



The Reformation
Messenger

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Living Water
Page 3

Helping the Lord
Page 4

Are You Still Strong?
Page 18

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.

In this Issue:

- 3 Water of Life**
- 4 Helping the Lord**
- 8 The Science of Prevailing Prayer, Part 2**
- 12 The Ways of Man**
- 15 God's Gift to Himself**
- 16 Faith**
- 18 Are You Still Strong?**
- 20 Conference in Finland**
- 22 Children's Corner: Jesus Heals Annie**
- 24 Medical Missionary Work in Senegal**

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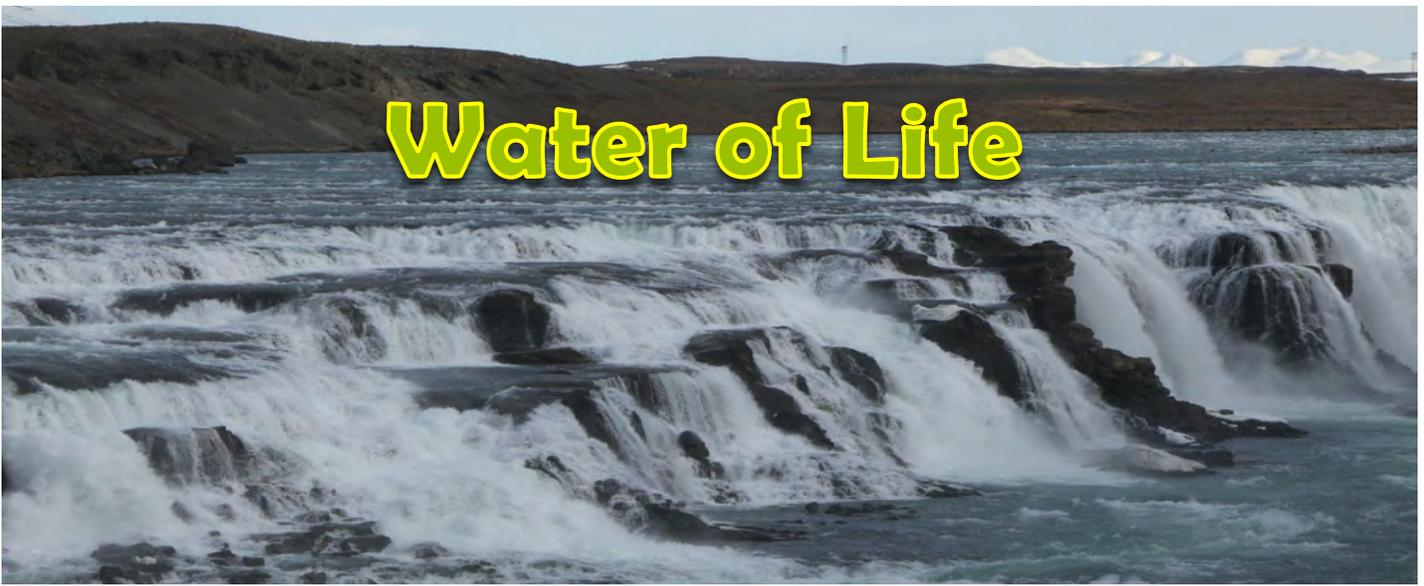
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Water of Life

“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:14

“He who seeks to quench his thirst at the fountains of this world will drink to thirst again. Everywhere men are unsatisfied. They long for something to supply the need of the soul. Only One can meet that want. The need of the world, ‘the Desire of all nations,’ is Christ. The divine grace which He alone can impart, is as living water, purifying, refreshing, and invigorating the soul.

“Jesus did not convey the idea that merely one draught of the water of life would suffice the receiver. He who tastes of the love of Christ will continually long for more; but he seeks for nothing else. The riches, honors, and pleasures of the world do not attract him. The constant cry of his heart is, More of Thee. And He who reveals to the soul its necessity is waiting to satisfy its hunger and thirst. Every human resource and dependence will fail. The cisterns will be emptied, the pools become dry; but our Redeemer is an inexhaustible fountain. We may drink, and drink again, and ever find a fresh supply. He in whom Christ dwells has within himself the fountain of blessing. . . . From this source he may draw strength and grace sufficient for all his needs.

“He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life.

“The water that Christ referred to was the revelation of His grace in His Word. . . . Christ's gracious presence in His Word is ever speaking to the soul, representing Him as the well of living water to refresh the thirsting. It is our privilege to have a living, abiding Saviour. He is the source of spiritual power implanted within us, and His influence will

flow forth in words and actions, refreshing all within the sphere of our influence, begetting in them desires and aspirations for strength and purity, for holiness and peace, and for that joy which brings with it no sorrow. This is the result of an indwelling Saviour.” —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 119

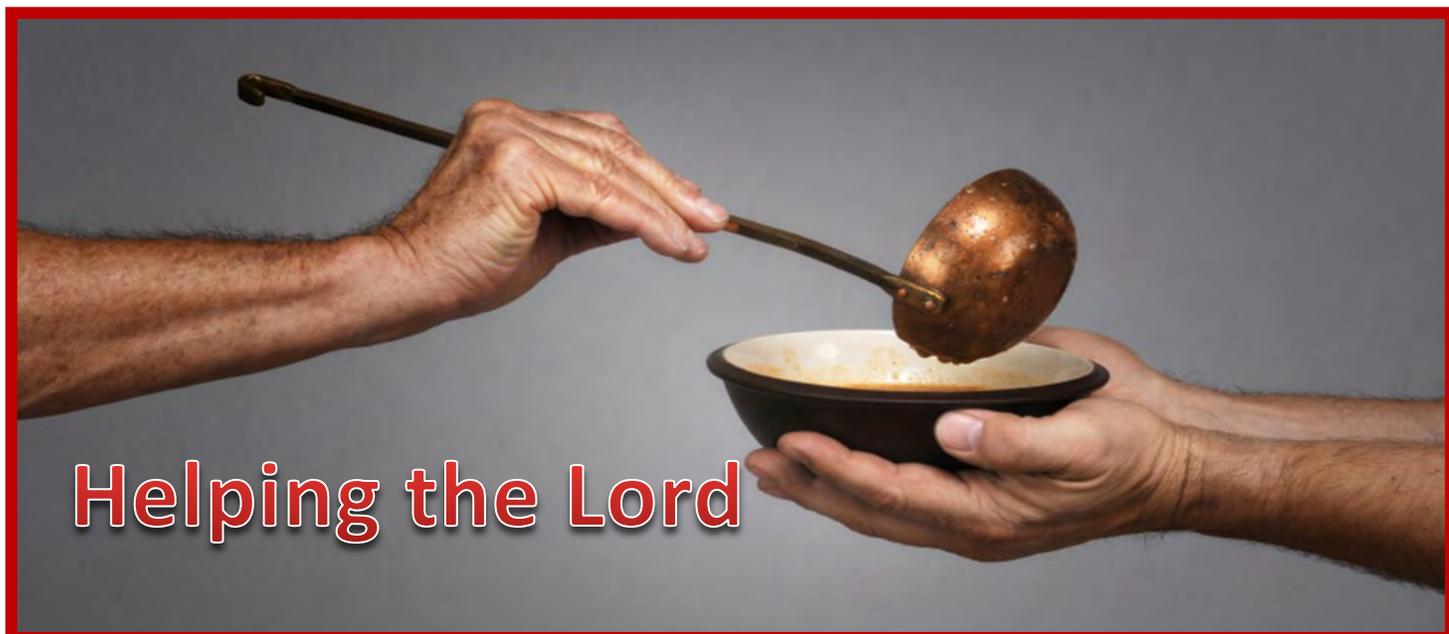
“When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden. Its holy influence will be felt by all with whom we come in contact. The spirit of Christ in the heart is like a spring in the desert, flowing to refresh all and making those who are ready to perish, eager to drink of the water of life.” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 77

“The water of life must be in us, and flowing out from us, springing up into everlasting life. We must work out what God works in. If the Christian would enjoy the light of life, he must increase his efforts to bring others to the knowledge of the truth. His life must be characterized by exertion and sacrifices to do others good; and then there will be no complaints of lack of enjoyment.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 381

“Drink deeply of the water of salvation, that it may be in your hearts as a living spring, flowing forth to refresh souls ready to perish. God will then give wisdom to enable you to impart aright. He will make you channels for communicating His blessings. He will help you to reveal His attributes by imparting to others the wisdom and understanding that He has imparted to you.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 320

“If our hearts were free from all selfishness, the water of life, flowing from Christ to the world,—the gift of righteousness and immortality, brought to light through the gospel,—would be imparted to those who are ready to perish. By our unselfish devotion, other souls would be won to Christ.” —*The Review and Herald*, November 24, 1896

Ellen G. White



Helping the Lord

It is good to be helpful. The Lord is looking for helpers.

How can we help the Lord? He is the Almighty God and can do anything; but here are two ways that we can help Him.

1) Helping the poor, sick, and needy with their physical needs. “Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand. . . I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: Naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me. . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” Matthew 25:34–36, 40

2) Helping the spiritually destitute with their spiritual needs. “There will be no one saved in heaven with a starless crown. If you enter, there will be some soul in the courts of glory that has found an entrance there through your instrumentality.” –*Last Day Events*, p. 282

“Every Christian is to be a missionary. . . . All may find something to do. None need feel that there is no place where they can labor for Christ.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 104. “Every individual Christian is required of God to be active in missionary service.” –*The Review and Herald*, October 22, 1914

In either case, it is a matter of helping our fellow man, whether with their physical needs or spiritual needs. In helping them, we are helping the Lord. No Christian is exempted, and can expect to drift into heaven on their own, without bringing others. “Ye are the light of the world.” Matthew 5:14

To be an effective helper we must listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and let Him direct our paths. There may

be times when we want to do a noble work, but the Lord says, “No, I want someone else to do that job and you do something else.” This was the case with King David when he had it in his heart to build a temple for the Lord. Although it was an excellent project, the Lord said, “No, I want your son to build it.” King David accepted the Lord’s direction but he was still helpful in whatever way he could. He donated a lot of money for the project before he died. David was one of the few who was humble enough to accept the fact that the Lord did not need his help with a certain plan that was a good plan.

Some truly believe that God is dependent on their help alone to get the work done correctly and efficiently and so they try to do all the work themselves, not trusting that others can do the job just as well. Although they have good ambitions to help, the work is not dependent on anyone alone. The Lord gives various gifts to different members, to perform different duties in the church and to share the responsibilities (1 Corinthians 12). The work of the Lord is not dependent on any one person. James White wore himself out by doing too much himself. Even though it is good work, the load needs to be shared. “The heavy responsibilities should not rest upon one man in any branch of the work.” –*The Review and Herald*, October 12, 1886. In the time of Christ, Judas thought himself best suited to be a leader amongst the disciples; however, we see the New Testament church managed quite well without his executive abilities.

Yet God has made Himself dependent on mankind for help in the salvation of souls, but that is His choice. Not only because humanity can best reach humanity, but also because we need a missionary spirit for our own

salvation.

“As His representatives among men, Christ does not choose angels who have never fallen, but human beings, men of like passions with those they seek to save. Christ took upon Himself humanity, that He might reach humanity;. . . and through co-operation with the divine, the power of man becomes efficient for good.”
—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 296–297

You and I are both qualified to be a helper for the Lord. “He who called the fisherman of Galilee is still calling men to His service. And He is just as willing to manifest His power through us as through the first disciples. However imperfect and sinful we may be, the Lord holds out to us the offer of partnership with Himself, of apprenticeship to Christ. He invites us to come under the divine instruction, that, uniting with Christ, we may work the works of God.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 297

THE LORD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

In the Christian world there are two opposing views of salvation. Some take “saved by faith” to one extreme, believing that the Lord does it all, and we have nothing to do for salvation, but to trust that the Lord will do it all. And then there are those who are adamant that we are saved by the “deeds of the law”. Both of these views are at opposite ends of the spectrum and both are erroneous alone.

In matters of our personal salvation, we are to work with God.

“The apostle James saw that dangers would arise in presenting the subject of justification by faith, and he labored to show that genuine faith cannot exist without corresponding works. The experience of Abraham is presented. ‘Seest thou,’ he says, ‘how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?’ James 2:22. Thus genuine faith does a genuine work in the believer. Faith and obedience bring a solid, valuable experience.

“Faith and works are two oars which we must use equally if we [would] press our way up the stream against the current of unbelief The so-called faith that does not work by love and purify the soul will not justify any man.” — *The Faith I Live By*, p. 115

Salvation is working together with God. We have a will and desire to work, and God supplies the strength to work.

“The work of gaining salvation is one of copartnership, a joint operation. There is to be co-operation between

God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 482

“We are to do all that we can do on our part to fight the good fight of faith. We are to wrestle, to labor, to strive, to agonize to enter in at the strait gate. We are to set the Lord ever before us. With clean hands, with pure hearts, we are to seek to honor God in all our ways. Help has been provided for us in Him who is mighty to save.” —*Faith and Works*, p. 48

“When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man’s best service, and He makes up for the deficiency with His own divine merit. But He will not accept those who claim to have faith in Him and yet are disloyal to His Father’s commandment. We hear a great deal about faith, but we need to hear a great deal more about works. Many are deceiving their own souls by living an easy-going, accommodating, crossless religion.” —*Faith and Works*, p. 50

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” Matthew 16:24. The Lord helps us when we tax all our energies to help ourselves.

WHEN WE SHOULD NOT HELP THE LORD

There are times in our personal life when we try to help the Lord accomplish what we think should be the expected end. As long as it is not in violation to the commandments of God, we should go forward, asking the Lord to direct our paths, and change our course if necessary. Some have come to a crossroads and seen that the only way to success is a minor violation of the commandments and that “the end justifies the means.” But where is their faith?

Jacob tried to help the Lord in making sure he got the promised birthright, by lying and deceit (Genesis 27). He knew that the promise was made to his mother at



his birth, but did he doubt that God could fulfill His promise unless he took matters in his own hands? His mother did doubt when she saw her husband sending Esau to fetch some venison for him, stating he would then pass on the birthright to Esau. For this reason Rebekah influenced Jacob to lie and deceive. He, being a grown man, could have refused to follow through with his mother's plan, but he did not. Perhaps he thought his mother was correct, that this must be done in order for God's will to be fulfilled in his life. They believed that God could not accomplish His purpose unless they intervened. This was the only way they could think of. It would have been much better to make it a matter of prayer before the Lord.

King Saul tried to help the Lord, in making the sacrifice when Samuel delayed (1 Samuel 3:5–13). He saw his army deserting him and he was getting desperate to try to encourage the few remaining soldiers to not leave and to trust in the Lord; trust that He would bless them. To avoid any more desertions, the king felt he must take matters in his own hands and perform the sacrifice. "Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering." 1 Samuel 13:12. Since Samuel delayed, the king felt "forced" to violate a commandment of the Lord, in this emergency situation.



Judas tried to help the Lord by forcing Him to defend Himself from the Jewish leaders and take the throne. Judas did not like the fact that Jesus was not taking David's throne as most of the Jewish people expected the Messiah to do. Judas finally thought to force the hand of Jesus. He thought that Jesus needed a little help to accomplish His purpose.



"Notwithstanding the Saviour's own teaching, Judas was continually advancing the idea that Christ would reign as king in Jerusalem. At the feeding of the five thousand he tried to bring this about. . . . Judas was first to take advantage of the enthusiasm excited by the miracle of the loaves. It was he who set on foot the project to take Christ by force and make Him king. His hopes were high. His disappointment was bitter." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 718–719

"Judas did not, however, believe that Christ would permit Himself to be arrested. In betraying Him, it was his

purpose to teach Him a lesson." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 720. Judas' help proved his own ruin as it was not according to God's plan.

Peter tried to help the Lord to defend Himself, by cutting off the ear of Malchus. "They were disappointed and indignant as they saw the cords brought forward to bind the hands of Him whom they loved. Peter in his vehement anger rashly cut off, with his sword, an ear of the servant of the high priest." –*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 3, p. 104

He was anxious that Jesus would be taken by that unruly mob. Forgetting all the miracles that Jesus had performed, forgetting that He was the Messiah, he thought he had to take out his weapon and help Jesus to defend Himself so that He could escape the mob (John 18:10).

The early apostles tried to help the church, by encouraging Paul to go partake in a cleansing ceremony (against all that he had been preaching for all those years) (Acts 21). It did not help the church, but ended up with Paul being imprisoned. The Apostles claimed that, "many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law." v. 20. But yet, "they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs." v. 21. Yes, this was true. This was Paul's teaching. However, to placate the newly converted Jews, they insisted that Paul take part in a ceremonial cleansing to prove that "thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keep-est the law." v. 24 (Ceremonial Law). This did not help the church.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in WWI was threatened by the governments in Europe. If they did not join the military effort they would lose their properties. To help the Lord save their churches and institutions in Europe they sent their young men into the military. It was a good thing that their schools, churches and sanitariums were saved so that they can continue doing the work of the Lord after the war. But was it really a good thing to obtain the favour of the government in violation of God's cause? They are a large church today, while those that chose to refrain from military duty and remain faithful to God belong to a much smaller church today (Reform church). "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

While we may think that we would never do as these people in the Bible did, but do we? "Consider your ways." Haggai 1:5

In your personal life, do you trust yourself to the Lord's keeping 100%, or are there some areas that you feel you

must help the Lord out?

Money is a big stumbling block for many people; causing them to fear and not trust, often taking matters into their own hands. For example, some do not fully trust the Lord to provide for their needs and so work on the Sabbath, to help the Lord provide for them. They do not believe the Lord can provide if they stop working on Sabbath, whether a full-day, a half-day or even an hour before or after the Sabbath hours. "We should jealously guard the edges of the Sabbath. Remember that every moment is consecrated, holy time. Whenever it is possible, employers should give their workers the hours from Friday noon until the beginning of the Sabbath. Give them time for preparation, that they may welcome the Lord's day with quietness of mind. By such a course you will suffer no loss even in temporal things." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 356. Or they fear losing their job because of the Sabbath and have little faith that God will take care of their needs.

David said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalm 37:25. The Lord has a storehouse to provide for our needs. "For the world is Mine, and the fulness thereof." Psalm 50:9

Here is how the Lord will provide for you, "Cast thy bread upon the waters." Ecclesiastes 11:1. "Give, and it shall be given unto you." Luke 6:38

Even though money is a big hindrance for many people, we do need it to survive in most of the world. Do we need to help God to obtain money? Yes, we do, "if any would not work, neither should he eat." 2 Thessalonians 3:10. We must certainly do our part by working, and then trusting God to provide for our needs *after* we have paid our tithes. Unfortunately, some say they cannot pay

their tithes because after they pay their bills there is nothing left. If we put God's needs first, then it is up to Him to provide for us and He has never let any true follower down yet. He said He will provide and His promises never fail.



What about this second tithe? Is it really necessary? Is God *really* asking for this from us? Does He need it? "To promote the assembling of the people for religious service, as well as to provide for the poor, a second tithe of all the increase was required." –*Welfare Ministry*, p 273. "The second tithe was set apart to increase the building fund." –*The Needs of the Cause in Australasia*, July 4, 1903 par. 23. The second tithe has a different purpose, and can God supply your needs if you step out by faith

and pay a second tithe and offerings on top of that? Some do not believe God can, so they try to help God provide for their needs by finding some genuine reasons why they cannot give more. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6:21. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings." Malachi 3:8. The reality is that by withholding from God what He is asking, you are preventing His help, by taking your financial matters into your own hands. If you help the Lord with your finances, He will most certainly help you to make sure your needs are met. The tithing and offering system is not because God needs our money, it is because we need to have a greater faith in God to provide for our needs. It is to eliminate selfishness from our characters.

What about some other small dishonesty such as, selling a car or a house that is not in perfect condition? Do you have to conceal the truth in order to get a good price for the car or house? Is this helping God get what you need? You got a higher price so now you can donate more to the cause of God, but does God want your money that is obtained in a dishonest manner?

Some feel they must be dishonest in other areas such as job interviews, in order to look better and help the Lord to help them get employment. They "stretch the truth."

Some feel that true success in life is the obtaining of many material goods. There is a well known song, entitled "My Father is Rich in Houses and Lands." The final verse begins with, "A tent or a cottage oh why should I care, they're building a mansion for me over there."

Never do we need to help the Lord in supplying our needs and directing our paths, by dishonesty, breaking any commandments, or going contrary to God's expressed will. For this reason we must live very close to the Lord so we know what His will is for us. Although it may not be a violation of the commandments, it may not be His will.



The best help for the Lord is perfect obedience to the 10 commandments and selflessly helping the helpless.

May God help us to be truly helpers for the Lord, and understand when our help is not needed, in all areas of life, from our personal lives, to missionary work and the salvation of souls. The Lord is looking for honest workers who will not stray one pin from the right pathway, but continue on with the strength of the Lord in perfect obedience to His will. Amen. **Wendy Eaton**

The Science of Prevailing Prayer Part 2



When God says No!

Do we pray to remind God of something He has forgotten or to give Him new information? There are some occasions when God almost never responds to prayers. The Scriptures clearly set forth the conditions for answered prayer. When we meet certain conditions, God will answer our prayers. There are several theological problems connected with the doctrine of prayer, but the practical problems boil down to just one: the problem of unanswered prayer. Why does God grant some requests and not others? Sometimes it seems that God shuts out our prayers, that the heavens are brass (Deuteronomy 28:23; Lamentations 3:8). Many people share Job's frustration of crying to God day and night but receiving no reply (Job 31:35).

In the first part of this article, we will examine the hindrances for answered prayer. The second part illustrates how it is important to know that "No" may be a suitable answer of a loving God to your prayer, according to His will and for His glory. However, God does not hear all prayers.

"WAIT"

God may answer by saying, "wait, be patient." Without divine patience, we cannot bear fruit to the Lord. Often people think that the Lord is slow in answering their prayers and giving justice to them, and they get impatient and do something about the problems themselves; or they seek human help, because their faith is not strong enough to wait for the Lord, in which case they lose their faith. God knows why. We cannot al-

ways understand His ways with our limited faculties. When Job was experiencing his trials, his wife could not understand why the Loving God was not quick in answering, and she asked, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity?" but Job said unto her, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Job 2:9–10

Jehovah tested the people of Israel in leading them to the Red Sea with the Egyptian army behind them. Their faith and patience was on trial. In the last moment, He opened the way through the sea. He could have opened the way earlier but they would not have learned the lesson of trust and patience which was very important to them. Patience is important to us: "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Hebrews 10:36. God, who tested the patience of Noah, Abraham, Job, and the people of Israel, will today test our patience; and if we prove ourselves to be patient until the end, He will save us. He will deliver His people.

God sometimes delays giving His answer to give the person praying time to reflect on His words and ways. People thereby learn a special lesson that they would not learn if God granted the request immediately (Joshua 7:6–9; Psalm 77:10–12). Some of the lessons God teaches by withholding answers to prayer are patience (Job 7:11–21), His sovereignty (Job 40:4–5), and the folly of idolatry (Jeremiah 11:14). God may wait so we learn to persist in our asking (Genesis 30:22; 1

Chronicles 10:13–14; Isaiah 62:6–7), or to pray with greater fervency (1 Samuel 1:12–16). Then when He does grant the request, we appreciate the answer more. God may delay answering to strengthen the character of the one praying or to increase his faith (Job 7:11–21; Psalm 13:5–6; 27:7–14; Micah 7:7; Mark 5:35–43). God may also wait to allow time for a person to repent (Hosea 5:15; 7:14; Jeremiah 42:2–6; Joel 2:12–14). These are a few reasons God does not always answer prayers at once and why they may seem to go unanswered.

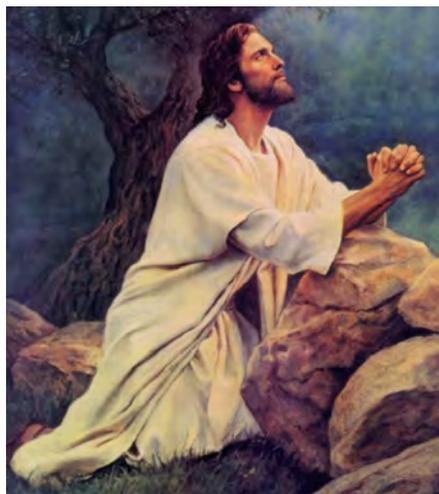
“The assurance is broad and unlimited, and He is faithful who has promised. When we do not receive the very things we asked for, at the time we ask, we are still to believe that the Lord hears and that He will answer our prayers. We are so erring and short-sighted that we sometimes ask for things that would not be a blessing to us, and our heavenly Father in love answers our prayers by giving us that which will be for our highest good—that which we ourselves would desire if with vision divinely enlightened we could see all things as they really are. When our prayers seem not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise; for the time of answering will surely come, and we shall receive the blessing we need most. But to claim that prayer will always be answered in the very way and for the particular thing that we desire, is presumption. God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly. Then do not fear to trust Him, even though you do not see the immediate answer to your prayers. Rely upon His sure promise, ‘Ask, and it shall be given you.’ If we take counsel with our doubts and fears, or try to solve everything that we cannot see clearly, before we have faith, perplexities will only increase” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 97

WHEN GOD DOES NOT ANSWER, OR SAYS “NO” TO OUR PRAYERS

It is helpful to understand what attitudes and actions of the person praying prevent God from answering prayer. It is also instructive to view the problem of unanswered prayer from God’s perspective to gain a comprehensive picture of the whole subject. Even when a person’s attitudes and actions are correct, his prayers may still go unanswered. We can understand more

completely why God does not always answer our prayers as we might expect because God has given us a special revelation that enables us to see prayer as He does. It may be helpful to examine this problem from two perspectives, the human and the divine. From the human viewpoint it is fairly easy to uncover many reasons why God may not answer prayers. Some of these reasons involve improper attitudes, and others spring from improper actions.

In His Word, God encourages His children to pray to Him and also to expect that He will answer them (James 1:5; Jeremiah 33:3). Yet there are times when God says “no” to our prayer or request. Out of 29 of the most prominent prayers of the Bible, over half (17) of the “no’s” to prayers, were because of sin in that individual or the people as a whole. The other reasons for God to deny a prayer request was because that request was not according to God’s will; God would be glorified more in saying “no”. For instance, King Saul asked for God’s guidance and help in defeating an enemy, but because of Saul’s rebellion and disobedience, God did not respond. King David experienced the same negative response from God after his sin with Bathsheba and the death of his child. However, sin was not the only reason God said “no” to a prayer request. Sometimes He said “no” because it was not His will to answer “yes” to that request.



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Jonah and Elijah both asked God to kill them during some difficult circumstances. God’s answer was “no” because it was not His will and He instead provided nourishment, safety and help for them. He had other plans for them. James and John in Mark 10:34 wanted to be in a high rank in the kingdom next to Jesus.

But Jesus said “no” to that request, because it was up to God the Father to grant that petition.

Jesus asked God to take the cup of suffering from Him, but it was God’s will for Him to drink of that cup of the greatest sorrow and He submitted to God’s will.

“God knows the end from the beginning. He is acquainted with the hearts of all men. He reads every secret of the soul. He knows whether those for whom prayer is offered would or would not be able to endure the trials that would come upon them should they live. He knows whether their lives would be a blessing or a

curse to themselves and to the world. This is one reason why, while presenting our petitions with earnestness, we should say, 'Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.' Luke 22:42. Jesus added these words of submission to the wisdom and will of God when in the Garden of Gethsemane He pleaded, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.' Matthew 26:39. And if they were appropriate for Him, the Son of God, how much more are they becoming on the lips of finite, erring mortals!" —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 230

"Prayer for the Sick Should Take Into Account God's Will—In prayer for the sick it should be remembered that 'we know not what we should pray for as we ought.' Romans 8:26. We do not know whether the blessing we desire will be best or not. Therefore our prayers should include this thought:

'Lord, thou knowest every secret of the soul. Thou art acquainted with these persons. Jesus, their Advocate, gave His life for them. His love for them is greater than ours can possibly be. If, therefore, it is for Thy glory and the good of the afflicted ones, we ask, in the name of Jesus, that they may be restored to health. If it be not Thy will that they may be restored, we ask that Thy grace may comfort and Thy presence sustain them in their sufferings.'" —*Prayer*, p. 232

Paul the Apostle also petitioned God three times to remove the thorn in his flesh and God said "no". My grace shall be sufficient for you. God, as our Heavenly Father, wants to give His children those things or circumstances that will be for their good and which will glorify Him (Matthew 7:11). He desires that we pray at all times to Him and expect an answer from Him (Hebrews 11:6). However, He may say "no" to our request if His purpose and His will be better served in another way to glorify His name and be a witness to others. The three young Hebrews were saved from the fire (Daniel 3), but John the Baptist, as well as many others, died as martyrs. Why? "We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings." —*Help in Daily Living*, p. 13

EXAMPLES:

1. King Saul prayed for guidance but God did not answer him. Saul had pronounced a curse on any of his

army who ate before evening. Jonathan, unaware of the curse, had eaten. The lesson for us is we should be very careful about making vows. 1 Samuel 14:37

2. King Saul prayed for help and guidance. Saul had removed so far from God that He no longer answered Saul's prayers. Saul then sought an answer through a medium; this was a clear sin on his part. 1 Samuel 28:6–7

3. David prayed for the life of his son. The son died because of David's sin with Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 12:13–23. The lesson for us is that sin has its consequences.

4. Elijah prayed that he might die. God had much more work for Elijah to do so it was not in God's will for Elijah to die at that time. In the end Elijah did not die but was caught up into heaven by a whirlwind. 1 Kings 19:4; 2 Kings 2:11

5. Jonah prayed that God would take his life as it was better to die than to live. God does not answer this type of prayer for there is a time to die, and we must wait for God's timing, not ours. Also, Jonah had yet to accomplish the work God sent him to do. Jonah 4:3

6. King Zedekiah prayed for help in defeating Nebuchadnezzar. God answered that He would not help because of the many sins of Israel. Jeremiah 21:2–3

7. The disciples James and John with their mother requested the highest rank in the kingdom Jesus was to establish. Jesus' answer was that this position was not His to give. But, they first were to be servants of one another before greatness would be given them. Mark 10:35–45. Jesus prayed, "May this cup be taken from Me." He also prayed, "Your will be done." It was the Father's will that Jesus drink the cup of suffering for the sins of the world. Matthew 26:36–46; Philippians 2:5–8; Hebrews 2:9; 12:2–3; 13:12–13

9. Paul prayed that his "thorn in the flesh" be removed. Paul's thorn was not removed, so that Christ would be glorified, not himself, and to keep him from becoming proud. 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

GOD DENIES PRAYER REQUESTS OF THOSE WHO:

1. Ask amiss. James 4:3
2. Regard iniquity in the heart. Psalm 66:18
3. Live in sin. Isaiah 59:2; John 9:31

God may not answer immediately or as soon as we might want (Job 7:11–12). Moreover, sometimes no answer is His answer. Frequently God has already given the answers to our inquiries, and we can find them by searching the Scriptures (Psalm 144:3; John 5:39).

4. Offer unworthy service to God. Malachi 1:7–9
5. Forsake God. Jeremiah 14:10, 12
6. Reject the call of God. Proverbs 1:24–25, 28
7. Hear not the law. Proverbs 28:9; Zechariah 7:11–13
8. Are deaf to the cry of the poor. Proverbs 21:13
9. Are blood shedders. Isaiah 1:15; 59:3
10. Are idolaters. Jeremiah 11:11–14; Ezekiel 8:15–18
11. Are wavering. James 1:6–7
12. Are hypocrites. Job 27:8–9
13. Are proud. Job 35:12–13
14. Are self-righteous. Luke 18:11–12, 14
15. Are the enemies of the saints. Psalm 18:40–41
16. Cruelly oppress the saints. Micah 3:2–4
17. Moses wants to go into the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 3:23–29

The Spirit of prophecy says that “if we withhold from Him that which is His own, how can we claim His blessing? If we are unfaithful stewards of earthly things, how can we expect Him to entrust us with the things of heaven? It may be that here is the secret of unanswered prayer.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 144. “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, to consume it upon your lusts.” James 4:3. These passages are chosen as the foundation of several discourses on the condition of prevailing prayer. Let us always pray, “Thy will be done.” We may not discern the secrets of God. He delivered Daniel but John the Baptist died in prison. Why? God is love. Some experiences and trials are allowed to purify us and to be recorded as encouragement to the following generations.

How can we know that God will answer our prayer? When we pray to God, we know that we have asked. We know that we have thought and spoken the words. But how do we know that God will indeed answer us? How can we make sure that He has heard us? Sometimes it seems as if, although we pray, we get no response. Heaven seems to be silent. Yet, while we may think we have no answer, having faith does not mean

that our prayers will be answered in the exact way that we desire. We are to echo the thought of our Saviour, “Thy kingdom come, not Mine. Thy will be done, not Mine.” “Seek ye the LORD while He may be



found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:6–9. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11. God does not require us to give up anything that it is for our best interest to retain. In all that He does, He has the well-being of His children in view. Would that all who have not chosen Christ might realize that He has something vastly better to offer them than they are seeking for themselves. The Lord of the Universe, as a loving Father, knows what is best for us. Amen.

**By Victor Shumbusho –
D R Congo**



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The Ways of Man

There are only two ways to go in this life, to the way of God or to the way of man.

What is the way of man? "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12. "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts." Proverbs 21:2. "The way of man is froward and strange." Proverbs 21:8

If a man is not led by God, he is led by the prince of darkness. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other." Matthew 6:24

Unlike God, the way that unconverted man works is by manipulations, machinations and/or going in circles, because man always keeps making the same mistakes over and over again. When we are talking about man's power, as compared to God's power, man's power is about compromising truth for the sake of pragmatism, as compared to God's power in uplifting the truth. Man makes Machiavellian rules—to get and keep power. Man says: "The end justifies the means." Under the influence of satanic agencies, man is capable of anything—lying, cheating, stealing, and murder. Unfortunately, adding to the confusion, this all can be done in the name of God.

C.S. Lewis said, "There is no one so ruthless as someone who says, 'I'm doing this for your own good.'" We see how this occurs in religion with papal systems and hierarchies, Jesuitism, whose battle cry also was, "the end justifies the means." How will this end? With the mark of the beast on one side; and on the other side all of those that are willing to follow God's pure way, focusing on truth and righteousness with pure motivations for doing the right. All of God's true people who will be united by truth and the sweet spirit of God, stand shoulder to shoulder.

What happens if we say in our heart, "My Lord delayeth His coming"? Jesus said we would begin to smite our fellow servants (Matthew 24:48–51). Instead of being concerned with

the kingdom of heaven we get concerned about our own power structures. "Who is the greatest?" will constantly be our concern. But in the Latter Rain, as in the Early Rain, all of this must be laid aside for us to even think about receiving the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

"Only when selfishness is dead, when strife for supremacy is banished, when gratitude fills the heart, and love makes fragrant the life—it is only then that Christ is abiding in the soul, and we are recognized as laborers together with God.

"However trying their labor, the true workers do not regard it as drudgery. They are ready to spend and to be spent;

but it is a cheerful work, done with a glad heart. Joy in God is expressed through Jesus Christ. Their joy is the joy set before Christ—'to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.' John 4:34. They are in co-operation with the Lord of glory. This thought sweetens all toil, it braces the will, it nerves the spirit for whatever may befall. Working with unselfish heart, ennobled by being partakers of Christ's sufferings, sharing His sympathies, and co-operating with Him in His labor, they help to swell the tide of His joy and bring honor and praise to His exalted name." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 402

"We have been used to thinking that if there were no pastors, that God could not keep His flock—but in the last days, it will be seen that the Lord is taking the reins into His own hands.

"Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness. Those who are accounted good workers will need to draw nigh to God, they will need the divine touch. They will need to drink more deeply and continuously at the fountain of living water, in order that they may discern God's work at every point. Workers may make mistakes, but you should give them a chance to correct their errors, give them an opportunity to learn caution, by leaving the work in their hands." — *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 300

In 2 Chronicles 30:6–9 we read of Hezekiah inviting all those that were willing to come and keep the Passover in Judah. The Passover is symbolic of the Lord's Supper. What this

symbolizes is commitment to God, renouncing the world, focusing on God's will and not man's will in our lives.

The Lord's Supper service is a recommitment of ourselves to doing God's will in our lives. In the true Christian church there are two pillars, one without and one within the church—baptism, as the door of entrance into the church; and, within the church, the Lord's Supper.

In the verses in 2 Chronicles quoted above, there were precious promises in these verses about not being oppressed any longer by those who had led us captive. Not because of our own strength or power, but with man's power laid aside, we are to be dependent upon God's power. What is absolutely necessary for us to do this?

Faith=Forsaking All, I take Him. Launch out into the deep. When anything or anyone hurts us, we must get deeper into the love of God—lean more heavily upon Him. Have you ever come to the place in your life, where all you had was God, and you found that He was all you needed? I am sure that this is the place where He is trying to lead us.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." 1 Peter 4:12. The way that fallen human nature is, it will always try to go back to the old habit patterns, even when something better has been introduced.

We are used to responding to certain stimuli, and even when it seems something better is there, we must make sure not to revert back to the old thought and behaviour patterns. After the stimuli comes the response, according to the ways of the world, flesh, and the devil. And then there is the satisfaction which is really no satisfaction, but this is what fallen human nature keeps telling itself. In John 3 we are told we must be born again; this is the only way to respond correctly to the stimuli that is bombarding us from the world, flesh, and the devil.

When the Pharisee, Nicodemus, came to Jesus by night, from their conversation we see that he was not a hypocrite; he had something common to every human being. He was self-righteous. He merely did not know any better, but Jesus introduced him to a line of thought and experience that was to be to him, a new life. He ended up giving away all his fortune to the new church established by Jesus and the apostles; and this was one of the main sources of extending the kingdom of God on earth.

We must develop new responses to the same stimuli and show that true satisfaction comes from doing God's will, having peace in and through doing that will, and not merely from having the things and ways of man, e.g. power, pleasure, convenience, material things, etc.

Why do we come to church? To worship God? Or to have fellowship? "This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with

Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 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 1:5-7. As we walk in the light, as He is in the light, then we have fellowship—it is all about light.

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Philippians 2:4. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden." Galatians 6:1-5. We will all bear our own burden, but bear ye one another's burdens—we are all interconnected.

In 1 Corinthians 12, we see that the church is compared with the human body. What if someone in the church comes up with completely wrong responses to the stimuli? Should we right away excommunicate that person, or persons? No, in keeping with the symbol of the body being the church, what would we do with some member of our body that was out of sync, or hurting? We should do everything in our power to bring healing. It is only the very last resort to perform an amputation—only in the case of sure and certain death to the body, if that hurting part was allowed to stay with the rest of the body.

"Satan well knows that success can only attend order and harmonious action. He well knows that everything connected with Heaven is in perfect order, that subjection and perfect discipline mark the movements of the angelic host. It is his studied effort to lead professed Christians just as far from Heaven's arrangement as he can; therefore he deceives even the professed people of God, and makes them believe that order and discipline are enemies to spirituality; that the only safety for them is to let each pursue his own course, and to remain especially distinct from bodies of Christians who are united, and are laboring to establish discipline and harmony of action. All the efforts made to establish order are considered dangerous, a restriction of rightful liberty, and hence are feared as popery. These devoted souls consider it a virtue to boast of their freedom to think and act independently. They will not take any man's say-so. They are amenable to no man. I was shown that it is Satan's special work to lead men to feel that it is God's order for them to strike out for themselves, and choose their own course, independent of their brethren." —*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 201

"The spasmodic, fitful movements of some who claim to be Christians are well represented by the work of strong but untrained horses. When one pulls forward, another pulls back; at the voice of their master one plunges ahead, and

the other stands immovable. If men will not move in concert in the great and grand work for this time, there will be confusion. It is not a good sign when men refuse to unite with their brethren, and prefer to act alone. Let laborers take into their confidence the brethren who are free to point out every departure from right principles. If men wear the yoke of Christ, they cannot pull apart; they will draw with Christ." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 487

The purpose and use of organization is not to make man's will supreme, but rather God's will supreme, not to make the work harder, but to make it easier.

"Evil does not result because of organization, but because of making organization everything, and vital godliness of little moment. When form and machinery take the pre-eminence, and a laborious task is made of carrying on the work that should be done with simplicity, evil will result, and little will be accomplished in proportion to the effort put forth. The object of organization is just the reverse of this; and should we disorganize, it would be like tearing down that which we have built up. Evil results have been seen, both in the Sabbath-school work and in the missionary society, because of making much of machinery while vital experience was lost sight of. In many of the imagined improvements that have been brought in, the mould of man has been placed upon the work. In the Sabbath-school, men and women have been accepted as officers and teachers, who have not been spiritually minded, and had no live interest in the work committed to their care; but matters can be set in order only through the aid of the Holy Spirit. The same evil has existed for years as now exists in our churches. Formality, pride, and love of display have taken the place of true piety and humble godliness." —*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 134

Organization is not to be used as a whip or scourge, but to help and heal those who are "out of the way," discouraged, sick, driven away, etc. (Read Ezekiel 34)

Conclusion: God is a God of love and truth, not punishment and manipulation. His church on earth is empowered to help, heal, and encourage, not excommunicate, or drive away.

If we see anyone that is using the wrong tactics, responding to the stimuli of truth in the wrong way, we have to introduce them to something better by our words and actions, and pray for them. The church is to present a united front to the world and to all the other churches.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the glory which Thou gavest Me I

have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one. I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me." John 17:20–23

"A great work is to be done. Who will engage in this work? Who will press the work forward and upward to victory? We have all the world against us; all the churches against us; all the synagogue of Satan against us. And if those of our own faith work against the truth by their own unsanctified habits and practices, the work will go very hard. God help us to pray, 'O Lord, cleanse the camp of Israel from its defilement.'" —*Letter 10*, 1897

"History repeats itself. The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is now at work to gain control of the fallen churches, that through them he may condemn and put to death all who will not worship the idol sabbath. We have not to battle with mortals, as it may appear. We war not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places. But if the people of God will put their trust in Him and by faith rely upon His power, the devices of Satan will be defeated in our time as signally as in the days of Mordecai." —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 366

Satan would like nothing better than to get Christians hating one another, for this would completely destroy their witness. "But how that law is disregarded! This is a truth-hating, Bible-neglecting, froward generation. Many do not hesitate to sneer at the Word of God; those who believe that Word just as it reads are held up to ridicule. Jesus sees the world filled with ingratitude, formalism, insincerity, pride, and apostasy. He sees His love despised, His law rejected, His ambassadors treated with indifference. Jesus has spoken by mercies, but these mercies have been unacknowledged; He has spoken by warnings, but these warnings have been unheeded. The temple courts of the human soul have been turned into places of unholy traffic. Selfishness, envy, pride, malice—all are cherished." —*The Review and Herald*, November 20, 1913

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" 1 John 4:20

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." 1 John 3:16

May God help us to follow the ways of God and not the ways of man; therefore the unity of the church will grow stronger. Amen.

Jerry Eaton



God's Gift to Himself



It was the evening of my birthday; and I had just checked in for my flight to Lisbon at the Munich airport. My friends in Portugal were waiting for my arrival, to spend time and start this new year of my life with me. There was still some time left before boarding so I strolled through the different duty-free shops, cafés and newspaper stands. One particular store caught my attention: the watch retailer. While going through the store I spotted a gold-coloured delicate watch in one glass cabinet; it was love at first sight. I went around the store but found myself drawn to that specific watch. I kept going back to that same glass cabinet. I decided to treat myself for my birthday and bought that watch as a gift to myself. After paying for it, the friendly saleslady put it on my wrist and I admired it for the rest of the day.

Have you ever thought about the gift that God gave to Himself? James tells us: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." He points out that each of you, and all of God's people, are included among these good and perfect gifts. That is kind of a strange thought at first since you usually think of God's gifts as being those physical or spiritual blessings that He gives to you. But here James says that each one of us is personally a gift from God. Through the prophet Isaiah, God speaks of



His people as those He formed for Himself, that they might bring Him glory (Isaiah 43:7). James is expressing the same thought here. He is saying: You are God's gift to Himself. He gave you birth and shaped you by His word in order that you might bring Him glory by living in obedience—in order that you might be the gift that

He wants! "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17. Every sort of giving that is good, and every single gift that is complete and perfect, all come from above—from God. So many things come to mind. God gave you His only Son. He gave you His word and the Holy Spirit. He

gave you talents, friends and unique experiences. All of this comes from the Father who does not change, He is always giving good and perfect gifts. But the one gift that you might overlook because you are too close to see it, is yourself. Your life of obedience to God which begins in the heart and shows in your actions is a gift that comes from Him and is designed to be presented to Him. So never forget: You are God's desire fulfilled. You are God's gift to Himself!

Manuela Di Franca



Jesus said, “When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8. Jesus looked to the end of the world, and what did He see? He saw over two billion Catholics, several hundred thousand Protestants, and about 4,000 different church organizations, and they all were worshipping God. He heard beautiful singing, touching sermons, lectures, prayers, and testimonies. He saw great buildings and cathedrals, filled with worshippers. While beholding all this, He says, “When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?”

In the time of Noah there were about one hundred million people estimated living on the earth. Many of them were worshipping God, but they did not believe what God had spoken to Noah about, therefore they perished in the flood, for their lack of faith.

600,000 adult men left Egypt, besides women and children, and they all believed in God. They had seen the great miracles of God, the plagues, the opening of the Red Sea, the daily manna, and receiving water from the rock, but from the 600,000 adult men, only two entered Canaan’s land.

Paul writes in Hebrews 3:19, “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” They probably all kept the Sabbath, paid their tithes, and attended religious meetings, but they had no faith.

In the time of Christ, almost the whole nation rejected Him. They were religious and very jealous of it. They found fault even in Christ.

In all these cases, the people believed in God, and expected eternal life, but there was something they did

not believe, and for this reason they all perished.

If any one of us would be lost, we know that the reason for it is nothing else but lack of faith. We are saved by faith. Jesus said to His disciples, “Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it

shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” Matthew 17:19–20

By faith we can overcome sin and become perfect, as our Father in heaven is perfect. Without faith our religion is only an empty form, a heavy burden, and a joyless exercise.

“Men may have a power to resist evil—a power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master; a power that will place them where they may overcome as Christ overcame.” —*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 409

“Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 123

Not even in thought do we need to sin anymore. Is this not exciting news, no more human weakness?

“‘Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not.’ God has power to keep the soul who is in Christ, when that soul is under temptation. . . . ‘Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.’” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 297

“Christ came to make us ‘partakers of the divine nature’ and His life declares that humanity, combined with divinity, does not commit sin.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 180

“If you will stand under the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel, faithfully doing His service, you need never yield to temptation; for One stands by your side who is able to keep you from falling.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 19

A question was asked of a little boy, “What is faith?” He answered, “Doing God’s will and asking no questions.”

Children often have more faith than adults.

There was a German boy who wanted to go to a Moravian school. So he wrote a letter to Lord Jesus in heaven, and put it in the mailbox. The letter said, "My Lord Jesus Christ, I have lost my father, and we are very poor, but I know that Thou tells us in Thy word that whatever we ask of God in Thy name, He will give us. I pray in Thy name that my mother will have means to send me to the Moravian school."

The postmaster gave the letter to the pastor of the church, and it was read in the meeting. The Baroness of Leppe offered to send him to the school. Often Jesus uses people to answer our prayers.

We need childlike faith, daily we need to strengthen and increase our faith. "As the student of the Bible beholds the Redeemer, there is awakened in the soul the mysterious power of faith." –*Education*, p. 192

It is faith that makes us victorious. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4

Yet there is faith that is false. Peter had faith in himself. He said to Jesus, "I will die for you." But the same night he denied that he even knew Jesus.

Paul had faith in the Jewish religion. He persecuted Christ's followers. Over two billion Catholics have faith in their church. Brother Loughborough tells us in his memoirs that a Methodist minister was preaching that when a man dies, his soul leaves him, and for eternity he sits on a cloud, playing a harp, and he believed it. The Jews believed that Jesus was an evil person, and He must be put to death.

It is also possible that we may lose our faith. "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck." 1 Timothy 1:19

There are steps that lead to losing our faith:

1. The first one is a violation of a pure conscience.
2. Then comes losing the conviction of the truth.

Finally comes deliberate rejection of the faith, and to sin with knowledge.

After losing their faith, people still may go to church meetings, and remain church members, but they do not have the joy of the Lord. They do not love God any more, but for selfish reasons, they want to have eternal life, and escape the hell fire.

"The plan of salvation is not presented in its simplicity for the reason that few ministers know what simple faith is. An intellectual knowledge of the truth is not enough; we must know its power upon our own hearts and lives." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 159

"No matter how high his profession, he whose heart is not imbued with love for God and for his fellow men is not a disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith, and have power to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless." –*ibid.*, p. 168

"Those who claim that their faith alone will save them are trusting to a rope of sand, for faith is strengthened and made perfect by works only." –*The Story of Redemption*, p. 289

"I had implored help and strength from God, that I might rise above the heavy discouragements that were paralyzing my faith and hope, and unfitting me for usefulness. . . . I feel urged to say to you that you must commence to work individually for yourselves. You are looking to God and desiring Him to do the work for you which He has left for you to do. If you will do the work for yourselves which you know that you ought to do, then God will help you when you need help." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 604

A very common sin that many Christians are guilty of is neglected duties. "Christ places the salvation of man, not upon profession merely, but upon faith that is made manifest in works of righteousness. Doing, not saying merely, is expected of the followers of Christ. It is through action that character is built." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 149

To profess religion will not save us, to live a life of Christ is what is needed. We need faith, but we must also put our faith into daily practice.

"God has given men faculties and capabilities. God works and cooperates with the gifts He has imparted to man, and man, by being a partaker of the divine nature and doing the work of Christ, may be an overcomer and win eternal life. The Lord does not propose to do the work He has given man powers to do. Man's part must be done. He must be a laborer together with God, yoking up with Christ, learning His meekness, His lowliness. God is the all-controlling power." –*Faith and Works*, p. 26

Amen.

Timo Martin



Are You Still Strong?



Brethren, as we read in a previous issue of *The Reformation Messenger*, an article entitled, "Where is Jesus?" We have been warned, "It is our work to know our special failings and sins, which cause darkness and spiritual feebleness, and quenched our first love." —*The Review and Herald*, June 7, 1887

VERY STRONG AND AT THE SAME TIME VERY WEAK

Let us ask ourselves, "Am I strong and at the same time very weak? The Bible tells us in the book of Joshua 14:10–11, "And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as He said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in."

ARE YOU STILL STRONG IN THE FAITH?

The Lord desires His children to be strong in the faith they have professed. Each and every child of God will be tried to see if his faith is strong. Some endured at one point but at the next point they show their weakness. The Lord requires us to take hold of His strength, that He may make peace for us and then our faith will be strong. (Isaiah 27:5).

IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE FOR SIN

Many Christians commit sin and they make excuses because they want to hide their sin. Every day people in positions of trust make decisions on which depend results of great importance. There will be no excuse for those who choose to go in error when they can understand what is

truth. In His sufferings and death Jesus made an atonement for all sins of ignorance, but there is no provision made for willful blindness.

Below we find a story of a man in the Bible who was called from his mother's womb for a special purpose but he failed to fulfill his sacred trust and the consequence was grave.

Manoah and his wife were being instructed by the Angel on how they were to care for their child. Judges 13:3–5, 24–25. "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and barest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."



In the Spirit of Prophecy we read, "A lesson to mothers—Many whom God would use as His instruments have been disqualified at their birth by the previous wrongs habits of their parents. When the Lord would raise up Samson as a deliverer of His people, He enjoined upon the mother correct habits of life before the birth of her child." —*The Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 1005

The statement continues, "In instructing this one mother, the Lord gave a lesson to all who should be mothers to

the close of time. Had the wife of Manoah followed the prevailing customs, her system would have been weakened by violation of nature's laws, and her child would have suffered with her the penalty of transgression." – *Ibid.*, p. 1005

Moses betrayed his trust in God in one moment. Men of all future time must see the God of heaven as an impartial ruler who does not justify sin. Unfortunately, only a few realize the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Men flatter themselves that God is too good to punish the transgressor. But in the light of Bible history it is evident that God's goodness and His love show how He is; He deals with sin as an evil blow to the peace and happiness of the universe.

Many people today transgress the laws of God willfully. They say man does not have the power to overcome. But the Bible says that "sin is the transgression of [God's] law." 1 John 3:4. All sins are equal, being small or large. They all forfeit the opportunity of being in heaven.

"All who profess godliness are under the most sacred obligation to guard the spirit, and to exercise self-control under the greatest provocation. The burdens placed upon Moses were very great; few men will ever be so severely tried as he was; yet this was not allowed to excuse his sin. God has made ample provision for His people: and if they rely upon His strength, they will never become the sport of circumstances. The strongest temptation cannot excuse sin. However great the pressure brought to bear upon the soul, transgression is our own act. It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to do evil. Satan attacks us at our weak points, but we need not be overcome. However severe or unexpected the assault, God has provided help for us, and in His strength we may conquer." – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 421

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust

hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:13–15

"What a change to him who had been the judge and champion of Israel!—now weak, blind, imprisoned, degraded to the most menial service! Little by little he had violated the conditions of his sacred calling. God had borne long with him; but when he had so yielded himself to the power of sin as to betray his secret, the Lord departed from him. There was no virtue in his long hair merely, but it was a token of his loyalty to God; and when the symbol was sacrificed in the indulgence of passion, the blessings of which it was a token were also forfeited." – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 566

How many times have you lost your sacred trust? Samson was the strongest man who ever lived, but he was very weak in the indulgence of passion. Are you also following the same course as Samson? Let us use Samson as an example. Samson failed where Joseph conquered; and what a sad history for Samson for the remainder of his life. Many Christians are also pursuing the same course as Samson and at the end their life history is very sad.

"Willful sin caused loss of strength—Had Samson's head been shaven without fault on his part, his strength would have remained. But his course had shown contempt for the favor and authority of God as much as if he had in disdain himself severed his locks from his head. Therefore God left him to endure the results of his own folly." – *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 1007

"And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes." Judges 16:28

May God bless us while we meditate on these lessons for spiritual uplifting, in Jesus' name Amen. Grace be with you all.

Jenifer Akello, Uganda

After my father and I left Finland (after the conference in March) I decided to stop off in Iceland for a few days. Already the name Iceland conjures up thoughts of a cold, barren landscape covered with ice. I was surprised by the beauty and the uniqueness of the landscape. Here is a land of mountains, volcanoes, geysers, waterfalls, glaciers, and rivers with the purest water in the world. However, the aspects of Iceland that make it difficult to live there also provides for its greatest treasure, which is geothermal heat. Most of the houses in Iceland are powered and warmed by harnessing the heat that is produced from volcanic activity taking place under the ground. My experience in Iceland taught me that I must look beyond the surface to what is inside a person to recognize their true value. Many people may have a tough, seemingly unapproachable exterior; however, their hearts are warmed by Christ's love, and this warmth can spread to others and thaw many a cold heart. "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

Helen Marttinen



Conference in Finland

Motto: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12

On Thursday, March 22, Br. Timo Martin and I arrived in Finland. Br. Martin had been invited by the church in Finland to speak at their Spring Conference, taking place from March 24–26. The members in Finland were elated to see Br. Martin again; the older ones remembered him when he was a little boy, coming to church with his parents, his five brothers and two sisters. The younger ones recalled him when he spoke at the Finland conference just over 20 years ago.

Br. Martin (Marttinen) was born in Finland in 1931 and left his home country in 1952, when he was called up to perform his military service. God's providence allowed him to leave Finland, despite a rule where Finnish citizens, who were to perform their military service, could not obtain visas to leave the country. Since then he has lived in Canada where he has been a key member in furthering the work in the church in Canada.

The Reformation was slow to come to Finland, because it was so far north, and the language was challenging to anyone who did not speak Finnish. Two German brothers came initially, but due to the language barrier, had little success. These brothers had brought an Estonian sister into the faith. She later went to Finland at her own expense; she stayed in Finland, learned the language, and preached the message. When she found souls ready for baptism, she would call the brethren to baptize them into the church. Twelve members were baptized as the first

members of the Reformation in Finland, Br. Martin's mother included. Brothers Korpman and Holmstroem from Estonia visited Finland every year, encouraging the members and giving them Lord's Supper until they became self-sufficient.

Today the church in Finland has 13 members; they have a church building in a town called Akaa, containing an office, kitchen, sanctuary, several bedrooms, a dining area, and a sauna. In Finland, there are people interested in the Reform who are having Bible studies from Br. Vladimir Marinov, the leader in Finland and worker in our church; several are also attending church.

Present were 21 people from several countries when the conference opened on Friday evening. Many had traveled long distances to be at the conference. Br. Reijo Jyrkinen opened the conference by reading a worship on music. He compared music to prayer. Br. Timo Martin led the Sabbath opening meeting. Paul was happy in trials, tribulations. We must also be happy when we go through similar things. If we ask God to take trials away from us, God will leave us to walk our own way. Sister White tells us that God will not give us any more trials than what we need to be saved. Not only are we to keep the Ten Commandments, we are asked to walk the second mile, to love others as ourselves. We must live the life now that we will live in heaven. We are all like in quicksand; we cannot get out in our own strength. We need God's help. But, if we sink too far, God will no longer help us, and the Holy Spirit will leave us. We need to cry out to God before we have gone too deep. The tree that the owner wanted to cut down because it did not produce fruit, Jesus said, leave it for one more year, and let me do all I can for the tree. If it then does not produce fruit, cut it down. We may have the same, one year of mercy left for us, God will do all He can for us, but if we do not produce fruits, He will leave us alone.

Sabbath morning was cool and cloudy. The church was full. People came from various countries to attend the conference, including Sweden, Canada, Estonia, Ukraine, and Bulgaria. Many translations were taking place at the same time into the different languages. There were 41 people in attendance, which included a group of people originally from DR Congo. They now live in Finland, and are slowly learning the language. However, the challenge has been that their native language is French, and none of the church members speak French to translate for them. A few of them have learned enough Finnish to be able to translate the sermon into French for the others.

Br. Martin led the divine service. Many fear war and persecution, but what we should fear most is self-righteousness. When events such as the Dark Day, October 22, 1844, or when WW1 occurred, people thought Christ's work was ended and He would come. However, He will come when

many cry peace and safety; when all is quiet, our name will be called in the judgment, and our time of mercy will be over. Many will not be ready. When we are born again, we are given the Holy Spirit, and we become new creatures through His guidance. We must develop our characters to the same likeness as was Adam before his fall; this can be done with God's help. Br. Martin reviewed the four seals God's people will be given before we reach heaven.

Sister Eva Lammes, who traveled from Sweden to attend the conference, gave a powerful health message in the afternoon on Metabolic Syndrome and Diabetes. She reviewed the five main risk factors which contribute to these illnesses, which include increased abdominal girth, high blood pressure, low HCL, high triglycerides and high fasting blood sugar. If all five risk factors are present, there is a 5X higher risk of cardiovascular disease. Lack of exercise and smoking also contribute to elevated risk. She also talked about natural methods to prevent and heal both of these conditions. Diet is the key, look for food high in nutrients and low in calories, e.g. vegetables. All meals should contain healthy proteins. Limit the amount of starchy carbohydrates and fruits to 1-3 servings per meal. Healthy fats should be 15-25% of our calories healthy fat. Fibre is the secret to blood sugar control. Also, regular exercise could prevent 30-50% of new cases of diabetes.

For the testimony and praise meeting we heard from various attendees of their experiences in coming to the truth. Groups from the various countries in attendance provided many beautiful instrumental music and songs.

Br. Marinov led out in the Sabbath closing. He reminded us of the motto of the conference. We know who Babylon is, and we know who are God's people. We need to find our place, our role in the Three Angel's Messages. God has

given us these messages. We know that we are in the time of the judgment. We need to spread the message, with God's help. The most important thing we need is the faith of Jesus, and we will be given strength to remain until the end.

On Sunday morning Br. Martin spoke again. He reminded us that we are living in the Day of Atonement. Unlike the High Priests in ancient Israel's time, Jesus moved into the most holy place only once. We have to prepare ourselves as did God's people in the wilderness. When He completes His work of judgment, the door of mercy will be shut forever. The door is still open, but it could close at any time. We must have faith to do what God asks of us, without asking why. We do not know God's will, but if we are born of God, we can overcome every sin.

The sisters provided us healthy meals throughout the conference. I was delighted to enjoy many of the Finnish foods that I am unable to get in Canada.

All who were present at the conference agreed that it was a blessed time and all sent greetings to the members in the various countries represented there.

On Monday, together with Br. Vladimir Marinov, we traveled almost two hours to visit an elderly sister, Anja Rantanen who was unable to attend the conference. Br. Martin preached a sermon in her living room on the 144,000. The 144,000 need to learn the song of Moses and the Lamb, the song of their experience, a song that only they can sing. It is the same song that both Moses at the Red Sea, and Jesus sang. Br. Marinov then gave the Lord's Supper to the sister. We enjoyed a lavish meal prepared by the sister before heading back to Akaa.

Helen Marttinen





CHILDREN'S CORNER:

Jesus Heals Annie



"Annie?" Max whispered as he lightly knocked on Annie's bedroom door.

"Come in Maxy," Annie's voice was soft. Max walked in almost on his tiptoes. Annie coughed and blew her nose.

"Annie, will you be better today?" Maxy asked as he sat at the end of his sister's bed where she lay covered in blankets.

"I hope so Maxy, I really want to play with you today," Annie blew her nose again.

"Yes, me too, Annie. Mother is making you your special tea again, the one that doesn't taste very good but it will help you get better."

Annie smiled, and coughed again. Just then, mother walked in with a cup of hot tea.

"Annie my dear, sit up so you can drink your tea. I will check if your fever has gone down." Mother placed the tea on the night table beside Annie's bed as she went to get the thermometer. Annie began to blow on her tea and slowly drink it. Mother came back with the thermometer and placed it under Annie's armpit. After a few seconds, she checked it.

"Hmm, it's gone down a bit, but you'll have to stay in bed today again."

"Aw," whined Max in disappointment.

"I know you would love to play with your sister, but

first she needs to get better," mother ran her fingers through Maxy's hair. "But I have good news that will cheer you up, Grandpa should be here any moment."

"Grandpa?" Annie and Max said at the same time as their eyes lit up.

"Yes, he wanted to come and spend time with you both today, and make his special soup," smiled Mother.

"Yes!" the children couldn't wait to see Grandpa.

After an hour, Grandpa finally arrived. Annie had fallen asleep so Max decided to help his Grandpa make his special soup. By the time the soup was finished, Annie had awakened. The children weren't usually allowed to eat in their rooms, but mother made an exception this time. So Grandpa and Max took the soup upstairs where the three ate.

"You know children, when Jesus was on this earth, He would heal people who were sick," Grandpa began. . . . The children looked at each other and smiled; they were excited to hear what the lesson for the day would be.

"In the gospels, there is a story of a very sick woman. She had been sick for twelve years and no doctor could help her. One day she heard Jesus would be in her town, so she went out to see Jesus. However, a large crowd followed Jesus and it seemed almost impossible to get to Him. This didn't stop the woman. Although she knew it would be hard to speak to Jesus, she decided that she would touch the hem of His garment, and that would be enough to heal her. At that very moment, her sickness was gone. Jesus, after realizing that she had touched Him, admired the woman's faith, be-



cause she believed in His power to heal her."

"Maybe if Jesus was here, Annie could touch Him, and she wouldn't be sick anymore, just like this woman," said Max.

"You know Maxy, in John 14:14, Jesus makes us a special promise. He says that anything we ask in His name, He is willing to do it. We can touch Jesus' garment by faith, and He will heal Annie. We can ask Jesus to heal Annie through prayer. Would you like us to pray?"

"Yes, Grandpa," answered Max as he looked at Annie. Annie smiled.

Max prayed so that Jesus would heal Annie, just as He had healed the woman who had been sick for twelve years. A few hours went by, and mother checked Annie's fever again.

"Annie my dear, your fever is gone," said mother happily.

"And I feel much better, mother, I'm not coughing anymore," said Annie, excited, "Jesus heard our prayer!"

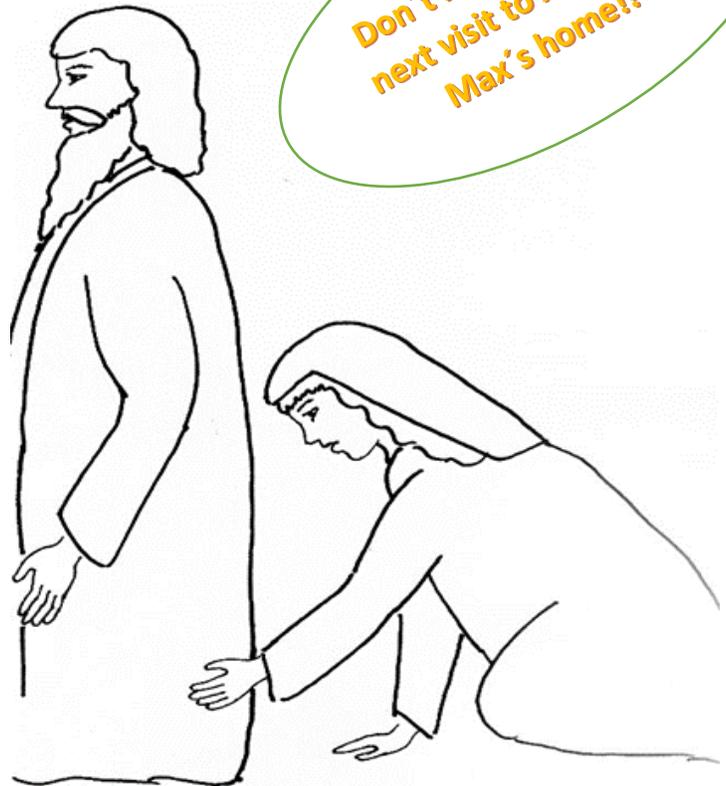
"Wow, Jesus answers our prayers when we believe," smiled Max.

Everyone was happy, and they prayed, offering their thanks to Jesus.

Don't miss Grandpa's next visit to Annie and Max's home!!

Challenge Five

Color the image and write where the story is found.



Complete all 15 Challenges

Email your challenges here:

veronicanoeemigarcia@gmail.com



Medical Missionary Experiences in Senegal

“But unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.” Malachi 4:2

I am sure you have already read some articles written by my wife. She does as much work as I do. We work together as a team for the Senegal Mission Field. It is a country which is 95% Muslim and less than 4% Christian, mostly Catholics and almost 2% traditional believers. Senegal has a strange Islam which is not like the Islam most people know, but a tradition of their leaders that has been passed from generation to generation. Most, if not all Muslims, do not read the Koran. They mostly listen to their leaders' interpretation of the Koran. Islam in Senegal is more traditionalized, which makes it a bit difficult to win Muslims to Christianity. This is also due to the fact that Christians in Senegal adopt some Islamic traditions in order to stay at peace with their neighbours.

Senegal is a secular country constitutionally. However, that is on paper only. Though it makes itself appear to be a most tolerant Muslim country, that is just in appearance because sometimes churches are burned by some young Muslims, incited by the older ones.

To leave one faith and to go to another different faith in Senegal means leaving your family. For that you can be persecuted and abandoned by your loved ones; left to struggle alone. This is practiced by both Muslims and Christians of all denominations, even the Seventh-day Adventists. Since Senegalese have great fear, it makes the work difficult. Many, after receiving the truth, love it but fail to make the decision to commit. They fear being rejected and marginalized, especially if they are still dependents, either socially or financially. Family is the most important relationship in Senegal. This is just how complicated it is working in Senegal.

Some people may come and show much interest but are just after money and temporal interests rather than the present truth. We meet those most of the time. Some tell us that we must give people gifts, then we will see them coming to church. Others tell us that we must scrap health reform from the church principles and many people will follow us. But we always reply, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these*

The Clinic



things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

I arrived with my wife and children in Senegal in September 2015, from South Africa. It was not easy in the beginning. It was difficult. We came from a country where we could freely do house-to-house and public evangelism, which we had joy in doing, to a place where this is not possible. We had thought to immediately start with Medical Missionary work, but when we arrived in Senegal we did not receive proper guidance in finding a house. Since houses in Dakar are expensive to rent we took an apartment, which was not an appropriate place to start such activities. We did not put aside our plan but we first took time to study and understand the city and its people.

Finally, we had to find another place to rent because the neighbours of the apartment we were renting started to threaten us, just because we were Christian missionaries, even though we had not started any serious church activities. At that time we were worshipping alone, because the one member we had was living in another city 200 km away where he was working. We did not know that we were living in the most religiously intolerant area in Dakar where there are no churches. Not even the Catholic church has a place of worship there. We were advised by friends we had already made to move from the area fast. We informed the General Conference about our situation and they helped us find another apartment. We first prayed to God to help us find a good place where we could worship peacefully and where the landlord would not give us any problems. The Lord helped us find another place which is where we are now. Here the landlady allows us to have our church services. The building has very few tenants. We have a good relationship with them and they come sometimes to join us in Sabbath worships.

Since we had a good place, we decided to start the Medical Missionary Work by opening up a clinic. We had some savings; we could start, though small, with only very few tools and a few herbs. We also received assistance from

the General Conference, and we were able to equip the clinic with at least more basic tools, and set up the office. We organized it well since we knew the importance of first impressions on the people coming to clinic. We also received funds from a good Samaritan from Canada; and with that we were able to organize our first health seminar which introduced the Medical work to more people.

Immediately the clinic was known by many of the people who initially did not even want to hear anything from us, but they started coming to the clinic. Now we have made friends with many pastors and bishops from protestant and Pentecostal churches. Through them we get into contact with their members. Some of them have invited us to teach the health message in their churches. We have seen many people become vegans, and some fully or partially vegetarians. By the grace of God, many that had followed our health advice have been cured from their diseases. We were even able to treat an old man who was diagnosed with prostate cancer. After almost two months of treatment he was declared cancer free. The family invited us to dinner to thank us. We told them to thank God who sent us to help the Senegalese people, to bring them the cure; to obtain physical and spiritual health. We mentioned to them that we received the health message by inspiration; and much of what we received by inspiration more than 150 years ago, is being confirmed by science today. We stated a few facts to prove this. We invited them to church for Bible studies and they promised to come.

When we receive patients, we do not only give them herbs, but we encourage them to change their entire lifestyle. We use some simple spices which we put into capsules. They are some local herbs from Ghana, and some herbs we order from South Africa through some friends at the South African Embassy, with whom we made contact through the health message. We use hydrotherapy, massage, and reflexology. We organize a regular health meeting twice a week, and when I am away on mission trips my wife gives cooking lessons and takes good care of the church and the interested souls also. We started a YouTube channel where we uploaded a number of vegan cooking lessons; and soon we will start uploading Bible studies in French. The channel's name is "IMS SENEGAL". We are now four members in total in Senegal with two regular, active, interested souls who were brought through the same health work. They do their best to live the truth they have learned. They love health reform and are vegetarian already; they will soon be baptized by God's grace. We have made many contacts, in Dakar especially, and we have also made some Seventh-day Adventist contacts in Elinkine, in the southern part of Senegal. We had a series of Reformation

studies with them here in Dakar during Sister Leila and Sister Wendy's visit; and as I write I am preparing to travel to Elinkine for further studies with the entire group of 14 young people. We have also made contact there with some Christians of other denominations in the same town. I will spend time there for door-to-door work—which I miss a lot—since it is a mostly Christian area. We pray that what we have been sowing will soon bear fruits.

We request your prayers for the work in Senegal and we thank those who have been praying. Our wish is to build the work here upon a strong and solid foundation, on the Rock of Ages. The following verses are ones that keep us going. *"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and He shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it."* Zechariah 4:6–7. *"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."* Ecclesiastes 11:6. *"And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few."* 1 Samuel 14:6

In the work of opening up new fields sometimes we get tempted to look for big numbers and thus tend to lower the standard of the truth. When we get tempted, these lines encourage us to work faithfully. *"How much better it would be for the cause, if the messenger of truth had faithfully and thoroughly educated these converts in regard to all these essential matters, even if there were less whom he could number as being added to the church under his labors."* —*The Review and Herald*, December 12, 1878. The full testimony can also be found in *Pastoral Ministry* pages 206–207.

There is much I could write of our experiences in the work in Senegal but it will take many more pages. I wish to finish here until next time. Senegal is a country of its own kind which makes our experience very much interesting and challenging.

May God bless you!

Judicaël M. Luboya
Senegal Mission Field



Pakistan

Pakistan Called - I Answered

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. Acts 16:9

If you would have told me a few months ago that I would be going to Pakistan, I would not have believed it, but the Lord showed me that His will was that I go. My friend, Gulzar Dass was going there to set up a school and a clinic on the outskirts of Karachi, the largest city. I hoped that our church could prove a benefit in this process of establishing an ongoing outreach in the wider Pakistani community.

The leader of our work there, Br. Inayat Daniel came from Islamabad to help and encourage the souls with me when I was there. There were also contacts that came from Facebook through different believers in Australia. These contacts were in Faisalabad and Farooqabad with Br. Inayat making contact with some believers in Lahore and Karachi. Some of the contacts had their own ministries in feeding, providing schooling, and helping poor children and their families. We tried to help with these efforts as well, but having very limited resources, we could only do so much.



Brother Jerry with Brother Inayat Daniel

There were also many opportunities to help sick people with simple natural remedies, as health care there is inadequate and costly.

Your prayerful support for these souls is solicited. Thank you,

Jerry Eaton

Senegal



Above: Brother Judicaël presenting a health lecture.

Left: with the family of the man cured of cancer

Conference in Finland



Left below: Brother Vladimir Marinov, Leader of Finland. Right Below: Brother



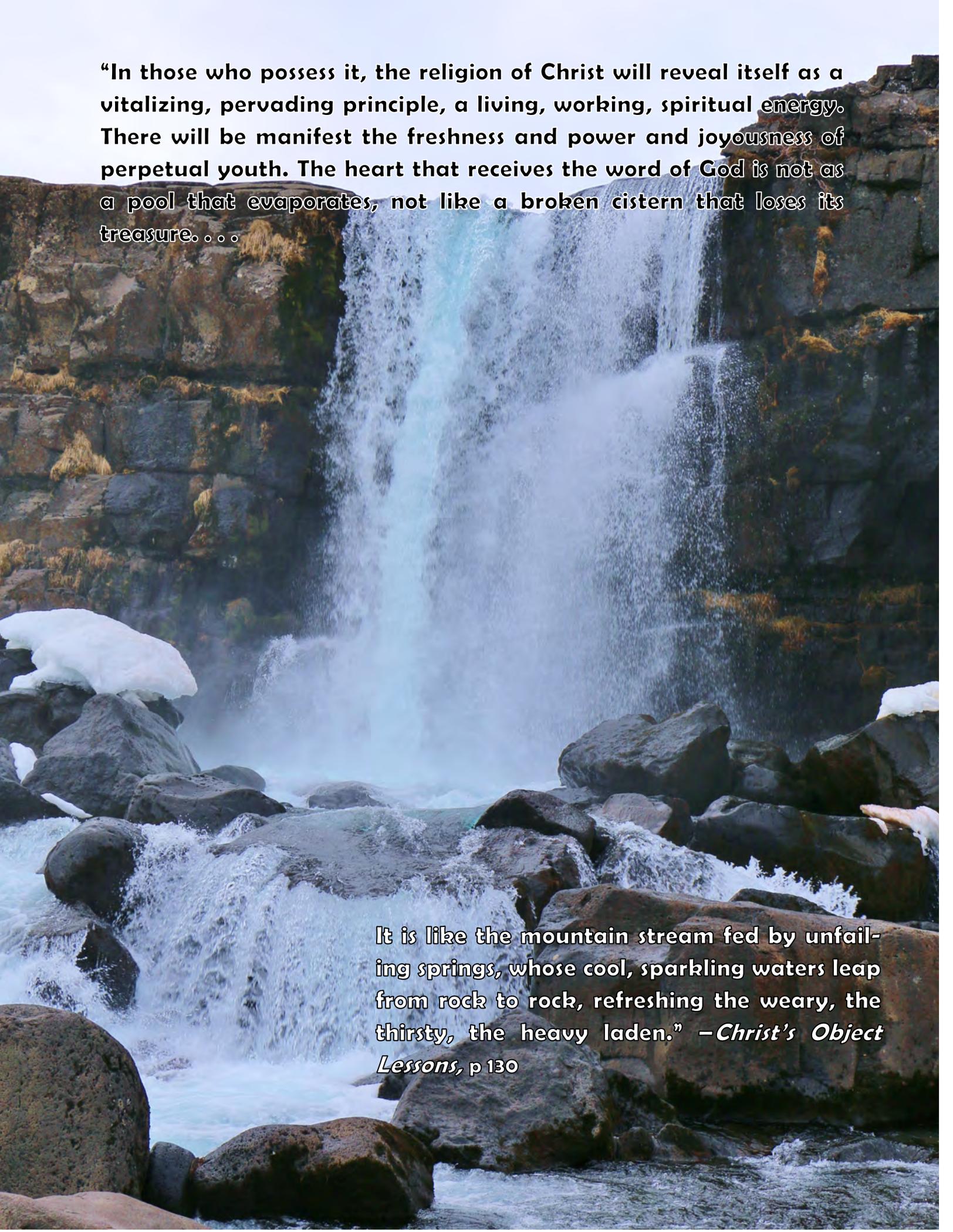
**Timo
Martin,
guest
speaker,
visiting
from
Canada**



Congo—Kinshasa

**Reorganization in February 2017.
Below: Some of the delegates and
New Union officers.**





“In those who possess it, the religion of Christ will reveal itself as a vitalizing, pervading principle, a living, working, spiritual energy. There will be manifest the freshness and power and joyousness of perpetual youth. The heart that receives the word of God is not as a pool that evaporates, not like a broken cistern that loses its treasure. . . .

It is like the mountain stream fed by unfailing springs, whose cool, sparkling waters leap from rock to rock, refreshing the weary, the thirsty, the heavy laden.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p 130