

The Reformation
Messenger
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WE BELIEVE: The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He

is the Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all

unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine, the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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- Telephone: 905-876-2518
- E-mail: imsmessenger@yahoo.com
- Internet: www.imsmessenger.org
- Mail: RR #3, 7899 15 Side Road, Milton, ON L9T 2X7, Canada

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Under the Shadow of the Almighty

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1

"The presence of God includes every other blessing. He who abides under the shadow of the Almighty can well say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust;' for of every such an one the Lord declares: 'Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.'" *—The Review and Herald, December 12, 1907*

"There are troublous times before us; the judgments of God are coming upon our world. The nations of the earth are to tremble. There will be trials and perplexities on every hand; men's hearts will fail them for fear. And what shall we do in that day? Though the earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and be removed like a cottage, if we have made God our trust, He will deliver us. 'He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.' 'Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee. . . . For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.'

"Christ sees the termination of the conflict. The battle is waging more and more fiercely. Soon He will come

whose right it is, and will take possession of all earthly things. All the confusion in our world, all the violence and crime, are a fulfilment of the words of Christ. They are the signs of the nearness of His coming. In that day of His coming, Christ will preserve those who have followed Him, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He has pledged Himself to be their sanctuary. He says to them, Enter thou into a safe retreat for a little moment, and hide thee until I shall cleanse the earth from her iniquity." *—Sons and Daughters of God, p. 354*

"The people are tested, and the great mass will be found on the side of the great deceiver, and will be overwhelmed in swift and irretrievable destruction. But those that heed the warnings of God, and in their lives bring

forth fruits meet for repentance, shall 'dwell in the secret place of the Most High;' they 'shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.' For them is the promise: 'With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.'" *—The Signs of the Times, April 1, 1886*

"Pray with humble hearts. Seek the Lord often in prayer. In the secret place, alone, the eye sees Jesus and the ear is opened to Jesus. You come forth from the secret place of prayer to abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Temptations come, but you press closer and still closer to the side of Jesus and place your hand in His hand. Then you gain a rich experience, resting in His love and rejoicing in His mercy. The worries and perplexities and cares are gone, and you rejoice in Jesus Christ. The soul is quick to hear the Father's voice, and you will commune with God." *—In Heavenly Places, p. 86*

"Thus in the language of One who has divine authority, Christ gives His elect church into the Father's arms. As a consecrated high priest He intercedes for His people. As a faithful shepherd He gathers His flock under the shadow of the Almighty, in the strong and sure refuge." *—The Desire of Ages, p. 680*

"His people would never know defeat if they would abide under the shadow of the Almighty; for One mightier than angels would fight by their side in every battle." *—The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 2, p. 999*

Ellen G. White



Miracles in Our Lives

his own life for his brother, Benjamin. He had changed; it was a complete change in his character.

When Jesus told His disciples how difficult it is for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven, they were amazed. "When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:25–26

Miracles have been occurring since the creation of the world. The first miracle was, in fact, the creation of our world, and since then miracles have continued. The Bible is full of miracles of God. In the time of Hezekiah the sun went backward ten degrees. Other times the dead were raised back to life, and the sick were healed. But the greatest miracle is the conversion of the human soul.

"The conversion of the human soul is of no little consequence. It is the greatest miracle performed by divine power. Actual results are to be reached through a belief in Christ as a personal Saviour. Purified by obedience to the law of God, sanctified by a perfect observance of His holy Sabbath, trusting, believing, patiently waiting, and earnestly working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, we shall learn that it is God that worketh in us to will and to do of His good pleasure." *—Evangelism*, p. 289–290

A sinner who loved sin is changed into a Christian who wants to be good, sanctified, and obedient, willing to sacrifice.

As an apple that is decayed and rotten and no human effort can make it good and fresh again, so also, a corrupted sinner cannot change himself. God alone can change a sinner into a saint—and how is it done?

"And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man." 1 Samuel 10:6

This is what it means to be born again. John and James, the disciples of Jesus, were called sons of thunder, but they were changed into Christlikeness, into loving persons.

Judah, the son of Jacob, along with his brothers sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites. Many years later he offered

Salvation is a miracle of God. It is impossible for us to obtain it by ourselves. It was a miracle of God that Samson could kill a lion with his bare hands. "Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done." Judges 14:5–6

Supernatural power is given to us by the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit miracles start happening. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them." Ezekiel 36:26–27

Our life is full of miracles. Every day the Holy Spirit strengthens us to obey God and keep His commandments.

"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. Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you." Zechariah 4:6–9

To build the house of the Lord, Zerubbabel needed the Holy Spirit; human strength was not enough. To build the house was like a great mountain, but mountains can be removed. "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

Sins in our life are like mountains, and not by human might nor by human power can we overcome them. Only by the Holy Spirit will the miracle of God be done and victory will be gained over sin.

The first thing we must do is to receive Christ's righteousness, "Jesus answered, . . . Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:12–14. We are not debtors to the flesh, we owe nothing to our eyes, ears, or stomach, but by the Spirit of God we must mortify the desires of the body.

One of the signs that show that we are born again by the Holy Spirit is our desire to do missionary work. Paul had the Holy Spirit and that made him want to preach the gospel. "Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ." Romans 15:19

Teaching us what to say is a miracle of God. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and He will tell us what to say while we are doing missionary work. "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." Matthew 10:19–20

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come." John 16:12–13

To overcome sin is a miracle of God. To remain calm under provocation is a miracle. To overcome our appe-

tite is a miracle. To love our enemies is a miracle. To pray without ceasing is a miracle. To love God more than ourselves is a miracle. To love our neighbour as ourself is a miracle. Choosing to read the Bible rather than watching worthless shows on TV and the Internet is a miracle. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13

"He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:29–31

Without the Holy Spirit false Christians will fail and their religion will be lukewarm. It will consist of formal ceremonies and be in name only. Sin will remain in their lives, and they have no power to obey God. They will be ready to die spiritually and give up the faith. They know the truth, but do not practise it. They are building upon a sandy foundation. In the end their punishment will be greater than those who never knew the truth.

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." Luke 12:47–48

These types of people do not have their prayers answered; they may say that they are good Christians but that is not so; no miracles happen in their lives. "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Revelation 3:16–17

How does this condition begin? "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30

Then this condition continues, "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." Ephesians 4:18–19

And, finally, what is their condition? "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." 1 Timothy 4:2

The voice of the Holy Spirit has then been silenced, and Satan takes control of them.

Jesus said to the woman at the well, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and Who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water." John 4:10. Then Jesus continued to explain more about the living water, "Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 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. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw." John 4:13-15

This living water works like a miracle in the soul. "He who seeks to quench his thirst at the fountains of this world will drink only 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." *-The Desire of Ages*, p. 187

This living water that God will pour upon us is the Holy Spirit, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My spirit." Joel 2:28-29

God has not promised just a few drops to fall upon us, but a shower—showers of blessing. "And I will make them and the places round about My hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing." Ezekiel 34:26

There will be a spiritual revival, God will give His mighty power to help us. There will be love, joy, and peace among us. There will be unity and harmony in our church. These miracles all happen when the Holy Spirit is poured upon us.

The sealing of God's people is a miracle that is done before the Latter Rain is poured out upon them. "The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east (or sunrising). This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God, or of Him who alone can give life, who

can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life." *-Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 444-445. "The indelible mark of God is upon them. God can plead that His own name is written there. The Lord has shut them in. Their destination is inscribed—'GOD, NEW JERUSALEM.' They are God's property, His possession." *-Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 446

"Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come." *-Our Father Cares*, p. 328

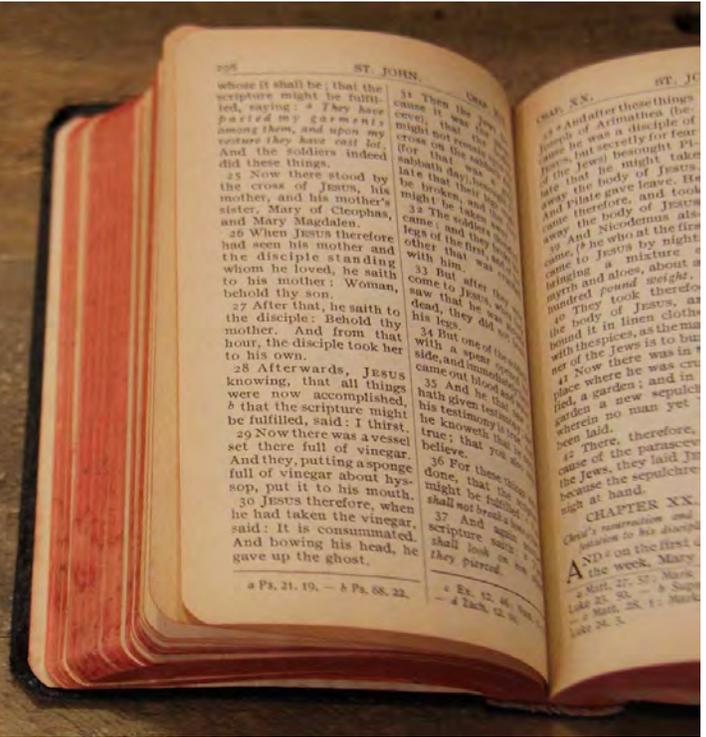
All who did not receive the seal in their foreheads will be shaken out. After this the next event is the latter rain. "Said the angel, 'Look ye!' My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy. . . .

"They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. And angel answered, 'It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel.'" *-Early Writings*, p. 271

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects of our characters to cleanse the soul-temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall." *-Christian Experience and Teachings*, p. 189. In this manner it will be possible to fulfil the words of Jesus. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48. This condition in the church is a great miracle done by the Holy Spirit. Every day we need to get one step closer to this perfection and keep asking God's miracle to reach that condition. Amen

Timo Martin

Come to the Help of the Lord



Many years ago, there was an elderly gentleman who came to church with us occasionally when we lived in Vancouver. He partially believed the Bible. He came more for social reasons. He was alone and lonely. He was a vegetarian and really enjoyed our fellowship lunches. He also appreciated the church services. However, when you spoke to him in depth, he clearly stated that he cannot believe the entire Bible. He believes that the God in heaven is a God of love, and He would never make some of the requests of His people as are recorded in the Bible. He mentioned events such as King Saul being told to go and destroy the Amalekites, killing all—men, women, children, and all animals. That could not have been an order from a loving God. He also liked to mention the time when David was having to pay a dowry for the hand of the king's daughter, Michal, in marriage. King Saul asked for only 100 Philistine foreskins (1 Samuel 18:25–27). Surely, there was a mistake. A request like this could not have been approved by a loving God.

This is not the kind of God that he envisions as one who is in heaven, overseeing the events on this earth. Therefore, those portions of the Bible do not reflect His character of love. According to this man, although these actions may have been carried out by men on this earth, clearly the order and/or approval did not come from God, as the Bible mentions.

But did directions like this come from God? Yes, they did. God's ways can be mysterious. Sometimes we do not understand His requests, yet we must never hesitate

to obey in the fullest sense. We must put our all into the service of the Lord. "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 29:29. Yes, there are some secrets that God has that may never be revealed to us. Yet, we are not to stop and question—we are to obey.

When Abraham was called to go to a strange land, he did not inquire where this land was, what kind of people lived there, what kind of home he would have, was there enough pastureland for his animals, was the land fertile and would it grow good crops so he could feed his family? No, he went by faith. He left his relatives and friends behind and went into the unknown with God.

As we know, King Saul clearly failed in his duty regarding the Amalekites. He spared the king and the animals. He omitted a vital part of his duty. We have often heard it said that the sins of omission are just as grievous as sins of commission. By omission men have forfeited the greatest blessings that God wishes to bestow. By omission, King Saul lost his kingdom and his favour with God. "The law of God condemns not only what we have done but what we have not done. We will, in the day of final accounts, find a register of the sins of omission as well as the sins of commission. God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing. It is not enough that by your own measurement of character you prove you have done no positive wrong. The fact that one has done no positive good will be enough to con-

demn him as a wicked and slothful servant.” – *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 16, p. 234



Ellen White was called to be a prophetess because Hazen Foss and William Foy refused to convey the message that the Lord asked them to deliver to His church. They lost much from their omission.

The apostle Paul recognized his responsibility and experienced many trials and difficulties in his life, but he would not hesitate or refuse to follow the directions the Lord gave him. “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.” Romans 1:14. He also stated, “woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!” 1 Corinthians 9:16. And he ends this statement with an exclamation mark, indicating strong emphasis. There is a terrible woe pronounced on all who do not preach the gospel and obey the instructions of the Lord. May God help us to feel this great burden that the apostle Paul felt and not omit our duty.

Doing the work of the Lord sometimes is challenging as many of the faithful men of God in the Bible experienced. Sometimes it is mysterious. When you read through the book of Ezekiel, you find several times when God asked him to do something that we would consider odd behaviour in order to give His people an object lesson, but he faithfully performed the required duty.

For example: “Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.” Ezekiel 4:4–6. I am sure that the lesson the Lord was wanting to teach the Israelites remained with them a lot longer seeing Ezekiel in this condition, rather than a sermon they would have heard one Sabbath.

However, there really and truly are requests that come from above that seem cruel, like the elderly gentleman believed as I mentioned at the beginning. Another example is when the Levites were directed to kill their brethren who were dancing around the golden calf. “And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of

Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.” Exodus 32:27

What may seem cruel to us may be mercy in the eyes of God. The people were so rebellious and perhaps the Lord knew that should they live they would only increase their guilt and increase their suffering in the lake of fire. Only God knows. With the destruction of the wicked though, we also see the mercy and love of God.

Deeds of cruelty are not normal for God. “For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act.” Isaiah 28:21. The Lord says, “As I live. . . I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” Ezekiel 33:11. It pains Him to even see the wicked die. He created them and wishes to save and redeem all. “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.” Isaiah 59:1–2. Many times, He simply withdraws His protection and the enemy comes in like a flood, wreaking havoc on souls that have severed themselves from the Lord.

I want to focus now on a verse from Jeremiah in this line of thinking, where we find two curses mentioned: “***Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.***” *Jeremiah 48:10*

Many commentaries have focused on the first half of this verse—a curse upon those who do the work of the LORD deceitfully. Satan has been using this tactic very successfully for hundreds of years. It was the Jews (who claimed to believe the Bible and be serving God and were His chosen people) who were persecuting the Christians. It was the Papacy (the Catholic Church), who was responsible for the death of millions of Christians whose only crime was to have a Bible. In World War I it was the SDA church leaders who betrayed the faithful souls to the government, causing many faithful young men to lose their lives in prison camp. It will not end here. To do evil in the name of God has been a very successful tool of Satan for many years. It is possible to be working for the devil under a cloak of Christianity.

Not only in open cruelty against faithful souls but the

work of the Lord is done deceitfully if it is not done thoroughly, earnestly, and sincerely. Any work that is done in a quick and sloppy manner, when one's heart is not in it, is deceitful to the Lord. Doing the work only for personal gain or fear of reproach, not from the love of Christ is dishonest. The work may get done, but the Lord reads the heart, and these persons are deceitful and are hypocrites.

But what about the second half of the verse? Literally, it was a punishment against Moab. "Cursed is He that keepeth back his sword from blood." As



mentioned, King Saul was cursed because he was told to use his sword to shed blood, but he did not complete the work and he was thus cursed. In this verse in Jeremiah, a curse is pronounced on a soldier that failed to do his duty in the most thorough and terrible manner. No pity, no motive of any kind was an excuse for sparing the doomed nation. "Cursed is he who doth not execute with fidelity and the greatest exactness the orders of the Lord; cursed will ye be, O Chaldeans, if you spare Moab, if you treat her not with the utmost severity, since God hath appointed her

to destruction, and you are only the executors of His just vengeance.' Calmet."

<https://www.studyLight.org/commentaries/eng/tcc/jeremiah-48.html#verse-10>

A curse was pronounced if they did not use their sword to kill and shed blood. What a terrible work the Lord seems to be asking. They were not to spare any, as Saul was commanded to do to the Amalekites. There is a time to withhold our hands from shedding blood, and there is a time when God will curse those that do withhold their hands from shedding blood when God requires the shedding of it.

What about today? Can we apply some principles from this verse today? Yes, we can. Is God asking us to take our sword and kill—shed blood? Not literally, but spiritually, yes. There is a curse for those who do the work of the Lord deceitfully, but also a curse pronounced upon those who do not do the work of the Lord correctly and exactly—sins of commission and sins of omission.

Jesus has a two-edged sword. "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith He which hath the sharp sword with two edges." Revelation 2:12. "And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."

Revelation 1:16

It is a spiritual sword, and this sword is to pierce the soul and spirit of man and discern his thoughts and motives. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

Jesus tells us to take up this sword and use it also. "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:17. Clearly, our sword is the Bible, the Word of God.



A sword is a symbol of death. It is often used to shed blood and kill. The only hope for the sinner is to have sin cut out of his life. This can be a painful process. Sometimes when we have moments alone with Jesus in prayer and study, He uses the spiritual sword to get at our hearts to cut away at our sinful habits. Other times, he asks someone else to use the sword to come and reveal to us the plague spots in our characters. This is very humiliating sometimes, but we all need to have our pride cut away and to humble ourselves before Jesus.

In reading the writings of Ellen G. White, you can find many instances where she was called to use the sword of the spirit to reveal plague spots and hidden sins in the lives of members who were making a pretence of piety. It was not an easy task, but she was called to use the sword, or then be punished by the sword. "We are answerable to God for the souls of those with whom we are brought in contact, and the closer our connections with our fellow men, the greater our responsibility. We are one great brotherhood, and the welfare of our fellow men should be our great interest. We have not one moment to lose. If we have been careless in this matter, it is high time we were now in earnest to redeem the time, lest the blood of souls be found on our garments. As children of God, none of us are excused from taking a part in the great work of Christ in the salvation of our fellow men." —*Christian Experience and Teachings*, p. 214

The sword *must* be used. If it is not used in the church, we have the problem of Achan at hand. An "Achan" left in the church can cause the blessing to be lost to the entire church. Here is where some refuse to use the sword to shed blood and are guilty of the sins of omission. It is not easy to separate from the church those whom we have grown to love, but who are straying away from the truth. We think we are doing them a

great kindness by being patient and merciful and leaving their names on the church books, hoping they will change one day even though they have been openly living out of harmony with the Bible, with God, and with the church for many years. Some feel as though they would be killing the person if they separate them from membership. However, the curse is pronounced if we *do not* take the sword and shed blood and separate them.

“The history of Achan teaches the solemn lesson that for one man's sin the displeasure of God will rest upon a people or a nation till the transgression is searched out and punished. Sin is corrupting in its nature. One man infected with its deadly leprosy may communicate the



taint to thousands. Those who occupy responsible positions as guardians of the people are false to their trust if they do not faithfully search out and reprove sin. Many dare not condemn iniquity, lest they shall thereby sacrifice position or popularity. And by some it is considered uncharitable to rebuke sin. The servant of God should never allow his own spirit to be mingled with the reproof which he is required to give; but he is under the most solemn obligation to present the Word of God, without fear or favor. He must call sin by its right name. Those who by their carelessness or indifference permit God's name to be dishonored by His professed people, are numbered with the transgressor,—registered in the record of heaven as partakers in their evil deeds.” —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 996. This is a serious thought.

There is a proper way of using the sword of the Spirit, though. It is not meant to be used as in ancient warfare—with total cruelty. Some have mistakenly taken this sword of the Spirit with vengeance and made sure not to hold back. They have gone and used the sword to shed blood, and kill and wound the sinner in a most cruel manner. Many have gone away from the Lord into despair when the sword of the Spirit was used incorrectly.

“And yet, with the lessons of Christ's life before them, how many who claim to be His followers, fail to be ten-

der-hearted, forgiving, and full of love and compassion. In the hardness of their own hearts, in the iron-like stubbornness of their own will, they wound and bruise the souls for whom Christ has died. If they think a brother has erred, they are severe toward him, not remembering that they themselves are in constant need of God's mercy. They pass lightly over things in themselves that are grievous in the sight of God, but censure without mercy those whom they think blamable. How differently does God deal with the sinner; He forgives transgression and sin. He loved us, and gave Himself for us. What does it mean that such hardness of heart is manifested among the professed children of God? It is an offense to God; for it misrepresents His character.” —*The Review and Herald*, June 30, 1891

Using the sword of the Spirit to reprove those who have made mistakes must be used, but must be used gently. It must be used in the same manner as a surgeon performing a delicate surgery carefully cutting away the cancer while preserving the good flesh. Matthew 18:15–17 tells us how gently it must be done. We are to go quietly to the sinner alone. If the sinner refuses to listen, then the steps to be followed are carefully outlined. All must be done in a spirit of meekness and love.

Going back in history, how did the Lord reprove Adam and Eve? (Genesis 3:8–15). He simply asked them questions. He came walking in the Garden looking for them and asks, “Where are you?” They answer, “We hid because we were naked.” The Lord responds by saying, “Who told you that you were naked?” Then He asks, “Did you eat from the tree which I told you not to eat of?” We know the rest of the story—the excuses they made; the beautiful promise that the Lord made to bear their penalty. However, the point is, how did the Lord reprove them? He politely asked them questions and drew them out. They made the confession themselves. There was no frustration, anger, or reproach.

How did Isaiah reprove Hezekiah after the Babylonians visited him and he failed to tell them about the Lord but rather showed off his wealth? (2 Kings 20:15–17; Isaiah 39:3–6). Isaiah also simply asked questions. “Who were these men? Where did they come from? What have they seen in your house?” The questions were leading Hezekiah to verbalize his error. Then Isaiah pronounced the Judgment of the Lord. Again, no reproach or anger.

And King David? The prophet Nathan simply came and told him a parable. David said that the rich man in the parable deserves to die. And Nathan states, “that man is you.” Nathan could have walked into the king's palace

and started to censure and reproach the king and tell him what a grave sin he did, but this parable did its work of cutting into David's heart with the knowledge of his guilt better than any reproach would have (2 Samuel 12:1-8). It led him to confess his sin and desire cleansing of his heart. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit." Psalm 51:10-12

These methods worked well in the past. This is how we are to shed blood using the sword of the Spirit. Adam and Eve, and Hezekiah, were very likely cut in their hearts when they realized what they had done and what the consequences were. Yet, it was necessary for them to be told that what they did was wrong, but they were told in as calm and loving manner as possible.

Although she was a sinner, we see how gently Jesus dealt with Mary Magdalene. Her accusers wanted to stone her. Jesus did not even rebuke her accusers. He silently began writing in the sand and her accusers left one by one. After they left Jesus stood up and, seeing they were gone, He forgave her sins and said, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." John 8:10

To hold back from reproving someone or putting them on church discipline if needed is a sin of omission, and God will hold the entire church accountable. We will be considered as partaking in their sin. "Members of the church may commit errors, and often make mistakes; but they are to be dealt with kindly, tenderly, as Christ has dealt with us." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 274

"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." Galatians 6:1

Cursed is he that does the Lord's work in the wrong way and cursed is he who refused to do it in the right way, as painful and unpleasant as it may seem.

"In the work of soul-winning, great tact and wisdom are needed. The Saviour never suppressed the truth, but He uttered it always in love. In His intercourse with others, He exercised the greatest tact, and He was always kind and thoughtful. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave unnecessary pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He fearlessly denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity, but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. He never made truth cruel, but ever manifested a deep tenderness for humanity. Every soul was precious in His sight. He bore Himself with divine dignity; yet He bowed with the tenderest compassion and regard to every member of the family of God. He saw in all, souls whom it was His mission to save." *Christian Service*, p. 231

We all have a work to do for Jesus. "Every soul is to minister. He is to use every physical, moral, and mental power, through sanctification of the Spirit, that he may be a laborer together with God. All are bound to devote themselves actively and unreservedly to God's service. They are to cooperate with Jesus Christ in the great work of helping others." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1159. May God help you to cooperate with the Lord and do the work He has given to you with diligence and exactness. He will be our helper and guide if you willingly submit to His leading. Amen

Wendy Eaton



"God desires human beings to be more closely associated with Him. Therefore He takes them away from their friends and acquaintances. When God was preparing Elijah for translation, He moved him from place to place, that he might leave behind the methods and customs he had previously followed, that he might not settle down on his lees, and thus fail of obtaining moral greatness and spiritual soundness. It was God's design that Elijah's influence should be a power to help many souls to a more perfect experience."
— *The Upward Look*, p. 170



Our Social Needs

This article is based on the last chapters in the book by Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*.

Just like we have physical needs: food, water, exercise etc., so we also have social needs. Here we will be concentrating on what our social needs are and how we can fulfill them. So, what are our social needs? Our social needs are the things in life that we do not need in order to exist. We can physically exist without reading and writing, without listening to music and many other similar things that we enjoy in life. However, without these gifts, life would be very boring and empty.

For example, reading and writing are wonderful abilities, but they are like everything else, we need to control them. If we are reading books which contain violence, immorality, and other negative content then our thoughts will be of the same quality. We read in *The Adventist Home* pages 410–411 as follows: “Many youth are eager for books. They read anything that they can obtain. I appeal to the parents of such children to control their desire for reading. Do not permit upon your tables the magazines and newspapers in which are found love stories. Supply their place with books that will help the youth to put into their character-building the very best material—the love and fear of God, the knowledge of Christ. Encourage your children to store the mind with valuable knowledge, to let that which is good occupy the soul and control its powers, leaving no place for low, debasing thoughts. Restrict the desire for reading matter that does not furnish good food for the mind.”

Today, I believe that it is a great challenge for parents to control what children see on TV or on the computer screen and on the cell phone which, in many homes,

have replaced reading materials. “There are those who profess to be brethren who do not take the *Review, Signs, Instructor, or Good Health*, but take one or more secular papers. Their children are deeply interested in reading the fictitious tales and love stories which are found in these papers, and which their father can afford to pay for, although claiming that he cannot afford to pay for our periodicals and publications on present truth.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 415

Music is another talent that God has given us, and I am



impressed with the talents that we have in our churches here in Canada, and all the wonderful programs that we see on the Internet from all over the world. Let us encourage the parents and our music teachers to keep up the good work of teaching our youth.

COURTESY AND KINDNESS

“**Courtesy will banish half life’s ills**—The principle inculcated by the injunction, ‘Be kindly affectioned one to another,’ lies at the very foundation of domestic happiness. Christian courtesy should reign in every household. It is cheap, but it has power to soften natures which would grow rough and hard without it. . . . The courtesies of everyday life and the affection that should exist between members of the same family do not de-

pend upon outward circumstances.

“Pleasant voices, gentle manners, and sincere affection that finds expression in all the actions, together with industry, neatness, and economy, make even a hovel the happiest of homes.” *–Ibid.*, p. 421–422

“Gentle manners, cheerful conversation, and loving acts will bind the hearts of children to their parents by the silken chords of affection and will do more to make home attractive than the rarest ornaments that can be bought for gold.” *–Ibid.*, p. 426–427

The way we conduct our speech is also affecting our social skills. “It is important that children and youth should be trained to guard their words and deeds; for their course of action causes sunshine or shadow, not only in their own home, but all with whom they come in contact.

“Unhappiness is often caused by an unwise use of the talent of speech. The word of God does not authorize anyone to speak harshly, thereby creating disagreeable feelings and unhappiness in the family. The other members of the family lose their respect for the one who speaks thus, when if he would restrain his feelings, he might win the confidence and affection of all.” *–Ibid.*, p. 437

Another thing that affects our social life is gossiping. “The spirit of gossip and talebearing is one of Satan’s special agencies to sow discord and strife, to separate friends, and to undermine the faith of many in the truthfulness of our positions. It is natural for human beings to speak sharp words. Those who yield to this inclination open the door for Satan to enter their hearts and to make them quick to remember the mistakes and errors of others. Their failings are dwelt upon, their deficiencies noted, and words are spoken that cause a lack of confidence in one who is doing his best to fulfill his duty as a labourer together with God. Often the seeds of distrust are sown because one thinks that he ought to have been favoured but was not.” *–Ibid.*, p. 441

The friends that we choose will also very much affect our social life. Therefore, it is very important that we choose good friends; always watch that you are not being led in a downward path by your friends. Do not be afraid to stand up for what is right. Often when we get together with our friends it is in our spare time or during our holidays. It is important that these social gatherings are used for the glory of God. For example, at the time of Thanksgiving, let us reflect on the blessings that God has given us, and also use this time to share with

others the abundance that God has provided for us. It is good to give gifts to other people, but let them be meaningful gifts—something that can benefit their lives, either physically or spiritually. Give gifts that are of a real benefit, something that they can use. A good book is always an excellent gift. Let us always keep in mind that the family is to be a missionary centre and let us seek for opportunities to do good.

Our lives are full of duties and much is expected of us; therefore, it is important that we have a balance in life. You must take time to relax, regardless of how busy you are and how important your job is. In this time of the Coronavirus, some people are asked to stay at home and not go anywhere, not even to work. This is a mental challenge for many and for these it is important to find useful occupation, even if it is inside four walls. Keep a routine in your life, get up at a set time, have regular meals and sufficient exercise. If you find that the time is long, think about something good to do. You can practice music, read good books, or write a story, maybe an article for the Messenger, clean up a room, or maybe the garage. This will be a benefit to you and others and will keep your mind active and your body healthy.

At the same time, we have healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, and many others who, because of this pandemic have been overloaded with work and anxiety to the point that some have had nervous breakdowns, others have died of stress and heart attacks. Some have even committed suicide because of the enormous pressure.

We must take time to relax, before our mental and physical strength is exhausted to the point that we cannot handle it anymore. We have to step down and let God take over, and He will. Remember, we are only a tool in His hand.

There is a chapter in *The Adventist Home* that is called, **Recreation is Essential.**

Here are several important lessons. “There are persons with a diseased imagination to whom religion is a tyrant, ruling them as with a rod of iron. . . .

“They consider all recreation or amusement as sin and think that the mind must be constantly wrought up to just such a stern and severe pitch. This is one extreme. . . . I was shown that Sabbath keepers as a people labour too hard without allowing themselves change or periods of rest. Recreation is needful to those who are engaged in physical labour and is still more essential for those whose labour is principally mental. It is not essential to our salvation, nor for the glory of God, to keep

the mind labouring constantly and excessively, even upon religious themes." *-Ibid.*, p. 493-494

WHAT SHALL WE PLAY?

The world today is full of games. There are so many games that people are playing and so many advertisements about games. But most of them are not good for us or for our children. It is important that our children and youth have vigorous exercise, but also these must be guided in the right direction. "While we restrain our children from worldly pleasures that have a tendency to corrupt and mislead, we ought to provide them innocent recreation, to lead them in pleasant paths where there is no danger. No child of God need to have a sad or mournful experience. Divine commands, divine promises show that this is so. Wisdom's ways 'are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.' . . . Some of the most popular amusements, such as football and boxing, have become schools of brutality. They are developing the same characteristics as did the games of ancient Rome." *-Ibid.*, p. 498-500

What is going on today in hockey, football, basketball, and other similar sports is not recreation. It is big business and competition which is ruining many people's lives.

"Let several families living in a city or village unite and leave the occupations which have taxed them physically and mentally, and make an excursion into the country, to the side of a fine lake, or to a nice grove where the scenery of nature is beautiful. They should provide themselves with plain, hygienic food, the very best fruits and grains, and spread their table under the shade of some tree or under the canopy of heaven. The ride, the exercise, and the scenery will quicken the appetite, and they can enjoy a repast which kings might envy.

"On such occasions parents and children should feel free from care, labor, and perplexity. Parents should become children with their children, making everything as pleasant for them as possible. Let the whole day be given to recreation. Exercise in the open air for those whose employment has been within doors and sedentary will be beneficial to health. All who can should feel it a duty to pursue this course. Nothing will be lost, but much gained. They can return to their occupations with new life and new courage to engage in their labor with zeal, and they are better prepared to resist disease." *-Ibid.*, p. 501-502

Also, a day at church when we clean up and repair things can be a great way to spend time together, and at the same time do something that has a lasting benefit for

all.

If you do not feel well, do not remain completely inactive. "I have been instructed that as the sick are encouraged to leave their rooms and spend time in the open air, tending the flowers or doing some other light, pleasant work, their minds will be called from self to something more health giving. Open-air exercise should be prescribed as a beneficial, life-giving necessity.

"We can but be cheerful as we listen to the music of the happy birds and feast our eyes upon flourishing fields and gardens. We should invite our minds to be interested in all the glorious things God has provided for us with a liberal hand. And in reflecting upon these rich tokens of His love and care, we may forget infirmities, be cheerful, and make melody in our hearts unto the Lord." *-Ibid.*, p. 510

The last three chapters in *The Adventist Home* tell us that there is a reward for being a Christian. "The life on earth is the beginning of the life in heaven; education on earth is an initiation into the principles of heaven; the lifework here is a training for the lifework there. What we now are, in character and holy service is the sure foreshadowing of what we shall be." *-Ibid.*, p. 535

Life in Heaven will not be boring. "In the earth made new the redeemed will engage in the occupations and pleasures that brought happiness to Adam and Eve in the beginning. The Eden life will be lived, the life in garden and field. 'They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.'

"There every power will be developed, every capability increased. The grandest enterprises will be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations will be reached, the highest ambitions realized. And still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truth to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of body and mind and soul." *-Ibid.*, p. 549

By the grace of God let us all strive to enter that wonderful kingdom; there all our social needs will be met forever. May God grant us all to be there. Amen.

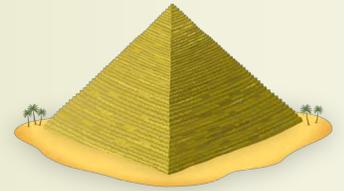
Evald Pedersen





From Prison to the Palace of Pharaoh

Part II. The Story of Joseph
Based on Gen. 39:21-23; 40; 41.



Again, Joseph was dealt with roughly, doing nothing wrong –
was cast amidst the guilty throng of men punished for their crimes,
with such now was to spent long times.

He had no defence to clear his innocence, and could have been much in despair,
was surely sad, being dealt with so unfair!

But the Hebrew youth was of no ordinary breed, for his father's fathers had to meet
many trials, sorrows, errors also and mistakes in their wake,

but trusted God, made Him their hope, surrendered self and thus could cope.

With strength divine their aid and shield, thus conquered Satan, sin - became heroes
of the faith, they honored God, learned to Him alone to yield.

To Joseph Jacob spoke most precious lessons of his life of trials, cheat, betrayal,
and taught, to God his little heart to give, and trusting the Almighty, so to live
to honor God, obey Him, always trust, led God to lead him, who knows best.

Now in those days down in that dreary prison Joseph pondered on these counsels,
and determined again to make and give his best, and sure enough God worked
on his behest, blessed Joseph greatly, esteemed him in the jailer's keeper's sight,
who would give him oversight of all prisoners, and he with might,
in cheerfulness and calm of mind took on his duty. He was kind, to those rough men,
not knowing God, nor love, nor meekness, accustomed to do evil, reaping then
distress, unhappiness...

To them now Joseph would speak hope, lift them from the pit they fell,
with soft compassion he would tell them precious words to reach the hearts,
there is forgiveness, pardon for their deeds.

To calm that unrest of the soul – there is one God to make them whole.

The prison shone with light – the light of heaven filled the souls of men, who one by
one confessed to God and asked for pardon, they abhorred their wicked deeds,
weeping sore, then found peace and joy, love for one another,
calling each of them a brother

.....

One day two offenders from Pharaoh's palace, for their malice, were brought
to spent a season in the prison's ward, and were given under Joseph's guard.
The chief of butlers and the baker's chief, gave reason for the Pharaoh's wrath,

Through insulting mischief did enough to endanger their career, now to spent the days in fear, till their given sentence they would hear.
Then one night both of them did have a dream, but had no clue what it would mean. They were confused, bewildered, puzzled, so that Joseph asked them what they had, as their faces looked so sad.

They told their matter, by God's grace, he could give the proper explanation: That in three days would be the intervention, the butler be restored to bear the Pharaoh's cup, but the baker lose his life – his time would then be up.

Joseph asked the butler to remember him, to speak for him unto the king.

The third day came – Pharaoh's birthday, a great feast was made for all – and all did come to pass as Joseph said – but the butler came not to his aid.

Joseph felt betrayed again "How long have I to remain, in this dungeon, God of my fathers? Help I pray!" But it took two more years when change would come his way.

.....

And it came to pass that Pharaoh had two dreams he could not understand, was sorely troubled, called the magicians of the land, to tell the meaning of his dreams...

Then the bearer of his cup, the butler said: "O Pharaoh, I remember now today my fault and went to prison to be held with the baker's chief. And behold, we both did have a dream, a young man, a Hebrew - he was keen, he could understand what our dreams did mean."

The Pharaoh sprang from his seat: "Go, quickly get this man!"

Now his servants hastened, rushed to get the Hebrew, without many words took Joseph who so startled with surprise feared for him a new demise.

But he was taken to the palace, shaven, and arrayed in proper garment, brought in to Pharaoh to the place before the monarch, who with grace looked upon the young man's face.

Then told Joseph his concern about his dreams, wanted to learn the interpretation, and a truthful explanation. And Joseph said: "It is not in me. But God has shown to thee, what He is about to do.

Both dreams are one on urgency, established by God with certainty.

Now prepare for the emergency ahead of time in seven years of plenty – to gather up much food for good to store, for the coming famine very, very sore."

This counsel did please Pharaoh well. "There is no one wiser who could deal with this cause of grave import, we with one accord, choose you to oversee the matter, it will be to Egypt for the better!"

Thus Pharaoh ended his command, took the ring off from his hand, to give to Joseph, arrayed him in fine linen, put a golden chain about his neck, and made him ruler of the land.

Astounded to the core to what he was chosen for –
Joseph marvelled beyond measure –

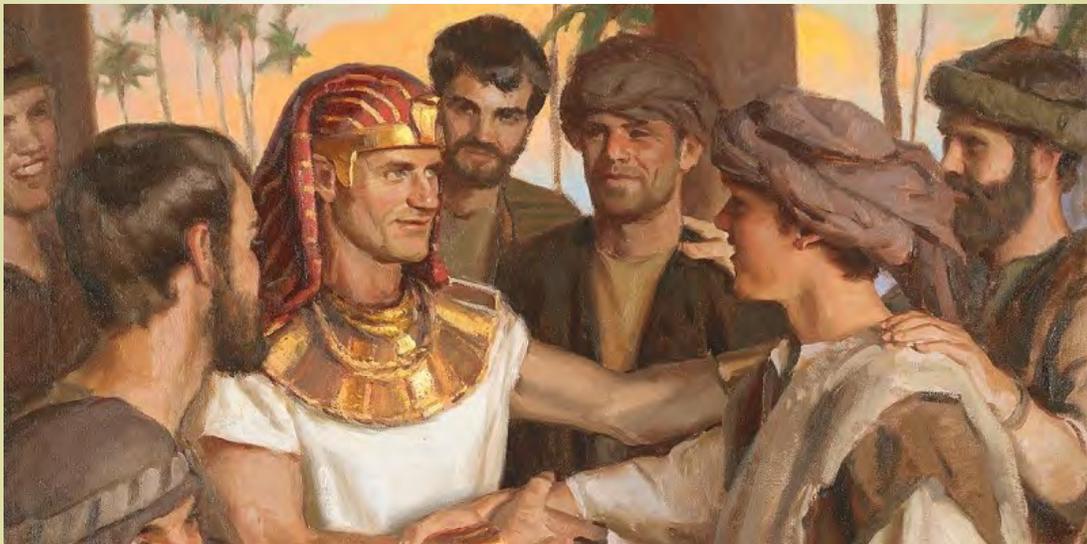


he could hardly take it in, such great honor being given him.
Then taken in the palace to his living quarters
to be near the monarch to discuss the matters
for the kingdom's welfare, good and safety, producing wise, efficient policies.
Surrounded now with velvet, silk, brocade, what a change so quick was made –
from the dreary, dark, bleak prison walls - to those bright, luxurious palace halls!,
With inexpressible gratitude, Joseph bowed before his God,
upon his knees to utter thanks and praise, from his heart for such wonder done to him,
poured out his love from deep within.
He pleaded to be given strength, endurance, guidance to be wise
for this enormous enterprise,
and faithfulness that in no wise he would bring reproach upon God's holy name,
but honor, praise and fame.
Then peace and calm filled Joseph's soul, and contemplating about all
upon his bed in linen white and fine and soft –
no snoring prisoners around, no shout, or that one coughed –
soon tranquility took over the excitement of the day,
resting in God's care, sweet sleep was on its way. –

Conscious dependency kept Joseph in humility,
With enthusiasm, joy, he labored, God was with him
and he prospered. Established granaries in all cities, to store for seven years
much grain, and food that for the famine then will plenty food remain.
A dear wife was also given him and love,
two sons, a gift from God above,
made him forget the tragic past - he found happiness at last. --

End of Part II. To be continued.

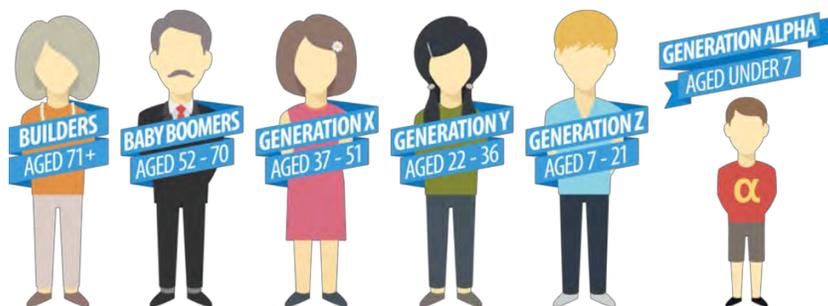
Edda Tedford, Canada





“We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching

Since evil entered the world after the sin of our first parents, we can see the consequences everywhere. Unfortunately, most people are in a deplorable condition. They are seemingly not bothered by the situation; instead, they are inventing philosophies and new theories to challenge God. *Almost everyone is busy looking for money, fame, lust of flesh, and cares of the world, like the Antediluvian world.* When I consider the recent and current generations:



Generations by pngkit. (n d). <https://www.pngkit.com/bigpic/u2e6q8i1u2u2q8r5/>

“Baby Boomers” are anyone born between 1946 and 1964; “Generation X” born in the mid-1960s to early 1980s; “Generation Y” born after 1981 to early 2000s (Millennials), “Generation Z” born 2001 to 2014 (Zillennials). I always wonder about the generations after Generation Z; the majority of this generation is addicted to social media and cellphones, is less social, and unconscious to divine matters. Technology is controlling them. This reminds me that we are living in the end times—which started in 1798. It is a special and solemn period of time. It is the last chapter of this world’s history.

events of the greatest magnitude.

“The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 37

Many in the world enjoy watching and reading news about politics, catastrophes, pandemics, incest, domestic violence, etc., They give no thought about the future—what will happen when they die? What lies ahead is eternal life or death and it is up to us to choose today before the door of mercy closes.

“The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails. The enemy has succeeded in perverting justice and in filling men’s hearts with the desire for selfish gain. ‘Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.’ Isaiah 59:14. In the great cities there are multitudes living in poverty and wretchedness, well-nigh destitute of food, shelter, and clothing; while in the same cities are those who have more than heart could wish, who live luxuriously, spending their money on richly furnished houses, on personal adornment, or worse still, upon the gratification of sensual appetites, upon liquor, tobacco, and other things that destroy the powers of the brain, unbal-

ance the mind, and debase the soul. The cries of starving humanity are coming up before God, while by every species of oppression and extortion men are piling up colossal fortunes." *-Ibid., p. 37*

From the beginning God has worked through His people to bring blessings to the world. Those who profess to believe in Jesus should ever press towards the light. They should daily pray for the light of the Holy Spirit to shine upon the pages of the sacred book, that they may be able to comprehend the things of the Spirit of God. We must have implicit trust in God's word, or we are lost.

God regards us as His children. He has redeemed us out of the careless world and has chosen us to become members of the royal family, sons and daughters of the heavenly King. He invites us to trust in Him with a trust deeper and stronger than that of a child in his earthly father. Parents love their children, but the love of God is larger, broader, deeper, than human love can possibly be. It is immeasurable. If earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more shall our Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." 1 Peter 2:9

"God is leading a people out from the world upon the exalted platform of eternal truth, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. He will discipline and fit up His people. They will not be at variance, one believing one thing, and another having faith and views entirely opposite; each moving independently of the body. Through the diversity of the gifts and governments that He has placed in the church, they will all come to the unity of the faith." *-Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White, p. 201*

WE SHOULD BE DOERS OF THE WORD

"God has told us what to do in our lifework, and how to form characters for the future, immortal life. If we pay heed to the instructions given, we shall be doers of the word. His words are not permissions, not suggestions, but the decisions of an infallible Judge. They are *divine maxims*, the very specified laws which will judge us in the last days. No man is excusable for acting as though he were at liberty to cancel the decisions of God, to disregard His directions and injunctions, to review them, criticize them, reverse them as he sees fit. The words of God are righteousness and truth, but they are strangely *unheeded*. If men cannot shape His sayings to their lik-

ing, they depart from His directions, and break His commandments. But thank God we have the living oracles, the lamp of life, and he only is wise who walks in the light. God cannot change the word that has gone out of His lips. Man cannot depart from God's plans, except at the peril of his soul. He cannot sit safely in judgment upon the word of God; for that word is to judge him when he shall stand before the great white throne. Let all bear in mind that the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened, and every one shall be judged according to his works.

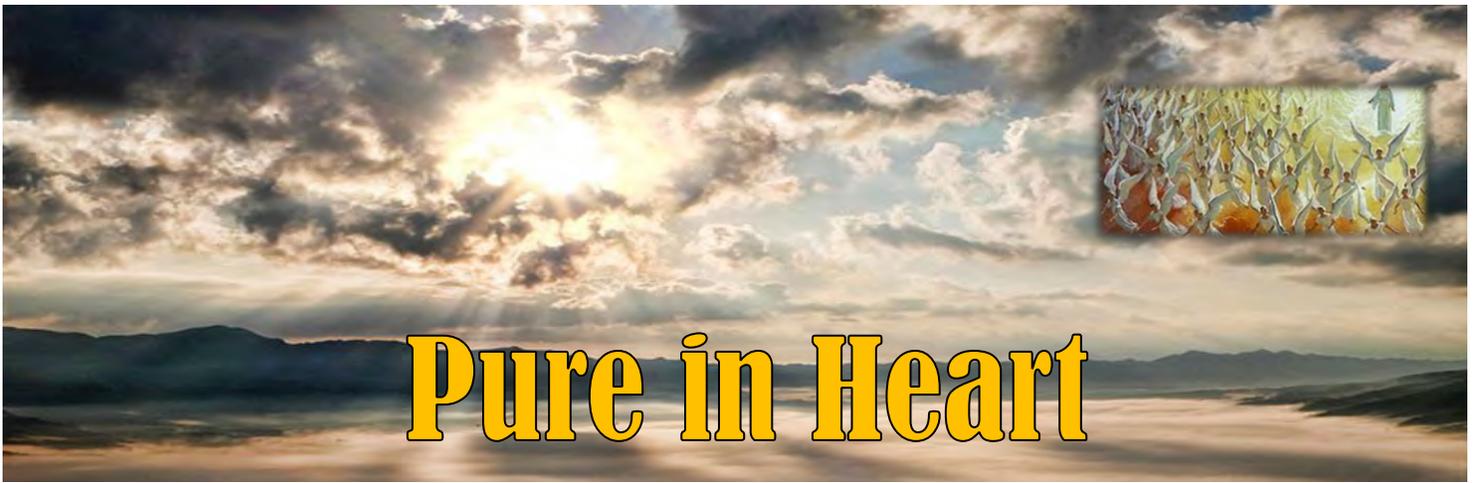
"The religion of every man must be in harmony with the Bible. No man can disregard one word of God, or walk contrary to his expressed will, receiving or rejecting it as he pleases, and be guiltless in the judgment. He will be brought face to face with the record, and will have to answer to the charge against him." *-Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, p. 450*

"The soul must fully own the power and authority of the word of God. Then, though we may make mistakes, we always have a touchstone by which to test our ways and a standard by which we may, by true service, recall the heart and conscience.." *-Ibid., p. 451*

We need to have reverence for who God is, and to be in fear (awe) of what He is capable of. We are called to be holy, recognizing God as the ultimate power in the universe. Such fear overcomes any other fear. If He is for you, nobody else can touch you without His permission. If He is against you because you have rebelled against Him, you can run, but you cannot hide

"We are living in the last days. The end of all things is at hand. The signs foretold by Christ are fast fulfilling. There are stormy times before us, but let us not utter one word of unbelief or discouragement. He who understands the necessities of the situation arranges that advantages should be brought to the workers in various places to enable them more effectively to arouse the attention of the people. He knows the needs and the necessities of the feeblest of His flock, and He sends His own message into the highways and the byways. He loves us with an everlasting love. Let us remember that we bear a message of healing to a world filled with sin-sick souls. May the Lord increase our faith and help us to see that He desires us all to become acquainted with His ministry of healing and with the mercy seat. He desires the light of His grace to shine forth from many places." *-Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 167. Amen*

*Daniel Kimeu
Tanzania, The Gambia*



Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”
Matthew 5:8

After a revival meeting in 1843 America, a young girl walked along the way with her brother. They were speaking to each other about the promise of Jesus’ soon coming. Here is an excerpt of that conversation:

“On the way home, we talked seriously concerning the evidences of our new faith and hope. ‘Ellen,’ said Robert, ‘are we deceived? Is this hope of Christ’s soon appearing upon the earth a heresy, that ministers and professors of religion oppose it so bitterly? They say that Jesus will not come for thousands and thousands of years. If they even approach the truth, then the world cannot come to an end in our day.’

“I dared not give unbelief a moment’s encouragement, but quickly replied: ‘I have not a doubt but that the doctrine preached by Mr. Miller is the truth. What power attends his words! what conviction is carried home to the sinner’s heart!’

“We talked the matter over candidly as we walked along, and decided that it was our duty and privilege to look for our Saviour’s coming, and that it would be safest to make ready for His appearing, and be prepared to meet Him with joy. If He did come, what would be the prospect of those who were now saying, ‘My Lord delayeth His coming,’ and had no desire to see Him? We wondered how ministers dared to quiet the fears of sinners and backsliders by saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ while the message of warning was being given all over the land. The period seemed very solemn to us; we felt that we had no time to lose.

“‘A tree is known by its fruits,’ remarked Robert. ‘What has this belief done for us? It has convinced us that we were not ready for the coming of the Lord; that *we must become pure in heart*, or we cannot meet our Saviour in peace. *It has aroused us to seek for new strength and grace from God.*

“What has it done for you, Ellen? *Would you be what you are now if you had never heard the doctrine of Christ’s soon coming?* What hope has it inspired in your heart; what peace, joy, and love has it given you? And for me it has done everything. I love Jesus, and all Christians. I love the prayer meeting. I find great joy in reading my Bible and in prayer.’

“We both felt strengthened by this conversation, and resolved that we would not be turned from our honest convictions of truth, and the blessed hope of Christ’s soon coming in the clouds of heaven. We were thankful that we could discern the precious light, and rejoice in looking for the coming of the Lord.” —*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 36–37

What would you say to Robert if he asked you “What has this belief done for us?”

What has the belief in the promise of Jesus to come back to save His people and bring them home with Him done for us? Has this belief changed our outlook on life? Has it led us to examine our lives? To come to the conclusion that we need to be pure in heart or we cannot see our Saviour in peace?

In peace we are assured that Jesus will accept us. However, if we do not have this pure heart it will be an experience of great dread and anxiety.

Like Robert and Ellen, has the knowledge of the signs of the times “convinced us that we are not ready for the coming of the Lord, that *we must become pure in heart*”?

As Robert asked that day, “*Would you be what you are now if you had never heard the doctrine of Christ’s soon coming?*”

These are the same issues that we wrestle with today, over 170 years later. Do we not have the same circumstance today that existed all those years ago? Are there not many ministers that say that Jesus will not come for many years? Are there not Christian ministers “quieting

the fears of sinners and backsliders by saying, 'Peace, peace!' while the message of warning [is] being given all over the land"?

But what is your resolve?

PURE IN HEART

"Pure in heart.—Here, as with the poor in spirit, the noun determines the region in which the purity is to be found—the 'heart' as representing desires and affections, as the 'spirit' represents the will and higher personality. The purity so described is not that which was the ideal of the Pharisee, outward and ceremonial, nor, again, was it limited, as the common language of Christians too often limits it, to the absence of one special form of sensual sin; but it excluded every element of baseness—the impurity of hate or greed of gain, no less than that of lust. Not without cause, however, has the evil of the latter sin so overshadowed the others that it has almost monopolised the name. No single form of evil spreads its taint more deeply than that which 'lets in contagion to the inward parts.'"—*Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers* on Matthew 5:8 (1878)

Sin is a contagion that affects every part of our character. It is not merely an outward view but has deep inward roots. It manifests itself in many ways and does not want to leave. It grips our heart from the inside. On top of it all, we are a natural home for Satan and his demons to dwell in. They love dwelling there and they do not want to leave.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9

God says that the heart is "deceitful above all things" and yet He also says that only those that have a pure heart will see Him. How can this be?

"Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited." Jeremiah 17:5–6

God says if you trust in man it is like the "heath in the



desert". The heath is an area where little grows. It has an appearance of some vegetation; but, in reality, any plants there are weak scrub brush.

If we trust in man God says that our heart will be like a parched "wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited." Not inhabited by who? By God. Sin brings a desert to our heart. Anything good is incapable of growing there, yet somehow this heart needs to become pure.

Conversely, how does God describe a heart in which He dwells?

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." Jeremiah 17:7–8

For the person who trusts God, life is in their heart and life proceeds out of it. The heart will "never cease from yielding fruit." The person who has God living in his heart will always have a positive effect on others around him. Their influence will always be good and will always uplift those around them. They will never pull down people but rather build them up.

These are not my words but God's words. Which situation describes your life more accurately? Is your heart scrub brush in a desert that is lifeless and pulls down all that it is in contact with, or a well-watered oasis that benefits all of the people around you—all of the people and not just some?



It is really a simple observation—the same observation made by Robert and Ellen over 170 years ago.

Robert died at the age of 27 of tuberculosis, in 1853. It was ten years after he had that conversation with Ellen.

Let us not leave for tomorrow what should be done today. Let us cherish each moment that God has given us. Do not let Satan or his demons reside in your heart. Starting this moment, let God turn the heath into a lush oasis of His love. Amen.

*"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."
Matthew 5:8.*

John Formosa

“Call Me Mara”



It was the custom in the local church that on Wednesday evenings a group of women gathered for prayer meeting. Before the meeting, they share their prayer requests. This one week, there seemed to be a lot of requests. The women were all sharing their burdens. Some went into lengthy discussions about their troubles, looking for sympathy from the others. They spoke of how their unfriendly neighbours were troubling them. They spoke of unexpected expenses that they had trouble paying, such as car and house repairs. They spoke of their elderly parents who were needing more care now as they aged with housework and buying groceries. They had so many things that were troubling them and it seemed the prayer meeting message was going to be forgotten as these women kept going on and on about their troubles. One woman, who was new to the group—Mary, by name—sat in the corner listening. No one knew much about her. She looked thin and frail, as though life had not been very kind to her. She had never shared much about her life, and no one knew anything about her past history as she had been there only two weeks. She came a few minutes late and listened to the prayer meeting, and then quickly left without saying a word to anyone, leaving no opportunity to get to know her.

The leader of the group decided to try to draw her out during the meeting and asked her if there was anything that she would like prayer for. Was there any trouble she had in her life? She wanted to give Mary a chance to introduce herself and share some of her life so that the other women would get to know her and warm up to her and make her feel more a part of the group.

Mary meekly looked up. She was not sure what to say, but then tears rolled down her cheeks and she began to share her story.

“Although your trials are really troubling you, I want to share with you what is most important in life. I want to share with you what is real trouble and what is of real value.

“You all have your husbands and children to go home to every evening. You do not have to work for a living. Your husbands provide well for you. I am sure you keep nice and tidy houses as you are good housewives. That is not the lot that the Lord has dealt with me in my life. ‘call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.’ Ruth 1:20

“Many years ago, I did have a husband and I had six handsome sons; one of who is still alive today for whom I request prayers.

“My parents were very well off; and my childhood was surrounded with all the comforts of life. Every wish of my heart was gratified, and I was cheerful and happy.

“At the age of nineteen I married a young man whom I loved more than all the world and the material comforts that my parents had provided. He was not as well off, but he was hard working and provided us with a modest home. He loved the Lord and together we raised our boys to love the Lord and to work hard. The sun never shone upon a lovelier spot or a happier household. The years rolled on peacefully. Five lovely boys sat around our dinner table and a little baby nestled in my arms in the evening.

“One night, around sunset, a fierce terrible storm came up. For many hours the rain poured down incessantly. Morning dawned, but still the rain poured, and the wind blew. The country round us was overflowing. The little stream near our house became a raging torrent. Before we were aware of it, our house was sur-

rounded with water. I managed, with the baby, to reach an elevated spot near the house, where the thick foliage of a few widespread trees gave some protection. From my high spot, I watched while my husband and sons strove to save what they could of our property. Suddenly, a fearful surge swept my husband away and he never rose from the water again.

“My dear friends, no one loved a husband more than I loved him. But that was not the end of it.

“At that moment, my sons realized the danger they were in and decided to abandon the saving of the property and to find a way of escape to save their lives. They were brave young boys and loved the Lord. They were such a help and blessing around home. A mother could not ask for lovelier boys than my boys. I watched their efforts to escape with such agony that only a mother can feel. They were too far away for me to speak with them; but I could see that the little island they were standing on was getting smaller and smaller.

“The swollen river raged fearfully around the huge trees. Dead branches, upturned trunks, wrecks of houses, drowning cattle, and masses of rubbish, all went floating past us. I was safe in my high spot, but my boys were not. My boys then waved their hands to me, and then pointed upwards. I watched as they had given up hope of any escape and they knelt down together in prayer in a circle, all holding on to one another. Then I saw them perish—all perish. Yet that was not the worst of my trouble. My boys died in faith and one day I look forward to meeting my beloved husband and brave boys again when Jesus comes.

“I hugged my baby close to my heart: and when the water rose and touched my feet, I climbed into the low branches of one of the trees and sat there and waited until the hand of God stopped the waters from rising any further. I was saved. All my worldly possessions were swept away; all my earthly hopes were blighted. Yet that was not the worst of my trouble.

“My baby was all I had left on earth. I got two jobs and worked day and night to support him and myself and did my best to train him in the right way. It was not easy because I was gone from home for so many hours of the day and night. As he grew older he made friends with some wicked young boys who drew his heart away from me. He stopped listening to my counsel. He stopped praying and reading his Bible. He stopped attending church. He sneered at my entreaties and agonizing prayers. Then he became fond of alcohol. He left home so that he could live his life as he chose. He did

not need to have any rules at home. He did not have to listen to my counsel and encouragement about the blessings there are in following the Lord. At last, one night, while he was severely intoxicated, he took the life of one of the young men at the party. He is now in prison, on death row. I do not know when his life will end. He does not want me to visit him in prison.

“God has filled my cup of sorrow before; now it ran over. That is trouble, my friends, such as I hope the Lord in His mercy will spare each of you from knowing.

“I would rather have troubling neighbours, a broken car, and elderly parents who need help, than the trouble I experienced in life. I am alone, but God is my comfort and strength.”

There was silence in the room when Mary finished speaking. The women were ashamed of how much they had spoken of their trials, which now seemed so insignificant to what Mary had experienced.

The leader broke the silence. “Mary, we welcome you as a part of our church family. We are now your family. And from here on out, when we come to prayer meetings, we will no longer talk of our trials and troubles. We will speak of the blessings that the Lord has given us in the past week. God has blessed each one of us with the beautiful things that Mary has lost. The Lord brought Mary to us to be a blessing for her, to give her a new family for the remainder of her life, but more so for us. To teach us what is important in life. We have all been complaining of insignificant trials, but Mary has shown us what is most important in life. It is not the material goods and comforts of life. It is the blessing of the Lord’s presence in our personal lives and of having a loving family that loves the Lord, so that we can worship together and prepare to be with Jesus in eternity with our loved ones. Let us unite in prayer for Mary’s one lost child while there is still hope.”

This is a lesson to all young children. Your parents are doing their best to raise you in the love of the Lord. They may not be perfect, but what they want from you is perfect obedience to Jesus. They want to be with you in heaven for eternity. It breaks your parents hearts when you disobey them and do not honour the Lord. It is important for you to learn to love the Lord, even if it seems bad things happen to you in life. God has a lesson for you to learn. Trust Him and learn what is most important in life. True happiness is not found in the things of this world. It is found in serving Jesus. Then He will smile on you and one day take you to live with Him in heaven for eternity, both you and your parents.

HEALTH MATTERS:



Catnip: Not Just for Cats



Whenever we hear about the herb, catnip, we think of its connection to cats. The name *catnip* was derived from the attraction that most domestic cats have to catnip, and the behaviours they exhibit when given catnip when either rubbing against or eating it, such as rolling on the ground, pawing, licking or chewing the plant; or, when ingesting it, causing drooling, sleepiness, leaping about and purring. Most cat species, including leopards, cougars, lynxes, as well as lions and tigers react in a similar manner. I have several catnip plants in my backyard, and my cat will often chew on the plants. Cat owners give catnip to their pets for the cats' enjoyment.

Although catnip is beneficial to humans, it does not make us act in strange ways if we were to touch it or ingest it. Catnip belongs to the mint family of plants and is also classified as a medicinal herb. It is a perennial plant, growing 50–100 cm tall (20–40 inches), which blooms from late spring through autumn; it is drought-resistant and grows best in full sunlight. People use catnip in their gardens as an ornamental plant; it is also planted as a repellent against insects such as aphids, mosquitoes and flies.

Catnip's purple flowers also attract bees and butterflies, thus helping to support their ever-decreasing populations. If you cut the plant back after the first blooming, it will regrow and bloom again. Catnip can spread and take over a garden, so be mindful when planting that you contain its growth.

Unlike many other herbs, catnip is not well known nor as widely used. But, like other herbs, it has a host of health benefits. Historically, the ancient Romans and Egyptians used catnip to treat infections.

The main health benefit of catnip is its calming, relaxing effect on the body; it can reduce stress, anxiety, restlessness, nervousness, and tension headaches. It can also help to boost mood and relieve chronic anxiety when taken regularly. Catnip can be used to treat insomnia by its calming nature—relaxing muscles and reducing tension. "A cup of tea made from catnip herb will quiet the nerves." —*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 297

Catnip is able to relieve digestive issues such as consti-

pation and diarrhea. It has the ability to move air quickly through the intestines, relieving the symptoms of gas build-up such as cramping and bloating. It can also regulate the production of bile and gastric juices, which enables us to digest our food. Its anti-inflammatory properties calm the stomach and prevents indigestion.

Catnip helps to fight colds, flus, and other infections by strengthening the immune system. It helps to fight a fever by causing perspiration, and also helping to rid the body of toxins. Breathing in a hot catnip infusion (tea) can relieve nasal and sinus congestion, and the mucous build-up in the nose. Because of its relaxing properties, it can treat croup in children, as well as coughs and asthma symptoms.

Catnip is high in tannins, which work as antiseptics. Using catnip directly on the skin as a poultice allows for a quicker healing of infected wounds, and slowing down bleeding from cuts and scrapes. Tannins assist in the healing of insect bites, burns, hemorrhoids and other skin issues because of its anti-inflammatory properties. Drinking catnip tea can reduce hives.

Pregnant women should not use catnip as it may stimulate the uterus and cause a miscarriage. Because catnip can cause menstruation, women with heavy periods should avoid catnip. Overall, taking too much catnip can cause headaches, vomiting, sluggishness, and an overall feeling of being unwell. A cup of catnip tea daily is adequate to treat any ailments. As with any other herbs, ensure that catnip will not interact with any prescription medications. Always check with your doctor or a naturopath if you have any health conditions that may contraindicate using catnip.

Catnip contains many nutrients such as Vitamin A, B, C, magnesium, iron, calcium, phosphorus, manganese, sodium, selenium, and potassium.

Catnip can be used as a tea, juice, tincture, infusion, or poultice. Cut fresh catnip stems and store them a cool, dry place. Once they are dry, separate the leaves and flowers from the stems and place in an airtight bag. To make catnip tea, mix two tablespoons of dried catnip leaves or flowers in a pot of hot water. Avoid boiling the water as excess heat will reduce its health effects. Add lemon juice and honey, then steep for about 10–15 minutes. Catnip can taste woody or grassy; adding a lemon will enhance its minty flavour. Fresh catnip can also be kept fresh by freezing it.



Ranjit Augustus Ratneiyya

February 1, 1956 - January 17, 2021

With much sadness and a heavy heart we say so-long to our beloved brother Augustus, age 64.

Brother Augustus Ratneiyya was part of a large family of nine children: 6 boys and 3 girls. He was number seven, the twin brother of his sister Ranjana Augusta.

He was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka and moved to France, where, after 4 years he became converted and joined God's remnant people. Brother Augustus embraced the beliefs of the International Missionary Society of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement. In God's church he truly rediscovered His Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, with a love, a hope, and a faith that was far from ordinary. This is what would sustain and nourish all his new endeavours. His belief in the Lord as his Saviour came above all else, with no compromise.

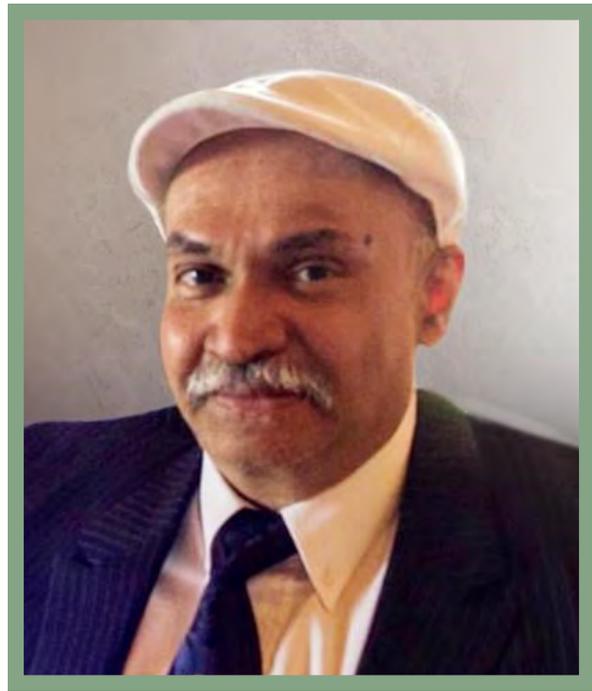
The next year, in the spring of 1985, he came to live in Montreal, Canada. He was at that time a healthy, vigorous and energetic young man, full of promise. He set out to acquire many different skills which made him explore various areas in the work force.

One of Br. Augustus' greatest hopes was to establish the work of the Lord for, not just the French people in Quebec, but throughout the world; and this became one of his primary goals. He worked to renovate the newly acquired church in Montreal and to support the missionary work there.

Br. Augustus, (Auggy, as we often called him), was a true friend and a reliable brother in Christ. He had incredible leadership qualities, and had a constant thirst for knowledge. He became proficient in computer skills, ran his own computer lab, taught and mentored students in the tech world for free.

He studied and completed training in Naturopathic medicine. When anyone in the church or his family was having a physical ailment, he would be there with free advice. He could always be counted on for a sound remedy and the lengthy science behind it, which was always delivered with empathy and encouragement.

Brother Augustus played the guitar and he wrote songs. He sang with the choir and directed the children in the church. It was one of his many ways to alleviate suffer-



ing around him and spread joy. He was also the local church leader.

However, as time went on, the Lord saw it in His will that the health of Augustus would decline. He developed an autoimmune disease (a debilitating and painful affliction which would rob him of most of his physical strength and confine him to a wheelchair for the rest of his life) known as Rheumatoid Arthritis. It could have killed his beautiful spirit, but no, it did not; He would not allow it.

He had to make so many adjustments as his disease progressed. Eventually it would take him from independent living to assisted living. Although spending most of his days in a wheelchair, Brother Augustus always wore a smile on his face and gave an encouraging word to the discouraged. Despite his affliction and suffering, he always maintained a positive and inspiring attitude. Best of all he loved to laugh, wholeheartedly. All who knew him could not help but admire and love him.

While he lived in the assisted living facility, Augustus relentlessly championed the rights for the handicapped and became an effective advocate in the area. He organized fundraisers, outings, cultural and recreational events in his community. He conducted seminars, gave conferences, wrote down his reflections and uploaded many of them on YouTube. He preached the gospel with passion and conviction, but more importantly, he *lived the Gospel*.

Sadly, after contracting Covid-19, he spent his final week in the hospital. However, he maintained a truly

positive attitude to the end. His love for the Lord and zeal for the work of the Lord never lagged, even to the day of his passing. His last words to his brother Bernie were: "here at the hospital they are doing all they can to help me, but I have difficulty to breathe and I am so very tired." He was calm and at peace.

I had the opportunity to know my friend and brother "Augy" for over half of my life. We would often reminisce about the days of canvassing in bitter cold Montreal winters or working on the church building there. I will miss our Friday evening calls discussing God's work and the signs of the times.

Brother Augustus served the local church in Montreal with passion until the Lord saw fit to lay this champion down. God gave me the opportunity speak with Augy two days before his unexpected passing. We spoke about the possibility of his dying and he told me that he was at peace with our friend Jesus and his fellow men. We both promised, if it was God's will, to next meet on the resurrection morning.

Brother Augustus will be terribly missed by his family and local church members and friends, but he died with a heavenly hope. All who knew him could honestly say that Brother Augustus was a true friend and a brother in

Christ. Let us pray for his grieving family, and for the Montreal church. The work of the Lord will go on.

"What a glorious morning will the resurrection morning be! What a wonderful scene will open when Christ shall come to be admired of them that believe! All who were partakers with Christ in His humiliation and sufferings will be partakers with Him in His glory. By the resurrection of Christ from the dead every believing saint who falls asleep in Jesus will come forth from his prison house in triumph. The resurrected saint will proclaim, 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' (1 Corinthians 15:55)..." —*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 271–272

John Formosa



Sabbath at Indian Field Headquarters on January 23



Philippines



January 20, 2021 - Bamban,
Tarlac, Philippines



January 23, 2021 -
Davao, Philippines



January 27, 2021 -
Albay, Philippines



January 23, 2021
Zamboanga del Norte, Philippines

**The work of
God is going
forward.**



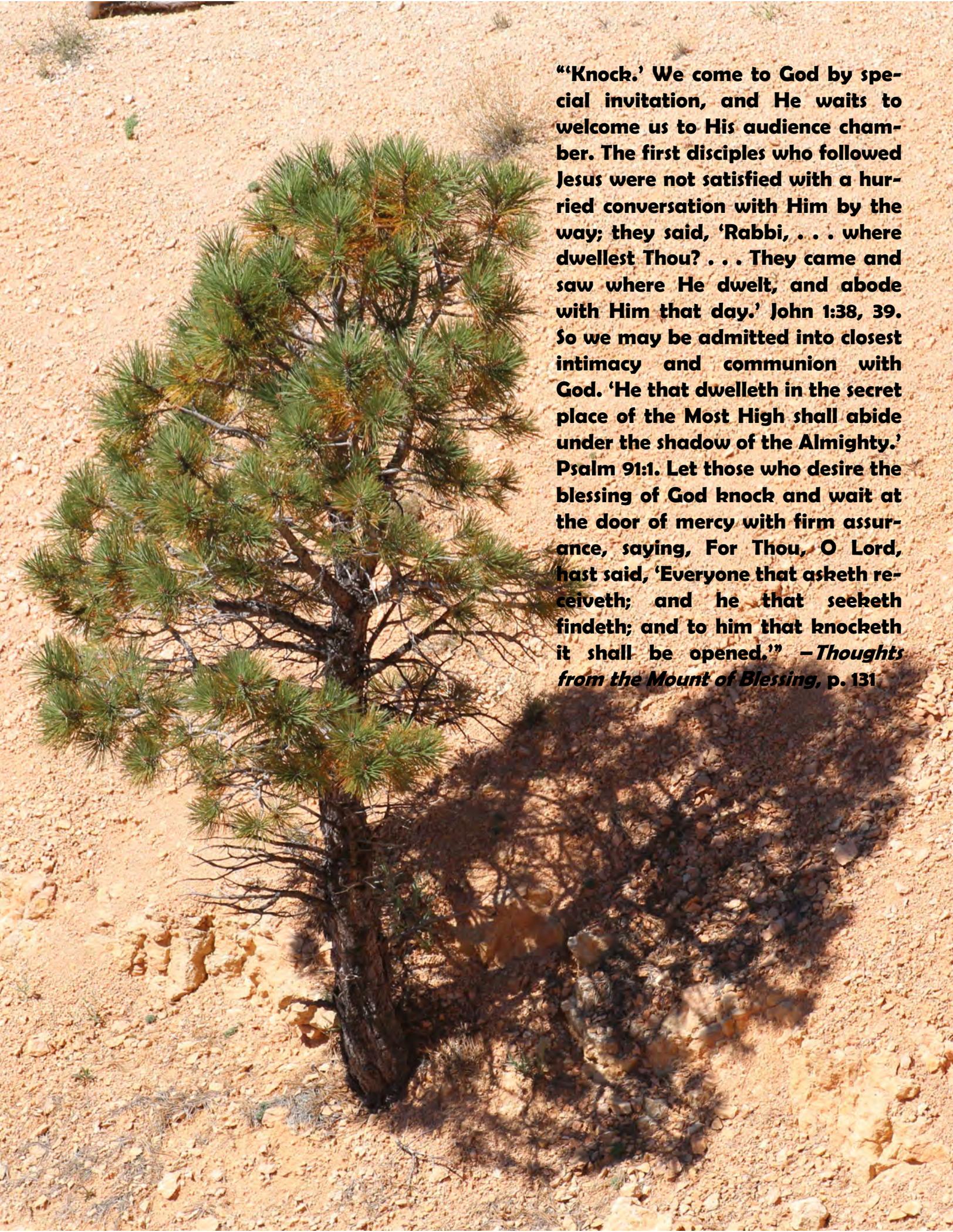
February 7, 2021 - Bamban,
Tarlac, Philippines

Souls are taking their stand with God's remnant.

India

**From Left to Right:
Pastor Ruban David,
Sister Suganthi,
Sister Jothi Lakshmi,
Brother Vairamutthu,
Pastor Dhiviya Nathan
(January 23)**





“Knock.’ We come to God by special invitation, and He waits to welcome us to His audience chamber. The first disciples who followed Jesus were not satisfied with a hurried conversation with Him by the way; they said, ‘Rabbi, . . . where dwellest Thou? . . . They came and saw where He dwelt, and abode with Him that day.’ John 1:38, 39. So we may be admitted into closest intimacy and communion with God. ‘He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.’ Psalm 91:1. Let those who desire the blessing of God knock and wait at the door of mercy with firm assurance, saying, For Thou, O Lord, hast said, ‘Everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.’” – *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 131