD of hosts." Jeremiah 25:29.

Who does he start with? Jerusalem.

"Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread [the grapes], against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come [even] to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them [that are] wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from [one] end of the earth even unto the [other] end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground. Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves [in the ashes], ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel. And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of the flock to escape. A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and an howling of the principal of the flock, [shall be heard]: for the LORD hath spoiled their pasture. And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the fierce anger of the LORD. He hath forsaken his covert, as the lion: for their land is desolate because of the fierceness of the oppressor, and because of his fierce anger." Jeremiah 25: 30-38.

Anyone who has studied into depth the prophecies of the last days knows it is talking here about the vials of God's wrath that are going to be poured out.

"The Lord shall roar from on high... he shall mightily roar from His habitation..."

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done." Revelation 16:17.

This is the seventh vial where the voice from heaven comes, God's voice roaring from His temple.

"And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of

the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled." Revelation 15:5-8.

The temple in heaven is opened and out of the temple comes this voice from the throne. The fury of God, and who else comes out of the temple?

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes [were] as a flame of fire, and on his head [were] many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies [which were] in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." Revelation 19:11-15.

Can you see how all these texts are saying the same thing? The temple is opened, the son of God with the angels coming to orchestrate the destruction of the nations during the plagues. This is what Zephaniah 3:8 includes. The period of Zephaniah 3 is inclusive of this. It is a prophecy that deals with the period just before and during the plagues.

What happens just prior to the plagues? Before the plagues strike, what happens according to prophecy?

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: [and there were] sealed an hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." Revelation 7:1-4.

Here are the angels holding the four winds. We read in Jeremiah that there would be a whirlwind from the four corners that would destroy. The four corners are being held from the wind blowing, until what? Until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.

Here is the detail of the picture of the period that takes place during the plagues. This is the prophecy, this is the light, and this tells

us what happens in our day since 1844 when the sealing of the 144,000 started.

“He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man [with] his destroying weapon in his hand. And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them [was] clothed with linen, with a writer’s inhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which [had] the writer’s inhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old [and] young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom [is] the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which [were] before the house.” Ezekiel 9:1-6.

Here is a direct description of what we read in Revelation 7--The sealing work of the angel.

“This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision.” TM 445.2

We are looking at the details of the period of which Zepheniah 3 is talking about. What does it say? Those that sigh and cry for the sins that are done in Israel. If we apply it to these last days, where are the 144,000 chosen from? Out of the 12 tribes. Modern or Spiritual Israel is the church just as Israel of old was. If we continue in the description here...

“John also had been a witness of this most startling revelation. He saw the sea and the waves roaring, and men’s hearts failing them for fear. He beheld the earth moved, and the mountains carried into the midst of the sea (which is literally taking place), the water thereof roaring and troubled, and the mountains shaking with the swelling thereof. He was shown plagues, pestilence, famine, and death performing their terrible mission.” TM 445

“The same angel who visited Sodom is sounding the note of warning, “Escape for thy life.” The bottles of God’s wrath cannot be poured out to destroy the wicked and their works until all the people of God have been judged, and the cases of the living as well as the dead are decided. And even after the saints are sealed with the seal of the living God, His elect will have trials individually. Personal afflictions will come; but the furnace is closely watched by an eye that will not suffer the gold to be consumed. The indelible mark of God is upon them. God can plead that His own name is written there. The Lord has shut them in. Their destination is inscribed—

a noisome and grievous sore

the sea; and it became as
the blood of a dead man

the rivers and fountains
of waters; and they
became blood

upon the sun; and power
was given unto him to
scorch men with fire

upon the seat of the beast;
and his kingdom was full
of darkness

upon the great river
Euphrates; and the water
thereof was dried up

and there was a great
earthquake

'God, New Jerusalem.' They are God's property, His possession." TM 446.1

"God has shown me that at the very time that the signs of the times are being fulfilled around us, when we hear, as it were, the tread of the hosts of heaven fulfilling their mission, men of intelligence, men in responsible positions, will be putting rotten timbers in their character building--material which is consumable in the day of God, and which will decide them to be unfit to enter the mansions above. They have refused to let go the filthy garments; they have clung to them as if they were of precious value. They will lose heaven and an eternity of bliss on account of them." TM 446.3

The dark place in the church? Let's examine some more detail what takes place before the plagues commence. The experience of the church, the people who sigh and cry for the sins that are done in the church. Men, intelligent, in responsible positions putting rotten timbers in their character building.

"The leaven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world." 5T 209.3

They are members of God's church and they are crying for what the members are doing after the manner of the world. Is that a dark spot in the church militant that we need enlightenment on?

"These sighing, crying ones had been holding forth the words of life; they had reproved, counseled, and entreated. Some who had been dishonoring God repented and humbled their hearts before Him. But the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel; although many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking." 5T 210.2

Here is prophetic detail of the last days. "In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments, these humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God's honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any." 5T 210

To obtain the favour of any? Who do you want to please?

"Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous. They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm. They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light. They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception



of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect." 5T 210.3

Do you know what that feels like? I know it.

"The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions His messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: "Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house." 5T 211.1

"Here we see that the church--the Lord's sanctuary--was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust." 5T 211.2

You don't want to proclaim loudly that this is God's church, do you? This is what happens in God's church. I ask the question, God's church? God's own church? Full of this detail? Oh, we want to place that on the SDA church but we don't believe they are God's church, so who does it apply to? God's church. God's church militant. Remember, God's church militant is not the church triumphant, there are carnal people in it. Even the ancient men. The ministers. It's very fascinating to see how Zephaniah describes exactly this.

"Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!" Zephaniah 3:1.

What does she do? She oppresses.

Zephaniah 3:2 She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God. Her princes within her [are] roaring lions; her judges [are] evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the marrow." Zephaniah 3:2, 3.

It's alright, we can deal with that tomorrow, we can gnaw them.

"Her prophets [are] light [and] treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law. The just LORD [is] in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame. I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant. I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive

instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, [and] corrupted all their doings. Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination [is] to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, [even] all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy." Zephaniah 3:4-8.

Here it is, the church militant. Her princes are roaring lions. Her judges are evening wolves. Her priests have polluted the sanctuary.

As we read this, God says wait, be patient because I will deal with it. What did we read? Commence at my sanctuary. Let us look at the detail of verses 1-5. Is this true? Is this applicable to God's church militant? That her princes are roaring lions? Her judges are evening wolves? They are an oppressing city? The prophet's light, treacherous persons... remember God's law is very broad.

"I have seen an end of all perfection: [but] thy commandment [is] exceeding broad." Psalm 119:96.

We touched on one of the laws, the pride that people in positions of leadership can be patrons over their brethren. That, Sis. White says is not according to the law. Many more details. God's church with those kinds of people in it? No, we don't want to hear that. We don't want to admit that. Then we are judging. No. All we have to do is take God's word, that's all. We don't have to judge any man, God's word judges.

"Has God no living church? He has a church, but it is the church militant, not the church triumphant. We are sorry that there are defective members, that there are tares amid the wheat." TM 45.1

"The church of Christ on earth will be imperfect, but God does not destroy His church because of its imperfection. There have been and will be those who are filled with zeal not according to knowledge, who would purify the church, and uproot the tares from the midst of the wheat. But Christ has given special light as to how to deal with those who are erring, and with those who are unconverted in the church. Tares will appear among the wheat; but it would do more harm to weed out the tares, unless in God's appointed way, than to leave them alone. While the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship. While Christ is sowing the good seed, Satan is sowing the tares. There are two opposing influences continually exerted on the members of the church. One influence is working for the purification of the church, and the other for the corrupting of the people of God." TM 46.1

What's happening in the church? Light and darkness within the church. One pushing against the other, within the church. This is what is written.



"Some people seem to think that upon entering the church they will have their expectations fulfilled, and meet only with those who are pure and perfect. They are zealous in their faith, and when they see faults in church members, they say, 'We left the world in order to have no association with evil characters, but the evil is here also;' and they ask, as did the servants in the parable, 'From whence then hath it tares?' But we need not be thus disappointed, for the Lord has not warranted us in coming to the conclusion that the church is perfect; and all our zeal will not be successful in making the church militant as pure as the church triumphant. The Lord forbids us to proceed in any violent way against those whom we think erring, and we are not to deal out excommunications and denunciations to those who are faulty." TM 47.1

The church militant with its evils amongst it in transition at the last moments as it is about to become the church triumphant.

"Through long ages God has borne the anguish of beholding the work of evil, He has given the infinite Gift of Calvary, rather than leave any to be deceived by the misrepresentations of the wicked one; for the tares could not be plucked up without danger of uprooting the precious grain. And shall we not be as forbearing toward our fellow men as the Lord of heaven and earth is toward Satan?" COL 72.2

"The world has no right to doubt the truth of Christianity because there are unworthy members in the church, nor should Christians become disheartened because of these false brethren." COL 72

Do you sometimes get disheartened when you see false brethren in the

church with their dealings?

"How was it with the early church? Ananias and Sapphira joined themselves to the disciples. Simon Magus was baptized. Demas, who forsook Paul, had been counted a believer. Judas Iscariot was numbered with the apostles. The Redeemer does not want to lose one soul; His experience with Judas is recorded to show His long patience with perverse human nature; and He bids us bear with it as He has borne. He has said that false brethren will be found in the church till the close of time." COL 72.3

Till the close of the time of probation when the wrath of God will be poured out.

How close to the end of time do you believe we are? Already while the angel was sealing them in their foreheads, the others were following. Haven't we seen the events from the 1st and 2nd world wars through to now, the thousands and millions of people that have been slaughtered? Where do we think we stand? Till the end of time there will be false members in the church. We are here, aren't we?

What did we read in Zephaniah? These false brethren? They were here identified. These leaders in the church themselves, what are they? They are oppressing. Her priests have polluted the sanctuary. What did we read next?

"The just Lord is in the midst thereof." Is that light in a dark place? Notice how it reads:

"He will not do iniquity, every morning doth he bring judgement to light. He faileth not."

He is the light in the dark place. The just Lord is in the church militant. This is His church. No matter what goes on. The just Lord is in the midst thereof. Let the light shine in this dark experience. Jesus is there, the day star arises in our hearts. What does He do? He brings judgement to light. He faileth not. Judgement in the midst of corruption. Judgement to light, that in the midst of this darkness in Gods own church, the company in the light will be illuminated in the judgment that He brings to light in the church militant. Do not despair, the daystar arises in the dark, just before the break of day. When the plagues fall, isn't that the breaking of the day? We must take courage by understanding the light in the dark place of the church militant.

"Let us not dwell on the dark chapters in the experience of Seventh-day Adventists. They bring up a discouraging, depressing picture, and it would seem as if Christ, the Light of the world, had not been near to help. There was no need of the dearth of knowledge, no reason why mistakes should have been made. Christ was then, as He ever will be, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He was ready to help, and no one need have made grave mistakes or errors." 7MR 383.1

"The time to which you have referred--a time dark, perplexing, and discouraging--let it stay in the past. Do not talk of it unless forced to. To make reference to the worst features in the experience of those now in positions of trust in the work of God, does not benefit anyone. Let us not call up the dark shadows of the past. Let the past lie where it is, with all its objectionable features. Into the present we are to bring pleasantness, hope, and courage." 7MR 383.2

"If there are those who are allowing the enemy to obtain an advantage over them, tempting him to tempt them, and carrying out his plans, let not this appear. And do not bring up the dark, unchristlike deeds of the past. The dear Saviour was all the time inviting those who did these deeds to cease to dishonor God, and to turn to Him for help to do right." 7MR 383.3

"At the present time we have plain evidence of the specious, artful working of Satan on human minds. We have to meet this working with determined effort. But let the dark pictures of the past be buried, and let them stay buried. Let us not cloud the mind of anyone by bringing up these representations. Let us at this time bring in all the light possible." 7MR 383.4

Brethren I'm using this opportunity that, yes, we have been bombarded and we have experienced negativity, but let's no longer talk about them. Let them be buried. This is what we are instructed to do. Let us focus on Jesus whom the church of His time crucified. They know they are going to do this to His followers again. Let us concentrate on Jesus, on Him who is in the midst thereof, who, every morning brings judgment to light. What is His judgment over his expectant prospective triumphant children?

"In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain." Zephaniah 3:11. We must not be proud because we are in God's church. Do what I say, as I have a high position in God's church. There is no room for that in God's church.

"I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make [them] afraid. Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, [even] the LORD, [is] in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: [and to] Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. The LORD thy God in the midst of thee [is] mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. I will gather [them that are] sorrowful for the solemn assembly, [who] are of thee, [to whom] the reproach of it [was] a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict

thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. At that time will I bring you [again], even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD." Zephaniah 3:12-20.

There are kindred scriptures of verse 18, "I will gather them that are sorrowful. I will gather my jewels."

"Ye have said, It [is] vain to serve God: and what profit [is it] that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, [they that] tempt God are even delivered. Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard [it], and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." Malachi 3:14-18.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:20, 33.

He is in the midst thereof. In me, you will have peace because I am in the midst of the church militant.

"I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make [them] afraid." Zephaniah 3:12, 13.

"In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever." Micah 4: 6, 7.

Who are the children that God will reign over? Those who have halted. Those who have become the remnant, all those who have remained faithful to the end.

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and

in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call." Joel 2: 30-32.

The company in the light that is always within the church militant will finally be isolated. That is the remnant of her seed. That is the overcomer. That is the church triumphant. Persevere through the darkness. Let God do His work in His church militant with us. In His church militant, if we stand faithful and true, He will bring forth His true people. Don't become so overpowered by the darkness of the evil within the church that you cease. Don't turn back or turn away from that which God is giving us within His church militant, or else we will go back to perdition.

"And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It [is] my people: and they shall say, The LORD [is] my God." Zechariah 13:9.

Indeed if we will remain faithful in God's church militant, what will happen?

"The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant.-- Letter 32, 1892." Ev 707.1

Think on these words. The church militant is where we are. If we remain faithful, we will become the church triumphant. What does it mean to be faithful?

"The life of Christ was a life charged with a divine message of the love of God, and He longed intensely to impart this love to others in rich measure. Compassion beamed from His countenance, and His conduct was characterized by grace, humility, truth, and love. Every member of His church militant must manifest the same qualities, if He would join the church triumphant. The love of Christ is so broad, so full of glory, that in comparison to it, everything that men esteem as great, dwindles into insignificance. When we obtain a view of it, we exclaim, O the depth of the riches of the love that God bestowed upon men in the gift of His only-begotten Son!" FE 179.3

We will continue to explore these details so that we can appreciate the light that shines in the dark place of this present age of God's church militant and of the darkness of the world around us so we can make intelligent decisions. Not be pushed from one pillar to the other. Not from one belief of thought to the other. So that the light can be illuminated. So we can walk intelligently in the darkness. Intelligently in the prophecies. May this be our decision to persevere to the end so we can be those who will comprise the church triumphant. **AMEN**

John Thiel, Australia

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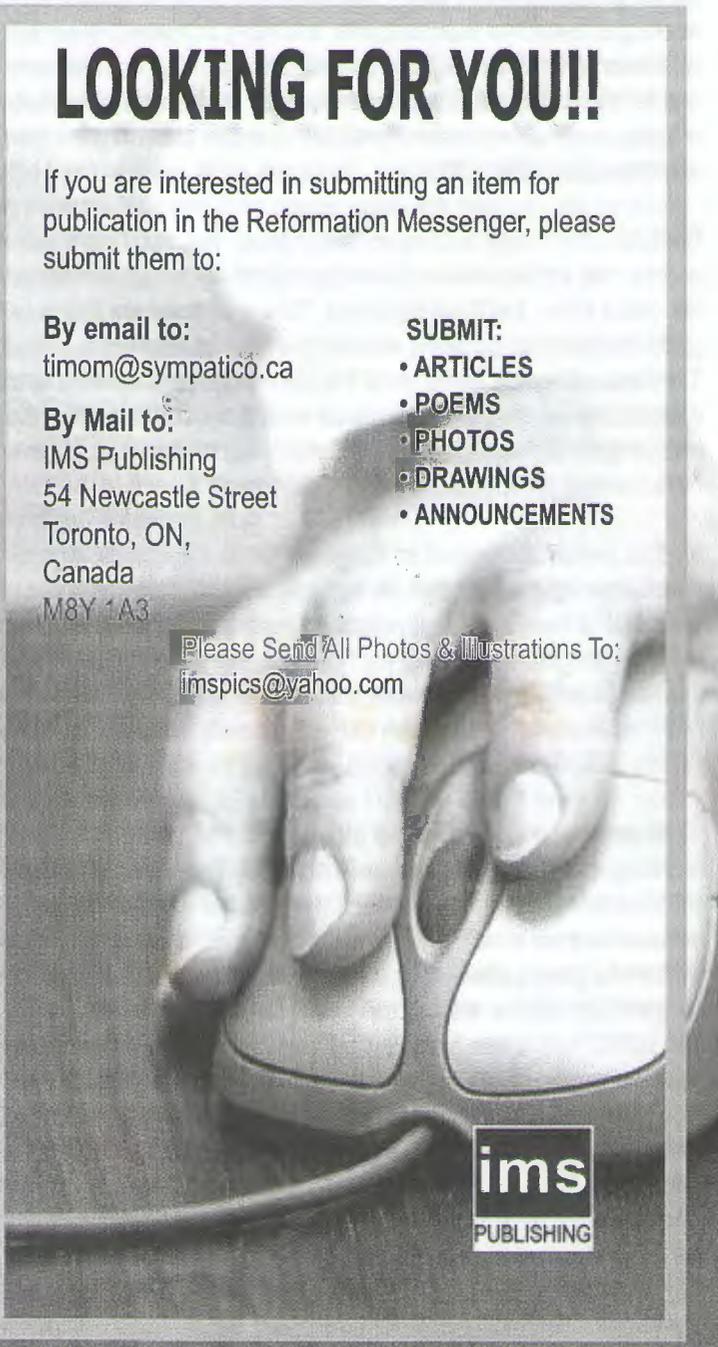
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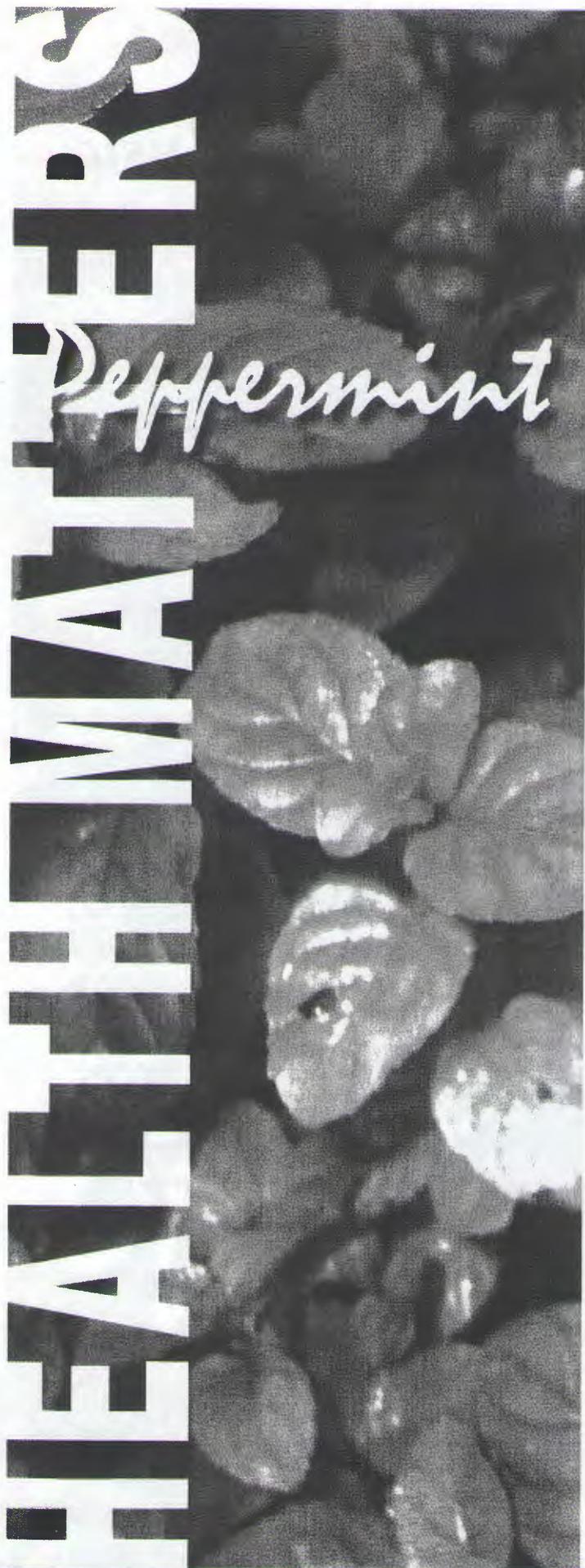
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Peppermint has been a favourite for thousands of years. It was cultivated and enjoyed by the ancient Egyptians. The Romans utilized mint for its pleasing fresh scent, using it in perfumes and adding it to their bath water. It was also commonly used to stimulate the appetite.

The peppermint is a hybrid mint, which means it is a cross between watermint and spearmint. The plant originated in Europe, but now grows around the world.

It typically grows in moist, shady areas, including near streams and rivers. The peppermint plant does not produce any seeds, but spreads by sending new shoots from its roots, producing new plants. Therefore, do not make the mistake of buying seeds that are labeled peppermint seeds. They are not true peppermint, but often are a type of spearmint plant.

If you choose to grow peppermint, it is advisable to plant it in a container, otherwise it can rapidly take over a whole garden. It needs a good water supply, and is ideal for planting in part-sun to shade areas.

Peppermint is sometimes regarded as "the world's oldest medicine." Like many spices and herbs, it has been proven to have a number of medicinal properties. The main health components of the peppermint are its essential oils known as menthol and menthone. These also give it its unique flavour, which is often used in foods to give it that "minty" taste.

Peppermint is mainly known for its healing properties on the digestive system. It is said that it helps improve digestion; it can promote appetite, and prevent indigestion, nausea, and vomiting. It inhibits the growth of certain bacteria in our colons, preventing diarrhea caused by the growth of harmful bacteria. Peppermint has also been used for liver and gallbladder complaints.

Studies have proved its beneficial effects on the digestive system. In 2007, Italian investigators reported that 75% of the patients in their study who took peppermint oil capsules for four weeks had a major reduction in irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) symptoms, which include abdominal cramping and pain, bloating, constipation, and diarrhea. The relaxing effect that peppermint has on the smooth muscle of the colon is the reason that it is so effective for this ailment.

Peppermint oil, rubbed into the skin can be used for muscle and nerve pain, for headaches and as an antiseptic. It helps soothe and relax muscles when applied to the skin. It also helps decrease inflammation when inhaled, thus making it effective in soothing colds, coughs or flu.

Menstrual cramps are also relieved by peppermint, because of its effect on relaxing muscles.

Other health benefits are attributed to the high manganese, vitamin

C and vitamin A content; as well as trace amounts of various other nutrients such as fibre, iron, calcium, folate, potassium, tryptophan, magnesium, omega-3 fatty acids, riboflavin, and copper.

The leaves and flowering tops are the usable portion of the plant. They are collected as soon as the flowers begin to open and then are carefully dried. One popular way to consume peppermint is to brew it in a tea using one or two teaspoons of dried peppermint leaves. Pour very hot, but not boiling, water over the leaves, and cover the cup to prevent the valuable oils from being lost. Allow this mixture to steep for 10 minutes, then strain it and drink it as a tea. Infections such as coughs and colds can be treated by inhaling steam vapor from a pot of hot water to which has been added peppermint leaves. Those who do not have access to fresh peppermint can purchase capsules from a health food store made from fresh peppermint leaves.



Heavenly Music



*Oh Seraphim and Cherubim, what is your song today?
What glorious praise and anthem raise to the Eternal One
What blessed music that must be in this your song today
Please send a whisper down to us so that our hearts can sing
This glorious praise and anthem song to the Eternal One*

*So Seraphim and Cherubim, what is your song today?
We on our knees would like to join but what is the refrain?
What blessed music that must be in this your song today
Please send a whisper down to us so that our hearts can sing
This glorious praise and anthem song to the Eternal One*

*Oh Seraphim and Cherubim what ere your song, maybe?
This glorious praise and anthem son, can we but say amen
As you and all your host doth sing this glorious song of praise?
So we today can join in praise to the Eternal One
Our humble chorus then is this: Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.*

By Rose Powell



Are you hurt, offended? Did someone mishandle or insult you? Were you treated unrighteously? When did that happen? Are you still angry? Is Satan's dart still stuck in your heart impeding you to behave normally and enjoy life?

"Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath; neither give place to the devil", says God's word in Ephesians 4:26, 27.

"Be ye angry, and sin not." Anger is part of our life experience. There is nobody who was not angry at least once in his life. There is so much unrighteousness, pride and deceit; there are so many lies that it is easy to get angry. When someone does not behave towards us in the right way we are disappointed and even angry. But, how long does our anger last?

The Lord understands that we can be angry. He Himself was angry

sometimes, but He gives us the gift of forgiveness so that our anger does not turn into poison that embitters our own life and the lives of others.

Many times, Moses was angry with the people of Israel in the desert because of their ingratitude and unfaithfulness, but he always went to the Lord to receive forgiveness and guidance, and he came to the point that he was ready to give up his own right to eternal life for the people's sake. Such generosity and love filled Moses' heart!

"Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Again the question, How long does our anger last, a whole day, months, years or our whole life? If this is the case, we give place to the devil to work in our life.

"Anger rests in the bosom of fools," says the wise Solomon. And Paul writes in his epistle to the Hebrews, *"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."* (Heb. 12:15).

Our bitterness, our disappointment, our anger, if not in acts will be expressed in words and these words are seeds that we sow in the heart of others. Therefore, James, who knows man's nature so well, writes a whole chapter about the power of the tongue and explains that out of the same mouth *"proceedeth blessing and cursing."* And he adds, *"These things ought not to be so."*

Paul writes to the Hebrews who were converted to Christianity, *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."* Heb. 12:14. In the German translation it says "chase peace". Almost every day something happens that can rob us of our peace, and we really have to chase it, to go after it, so that our thoughts and feelings do not take control of us.

We may not enter heaven with a heart full of anger and lack of forgiveness. In the Lord's Prayer we say, *"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."* Matt. 6:12.

There is a proverb in the world that says, "To err is human, to forgive is divine." Therefore, where do we have to take our anger? Not to other people, but in prayer to God, so that He gives us a spirit of forgiveness as He makes us aware of how much He has forgiven us. If we do this as soon as we get angry, then the sun will not set upon our wrath, but before the day comes to an end, we shall be free from any bitterness or tendency to revenge.

May the Lord help us to deal with our anger in such a way that we may reach the goal and not only love our neighbor, but also our enemy; since only love and the goodness that springs from it can change a heart. **AMEN.**

Teresa Corti



"Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, which they have prescribed" (Isaiah 10:1).

NO ASSURANCE

Here's a call from God. There's utter darkness in this world. "We live in an age of spiritual darkness" (4T233). "The Apostle Paul foretold that there would be many centuries of spiritual darkness, and it is rapidly increasing, and will become greater in the last days." (AA 266, PK 717)

In 1 John 5:3, we learn, "for this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome." Now why mention this verse at the onset? Well, first, what is burdening you; an obstacle in your life? Also, because many Christians, and professed Christians at that, are being deceived by Satan on this exact point! Amazingly, they don't have the assurance of salvation, and just because they're not willing to take the Lord at His word; as if He were just some imaginary figure. But, for others, the attitude is, "well, all I know is that someone up there loves me." It stops there! Many believe they're going to Heaven, in spite of their faults, but only that they will reap their rewards at a lesser degree. They are blind to the rapidly hastening events. "There's time" they say. Yet, the close of human probation is near.

CHANGING TIMES

In fact, we are living in difficult times; the world has changed, everything has changed, everyone has changed for certain, since Sept. 11, 2001. It's not only an age of spiritual darkness, but an age of fear, and anger, treachery, and rage. "Many believers, children of God, will soon pass through many more scenes, severely testing their confidence." (9T273). Many are asking why? But, first what do we mean by confidence. Confidence means having a firm belief...yes, faith too, trust, feeling certain....assurance! It's also a presence of a certain wind that results from the ability to control one's feelings, belief in your abilities, behavior, or conduct....sure or certain of one's self. Ah! But in an unfavorable sense, confidence can get out of control. It can mean conceited, bold, or arrogant.... self sufficiency!

BAD NEWS!

All of these traits will soon be tested, as difficult times are here with us today, needless to say, and will worsen beyond all human imagination! The Apostle John tells us, "do not be surprised if these things come upon you." The Gospel word tells us also, prophecy tells us, the pulpit proclaims it, and even the worldly world is telling us. It takes courage to read the news! Have you sometimes feared, or now fear that in difficult times upon us and ahead of us, that you'd cast away all your hope; and make a shipwreck of your faith? Maybe you're wondering if your faith was real? You trusted in Jesus Christ, yet injustices, tragedies, evil, terror, violence, crime, catastrophes, pestilences, and wars are raging in an unprecedented agitated,

turbulent, world society. The news media; the words, and the writings of unbelievers, furthermore, raise doubts in the minds of the multitudes, leading to doubt, and ponderous anxieties. Yet the secret meetings and conspiracies against God's people continue for a Sunday Law enactment!

This is the exact purpose of Satan; to destroy our confidence in God, the Church, the Spirit of Prophecy, the family, institutions, leaders, and....self! Moreover, "Satan overcomes man by shaking their confidence in God."(PP687, GC534). Many in times of special trials have done this. There's a real danger that each of us can do the same thing. There is no calm or peace when passing through a trial or conflict for many.

Faith, in itself is meaningless and powerless. Many people have faith in things that can save or destroy; because the power of faith is not from faith itself, for many have faith, but in whom we have faith. The object of our faith, in fact, is Jesus Christ! There's much confusion here among Christians. I often hear, "Oh, if only I had more faith, or enough faith, I could do more." It's as if faith is sold in the farmer's market, by the kilo or pound, like seeds. **It's not quantity, but what it's fastened to. If it's Jesus Christ, then it has power! (Rev 22:11).**

MORAL COWARDS!

Yes, there's real danger of losing your faith in difficult times, trying conditions or circumstances. One simply has to read from the Gospel Word of God, if again, you have the courage, where it clearly and startlingly describes the trying conditions that exist in the world today, until the very end of civilization! Read when, you can, (but soon), Mark 13, Math 24, Revelation 16, and 2 Timothy 3:1-5, and Isaiah 24:1-13("little apocalypse"), Ezekial 8 (secret meetings behind closed doors – then and now!) Also, Great Controversy (last 250 pages), and 5 Testimonies. **It's all there, in real life form!** Rather than any world reporter, journalist, war correspondent, commentator, news quips, editorials, lecturers, or eloquent preacher!

This danger is very subtle, real, devious, and terrifying. A soldier proved to be a coward in the heat of the battle, when his presence was needed most! There's moral cowards, too. But we don't have to be afraid. God permits trials to help us to grow, yes, grow spiritually; become strong (Psalm 4). The Apostle Paul, too, we learn this, too, in Romans 8:28; and 2 Corinthians 4:17; "our afflictions are only for a brief time." But, do you have enough spiritual oil to endure?

NOW OR NEVER!

Perfect love drives fear out of hearts. The Lord helps us **stand in this world!** Yes, he "props" us up when our faith is "slumping". He's the right hand of righteousness. Have you placed yourself in His pierced hands? If so, "no power can pluck you out of His hands."(John 27:28, 29). I used to wonder, however, and maybe

you do, too, now.....how I could know if I could stand up (endure) when the time comes, to the beast – his image – the plagues – to the "shedding of blood"? Yes, we'll be forced to struggle in the trials of the closing conflict. But, here's the way I settled it: if I stand in the world now, I have the assurance that I will stand then. If I'm an overcomer today, I'll be an overcomer tomorrow!

OBEDIENCE FACTOR

Simply, clearly, walk with God! This means seeking Him, pursuing Him, obeying Him, walking in the Light, the Truth, "as the days shall your strength be." Here's **strength and security**. **Yet**, there's a wave of fear and loss of security, uneasiness, lack of "peace and security." In fact, "Post-9/11 surveillance powers, created in secret by President Bush, are being preserved; listening to communications of U.S. citizens without a specific warrant, and monitor communications on topics other than terrorism; spying bill –contravenes the 4th Amendment. (W. ST.JOUR. June 20, 2008). I read an interesting quote from Allen Fine, "**the end is not near it is here!**" Therefore, "to obey is better than sacrifice," (1 Sam 15:22).... and to "obey" that most important "voice" (GR still thin voice) (Acts 5:32). "Man turns from God, not God from man."(Eph 6:13).

Look with confidence into the future. Trust in God, if you haven't yet, or are facing disappointment in your Christian experiences; then start today! Remember, His name is Victorious! Be radiant, be victorious, Yes, I know, behind the most radiant life there are for many a most bitter trial or secret sorrow! It's a day-to-day fight for victory, house-to-house, friends. **Self is the biggest struggle – prayer is the battle!**; rightly so? Furthermore, are you clearing all your decisions through Jesus Christ? You say you pray and there's no answer? Be patient.....try obedience.

IF!

But, for those still, that might ask, "what confidence does one have being an overcomer in harder trials and tests, if we're being defeated in conflicts we're having now; some small, some large, some unbearable"? We learn in Philippians 3:3,4, "there's no confidence in the flesh," and Proverbs 3:26, tells us, "the Lord, shall be your confidence; in confidence shall be your strength," Ah! In Jeremiah 12:5 we see further, "if you have run with the footman, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the flood plain of the Jordan"? A soldier defeated in a small skirmish, can hardly expect to win in a pitched battle.

But, be of good courage. We have a Captain that never lost a battle, One in whom we can triumph today. Yes, right there where you're seated, and every day until the end! Here's an assurance for the future, a hope, a promise, no matter how dismal the days may seem to you or others. "Thanks be to God who causes us to triumph in Christ."(2 Cor 2:14).

TRUST AND OBEY

The Lord provided, "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, or depth, nor any other creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord "(Romans 8:38,38). Don't forget, that we are fighting a tough vanquished foe, a calloused enemy. In all those things , "we're more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

Keep trusting and obeying the Lord Jesus and His Word. As you do, your confidence will grow . In His presence you will have a circle of confidence! Believe this!

LUKEWARM?

Don't let times of doubt or trouble discourage you. If sin blocks out the rays of the sun of righteousness, your heart will grow cold. But, we're living in the Laodician Church era; "I know thy works, that thou are neither cold nor hot; I would thou were cold or hot, so, then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth (Romans 3:15:16).

BEHOLD

Finally, in closing, "behold the glory of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18). This means, make Jesus Christ your center focal point of your lives and surrender fully to Him. No matter what happened in your past, are you letting God shape, and mold your present and future life? You can transform your doubts, troubles, discouragements, into triumphs. **Look to Jesus! Be transformed into His image!** The result of this will be increased confidence, hope, patience, courage, and calmness to stand through any trial.

"Drink the water of life...the life of Christ. You can have it by having a living connection with God. Then, a blessed, humble, grateful confidence will be an abiding living principal in your life and soul always."(TM226).

"Arise, shine , for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1).

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."(Mathew 5:26).

That is how to **STAND IN THE WORLD!**

John Theodorou , USA

IMS PUBLISHING ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to advise you of the literature that are available for purchase. Over the next few issues we will be highlighting different publications and pamphlets/flyers. They are great for missionary work and make excellent gifts.

Shipping costs will be added to the price. Volume discounts are available. If you would like to purchase a complete set of publications or require further information please contact us at:

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- History of Reformation \$1.00 each
 - The History and Truth of the Remnant Church, by D. Kang, \$5.00 each
 - Vegetarian Cookbook - \$3.00
 - Miracle Makeover Health Course - \$5.00
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 - Messenger Catalogue Index, \$1.00 (contains all the Messenger articles from 1994 to December 2007 categorized by subject and by author).
 - Steps to Christ - 50 cents

THE STOCKING BEHIND THE DOOR



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Back of the door in a dark place, near the kitchen of their home in Rochester, New York, Sister White hung up an old stocking. She did not tell anyone about it. It was her secret.

They had quite a large family, for it included the publishing house workers. Brother White gave to his wife a certain amount of money each week to meet the expenses of running the home. Money was scarce, but somehow, Sister White would manage by careful buying, to save just a little each week. Sometimes she would have fifty cents she could put in the stocking. Sometimes it would be just a nickel or a few pennies.

Sister White was a very practical woman. She knew that emergencies could come and that every family should have a little money saved to meet such emergencies. So from time to time, she added just a little bit to the emergency fund she kept in the stocking.

One day, Elder James White came home from the printing office and he said, "Ellen, I need money for paper and we just don't have it. Our people have not sent in money as they should. We are ready to print the Review. The paper has been ordered. It is in town, but as you know, I cannot get it from the express office until I pay for it. What can I do?"

"How much do you need, James?" she asked.

"Sixty-four dollars," he replied, "and I don't know where we can get sixty-four dollars."

Without saying a word, Sis. White went to the cupboard and opened the door and took down the stocking. James White watched in surprise. This was Sis. White's secret which he did not know about.

Sis. White emptied the stocking on the table and together they began to count. Would there be enough? Fifty dollars, fifty-five, sixty, sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-three, SIXTY-FOUR. They had enough! Elder White put his arm around his wife and gave her a big kiss. How proud he was of her; How glad he was that she had foresight enough to save, even a little bit each week for an emergency.

Elder White thankfully hurried to the express office to get the supply of paper. I think the clerk must have wondered why Elder White paid the bill with all that small change. But the Review and Herald came out on time.

Sometimes Sister White spoke to Seventh-day Adventist families, encouraging them to save something regularly, even if it was only a very little bit. In a letter to a young man who was working, she said that it should be a rule in his life to save a part of each week's wages. He should decide on a certain sum to be saved and he should each week put this aside and not touch it except in an emergency. (Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 330)

She told him that if he had done this instead of spending every cent he earned, he could have had some money in the bank earning interest, or he could have bought a small piece of land which would become more valuable as time went on.

When she was at camp meetings and saw some of the boys and girls spending so much of their money for ice cream and candy, she was troubled for two reasons. These things, eaten between meals, were especially harmful to the body, and then there were all the nickels and dimes that could have been saved for more useful things. (Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 329)

Sister White set us an example; in the early days when, as a young mother, she put something aside each week in the stocking and it helped the cause of God in an emergency. She urged us to deny ourselves and save something each week for the cause of God and for an emergency in our experience, should it come.

As told by Arthur L. White



Tess was a precocious eight year old when she heard her Mom and Dad talking about her little brother, Andrew. All she knew was that he was very sick and they were completely out of money. They were moving to an apartment complex next month because Daddy didn't have the money for the doctor's bills and our house.

Only a very costly surgery could save him now and it was looking like there was no one to loan them the money. She heard Daddy say to her tearful Mother with whispered desperation, "Only a miracle can save him now."

Tess went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured all the change out onto the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes. Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffling noise... Nothing.

She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. "I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said, without waiting for a reply to his question.

"Well, I want to talk to you about my brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick... and I want to buy a miracle." He has this thing growing inside his head and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little.

"Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs." The pharmacist's brother was a well-dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up. "I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money." "How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago. "One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audibly. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to."

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents is the exact price of a miracle for little brothers." He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said, "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the kind of miracle you need."

That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neurosurgery. The operation was completed without charge and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place. "That surgery," her Mom whispered, "was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?"

Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost... one dollar and eleven cents... plus the faith of a little child.

A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law.



**Baptism of Marcela Rivera
and Dina Paz in
West Palm Beach, FLorida, USA.**

**The ceremony was performed by
Church Elder Alejandro Peña,**



EVEN AT THE DOOR

Canadian Field Conference
in Toronto

AUG 15, 16, 17
2008

MORE INFORMATION:

TIMO MARTIN

416-252-1197 OR 416-453-8916

timom@sympatico.ca

OR canadiansecretary@yahoo.com

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www.ims messenger.org