

Reformation

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EDITORIAL

Great changes have taken place in Canada. The Canadian Union has been dissolved as of August 13, 1998. From this day on Canada is a mission field under the General Conference directly. The Caribbean Islands, which used to belong to the Canadian-Caribbean Union, also are mission fields under the General Conference. The great distances, along with the different languages and monetary units, made it difficult to function as a Union. The name of the Union Messenger also has been changed to *REFORMATION MESSENGER*.

The IMS Publishing regrets that the September issue is two weeks later than normal. This is due to the conferences which delayed the printing work.

We are very thankful for the support we have received from our readers around the world. We are inviting members in different countries to contribute articles and reports to the *Messenger*. The time in which we live is very serious. We see the Sunday Laws coming closer and suddenly this time of peace will change into a time of trouble.

Let us all take special interest in our personal preparations for the end. We do not have any time left to waste. Sleeping now is dangerous and neglecting our duty can be fatal. May the Lord have mercy upon His people. AMEN

THE EDITORS



LAST DAY'S ELIJAH

"Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Matt. 4:5-6.

Before the end God has promised to send again the prophet Elijah to finish His work on the earth. God could have sent any other prophet, but none of them were that suitable for this work as Elijah. His diet, his boldness, his spirit and his manner of working made him the perfect person to prepare the way for the Lord's first coming and as well for His second coming.

John the Baptist fulfilled the prophesy of Elijah at Christ's first coming. His diet, his boldness, his spirit and his manner of working were the same.

Alone Elijah defended the cause of God against the whole nation. He was a true reformer. Alone, John the Baptist preached the message to the Jews. Also we must defend the truth alone in these last days.

The Spirit of Prophecy tells us: "To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when the champions are few--this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason." Test. Vol. 5, p. 136.

Instead of referring to one person the

Elijah in the last days refers to the faithful remnant who proclaim the last message of mercy to the world.

"Elijah was a type of the saints who will be living on the earth at the time of the second advent of Christ and who will be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; without tasting death." PK 227.

"The work of those who in the last days go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah to arouse the people from their apathy, are in many respects the same. The messengers of God who bear the last message of warning to the world, are to prepare the way for Christ's second advent, as John prepared the way for His first advent." Southern Watchman, March 21, 1905.

How did John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord's first coming? Was it not his stern rebuke of the sins of the people including the highest rulers? And also preaching the remedy to their back slidings, which was the "Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world?"

Elijah's Message

Boldly Elijah rebuked the king of his sins and also the whole nation, calling them to decide whom to serve: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God follow him: but if Baal, then follow him."

Boldly John the Baptist preached repentance before the king and also before the nation for which he lost his life.

"In the closing work of God in the earth, the standard of His law will be again exalted... But in the hour of greatest peril, the god of Elijah will raise up human instrumentalities to bear a message that will not be silenced." PK 186-188.

The work of God's messengers in the last days is to draw the attention of the people to the law of Moses which God proclaimed in Horeb for all Israel. (Mal 4:4)

The law of God has been trampled underfoot. Man has placed himself above God. What God has ordained man has decided to change.

In the last days God's servants will proclaim the Sabbath more fully which the whole world has trampled underfoot. This will turn the attention of the churches and the world to this little company who fearlessly proclaim the message pointing to the sins of the people and exalting the law of God. The churches who cannot refute this message will turn against God's messengers and cause them to be imprisoned and put to death.

"Many will be imprisoned, many will flee for their lives from the cities and towns, and many will be martyrs for Christ's sake in standing in defense of the truth." 3 SM, p. 397.

"There is a prospect before us of a continual struggle, at the risk of imprisonment, loss of property and even of life itself, to defend the law of God." Test. Vol. 5, p. 712.

Elijah's Diet

Elijah had three different diets in his life. In the early part of his life he ate a meat diet but in the second phase of his life his diet was purely vegetarian. This is the time period in which we live today. Through the Spirit of Prophecy this has been clearly told to us by God. His third diet was an angel's food which gave him strength to walk 40 days to Horeb, the mountain of God.

"John separated himself from his friends, and from the luxuries of life, dwelling alone in the wilderness, and subsisting upon a purely vegetable diet. The work of John was foretold by the prophet Malachi: 'Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet...' He was a representative of those living in the last days, to whom God has entrusted sacred truths to present before the people, to prepare the way for the second appearing of Christ. And the same principles of temperance which John practised should be observed by those who in our day are to warn the world of the coming of the Son of Man." Temperance, p. 91.

"Many who are now only half converted on the question of meat eating will go from God's people to walk no more with them. C.D.F., p. 382.

In order for us to be this Elijah in the last days we must follow a pure vegetable diet as Elijah did.

His Manner of Working

Men have established ways of working in the churches but the work of the last day's Elijah will be contrary to any human planning and will differ from the established ways of preaching the gospel.

"Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness." TM 300.

"Prophesy must be fulfilled. The Lord says: 'Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.' Somebody is to come in the spirit and power of Elijah, and when he appears, men may say: 'You are too earnest, you do not interpret the Scriptures in the proper way. Let me tell you how to teach your message.' TM 475.

Today this prophesy has been fulfilled. The prophesied Elijah has come and has begun his work. The work of Reformation is being carried forward and the glorious ending of his work will be the latter rain and the mighty proclamation of the message before the plagues will be poured out.

His work will bring perfect unity among the people of God. It will "turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers." Matt. 4:6.

This Elijah is a true peacemaker. To accomplish this peace and unity among us we need the Spirit of Elijah which God has promised to give us.

May the Lord help each one of us to become this Elijah and in the end receive Elijah's reward which is to go to heaven without passing through death.

AMEN

Timo Martin



Elder Henry Dering with the baptismal candidates from the Streetsville Church. (L to R) Rafael and Isabel Serrano, Radek and Sidney Dobias

OFFENCE

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."
Psalm 119:165

Offence is one of the biggest causes of problems in our world today. If there was no such thing as an offence, mankind would be living in perfect harmony. Unfortunately, that is not the way things are. There are many reasons why some people offend others. Sometimes it is purely accidental. Perhaps a simple misunderstanding of the other person's culture, or life situation, can cause us to make a comment to offend them. Sometimes offences are intentional, through anger or hatred. Witness the accusations going on in divorce cases, especially where children are involved. Each parent is trying to make the other look incompetent and therefore bring up as much 'dirt' as they can against their spouse, with a clear intention of trying to offend in the process. Simple offences don't have too much of an effect on world politics today. We simply don't get along with our neighbour any more. We avoid crossing each other's path. We ignore the other person. Many times simple offences can be corrected by simple communication and apologizing. Offences get more serious when they involve politics and religion – two of the most controversial issues in our world today. How many religions are offending each other because they don't understand the other religion and don't want to take the time to understand? (i.e. Christian vs. Moslem). In the political world also the major

powers are having to soft step around each other for fear of offending another political leader that could cause their country difficulties. Also in the church of God, offences will come since "false brethren will be found in the church till the close of time." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 73. But we have to learn to deal constructively with these offences. We can never say they WILL NOT come, because they will. We have to simply learn to deal appropriately with them.

"Every association of life calls for the exercise of self-control, forbearance, and sympathy. We differ so widely in disposition, habits, education, that our ways of looking at things vary. We judge differently. Our understanding of truth, our ideas in regard to the conduct of life, are not in all respects the same. There are no two whose experience is alike in every particular. The trials of one are not the trials of another.

The duties that one finds light are to another most difficult and perplexing.

"So frail, so ignorant, so liable to misconception is human nature, that each should be careful in the estimate he places upon another. We little know the bearing of our acts upon the experience of others. What we do or say may seem to us of little moment, when, could our eyes be opened, we should see that upon it depended the most important results for good or for evil."

Ministry of Healing, p. 483

OFFENCES WILL COME

"Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must

needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" Matthew 18:7. We can describe offences as things that cause a person to stumble. It is sometimes unavoidable that occasions for stumbling should come. Offences are not necessary in the purposes and plans of God, but simply they are impossible to avoid in this world of sin, with mankind being what he is. Frequently worldly people are not able to tolerate true Christians. Evil cannot stand the truly good. Satan is at war with the followers of God and he will use the evil men of this world to accomplish his purposes

He not only uses the evil men of the world but he also uses false Christians. The Pharisees did not seek the life of Christ because of His supposed blasphemy that they accused him of, but because His good deeds were a rebuke to their false actions. The people finally had something to compare them with and the difference was more than the Pharisees could tolerate. Modern day Christianity shows little tolerance for God's people, who have all these "rules" for right living. They want freedom; freedom from the law. Unfortunately, they are separating themselves from Christ because God's law is a part of Himself. You cannot have one without the other.

"The world, inspired by Satan, will surely oppose the followers of Christ, and seek to destroy their faith; but woe to him who has taken Christ's name, and yet is found doing this work. Our Lord is put to shame by those who claim to serve Him, but who

misrepresent His character;" *Desire of Ages*, pp. 438,439

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matthew 5:23, 24 Here is mentioned that "thy brother hath ought against thee," implying that offences will come amongst brothers and others with whom we are closely associated. We have to learn how to settle these offences. Whether accidental or not, we must make matters right with our fellow man, before God will accept our worship.

HOW TO AVOID OFFENDING OTHERS

Jesus' example. Jesus, being our supreme example, did what He could to avoid offending others unnecessarily. Some He offended just by being who and what He is. It was unavoidable. But when it was avoidable without sacrificing principle, He avoided it.

"And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and

give unto them for me and thee." Matthew 17:24-27.

Peter did not think when he gave this rash answer to the temple authorities. The priests, Levites and prophets were exempt. These temple authorities rejected Jesus as a prophet by making this request. Peter also knew that prophets were exempt and thus at this time gave a false conception of Him to the priests and rulers.

But what did Jesus do? Did He simply stand up for His rights and protest – refusing to pay that which He was not obligated to pay? "While Jesus made it plain that He was under no obligation to pay the tribute, He entered into no controversy with the Jews in regard to the matter; for they would have misinterpreted His words, and turned them against Him. Lest He should give offence by withholding the tribute, He did that which He could not justly be required to do. This lesson would be of great value to His disciples. Marked changes were soon to take place in their relation to the temple service, and Christ taught them not to place themselves needlessly in antagonism to established order. So far as possible, they were to avoid giving occasion for misinterpretation of their faith. While Christians are not to sacrifice one principle of truth, they should avoid controversy whenever it is possible to do so." *Desire of Ages*, p. 434

"Jesus paid it for reason of expediency, not of obligation. He waived His rights in order to avoid controversy, and did that which He could not rightfully be required to do in order to be at peace with His sworn enemies. Evidently, He would not have His loyalty to the Temple challenged, however unjust the charge might

be. Christ's course of action stands as a lesson to every Christian. We should endeavor to live at peace with all men, and to do more than should be required of us if need be, in order to avoid unnecessary conflict with opponents of the truth . . . Under no circumstances, however, will the Christian compromise principle in his endeavor to please others." *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, p. 442

Paul's counsel: "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." Romans 14:21 "But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." 1 Cor. 8:12,13. Here Paul states that he would gladly deny himself privileges and pleasures if by so doing he can avoid giving offence to his brother. It is a fallacy to believe that we can do whatever we want irrespective of the effects it has on others as long as it is not contrary to the law. Paul would rather deny himself food that he could lawfully eat rather than lay a stumbling block before a weak brother. "Liberty is valuable, but the weakness of a fellow human being should induce believers to waive their liberty in his interest. Love for one's neighbors is to be the guiding principle in such matters. Surely the gratification of one's desires is of much less importance than the salvation of the weak brother who may stumble over one's exercise of liberty. This principle is applicable to many phases of living, such as recreation, dress, music – in fact, it applies to life in general. The denial of self for the

good of others is a prominent feature of the experience of a genuine follower of Jesus." SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 6, p. 723

The story is told of a faithful minister in a country church. He was very kind and genuinely concerned with the personal lives of his congregation. One Sabbath he noticed that an elderly man, who had been so faithful over the years, was not present: "Perhaps he is sick," thought the minister. However the next week the elderly man was not there either, or the next or next. After being absent for four Sabbaths the minister decided to visit this elderly man. He came humbly to the man's house and as the elderly man opened his door, this minister fell on his face before the man and begged forgiveness from the elderly man. The minister was sure that perhaps he had offended this man unintentionally and that is why he didn't come. He begged the man to come back to church. He wanted to make matters right. The old man was touched with the humility and tears of the minister before him and began to shed his own tears. No, it wasn't an offence by the minister but he had backslidden and become bitter. He had no intention of ever coming back to church, but the humble tears of the minister reached his heart. Yes, he would come back. Jesus was pulling at his heartstrings and he couldn't resist the call. The love of Jesus was too strong and powerful to keep him away any longer.

Now from a human standpoint a person could have told the minister not to bother going to see the old man. He had left the church, just wait until he decides to come back. The minister didn't need to humble himself like he did because he had done nothing wrong; nothing

that would require confession. It was the old man that had severed his connection. But Jesus would have us go the extra mile with people to show them the love of Christ. We must make sure that we have not offended anyone that would cause them to turn away from the truth.

It is best to try and avoid any offence because, "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle." Proverbs 18:19

NEVER SACRIFICE PRINCIPLE TO AVOID OFFENCE

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." Proverbs 27:6. Kindly, well-meaning rebuke is of great value. Often when we see a brother sin, it is at first difficult to say anything for fear of offending that brother. This attitude is of the devil. He is full of flattery and has only good to say to the sinner. He rocks them to sleep in his cradle, comforting them with the thought that they can be saved in their sin. They need not make a change in their character. We can't compromise either, to avoid persecution. "Jesus Himself never purchased peace by compromise. His heart overflowed with love for the whole human race, but He was never indulgent to their sins. He was too much their friend to remain silent while they were pursuing a course that would ruin their souls, - the souls he had purchased with His own blood. He labored that man should be true to himself, true to his higher and eternal interest. The servants of Christ are called to the same work, and they should beware lest, in seeking to prevent discord, they surrender the truth. They are

to "follow after the things which make for peace" (Rom. 14:19); but real peace can never be secured by compromising principle. And no man can be true to principle without exciting opposition. A Christianity that is spiritual will be opposed by the children of disobedience. But Jesus bade His disciples, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul." Those who are true to God need not fear the power of men or the enmity of Satan. In Christ their eternal life is secure. Their only fear should be lest they surrender the truth, and thus betray the trust with which God has honored them." *Desire of Ages*, p. 356

YOUR ATTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OFFENCE.

In our opening text we read that only those have great peace who love the law of the Lord. Nothing can offend them. There is no peace for the wicked. They are at war with God. Though there is strife and turmoil without, there is peace in the heart of one who loves the law of God. They have no occasion to stumble. They walk with a firm and steady step along the straight path of God's law and do not turn aside to the paths of sin.

As we near the close of this earth's history the people of God are not promised outward peace but rather the evil men will wax worse and worse in their efforts to destroy our souls.

"We cannot afford to let our spirits chafe over any real or supposed wrongs 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. "For 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.

"Do not retaliate. So far as you can do so, remove all cause for misapprehension. Avoid the appearance of evil. Do all that lies in your power, without the sacrifice of principle, to conciliate others. .

"If impatient words are spoken to you, never reply in the same spirit. Remember that "a soft answer turneth away wrath." Proverbs 15:1. And there is wonderful power in silence. Words spoken in reply to one who is angry sometimes serve only to exasperate. But anger met with silence, in a tender, forbearing spirit, quickly dies away.

"Under a storm of stinging, faultfinding words, keep the mind stayed upon the word of God. Let mind and heart be stored with God's promises. If you are ill-treated or wrongfully accused, instead of returning an angry answer, repeat to yourself the precious promises:

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and

He shall bring it to pass. And He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgement as the noonday." Psalm 37:5, 6. . . .

"So long as we are in this 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." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 485-487

We are not required to become welcome mats and allow people who continue to offend us, to continue doing so. Paul counsels us simply by saying:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Romans 16:17. Yes, to avoid them and stay out of their way as much as possible, will bring more peace and quietness to all concerned.

WRONG KINDS OF OFFENCE

If we are finding that when we are offended by someone, our feelings are hurt, then self is alive. Self must be crucified. Many people get offended for all the wrong reasons. People may be offended if, for example, they are not invited to a gathering of friends or relatives. Or maybe a loved one neglected to call at a certain time. Even more dangerous is the offence that

is felt when you lose a good job that you felt was secure. But the most dangerous offence is the one that is felt when losing a position

in the church, especially if it is a high position. When hurt feelings are allowed to continue, they can easily lead to rebellious feelings. Self must die, and Christ must be alive in us. Several times we have seen leaders in the church, lose their high position, become bitter, and then finding some other minor excuse, leave the church.

If a brother brings us reproof for some wrong we have done and we feel offended, this also is a wrong kind of offence. We should joyfully thank that brother that he had enough love and concern for your soul to point out this error so that you can correct it and thus be brought back into full communion with the Lord.

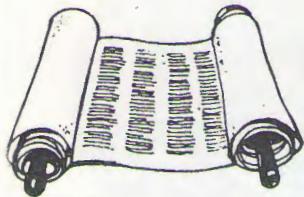
Sometimes we offend others by some annoying habit that we have. Perhaps for us, it is not annoying but for someone else it is. If they point out this offence, we should respect their wishes, and rather than offend the brother further, stop this annoying habit.

We are all such different people and the Lord has brought us together as rough stones. As we rub against each other the rough edges get smoothed away. We learn to accept each one with their various habits. The Lord also allows situations, such as reproof being brought, or losing a position to show us that self is still alive in our hearts. We must say like Paul, "I die daily." Daily we are to ask God to help us die to self and let Him reign in our hearts.

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceabley with all men." Romans 12:18

AMEN

By Wendy Eaton



AND KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE

Daniel 12:4, 10

In our faith, we have so much intellectual knowledge that we could think that God had to save us because of all the things we know. But let's read what 1 Cor. 13 has to say about this.

Unless we have a saving, experiential knowledge of God how will all the intellectual knowledge in the world do us any good?

We must come to an end of ourselves, give up our own righteousness or we are pretty hopeless, aren't we? Jesus came to call the righteous, knowledgeable ones-or sinners to repentance?

Have you ever heard the saying: "A little knowledge is dangerous? People who feel they know it all are opening themselves to all kinds of dangers-the worst of which is to presumptuously think that they cannot be deceived. A little righteousness is like that also-having a form of godliness but denying the power of God to overcome sin in us and through us.

How about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? That was a kind of knowledge that Adam and Eve didn't need. They already had all the knowledge of good, and God was trying to withhold from them all of the knowledge of the bad and show them even more about the good-but they went for the bad anyway....And now that is exactly the same way that human nature tends, isn't it? With the rich feast before us of God's truth and righteousness, so many still choose to feed upon the husks and failings of others.

The knowledge about the Bible would be increased in the last days, and other kinds of knowledge as well, Daniel said. The knowledge of science is exploding so fast that man cannot keep up with it emotionally- new types of energy, new patents on computers, solar cars-you name it. Technology is really very wonderful and now we all feel so good with our computers and cell phones, right? But does man feel any better with all of these conveniences? It seems that mankind

is just getting more and more into the shallowness and despair of materialism as we see man's mind and knowledge more exalted. (I'll never forget what I first thought when I saw my Grade 12 Humanities course definition of humanism: man is the measure of all things. I thought: isn't it so easy for man to be deceived if he uses only himself for a measuring-stick?)

Today we have so much knowledge of prophecy fulfilled and insight into what is going on in the world. But if this doesn't lead us to be more knowledgeable about our true condition before God as sinners and be more humble, spiritual people what good has this knowledge done to us?

How about the knowledge of other people's sins? Do you know what the Pen of Inspiration tells us in relation to knowing other's sins? In essence it is this: We should rather have knowledge of 10 of our own sins, before we have knowledge of 1 of someone else's.

Some even try to justify their own actions by pointing to other's sins. I hear this all of the time in giving marriage counsel: "Well, I can't serve the Lord because my spouse is so ugly and mean." Or, "I have to leave my spouse because they don't allow me to put the Lord first." (But upon closer investigation I find that it is actually a thing of making excuses-that actually the spouse is quite supportive and tolerant-it is only a way of excusing their own lack of faith.)

Or how about a church justifying its own existence by pointing to other's sins? God forbid that we should do this in our church-have this negative knowledge and use it to try and support a positive faith. The real way we can judge any church is through their doctrines: Do they justify sin through their doctrines? To an extent, we can ask concerning their actions, for example: is the church justifying open sin? But it's only when apostasy has reached a certain level

that the necessity of a separation and reformation become a fact-do you see? *If you walked out and away from your brethren every time they made a mistake or hurt you, you'd probably have a new church starting every week or so.*

Now there is another kind of knowledge that God never designed that we should have-and that is the control of mind over mind. With the study of this science has come all kinds of ways to win friends and influence people-but unfortunately this kind of knowledge expressed through so called psychology, hypnotism, neuro-linguistic programming-whatever you want to call it-is very dangerous. (Neuro-linguistic programming uses repeated motions and key words or phrases to put a person's defenses aside and appeal to the emotional, rather than the reasoning centre of the mind. All of these methods of modern psychology are the exercise of one mind over another yet, Adventist pastors and leaders are increasingly trained in these techniques)

"Satan is waiting to steal a march upon everyone who allows himself to be deceived by his hypnotism. He begins to exert his power over them just as soon as they begin to investigate his theories." *Medical Ministry*, pgs. 101,102. This statement indicates the danger of even exploring areas of error and apostasy. Satan is there trying to draw us into his trap by the use of hypnotism. It is a wholly unsafe practice to dabble in the devices of Satan. One has an obligation to personally investigate; but once error is detected, it is unsafe to continue such a study because the people associated with error-themselves deceived-will become very deceptive.

Some Seventh-day Adventists have thought nothing about going to a hypnotist to seek help in psychological problems, even for various forms of child and marriage counseling. More and more Seventh-day Adventists seek worldly help for their spiritual

problems, and this worldly help is increasingly being offered in Adventist hospitals and institutions. In reality, these stress and emotional issues are the symptoms of a lack of spiritual depth in the life. What men and women need much more than human counselors and psychologists is the power of the indwelling Christ in the life, yet this fact seems to be almost wholly lost in modern-day institutional Adventism.

Take for example the story of John Roth-an orthodox Jew, who was a middle manager at an oil company. Wanting to improve his status in life, he accepted the recommendation of a friend to attend a Silva mind-control program. Having paid several hundred dollars for the program he eagerly attended. The first night a very well-presented man stood before them and explained that we only use approximately 10% of our brains in our lifetimes and that this program was to help them expand their minds.

It all sounded very good and Mr. Roth couldn't wait until the second day. On the second day, all those who were in attendance were asked to imagine that they had a counselor and to decide what kind of questions they would like to ask such a counselor. **By the third night the instructor was not talking about an imagined counselor. He was talking about "your counselor."**

Being an orthodox Jew, Mr. Roth was rather disturbed by this and called his friend who invited him over to his place and told him that this was the best part of the program; that he got such wonderful advice from the counselor. He then asked Mr. Roth, "What question would you like me to ask my counselor? Mr. Roth almost off handedly, said, "Ask your counselor what I will be doing in twelve months time." He watched his friend go into a trance-like state, no doubt built upon self-hypnosis. After he was deeply concerned by the obvious agitation of his friend, and wondered what was taking place. Shortly afterward, his friend came out of the trance-like state and said, "I don't know what happened. My counselor has been so kind and so helpful to me, but when I asked your

question all he did was curse and swear." This did not encourage Mr. Roth, but having paid so much money for the course he attended the fourth and fifth nights. Before the program was over, they had been led into levitation and astral projection (out of body experiences).

Almost immediately Mr. Roth became ill; in fact, so ill that he had to be admitted to the hospital. But there the doctors could find no physical problem. And yet, clearly, his vital forces were diminishing and they had to concede that he was dying. This, you can understand, brought great worry to himself and his wife. One night they were visited by Christian friends. The friends were shocked to see the state of Mr. Roth and as they talked with the wife, she told them what had taken place and that they had associated this sickness with the program that he had attended. The Christian friends said, "there is one answer to this, but you may not like it, and that is to pray in the name of Jesus."

Eventually she agreed and they went back to the bedside of Mr. Roth and asked if he would agree, which he did. So that night they prayed in the name of Christ that he would be released from the satanic power that was destroying his life. Almost immediately, he began to recover. *The physicians could give no explanation for his recovery any more than they could of his original illness. The Roths accepted Christ as their Savior and he became an evangelist, telling people of his salvation from the satanic influence over his life.*

Or to illustrate this from a religious perspective: We have a former brother who never was what he could and should have been spiritually and mentally, but maybe there was a reason for his doctrinal and mental instability. You see, he had been asked by some pentecostal friends to present the sanctuary truth in their church-to which he agreed. So he and a friend went and preached the sanctuary and uplifted the law of God within the sanctuary-which was all well and good. Then, the minister got up and undid everything that they had just preached by telling the people the Sabbath was no longer

needed, the law was nailed to the cross and so on. *Then, the big mistake that this brother made was thinking that he was strong enough to hang around when they had their "praise service" afterwards. As the people were all speaking in the unknown tongue, or in other words, giving themselves up to any passing spirit, Frank and his friend began to speak in tongues against their wills.*

Predicting what would take place right at the end of time the servant of the Lord said, "This entering in of Satan through the sciences is well devised. Through the channel of phrenology, psychology, and mesmerism, he comes more directly to the people of this generation, and works with that power which is to characterize his efforts near the close of probation. The minds of thousands have thus been poisoned, and led into infidelity." 2 Selected Messages, p. 2, 351.

While the knowledge of the Bible has increased, scientific knowledge has increased-the only thing that has not increased in this world is the knowledge of God. John 17:3

And this is life eternal-but it means knowing God experientially-knowing how He is because we are pointing others to Him by thought, word and action. This is the only safety when it comes to avoiding the snares of Satan in these last days-because those snares are getting more and more subtle as we near the end of time.

Don't be satisfied with just a little knowledge of God-let the language of your soul be: Until I am filled with all of the fullness of God, "I will not let Thee go until You bless me"...just like Jacob told Jesus as the day was breaking. Now we have the night falling spiritually on the world, and it is even more important for us to be filled with all of the fullness of God.

Heaven has been called an endless approaching to God through Christ. The righteous will always be getting more knowledge about God and becoming more like Him.

And you know what the study of the Redeemed will be throughout endless ages? Well, I am

sure that they will be studying all the mysteries of the universe, but they will mainly be studying how God became a man and took upon Himself all of our sins. This will be the study of the redeemed throughout all eternity-the science of salvation. A science much broader and wider than any kind of science or technology that mankind has invented or will ever invent.

This is the true depth of science that should motivate the righteous more than anything else. What a privilege we have to enter into the counsels of God, and learn of Him. And you know how we really do this? By having fellowship with Jesus through suffering for His sake. Whether that be in missionary work, or in denying ourselves in giving tithe and offering, or in prayer-whatever it may be.....

"Now my brother, I consider you to be in positive peril. I present this because I know that you are in great danger of being seduced by Satan. We are living in a time when every phase of fanaticism will press its way in among believers and unbelievers. Satan will come in, speaking lies in hypocrisy. Everything that he can invent to deceive men and women will be brought forward." *Medical Ministry*, 114. There is great knowledge to be gained, and power too in the control of one mind over another-but what kind of knowledge do we gain in this way? Only Satan's deceptive techniques are learned and forbidden ground is what we end up walking on in this territory of mind over mind.

So let us be clear: it is not in merging our individuality with someone else-not even for husband

and wife to have one mind over the other-but rather in each mind being under the control of the Lord Jesus so we may be truly free to love one another with the love of Christ. We must not have any negative focus for a positive faith. We cannot justify our faith or existence as a church by pointing to other's sins, but rather in pointing to the cross of Calvary alone will we remember that we are sinners saved only by His grace and through His infinite mind to keep the way of Truth.

Amen.

By Jerry Eaton



"Our Saviour does not require impossibilities of any soul. He expects nothing of His disciples that He is not willing to give them grace and strength to perform. He would not call upon them to be perfect if He had not at His command every perfection of grace to bestow on the one upon whom He would confer so high and holy a privilege." KH 130.

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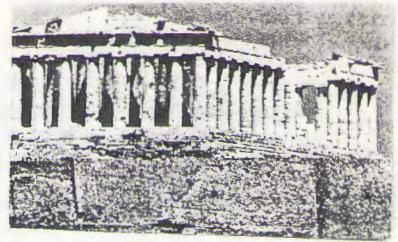
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REFORM IN ANTIQUITY

(Athens, Greece)



Greetings from the “Cradle of Civilizations” to all the brothers and sisters abroad! (Acts 16:9) “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; there stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, “come over unto Macedonia, and help us.” Paul accepted this vision instantly and believed it was the call of God. This decision was momentous. All of the effect of the gospel upon Europe and Western civilization began with Paul’s response on the Macedonian call. After passing through Northern Greece he headed southwards where his journeys brought into Athens. The city of Athens was one of the wonders of the ancient world. In its golden age, the fifth century B.C., it had probably held within its walls more literary genius, more philosophical brilliance, and more architectural beauty than any other city of antiquity. Athens was the world’s most famous intellectual centre.

(Acts 17:16) “Now while Paul waited for them in Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.” The Athens church is stirred, as Paul was, as we, too, view Athens from Mars Hill, today. As one now gazes upon Athens from Mars Hill, one sees the multitude of churches which are still dedicated as in the days of Paul to idol worship. Paul was deeply troubled by the idols he saw everywhere. In his many encounters regarding Jesus and his resurrection he was called a babbler. This word, which is literally “seed picker”, was used to describe one who picked up scraps of undigested knowledge. He was also called a creamer, as someone presenting a foreign religion. To the Greek ear, Jesus and the resurrection (Anastasis) might sound like the names of a god and goddess. At the forum of Mars Hill many wanted to hear and know more about this new religion. The Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens, in those days, spent most of their time discussing politics, religion and new ideas.

It is much the same today in Athens” the forums are now located on street corners, sidewalk cafes, and taverns. In addition to the former topics, a strong competitor now is soccer.

Greece has a population of almost 10 million inhabitants from which almost 4 million live in Athens. Although the Athens church is a young church, it started with only one brother who gave Bible studies at his home. We are rapidly growing, encouraged and inspired by the many who are “hungering and thirsting for the truth” as it is written in Matthew 5:6. “blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.”

Paul’s ministry involved the synagogue, where he met the usual congregation of Jews and proselytes and the market where he encountered the pagan thinkers. Here he met a new type of opponent: the educated and cynic pagan, who was ready to hear anything and unready to believe it. Paul had a passionate hatred for idolatry. His preaching intrigued their curiosity and they took him to Mars hill for a hearing. Standing before some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers on Mars Hill, Paul addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I noticed that in all things you are very religious, for as I was out walking, I saw your many altars, one of them which had this inscription on it, “To The Unknown God”. You have been worshipping Him without knowing who He is, and now, I wish to tell you about him. The Epicureans believed that the gods existed but had no interest whatsoever in the welfare of men. The chief end of life, they held, was pleasure, which was to be sought in a happy and tranquil life, free from pain or trouble or fear, especially the fear of death. The Stoics believed that God was the world’s soul which dwelt in all things and that the happy life was that lived in accordance with nature. Surrounded by the lavish display of architecture and statuary which adorned the city, most of which was dedicated to the worship of gods, he simply made a plea, for the one god who made the heavens and earth and who governs the destinies of men; He cannot dwell in any structure erected by men. He is the source of all life and does not need anything that human service of worship can provide. (Heb. 9:24 – Acts 17:22 –25)

The contemptuous interruption of the crowd prevented his progressing to the more detailed aspects of Christian revelation, so that the speech remained unfinished. There were a few converts. The ministry of Athens was a disappointment to Paul: he created no great stir in the synagogue and the pagan population dismissed him with ridicule. He was accustomed to being thrown out of town, but he was not accustomed

to being subject to contemptuous indifference. Evidently it hurt him, for he wrote to the Corinthians concerning his arrival among them after leaving Athens: "I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in trembling". (1 Cor. 2:3)

From Athens Paul went to Corinth, a city of totally different character. It was a Roman colony and its rapid growth and wealth promoted a false culture. Corinth was a "boom-town", which sought luxury, display, sensuality and sport. He came to Corinth in a depressed form of mind, but found shelter, employment, and fellowship with brothers. Corinth was a corrupt and idolatrous city and 18 months of pioneering here affected Paul's health. Apparently Paul had not been sure that it was the Lord's will for him to devote himself to evangelizing Corinth. But God now reassured him by a vision (Acts 18:9) urging him not to be silent and assuring him that his mission would be attended with divine blessing and success. And like Paul, we also will not be silent and with God's divine blessing we pray that our mission will be successful.

Afterwards, on his way to Jerusalem, Paul's mission took him to Ephesus. Its great temple of Artemis was considered as one of the great wonders of the world. Jewish exorcists and demon cults were common. Paul's ministry was very effective here (Acts 19:10), "all they that dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks," that "mighty grew the word of the Lord and prevail." (Acts 19:20). Many magicians were converted and other magicians burnt their scrolls inscribed with magic spells and charms publicly. Paul's ministry was so effective that a profitable business (Acts 19:25) of making miniature silver shrines of the likeness of the goddess was falling off. Paul was nearly attacked by a mob, but was saved by his friends.

As Paul, the mission of the Athens church is for us to work with fresh vigor for our heavenly Father with untiring zeal, to walk in the footsteps of Paul, always having our eyes fixed upon Jesus. We are here to carry out the last warning message of truth before the doors of mercy are closed. Although few in number, we are inheritors of the Kingdom of God with all our brothers and sisters scattered throughout the world. "Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32).

Athens is, today, exactly like Corinth was in the ancient times: a "boom-town", full of luxury, corruption, sensuality, and sport. The Greeks are devotedly religious, but the face of Jesus is masked behind the ceremonial rituals, icons, idols, incense, chanters, and churches adorned with golden images and columns. Many heathen customs are still being practiced today. Superstitions govern their lives more so than religious beliefs in houses and churches.

Our further mission here, is that they turn away from idols, serve God, and wait for the return of Christ. (1 Thess. 1:9-10). And that their normal growth be in sanctification. (1 Thess. 4:3,7; 2 Thess. 2:13). In personal life that they are to be clean. (1 Thess. 4:4-6), industrious (1 Thess. 4:11-12), prayerful (1 Thess. 5:17), and cheerful (1 Thess. 5:16). These are some of the essentials of Christian truth.

We have many problems like Paul did, with many that are ready to hear anything, and unready to believe it. We have also people that are intrigued with curiosity, some are indifferent, and, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "at first we had some weakness, fear and trembling."

Proselytizing movements are illegal here since it is strictly forbidden by the state church. If one violates this law and is a foreigner, he is immediately forced to leave the country. If one is Greek he may be subject to imprisonment and fines. Canvassing is also illegal in this country. Although there is some minor evidence of cults the Greeks are deeply steeped in their Orthodox faith. The Greeks identify themselves with Orthodoxy. A Greek and an Orthodox is considered one and the same. Church and state are one. The church fiercely defends its right to express its views and position on important social and national issues of the day.

As Paul was when he arrived in Corinth in a depressed state of mind, found shelter, employment, and fellowship with brothers, we are not depressed because of the wickedness about us, enemies, restrictions and a depraved society. The love of God, His Majesty's strength and promise inspires us to continue our work in Athens.

Paul ministered to the Thessalonians and to the Corinth church, in spite of its imperfections, the wonderful hope of Christ's imminent return. These first century Christians were challenged to be living in expectation of Christ's coming. The dead in Christ will then be raised and the living Christians translated.

It is this blessed hope (Titus 2:13), this purifying hope (1 John 3:2,3), and this comforting hope (1 Thess. 4:18), which should thrill the heart of every true believer in Christ. Especially in these momentous days, we should be alert to the greater challenge of being ready for the coming of the Lord.

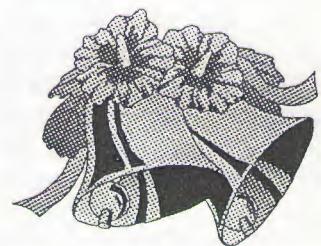
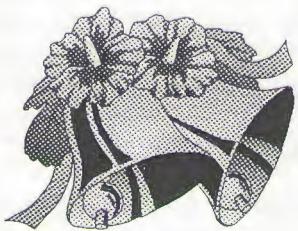
Our generation will witness the stirring events described in the dramatic prophecies of the Old and the New Testaments.

A pointed question is pertinent to each of us in this generation: "Are we ready for the coming of the Lord?"

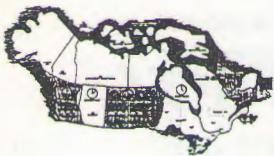
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

AMEN

The Church of Athens, Greece



The wedding bells were ringing on July 19, 1998 as Br. Mike Newby and Sr. Sesciah Urizar from the Streetsville church, exchanged their marital vows. They have known each other for several years. Br. Mike is originally from Jamaica but has lived in Canada for many years. Sr. Sesciah's parents originally come from Guatemala. When they left their native country, they first came to Florida U.S.A. and then, over ten years ago, they came to Canada. We pray that the Lord will bless Br. Mike and Sr. Sesciah as they begin their journey down life's road together.



CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE

AUGUST 14 - 16, 1998

MOTTO: "YE ARE MY WITNESSES" Isaiah 43:10

With much joy and gladness in our hearts we once again praised the Lord for the privilege of gathering together for another conference. The Lord, in His mercy, has granted another year of life. It was a blessing to see so many old friends again, and to meet the newer members of the family of God whom we haven't met before.

Friday:

We commenced our Conference at 7:00 P.M. with a prayer and the singing of the conference theme song, "Send the Light" after which the conference was officially opened by the newly elected Field Leader - Br. Kanagarajah. He welcomed all the members and visitors from all the churches in the field and from other countries.

Br. Ian Grant from Montreal had the opening service. He entitled his service, "The Power of Love vs. The Love of Power." Jesus has called us, chosen us and sent us to be love letters to the world. Someone has said, "Where love is thick, faults are thin." If we had more love in this world, we wouldn't have so many people in asylums and hospitals. In the time of Christ we saw the disciples craving power. They were arguing among themselves as to who was the greatest? Why? It started a long time ago in heaven with Lucifer. His first great sin was this "Love of Power." The world has been deceived into thinking that when they have power, they are happy. We must stop this way of thinking from creeping into the church. All the people God used in the past, were mostly weak helpless people? Moses at the edge of the Red Sea was powerless according to human sight. He had no weapons only a rod. The Lord used his simple rod to work a mighty miracle. Just because we don't have great resources in the world's eyes, doesn't mean we don't have the Lord on our side. True power comes from love,

not from resources. Solomon said, "Love is stronger than death." Love is stronger than any mountain. Power of Love or Love of Power, what will you choose?

Br. Kanagarajah continued with the next service in which he spoke about the remnant church. The Lord has called His remnant church to be a witness for Him in the entire world and the fallen churches. He then went on to identify the remnant church. The remnant church is not the biggest church, with the most resources. According to Deuteronomy 7:7, God's church is the "smallest of all churches". God's church has always been a remnant. In the time of Noah, there were only 8 faithful souls among the millions that were alive. In the time of Christ there were only a few. When you think of a remnant of a piece of cloth - it looks exactly like the original. Likewise, the remnant church looks like the original. The truth has never changed. The identifying marks of the remnant church can be found in the Bible, "By their fruits ye shall know them." They, "Keep the Commandments of God and have the Testimony of Jesus" (the Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy). "They will preach the gospel into all the world" and they preach the 3 angels' messages along with the message of Revelation 18. We were encouraged to continue studying the truth and to be a part of this remnant.

Sabbath:

After a blessed Sabbath School, the Divine Service was conducted by Br. Henry Dering. His title was: "The End". We are living very close to the end of this world's history. The Great Controversy that has been raging for 6,000 years is almost at an end. The world is a mess and there seems to be no solution for this mess. Only Jesus can provide a solution. There is so much

crime, so many wars, so much injustice, but soon Jesus will come and turn the world upside down. There is hope for the future. God gives us many chances to be saved, but soon it will be too late. Many keep running from God and ignoring these chances. Br. Dering then went on to describe the happy time of the resurrection and the wonders of the New Jerusalem. Today is the time to confess our sins, and prepare to meet our God when He comes.

After lunch we had an ordination ceremony at which time, Br. Morris Lowe was ordained as a local church elder. Br. Cholich led the meeting and read from the books of 1 Timothy and Titus. He gave some counsels regarding elders and their duties.

We now had the joy of examining four baptismal candidates from the Streetsville church who are to be baptized on Sunday. They are: Rafael Serrano and his wife Isabel, and Sidney Dobias and his son Radek. Rafael gave a touching testimony of how he had once been a church member but had wandered away. Now he has come back to stay. Sidney also spoke a few words about his joy in becoming a member of the family of God.

The children and young people now took over the program. There were three different children's groups presenting their programs. The smaller children from the Toronto church presented to us the "Armor of God," with songs and verses. They were followed by the Streetsville young people who presented a lovely musical program adapted from the book "Pilgrims Progress." Finally the Toronto older youth portrayed to us "A Tribute to Christ and His Righteousness" in word and song. The young people presented to us the trials we will meet on our heavenly journey - the armor to wear to face those trials -

and how Christ has given us His Righteousness – then we will be ready to meet Jesus when He comes.

Now came another favorite time at the conference. The testimony hour. **Br. Martin** said that when he looks out in the audience and sees all the faces, he knows that Reformation lives. He told us that his greatest joy of the conference is seeing souls baptized and joining the family of God. The church is like a train – at every station some get off and some more get on. We must make sure we stay on the train of truth. Many special songs and testimonies were presented in this hour.

Br. Henry Dering spoke again after dinner. His topic was "The Ship is Going Through." God's church is being attacked. Satan is attacking from without and from within. Unconverted brethren are sometimes used as Satan's agents in the church. There is only one truth – churches may have changed but truth does not. This truth is going to go through. It is the faithful souls in Christ that have always constituted the church. This church has a duty – to call all the faithful souls out of Babylon. We have been given the light – what will we do with it? Will we keep it to ourselves as did the Jews in Ancient Israel? Br. Dering then went on to speak a little about Reformation history and the differences between the nominal SDA and the Reform church. He showed the comparisons of the days of Noah to our day. In closing he counseled us to beware of procrastination. Get ready today.

Br. Cholich finished off the day with a few brief words for Sabbath closing. He spoke of the wise man, who built his house on a rock and the foolish man, who built his house on sand. It was the same storm that attacked both houses but only one stood. Then he spoke of how we are saved individually and not collectively. He compared this to a classroom at school. Suppose a teacher conducted a test, will he tell the students that they can all collectively answer the same question and they all will receive the same grade? No, they must all answer for themselves. Then he spoke about the Wheat and the Tares. This will happen at the end of the world.

1844 ended all prophetic time and thus began the end of the world. The 1st angel separated God's people from the world as did the 2nd and 3rd. My faith cannot save you. You must stand alone. The angels are doing their work and our faith must be founded on the Rock, Jesus Christ, not on sand, our own ideas. This is the only way we will pass the test in the end of the world.

Sunday:

Sr. and Br. Eaton led out in the health meeting at 9:30. Sister Eaton spoke for the first half concerning our goal as Health Reformers. We can read about the original diet God gave to man in the beginning in the book of Genesis. The modern terminology for this diet is called Vegan. She also provided information on good alternative sources of calcium instead of using dairy products and how to combine various vegetable proteins to obtain complete proteins on a Vegan diet. Br. Eaton looked at health from a Biblical standpoint – our duty before God. The two things that will close the work of God on this earth today according to the Spirit of Prophecy are: 1) character and work of our publications and 2) Medical Missionary work. There is so much sickness today that more than ever we have to use the health message as an entering wedge. Br. Eaton then spoke of the importance of Dress Reform from a health perspective.

After this meeting it was time for the highlight of the conference – the baptism. We all drove to the shores of the beautiful Lake Ontario. Br. Dering conducted the service. He gave a few encouraging words to the candidates before leading them into their watery graves – to rise into newness of life. This is the most important decision that these souls will ever make in their lives. There is joy in heaven when one soul makes a decision to follow the Lord and today we were blessed in watching four souls give their lives to Him. Jesus said we must believe and be baptized in order to be saved. Br. Dering then made an appeal to anyone else who is considering baptism in the future to take serious steps in that direction.

Now came the inevitable hour when it is time to say farewell. The ministers and

church leaders were called to the front to give a few words in closing. Before the ministers spoke, a brother from the SDA church, Conrad, from the province of New Brunswick came forward to say a few words. He had come into contact with the Reform church and was given our material to read. Br. Grant has visited him in his province and now he requests our prayers as a new work is opening in a new province. Then **Br. Grant** told us how he felt jealous seeing four souls being baptized. This served as an incentive for him to work even harder for souls when he returns to Montreal with **Br. George Williams**. **Br. Pedersen** encouraged us to remember to give thanks to the Lord especially after a wonderful conference like this. **Br. Lowe** repeated the motto "Ye are my Witnesses". How do we best witness best for Jesus? By our knowledge of doctrine? No, as we heard from **Br. Grant** on Friday, by the power of love. **Br. Martin** counseled us to remember what we learned at the conference. Every one of us, both old and young, have a duty in the church. Let us go back to our home churches and fulfil that duty which God has given to us. **Br. Eaton** asked for prayers for a sister in Calgary, Kathleen Ross, who will be baptized in the near future. Here is another province that is opening up for the truth. We need more families to leave the larger churches and fulfil the call of the Spirit of Prophecy to move into new areas, where there are only a few souls, and to help build up the work as lay members. **Br. Kanagarajah** thanked all the people who came from near and far to the conference. He also gave special thanks to the kitchen staff for their diligent work throughout the conference. **Br. Dering** thanked the Canadian Field for inviting him to the conference. It has been five years since he last visited Toronto. It was good to see so many old friends and make new ones also. He is looking forward to the great conference in heaven when we will never have to say farewell again. **Br. Cholich** encouraged us to be faithful. We still have battles to fight ahead of us and we can expect to face many difficulties. We must encourage and help one another. Be sincere in your devotion to God and His church.

AMEN

NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

AUGUST 4 – 9, 1998

At the beautiful setting of Midway College in the town of Midway, Kentucky U.S.A. believers from all over the United States and Canada gathered for our youth conference. Midway is a very small town in the United States and it was very quiet and peaceful at the college. We stayed at the college campus, surrounded by many trees and natural beauty, using their dormitories, classrooms, chapel and of course, cafeteria.

**The Motto of the conference was,
“Thy Word is a Lamp unto my
feet” Psalm 119:105.**

The conference consisted of various workshops that the young people attended each day. Workshops are more informal than church meetings and we had much lively discussion. Each day had basically the same schedule, except for Sabbath. The day began with morning worship at 7:30 followed by breakfast. At 9:00 A.M. the first two workshops were held. You were to choose which one you wanted to attend. Having two at one time made it difficult at times when a person wanted to listen to both. The first workshop sessions in the morning were held by Br. Jerry Eaton and Br. Henry Dering. At 10:30 the second set of workshops were held by Br. Gary Foster and Br. Idel Suarez. Lunch followed and in the afternoon at 2:30 the final set of workshops was held by Br. Timo Martin and Br. Larry Watts. After the workshops there was free time for the youth to interact. Dinner was at 5:30 followed by evening worship at 7:30. Here now is a synopsis of the workshops held by the various speakers.

Henry Dering was given the subject Revelation. Over the four days he went through key prophesies in the book of Revelation that we see being fulfilled right before our eyes. He began on the first day by warnings against counterfeits. Satan wants to

deceive you. He is the greatest con artist that has ever lived on this earth. In the time of Christ the Pharisees had many false traditions [man made laws] that they kept. Today, Satan has set up a counterfeit religion – the Roman Catholic Church that has made many traditions to counteract the work of God and deceive many.

The following day Br. Dering went on to discuss the “Coming Dictatorship in America.” We usually think of America as a democratic country. Is it possible that some day it will become a dictatorship? A few reasons why this could be possible were mentioned, such as: the great national debt, crime, natural disasters, and injustice in the political system. We proceeded to study through Revelation 13 to see that yes, some day this beast with “lamb like horns” will speak as a dragon and attempt to force all, both small or great, free or bond, to receive the mark of the beast. Force is not a tool of democracy but rather a tool of a dictatorship and that time is coming when America will use force and speak as a dragon. As it joins with the first beast [which persecuted millions of Christians in the Dark Ages] it will make an image to the beast and those that do not worship this image will be killed.

In the next session, Br. Dering went on to identify God’s remnant church in the book of Revelation. There are so many Christian churches in existence today that it is sometimes difficult for a person to know which one to attend. Time is so close now that we don’t have time to check all the churches that exist. In God’s eyes there are only two churches, Babylon and God’s church. Br. Henry went through chapter 12 of the book of Revelation and ended with the concluding verse [v. 17] in which God’s church is identified as those who “keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. There is only one church today that is teaching thus and has been prophesied here. The

Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement.

On the final day, the antichrist was unmasked for who he is. The antichrist is brought to view in Daniel chapter 7 and a further description is given in the final verses of Revelation 13. The Papacy has been recognized as the antichrist. He meets all the descriptions mentioned in the Bible for the antichrist, such as the time he would be in ultimate control during the Dark Ages, and what he would be doing – persecuting saints. Also mention is made of the Papacy’s bold move in attempting to change God’s law. Sunday is definitely a Roman Catholic institution. The final description is in the number 666. Today he is gaining in strength and power and we have to be ready to answer for our faith. We must use each moment of the little time we have left.

Jerry Eaton led out on the topics, “Creation and Health”. The first workshop was entitled, “Panorama of Creation.” The young people went into the various seeming strengths of evolution, and one by one the Holy Spirit led us to refute these from the Bible, Testimony and amazingly enough, science. (Yes, there has been some really exciting research done lately that just supports Biblical creation that much more.) The second workshop was about, “The Secrets of the Lost Races.” Why is there so much evidence that mankind actually had great technology long ago-even before the Flood? Could it be that mankind is just now on the verge of doing the same things that he did before the Flood that brought the judgements of God upon the antediluvian world? The last two workshops were on the entering wedge of the health message: “The inspired health concept” and, “Mental health from the Bible” were an opportunity for the young people to show how much they know about health reform and perhaps a bit of an encouragement for us to walk closer to the light in this

very important area. After all, aren't you getting tired of living on a sick and dying planet? Well, the Bible's health message is designed to give us the best possible health mentally, physically and spiritually-and as we ask the Lord to help us to help others, we will find great blessing in increased satisfaction in all areas of our lives. It is nothing to be ashamed of if we are sick, (let us remember that Sr. White actually spent much time sick, especially early in her life) but this is to motivate us to study how we can place ourselves in right relation to the laws that govern our being. Health reform is described as a wedge, meaning starting out small and getting larger-which is how we have to share this message as well.

Some of the young people asked very timely questions concerning how we are to defend our faith and prove that God's people can present a consistent, united front to those who would try and label us "cult" for holding to the health laws of the Bible.

Idel Suarez presented some scientific and historical workshops using slides. On the first day, we studied about stars as mentioned in the Bible and gathered spiritual lessons from them. Falling stars were mentioned – Jesus doesn't want us to be falling stars. Eclipses – We must be careful not to be eclipsed from God. Black Holes – they take light but give nothing off. Some Christians are like black holes – they take talents but do not give any back. Orion – the place from where the New Jerusalem will descend. Then we discussed the yearly cycle that comes from the revolution of the earth around the sun. The monthly cycle comes from the revolution of the moon around the earth. The day comes from the rotation of the earth, but where does the week come from? Only from creation – the Sabbath.

The next day Br. Suarez spoke of "Dinosaurs and Cavemen." During this session he proved the error of evolution. Evolution says, that death existed before man [dinosaurs died] but creation says the opposite – man was before death. Many flaws have been found in the dating methods used to find the age of rocks. Dinosaurs are mentioned in various

places in the Bible and they existed along side of man. Then it was discussed that cave men were not all stupid people. Many intelligent men dwelt in caves. We see Lot in a cave, David in a cave, the Waldenses and others. In Job 30:3-8 it does discuss cavemen that were outcasts from society. The Bible is more credible than any scientific theory that man has come up with.

On the third day "The Stones Cry out" (Luke 19:40) was presented. Br. Suarez showed various slides of many different stones that archaeologists have discovered with ancient writing on them. These writings proved the Bible to be correct without a shadow of a doubt. There is overwhelming evidence in the rocks that the Bible is true. The more men try to fight the Bible, the more evidence turns up to show it is true. If you take any 10 classical works in history and compare them to the Bible, the Bible has more evidence to prove it is true.

On the final day, we saw slides from the "Catacombs of Rome" and other sites in Rome such as the Coliseum. These catacombs afforded refuge for thousands of Christians. They also became underground tombs where the Christians buried their dead. When the dead were placed in the catacombs, their tombs were sealed. These catacombs were 4 levels deep. There was about 60 of them and each of them was approximately 20 km in length. They contained approximately 500,000 tombs. Rome was built from the sand taken out from underneath it. In reality, Rome is hollow underneath in the same manner that her doctrines are hollow today.

Gary Foster presented some timely family oriented workshops. Not only were they for existing families but also for those who are considering having a family in the future. On the first day he presented, "The Myths of Marriage." He presented several myths that people have of marriage such as:

"We only have a 50% chance of staying married."

"All you need is love". Romantic love will never bring success. It goes away in about 18 months. Physical attractions wears off. "A great beginning means a great

marriage." The past is always with us. We bring baggage in to our marriage. About 6 months of pre-marital counsel is recommended.

The truth is that man is to honour, respect and love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is an individual and she must still answer to God before her husband.

On the next day, he presented "Dealing with Anger and Conflict." No one is to be boss over the other person. Anger and jealousy destroy relationships. Both partners need to wait to work it out. If both try to make the other happy, the marriage will be very successful. It was brought out that a man WILL help his wife in the house. Then Br. Foster presented different ways to positively deal with anger.

The third day brought the subject of "Sexuality" This is a subject that we should discuss with our children. Different myths about sex were brought up and discussed. Sexual abuse was also brought up. Sex is not something we have to hide but should discuss in the family circle.

On the final day, Br. Foster discussed "Finances". One of the major causes of conflict in many marriages is the issue of finances. We must come to an agreement in our families and work positively together, recognizing who has a greater talent to deal with the financial issues, realizing that all major decisions are made together and should there be a disagreement that cannot be resolved, the husband does have the final word.

Larry Watts led out in a beautiful series of workshops designed to bring the young people into a deeper understanding of God's word. The titles were, "The 2,300 days made simple", "The court and the in-Christ motif", "The Path to the throne of God" and, "The dwelling place of God." Nice analogies were drawn from nature showing how God actually has 5 priorities: Man, His church, the Sanctuary, the Earth as a whole and to vindicate His law in the whole earth. The whole book of Daniel is about judgment, (The name Daniel means, "God is my judge") and as we see this as the focus of this prophetic book it takes on a whole new and exciting

aspect. Through Br. Watts studies, the young people were shown how to defend the sanctuary doctrine which is so much under attack in evangelical circles today. Fresh new truths were cited concerning the difference between the daily (which has caused so much controversy within Adventism) and the evening mornings. For example: "the relationship of the daily, nathan tamiyd, to the phrase evening mornings, ereb boger: Daniel 8 contrasts the followers of God with the followers of this world. Those who serve the Lord go from darkness, ereb, to light, boger. The sanctuary was even set up so that the worshipers had to come with their backs to the rising sun-the entrance of the tabernacle was on the east. They were forbidden to worship God through any kind of replica, i.e. idol. In contrast, those who followed the ways of this world face east and worshiped the creature and the creation, i.e. sun worship. Whenever we make our sacrifices the means of our salvation, we become pagan....The purpose of the sanctuary was 1) that God may dwell among them 2) To reveal His glory 3) That all may be reconciled, being called by His love through "the beauty of heavenly truth." 4) And restored (prepared to stand righteous in the judgment).

The young people were led to a deeper study of and appreciation for the deep truths of revelation, due to this fresh look at the sanctuary and all of its kindred truths.

Timo Martin was asked to present 4 different topics regarding the "Spirit of Prophecy." On the first day, he proceeded to prove that Ellen G. White was a true prophet. The greatest gifts that heaven has given to God's people are: 1) Jesus 2) Holy Spirit and 3) the Spirit of Prophecy, yet many do not value the Spirit of Prophecy. There were many prophets in the Bible but they did not write about up-to-date issues that we face today, such as smoking, TV watching, drugs etc. so God sent another prophet. Sr. White was only called to be a prophet when two men, William Foy, and Hazen Foss rejected the gift of prophecy that the Lord gave them. We discussed 7 different points relating to the spirit of prophecy. If we would see the real

value of these testimonies we would study them daily. And if we would read 10 pages daily we would finish reading all her writings in 30 years

Now that we have proved that Ellen G. White was a true prophet, Br. Martin decided, on the second day, to show some of her writings on the subject of health. Often we don't take seriously some of the testimonies she wrote regarding health, but the most dangerous sin is to sin with knowledge, and that includes the health issues. In June 1863, Sr. White received a comprehensive vision regarding health and we discussed many of the issues that were brought out in that vision. She was a hundred years ahead of medical science. Today, all of her writings on health have been proven true. She advocated natural remedies and a vegetarian diet.

On the third day, Br. Martin discussed "the Prophesied Reformation." We must have a solid foundation on which to base our faith. Many testimonies that Sr. White wrote regarding a prophesied Reformation were brought out. The Seventh-day Adventist church had begun to slide shortly after 1844. Many reproofs were brought on issues such as, health reform, fashion, medical missionary work, labour unions etc. Since the church has fallen, God has raised the remnant to stand in their place. Then we looked at 22 points proving the Reformation has a right to exist.

On the final day, the "Christ Our Righteousness" message was taught. There is no eternal life without this message. We must understand it fully. There are over 1,000 churches in the world and not one of them preaches this message correctly except for God's church. We discussed justification and sanctification, and went into counterfeits. The counterfeit of Christ's righteousness is self-righteousness. If you neglect a known duty, you are a sinner and lose the Christ Our Righteousness message. We must do more than the law demands. We are encouraged to go the second mile. The first mile is the keeping of the letter of the law. The extra mile is: love and keeping the spirit of the law. Then we will want to do that which pleases God and not just do these

things because we have to do them. We do all things because we WANT to. It is given to all those who seek for it in faith, and hunger and thirst for it and it is fulfilled on condition of obedience.

We studied the 1888 message preached by Brothers Jones and Waggoner. Today, God calls us to become preachers of righteousness. And all those are qualified to preach this message who understand Christ has overcome sin in their lives.

WORSHIPS:

Here is a brief summary of the worship services held in the morning and evenings.

Tuesday Morning, Br. Foster led out in worship with the story of Ruth. When Ruth was gleaning, Boaz encouraged her to stay in the field. Ruth knew her duty. We are given duties by God and often we may wonder what God wants from us. We just know what the will of God for our lives is. Out of the will of God there is no success. In the will of God there is not failure. God has a will for each of us. When Paul received the call to go to Macedonia, he didn't ask, "where will I go?" or "where will I live and how much shall I make?" No, he simply obeyed the call. If we do God's will, he will take care of us. The will of God is devoted service for your entire life. When we can see what He did in the past we will have faith for the future. He parted the Red Sea and took care of the Israelites in the wilderness. He can also work miracles today. We must do the will of God to the end. If we are not obedient to the will of God now, He won't open any more doors for us to go through.

Tuesday Evening Br. Watts and Brother Suarez together presented interesting insights regarding the doctrine of the dead and went on to discuss spiritualism. Although some don't believe in them, spirits are very real, whether they are good or bad. Br. Suarez related an experience that his brother made regarding the spirit world. It was made very clear to him that they do exist. We, however, must learn to defend our faith on this issue because it is the 2nd greatest deception that Satan has the world in, following

erroneous thought of the law being done away with.

Wednesday morning Br. Eaton spoke about "An aimless life is a living death." Jesus was the most goal-oriented person this world has ever known. From the age of 12, He had the cross before him and He didn't swerve off the path to turn away from that goal. Often God speaks to us in darkness. After His baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Have you had a wilderness experience? Sometimes, "He will strip you of your surroundings to speak to you more clearly. We have to also remember that God is still speaking to us all through our trials. The Lord is trying to show us what our goal is and if we read Isaiah 58 we will see what God places before us. We are to help the oppressed and those cast down. Our number one aim should be the service of the Lord, and as we serve the Lord first all perplexities will vanish and we will have a plain path before our feet. We must not wait for the perplexities to disappear before going to work. Work first and then the pathway will be plain.

Wednesday evening met with tragedy just before the prayer meeting was to begin. Uldarico Alejos had just arrived with his family, in time to lead out in the evening worship that he was scheduled to speak, but as he was inside registering, somehow his van started to roll backwards down the hill. Inside were his young daughter, mother and mother-in-law. One of the women jumped out and managed to pull the little girl out. Unfortunately, this little girl fell to the pavement breaking her arm quite badly. The van miraculously rolled between two trees and hit a fence with the other woman inside. From all appearances that van should have hit the trees but it managed to roll quietly in between, leaving the other woman unharmed. The little girl, Louisa, was rushed to the hospital in excruciating pain. The next day her family had to return to Atlanta, Georgia where she could receive the necessary operation to set her arm to heal. Yes, Satan was angry at the group of God's believers gathered together and while we felt sorrow for the Alejos family we can

thank God that He is in ultimate control. No one lost their lives in this incident. Evening worship began one hour late and was led by Br. Lambert Hazelhoff who spoke to us about Medical Missionary Work and the importance of it to the gospel. It is the right arm of the message and all believers should have a basic knowledge of the body and a few simple remedies to help those that are sick. The world is passing us. The world is telling us what to do, when we should be telling them. We need to get up and start running.

Thursday morning Sr. Sandy Schendel talked about preparing for a trip. When you plan a trip you often have a list of things that need to be done before you go. Sometimes the schedule can get pretty hectic and if something goes wrong it can lead to frustration. People also make plans for life but sometimes they miss an important part. People today are making many "firsts". First, I want to live, First, I want an education. No, we must first seek the kingdom of God. You wouldn't have life without Christ. Salvation is free, like the treasure in the field, but it takes everything you have to buy the field. She went on to tell of her little nephew, Benjamin and how he went through a struggle in his mind, trying to decide whether to put his shiny new penny in the offering plate. His sense of duty won out over his own desires. Many people today are not willing to part with that shiny "penny". We don't know if we will ever see another conference. We must give it to God now. Not tomorrow or next week - Now!

Thursday afternoon we had a question and answer session led by Br. Klaus Klee. Several questions were addressed and discussed such as the dress issue – the wearing of men's clothing by women and vice versa. Rules of thumb to go by are: "Am I representing Christ?, will the world be able to differentiate me from the world by my clothing? – is it modest? – what is my motive for wearing this clothing?" Two other questions were discussed in detail. "How to witness to an Atheist" being the first, and it was mentioned that by prophecy fulfilled, and also by the weight of evidence

such as we saw in Br. Suarez's meetings proving the validity of the Bible. The other question was concerning those who have grown up in the church. How do we know we are converted? Is it by a warm, fuzzy feeling? No, it is by understanding the principles and having a relationship with Christ.

Thursday evening Br. Tony Hernandez stressed to us the shortness of the time in which we live. We are close to the end of the millennium and people are making all sorts of preparations. Also, athletes make many preparations for their sporting events. Are we making preparations for the greatest event this world has ever known? What are we doing today for that event? Are we folding our hands and just waiting? The time of trouble is very near and we must prepare today. The only way we will receive the seal of God is by fully reflecting the character of Christ. Today, Christ is in the Most Holy place, interceding for us. God is calling the young people. They need to make an experience with the Lord like never before. They must make their decision today. If we want to remain firm in the Time of Trouble, we must prepare now. Satan leads young people to sin and then, if permitted, will take their lives to prevent them from gaining salvation. If he is allowed to do so, the hearts of the parents are pierced with sorrow. Br. Hernandez encouraged all the young people, not to delay their preparation, not to mess with the world because you are not promised tomorrow.

Friday morning Br. Henry Dering spoke of how all things are possible with God. He told a story of someone who ran away from God – Jonah. He bought a ticket to Tarshish, trying to run away from God. Today, many are also "buying a ticket to Tarshish" in an attempt to run from God, but no one can run away from God. Every sin is a "ticket to Tarshish" - bad music, worldly fashion, envy, jealousy, criticism, etc. We keep delaying the giving of the heart. There are so many excuses. Too many studies, too many friends ... people are absorbed in pleasure or work righteousness. It is now time to burn those tickets. Buy God's tickets. We

must go to Nineveh – to the hard labour. Someone has to do the job and God has a job for each of us to do. Salvation is not merely being baptized and preaching, it is a union with Christ. How many chances will you have? Don't slight those chances. You may not get another.

Friday afternoon brought us the baptism of Sandy Foster. Her father, Gary Foster officiated in the baptism. After the church ceremony where she was examined before the church, we all drove to a nearby creek, where she was buried in her watery grave. When you join the church, it is not just a time when you have decided to put away the pleasures of this life but it is entering into the family of God. Baptism is as a seed. The old Sandy died and a new Sandy rose out of the water to begin her new life in Christ.

Friday evening Br. Klaus Klee spoke of "Time". How often do we think of this precious commodity? Are we assured of seeing tomorrow? We are living on borrowed time and it can be taken away from us at any time. What a waste if we are not prepared to meet the Lord, when our time is taken away. We are instruments that the Lord is using to reach a lost world. We need to set our priorities right regarding time. If we put the Lord first He will reveal to us what is important and what is not. We must all be prepared to say, "Yes, Lord I am ready should you take me tonight." Wasted time can never be recalled. Once time is gone, it is forever lost. We have to pray for insight to prioritize correctly and do the Lord's duties when they are placed before us.

Br. Cholich then spoke for a few minutes about his favourite topic – astronomy. He likes this subject because he likes to study Orion. He spoke for a few minutes about Orion and the New Jerusalem.

SABBATH

Sabbath Margie Holmstrom led out in the morning worship and spoke about time management again. It seems the Holy Spirit was working on the various speakers to speak about the issue of the shortness of the time. We have to make good use of the time we

have. In Hebrews 12:1, Paul tells us that the Christian life is actually a "Run", not a casual walk. He talks about "weight". The more weight you have, the slower you run. The little things in life are the "weights" we have to get rid of. Often, we have heard people in the church say, "What's wrong with a little. . . junk food/dancing/movies/videos?" The little things are very important to God and ask yourself another question: Is it worth trading my salvation for? If it is not perfectly safe then cast it off and run – leave it. When we get to heaven we will not be thinking of all the great sacrifices we made to be there. We will be saying "heaven is cheap enough." Cast off your little weights today and run with patience.

Sabbath School was led by Br. Klaus Klee. For the mission period Br. Klee read from Christ's Object Lessons. Though the congregation may be the poorest in the land it can be rich with the graces of God. After several mission experiences were shared we separated into our Sabbath School classes.

The divine service was conducted by Br. Branko Cholich. He spoke of the organization of the church. We all have our individual duties. Everyone is responsible for something. Then he spoke of competition. Christ offers you something and then someone else comes along and offers you the same, but at a cheaper price. Many are willing to take this cheaper price. They want to go to a church where they can divorce and remarry, or perhaps indulge in other un-Christian practices and still receive the same reward – eternal life. No, there is only one way. We are not to lower the standard to bring multitudes into the church. Jesus talks about a straight and narrow way and that is the only way to eternal life.

In the afternoon, the children presented a short program entitled the Lamb of God. Through song and speaking, they portrayed the idea that we don't have to keep on sinning because Jesus provided a way out for us. It is only the blood of Jesus that can wash away our sins. After the program we were followed by a testimony hour. For two hours we

praised the Lord through song and testimony, poems and memory verses. Truly, we received a glimpse of heaven in these two hours.

Sabbath evening for worship, Br. Larry Watts spoke to us. No man will suffer in this earth more than he deserves and neither will he suffer less in hell than he deserves. You can then turn this statement around by saying, We are never blessed less than we deserve. We don't deserve anything so really we are blessed more than we deserve, in this world and in the world to come. We went on to the subject of sanctification. Is the keeping of the Sabbath work? It is not supposed to be. We are not working but Jesus is. We do what we are!! And consequently, we are what we do. By resting in Christ, you have power to choose not to sin. We must choose to follow Him and be submerged in Jesus.

Sunday morning the conference came to a close. After morning worship, the conference closing meeting was held.

Truly it was a great spiritual feast to be gathered together. It is our prayer that everyone who attended will be able to carry that blessing home to their respective churches to share the blessing with others.

AMEN



Sister White said that this picture most closely resembles Christ.

BURDEN BEARERS



In third world countries like India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan there are still problems obtaining good drinking water. Many people often search far and wide for good drinking water in the mountainous areas or dry zones. Not only in Bible times was this done, but also done today. It is much harder to obtain good water in these countries today than many people in this country realize. Some times people have had to travel eight to nine miles by pull-cart, bicycle, or tractor to transport water barrels filled with fresh water. Some rural areas have deep wells but in the dry seasons, the water table drops so low it is difficult to get water from these wells.

When I was in India this past winter I found in the areas around the village that some of the rivers-beds people had turned into roads. Life is difficult in these villages without good drinking water in the dry season. The government in India is doing its best to give enough water to the people but this is proving to be impossible.

Some times, in the dry season, the city people who do have indoor plumbing have their water cut off for a week. At the same time, since the water level is coming down in the reservoir, automatically the people will get their power cut too.

When I was in Sri Lanka this last March and April, I experienced this lack of water. I could not get good water to come through the pipes into my house. The water department sent water only at certain times only. There was one week when the water was cut off in my whole village, so I suffered with the rest. My

mother brought river water for drinking and washing. The river water is harmful for a person's health but there is no other alternative for survival.

I have noticed how, many times in India, people are washing their cows, elephants, horses, buffaloes, children, clothes, donkeys, household things and vehicles in the rivers. At this critical time, all the village people have to drink and bathe in the same water. In some remote villages, the people have to do this for their whole lifetime.

In the area I stayed it is mountainous - 1,500 feet above sea level. Even though, in the dry season, the rivers are dry, I was living in this rural area and closer to my house there is a very big public well. Early in the morning, before sunrise or in the evening after the noon day heat had subsided the men or women fetched water from this well.

To get water from this well, a man or woman would tie a jar or steel bucket to the end of a long rope, which was lowered into the deep well and drawn up again brimming with fresh, clear water. When the jar or bucket was full, they would coil a length of cloth on top of their head for the jar to rest on comfortably. The woman would stop and bend both knees. Another person then lifted the jar to her head, took her hand, and helped her to her feet. Then the woman would say, "Thank-you; now I can carry the jar by myself." Her water jar balanced on her head, she then made her way home. When I think of this incident, I am reminded of two statements in the scripture.

"Help carry one another's burdens --- for everyone has to carry his own load" Galatians 6:2 and verse 5.

At times, the load is very heavy and life is very difficult without another person's help. But after a few faltering steps, we are very able to walk alone. The beginning is very hard though.

Also, prophecy states that in the seven last plagues the ocean, rivers and fountains of waters would become as blood or as the blood of a dead man. Rev. 16:3-7 Today, there are whole regions of the oceans and so-called fresh water that are fouled by pollution. Are we not living in a time that thinking people can discern as the last?

May the Lord Jesus give us of that living water, which He told the Samaritan woman would make her thirst no more. Only if we allow Jesus to bear our burdens for us can we find rest for our souls. Matthew 11:28-30 Many people bend beneath a heavy load of sin, grief, poverty, despair, and disappointment. But Jesus Christ calls everyone to help him or her bear their burdens. Are you willing? Today can we help to carry another person's load?

By Xavior Chelliah

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Current Scene

The Genocide Treaty – is it truly what it says?

The Genocide Treaty, that was signed by Canada and America in 1988, is an international treaty which actually violates many North American rights and freedoms. It is now filtering down to provincial and state governments as can be seen in British Columbia's "campaign muzzle law," which will not allow any comments about any ethnic group, race or religion by any one in the political campaign. According to this treaty, signed by more than 95 nations, any group is practicing genocide when they try to psychologically harm one or more members of a race, ethnic group or religion. What would they do to us for distributing the Great Controversy or other publications on fulfilled prophecy? And what will this Genocide Treaty do in relation to the National Sunday Law in the U.S.? The Sunday Law concerns our relation to Sunday; the Genocide Treaty concerns our relation to our fellow men. According to this treaty, we violate the Genocide Treaty by trying to "psychologically harm" Sunday-keepers. We "harm them" by pointing out the error in their thinking, converting them to our ways, or tearing down the institution of Sunday-keeping. We are "harming" Sunday-keeping religionists by insolently refusing to bow down with them to worship on that day. They will say that we are practicing genocide.

The vague and ambiguous language that this treaty has will enable the rulers to

use it for just about any purpose—including the persecution of God's people who are preaching the three angel's messages.

Rape in the Military from *Macleans*, May 25, 1998 "Sean Cummings remembers pleading with his sister Ruth when she called in September, 1992, to tell him she had signed up with the Canadian Forces and was heading off to boot camp. 'Jesus God,' he told her. 'Don't do it. You're a smart girl. Do something with your life—don't join the military.' Cummings had reason to be worried. He knew firsthand the hostile battlefield his sister was entering, and that her gender alone would mark her as the enemy. For seven years, he had served as a crack infantryman with the ruggedly macho Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry at CFB Calgary. In that time, he was immersed in an atmosphere of open hostility towards women, an attitude that, he says, was not only accepted—but expected. And his fears for Ruth were realized on June 19, 1993, when he received a telephone call from the military chaplain at CFB Halifax, where both Cummings—by then an ammunition technician—and Ruth were then stationed. His sister had been raped by a fellow recruit in A Block, the co-ed barracks.

"His attempts to help his sister, Cummings says, marked the beginning of the end of his military career. He began suffering from what is known in the military as 'reprisals': secretive yet systematic punishments and penalties, from extra weekend duties to poor performance reviews, that cannot be redressed in a military court

because they are not formal charges.

"Ironically, after 11 years of serving in a system designed to enforce conformity, he has become a radical nonconformist. Cummings has begun writing a book on the inner working of the military, an organization he now characterizes as a secret society with an unwritten code of conduct—much like the Mafia."

Even in a peace-loving country like Canada, which uses its soldiers almost exclusively for peacekeeping duties, these kind of brutal and ugly things can happen. Why? Because any military is an organization dedicated to killing people, or at least doing violence to people, which will always bring out the worst in mankind. This is why Testimonies Vol. 1, p. 361 says that "*in the army they cannot obey the truth and at the same time obey the requirements of their officers. There would be a continual violation of conscience.*" Worldly men are governed by worldly principles. They can appreciate no other. The words and commands of God, written in the soul, are spirit and life, and there is power in them to bring into subjection and enforce obedience." May God help us to give the trumpet a certain sound in showing the danger of the military and militarism.

The Religious Wars, from *Time*, May 11, 1998 "As Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary, its citizens identify the rift over religion as their nation's No. 1 problem. With the country well established and peace in the region a growing reality, Israelis are fighting among themselves as never before. 'For 50 years, we

had an external enemy who obliged us to lower the tenor of our internal tensions, but the external enemy doesn't unite us anymore."

"The conflict is rooted in an old and unresolved question of national identity: Is Israel a Jewish state, with the emphasis on Jewish, or is it a state for the Jews, a regular, modern, democratic place where Jews are in the majority? Israel's Zionist founders were almost exclusively secular-in many respects, antireligious-and they saw Judaism principally as a nationality. But in deference to tradition and as a way to secure the support of the Orthodox minority, they made certain concessions to religion: restricting commerce on the Jewish Sabbath, for instance.

The Jewish State that was founded with so much violence, bloodshed and outright terrorism, is anything but a godly society. *It seems that the more religious the jews in Israel are, the more intensely they want to force their way on others, and persecute any and all dissent.* Of course, Jesus never worked that way, nor will He ever work that way. Also, the powers that be in Israel seem well able to enlist North American opinions and dollars on their side from Christians, while persecuting Palestinians- many of whom are Christians.

There is an intensity taking hold on the elements which will culminate with the final withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from the indifferent, religiously wicked or wickedly religious multitudes. That is why we must call sin by its right name, and show the difference between self-righteousness and the righteousness of Christ. Anytime there is religion which is not Christ-centered, it will end up trying to force others to its way.

Of course, God will never use force to get us to obey, that is only Satan's stock in trade. The only truly holy war is the war against sin, self and Satan. The stuff of coercion to that which is seemingly for society's good is what the mark of the beast is all about. May God save us from a spirit of force or even manipulation.

What a Great Kid you have....from Family Circle. "My Teen is great with other people. At home....well, that's a different story." Negativity and criticism-does it make up most of your communication with your teenager? "A joint study by researchers at Ohio State University and the University of Arizona found that parents became increasingly negative as their kids hit adolescence. The researchers watched conversations between parents and their teens and discovered that the parents' negative reactions increased three times faster than their teens' did. Moms and Dads were quick to criticize, blame and express anger.

"How can you get more of the cooperative, charming teen others see?

1. Remember that you were a teen once and find comfort in the fact.
2. Understand that other adult role models can benefit your teen. Other brothers and sisters in the church, especially can exert a very beneficial influence.
3. Encourage your teenager to talk about adult role models.
4. Build bridges, not barriers.
5. Give your teen the benefit of the doubt."

In the last days, we know perilous times would come. Men would be lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God. When young people give themselves up to worship at the god of pleasure, they will become very despairing

and hopeless, because they have chased after emptiness until they have become empty. **Suicide amongst teens is now the second leading cause of death for that age group and it is primarily the teen's parents that can make a difference in this statistic.**

The Future of Money, from *Time*, April 27,1998 The giants want your money-huge bank mergers mean more and more power is being concentrated into fewer and fewer hands. "In fact, many governments are competing with one another to see who can offer the fewest regulations(to Banks.) And the money is following right along." These giant new banks are openly talking about making a cashless society-because it is much easier to regulate and control electronic money (and the people who use them.) On the other hand, "will a high-speed global economy put an end to the boom and bust of the business cycle, or will it create dangerous interlinkages across borders, where a bad year for the Mexican economy, say, might accidentally trigger a global depression?" It is Satan that is more and more taking charge of this world-whether it be in taking the control of farms and farming out of the hand of the individually accountable farmer, or money from the banker, or the law from the lawyer-it all comes down to the same thing-less truth and righteousness which is based upon God's authority-more manipulation and coercion-which is based upon man and Satan's rule. May God help His people to be clear on who is behind all of this concentrating more and more power into fewer and fewer hands-and give our futures into the nail-scarred hands alone.

By Jerry Eaton



SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

"BEHOLD THERE ARISETH A LITTLE CLOUD OUT OF THE SEA." 1 KINGS 18:44.

"In all our churches, and wherever there is a company of believers, church schools should be established." *Home and Church School Manual*, p. 23 "This work requires self-sacrifice. While many are waiting to have every obstacle removed, the work they might do is left undone." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 156 "Men and women are wanted now who are as true to duty as the needle to the pole, -- men and women who will work without having their way smoothed and every obstacle removed." *Manual for Canvassers*, p. 22

Some of you may have heard about our church school in Sacramento, California, U.S.A., but for those of you who haven't, this school is run by Sr. Margi Holmstroem and Sr. Sandy Schendel. These two sisters were impressed by the Holy Spirit to open a school several years ago. When this call came, they didn't hesitate to answer. They knew it would take a lot of self-sacrifice and the task before them seemed insurmountable to human sight, but they knew that if the Lord called, He would be by their side every step of the way, and He has been.

Once the decision was made, they announced their plan to open a school to family members, church members and friends. At this time, they set a date for the opening of the school, but as of yet they had no building in which to hold classes and no students. They could not wait for these obstacles to be removed before deciding to go forward. Surely if the Lord called them to this important work, He would provide what they needed by opening date. They stepped forward by faith. As the opening date neared, the young women did not lose their faith. They kept up their prayers and one day, Sr. Schendel's grandfather offered the use of a small barn on his property (which has since gone through extensive renovations) and by opening date they had students. At this point in time they did not have a "land-use" permit for a

school. The site was zoned as "residential" and they could only have a limited amount of students legally without this permit. For now they could function without it. So began the school, with a humble beginning, right on schedule.

Every step of the way has been a journey of faith. Sr. Sandy and Sr. Margi, knew that the Lord had called them to this ministry and that Satan wanted to close them down. At each trial, they trusted the Lord to bring them through and they have witnessed many miracles. The renovation process has seen many miracles in itself, with many companies donating supplies or giving a reduced rate for them. Also this past summer, they received quite a bit of school furniture free. Sandy and Margi have put their hand to the plough and have not looked back. The joy and fellowship they have shared in the education of their students have far outweighed the trials that Satan has put in their way. The assurance that they are giving these children a better start in life is extremely gratifying. It makes it all worth while.

Their day begins early. Before breakfast they pick up the students in their school bus. The parents bring the children to a central location from where they are taken by the bus to school, since it is out in the country. They are provided with a healthy breakfast upon arriving at school. After morning worship, they begin their studies. They are separated into two classrooms, elementary and high school. After a nutritious lunch, (which the children help to prepare), the afternoon is a time for more practical studies, such as science, history, gardening and life skills of various kinds. In the afternoon the children are taken by the bus back to their homes. The Lord has blessed Small Cloud Christian School. Here children are being taught the way of the Lord and being prepared for useful service. Here education and religion are mixed, which is what God intended in the first place.

The latest trial the sisters have had to endure is for the Land-use Permit. They decided last fall that the time had come to apply since the renovations were nearing completion and they would be equipped to take on more students. Their goal is to have 32 students. Some of the neighbours were concerned about the extra traffic and noise that a school in their neighbourhood would cause and these concerns were brought to city council. Also if this permit were given and the zoning was changed, what kind of school would come to that location if Small Cloud moved? After much prayer the sisters went to the meeting. The Lord worked on the hearts of those present and they were granted a limited permit for 5 years. It would only be valid if the sisters owned the school. This has been their biggest trial so far.

Now with great anticipation they await the new school year. Their little school house will finally be completed and they have their permit which allows them to expand.

Srs. Sandy and Margi are not teaching to make a profit. In fact it is almost impossible to live on what they make. But that hasn't deterred them. The Lord has provided for their needs. They began the school because they love children and answered the call of the Lord. Many young people in our church have attended public schools and gone in the ways of the world. As they watched the children in the church playing, they were wondering what they could do to help these children have a better chance of staying in the faith. This is when the Lord laid the burden of the school on them, and they have not looked back.

They feel this burden so strongly that they would like to see church schools open up all over the world. Our children are at such a disadvantage in this corrupt and evil time in which we live and we need to give them the education that is of value; an education that will help them prepare

for eternity. God is to be included in every subject we study, but in public schools, unfortunately God is excluded. If we allow the world to educate them, they will become like the world. If we allow them to be taught by God fearing teachers they are greatly at an advantage. There is the joy of pointing a child to Christ, when he/she is disappointed and discouraged; the ability to give a loving hug when a child is hurt; the gentle rebukes when a child is angry or frustrated; and encouragement when they are down

cast. No child is a failure in the school of Christ and the character training is as important a training as is the reading and writing. Srs. Sandy and Margi tell wonderful stories of the experiences they make with their children and the miracles God is working in their lives.

Small Cloud Christian School needs our prayers and support. They need our encouragement but also they want to encourage you also. They have overcome seemingly insurmountable odds in their endeavour with this school and they encourage you to step forward

by faith and open a school in your local church, not for yourself but for the children. Don't wait for all the barriers to be removed, because they will not be, until you step forward by faith and decide to do your part for the Lord. Sister Sandy and Sister Margi welcome your telephone calls, and letters with any questions you may have about church schools. Time is short and we have lost too many young people to the world. Let us follow the counsels of the Lord through Sister White and open more church schools.



Margie Holmstroem and Sandy Schendel stand beside their school bus.

My Guardian Angel

I have my guardian angel watching over me, nevertheless I must take care how I walk. I have chosen to myself the way of life but if I am not careful I can fall out of the way. This can happen to me spiritually. Therefore I must take time to talk with Jesus, that I would not fall but remain on the solid ground. Also, I must live my life with devotion and be careful of every step I take. Then I can keep my guardian angel watching over me constantly.

Emelina Garcia, 12 years old

THE DARE



"I dare you! I dare you! I double, double dare you!"

Margaret sat in the window of the barn with her feet on the sloping roof of the shed. All the other children had slid down the roof and jumped the eight feet to the round. But Margaret was scared. She had very weak ankles, and she knew that she would probably hurt herself badly if she took such a leap.

"Come on, fraidy-cat. I dare you!" screamed the other children.

But Margaret got up, went to the other side and climbed down the tree that they had all climbed up. She came around to where the other children were standing.

"Margaret's a fraidy-cat! Margaret's afraid to take a dare!" Jim was yelling the loudest.

"What's the matter, Marge?" Jill asked. "Why didn't you follow the rest of us? It didn't hurt a but. It stung my feet a little, that's all."

"Well, I have trouble with my ankles - - " Margaret began, but Jim interrupted, "Margaret's afraid to take a dare! Margaret's a scaredy-cat!"

The next day it was the same. This time the children were swinging hand over hand along a rafter in the barn. There was the hay at both ends, but along a stretch of about six feet in the middle of the rafter there was no hay beneath, and it was an awfully long way to the ground. Everybody tried it. Everybody got across. Everybody, that is, except Margaret. Somehow she couldn't bring herself to swing out over that stretch where there was no hay beneath. She didn't trust the strength of her arms. She knew that if she couldn't hold out that long she would be terribly hurt.

"Margaret's a fraidy-cat!" Jim teased. "Margaret's afraid to take a dare!" Come on, Margaret, I dare you!" Jim was insistent.

"I double dare you!" shouted Joe.

"I triple dare you!" screamed Jeff.

There was some whispering and some giggling among the girls as Margaret started out. Hand over hand she swung along until she got to the dangerous part. Then just before she left the protection of the hay beneath, she let go and landed in its dusty softness.

"Fraidy-cat, fraidy-cat," chorused all the children as they ran off to find some other daring escapade to liven things up.

Another day it was the bull pen. "I dare you to get into the bull pen," Jim challenged Jeff. "He's awful mean. Even my dad is scared of him."

"Aw, who's afraid of an old bull?" Jeff snorted. And when the bull was at the other end of the pen. Jeff, gingerly got over the bars and let himself down. The bull came pawing and snorting, and Jeff scrambled up over the edge of the pen just in the nick of time.

"I dare you to do it." It was Jeff's turn to challenge Jim.

"You think I'm afraid of him?" scoffed Jim. He reached one leg down over the fence and rubbed his shoe over the bull's back. The bull snorted with rage, and the children scampered away from the fence. Then when the bull was at the far end of the pen, Jim carefully climbed down into the pen and hastily climbed back out, escaping over the fence just as the enraged bull reached it. One by one all of the children, including the girls, climbed down into the bullpen and scrambled up in time to escape. But not Margaret.

"Fraidy-cat Margaret, scaredy-cat Margaret!" all the children chimed in, and Margaret lowered her eyes and went to the

house. She knew she was afraid. She just could not be as brave as the others. Somehow she didn't see any sense in putting herself into danger that might be disastrous just because someone dared her or called her a coward.

That night when father was sitting in the old rocking chair waiting for supper, Margaret sat down on the arm of the chair and put her arm around his neck.

"Daddy, are you a fraidy-cat if you don't take a dare?" she asked.

"Well, Margaret, it depends. Now, if someone dared you to do something good and you were afraid to do it, I would say you were a coward."

"Like what, Daddy?"
"Well, let's say a group of you were playing ball and the ball you threw went through somebody's window."

The children would shout, 'I dare you to tell old Mrs. Lawson that you broke her window,' and you would be afraid to do it and would run home. Then I'd say you were a coward."

Daddy paused. He didn't know just exactly what Margaret had in mind. "But if someone dared you to do something that was wrong, then I would say you were brave not to take the dare."

"But Daddy, what if it wasn't particularly wrong?" Margaret asked. "What if you were just afraid, like - "

"Like what?" daddy wanted to know.

"Like getting into the bull pen."

"Margaret!" Daddy's face turned pale. "Don't tell me any of you children would do a think like that! Don't you know that bull could kill you?"

"Yes, yes, Father, I know, so I didn't go in. But the others did, and they say I am a coward because I didn't."

Father got up and walked up and down the kitchen angrily. "Why Margaret, they could have been killed and I would have been held responsible!" Father was really upset. "If one of those children had slipped and fallen, that bull would have gored him to death. Fraidy-cat, nothing! I never go into that pen without a pitch-fork, and then I go quickly and carefully. I shall have to speak to the fathers of some of these neighborhood children, I see."

"Oh, Father!" Margaret pleaded. She didn't want to be guilty of tattling. "They won't do it again. They were just daring one another, and they ran out of exciting things to do. It was the only dangerous thing they could think of."

"Margaret, if I ever hear of any of you children going near that bull again, I shall forbid anybody to come here to play. Mark it, Margaret." Father sat down in the rocker. "What else are they daring you to do around here?" "Oh, they all slid off the shed roof and jumped to the ground," Margaret said, "I was afraid to, so I am 'Margaret, the fraidy-cat.'"

"Did you tell them why you didn't?" father asked.

"Oh, I tried to, but all they did was yell, 'Margaret's afraid to take a dare!'"

"Well, I should hope so," father said. "With the trouble you have always had with your ankles you should have had a broken ankle if not worse. Never take a dare, my dear, that could ruin your health, happiness, or reputation."

"I hate to be a fraidy-cat all of the time," Margaret pouted. "But I guess I am."

Father thought a long time. "Margaret, those boys are getting too boisterous for you to play with. I am going to ask their fathers to see to it that they are kept busy at something worthwhile instead of daring my daughter to kill or maim herself."

That night at worship father chose the song "Dare to Be a Daniel." They all sang lustily, and

then daddy talked about daring. "Daring for God," he said, "is heroic." He told stories of great men who had dared to stand alone for right. Daniel did, of course, and others in the Bible. Also there were Martin Luther, John Calvin, Charles Wesley, and many others. Some even died a martyr's death rather than give up what they knew to be right.

"Taking a dare to be true to your conscience, daring to do the right thing even though all others are against you – that is bravery," daddy explained. "But taking a dare just for the fun of it, to show off your bravado, to prove you are physically strong even though it may cost your life – taking those dares is cowardly. The one who dares you and shows you how to by going first, is not a hero. He is a fool. And he doesn't want to be the only fool, so he tries to get you to do it with him. Actually he is a coward. The one who refuses to be dared into doing something dangerous or wrong is the brave one."

Months passed. Father's little talks with the neighbors resulted in a more peaceful summer around Margaret's home. No longer did the boys come to play in the old barn that was the envy of the neighborhood. When they did come, usually their parents came with them and there was no occasion for daring. And as far as Margaret knew the "daring" phase had passed. Possibly no one was daring anyone now.

September came and with it school. Not much time for play with friends. Weeks stretched into months. Winter laid a tight grip on the land. Snow piled high around Margaret's house. Long icicles hung from the roof when the sun shone warm.

Margaret lived in the days when not everyone had running water in their homes, so every morning it was Margaret's job to carry in two pails of water from the pump near the house. One crisp, cold, biting morning Margaret put

on her heavy coat, fur-lined boots, warm mittens, and hat. Tying a woolen scarf around her head, she started for the pump. Now, why Jim was there this morning Margaret never could afterward remember. But there he was, and when he saw her go to the pump he went along.

In one hand Margaret carried a steaming kettle of hot water to pour down the throat of the pump to thaw it out. She poured the water in and pumped vigorously. Slowly but surely the water began to come up, and Margaret pumped harder than ever on the old iron pump handle.

About this time Margaret's little sister, Marie, came out. She was bundled up so that she could hardly walk, and she came straight to the pump where Margaret was pumping and Jim was watching. Suddenly out of the clear blue sky Jim blurted, "I dare you to put your tongue on that pump handle."

No, Margaret had long since given up accepting Jim's dares, and it took her by surprise for a moment. Then she slowly shook her head. She really didn't see anything special in putting her tongue on that pump handle, but because she was wary of Jim she declined. But Marie stepped up and said, "What's so funny about that?" and before Margaret or anyone else knew what was happening, Marie stuck out her tongue and laid it on the frosty pump handle. Immediately she jerked it off, and with the jerk came the skin off Marie's tongue. She stood there with blood dripping from her mouth, screaming.

Margaret was horrified. Jim ran home as fast as he could, and father came running to see what had happened.

Upon hearing the story, father took Marie gently into the house and doctored her poor, bleeding tongue.

After father wiped the blood off Marie's coat, Margaret confided, "That settles it! Nobody's going to talk me into taking a dare foolishly. Especially Jim."

A REVELATION

Before my eyes! Before my eyes!
The event foretold, by the prophets of old
Has come to life! Before my eyes!
The Coming is nigh! The ending of time!
 No time! No time!
 No time to sleep! No time to sigh!
 No time to strive! No where to hide!
 It's time! It's time!
To sound the Loud Cry! To trim our lamps!
To come together! To prepare to fight!
 Wrestling through the night!
 Trusting in His might!
 Looking for the Way
 The Truth
 And the Life!
 Descending from on high!
 Holy angels along the side!
 Shining exceedingly bright!
 Your Excellency!
 The King!
 Lord Jesus the Christ!
 A-men! And A-men!
And from the glorious sight, the sinner will die
And woe unto those whose vessels have no Light
 Oh dear! Oh my! His mercies, despised
 But the faithful shall survive!
 "Changed..."
 In the twinkling of an eye!"
 Rising triumphantly to the sky!
 And jubilantly, receive their Prize!
 And inherit eternal life!
 A revelation divine!

By Chester Cosby

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS IN THE CANADIAN FIELD

FIELD COMMITTEE

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Canadian Field Conference, Toronto

