



The Reformation **Messenger**

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 9, SEPTEMBER 2011



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

**“And the LORD
shall be seen
over them, and
His arrow shall
go forth as the
lightning.”**

Zechariah 6:14

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

ABOUT THE COVER

Front Cover Photo: Finland,
Helen Marttinen

Back Cover Photo: Canada
Helen Marttinen

Inside Cover:
Costa Rica,
Wendy Eaton

Volume 18, Number 9, September 2011

- 3 As Sharp Arrows**
- 4 Living By Faith**
- 7 Winners and Losers**
- 9 Asleep in Jesus: Cecylia Chernuska**
- 10 Sit, Walk, Stand**
- 13 Memories**
- 14 Canadian Field Conference**
- 18 Confronting Difficulties**
- 22 Something That Must be Avoided**
- 26 Children's Corner: John 3:16**
- 27 Youth Project of the German Youth...**

The Reformation
Messenger 

**Official Publication of the International
Missionary Society of the Seventh Day
Adventist Church Reform Movement,
Canadian Field.**

- **Tel: 905-876-2518**
- **Email: ismessenger@yahoo.com**
- **Web: www.ismessenger.org**

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REFORMATION MESSENGER

Order by Mail: Please Fill In

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

No. Of Annual Subscriptions:

_____ Black & White x \$22.00 each per year

_____ Colour x \$28.00 each per year

(Price includes 12 issues. One per month including shipping & handling)

_____ **Purchase all 17 years of the Messenger for \$200.00**

(Price includes over 190 issues, including shipping and handling)

_____ Catalogue for articles for all 17 years

Amount of cheque: \$ _____ Payable to IMS Publishing

Or order online: www.ismessenger.org

IMS
PUBLISHING

RR # 3
7899 15 Sideroad
Milton, ON
L9T 2X7
Canada



As Sharp Arrows

“And the LORD shall be seen over them, and His arrow shall go forth as the lightning.” Zechariah 9:14

“The **words of Christ were as sharp arrows**, which went to the mark and wounded the hearts of His hearers. Every time He addressed the people, whether His audience was large or small, His words took saving effect upon the soul of some one. No message that fell from His lips was lost. Every word He spoke placed a new responsibility upon those who heard. And today the ministers who in sincerity are giving the last message of mercy to the world, relying on God for strength, need not fear that their efforts will be in vain. Although no human eye can see the path of **the arrow of truth**, who can say that the arrow has not sped to the mark, and pierced the souls of those who listened? Although no human ear has heard the cry of the wounded soul, yet the truth has silently cut its way to the heart. God has spoken to the soul; and in the day of final account, His faithful ministers will stand with the trophies of redeeming grace, to give honor to Christ.” —*Gospel Workers*, pp. 150–151 (emphasis added).

“Men who assume the responsibility of giving to the people the word from the mouth of God, make themselves accountable for the influence they exert on their hearers. If they are true men of God, they will know that the object of preaching is not to entertain. It is not merely to convey information, nor to convince the intellect.

“The preaching of the word should appeal to the intellect and should impart knowledge, but it should do more than this. The minister's utterances, to be effectual, must reach the hearts of his hearers. He should not bring amusing stories into his preaching. He must strive to understand the soul's great need and longing. As he stands before his congregation, let him remember that there are among his hearers those who are wrestling with doubt, almost in despair, well-nigh hopeless; those who, constantly harassed by temptation, are fighting a hard battle with the adversary of souls. Let him ask the Saviour to give him words to speak that will strengthen these souls for the conflict with evil.” —

Gospel Workers, p. 152

“There is need of men of faith, who will not only preach, but will minister to the people. Men are needed who walk daily with God, who have a living connection with heaven, whose words have power to bring conviction to hearts. Not that they may make a display of their talents and intelligence, are ministers to labor, but **that the truth may cut its way to the soul as an arrow from the Almighty.**” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 33 (emphasis added). “For the arrows of the Almighty are within me.” Job 6:4.

“How often this result has been seen in the history of God's messengers! When the noble and eloquent Stephen was stoned to death at the instigation of the Sanhedrin council, there was no loss to the cause of the gospel. **The light of heaven that glorified his face, the divine compassion breathed in his dying prayer, were as a sharp arrow of conviction to the bigoted Sanhedrist who stood by**, and Saul, the persecuting Pharisee, became a chosen vessel to bear the name of Christ before Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 32–34 (emphasis added). “Yea, He sent out His arrows, and scattered them.” Psalm 18:14

“The Captain of our salvation strengthens His followers, not with scientific falsehoods, but with genuine faith in the word of a personal God. This word is repeated over and over and over again with deeper affirmative power. Satan brings all his powers to the assault in the last close conflict, and the endurance of the follower of Christ is taxed to the utmost. At times it seems that he must yield. **But a word of prayer to the Lord Jesus goes like an arrow to the throne of God, and angels of God are sent to the field of battle.** The tide is turned. The wondrous light that shines in the face of Jesus Christ has stopped the mouth of the caviling opponents. Under the power of the spell that is upon them their lips are closed, and the oppressed are delivered. The believing, harassed souls are borne up as on eagles' wings, and the victory is gained.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 297 (emphasis added).



Living by Faith

From the compilation, "Lessons On Faith" Chapter 1

"The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17

This statement is the summing up of what the apostle has to say about the gospel. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, but only "to every one that believeth." In it the righteousness of God is revealed. The righteousness of God is the perfect law of God, which is but the transcript of His own righteous will. All unrighteousness is sin or the transgression of the law. The gospel is God's remedy for sin; its work, therefore, must be to bring men into harmony with the law – to cause the workings of the righteous law to be manifested in their lives. But this is wholly a work of faith – the righteousness of God is revealed from "faith to faith" – faith in the beginning and faith to the end – as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

This is true in all ages since the fall of man and will be true until the saints of God have His name in their foreheads and see Him as He is. It was from the prophet Habakkuk (2:4) that the apostle quoted the statement. If the prophets had not revealed it, the first Christians could not have known of it, for they had only the Old Testament. To say that in the most ancient times men had but an imperfect idea of faith in Christ is to say that there were no just men in those times. But Paul goes right back to the very beginning and cites an instance of saving faith. He says, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous." Hebrews 11:4. He says of Noah also that it was by faith that he built the ark to the saving of his house, "by the which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Hebrews 11:7. We say that their faith was in Christ, because it was faith unto salvation and besides the name of Jesus "there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

There are too many who try to live the Christian life on the strength of the faith which they exercised when they realized their need of pardon for sins of their past life. They know that God alone can pardon sins and that He does this through Christ, but they imagine that having once been started they must run the race in their own strength. We know that many have this idea, first, because we have heard some say so, and second, because there are such multitudes of professed Christians who show the working of no greater power than their own. If they ever have anything to say in social meeting, besides the ever-recurring formula, "I want to be a Christian, so that I may be saved," they tell only of a past experience, the joy they had when they first believed. Of the joy of living for God and of walking with Him by faith, they know nothing, and he who tells of it speaks of a strange language to them. But the apostle carries this matter of faith clear through to the glorious kingdom in the following most forcible illustration:

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:5-6

Note the argument to prove that Enoch was translated by faith: Enoch was translated because he walked with God, and had the testimony that he pleased God; but without faith it is impossible to please God. That is enough to prove the point. Without faith not an act can be performed that will meet the approval of God. Without faith the best deeds that a man can do will come infinitely short of the perfect righteousness of

God, which is the only standard. Wherever real faith is found it is a good thing, but the best of faith in God to take away the load of the sins of the past will profit a person nothing unless it is carried right through in ever-increasing measure until the close of his probation.

We have heard many people tell how hard they found it to do right. Their Christian life was most unsatisfactory to them, being marked only by failure, and they were tempted to give up in discouragement. No wonder they get discouraged. Continual failure is enough to discourage anybody. The bravest soldier in the world would become faint-hearted if he had been defeated in every battle. Sometimes these persons will mournfully tell that they have about lost confidence in themselves. Poor souls. If they would only lose confidence in themselves entirely and would put their whole trust in the One who is mighty to save, they would have a different story to tell. They would then "joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Says the apostle, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4. The man who doesn't rejoice in God, even though tempted and afflicted, is not fighting the good fight of faith. He is fighting the poor fight of self-confidence and defeat.

All the promises of final happiness are to the overcomer. "To him that overcometh," says Jesus, "will I give to sit with Me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with My Father in His throne." Revelation 3:21. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things," says the Lord (Revelation 21:7). An overcomer is one who gains victories. The inheriting is not the overcoming; that is only the reward for overcoming. The overcoming is now. The victories to be gained are victories over the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life, victories over self and selfish indulgences. The man who fights and sees the foe give way may rejoice; nobody can keep him from rejoicing, for joy comes spontaneously as the result of seeing the enemy give way. Some folks look with dread upon the thought of having to wage a continual warfare with self and worldly lusts. That is because they do not as yet know anything about the joy of victory. They have experienced only defeat. But it isn't so doleful a thing to battle constantly, when there is continual victory. The old veteran of a hundred battles, who has been victorious in every fight longs to be at the scene of conflict. Alexander's soldiers, who under his command never knew defeat, were always impatient to be led into the fray. Each victory increased their strength, which was

born only of courage, and correspondingly diminished that of the vanquished foe. Now how may we gain continual victories in our spiritual warfare?

Listen to the beloved disciple: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:10

Here is the secret of strength. It is Christ, the Son of God, the One to whom all power in heaven and earth is given, Who does the work. If He lives in the heart to do the work, is it boasting to say that continual victories may be gained? Yes, it is boast; but it is boasting in the Lord, and that is allowable. Says the psalmist, "My soul shall make her boast in the Lord" and Paul says, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world." Galatians 6:14

The soldiers of Alexander were reckoned invincible. Why? Was it because they were naturally stronger and more courageous than all their enemies? No, but because they were led by Alexander. Their strength was in his leadership. Under another leader they would often have been defeated. When the Union army was fleeing panic-stricken before the enemy at Winchester, the presence of Sheridan turned their defeat into victory. Without him the men were a quaking mob. With him at their head they were an invincible army. If you had listened to the remarks after the battle of the soldiers who served under those and similar leaders, you would have heard the praises of their general mingled with all their rejoicing. They were strong because he was; they were inspired by the same spirit that he had.

Well, our Captain is the Lord of hosts. He has met the chiefest foe of all and has vanquished him single-handed. Those who follow Him invariably go forth conquering and to conquer. Oh, that those who profess to be His followers would put their trust in Him and then, by the repeated victories that they would gain, they would show forth the praises of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light.

John says that he that is born of God overcomes the world, through faith. Faith lays hold of the arm of God and His mighty power does the work. How the power of God can work in a man, accomplishing that which he could not possibly do for himself, no one can tell. It

would be as easy to tell how God can give life to the dead. Says Jesus, "The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound thereof but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit." John 3:8. How the Spirit works in a man to subdue his passions and to make him victorious over pride, envy, and selfishness is known only to the Spirit. It is sufficient for us to know that it is done and will be done in everyone who wants that work wrought in him, above all things else, and who trusts God for the performance of it.

We cannot tell how Peter was enabled to walk on the water when the waves were rolling about him, but we know that at the command of the Lord he did it. So long as he kept his eye fixed on the Master, divine power enabled him to walk as easily as though it were solid rock underneath, but when he looked at the waves,



possibly with a feeling of pride in what he was doing, as though he himself was doing it, fear very naturally took possession of him, and he began to sink. Faith enabled him to walk on the waves; fear made him sink be-

neath them.

Says the apostle, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were compassed about seven days." Hebrews 11:30. Why was that written? For our learning, "that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4. Why, is there any prospect that we shall ever be called upon to fight armed hosts and to take fortified cities? No, "for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12. But the victories which have been gained by faith in God over visible foes in the flesh are placed on record to show us what faith will accomplish in our conflict with the rulers of the darkness of this world. The grace of God, in answer to faith, is as powerful in these battles as in those, for says the apostle:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

It was not physical foes alone that faith enabled the ancient worthies to conquer. We read of them that they not only "subdued kingdoms," but "wrought righteousness, obtained promises," and, most wonderful and most encouraging of all, "out of weakness were made strong." Hebrews 11:33-34. Their very weakness became strength to them through faith, because the strength of Christ is made perfect in weakness. Who, then, shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? since it is God that justifieth, and we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Romans 8:35, 37

E. J. Waggoner

Originally Published in *The Signs of the Times*, March 25, 1889

LOOKING FOR YOU...

If you are interested in submitting an item for publication in the Reformation Messenger, please submit to:

By E-mail to:
 imsmessenger@yahoo.com

Submit:
 ARTICLES
 POEMS
 PHOTOS
 DRAWINGS
 ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Mail to:
 IMS Publishing
 RR#3, 7899 15 Sideroad
 Milton, ON L9T 2X7
 Canada



WINNERS AND LOSERS

This world has two kinds of people – winners and losers. Everybody tries to win in this game of life, but most people end up losers. There is a saying: “When the end is good, all is good.” What good is the gain in the beginning if we lose in the end?

Often we hear stories of people who suddenly lost all their life savings. For years they had worked hard to build up their fortunes and suddenly it is gone. In the world people say that the greatest loss to any person is death, but we believe differently – the greatest loss is to lose eternal life.

Jesus spoke a parable of a man whose field produced a great harvest and the man said, “I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” Luke 12:19–20

By worldly standards he was lucky, very fortunate. He may have been thinking that God had blessed him by giving him so much for his retirement. But one thing he forgot that made him a fool – he was not rich towards God. Therefore, in the end he was a loser, and the world is full of this type of loser.

Balaam thought that he gained, but in a few days he lost his life. Judas thought that he was a winner, but was he? In the same night he lost his life.

Some enjoy their riches and luxuries for a while, like in the parable of Jesus of the rich man and the poor man, Lazarus, who was full of sores. “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried into Abraham’s

bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried.” Luke 16:22

Which one of these two was a winner, and which one was a loser?

This life is like a shadow, existing today and maybe gone tomorrow. Or like grass which grows, and soon withers away.

Every day we are winning or losing in this game of life. Yet no one needs to be a loser; we all can be winners.

All the winners will receive heaven and eternal life and the losers will die an eternal death.

The two brothers, Esau and Jacob, were both ambitious. They wanted something for themselves. Jacob wanted the firstborn blessing, to be the priest in the family, and Esau wanted the goods and property which came to the firstborn. In the end they both received what they wanted, yet one of them was a winner and the other one was a loser.

“Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the Lord bringeth back the captivity of His people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.” Psalm 14:7

“Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.” Hebrews 12:16–17. The winner was rejoicing while the loser was in tears.

We find many similar experiences, like Cain and Abel. One of them died young, yet he was the winner. Judas seemed to be a winner with 30 pieces of silver in his pocket, yet he was a terrible loser.

Jesus Christ was dying on the cross and Satan was rejoicing. "He suffered all that it is possible for human flesh to suffer and endure, that we might pass triumphantly through all the temptations Satan may invent to destroy our faith." —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 294

How often the winner seems like a loser, yet in the end the opposite is true. Millions of martyrs suffered much pain and lost their lives, yet they were winners and their persecutors were losers.

"Of all the gifts that heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honour." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 478

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Philippians 1:29

These sufferings in this life are given to us as a gift or an honour, therefore we must not complain about them, but accept them as part of the cross that all the followers of Christ need to carry.

"Many who profess to be Christians provide abundantly for themselves, supplying all their imaginary wants, while they give no heed to the servants of the Lord's cause. They have thought it gain to rob God by retaining all, or a selfish proportion, of His gifts as their own. But they meet with loss instead of gain. Their course results in the withdrawal of mercies and blessings. By their selfish, avaricious spirit, men have lost much." —*The Review and Herald*, December 8, 1896

What seemed as a gain became a loss to them in reality.

To obey God is always a gain to us:
We gain by doing missionary work.
We gain by being humble.
We gain by being a peacemaker.

It is a gain to sacrifice for others.

To do all this makes us winners. Then again, every sin is a loss. Every neglected duty is a loss, unused opportunities are losses.

Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40

We fight a war against our enemies, and the only weapon we are allowed to use is love. We win by love and courtesy.

If someone hits us with a weapon, by words, by backbiting, by ignoring us, we need to turn the other cheek — this way we will be winners.

Jesus has given us an example of suffering silently. As a lamb, He was brought to the slaughter, yet He did not open His mouth. We as God's people have no rights. We can be put in prison, even to death, yet we are not to complain.

We may think that we have done nothing wrong, but if someone else thinks that we are guilty of wrongdoing, then we should ask for forgiveness; it costs very little, only our pride.

Every day we are losing or winning. We are not speaking of temporary gain, but eternal riches. By winning we gain peace, joy, and happiness for now and for eternity.

By reading the Bible, you are winning; by attending church you are winning. By these you are developing your characters, and a Christlike character is a victory to be gained by any means, while selfish, proud characters make us unhappy and miserable and we lose eternal life.

In our world the losers often despise the winners. Judas despised Jesus when He was washing the dusty feet of His disciples. The losers see no wisdom in giving, sacrificing, or in self-denial.

Worldly wisdom looks upon religion as foolishness, while to others it is the power of God, the treasure of heaven, for which they are willing to sacrifice even their own lives.

It is our personal choice to be winners or losers. In the time of Noah there were eight winners and an estimat-

ed 100 million losers. From the 600,000 adult men who left Egypt to travel to the land of Canaan, two made it – they were the winners.

We only have two choices: to follow the way of God, which means to obey Him and to shun the world, which will change us to Christ-likeness which is to be perfect in character, or the other way which is our own way which may seem right to us, but in the end brings us to eternal death.

Soon our time will be over, when salvation is not poss-

ible anymore. Then the people who are lost will accuse one another, saying, “You made me lose eternal life, you kept me from faithfulness to God, you promised to care for and love me, but you took my salvation away.” In reality, no one can take your salvation away; you yourself must decide to give it up. Nobody can make you a loser; it is everyone’s personal decision.

We all can be winners if it is our desire and if we are willing to put in an effort to be winners. AMEN.

Timo Martin

Asleep in Jesus Cecylia Chernuska

Our dear Sister Cecylia Chernuska, was born on April 22, 1922 in Dembowska, Poland and was laid to rest on July 17, 2011, in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada. She survived her husband by four months.

Cecylia and her husband, Karl, were faithful members of God’s church and they both passed away with a heavenly hope. Karl and Cecylia were ever present at the church services almost to the end of their lives until circumstances prevented their attendance. Yet they did not lose hope. If Karl did not drive, they took public transit in order to attend church well into their 80’s. Their faithfulness is an inspiration to the younger generation. They lived at home until Karl passed away, after which Cecylia spent the final four months of her life in a



nursing home as she was too frail to live on her own.

Towards the end of her life, Cecylia suffered much pain. When asked how she was feeling, she often responded with the fact that she was in much pain, but she had a smile on her face and thanked God that she was still alive. She counted her blessings and looked on the positive side of life. Cecylia was laid to rest beside her dear husband and both are now asleep in Jesus and await the resurrection morning when they will be reunited once more – never more to part. Karl and Cecylia are dearly missed by their church family, and we pray that we can meet them once more when our Lord returns for His own.

Sit, Walk, Stand

Isaiah 17:13 reads: “The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.” Here the nations are said to be making the noise of the sea, but God will rebuke them. We might ask ourselves some questions: what does it sound like in my church? Do we need more reverence, more quiet? Do we come here to hear the sound of our own voice or to hear God’s voice?

When God was about to speak the Ten Commandments, the people were instructed to prepare themselves to listen to His voice. When we pray, we really can’t tell Him anything. He knows all about us, even our thoughts. We can’t tell God anything He doesn’t already know, but He does want to hear us. He wants us to speak to Him, and He desires to hear us truly confess our sins. He wants us to pray for our leaders; He wants us to ask for angels to protect our children; and Jesus said specifically that we are to ask for the Holy Spirit. So, God does want to hear us; He says, “Call upon Me.” Yet there is a time to be quiet, to be still, to listen to His voice.

Today He speaks through men, and He would speak through them more if congregations would pray more for those who are speaking to them, instead of talking to their neighbour about whatever – or being distracted by others, or even by one’s own thoughts.

When Jesus was here, He was the living Word walking among men. And He wants to walk again in this world in us – in you and me. But before He walks in us, we need to come to quiet and rest in our souls so that we can listen to His quietest whispers. We won’t be able to hear Him if we are living in the citadel of self. Like Mary, we need to sit at the feet of Jesus and first learn from Him. We are told to “study to be quiet.” It isn’t

natural for us, but it is possible to learn.

The book of Ephesians contains a very interesting pattern, or progression, which is seen in the Christian’s life: sit, walk, stand. Ephesians 1:20 says Christ is sitting at the right hand of God in heavenly places; and chapter 2:5 and 6 say we who were dead in sins God has raised up and made “to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” We are “in the Beloved” by God’s act, and we need to recognize that, because what we are talking about here is what God has done for us! He has put us in Jesus Christ, and the next thing He wants to do is put Jesus Christ in us. If we are going to walk the walk with Christ in us, we first need to sit with or IN Him.



The second concept in the book of Ephesians is that we are to walk in Him. Or better said, our walk is to have Him in us. Ephesians 5:2 tells us this will make us a sweet-smelling savor, because we are to walk in love. But what is love? It is the character of

God, and His law is the transcript of His love.

When you look at the Ten Commandments from the very beginning – and that is verse two of Exodus 20, not verse three where people usually start – you will notice an interesting thought: “I am the Lord thy God which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” The first thing God said on Mount Sinai was: “I am your Saviour, I am your Redeemer,” there-

fore you shall have no other gods before Me! And God is love. This love is not what the world calls love. We are talking about a principle here. Love always tries to benefit the one whom it loves. No matter what the person does, we still want the best for him or her. Regardless of the other person's dark deeds, fits, and foibles, true love will always seek to bless. But to do that we have to go on a walk. We need to walk out of the shadows of the valley of self and climb Mount Benevolence and stand in the full light of the Sun of Righteousness. There, like Peter, James, and John, we will see Jesus transfigured before us. We need to rise above our selfish, self-interested, self-centered lives and stand on the mountain with Jesus – above all that is below, all that is earthly.



On the top of that mountain, you cannot go any further unless you go down. And that is why the apostle Paul says that there we are to stand! God has called us and placed us in Jesus Christ. If we accept that act, He has something for us to do; but it is not for us, IN OURSELVES, to walk

but to allow Him to walk in us. As we are in Christ in heavenly places, He must be in us here on earth. What is needed is not to will to serve God but to yield our will to His will in willing service, all the way to the top. And when we get to the top, the apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:13–14 that we are to put on the whole armor of God and then to stand – stand!

Why are we to allow Jesus to walk in us? Because the day of test is coming very soon, and in that day we want to be able to stand. But to stand then we must walk NOW – up the mountain – and stand with Jesus on the top and rise above earthly things. We can only do that if we have first found true peace in our souls by sitting at the feet of Jesus.

That is the story of Mary. When we come to church, we are not to come to talk or even whisper to each other; we come prepared to listen to God speak. When we are tuned to hear Him, He will speak, and our souls will rejoice.

In Luke 10:38–39 we see Jesus in His favorite place in Bethany. There is something special about Lazarus' two sisters. Martha was concerned about herself: "Lord, don't You see that Mary is leaving all this entertaining to me, and it's because of You that we are having to do all



this." So, what is it with Martha? She was doing it herself! "Lord, don't you see what I'm doing?" She had not sat down at the feet of Jesus. She went on the walk that she thought God wanted her to go on, but she hadn't yet sat at Jesus' feet. It was she who was doing everything, NOT Christ in her doing it. "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41–42

If you go to a Bible dictionary or concordance and look for the word "problem," you won't find it. And if you take a computer and search all the definitions of all the words in the Bible, you will not find the word "problem." It's not there, because God has no problems. He has only solutions. And He wants each of us to be one of His solutions. How does He do that? By writing His law in our hearts – as we take that walk to the top of the mountain.

There is a Chinese proverb that says, "The man who comes home from a journey is not the same as the one who left on the journey." So, God wanting to take you on a journey will enable you to stand on the top of the mountain in the full light of the sun – where there are no shadows.

When God first made the tablets of the Ten Commandments, He Himself provided the stones and did the writing. When Moses came down from the mountain and saw all the people making all kinds of noise, he threw down those first tablets and destroyed them. A little later, God instructed Moses to make a second set of tablets and bring them up to the mountain so God

could write His law again, but this time on tablets that were provided by Moses.

We could say that the first tablets are a symbol of Adam. God made him perfect and wrote the law in his heart. But when man sinned, he became selfish. Now God needs to write His law again into the hearts of children born in the likeness of sinful Adam. He wants to write it in your heart; but He can do that only if you give Him your heart, your desires. Will you say, "Yes!" to God? Will you listen to Him? Will you come into His presence to hear His voice? This is not your voice, nor your neighbour's, but His voice alone that we hear, so when we go out of the church, we will know what to say for Him. We will know how to walk the talk.

So what must we do? We must be like Mary. We need first to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him carefully and quietly so we will be able to follow His instructions and He can walk in us.

In John 12:32, He says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." We must lift up Jesus, not ourselves; we need to tell what He has done and what He is doing. His true followers will serve Him alone. In verse 26, He makes it clear that "if any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour."

It doesn't say, "Where I am, Jesus will be." It says that where He is, His servants will be. Are we His servants? What does a faithful servant do? He listens for and to the voice of his Master! The servant desires to please Him and do His will.

In the Bible there are sixty-six books. Six is the number of man. Furthermore, the name of the last book is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." Putting those two concepts together, the remnant people, the last people, will be a revelation of Jesus Christ. Is that your goal and desire? How are we to accomplish that? We must sit at His feet like Mary and listen to His instructions. Then we must get up by faith, follow those instructions, and live them out in our lives as we go to the top of the mountain.

When we become His servants, He will take us to the top of the mountain to stand for Him in the full light of the sun so that we may give Him all glory and honour and power and wisdom and praise. Then we will be the greatest blessing to our families, to our children, to our

unbelieving spouses, to our believing spouses, to our churches, to our communities, and to the world.

God only gives us one second at a time. The past is gone forever, and the future becomes the present. We can do nothing about the past except learn from it, and the future is not yet ours. So, it is now – in the present – that we are to listen to Him and glorify Him by following His instructions. Those who do that will be a revelation of Jesus Christ, their Redeemer, the One who brought them out, who delivered them, so He can live and walk in them and reveal Himself to the world. Will you let Him be in you and accomplish that through you? God bless you with that experience.

Larry Watts
USA

ASLEEP IN JESUS

HENRY HOLMSTROEM

Brother Henry Holmstroem has been a true soldier of the cross until his final days up on this earth. He has faced many battles, and the Lord has seen it in His plan to lay this tired soldier to rest at this time.

Brother Holmstroem lived through the atrocities of the Second World War and his faith in His Redeemer has always been strong. His wisdom, counsel and example of true Christian living will be remembered by all. He is missed dearly by his



biological and his spiritual family and we all look forward to the resurrection morning when we can unite once more in worship and praise to our Redeemer.

Our prayers are with his family.

Memories

I was on the train on my way to a youth weekend. My journey took me to Mosbach via Würzburg. The closer I got to this city the stronger my emotions became. I was looking out the window and my thoughts went back to the year 2001. Back then I had to undergo a risky surgery because of an extremely rare disease.

For a whole year I had suffered from strong pains in my neck, bad headaches and dizziness. Physicians couldn't help me or figure out the reason for my symptoms. I had not been able to work out anymore which was very hard for me since I like to do sports a lot. I had missed out on my school schedule and had a restricted everyday life. I was so desperate and devastated. Like David I cried: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" I couldn't understand why all this misery was happening to me!

Finally experts in neurosurgery at the university hospital of Würzburg found out that I had a malformation of the cerebellum (Latin for *little brain*), a region of the brain that plays an important role in motor control. They told us that this malformation sooner or later leads to paralysis and finally to death. However, they gave us hope and offered us the possibility of a risky surgery. I had to sign a paper in which it was stated that there was a 50 percent chance that all would go well and a 50 percent chance that I got out paralyzed. The name of the malformation is, Arnold Chiari Malformation.

In the paediatric clinic I got to know a lot of other chil-

dren and youths – serious cases from all over Germany. When experts are at a loss they send their young patients here. This university hospital is their last resort. I experienced many sleepless nights and shed a lot of tears. Here my life was hanging in the balance, but God helped me through this difficult situation. "Yea, though

I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

My family, relatives and friends were praying for me, and that gave me strength. God answered our prayers, and through skilful physicians I was given a second chance at life.

While sitting in the train, the words of Psalm 77:11, 12 came to my mind: "I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember Thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all Thy work, and talk of Thy doings."

In my opinion it is very important to review and to remember what God has done for us in our lives. He calls on us: "Ask now about the former days" (Deuteronomy 4:32). God simply wants to say: don't forget My benefits! We will realize that whatever we suffered He never let go of our hands.

This experience of the past is the reason for my gratitude in the present and my confidence for the future.

Manuela Di Franca



Canadian Field Conference, July 29—31, 2011

Friday, July 29, 2011

On a beautiful evening in Toronto, Canada, Brother Jerry Eaton welcomed everyone present to the Canadian Field conference. Brother Morris Lowe, the Canadian Field President, opened the conference by reading the conference theme verse, Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

When he wrote this David was going through the worst spiritual experience in his life. He was suffering the worst blunder of his life. David, prior to this, had enjoyed a deep fellowship with God. But things had now changed in his life, the result of one moment of lust. Why did David put his relationship with God in jeopardy? Even David's servants informed him that the woman was Uriah's wife but David did not listen. David tried different schemes to change this reality, until finally he became responsible for sending Uriah to his death so that he could fulfill his lustful desire. "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away." Proverbs 6:27-33

Even though God forgave David he carried the sin that he had committed to his grave and as a deep sorrow for the rest of his life. This is when he wrote Psalm 51:10. We also need to have a right spirit renewed in us because sin brings alienation from God. "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard." Proverbs 13:15. It is only through Jesus Christ, my friends, that we can experience this renewal. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom

the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." Psalm 32:1-2

Brother Nicholas Anca then opened the Sabbath by telling us that God is right there for us. He recounted the story of "blind Bartimaeus." (See Mark 10:46-52 for story)

In Jericho, we find Jesus and we also find a man who is blind. This is in the same place where, years ago, the blowing of the trumpets destroyed the walls of a then heathen city. Blind Bartimaeus sat by the side of the road begging. It is very important that we learn the lesson of petition, just like Bartimaeus was doing.

"They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out." John 9:34. At that time in Israel, people who were blind were discriminated against. The Jews saw Bartimaeus as a man with sin and that is the reason why he must be blind. Often people judge others like this as well, but Bartimaeus launched a petition at Jesus. We must petition Jesus like Bartimaeus, who realized he had nothing. He was begging and pleading with Jesus.

Do you remember when you first received Jesus as your personal Saviour?

When Bartimaeus heard that it was Jesus, the son of David, walking by he knew that here was a person who could heal him. He recognized Jesus as his personal Saviour. "I love the LORD, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because He hath inclined His ear unto me, therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live." Psalm 116:1-2

See how Jesus listens to our prayers? This is the same way He heard the cry of Bartimaeus that day.

Years ago when I accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour, I knelt down to pray but I did not know how. My

first prayer to the Lord was Psalm 51. That is where I opened the Bible to when I knelt and prayed for the first time and told the Lord that I did not know how to pray. We need to petition the Lord to “renew a right spirit” within each of us.

Sabbath, July 30, 2011

We gathered together on a beautiful Sabbath morning to once again fellowship with our God in heaven.

After a beautiful Sabbath School, which was attended by 106 souls, Brother Larry Watts brought to us the bread of life. “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10

I am thankful that we once again have an opportunity to reconnect with our God. Today is the day in which we need to consider our relationship with God.

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” James 4:17. Here we see God speaking about the sin of omission.

“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Romans 14:23. Here we see God speaking about the sin of doubt.

These two issues are very serious; sins of omission and sins of doubt. In order to eliminate these, we need to pray like David for God “To renew a right spirit within me.”

Ezekiel 36:26 is God’s response to David’s prayer in Psalm 51. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26

In Psalm 51, out of David's mouth came a cry for help and the first thought of his prayer was to revive. The Hebrew word for “renew” is chadash, which means “to be made new.” This word also means to rebuild. We are here this morning because we want to feel and see God working.

Renew the spirit of reconciliation, of rebuilding, of Jesus within us. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a

good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” Romans 5:6–10. When we were sinners, that’s when Christ died for us. That is Christ’s spirit. We have to ask ourselves: do we have this spirit? Are we rebuilders?

Christ lived a life of disinterested love, which means He loved without concern of the result or reaction. He loved because it is who He was and is. That is how we must be. We need to ask the question: are we ready to have Jesus dwell within us, our homes, our work and our churches?

After a wonderful lunch the congregation was treated to two children’s programs full of songs. The children recited their favourite Bible verses and shared with us the story of Jesus.

The Toronto and



Montreal youth presented their personal experiences, as well as some stories and poems, accompanied by a medley of songs. The program was then followed by a presentation from the Woodbridge church youth, which featured an expression of our message, and the time in which we live. Why has Jesus not come? It is because we are not ready. To be ready, we must know Jesus. Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the



truth shall make you free.” John 8:32. What is truth? “Jesus saith unto Him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14: 6. We can then read the verse in John 8:32 like this: And ye shall know “Jesus” and “Jesus” shall make you free.

After a wonderful dinner provided by the Sisters, Brother Jerry Eaton conducted the baptismal candidate review. Brother and Sister Lowe's son, Adrian, made his choice to make an open covenant in baptism. Brother Eaton reviewed with Adrian his decision and his understanding of the truth.

A testimony and praise meeting followed, where Brother Oscar Oviedo encouraged the congregation to bring spiritual gifts to God.

Sister Amalia Garcia praised the Lord for how He brought healing to her through natural means, through the encouragement of her daughter, Veronica. We have much to be thankful to God. In every time of sorrow and trial He has seen us through and, by faith, brought us victory.

Brother Elder Hernandez then led out in the Sabbath closing service. He gave an example of how we are like pens with different colours of ink (blue or black) in contrast to what Christ has (red). It is impossible for a blue or black pen to write in red unless the inner refill is physically removed and replaced with a new one with a different colour ink. We need to have our own refill removed first before we can be filled with the “ink” of Christ’s righteousness.

How is it that this change can be made? We all have good intentions to become better Christians, but good intentions are not enough. We often fall short and for

many the excuse is lack of time. We need to dedicate more time for prayer and Bible reading. Weekly church attendance is not enough if the prayer and Bible reading is neglected during the week. This is one sin of omission which some commit.

To have a changed heart, and be able to write in God’s colour of ink, we need to take time with God and He has promised to create in us a clean heart. Our old sins, will be blotted out like a thick cloud and we will be made whole.

After the meeting the congregation was informed that another soul had come forward with the wish to commit their soul to Jesus Christ through baptism. Sister Fanny Ramirez’s son, Danny, came forward and Brother Morris gave him an examination of his faith before the witnesses there present.

Sunday, July 31, 2011

We began the last day of the conference at the shore of Lake Ontario where, in the presence of members and visitors, two souls accompanied Brother Morris Lowe to their watery grave emerging to a new life in Christ.



At the church our new Brothers, Adrian Lowe and Danny Ramirez, were welcomed into our church family. It was a great occasion in which all heaven rejoiced.

In the afternoon, Brother Jerry Eaton conducted a health meeting in which he presented the correct and healthy way of dress reform. Dress reform was not given only for the pur-



pose of modesty. It was also given for our health. Many people have become ill due to lack of proper dress. Dressing appropriately will improve a person's circulation and overall health.

All too soon it was time for our final meeting. Brother Larry Watts conducted the farewell meeting. As Jesus instructed the demoniac after He healed him, we need to go and tell our family and friends about Jesus and the time in which we live. The time is short. Many events are happening in the world that show us for a surety that Jesus will soon return. It is time to have God renew a right spirit within each one of us.

Many thanks go to all those who participated in making this conference a success.

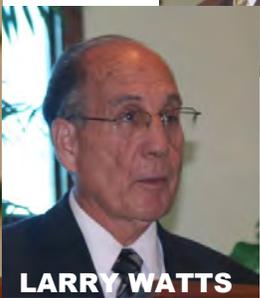
*God bless,
John Formosa,
Canadian Field
Secretary*



ELDER HERNANDEZ



MORRIS LOWE



LARRY WATTS

**THE
SPEAKERS**



**NICHOLAS AN-
CA**



OSCAR OVIEDO



JERRY EATON



**SPECIAL
MUSIC**

CONFRONTING



DIFFICULTIES!

“The disciple is not above his master, but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40

What Is It?

By definition difficulty has many veiled and elusive meanings. Yet, while to one it can mean something simply hard to understand or to solve, or not easy; but to another it can mean someone hard to please or satisfy or persuade – plain stubborn and mean! We can go on and on: uncompromising, hardship, a hindrance, obscurity, or perhaps for another an embarrassment, or dilemma.

You see, it can fit almost any circumstance that we are confronted with daily, as we are living today in such times – difficult times, hard times – economically struggling before many obstacles and afflictions that lie before us and will worsen as prophecy is fast fulfilling. The specter of a clash between the Kings of the East and the Kings of the West ominously looms before us. Doomsayers, geopolitically and ideologically, tell us of the dangers of nation challenging nation for power – hints of the Apocalypse, Armageddon – but without a Biblical foundation; in short – mayhem, and carnage! This trend is accelerating and is deepening waves of change sweeping through every element of our human lives. Yet all of this is happening when the plagues are about to fall on mankind. We are looking at a tumultuous year before us. We are, in fact, facing such difficul-

ties daily in our lives. The tsunami of change affects everyone, making for a turbulent environment of alarming difficulties.

We cannot avoid them, and I am not suggesting to avoid them. Your attempts may be in vain. Ah! But we don't have to make such “difficulties” part of our daily agendas! So, difficulties, therefore, are a “way of life.” And what a way of life! It will be the most dangerous ride the world has ever seen. Everybody will feel the stress!

But, for many these “difficulties” become insurmountable! Many succumb to them and never recover; and for them, the difficulties become elusive and vague – forever wrestling with its “meaning.” In fact almost impenetrable! Therefore, difficulty waits for us all along our journey to heaven. But, we will learn, herewith, how to Confront Difficulties, nevertheless, in our lives.

Extended Family

Understanding this theme requires some effort or skill to “confront” such life factors. It is not just another trendy theme; but one of a still deeper level. So let us, therefore, turn to the Word of God: Mark 3:21 says, “And when His friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on Him: for they said, He is beside Himself.” (emphasis mine) Great crowds continually gathered to hear and see Jesus; and His “friends” heard about it. Now, who are these “friends”, these friends

that were concerned about Jesus? Why, these friends were the most closely associated ones our Lord grew up with in His own historic life! They were actually members of Jesus' immediate family! (Greek, *hoi par'autou*).

But, someone out there might say, "Oh, but the Lord must have had a very sweet and delightful homelife!" Right? No! Wrong – wrong! In fact, He had an exceedingly difficult life. Jesus Christ's friends then were members in His own household, who did not believe in Him.

Friendly Concern

It seems word came to His mother and brothers in Nazareth concerning His ceaseless activity. What was their purpose? Well, to "lay hold" on Christ and to take Him with them because they felt that He was overwrought; fatigued, overworked, excited or nervous (Mark 3:21).

The disrespect which Christ's kindred, according to the flesh, showed to Him when He was preaching (and they knew very well that He was then in His element) – they stood without, and sent in a message to call Him out to them (Mark 3:31), as if He must leave His work, to hearken to their impertinences.

Stand Guard

Jesus, however, preferred the salvation of souls before His own life. When He addressed His mother as merely a woman it seemed purposely designed to obviate and prevent the extravagant respect which men in after-times would be apt to pay her. Our respect ought to be guided and governed by Christ's; now He looked upon those that were about Him, and pronounced those of them that not only heard, but did the will of God, to be to Him as His brother, and sister, and mother, as much esteemed, loved, and cared for, as His nearest relations (Mark 3:33–35).

This is a good reason why we should honour those that fear the Lord, and choose them for our people; why we should be not hearers of the word only, but doers of the word, that we may share with the saints in this honour. It is good to be akin to those who are thus allied to Christ, and to have fellowship with those that have fellowship with Christ, and woe to those that hate and persecute Christ's kindred, that are His bone and His flesh, every one resembling the children of a king (Judges 8:18–19); for He will jealously plead their

cause, and avenge their blood (Luke 17:1–3).

Frequently those who are nearest to the Biblical means of knowledge and God's grace are most negligent (Romans 10:2). Familiarity and easiness of access breeds some degree of contempt. They that go on with vigour and zeal in the work of God must expect to meet with hindrances both from the groundless disaffection of their enemies, and the mistaken affections of their friends, and relatives, and they have need to stand upon their guard against both.

Branch of Jesse

So you see, dear friends and brethren, the next time you feel inclined to complain or grumble over disagreeable, unsympathetic, uncongenial friends, companions, or relatives, remember that Jesus Christ had Judas in His company for three and one-half years!

What happens, therefore, to you when you complain, or grumble about a difficulty, or pour your difficulties into other people's minds (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 725)? Well, it reveals a sickly and enfeebled faith (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147). If you continue, it will make you weak (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 146). Think about this, as we also can misrepresent Christ (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147).

Our Lord's difficulties increased when He preached His first public sermon. Where, again, was that? It was in the place where He was intimately known as . . . merely the "carpenter's son." Jesus was the son of an honest tradesman. What harm is there in that? The "carpenter's son" was of the house of David (Luke 1:27). Also a son of David (Luke 1:20). So, Jesus was a carpenter's son but a person of honour!

There is a class of those who are always willing to pick quarrels, and they overlook what's worthy, but fasten on that which is mean and cruel; some bad spirits. Some maddened or bleeding souls, furthermore, regard in essence one's state as the "Branch of Jesse" – if not the top Branch, they conclude, one is unworthy (Isaiah 11:1).

In Us!

Well, His countrymen smashed up and utterly broke up His service and they even tried to kill Him! That's what His listeners and friends did! Oh, but we say, "I ex-

pected that when I accepted the Truth and was saved and sanctified, my father, mother, and brothers and sisters would be made righteous, but instead how often they seemed wrong and negative!”

Now, if the mother of our Lord, Mary, His own mother, misunderstood Him, and His brothers did not believe in Him, the same things will happen to His life . . . in us! Mary was not Queen Mary, or Lady Mary, or even mistress Mary, but a plain, simple, young girl, uncluttered with grandeur or prideful pursuits; but yet skeptical. Therefore, we must not think it strange or be surprised concerning the misunderstandings and murmurings of others (1 Peter 4:12).

The life of the Son of God. . . in us is brought into the same kind of circumstances that the historic life of Jesus Christ was brought into, and what was true of Him will be true also of His life . . . in us.

Ten Points about Confronting Difficulties

How do we, then, confront difficulties when we are utterly surrounded by them and they are a part of our life? Well, Nehemiah met difficulties and overcame them (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 635–645). Daniel learned to master difficulties (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1168). Zerubbabel, prince of Judah, met difficulties (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1169). Paul pressed forward in the face of difficulties (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 484).

1) Difficulties, however, are not easy to surmount. Small difficulties appear mountains high to dyspeptics (*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p.234). Difficulties are under Satan’s magnifying glass with his suggestions (*Selected Messages*, book 2, pp. 52–53). Moreover, Satan will multiply them (*Counsels on Health*, p. 547). No one is exempt from difficulties!

2) It’s not easy to say God is love, when everything that happens actually seems otherwise; giving a false impression, or appearing deceptive; one lie after another; just small misunderstandings; devious concepts and acts. We learn to cope.



3) Everyone’s soul represents a battlefield! The point, then, for each one of us is whether we will . . . hang in . . . endure; persevere as Job, who dealt with suffering, and say . . . stand fast! “Though things look black, I will trust in God.” Ah! It’s very easy to trust in God when there is no difficulty. But when there is sickness in the house, when there is trouble, when there is fear, when there is death, where is our trust in God?

4) God has to deal with us; to rebuke, reprimand, nudge us on the black side as well as on the white side of life. It’s all very well and nice to know in theory that there are things in this life we must shy away from and not trust in, but another thing to know it and confront it in fact . . . daily.

When God deals with us on the black side (dark side), He condemns, and forbids everything we should not trust in, and which would grieve Him, and, so, we have a miserable time until we learn never, never, anymore to trust in it, never, never anymore to look anywhere else than to Jesus. Isn’t it true that it sometimes happens that hardly a day passes by without Jesus saying, “Don’t trust there, that is black”? In life when things look black (dark), there are some who God trains by bringing to them disappointment and apparent failure. It is His purpose that they will learn to master difficulty. (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1160). God’s appointed conditions of success, furthermore, are difficulties! (*Evangelism*, p. 445)

5) Be calm and undisturbed in all difficulties; be patient and forbearing (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 130). He knows all our difficulties, yet it takes courage to overcome, so do not as God’s servant be easily discouraged, having always a firm purpose (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 434); and remembering always, not to let difficulties separate you from God.

In addition, if we are wounded and bruised, if we meet with difficulties that are hard to manage, let us remember how much Christ suffered for us (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1125). Moreover, bring Heaven’s blessings into our hearts (*The Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905).

6) Sit in Heavenly Places in Christ. (*The Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905). Actually suffering brings us into God’s audience chamber (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 172); and it is here that we can also bring our difficul-

ties to God (*Gospel Workers*, 1915 ed., p. 418). Where are the heavenly places? Whenever you open the Bible, give or attend a Bible Study class, visit the poor, needy, sick, widowed, and orphaned, are in communion (meditate-prayer) with God, hear the Word of God, attend a meeting or conference, distribute books or pamphlets, do gospel work, evangelizing in out-of-the-way places – in all one has the presence of Jesus! Remember, difficulties should make us feel the need of prayer and His presence.

7) God has means for removal of every difficulty (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 481), and has made provision for every difficulty (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 251). In our lives we have the privilege of prayer in times of difficulty (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 273). Believe this and let others know you believe this! God opens the way for God's people in such times (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 271). Such times as the present should make us feel the need of prayer. Tell God in private prayer your difficulties (*Testimony Treasures*, vol. 1, p. 274).

Stand in God's strength, and not your own; in fact and the working of His providence and hand, not your own. In fact, difficulties can be removed in five minutes if pride and selfishness were laid aside (*Early Writings*, p. 119). He has promised strength and courage for meeting every difficulty (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 147). It requires more than weaklings to press on through difficulties (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 497).

8) Let us not forget our faithful women! Women can, by their womanly tact and a wise use of their knowledge of the Bible, remove difficulties that men cannot (*Evangelism*, p. 491). They are in position, too, to teach children how to cope with difficulties.

9) Success comes as we continually struggle against difficulties; grapple with it, wrestle with it (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 361); it will also strengthen us in formation of correct characters (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 494). Do not give up because of difficulties, but try, and try again (*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 254). Winston Churchill, at the height of the WWII Nazi bombings of London addressed his people; "Never give up!"

10) Conquer difficulties, or they will conquer you (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 497). Go forward in the face of difficulties (*Evangelism*, p. 64). The great-

er the difficulties are, the greater the victory (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 307).



Mountains of difficulties will be removed in your life and cast into the deep blue sea when God's providence is working in you (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 223).

LOOK UP, NOT DOWNCAST, WHEN WE FACE OUR DIFFICULTIES! When we are crushed with difficulties we can find sweet comfort by simply resting in the Lord. He will sustain us in His great love and guide us to

the paths of peace.

BEIJING – STATE media reported a recent story from east China about a toddler in critical condition after surviving a 10-story fall by being caught in the arms of a passing woman. The two-year old girl, Niu Niu, was left unattended on Saturday in the family's 10th floor apartment outside Hangzhou city when her grandmother went to run an errand. Reports say a passerby, Ms. Wu Juping, saw the toddler hanging from the window and then ran over when she saw Niu Niu fall. Sunday's reports say 31-year old Ms. Wu broke her arm catching the child, who is hospitalized with internal bleeding and other injuries. –AP The Straits Times Asia July 3, 2011.

The woman caught the child in her arms as it plummeted down and both crashed to the pavement! The toddler survived! Unprecedented! Incredible! Miraculous!

What would you have done? Such an object traveling from such a height and speed is like a deadly missile! We are such objects – **deadly!** But Jesus is willing to catch us when we fall and cradle us in His arms . . . at any time . . . or speed!

When unforeseen difficulties seem insurmountable, fall into the arms of Jesus. He is waiting!

This is how to **CONFRONT DIFFICULTIES!**

A hearty Amen!

John Theodorou

USA

Something That Must be Avoided

Hebrews 10:23–25

While preaching in Romania 11 years ago, I was approached by a man who told me about his grandfather whose desire it had been to see Jesus return in his lifetime, but he had died and Jesus still had not returned. The man then told me about his father who had also wanted to see Jesus come, but he died. He also thought that he would live to see Jesus come but he was 70 years of age, and that was in 2001. It seems that Jesus never comes back to take us home to that beautiful place He has prepared for the faithful ones. Please read Revelation 21 thoroughly to see what a beautiful place Jesus is offering us and to see such a beautiful place we gain it only through the merits of the Lamb of God.

There have been millions of people who, expecting to see Jesus come during their lifetime, have prepared themselves to meet Him. They accepted the Three Angels' Messages, the truths concerning the hour of God's judgment, faithfully kept God's commandments and expected to be ready to see Jesus when He comes, but they have died. We are told that these faithful ones who accepted the truth of the Three Angels' Messages and have died before Jesus returns will see Him come. Before the general resurrection that happens when Jesus comes, there is to be a special resurrection for these people to see the final events and Jesus coming in the clouds. "All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 637

Sister White wrote in 1913 that if we had done our work, Christ could have already come. "Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to the earth in power and great glory." —*The Review and Herald*, November 13, 1913. Jesus wants more than anything else to come back to this world that has been so corrupted and save His people. He is waiting "till His



enemies be made His footstool." Hebrews 10:13

For Him to stop waiting, something needs to happen! "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I

remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." Hebrews 10:14–18

Once the new covenant has been received, sin is taken away, bringing an end to the plan of salvation. When Jesus comes to this world for the second time, He is going to announce that there is no more offering for sin. Those who retain sin at that time will be lost. Those who are saved will be without sin (Revelation 22:11–12). The plan of salvation is all over before Jesus returns the second time. We cannot look forward to that time with rejoicing unless the Holy Spirit is working in us a work of overcoming sin, because when Jesus leaves the Most Holy Place, there is no more forgiveness (Hebrews 9:28). Since this is the way it is going to be, Paul says that we need to hold fast our confession (Hebrews 10:23), and, to have "boldness to enter into the holiest." Hebrews 10:19

In the plan of salvation, as illustrated in the sanctuary, **there are three stages, and it is necessary to go through all three stages to be saved.** The first is to enter the courtyard where the sacrifice is offered. The courtyard of the heavenly sanctuary is this world. It was in this world where Jesus, represented by the lamb without blemish, offered His life on the cross to save man from sin. That sacrifice must be accepted by faith in order to receive the benefits that are provided. Paul explains in Hebrews 13 how by His blood we are sanctified, made holy, and therefore able to enter into the Holy Place. This is the first apartment of the sanctuary, which involves learning holy living. Before entering into

the Holy Place it is necessary to be washed clean. That cleansing, represented by the laver, is located just outside the entrance to the Holy Place. However, it is not enough to just reach there in order to be saved. Consider the following:

When playing the game of baseball, even if you have run to the third base, you are not really safe and can still be put out before you get home. There are many people who think that if you just get to the courtyard and accept the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, then that is all it takes to be saved. That is a deception, and it is just the first step in the Christian walk. In fact, Paul discusses that in detail in the book of Hebrews. He said that we need to not just lay down the foundation, but we need to go on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1), describing the experience of the Holy Place. The experience in the **courtyard** is the preparation to go into the **Holy Place**, and the experience in the Holy Place is preparation for entry into the **Most Holy Place**.

In the Israelite service under the Old Covenant, throughout the year the amount of sin that accumulated in the sanctuary increased in the Holy Place. When the people confessed their sins, though the real record is in the heavenly sanctuary, the earthly record, the blood of the offering, was in type taken into the Holy Place where it stayed until the Day of Atonement. On the Day of Atonement all the sins were removed in type from the sanctuary. That is what happens in reality in the heavenly sanctuary. When the sins are removed, the Lord will come.

There is coming a time, if you are a Christian, when there will be no more temptations. No more will you be tempted to be discouraged or to break God's law in any way. At present, the devil has access to God's people 24 hours a day every day of the week, so it is hard to even imagine not being tempted, but that time is coming. It is exciting to know that soon life will be experienced the way God intended.

Ellen White wrote, "He [God] created man for happiness." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 290. Today, that is not very obvious because of sin and all the trouble caused by the devil's temptations. David wrote, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psalm 16:11

Paul says we have this hope, so we are waiting for this

to happen. Jesus also is waiting for this to happen, so do not let loose, hold on, do not turn away, do not turn back and do not give up your faith. When a prophet or apostle, inspired by the Holy Spirit, gives us a warning, it is because there is danger looming. The danger is that by becoming impatient we will give up, as many others have given up waiting. Paul cautions and counsels and exhorts us not to give up. He says, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)." Hebrews 10:19–23. Paul is here writing about entering by faith into the Holy Places of the heavenly sanctuary, but in that same context, he says, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:24–25

When I was a student in the mission school I was in an institution that held regular religious services. There was prayer meeting, morning and evening worship, regular study during the day, canvassing work and so on. But sometimes I thought was is good for me to stay and study the Bible or a subject from the Spirit of Prophecy by myself and not participate in the classes. I was a bookish sort of person and thought that I did not need to go to all of those religious services or classes because I could read. I had a Bible and Spirit of Prophecy books, and I probably read more than any other student in the school at that time. I was content to just stay in my room and read on my own. I have met lots of other people like me.

At that same time, I became acquainted with an older sister who was at the institution. On one occasion, this sister approached me and said, "I want to talk to you. What were you doing last Friday night? You were in your room studying your Bible, were you not?" I was in my room reading. I knew she could not get me in trouble, because I was not doing anything wrong. But then she continued, "You know, it is good that you are studying your Bible, and it is good that you are praying, but God's will for His people is not only to study and pray,

but for them to assemble together to study and to worship Him." I thought about what she said. I actually checked things out in the Bible and found that the Bible supported what she had told me.

Br. Siegmund Gutknecht, a minister and Bible teacher, also taught us in his lectures about secret prayer and success in missionary work. He said, "I have always told ministerial students that if you do not pray at least 30 minutes a day, your ministry will not amount to much." We all need to have a prayer life. We all need to study. But he was talking to me: "Study is good, prayer is good but do not forget to assemble together with others to study and worship Him." Paul emphasizes this same thing.

There are many churches where someone is assigned to note who is present and who is not present so that those who are missing can be visited; there is nothing wrong with doing that. God also keeps a record of which people assemble to worship Him and which people are not there.

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name." Malachi 3:16. These were God's people, the ones who feared Him, those who assembled to speak to one another. God heard it, and He wrote a book of remembrance. "And they shall be Mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not." Malachi 3:17-18

The Lord looked down and saw the people who were assembled and talking about Him. The Lord said, "Get the book. Put it in the book." The Lord keeps a record.

Right after the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit had filled the church, "they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42. One of the things that made the early church so powerful was that the people had fellowship. They were just like a family. It is going to be that way again among His people just before Jesus comes. It is exciting to think that we could be part of that group. I did not understand the importance of

fellowship until after that sister talked to me. I could never develop a close relationship with the other members of the church if I stayed in my room and never talked to them.

I am still bookish, but I try to fellowship with God's people and not spend all my time just reading and praying on my own. Part of God's plan is for His people to worship and fellowship together. I meet people who have told me they believe the Three Angels' Messages, but for one reason or another, they cannot go to church. Some people have legitimate reasons, and others have all sorts of reasons for not going to church.

"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7. If we are really walking in the light, we are going to have fellowship with one another. As I travel about, I see too many people like me, staying in their rooms, studying and praying. They are often on their own with not much fellowship; everybody doing their own thing.

The Lord specifically said what His ancient people were to do on the Sabbath: "Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations." Leviticus 23:3-4. The Sabbath is a holy convocation, a place where people assemble to worship the Lord.

Paul said, "How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, everyone of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying." 1 Corinthians 14:26. The word edification means to build something up. Edification takes a lot longer than destruction. A house can be destroyed in one day.

Building something up takes time. Building a house can take months and lots of work. It is the same way in a church, in a marriage, in a family, in an institution; if you want to build something up, it takes time and much work. It takes time, often many months or even years to build relationships, and church is one of the places where God wants to build a fellowship, bringing many different people together to build a relationship among those who are getting ready to go to heaven. It takes work. Many people know that and use it as a reason and often an excuse for not going to church, because

they are too tired and they know that it takes work. It takes even more work if you are among the members of a small church rather than if you are in a large church. That is also one of the reasons why many people gravitate toward large churches where they can sit in the pew without any responsibilities.

There is a special group of people, however, who have a legitimate reason not to go to church.

Ellen White says, "There will always be duties which have to be performed on the Sabbath for the relief of suffering humanity. This is right, and in accordance with the law of Him who says, 'I will have mercy, and not sacrifice' [Matthew 12:7]. But there is danger of falling into carelessness on this point, and of doing that which it is not positively essential to do on the Sabbath." – *Medical Ministry*, p. 50

Much care is needed in these cases not to be doing things on the Sabbath that could be done at other times. She also says, "Often physicians are called upon on the Sabbath to minister to the sick, and it is impossible for them to take time for rest and devotion. The Saviour has shown us by His example that it is right to relieve suffering on this day; but physicians and nurses should do no unnecessary work. Ordinary treatment, and operations that can wait, should be deferred till the next day. Let the patients know that physicians must have one day for rest." – *Medical Ministry*, p. 214

"Your neglect to attend the public worship of God is a serious error. The privileges of divine service will be as beneficial to you as to others and are fully as essential. You may be unable to avail yourself of these privileges as often as do many others. You will frequently be called, upon the Sabbath, to visit the sick, and may be obliged to make it a day of exhausting labour. Such labour to relieve the suffering was pronounced by our Saviour a work of mercy and no violation of the Sabbath. But when you regularly devote your Sabbaths to writing or labour, making no special change, you harm your own soul, give to others an example that is not worthy of imitation, and do not honour God.

"You have failed to see the real importance, not only of attending religious meetings, but also of bearing testimony for Christ and the truth. If you do not obtain spiritual strength by the faithful performance of every Christian duty, thus coming into a closer and more sacred relation to your Redeemer, you will become weak

in moral power." – *Counsels on Health*, p. 368 (emphasis mine). This counsel was not just to attend meetings, but to take an active part in them.

I have friends who have not been to church for years and when we do not listen to Divine counsel, we become weak in moral power.

I know that temptation. Fortunately, God spoke to me through His servants who, without criticism or jumping on me with a tongue-lashing, simply explained to me the need of fellowship with like believers for the edification of the church.

The apostle Paul says we must exhort one another, "and so much the more as you see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25. "The Day," the day that Jesus will come again, that is fast approaching. Someday, if you are in prison for your faith, it will be impossible to attend church because you will be behind iron bars. So take advantage of the spiritual opportunities that God places within your reach while they are available.

Someone may say, "But you do not know how tired I am." Still, meet with God's people on Sabbath, or you will miss the special blessing that He has for His people on His holy day. You cannot afford to continually miss it without eventually becoming weak in moral power and running the risk of losing your soul.

How wonderful is the peace is that God gives us when we gather together in His place of appointment, the Church. We have the assurance of His presence, brothers and sisters, let us come closer to Jesus and His followers, our brethren.

"For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psalm 84:10

If we don't like to have fellowship with each other here on earth then how could we have fellowship in heaven? So, let us try to come to the appointment with Jesus and be glad for the privilege of worship.

May God bless every reader of this message and give him the joy of fellowship. This is my wish and prayer.

AMEN!

Nicholas Anca



A little boy was selling newspapers on the corner. The people were in and out of the cold. The little boy was so cold that he wasn't trying to sell many papers.

He walked up to a policeman and said, "Mister, you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight, would you? You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and down the alley and it's awful cold in there tonight. Sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay."

The policeman looked down at the little boy and said, "You go down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come out the door you just say, 'John 3:16,' and they will let you in."

So he did. He walked up the steps and knocked on the door, and the lady answered. He looked up and said, "John 3:16." The lady said, "Come on in, son."

She took him in and she sat him down in a split bottom rocker in front of the great big old fireplace, and she went off. The boy sat there for a while and thought to himself: "John 3:16 . . . I don't understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm."

Later she came back and asked him, "Are you hungry?" He said, "Well, just a little. I haven't eaten in a couple of days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food."

The lady took him into the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat anymore. Then he thought to himself: "John 3:16 . . . Boy, I sure don't understand it but it sure makes a hungry boy full."

She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water, and he sat there and soaked for a while. As he soaked, he thought to himself: "John 3:16 . . . I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean. You know, I've not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I ever had was when I stood in front of that big old fire hydrant as they flushed it out."

The lady came in and got him. She took him to a room, tucked him into a big old feather bed, pulled the covers up around his neck, kissed him goodnight and turned out the lights. As he lay in the darkness and looked out the window at the snow coming down on that cold night, he thought to himself: "John 3:16 . . . I don't understand it, but it sure makes a tired boy rested."

The next morning the lady came back up and took him down again to that same big table full of food. After he ate, she took him back to that same big old split bottom rocker in front of the fireplace and picked up a big old Bible. She sat down in front of him and looked into his young face, "Do you understand John 3:16?" she asked gently. He replied, "No Ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the policeman told me to use it." She opened the Bible to John 3:16 and began to explain to him about Jesus. Right there, in front of that big old fireplace, he gave his heart and life to Jesus. He sat there and thought, "John 3:16 . . . I don't understand it, but sure makes a lost boy feel safe."

You know, I have to confess I don't understand either, how God was willing to send His Son to die for me, and how Jesus would agree to do such a thing. I don't understand the agony of the Father and every angel in heaven as they watched Jesus suffer and die. I don't understand the intense love for ME that kept Jesus on the cross until the end. I don't understand it, but it sure makes life worth living.

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."



Youth Project of the German Youth in Uganda

(Photos by Reinald van der Giessen)

At the youth conference in Mosbach, Germany, in winter 2010/11, the youth project 2011 was launched. Young people from Germany and other countries started to donate money for the benefit of the Maranatha school in Uganda. The aim of this sustainable project is to plant a school garden there. The students will not only get the seeds, the tools and supplies, but also the knowledge for gardening and how to support them. Since the students don't have a balanced diet—most of the time they eat beans and corn—they should learn how to plant vegetables and consequently get better nutrition.

Brother and Sister Koebele are in charge of the charity work in Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. They travel to Africa every year, and according to their last report a piece of land was bought and they started digging a well in order to water the garden. In the last three months workers were fencing the lot in to protect it from animals and other intruders.

Part of this charity campaign is a flea market that is organized at youth conferences and other meetings. Attendants of these gatherings are asked to bring along toys, books, clothes, household articles and other things that they don't need anymore, but are still in good condition. People can then obtain these items by giving

a donation for the school garden project in return. We thank God that so far we have been able to raise about 700 dollars.

Manuela Di Franca





CHILDREN



YOUTH



CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE