

# *Our Firm* **FOUNDATION**

The 7th-Day Sabbath

Immutable Law of God

Non-Immortality of the Soul

Christ Our Righteousness

Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Vol. 13, No. 10

October 1998

**Idols of the  
Remnant Church**

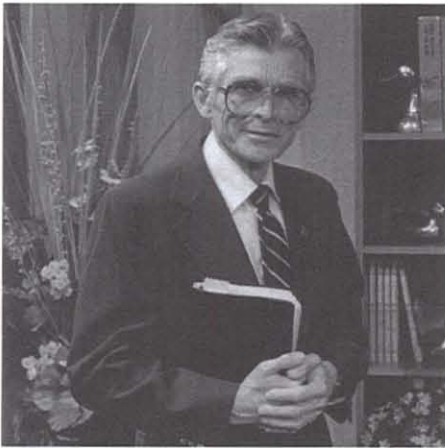
**The Seventh-day Adventist  
Reform Movement:  
Is It the Answer?**

**Faith Amid Storm Clouds**

**Getting  
Organized**

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# Editorial

**T**HE cross of Calvary was now history. God in human flesh, in the nature of fallen man had suffered the agony of the crucifixion and died in the midst of a jeering mob enraged by demons. The Saviour of the world cried out, "It is finished." John 19:30. The plan of salvation was now secure. The human race could have a second chance—a chance to return to Eden.

Now man's Redeemer had risen from the tomb. The empty tomb was a witness that Christ had risen. The trauma of the events had brought confusion to the faithful disciples. As they were returning home to Emmaus, two of the disciples met a stranger on the way. However, they were so blinded by despair and confusion, they did not recognize their risen Lord. See Luke 24:13-16.

"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Then "their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight." Luke 24:25-27, 31.

Listen: "Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. . . . And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:15, 27.

What a wonderful experience! These disciples were listening to God explain to them "the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh." 1 Timothy 3:16. All the prophecies of the Old Testament—beginning with Moses and the prophets—

were becoming a reality before their eyes!

Suddenly all the thousands of lambs sacrificed had a meaning. Type had now met antitype. The tabernacle and all its services had pointed to the very hour of Calvary. Jesus was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The Old Testament now became a new Book.

We are told that we should not read the New Testament without using the Old Testament as a dictionary. See the *Review and Herald*, September 14, 1886. This is a true testimony. Scriptural knowledge derived directly from the Scriptures is the best kind of knowledge. The Bible is its own interpreter.

The Old Testament, and more particularly the Pentateuch and the law of God, have long been a special object of attack by the Evangelical world. What a testimony to the historic verity of "the Tabernacle of Witness in the wilderness"—including all that relates to its description, construction, erection, and service—is the fact that in His Road-to-Emmaus discourse our risen Lord began His exposition of Himself "at Moses"—"all the prophets" too, but *Moses first!* He had testified, "Moses . . . wrote of me." John 5:46. Might we not add "and in whom He Himself dictated"?

No wonder the hearts of those two disconsolate disciples burned within them while the Lord—book in hand so to speak—walked and talked with them, expounding His own Scriptures, and all "concerning Himself." Can He, will He, so walk and talk with us today? He can; He will. Ask Him, dear reader, as, Bible in hand, you scan closely these beautiful, clear, scriptural "outlines." Begin at the beginning comparing Scripture with Scripture. Find your Emmaus journey as in heart and mind you pass from East to West of the Divine dwelling. Look up into the face

of the Antitype as you study the type; mark both the comparison and the contrast. Thus will an open Bible become to you an opened Bible indeed:

"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" Later He appeared to the eleven disciples in Jerusalem, "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things." Luke 24:32, 45-48.

Then rise up the same hour and go and tell others of Him who appeared to you "in the way." "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." Unto Him that loveth us, and loosed us from our sins by His blood, and made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto His God and Father, "to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 5:10-11.

The sanctuary message is our message of the hour to be given to the world in this final hour of the great controversy. May we all study now to show ourselves approved unto God, and may we be a witness to our dying world of His redeeming, sanctifying power.

**Ron Spear—EDITOR**

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world.—EDITORS

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## Getting Organized

**J**ESUS came to this earth to save us from something—but from what?” I pondered. He came to redeem me from serving a life of selfishness, sin and all my wrong habits of life. God wanted my home to thoroughly reflect heaven’s order—both within and without. This would be possible only as I let Jesus be on the throne of my heart, my thoughts, and my doings. Would I filter all through Christ and let Him be my Lord—the Guide of my life? Then I began to realize that the problem of shortcomings in my life was very real because I was not in the habit of union and communion with Heaven. I saw that it was natural to

consult or commune with my “self,” but then I served sin, selfishness and my old habits. Matthew 1:21 says that Jesus came to save me **from** my sins—not **in** them! Jesus wants to bring me out of the “self” life into the spiritual life **in** Christ. He will do that by bringing me into such a close fellowship with Him that through union and communion with Heaven my mind and my home can be changed.

Desiring to be saved from all disorder and uncleanness, I determined to follow Jesus instead of my “self.” But how was I to get organized? How could I commune with Jesus and let Him lead me? How could I learn to follow? I

wanted my home to have that Heaven-born love, which reflects upright order in the rooms of my house—as well as in the rooms of my thoughts, words and deeds. As I was cooperating with these thoughts, thinking on them, I looked about my home and said, “What would Jesus want changed in my home?” I casually looked around my home. It was generally neat and orderly.

The responding thoughts from my Friend and Saviour went something like this, “It looks pretty good on the outside, but I’d like to suggest a deeper order, a deeper cleansing and organizing of your home, beginning in your thoughts.” Jesus was speaking through my conscience, reason and intellect. His still, small voice was a thought, not an audible voice, yet I sensed in my heart that it was from God. It sounded just like 1 Corinthians 14:40 which says, “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

God speaks to you and me in this way. He loves us that much! Yet many of us do not realize or recognize at first that it is from God. Jesus wants to come into such a close, intimate relationship with us that He can direct every detail of our lives. If we will cooperate by thinking on God’s thoughts first, then our words and actions will be divinely influenced and we will be empowered to do the right thing. He wants to walk and talk with us as He did with Enoch of old!

That is what I wanted, but I found myself being timid and reserved in response to these thoughts. I struggled with what I should do. I then asked, “What are your suggestions for me?”

“Everything in heaven is neat, clean and orderly. ‘Everything’ means more than just the center of the floor being neat and clean. Are the corners clean—your end-table drawers orderly, your desk, your windows, your cupboards, your attic, your garage, your car, and even your garden?”

God’s principles are exacting and apply everywhere! “Sally, you have read about modesty of dress. I’d even like to help you organize and make upright your clothes closet, if you invite me to.” Has God revealed these or similar thoughts to your mind as well? God wants to help us, and that is why He reveals a need for change in our lives.

“Without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5. However, “With God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26. “I will guide thee with mine eye.” Psalms 32:8. “I will never leave thee, nor forsake

Sally Hohnberger



thee.” Hebrews 13:5. Be “keepers at home.” Titus 2:5. When God shows me areas in my home that need to be changed or redeemed, I have found that He is right there to make it possible with His divine hand in mine. He begins by changing my attitude toward my task. As I cooperate in thinking, “With God I can do this, and I will!” I find His divine power attends my feeble efforts that not only cleans my end-table drawers, redeeming them to neatness and order, but

mentally or physically—all of my home at once, so He inspired me to begin with one room. This I can handle with Jesus! My kitchen is dealt with daily, so that seemed to be a good place to start.

I stood looking at my kitchen, and I asked God, “Where do I begin?” Even this one room looked like too much for me. I sensed despair at my heart’s door. “Look to God’s strength available to you upon request, and resist looking at your weaknesses or inabilities,” was God’s

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## God wanted to redeem my kitchen. He wanted me to do it, but it would be Christ in me—not me in the human willpower alone.

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also my attitudes. Cooperating with Jesus in this way makes changes lasting, because they begin with my thoughts and feelings, empowered from above. Then through repetition God can recreate my habits, and as a result my character will be changed as well. This is how the new ways replace the old; yet it is not I, but Christ in me. See Galatians 2:20.

One day I was inspired with the thought that God wanted to redeem my kitchen. He wanted me to do it, but it would be Christ in me—not me in the human willpower alone. This is the application of Galatians 2:20. First, my old thoughts and ways must be crucified. I must turn from them, and this is done by giving heed to God-led thoughts instead. Christ can actually change my thoughts, my desires, my feelings, my habits—even my old ways of working or responding—whatever I commit to His care! Have you experienced this also? He can change all of our inherited or cultivated habits of thinking or acting! This is the redemption of the inner “self.” It is the inside of the cupboard of my heart and life that God wants to redeem and transform. One way that He teaches me this spiritual application is by physically showing me what it takes to redeem my kitchen cupboards to a state of order and cleanliness. How did God do this for me?

Getting my home organized began first with one room of my house. The Lord knows that I can’t handle—either

suggestion to my mind. I responded, “Lord, help me!”

The reasoning continued, “Why not just begin with that group of cupboards? You have time for those today.” These thoughts were the “still small voice” of Heaven leading me in the path of righteousness. It was God showing me that He was with me and would enable me to perform His will!

Once I get my kitchen in order I must daily exercise some new habits of house-keeping to maintain that order.

After getting that first room clean and orderly with Jesus, I added the next room, while maintaining the order of the first room. I continued in this manner, led of God, until my entire home, yard, garage and garden took on Heaven’s order. God led me first with the overview plan in my mind, but I still had to learn to cooperate, to listen, and to follow Jesus in the moment.

**Making a decision** is a vital part of getting organized. I decided to do it—led of God. To my surprise when I began to sort out the contents of the cupboards and drawers, I had a pile of things that didn’t belong there—a pile of get-rid-of-or-sell items, plus a third pile of things that needed to be returned to the cupboard. As I thought of the contents, I decided it would be more logical for the stirring and serving utensils to be closer to the stove for easy access and more efficient kitchen work. The knives and peelers I put next to the cutting board.

That made for greater efficiency and a new order of things. This cleaning and reorganizing of the cupboards and drawers became more involved than I first anticipated, but, oh, what a feeling of confidence possessed me knowing that this was the right thing to do! I would be happier for all this work and effort! The Lord was indeed leading me and empowering me for the task, and I found a cheerful spirit created within me!

Toward the end of this redeeming adventure, I became weary when doubts came into my thoughts and feelings. “Self” and Satan suggested thoughts to my mind as well. I must learn to discern the Spirit to whom I must listen and whom I will serve. The Lord led me to persevere by giving these, “I can’t do anymore” thoughts and feelings to Him. Jesus freed me from those wrong thoughts and feelings by His transforming grace. My thoughts, feelings and kitchen cupboards were undergoing a similar cleansing, transformation, and reorganizing as I cooperated with Heaven. By surrender and grace the task was accomplished day by day, section by section of my kitchen. It was in this way that it became thoroughly cleansed and organized with Jesus.

Redeeming my kitchen cupboards from disorder began with redeeming my attitudes and thoughts first. Some attitudes needed to be discarded, and some just straightened out. Taking Jesus with me was, and continues to be, the secret of success! The physical project was teaching me the spiritual sorting out of my thoughts and feelings. Getting them orderly and upright is a big job, while maintaining them requires “little attentions often.” As in the physical, so it is in the spiritual realm. Only God can clean up the rooms of my mind and heart! Then I must give myself to Him as often as I recognize the wrong thoughts and attitudes that are disorderly, and He will be faithful to clean them up—with my cooperation.

Next, I stood back and looked over my kitchen. God led me to think, “Are your counter tops attractive; do they give you a restful, clean look?” God wanted me to exercise thought and evaluation of the job.

I saw that my counter top was too cluttered. So I asked a question of each item on my counter: “Does this one need to be out? This one makes it too cluttered. I’ll put this one away. Really, this item need not be here either! There, that looks better!” This process went on un-



til, after trying different ideas, I could say, "There, that looks really nice! Having only a few items out is restful and attractive."

"Lord, is there anything else that needs changing?" When my conscience was silent, my soul was satisfied and joyful! My kitchen was very pleasant to the eye—inside and out! It was redeemed by surrender, effort and God's grace.

We must first learn to be led of God and to **hear His voice** speaking to our conscience. We must recognize that it is the daily, moment-by-moment repetition of the new habits of thinking and reacting with Christ that makes the new way of order replace the old way of allowing untidiness.

Now I can take Jesus with me in this new method of union, communion and surrender into every room: bathroom, bedroom, basement, attic, garage, and so forth, until the entire home is neat, clean and orderly by God's grace. I give away or sell any excess items that don't fit neatly into my home—drawers, closets or cupboards. I must evaluate the difference between need and want—**filtering all through Jesus**.

Years later when we moved to Montana, God called for another deeper cleansing of my cupboards because my kitchen size was drastically reduced. I had four sets of dishes in my tiny kitchen area. In view of the reduced space I had to reorganize my dishes to one larger set of Corelle dishes which I bought with the sale of the other four sets. It fits nicely now! God led me to be reasonable, yet to make hard decisions. One set of those dishes was sentimental. They were my grandmother's dishes; yet I didn't have room to store them properly. You too will have trials and difficulties bringing your home into Heaven's order, but Jesus is there to help you and direct you. Follow thou Him!

Getting organized is a good way to come to know God in a very personal way. As God helped me get my kitchen in order I learned many practical lessons about how God wants to clean up the cupboards of my thoughts and feelings. Erroneous thoughts, or bondage thoughts, get tucked in the recesses of our minds and need to be discarded—just like my kitchen cupboards needed some things eliminated, led of God. When God reveals these things to me, it is His way of asking, "Do you want this? Shall I get rid of it for you?" It is the power of God on the inner man that cleans up our

thoughts, feelings, desires, and appetites, or whatever, with our cooperative effort. Isn't God good?

"The life you have received from Me can be preserved only by continual communion. Without Me you cannot overcome one sin, or resist one temptation.

"'Abide in me, and I in you.' John 15:4. Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unrestrained surrender to His service. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character." *The Desire of Ages*, 676.

Bringing my home into Heaven's order also orders a time for everything and everything important in its time. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." "Yes, Sally, you need to **schedule your life**—your day's activities. You need regularity. You are the house manager. You need a time to go to bed, a time to rise, and a time to commune with Me. You need a time to study, a time to be quiet, a time to think and a time to evaluate. You also need to learn that there is a time to speak, a time not to speak, a time to work, a time to

He desires to walk and talk with you through each change. Jesus came to save me from my unheavenlike, selfish ways. He is my Creator and Redeemer, if I walk and talk with Him.

A schedule gives a time for everything that is a priority or necessity in my life. It's like my grandmother often said about keeping her home well ordered, "Everything has a place and everything must be kept in its place. It's the best way to live."

God cares about every detail of my home order. He wants to help me. It is God who calls to my heart and mind for me to make and keep order. As I respond to the Holy Spirit's influence, it is the power of Heaven that enables me to perform my part with a cheerful heart, consistently.

God does care about every detail of my life! For example, God has at times reminded me to check my refrigerator door—and I find it ajar! He kindles my thoughts when I see something laying out, impressing me that I should put it away properly. When I am putting clothes into my drawers, and I see that it's getting disorderly again, a thought comes, "A moment of effort to redeem this drawer now, will save you hours another day." God is with me directing! He loves me that much! I find happiness and peace when I follow my Saviour!

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play, a time to rest, a time to eat, a time to refrain from eating, a time to plant, and a time to harvest."

Planning my day with Jesus leading me is the way of divine success! Scheduling my life is a necessity—not an option.

Putting my home on a consistent schedule with a little flextime was a great blessing, but at the same time, it challenged me! It was best for me, my family and our walk with Jesus. I must admit, making breakfast consistently in a timely way, crossed my former ways. You too will find that some changes are easy—while others are hard. Take Jesus' hand!

Getting out of order brings unhappiness and frustration. For example, too often for me, I would go to clean out the lint trap from my dryer too late. Then I would feel guilty because I had thought of it yesterday, but I didn't do it then. Such neglect causes needless work for Jim because in time he must get all that lint out of that long dryer hose under the house. I cried out to the Lord in frustration, "Lord, how can I ever learn to clean this out regularly and in a timely manner?" "I can help you" was the responding thought from God to my reason, intellect and conscience. "You can? I



mean, You can! Help me, Lord! Remind me somehow."

Jesus prodded my thinking, "Why don't you pick one day out of the week to do it so it has a time, and then do it at that time?" I responded, "That sounds wonderful, Lord! Yes, let's do that! I pick Thursdays, and I know You are faithful to remind me. You won't forget like I do!"

God then gently reminded me that I must respond and do it when He brings it to my remembrance. When Jesus reminded me the very next Thursday, I responded immediately to the thought, for that was my

responsibility in cooperating with Heaven. I found that God went even further than that. One Tuesday I was working with the laundry and the thought came to me to empty the lint trap. My responding thought was, "But it's not Thursday!"

"But you have done a lot of extra laundry. Why not check it now?" God's reasoning continued with me. When I checked it, sure enough, it was full! God is good, and He will be our constant companion to guide us through every detail of our lives if we commit ourselves to His care and cooperate with Him.

Won't you try God? Learn to recognize His voice so He can lead you through life to get your home physically in Heaven's order. Then take those lessons you learn into your thought life, into your marriage, and into your child rearing. What do you want God to help you redeem and put into order? God is faithful to lead all of His sheep who will follow Him as their Shepherd. Getting organized begins by coming into union and communion with Christ our Saviour. □

## News Watch

# Signs of the Times

by Phil Garber

"More and more, as the days go by, it is becoming apparent that God's judgments are in the world. In fire and flood and earthquake He is warning the inhabitants of this earth of His near approach." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 97.

Certainly, we can see the fulfillment of these prophetic words. As we look at the events happening in the world around us, we know that Jesus is coming very soon!

Recent events in Florida have brought to our attention the truthfulness of the prophet's words as a fiery inferno has swept through the state.

"Three counties' worth of Floridians were ordered out of their homes last week: 70,000 people fleeing inland along hurricane evacuation routes from flames that have eaten away at the state since Memorial Day. . . . More than 320,000 acres have burned since May 25. Last week the fires forced the closure of some 200 miles of I-95, Florida's main artery. . . .

"When the ravaged counties petitioned Governor Lawton Chiles for more help last week, he could only throw up his hands. The state's resources, he said, were already committed, including every helicopter and every bulldozer. . . . 'Florida's never seen fires like this before,' said Chiles. 'We're having 90 to 100 new fires a day.'" *Time*, July 13, 1998.

As we review these recent events, well might we say, "Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. . . . O LORD, to thee will I cry:

for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field." Joel 1:15, 19.

We know from the prophetic word that the judgments of God will intensify and be instrumental in bringing each person to the decision for life or death. As we have been told, "The time is nearing when the great crisis in the history of the world will have come, when every movement in the government of God will be watched with intense interest and inexpressible apprehension. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another—fire and flood and earthquake, with war and bloodshed." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 97.

More warning notes are sounding from Asia as, "Mudslides, surging rivers and water-borne diseases are claiming new victims and threatening millions more in a series of floods that have swept through China, South Korea and Bangladesh this month.

"At least 2,576 have already died and millions have been made homeless as heavy rains continue to batter the three countries, causing billions of dollars in economic damage." *CNN*, August 13, 1998.

In San Francisco "High-rise office towers . . . swayed Wednesday morning in the force of a 5.3-magnitude earthquake." The earthquake "cracked freeways, halted commuter trains, and tossed boats moored under the Golden Gate Bridge." *World*, August 22, 1998.

In a recent study scientists, commenting on global warming, stated that "For each month this year, average global temperatures have been the highest on record." *TIME*, August 24, 1998. Around the world up to 3,175 people have died from the heat, while at least 3,200 have been hospitalized. See *ibid*.

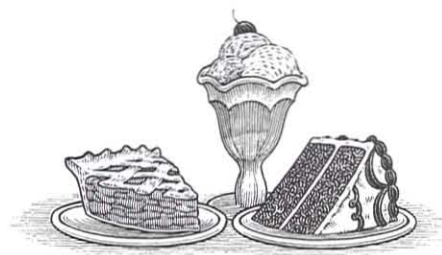
And then finally, as if to warn us of the fact that this earth is soon to pass away, there comes this story that "the nation's amphibians—frogs, toads and salamanders—are vanishing at an alarming rate." The article goes on to state that "up to a third of US amphibians have disappeared." *USA Today*, August 13, 1998. Surely we must see the upsetting of the fragile balance of the ecology will not allow man to live long in the world as we know it.

What does all this mean to us as we view the events around us? One thing is for certain that while the judgments of God are in the land, He has tempered His judgments with mercy.

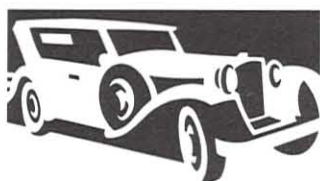
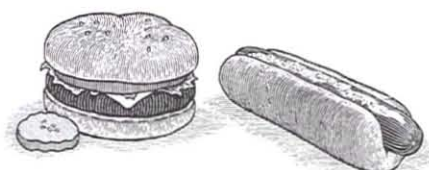
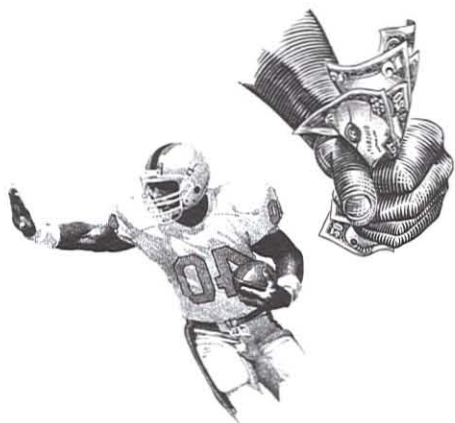
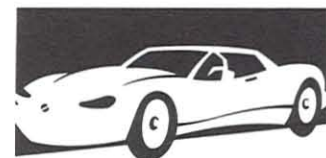
"The mercy of God is shown in His long forbearance. He is holding back His judgments, waiting for the message of warning to be sounded to all. Oh, if our people would feel as they should the responsibility resting upon them to give the last message of mercy to the world, what a wonderful work would be done!" *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 97.

May God awaken His people to the awesome responsibility we each have to prepare ourselves and others for His soon return is my prayer. □





# Idols of the Remnant Church



**T**HOU shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.” Exodus 20:3-4.

What comes to your mind as you read the first two of the Ten Commandments? Aaron’s golden calf? Baal and the other gods of the heathen nations around Israel? Perhaps you are thinking of the statues of the Virgin Mary and other “saints” in the so-called Christian churches of today. Certainly, all of these idols and relics are prohibited by God’s commandments, but how often do we ask God to show us where we might be transgressing them ourselves today? Have you found it easy, as I have, to subconsciously narrow the application of these two commandments to those who bow down to images made of wood or stone? Most importantly, do I, with open face behold Him—the One who loved and died for me—until I am changed into His image by the His Spirit? In the light of His beauty, all the idols in my heart will appear as the base and worthless things that they really are.

As I have meditated upon this subject recently, I have come to see more fully how the Ten Commandments—especially the first commandment—truly do cover every aspect of the lives of God’s remnant people, including diet, dress, recreation, entertainment, and the stewardship of all of our talents.

I am sure each reader senses the importance of knowing by experience the joy of Christ’s abiding presence that we may cherish it, and by contrast, what idolatry really is, and determine to avoid it. Why elaborate any further on the subject of idolatry—what it is and how to avoid it—as long as we commit ourselves to worship God with all our hearts? Such a commitment should be enough, should it not? The Lord has told us:

“The Word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the Word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men

and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed Testimonies, bringing them back to the Word that they have neglected to follow.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 454-455.

Friends, how many of us are studying the abundant counsels God has given us in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy so that we may daily see the loveliness of Jesus in order to follow His beautiful example? It is not possible to be found living in opposition to God’s Word while we are focusing on the beauty of Jesus.

Some time ago the Lord impressed me that I needed to see what the Spirit of Prophecy had to say about “idolatry.” It might interest you to know that there are over 3,000 paragraphs on the Ellen White CD-Rom that mention idols or idolatry, and in just the nine volumes of the *Testimonies*, there are well over 200 references. A small sampling of these passages will reveal that the First Commandment is broad in its application.

One of the simplest and most helpful passages I found was a short article in

Harvey Steck



*The Youth's Instructor*, December 31, 1896, entitled "Idols of the Heart." It is printed in the sidebar on this page. In this article we find the following principles:

Sister White tells us that there are many who are breaking the First Commandment while they profess to be Christians: "but the Lord of heaven does not acknowledge those as His children who are cherishing in their hearts anything that takes the place which God alone should hold. . . .

"God has given us many things in this life upon which to bestow our affections; but when we carry to excess that which in itself is lawful, we become idolaters. The law of God requires that every son and daughter of Adam shall love Him supremely, and anything that separates our affections from God, and lessens our interest in eternal things, is an idol. Those who use the precious time given them by God—time that has been purchased at an infinite cost—in embellishing their homes for display, in following the fashions and customs of the world, are not only robbing their own souls of spiritual food, but are failing to give God His due." (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise note.)

### Cross of Christ Or the Idol of Self?

At the bottom of all cherished idols is the one that we are probably most blind to—self. How often have I found myself choosing to stubbornly persist in my way, rather than following the promptings of the Holy Spirit! Truly, I have disobeyed the First Commandment whenever I have not surrendered my heart to God's will—no matter what the cost. The cross that Jesus invites us to take up when we follow Him is the cross of death to self—that self that, from birth, is in opposition to God's will. Following Christ means denying my natural desires in order to experience the joy of doing God's will. "Not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42.

Samuel declared to Saul, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." 1 Samuel 15:23. Have you stopped to think how much you may be idolizing your self—your own desires and opinions? If we are willing, the Lord will show us our idols:

"God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but

# Idols of the Heart

by Ellen G. White

**T**HOU shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." Exodus 20:3-6.

But it is not alone in denying the existence of God, or in bowing down to idols of wood and stone, that this first commandment is broken. By many who profess to be followers of Christ, its principles are infringed; but the Lord of heaven does not acknowledge those as His children who are cherishing in their hearts anything that takes the place which God alone should hold. With many the gratification of appetite holds sway, while with others dress and love of the world are given the first place in the heart. But in His Word, God has shown us that these things must not hold the first place. He says, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." 1 Peter 3:3-4.

God has given us many things in this life upon which to bestow our affections; but when we carry to excess that which in itself is lawful, we become idolaters. The law of God requires that every son and daughter of Adam shall love Him supremely, and anything that separates our affections from God, and lessens our interest in eternal things, is an idol. Those who use the precious time given them by God—time that has been purchased at an infinite cost—in embellishing their homes for display, in following the fashions and customs of the world, are not only rob-

bing their own souls of spiritual food, but are failing to give God His due. "The time thus spent in the gratification of selfish desires might be employed in obtaining a knowledge of the Word of God, in cultivating our talents, that we might render intelligent service to our Creator.

Can we look into the mirror of God's law, and feel no condemnation in this respect? Let each look over his past experience, and inquire of his own heart, How much of the precious time granted me by God might I have saved and used in doing good, in learning of God, in seeking to become a pillar in His house, and a light and blessing to the world?

"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:10. God will not share a divided heart. If the world absorbs our attention, He cannot reign supreme. If this diminishes our devotion for God, it is idolatry in His eyes. God will not excuse the transgressor in this respect. He is "a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation" of them that hate him; and "showing mercy unto thousands" of them that love Him, and keep His commandments. Just as surely as a life of devotion, of respect and reverence for Him, will redound in blessings to ourselves, so surely will indifference to His requirements result in the ruin of our souls.

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24. When our hearts are tuned to praise our Maker, not only in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, but also in our lives, we shall live in communion with Heaven. Our offering of grateful thanks will not be spasmodic, or reserved for special occasions; there will be gratitude in the heart and in the home, in private as well as in public devotion. This constitutes the true worship of God. □

*The Youth's Instructor*, December 31, 1896.



fall off at the next. . . . Said the angel: 'God will bring His work closer and closer to test and prove every one of His people.' Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it

would be completely engrossed in some project I was working on. As I went about my daily routine I was consumed with thoughts of how I was going to write part of a computer program. These thoughts would even dominate my devotional time with the

He indeed become the "love of my life"?

The answer may not be immediately apparent to us, but we must ask ourselves whether the love of riches, our hobbies, or any other idol has taken God's place in our hearts. One simple test is found in *Steps to Christ*, 58:

"Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things."

God represents Himself as being a jealous God. He is jealous of our attention. He is jealous of our devotion. If the Holy Spirit speaks in that still, small voice to your heart, to mine, calling us from our idols, what will be our response?

### Appetite

Paul cautioned the believers in Corinth: "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. . . . Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." 1 Corinthians 10:6-8, 14.

And Paul's counsel is made clearer by this passage found in *The Acts of the Apostles*, 316-317:

"It was when the children of Israel sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play, that they threw off the fear of God, which they had felt as they listened to the giving of the law; and, making a golden calf to represent God, they worshiped it. And it was after enjoying a luxurious feast connected with the worship of Baalpeor, that many of the Hebrews fell through licentiousness. The anger of God was aroused, and at His command 'three and twenty thousand' were slain by the plague in one day. . . .

"The apostle's words of warning to the Corinthian church are applicable to all time and are especially adapted to our day. **By idolatry he meant not only the worship of idols, but self-serving, love of ease, the gratification of appetite and passion.** A mere profession of faith

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## Our Creator demands our supreme devotion, our first allegiance. Anything which tends to abate our love for God, or to interfere with the service due Him, becomes thereby an idol.

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and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some **cherished idol**. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. They prize something higher than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols and heed the counsel of the True Witness. If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: "They are joined to their idols, let them alone," and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 187.

The terrors of the last days will result from unrestrained rebellion against God's will. The glories of the last days are the exhibition of doing things the way Jesus would, in following God's will—fully and maturely. Thus the character, or glory of God, is seen in marked contrast in the setting of universal rebellion, or self-idolatry.

### Idolized Hobbies

I began programming computers when I was in academy, and I soon discovered that the Lord had given me a talent in that area. However, it is possible to become obsessed even with the blessings that God gives us, and I found that many times my thoughts

Lord, as well as my other duties at home and in school.

"The condition of God's people at the present day is similar to that of idolatrous Israel. Many who bear the name of Christians are serving other gods besides the Lord. Our Creator demands our supreme devotion, our first allegiance. Anything which tends to abate our love for God, or to interfere with the service due Him, becomes thereby an idol. With some their lands, their houses, their merchandise, are the idols. Business enterprises are prosecuted with zeal and energy, while the service of God is made a secondary consideration. Family worship is neglected, secret prayer forgotten." *Signs of the Times*, January 26, 1882.

The computer is certainly a legitimate, powerful tool that can be used for Bible and Spirit of Prophecy study, but there were times when I would try to gratify my passion to tinker with the computer by seeing how I could justify spending time at the computer during the Sabbath hours.

I allowed my hobby, my talent, to become the most important thing in my life—an idol. There were times when I would even allow this idol to take the time I needed for my health—time for exercise and sleep. It is not easy to admit it, but until we are willing to recognize our idols for what they are, how shall we destroy them? How shall we put the computer—or any hobby, television, car, house, or whatever—in its rightful place? How shall we experience the love relationship with Jesus to the degree that thoughts of Him occupy our minds constantly? How can



in Christ, a boastful knowledge of the truth, does not make a man a Christian. A religion that seeks only to gratify the eye, the ear, and the taste, or that sanctions self-indulgence, is not the religion of Christ."

Is appetite our god—our idol? Let us examine ourselves carefully lest we find out too late that we have taken the name "Christian" upon ourselves in vain.

Are you tired of hearing about health reform? Do you ever feel like you are "picked on" for indulging your appetite in some way?

"Some are indulging lustful appetite which wars against the soul and is a constant hindrance to their spiritual advancement. They constantly bear an accusing conscience, and if straight truths are talked they are prepared to be offended. They are self-condemned and feel that subjects have been purposely selected to touch their case. They feel grieved and injured, and withdraw themselves from the assemblies of the saints. . . . If these will crucify fleshly lusts which war against the soul, they will get out of the way, where the arrows of truth will pass harmlessly by them. But while they indulge lustful appetite, and thus cherish their idols, they make themselves a mark for the arrows of truth to hit, and if truth is spoken at all, they must be wounded." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 548.

The subject of appetite covers a large area, including the **types** of food we eat, the **quantity** of food we eat, and **when** we eat. Some may struggle with the temptation to eat things they know are not healthful, such as animal products, or rich desserts, or foods containing other things the Lord has told us are harmful. Others may struggle with the temptation to eat too much of even the most healthful food available. And there are those who are greatly tempted to eat a snack between meals, or to carry on the family tradition and eat the big meal of the day in the evening—when we are told that most of us would be best off with no third meal, and, for those who need it, to make it the lightest meal of the three.

Each of us needs to study the health counsels the Lord has given us, for Satan knows that if he can keep us from gaining the victories we need in this area, we are secure in his hands:

"The controlling power of appetite will prove the ruin of thousands, when, **if they had conquered on this point, they would have had moral power to gain the victory over every other tempta-**

**tion of Satan.** But those who are slaves to appetite will fail in perfecting Christian character. The continual transgression of man for six thousand years has brought sickness, pain, and death as its fruits. And as we near the close of time, Satan's temptation to indulge appetite will be more powerful and more difficult to overcome." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 59.

Let's not give an inch to Satan! Instead, may we seek the Lord for divine power to put into practice that which we already know to be our duty, and let us study further to see what the Lord requires of us.

For many, food is solace. Let us look to God for solace and comfort in the practical things of life, here and now in this life. In so doing, we will find lasting solace and intimate fellowship. Let's not give an inch to Satan! Instead, may we seek the Lord for divine power to put into practice that which we already know to be His wonderful will. A personal friendship with Jesus will inspire us to study further to see what makes the Lord delight in us.

#### The Pride of Life

John exhorted us, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is

the people search themselves? Will the shepherds do their work as faithful sentinels of God? Will they see what idols they are cherishing? Will every one that is in moderate circumstances consider that they are to be a people distinct and separate in their fashions of **dress**, their **speech**, their **deportment**, from the world? Will they see their idolatry in small as well as in large matters, and that it is separating them from God? When reproofs come they are ashamed, but not repentant. They have had great light, great opportunities, line upon line, and precept upon precept, but pride buds and blossoms in their apparel, revealing the thoughts and intents of the heart." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 941.

We deplore the failure of many Adventists to reflect the character of Christ in their dress, but perhaps we have failed in our own duty to educate them in right principles:

"One of the points upon which those newly come to the faith will need instruction is the subject of dress. Let the new converts be faithfully dealt with. Are they vain in dress? Do they cherish pride of heart? The idolatry of dress is a moral disease. It must not be taken over into the new life. In most cases, submission to the gospel requirements will de-

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## Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies?

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not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15-16.

The word "pride" in verse 16 comes from a Greek word that is also translated as "boasting," according to Bible scholars. See also Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2; and James 4:16. How does Satan tempt us to be proud, to boast of ourselves?

"There are idols cherished in our families and in our churches today which have the same influence upon us as did the golden calf upon the Israelites. Will

mand a decided change in the dress." *Evangelism*, 268.

Another popular way of boasting today is in the many athletic sports. From academy and high school to college and university, students engage in competition to see who can step over everyone else and get to the top. More enthusiasm is shown—even in many of our Adventist schools—over the final basketball games or other sports competition of the season, than over any other single event of the year.

Ellen White told how the students of Avondale celebrated their school's anniversary with a morning chapel, at which



she spoke, followed by other activities in the afternoon. The following night she was given a vision, in which she said, "The scene was clearly laid out before me, and I was given a message for the manager and teachers of the school." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 348.

She went on to say, "In the night season I was a witness to the performance that was carried on on the school grounds. The students who engaged in the grotesque mimicry that was seen, acted out the mind of the enemy, some in a very unbecoming manner. A view of things was presented

ing supposed wants. This is a species of idolatry." *Ibid.*, 50-51.

**Competition:** "I was told by my Guide: 'Look ye, and behold the idolatry of My people, to whom I have been speaking, rising up early, and presenting to them their dangers. I looked that they should bring forth fruit.' There were some who were striving for the mastery, each **trying to excel the other** in the swift running of their bicycles. There was **a spirit of strife and contention** among them as to which should be the greatest. The spirit was similar to that manifested in the baseball games on the college ground." *Ibid.*, 52.

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**Satan works with intensity of purpose to induce our people to invest their time and money in gratifying supposed wants. This is a species of idolatry.**

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before me in which the students were playing games of tennis and cricket. Then I was given instruction regarding the character of these amusements. They were presented to me as a species of idolatry, like the idols of the nations." *Ibid.*, 350.

We often waive the statements by Sister White concerning bicycles as having no application to today, but as I read the passage found in *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 50-53, I noticed the following principles:

**Our use of time and money:** "In view of the terrible crisis before us what are those doing who profess to believe the truth? I was called by my Guide, who said, 'Follow Me,' and I was shown things among our people that were not in accordance with their faith. There seemed to be a bicycle craze. Money was spent to gratify an enthusiasm in this direction that might better, far better, have been invested in building houses of worship where they are greatly needed. There were presented before me some very strange things in Battle Creek. A bewitching influence seemed to be passing as a wave over our people there, and I saw that this would be followed by other temptations. Satan works with intensity of purpose to induce our people to invest their time and money in gratify-

**What consumes our attention?**

"When the Lord sees His people restricting their imaginary wants and practicing self-denial, not in a mournful, regretful spirit, as Lot's wife left Sodom, but joyfully, for Christ's sake, and because it is the right thing to do, the work will go forward with power. Let nothing, however dear, however loved, absorb your mind and affections, diverting you from the study of God's Word or from earnest prayer. Watch unto prayer. Live your own requests. Cooperate with God by working in harmony with Him. Expel from the soul-temple everything that assumes the form of an idol." *Ibid.*, 53.

What about our academic environment? Are we seeking an education that will better equip us to be of service wherever the Lord may call us, or is our goal to outstrip our fellow students and achieve an education that will enable us to obtain riches and worldly honor?

"In view of all this, our schools should have little to say now of 'degrees,' and of long courses of study. The work of preparation for the service of God is to be done speedily. Let the work be carried forward in strictly Bible lines. Let every soul remember that the judgments of God are in the land. Let 'degrees' be

little spoken of." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 165.

### **"The Lord's Work"**

Do you suppose that even "the Lord's work" can be an idol? Friends, I believe it can! Whether I am a minister, doctor, administrator, author, secretary, printer, or computer operator—no matter what my involvement is in a ministry for the Lord—that work is not **the** most important work God has given me to do.

Fathers, our **first** priority is always to be certain that we have a solid connection with Christ—as does the branch with the vine. Our **second** priority is to minister to the spiritual, social, and temporal needs of our wives and children—the closest mission field that God has given us. It is only as these first two priorities are met that the Lord would have us direct our attention to the **third** priority—reaching out to our neighbors and to the rest of the world, near and far:

"The Christian's first duty is in the home. Fathers and mothers, yours is a great responsibility. You are preparing your children for life or for death; you are training them for an abiding place here in the earth, for self-gratification in this life, or for the immortal life, to praise God forever. And which shall it be? It should be the burden of your life to have every child that God has committed to your trust receive the divine mold." *Reflecting Christ*, 167.

Men, let us be honest with ourselves. Are we keeping our priorities straight, or are we fooling ourselves? Are we trying to fool our families and friends as well, showing great earnestness and zeal in our missionary efforts, while we neglect our own character defects?

"Those who feel that they have an imperative call to labor for the improvement of society, while their own children grow up undisciplined, should inquire if they have not mistaken their duty. Their own household is the first missionary field in which parents are required to labor. Those who leave the home garden to grow up to thorns and briars, while they manifest great interest in the cultivation of their neighbor's plot of ground, are disregarding the Word of God." *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 66.

"All our powers are to be used for Christ. This is the debt we each owe to God. In forming a relationship with Christ,



the renewed man is but coming back to his appointed relationship with God. He is a representative of Christ, and he is ever to pray and watch unto prayer. His duties lie around him, nigh and afar off. His first duty is to his children and his nearest relatives. Nothing can excuse him from neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. In the day of final reckoning fathers and mothers will be required to answer in regard to their children. Parents will be asked what they did and said to secure the salvation of the souls they took upon themselves the responsibility of bringing into the world. Did they neglect their lambs, leaving them to the care of strangers? Fathers and mothers, are you allowing your children to grow up in impurity and sin? A great good done for others will not cancel the debt you owe to God to care for your children. The spiritual welfare of your family comes first. Take them with you to the cross of Calvary, laboring for them as those that must give an account." *General Conference Bulletin*, April 1, 1899.

If we are not living the gospel ourselves, and if our families are not a demonstration of the power of God to mold hearts and lives, we shall find out sooner or later that we have brought disgrace upon the work of God.

"If these matters, which may appear of minor consequence, are neglected, you may present the most convincing arguments in favor of the truth, but they will have no weight. If your family government is not according to the Bible rule, if your children are not brought up with habits of order and industry, if they are selfish, proud, disobedient, unthankful, unholy, be sure that your unbelieving neighbor will see and remark upon your neglect. 'They would better spend their labor at home,' he will say, 'teaching piety and good behavior to their children, instead of trying to convert me.' Very many have been caused to stumble by the inconsistencies of professed Christians, and have been led to reject the precious truths of the Bible." *Review and Herald*, May 22, 1888.

### First Things First

Whether our idols are made of wood, metal, or stone, or whether they are more abstract, such as how we use our time, influence, or money, let us realize that we do not make first things

first. Our priorities, our values, are out of order.

What are **your** idols? Only the Lord knows for sure. Let us pray for one another that we will earnestly seek for the spiritual discernment and divine

power we need daily to see fresh new views of Jesus and His personal loveliness. In the light of His personal presence and beauty we will recognize any idols in our own hearts and cast them out while probation still lingers. □

## 1998 Family Camp Meeting

### Audio and Video Tapes



Jim & Sally Hohnberger



Tom & Alane Waters

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

We wish all of our readers could have joined us this summer as several of our families attended the 1998 Family Camp Meeting conducted by Restoration International at Camp Gifford (Spokane, Washington). Jim and Sally Hohnberger and Tom and Alane Waters and their children witnessed how the Lord has been enabling them to live out our message of victorious living. They helped us to see what it really means to "train up a child in the way he should go."

Order your own set of videos, and you will be inspired with practical ideas that will help your family and that you will want to share with others.

#### Video Tape #1

*Woman, A Team Member*  
Sally Hohnberger  
*The Myth*  
Jim Hohnberger  
*Discerning God's Voice*  
Allison Waters  
*Intensive Care Parenting*  
Alane Waters

#### Video Tape #2

*Family First*  
Jim Hohnberger  
*Happy Holidays*  
Alane Waters  
*Overcoming Appetite*  
Sally Hohnberger  
*Help, Lord!*  
Andrew Hohnberger

#### Video Tape #3

*Portrait of a Man*  
Jim Hohnberger  
*Common Questions in Parenting*  
Tom Waters  
*Spiritual Invalids*  
Alane Waters  
*Neutralizing the Will*  
Tom Waters

#### Video Tape #4

*Preparing for Victory*  
Matthew Hohnberger  
*God With Us—Is That Enough?*  
Sally Hohnberger  
*Portrait of a Godly Father*  
Jim Hohnberger  
*Jumbled Priorities*  
Jim Hohnberger

**Video prices:** \$14 per tape; \$56 for the set.

**Audio prices:** \$2.50 per tape; \$40 for the set.

Please see page 3 for shipping and sales tax information.



# The Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement:

## Is It the Answer?

### Part 1

IT is with considerable reluctance that, upon the urging of several people, I write this article concerning the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement. The reluctance is born of a deep respect for some of the Reform leaders, whom I know personally, and for some of the members whom I regard as dear, precious brethren in the Lord—brethren and sisters with whom I hope to share eternity.

The issue of the role of the Reform Movement in God's plan at the end of time has surfaced more strongly since the wife of one of the prominent self-supporting leaders left the Seventh-day Adventist Church to join the Reform Movement.

I believe that there are few Seventh-day Adventists who have as wide a knowledge of the Reform Movement as I do, and, therefore, I believe it will be helpful to first give some history, and then to examine some of the doctrinal positions in the light of Inspiration.

The history of the development of the Reform Movement, especially in its beginning years, reflects poorly upon leadership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It will be my effort in this article not to judge those in responsible positions either in the Seventh-day Adventist Church or in the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement, but to look at the facts. However, it is

my conviction that the split which led to the formation of the Reform Movement could have been, and should have been, avoided by wise and compassionate responses from the Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership. It is my great hope that there remains still the possibility that the Reform Movement will join with the faithful Seventh-day Adventists at the end of time. Indeed, I am strongly persuaded that at the end of time, as the shaking is completed, all the faithful who are scattered around the world from the Seventh-day Adventist Church and from the Reform Movement will all come into one fold with Jesus as their great Shepherd.

### Childhood Memories

My earliest remembrances of the Reform Movement go back to a very young age. Less than five years after I was born in 1933, Pastor Nicolici, a pastor in the Reform Seventh-day Adventist Movement, left his native Romania, and brought his family to Australia where he was the first Reform missionary to Australia. Very rapidly after his arrival in 1939, he had found sympathetic ears within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was especially so after July of 1939 when Australia joined the allies in their war against the Axis powers led by Germany.

Some Seventh-day Adventists were uncertain about the stand the denominational leaders had taken in encouraging our young men drafted into the military to apply for non-combatant status—that is to join the army, but not in a role that would or could involve killing. Some Seventh-day Adventists were concerned about it, especially as during the First World War our believers in New Zealand had taken a stand of conscientious objection, i.e., no participation whatsoever in the army—something emphasized by the Reform Movement. The conscientious objectors refused to join the army in any capacity, rather accepting assignment to farm work in lieu of military service. Some felt that to have any association whatsoever with the army, even in a non-combatant role, still made a young man part of the military machine and therefore a contributor to the human carnage of war.

A couple of events occurred when I was a boy which focused upon some members of the Reform Movement. One Sabbath morning representatives of the Reform Movement came to the Hamilton Church in Newcastle, the church our family was attending at the time. I remember the fears expressed by church leaders, and the battle lines that were drawn. Of course, I knew very little, for I was then only about ten years of age. But I knew that these people were seen

Colin D. Standish



as being a dangerous threat to our church.

Later, just before my eleventh birthday, our family was at the quadrennial session of what is now the South Pacific Division. My father had been chosen as a delegate. Once again members of the Reform Movement were present, and once again there were strong and even angry exchanges that I witnessed between some of our leaders in Australia and those present representing the Reform Movement.

At the height of the Reform Movement in Australia in the 1940s, they probably numbered about 400 members. But like Gideon's army, their earnest, activist missionary efforts directed at the Seventh-day Adventist Church made them appear to be much larger. I was later to find out very quickly that deep conflict came within the Reform Movement in Australia, causing significant numbers of them to return to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Among them were in-laws of mine.

### Conflict and Division

When I first became acquainted with my wife, I learned that her grandfather had been the treasurer of the Reform Movement in Australia; that one of her uncles had been the first Reform Movement minister ordained in Australia. Also a number of her uncles and aunts had been part of the Reform Movement as well. By the time I met them they had all returned to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, I learned much about the activities of the Reform Movement in Australia from them.

My wife's uncle-in-law had been the first missionary to New Zealand sent by the Reform Movement. Given his aggressive temperament and many of the stories he related to me, I know that he was a deep thorn in the side of the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But I also learned of the terrible split in the Reform Movement. Pastor Nicolici became a very controversial figure. Some saw him as bringing dictatorial leadership to the church. There were secret meetings held that could hardly have represented the methods of the humble Jesus. This secrecy was carried on to the point that some members crawled under a house so that they could eavesdrop on the meetings that were taking place!

Regrettably, there were also some very unfortunate actions by Seventh-day Ad-

ventist pastors. After a number of visits from our pastors, supporters of the Reform Movement found that some of their books had disappeared, and they could draw no other conclusion than that those pastors had confiscated them.

The late 1940s was certainly a low time in the history of both the Reform

to break the monopoly of leadership by the Germans—while the Germans were determined to retain the leadership.

The situation was greatly complicated by the fact that, because of difficulties in travel, some of the chosen delegates could not attend, but, under the rules that had been devised during the war years, it

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**I remember the fears expressed by church leaders, and the battle lines that were drawn. Of course, I knew very little, for I was then only about ten years of age. But I knew that these people were seen as being a dangerous threat to our church.**

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Movement and of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in Australia with respect to this schism. In 1949 Pastor Nicolici left Australia to become the Secretary of the Reform Movement. It was from this position that he was to become an even more controversial figure within the Reform Movement. The major split into two Reform Movements came in 1951. One Movement, sometimes referred to as the Nicolici Reform Movement, being the larger of the two, is headquartered in Roanoke, Virginia. The second group, sometimes called the German Reform, has its headquarters in Germany.

There had been an early scandal in the Reform Movement which in the early days was dominated by Germans. One of the Reform General Conference presidents was accused by a woman of adultery. He firmly denied it, but sides were drawn between those who believed in his innocence and those who suspected his guilt. Some years subsequent to the initial accusations, that General Conference president came down with incurable cancer, and on his deathbed he confessed that indeed he had committed adultery.

The dominance of the Germans in the leadership of the church caused considerable tension, especially as in some other parts of the world, such as in Romania, there was a more rapid growth of the Reform Movement than in Germany itself. The division reached its climax at the Reform General Conference session in the Netherlands in 1951. My uncle-in-law was a firsthand observer of the events that took place, though he was not a delegate to the session. A strong segment of the delegation was determined

was possible for them to send proxy votes. It is evident that Pastor Nicolici obtained proxy votes from delegates who had worked with him in Eastern Europe in former years, and, when the session sought to choose the Reform General Conference president, everything hinged upon the proxy votes. With the proxy votes Pastor Nicolici had a majority in favor of his election as the General Conference president. Without the proxy votes the German representative had a majority.

The division became so fierce that the Nicolici supporters left the conference center and continued their version of the General Conference session in another facility. Thus the remaining delegates elected the German representative as their General Conference president, while the other group elected Pastor Nicolici. Since then, there have been the two Reform Movements claiming to be the authentic Reform Movement. This does not provide a great deal of confidence that the Reform Movement is God's answer to the deepening problems within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

There was a concerted effort in the early 1990s to reunite the two Reform Movements, but eventually negotiations broke down. Talking with members of both Reform Movements, I have drawn the conclusion that it was probably the German-based Reform which was more responsible for the breakdown of the negotiations. That would be more likely because they are the smaller group and they probably felt threatened by the loss of leadership responsibility should that union have taken place.



## An Interview With Pastor Nicolici

In the late 1960s, when I was chairman of the Education Department at Avondale College, I learned from my uncle-in-law that Pastor Nicolici had returned for a visit to Australia, for his daughter was yet living in Australia. My uncle-in-law arranged for me to visit with him one evening in the home of his

that they believed that as soon as the war was over the General Conference would recognize them as the true and faithful who had stood for the principles of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, and that they would be brought back into the Seventh-day Adventist fold.

Tragically, our leaders in Europe, unquestionably inspired by Louis R.

**P**astor Nicolici expressed the perspective that they believed that as soon as the war was over the General Conference would recognize them as the true and faithful . . . and that they would be brought back into the Seventh-day Adventist fold.

daughter, and I spent a fascinating two plus hours talking with him. It proved to be the one and only time that I met him. He was a man of very strong features, with a stock of white hair. Clearly, he evidenced the strength and determination that I had heard about. I was interested to hear his story, and indeed it was a fascinating one!

When the First World War broke out in Europe, he was a young man of nineteen years of age. He was soon drafted into the Romanian army, along with many other Seventh-day Adventist youth. But he, with three other young men, had the courage to refuse to serve in the army. All four were cast into jail. One of them eventually died in jail. Pastor Nicolici showed me terrible scars he had sustained as the result of the fearful beatings he received while in prison. One could not help but admire this man and those others who stood for their convictions in spite of terrible persecution.

However, he survived, and that same resolution that he had shown at the commencement of the First World War was to characterize his leadership-style later. He also gave a firsthand report of the attempts of the faithful people after the cessation of the First World War, to obtain the support of Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders. It is true that the Reform people as we now know them had formed some kind of an organization, albeit meant to be temporary, during the First World War years. Pastor Nicolici expressed the perspective

Conradii, had supported combatant service by our young men. Many of these European Seventh-day Adventists lost their lives in the First World War—some say as many as twenty-five percent of those who were in the armed forces. Those who refused to go into the army in Europe were sometimes referred to as the “two percent,” indicating that they believed that only about two percent of our believers in Europe supported their stand against joining the army of the various nations in the conflict. It is a tragic fact of history that our leadership in Europe wrote strongly against those who stood for principle, which unquestionably added to the persecution that they received.

Then, soon after the cessation of the war, Elder Daniells came to Europe. A delegation of the faithful Seventh-day Adventists who had refused to bear arms in the war met with him one day before the divisional session in Germany. Among the delegation was Pastor Nicolici, then a young man of twenty-six years of age. His report to me was that Elder Daniells listened very quietly to their presentation in which they declared their loyalty to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and explained how they had stood loyally for God’s truth in time of war. However, the next day all of the hopes of these representatives were dashed, for Pastor Daniells in his presentation referred to a group among us who have taken “a fanatical approach on the meat and the war questions.”

## Deepening Division

I have not been able to confirm or deny this report of Pastor Nicolici. Yet, nevertheless, the reference to meat was something that was hard to put aside, knowing that at the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference session in 1922, Elder Daniells’ eating of meat became an issue that led to him not being reelected as General Conference president. At that session the nominating committee had deadlocked on whether to reelect Elder Daniells or not. To attempt to break the deadlock the committee brought in a number of the missionaries who were at the session seeking their counsel.

I talked several years ago to one of those missionary delegates who explained what took place. This delegate was over one hundred years of age when I spoke with him. He explained that the missionaries had reflected upon how difficult their task was in teaching vegetarianism to the local populations after Elder Daniells had quite openly eaten flesh while visiting in their area.

In fairness to the disfellowshipped group, it was not until July 1925 that they formally formed into a separate organization, taking the name Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement. In hindsight I believe that they were wrong to form this organization. There is absolutely nothing in Inspiration that mandates the establishment of another church organization coming out of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, God has made many promises that He will bring the cast-outs back to His fold:

“Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD. And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.” Jeremiah 23:2-3.

“And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed



upon the mountains of Israel.” Ezekiel 34:13-14.

I have no doubt that God would have cared for His faithful people as they patiently waited for Him to bring them back to the fold. Sister White indicates that the fold is the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

“The church on earth is greatly beloved by God. It is the fold provided for the sheep of His pasture.” *Signs of the Times*, October 31, 1900.

In 1923 at the European Conference in Gland, Switzerland, the denominational German delegates made a strong confession—an apology for their actions during the First World War—with a resolution that they would not again encourage combatant service. By this time Elder Conradi had been removed from the leadership in Europe and had been made a Field Secretary of the General Conference. Tragically, it was later necessary to dismiss Elder Conradi from the General Conference and from the ministry, and, as far as I know, he died outside of the Seventh-day Adventist faith in 1939.

In spite of the promises made at the Gland meetings, denominational German leadership in the Second World War again supported combatant service for young men. They also wrote some adversarial reports concerning the Reform Movement that no doubt brought greater persecution to its members as the German Seventh-day Adventist leadership openly praised or prayed for Hitler. In fairness to the German leaders of that time, we must keep in mind that Hitler had a remarkable propaganda machine, and that the facts were that Germany did not declare war on Britain. Britain declared war on Germany (although only after Hitler had broken the Munich Agreement and had launched an attack upon Poland). However, the facts as stated above in no way justifies the position they took.

### Further Efforts to Heal the Schism

My association with the Reform leaders has always been pleasant and cordial. When I accepted the call to be dean of the college at Weimar in 1978, I developed a great burden to see if something could be done to reunite the Reform Movement with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I contacted Elder Pierson shortly after he had retired from the General Conference presidency. Elder Pierson, after consultation with Elder Wilson, the then General Conference presi-

dent, agreed to meet with the leaders of the American-based Reform, whose headquarters was then in Sacramento. For one week in each of the summers of 1980 and 1981, Elder Pierson met with the Reform leaders.

I had the privilege of sitting in on those meetings, together with a number of others—Elder R. Tilstra, the then pastor of the Carmichael Church in Sacramento, and others were there for part of the meetings, including Elder W. R. Beach, who before his retirement had been Secretary of the General Conference for sixteen years, and Elder Clark Smith, who by then had retired as the General Conference liaison with Seventh-day Adventist military personnel. There was wonderful fellowship in those meetings. Pastor Devai, the then General Conference President of the Reform Movement, proved to be a very humble and dedicated man, as did others of the Reform brethren in those meetings, which included Pastors Brus, Schmidt, Balbach, and Demetri.

However, the meetings did not lead to any significant further efforts to look to a possible reuniting of the Reform Movement with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In my evaluation there were a number of reasons:

1. The Ford heresy and the New Theology were sweeping through the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and there was an understandable fear that, if there were a

Yet, I will ever cherish those two weeks in which we dialogued together. It certainly did nothing to diminish my belief that many of these brethren and sisters are dedicated men and women. On one occasion I did speak on a Sabbath afternoon at the Sacramento Reform Church. Also I have eaten in the homes of a couple of the leaders.

Later, subsequent to the meetings with the leadership of the American-based Reform, Elder Tilstra and I met for a couple of hours in Sacramento with the president and secretary of the German-based Reform. My evaluation was that they were much more cautious than the American-based Reform leaders, and not only did they give no indication that they were interested in dialoguing with the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but they also expressed strong feelings concerning the American-based Reform Movement.

In more recent times we have had quite a number of Reform members and some pastors attending Seventh-day Adventist conferences, camp meetings and convocations. We have always had a pleasant time with them. We have found many of them frustrated with the leadership style among Reform leaders, and some of them have plainly stated that they sense that they have more in common with the self-supporting ministries, such as Hartland, Hope, Remnant Minis-

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**I believe that they were wrong to form this organization. There is absolutely nothing in Inspiration that mandates the establishment of another church organization coming out of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

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reuniting of the Reform Movement with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, there would be a great danger to the spiritual destiny of the members, especially the children and youth of the Reform Movement.

2. There was considerable anxiety about the response of the laity to any such moves.

3. Elder Balbach then was the editor of *The Reformation Herald*, which is the Reform Movement's periodical, paralleling in some respects *The Adventist Review*. He very strongly expressed caution on a number of occasions.

tries, and so on, than they do with the church of which they are members or pastors.

A number of people have asked the question, Why don't the self-supporting ministries join the Reform Movement? Next month I will address this question as we look at some of the doctrinal differences between the Reform Movement and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. □

*To be continued.*



# Our Words

## Part 1



**A** good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:35-37.

The Jewish priests and rulers, to whom these words were addressed, held positions of great responsibility. They were not ignorant men; they were looked upon by the people as wise teachers, whom they must obey. But they were unworthy of their holy office. Christ said of them: "Whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not

lamented. For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children." Matthew 11:16-19.

Here is shown the improper use made of the gift of speech. John was the greatest prophet born of women. "Verily I say unto you," Christ declared, "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." Verse 11. "This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Verse 10. He was sent by God to prepare the way for His only begotten Son; but bitter, unkind words were spoken of him, and those who spoke these words pronounced judgment on themselves in so doing. "They say, He hath a devil," (verse 18), Christ said. Did

that make it so?—No; these words were spoken because he rebuked sin, and called men to repentance.

Many today feel at liberty to use the talent of speech recklessly, without thinking of the influence their words will have upon others. The Lord sends His messages by whom He will, and those who make disparaging remarks of the messengers and the message need to remember that they would speak in the same way of Christ if He should come to them as He came to the Jews, with a message that did not suit their unrenewed hearts. Those who use their speech to mimic the one who is speaking the words of God are charged with having done this to Christ; for it is done to Him in the person of His saints.

The pious rulers would not receive John, and neither would they receive Christ who declared to them, "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matthew 9:13. Christ clothed His

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Ellen G. White

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divinity with humanity, to meet humanity where it was, but not to speak the words of humanity. He sat at the table with publicans and sinners, He went among the most needy to speak words of life, and to sow the seeds of truth; for there He found more hopeful subjects than among the jealous, prejudiced scribes and Pharisees, who thought themselves exalted to heaven by their position.

Christ carried on His work among the needy and suffering. These judged Him by His works. "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind

was used to abuse the world's Redeemer, and the recording angel wrote their words in the books of heaven. They attributed to satanic agencies the holy power of God, manifested in the works of Christ. Thus the Pharisees sinned against the Holy Ghost. Stubborn, sullen, iron-hearted, they determined to close their eyes to all evidence, and thus they committed an unpardonable sin.

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin:" Christ said, "but now they have no cloak for their sin. . . . But this cometh to pass, that the

ther in the world to come. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit." Matthew 12:25-33. In Christ's works the Pharisees were given sufficient evidence of His mission, but they rejected this evidence.

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Verse 34. By their words the Pharisees and Sadducees were exerting a deadly influence upon the people, who looked upon them as wise and good men. They were false teachers, poisoning the religious principles of the people by their deception, and teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. The Pharisees especially were stirred by a power from beneath, and they strove earnestly to exalt their manufactured precepts, their traditions and man-made commandments, above the law of God.

As for you, Christ said, your words reveal the malignity of your hearts. "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:35-37. Your words are an index of your character, and they will testify against you.

Here we see the importance of carefulness in the employment of speech. This talent is a great power for good when it is used aright, but it is just as great a power for evil when the words spoken are poisonous. If this talent is abused, out of the heart proceed evil things. The words are either a savor of life unto life or of death unto death.

It is the privilege of all to fill the chambers of the soul with pure and holy treasures by making themselves thoroughly familiar with the precious words of Christ, spoken for our instruction. "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130. The word "simple" does not here mean those who lack reason and intellect. It means that class specified in Isaiah. 57:15: "Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." By heeding the re-

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## This talent is a great power for good when it is used aright, but it is just as great a power for evil when the words spoken are poisonous.

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and dumb both spake and saw." Matthew 12:22. When this man was healed, the people were amazed, and they expressed their conviction when they said, "Is not this the Son of David?" (verse 23) meaning, Is not this the Messiah? The gracious works they had witnessed were to them a convincing evidence that He who performed them had the power of God, and they had no thought of attributing them to any other agency. Hence the inquiry, "Is not this the Son of David?"

But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, contemptuously, "This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils." Verse 24. These words were inspired by Satan. The enmity and prejudice of the rulers were stirred into a fury of madness; and priests and rulers, Pharisees and Sadducees, united in pouring forth their hatred. From the treasure-house of their hard, stubborn hearts came the words, "This fellow doth not cast out devils but by Beelzebub, the prince of the devils." They could not ignore Christ's wonderful works, or attribute them to natural causes, so they said, They are the works of the devil. In unbelief they spoke of the Son of God as a human being. The works of healing done before them, works which no man had ever done or could do, were a manifestation of the power of God. But they charged Christ with being in league with hell. Their talent of speech

word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause." John 15:22, 25. Christ's works of mercy contrasted too sharply with their pride, selfishness, and evil actions. They could not bear to have His goodness and tender sympathy acted out, even to those whom they despised.

"Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: and if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nei-



proof and encouragement given in God's Word, we may "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness." Colossians 1:10-11. Those who are thus strengthened will not walk with head bowed down like a bulrush. Cheap, nonsensical remarks, spoken to create levity, will not fall from their lips.

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Verses 12-14. Then shall we not all, old and young, learn to converse in the language that is spoken by those who are translated into God's kingdom? Shall not our words be such as will be heard with pleasure by our Heavenly Father?

As those who claim to be Christians, we are under solemn obligations to reveal the truth of our profession by our words. The tongue is a little member; but what an amount of good it can do if the heart is pure! If the heart is stored with good things, if it is stored with Christlike tenderness, sympathy, and politeness, this will be shown by the words spoken and the actions performed. The light shining from the Word of God is our Guide. Nothing so weakens a church as a wrong use of the talent of speech. We dishonor our Leader when our words are not such as should come from the lips of a Christian.

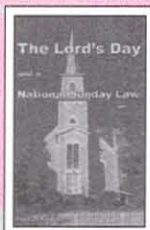
"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Philippians 2:12-13. The quality of our works is shown by our words. When our words and works harmonize in Christ, we show that we are consecrated to God, perfecting holiness in His fear. As we give ourselves, soul, body, and spirit, to Him, He works in us, both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

The love of Christ in the heart is revealed by the expression of praise. Those who are consecrated to God will show this by their sanctified conversation. If their hearts are pure, their words will be pure, showing an elevated principle working in a sanctified direction. The mind will be absorbed in holy contemplation, and there will be a sense of the presence of God. □

*Review and Herald*, January 18, 1898.

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# True Prophecies

*The Prophetic Gift in the Gospel Church, Part 6*

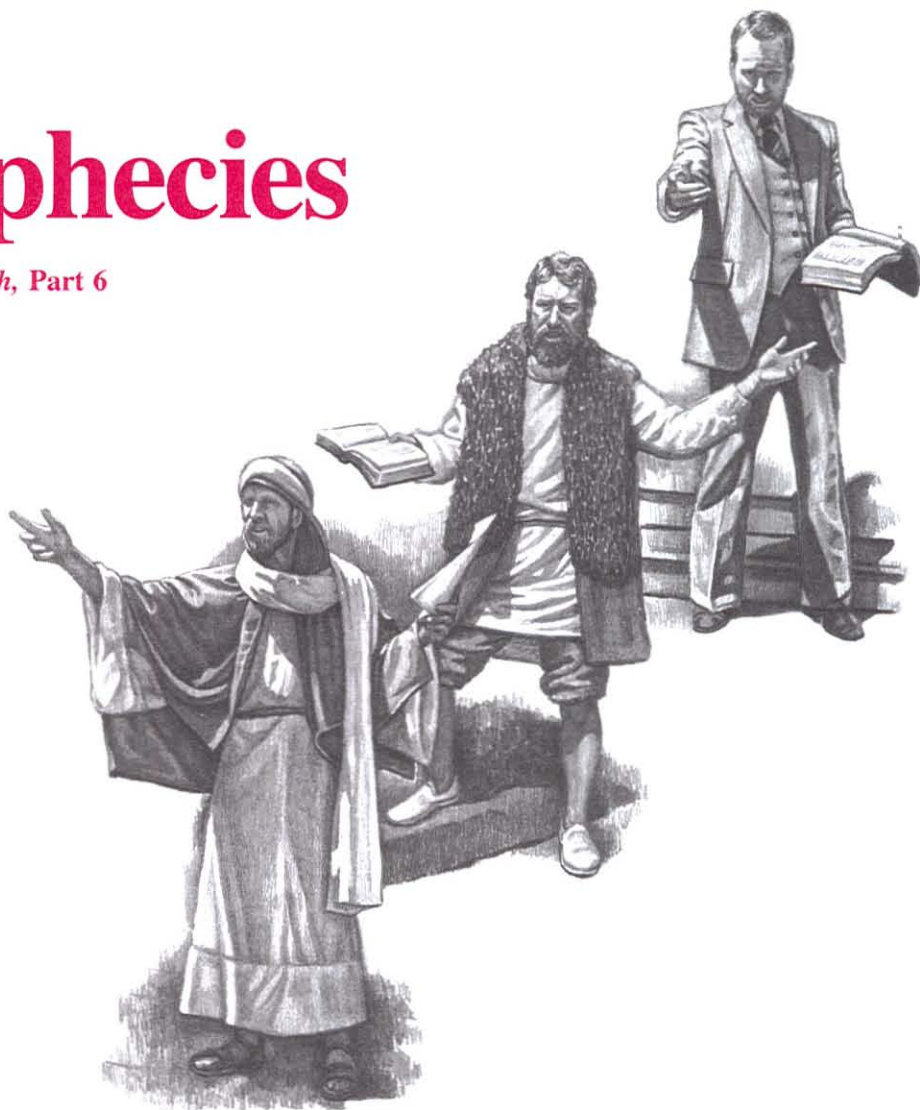
We will now notice predictions made by Mrs. White concerning modern Spiritualism, in the years 1849-50.

That of the former date reads: "I saw that the mysterious knocking in New York and other places was the power of Satan, and that such things would be more and more common, clothed in a religious garb so as to lull the deceived to greater security, and to draw the minds of God's people, if possible, to those things, and cause them to doubt the teachings and power of the Holy Ghost." *Early Writings*, 43.

At the time of this vision there was only the "rapping" manifestation. Questions were asked, and the answer of "yes" or "no" was given by either two or three "raps." The greater part of the people regarded the "rappings," as they were then called, as trickery, or sleight-of-hand performance. At that time the idea was not even suggested that "spirit rappings" would assume to be a religious organization, as it has since done, with its titles of "Revelation —, pastor of the First Spiritualist Church of —," and so forth.

In the vision of August 24, 1850, we read: "I was shown that by the rapping and mesmerism these modern magicians would yet account for all the miracles wrought by our Lord Jesus Christ, and that many would believe that all the mighty works of the Son of God when on the earth were accomplished by this same power." *Ibid.*, 86-87.

It is since that vision was given in 1850 that Spiritualists have taught, both in their oral instructions and in their printed books and papers (what they did not teach previously to that date), that all the miracles of Christ were wrought by



the power of mesmerism, and that He was only a "well-developed medium."

Another statement is given, taken from *Early Writings*, page 87, first printed in 1853: "I saw the rapping delusion—what progress it was making, and that if it were possible, it would deceive the very elect. Satan will have power to bring before us the **appearance** of forms purporting to be our relatives or friends now sleeping in Jesus. It will be made to appear as if these friends were present; the words that they uttered while here, with which we were familiar, will be spoken, and the same tone of voice that they had while living will fall upon the ear. All this is to deceive the saints and ensnare them into the belief of this delusion." (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

At the time this vision was given, the mode of communicating with the spirits was by calling over the letters of the

alphabet, and spelling out the communication, and by a "rap" the spirits designated the letter wanted. No one had, at that date, heard of a case of what has been so much talked of during the last thirty years—the "**materializing of spirits**"; that is, the spirit assuming a bodily form, shaking hands with people, and talking with them in tones that they claim to recognize as the exact tone of voice of a dead relative or friend.

It was about the years 1857-58—four years after Mrs. White had put in print that the spirits would assume the forms of dead friends—that mediums claimed to see their friends and to hear them speak.

In the light of this rule for testing prophets, what can we say of the predictions made through Mrs. White concerning Spiritualism? She stated, when it was not here, what would be done. The thing predicted came. That is, according to the Bible, proof of Divine Inspiration in the vision.

J. N. Loughborough



## Vision of the Civil War

In the further study of this question we refer to a prediction made in a vision by Mrs. White, at Parkville, Michigan, January 12, 1861, concerning the Civil War that was to come in the United States. At that time only one state, South Carolina, had passed a secession ordinance. [South Carolina passed its ordinance December 20, 1860.] The people in the North little thought of a war growing out of that. In the New York *Tribune* of that week, Horace Greeley, the editor, said, "A few old women with broomsticks could go down there and beat out all the rebellion there is in South Carolina." In speaking of it the week before, he said: "If someone with the firmness of Andrew Jackson should go down there and say, 'South Carolina, where are you going?' they would reply, 'Back into the Union again, sir.'"

After Mrs. White came out of the vision already referred to, she arose before the congregation, and said: "There is not a person in this house that has even dreamed of the trouble that is coming upon this land. People are making light of the secession ordinance of South Carolina [some of the leading men of Parkville, while she thus spoke, sneered at the ideas she was advancing], but I have just been shown that a large number of states will join that state, and there will be a most terrible war. In this vision I have seen large armies of both sides gathered on the field of battle. I heard the booming of the cannon, and saw the dead and dying on every hand. I saw the field after the battle, all covered with the dead and dying. Then I was carried to prisons, and saw the sufferings of those in want who were wasting away." *General Conference Daily Bulletin*, January 31, 1893. She further stated, "There are men in this house who will lose sons in that war." Ibid. [There were at least ten men in that house that day who lost sons in the war, and among them the very fathers who sneered when the vision was related.]

This vision, when given, was directly contrary to all Northern sentiment, but was nevertheless accurately fulfilled. Before the month of May 1861, eleven states had seceded, and elected their Confederate president. On the twelfth of April, the first gun of the war was fired on Fort Sumter, which surrendered on the thirteenth. The Northern idea of the war was then so meager that even

President Lincoln called for only seventy-five thousand men for three months, to put down the rebellion. Little did the people in responsible places think they were entering upon a war to continue to the spring of 1865—a war in which the North would have in the field 2,859,132 men, and the South probably half that number.

Not only was this vision accurately fulfilled concerning the secession of the states and the war itself, but as the war continued, other things were predicted. At first the war was conducted with the thought of preserving the Union, allow-

to proclaim freedom to the slave, and thus strike treason to the heart."

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation. Of it Governor St. John, in the speech previously mentioned, said, "But after Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation, we had swung round on God's side, and could not lose." From that time it was a course of almost continuous success that attended the Northern army.

Of the predictions through Mrs. White concerning the war, we can truly say, "All this came"; and can we not, with firmer faith than exhibited by the

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**There were at least ten men in that house that day who lost sons in the war, and among them the very fathers who sneered when the vision was related.**

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ing slavery to remain; but while that was the case, the North met many sad reverses. As I heard expressed by Governor St. John, of Kansas, "Had we whipped the rebels, the politicians would have patched up a peace, and the Union would have then continued with slavery, and we would have it today." [Speech in Ottawa, Illinois, June 29, 1891.]

As the Northern army met these reverses, national fast-days were appointed, and all Christians were to plead with the Lord to manifest His power in bringing the war to a close. In a vision given to Mrs. White on January 4, 1862, speaking of these fasts, she said: "And yet a national fast is proclaimed! Saith the Lord, 'Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?' Isaiah 58:6. When our nation observes the fast which God hath chosen, then will He accept their prayers as far as the war is concerned; but now they enter not into His ear." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 258.

Five months after this vision, the politicians of the North began to call for desperate measures. In June 1862, the *Republican Standard*, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, said, "It is time to put into vigorous exercise that severity which is the truest mercy; it is time

**queen of Babylon**, truly say that it was the Spirit of God that taught these things? See Daniel 5:10-12.

The Lord's revelation of what He would do was through His servants the prophets ("Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7); and when the thing predicted came to pass, He expected all who professed to be His people to acknowledge it as a proof that He spoke the word, and that the instrument through whom He spoke was one of His true prophets. This principle is just as true in these modern days as in ancient times, and should be kept in mind when studying the instruction given by Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:21, to "prove all things"; that come in the form of prophesying.

### Messenger Party

As a further application of the above rule, we call attention to a prediction made by Mrs. White in a vision given in Oswego, New York, June 20, 1855. It related to what was then called "The Messenger Party," which consisted of disaffected ones, who, having left the ranks, began a united opposition to the visions, claiming that, when rid of them, the third angel's message would at once "go with a loud cry." This party printed a paper called the *Messenger of Truth*. From this, the party was named.



They claimed to have more preachers than were left with us, and tauntingly said to Seventh-day Adventist ministers, "We will follow up and get all your converts." One by the name of Drew put it in these words: "You go ahead and shake the bush, and we will follow up and catch **all** the birds." The conflict was fierce, and the opposition bitter. As expressed of them by another, "There is nothing to which they will not stoop; and they are never likely to be out of scandal with which to assail those who have incurred their displeasure."

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## Instead of a spurious sanctification, the Lord delights in a truly sanctified people; but to perfect them and to accomplish His work in them, He hews them by the prophets.

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Until the Lord spoke directly concerning this party, our leading ministers considered it their duty to answer the scandalous falsehoods that were published in the *Messenger of Truth*. Elders White, Waggoner, Cornell, and Frisbie, and the writer, counseled together, and had arranged to write a reply to the malicious fabrications, each taking a separate line of attack. Just at this time the vision (the writer being present) was given in Oswego.

After coming out of the vision, Mrs. White, speaking to Elder White and the writer, said: "Brethren, you are mistaken as to your duty to answer the slanderous writings of the *Messenger*. It is only a trick of the enemy to divert you from using your time in spreading the truth. When you answer **one** of their lies, they will manufacture **two** more. The Lord says to let them alone, and go on with your work as if there was no such people on the earth, and in less than six weeks they will be at war among themselves. The candid ones will see their error and come back. The *Messenger* company will go to pieces, and their paper go down, while the third angel's message will advance more rapidly than ever. When their paper goes down, you will find that our ranks have doubled."

And "SO IT WAS." We let them alone, and made no reference to them or their work in the *Review*. First, they complained, then they growled, and dared us for battle. In less than four weeks

some of their financial supporters left them, and the dissension and fight were on among themselves. The cause of present truth advanced in every phase of its work. A statement made in the *Review*, January 14, 1858, just after the *Messenger* paper "breathed its last," having had a sickly existence of about three years, shows how accurately the prediction made in the Oswego vision was fulfilled. Speaking of the result of the *Messenger* work, the editor said: "At the time of the disaffection, when the

effort was made to break down the *Review*, the church property at the office was worth only seven hundred dollars. Since it has increased to five thousand. Then there were about one thousand paying subscribers; now there are two thousand, besides quite a **free** list." As the number of paying subscribers to the *Review* had exactly doubled, so the number of believers had increased more than twofold.

### "Be in Health"

John, the beloved apostle, wrote to Gaius these words: "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 2. This thought is also expressed in Paul's prayer for the people of God, even down to this time: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body [life, mind, and body] be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

Instead of a spurious sanctification, the Lord delights in a truly sanctified people; but to perfect them and to accomplish His work in them, He **hews** them by the prophets. See Hosea 6:5. This fact understood leads to inquiry concerning what the Lord is now doing through the gift of prophecy in teaching a sanctification that corrects those wrong habits of eating and drinking which

tend to build up the carnal nature, instead of mortifying our members. See Colossians 3:5.

### Otsego Vision

June 6, 1863, at Otsego, Michigan, Mrs. White had the great and wonderful vision on healthful living—disease and its causes, drugs and their evil effects, and so forth. Regarding the nature of the principles there taught, and the proofs in the vision itself of its Divine Inspiration, I will quote from the words of Dr. J. H. Kellogg, in the preface to the book called *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, published in 1890:

"1. At the time the writings referred to first appeared, the subject of health was almost wholly ignored, not only by the people to whom they were addressed, but by the world at large.

"2. The few advocating the necessity of a reform in physical habits, propagated, in connection with the advocacy of genuine reformatory principles, the most patent and in some instances disgusting errors.

"3. Nowhere, and by no one, was there presented a systematic and harmonious body of hygienic truths, free from patent errors, and consistent with the Bible and the principles of the Christian religion.

"Under these circumstances, the writings referred to made their appearance. The principles taught were not enforced by scientific authority, but were presented in a simple, straightforward manner by one who makes no pretense to scientific knowledge, but claims to write by the aid and authority of divine enlightenment.

"How have the principles presented under such peculiar circumstances and with such remarkable claims stood the test of time and experience? is a question which may very properly be asked. Its answer is to be found in facts which are capable of the amplest verification. . . . The principles which a quarter of a century ago [now more than forty-seven years ago] were either entirely ignored or made the butt of ridicule, have quietly won their way into public confidence and esteem, until the world has quite forgotten that they have not always been thus accepted. . . . Every one of the principles advocated more than a quarter of a century ago is fortified in the strongest possible manner by scientific evidence. . . .

"It certainly must be regarded as a thing remarkable, and evincing **unmis-**



**takable evidence of divine insight and direction**, that in the midst of confused and conflicting teachings, claiming the authority of science . . . a person making no claims to scientific knowledge or erudition should have been able to organize . . . a body of hygienic principles so harmonious, so consistent, and so genuine that the discussions, and researches, and discoveries, and the experience of a quarter of a century have not resulted in the overthrow of a single principle, but have only served to establish the doctrines taught."

Since 1863, the time when the diet question and healthful living were unfolded to Mrs. White, the subject of health reform has been classed with the preparatory work for fitting up a people to meet the events before us. The Lord is leading His people "back, step by step, to His original design—that man should subsist upon the natural products of the earth." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 380.

Mrs. White, in 1863, further stated that from what had been revealed to her, "the animals whose flesh was used for food would become more and more diseased, until finally it would be unsafe to eat their flesh. The Lord was in mercy introducing these principles to His people, that by practicing them they might be better fitted to meet and resist the increase of disease upon the human family, and stand unharmed amid the seven last plagues." The present increase of disease in the domestic animals is startling the nations of the earth. The Lord's people see in this fact the fulfilling of the predictions made forty-seven years ago concerning this very thing.

### Predictions Concerning Sunday Laws

In *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 451, printed in 1885, is a statement as to **how** Sunday laws would be passed in the United States. It reads: "To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the **demand** for a Sunday law."

Now, let us see how this has already been done. In 1892 a **demand** was made of Congress to prohibit the opening on Sunday of the world's fair, which was to be in Chicago, Illinois, from May to October of that year. Such a law was passed July 19, 1892, under just such a pressure as above predicted. And be it remembered that this is the **first** time that the United States Congress ever legislated on the Sabbath question.

The churches sent in immense lists of names, and petitions, and telegrams, not only petitioning Congress, but kindly informing the congressmen "that we do hereby pledge ourselves and each other, that we will, from this time henceforth, refuse to vote for or support for any office or position of trust, any member of Congress, either senator or representative, who shall vote for any further aid of any kind for the world's fair except on conditions named in these resolutions." The conditions were that the fair should be closed on Sunday.

As a sample of the talk on the floors of Congress, when the bill was passed, read the following: "I should like to see the disclaimer put in white and black and proposed by the Congress of the United States. Write it. How would you write it? . . . Word it, if you dare; advocate it, if you dare; **how many who voted for it would ever come back here again?**—None, I hope. You endanger yourselves by opposing it." Thus we see how that testimony, given in 1885, has **been** and is **being** fulfilled.

### Catholic and Protestant Unity

Here is another prediction found also in *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 451, 1885: "When

both ministers and people, courting the favor of Catholics, inviting them to attend their associations and join with them in their religious and political federations. Be it remembered that hardly a vestige of what is now seen in this line was apparent in 1885, when the above testimony was given.

As a sample of how the Protestants are reaching for the hand and help of papists, I will quote from the Kansas City (Missouri) *Star* of March 18, 1896.

### Catholic and Methodist St. Patrick's Day

A speech was delivered in Coate's Opera House, Kansas City, Missouri, on St. Patrick's day, March 17, 1896, by Dr. Mitchell, pastor of the leading Methodist Church of Kansas City. The *Star* speaks of a portion of the speech as "a dramatic little scene." Dr. Mitchell was loudly applauded when he said this: "Bigotry is the child of ignorance. We are bigoted because we do not know our neighbors well enough. We Protestants have been taught to believe unutterable things of Catholics. Catholics have been taught to believe unutterable things of Protestants. Now we discover our mistaken notions of each other when we get

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**See Protestants, both ministers and people,  
Scouring the favor of Catholics, inviting them  
to attend their associations and join with them in  
their religious and political federations.**

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Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this three-fold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan, and that the end is near."

To show how the first part of this prediction is already fulfilling we need only to call attention to what is transpiring around us. See Protestants,

close enough to look into each other's eyes and clasp each other's hands; if we only knew each other more we would love each other better. We have stood apart and criticized. Shame upon the followers of the blessed Christ! All Christians have been redeemed by the same precious blood; we are sustained by the same divine grace, and expect to reach the same heaven. Say, brothers, we had better be getting acquainted with each other down here."

Dr. Mitchell then turned to Father Dalton (Catholic priest), who sat just behind him, and, reaching out his hand, said, "Here, Brother Dalton, is my hand." Father Dalton arose and clasped the ex-



tended hand, and as Dr. Mitchell shook it, he said: "It would be an awful shame if, after living so long in the same city on earth, we would have to get an angel to introduce us to each other in heaven. Let us get acquainted here on earth." The audience applauded, and after Father Dalton sat down, Dr. Mitchell continued his speech. Let it be remembered that that audience was largely Protestant which joined in that vociferous cheering that followed this speech.

The Church Federation of Protestant Churches, in 1905, sent to Cardinal Gibbons (Catholic) the ten points of their plan of operations. He replied that he "fully approved of their plans."

### Prediction of Sanitarium Sites

On March 18, 1902, a number of us were called together at the Los Angeles treatment rooms, on Third Street, to consider a proposition to buy a site on the corner of South Hill and Fourth Streets for a sanitarium. The price was \$100,000 for the bare lot, and this money would have to be hired, as also the money to erect a sanitarium, if one was built. As there was much hesitancy with us on the propriety of making such a venture, a testimony from Sister White was received through the mail. She was five hundred miles off, and knew not of our council on any such proposition. The testimony said: "Do not build a sanitarium in Los Angeles. Our sanitariums should be out in the country. While it may be right to hire treatment rooms in the city, do not build in the city. The Lord has shown me that there are properties that have been erected that are just fitted to our work, which for some cause have not been occupied, that will be offered to us at very low figures." That settled the question with us.

No one of our people knew of any such properties. Search has resulted in what? Glendale, Paradise Valley, and Loma Linda, which were all fitted ready for our work, and each obtained at about one-third of what had been invested in them.

These predictions made through Mrs. White, so accurately fulfilled and fulfilling, in accordance with rule five, show her to be a true prophet of the Lord. □

*The Prophetic Gift in the Gospel Church, 76-93.*

# 1998 Eatonville Camp Meeting

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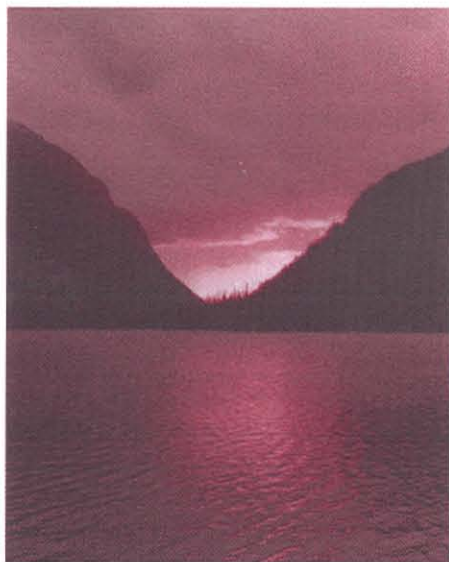
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# Faith

## Amid Storm Clouds



Sunset Sabbath evening



Our family canoed the length of Kintla Lake—6.3 miles!

IT was a beautiful, warm, sunny fall day as we canoed across an emerald, glacier-cold lake, mirroring the majestic heights of the Rocky Mountains in Glacier National Park. As we canoed, we came to a certain area where our voices distinctly echoed between the mountains. We were reminded that we were not alone. By faith we knew that the Lord would teach us some precious spiritual lessons from this time spent with Him in nature.

Upon reaching the opposite end of this lake, after canoing 6.3 miles, we fastened on our backpacks and began the 5½-mile hike up a narrow trail to our destination—the opposite end of a higher lake, surrounded by towering granite peaks with a bounding stream nearby. The day was perfect, and we took our time, enjoying the beautiful scenery and refreshing streams along the way.

On Sabbath morning the sun came up as usual, but a few foreboding clouds hung in the west. After breakfast our family and the other family, whom we were with, took a little hike up the nearby stream, jumping from rock to rock. Then we selected a log in the sunshine along its banks and studied what it means to have faith. The theme of our discussion and contemplation was the sentence on page 63 of *Steps to Christ* which says, “Where there is not only a belief in God’s Word, but a submission of the will

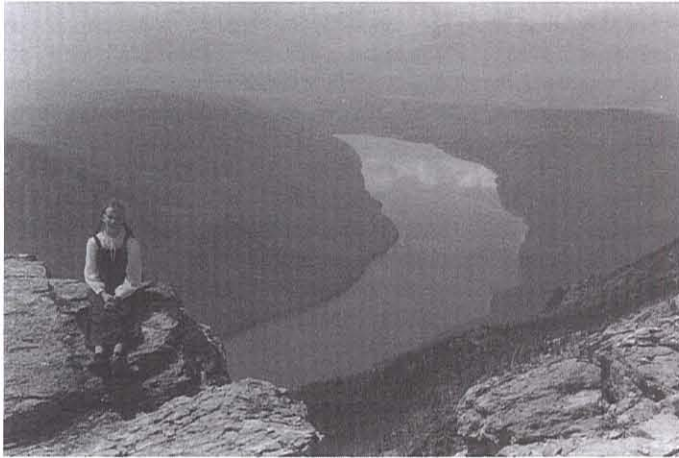
to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him, the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith—faith that works by love, and purifies the soul.” However, we became so absorbed in our study that we failed to notice the large, dark clouds that had rolled in and were now hiding the warm rays of the sun. Presently, it began to rain, and we had to return to our tents.

Later that day the Lord gave His benediction to the Sabbath through a most beautiful and awe-inspiring sunset. As we look back upon this experience, the sunset was also the token of His promise that He would teach us more fully what it means to have the living faith that will carry us through the most severe trials—the faith that we had studied about that morning. Like *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 61, says, “The perfect fruit of faith, meekness, and love often matures best amid storm clouds and darkness.” Little did we know through what stormy experience the Lord would perfect our faith on the following day.

Sunday morning we did not wake up to sunshine or rain, but guess what?—Snow! Now it was certain that we must hike out as soon as possible. We quickly packed our backpacks and ate our breakfast with snowflakes flying into our oatmeal. We hiked the 5½-miles to the lower lake in less than half the time it took us to hike in. We knew that as it got later in the day, the winds would pick up,

Lisa J. Panasuk





*The view from above the lake is well worth the hike!*

causing whitecaps on the lake and making it very hazardous for us to canoe across. Coming to our canoe, we quickly loaded up and set off across this 6.3-mile-long lake which was probably about 1½-miles wide. My mother was in the front, my dad in the back, and I was in the middle. By this time there were already large white-capped billows, and we knew that it was imperative that we follow the more protected shoreline. The winds were high, and, catching our canoe, they began driving us over to the middle of the lake. You see, when we were canoeing on the calm lake two days earlier and began to go crooked, we just paddled a little harder on that side, but now that method proved fruitless. All of our efforts were in vain! At last we found ourselves parallel with the raging white-capped waves which were about three feet high! It was a most perilous and helpless position to be in!

Amid the tempest, my mother cried out in desperation, "Lord, save us or we perish!" See Matthew 8:25.

My father gave the command, "Everyone take their oars out of the water and place them up on the canoe." In attempting to save ourselves, my mother had become so frantic that instead of oaring, she was mostly getting us wet.

My mother and I did as my father said, and then it was that it happened—our canoe turned directly into the wind, the direction we had come from, and then we began oaring again, headed back to shore. It was just as if an angel's hand had steadied our canoe and was guiding us back to safety! Is this not just like our loving Saviour? "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him" to "find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 7:25; 4:16.

I cannot explain how thankful we were when we came along the shoreline again! In the meantime our friends had gone to shore to leave their children and backpacks so they could try to rescue us if we were to capsize, for in this glacier-cold lake a person could live only about five minutes in the water.

Now we were determined to stay especially close to the

shore! All went well for a short time, but, alas, the continuous gusts of wind caught us and began driving us out to the middle of the lake again, despite our most persistent efforts!

My mother earnestly cried out to our friends, "What should we do? We're being carried out again!"

"Eugene, use your rudder!" one of our friends shouted back as loud as he could to my father. We barely succeeded in catching these repeated words above the howling wind and angry waters!

"Use my rudder; what's that?" my dad shouted back in wondering suspense.

Then the friend proceeded to instruct my dad on how to rudder—or direct the canoe by using his oar in a certain way. Quickly learning this technique, we were able to do our part in keeping our canoe close to the shoreline for the rest of the way. At last we finally found ourselves safely at the end of our perilous journey.

So it is in our lives. It is by rightly understanding and using "our rudder" that we shall be safely guided through the tempest that is coming upon us with increasing intensity. When the winds are calm in our lives, we do not really realize the necessity of understanding how to use "our rudder," for then it is easier to travel in a straight course. However, let the winds howl and the waves roll high, and our oars must be under divine direction

if we are to travel the narrow way in safety.

If our safety today and in the times ahead is so dependent upon the right use of "our rudder," let us find out what "our rudder" is. *Steps to Christ*, 47, says, "What you need to understand is **the true force of the will**. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends **on the right action of the will**." (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

When we began canoeing along the shore of the lake, we had made a choice that we would not canoe through the middle, for it was not safe. We sought to carry out this decision by trying hard. For a time, we succeeded. However, in reality our decision to stay close to the shore was like a rope of sand. We thought we understood the "right" action of the will, but it was really the "wrong" action of the will.

At times this is how it has been in my experience. I know that I should not speak those impatient or irritated words to my dad or mother, so I just bite my tongue and say to myself, "I'm not going to say it!" while inside I would really like to say it!

Or maybe someone says something about me that I do not like, or that may not even be true. But I know that I should not retaliate, so I just keep silent, while all the time I am thinking, "I am quite a martyr!" This is using my will to fight against self, but it is not the true force of the will. It does not bring complete victory in Christ.

The true force of the will is found where there is faith. Let us review the four ingredients that make up the faith which we studied that Sabbath morning along the stream: (1) **"Where there is not only a belief in God's**



*Junelle, Lisa (age 12), and Eugene Panasuk on Kintla Lake.*



**Word**": I believe the promise in God's Word which says, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:37. It must be "in all things"—even in the little trials of everyday

then I have had to pray, "Lord, I'm willing to be made willing." (3) **"Where the heart is yielded to Him"**: We believe God's Word and submit to His will by yielding our hearts entirely to Him. The power of His grace can

**I**t is by rightly understanding and using "our rudder" that we shall be safely guided through the tempest that is coming upon us with increasing intensity.

life. (2) **"But a submission of the will to Him"**: When my will is crossed and self does not want to be conquered, faith calls for a submission of my will to God's will. There have been times when I have not always been willing to do God's will, and

then subdue the natural clamoring of our flesh and work out within us that which is good and well-pleasing in His sight. Our part is to heed His invitation, "My son [and my daughter], give me thine heart." Proverbs 23:26. (4) **"The affections fixed upon**

**Him"**: The affections are like our impulses, desires, and inclinations. As we consent to give Christ our entire hearts, He will "so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses." *The Desire of Ages*, 668. This is what it means to me to have faith—faith that works by love and purifies the soul to stand amid trials both small and great.

It is in the little things of life that this faith can run like threads of gold throughout our daily experience.

One morning I was washing the breakfast dishes. That week it was my turn to do the morning dishes, and there were quite a lot of them; for we usually have our hardy vegetable meal for breakfast. I finished the dishes up a little faster than usual, and I was looking forward to a little extra time outside before homeschooling began. I rinsed the sink out, wiped and dried the counter, and was about ready to leave the kitchen when my dad began putting more dishes into the sink from his lunch bag. Immediately, self was ready to defend itself: **"Since the dishes weren't here on time, I guess you'll have to do them yourself!"** Self even further wanted to justify itself by thinking, **"Now the sink is all clean and the counter all dry. But, if I do those dishes, the sink will get soap in it; the counter will get wet, and I'll have to clean them again!"** But the Lord was also calling for my heart. The struggle was intense, but I chose to say, **"Lord, you can keep my heart now. 'Not my will, but thine, be done.'** Luke 22:42." Through this trial or storm cloud, as small as it seemed, the perfect fruit of faith matured a little more in my life. I believed His promise, submitted my will, yielded my heart, and thus my affections were fixed upon Him as I cheerfully did those few extra dishes and then went outside.

As this faith becomes a part of our daily experience, we will be prepared for the remainder of our pilgrimage, for "the faithful discharge of today's duties is the best preparation for tomorrow's trials." *Ministry of Healing*, 481. True, we cannot expect to have an unruffled sea on our journey heavenward, and in these last days persecution will come. However, we have the Saviour's promise, "My grace is sufficient for thee." 2 Corinthians 12:9. With His grace we can walk in living faith today and in every day to come, for "faith is the clasping of the hand of Christ in every emergency." *Gospel Workers*, 262. □

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Evangelism & Revival Department  
of Hope International  
presents these upcoming meetings:

**Milton-Freewater, OR..... October 3**

Senior Center  
311 N. Main

**Eatonville, WA..... October 4-10**

Medical Missionary Training Seminar  
Life Abundant Missionary Institute

**Puyallup, WA..... October 24**

Edgewood Grange Hall  
1806 Meridian East

**Eatonville, WA..... November 16-20**

Hope International's Fall Week of Prayer  
Tom and Alane Waters Family  
Life Abundant Missionary Institute

**Eatonville, WA..... November 21**

Tom and Alane Waters  
Life Abundant Missionary Institute

Look for our "Upcoming Meetings" announcements in future issues. If you need more information, please call Hope International, (360) 832-6602, and ask to speak to someone in the Evangelism and Revival (E&R) Department.





# Ye Are the Light of the World

**T**HE Lord has made His people the depositaries of sacred truth. He has set them on an elevated position, above the world. He declares of them: "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9. And again He says: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5:14.

Upon every individual who has had the light of present truth devolves the duty of developing that truth on a higher scale than it has hitherto been developed. The Lord will hold us accountable for the influence we might have exerted, and did not because we did not earnestly try to understand our accountability in this world. We need not think that because we are only a tiny light, we need not be particular about shining. The great value of our light lies in its shining amid the moral darkness of the world—in shining not to please and glorify ourselves, but to honor God. If we are doing service for God, and our work corresponds to the ability God has given us, that is all He expects of us.

"And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, and said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: and two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side

thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 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. . . . Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth." Zechariah 4:1-14.

We know that the lamps which give us light have no light in themselves. They cannot fill themselves. So the holy appointed ones must empty the golden oil into the golden tubes. And the heavenly fire, when applied, makes them burning and shining lights. Our hearts cannot shed light on others unless there is a vital connection with Heaven. This alone can make them burn steadily with holy, unselfish love for Jesus and for all who are the purchase of His blood. And unless we are constantly replenished with the golden oil, the flame will die out. Unless the love of God is an abiding principle in our hearts, our light will cease.

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candle-

stick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:15-16. The tiniest lamp, kept replenished with the golden oil, and sending forth its bright beams to dispel the darkness, is of far more value than the large lamp which flashes with brilliancy for a time, then sputters and goes out, leaving souls in darkness to stumble along as best they can. It is the golden oil, emptied by the heavenly messengers into the golden tubes, to be conducted into the golden bowl, that creates a continuous bright and shining light. It is the love of God continually transferred to man that keeps him a bright and shining light for God. Then he can communicate the light of truth to all who are in the darkness of error and sin.

The golden oil is not manufactured by any human skill. It is the unseen power of the heavenly messengers who wait before the throne of God to communicate to all who are in darkness, that they may diffuse Heaven's light. Into the hearts of those united to God by faith, His golden oil of love flows freely, to flow forth again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God. These souls become a blessing to their fellow men, and thus are enabled to shine.

We see children, they may be brothers and sisters, who, if they chance to be pleased, and circumstances are all favorable for them, are in good spirits, kind and courteous. But wait until something comes that does not please them. Then see how passion is expressed in

Ellen G. White



the voice and attitude. Where now is the cheerfulness, the love, the true Christian politeness? Instead of these graces, the countenances express hatred.

God can look upon these things only with grief and sadness, even in inexperienced children. But when these objectionable attributes are manifested in grown-up children—when those who have come to

the sin is realized, why is it not acknowledged? It may be that some have cultivated a spirit of evil surmising, and have communicated their suppositions to others. But those whose hearts are right with God will say: I cannot hear these evil reports. If you know evil of your brethren and sisters, go to them, in the spirit of Christ, and talk it over with

brings all surrounding it under the leavening process, so the working of truth continues secretly, silently, steadily, to pervade all the faculties of the soul. And there is sure to follow a holy influence. A consistency will run through the whole life, showing it to be a work of the heart.

Christ taught a similar truth by the parable of the grain of mustard seed, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." Matthew 13:31-32.

The word of truth should ever be in mind and heart, that those who believe the truth may be prepared to speak a word in season. To sow the seed of truth by a few well-chosen words, may appear to be but a small beginning; but that word, spoken from the heart, may take root, spring up, and bear an abundant harvest of truth. In ourselves we can do nothing. We are all weak; but if we make the most of the Lord's entrusted talent, His divine power will give us efficiency.

There are many whose sphere of influence seems narrow; their abilities are limited, their opportunities are few, their knowledge is small; yet if they will let the peace of God rule in their hearts, they may do more than those who have naturally greater capabilities, but who trust to their own efficiency. It is "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6. The strength and talents belong to God; and who can estimate the great work that may be done in the sowing of the gospel seed? It will be as the morsel of leaven hidden in the meal.

And what changes are wrought, all unknowingly, by the one who tremblingly brings from the storehouse the precious Word upon which he has been feeding! The strength is not his own; it is God's. One heart, turned to God and brought under the power of truth through the cooperation of the Holy Spirit, becomes a working agency, a fresh instrument to communicate light. By that one lamp, kept steadily burning, many others will be lighted. □

*Review and Herald*, September 21, 1897.

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## We are all weak; but if we make the most of the Lord's entrusted talent, His divine power will give us efficiency.

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years of maturity, who have had great light and knowledge and experience, act like children in their fits of malice—it is a sad thing. They are piercing Christ afresh, and putting Him to open shame. Satan and his confederate angels point to those who profess to be the children of God, but who, by their disposition and attributes, show that they are after the similitude of the apostate, and taunt Christ and the heavenly angels. How long shall we thus crucify the Son of God afresh, so that God will be ashamed to call us His sons and daughters? Is it not time that we put away childish things? Shall we be of the number who are ever learning, and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth?

God admonishes His people: "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:1-2. "Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour." Ephesians 4:30-32; 5:1-2.

The sin of much talking is not small. Words bitter as gall may be spoken in the heat of satanic passion; but when

them. Get it out of the way. Let no flaw in your speech, no defect in your spirit, break the friendship and love which Christ has enjoined upon you to cultivate. "A word fitly spoken," says the wise man, "is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Proverbs 25:11.

Christ used leaven to illustrate this spirit of evil surmising and evil thinking. As the leaven spreads through the meal in which it is hidden, so will the leaven of evil surmising and malice pervert the entire being—thoughts, actions, and character—where it is received. Of this leaven, He bids His followers beware. Again, He uses leaven to illustrate the gospel of the kingdom. With this leaven, the Word of God, true goodness, righteousness, and peace are introduced. This brings the entire affections into conformity to the mind and will of God. Wherever it goes, the leaven of truth makes a change in mind and heart. The entire character is transformed. All who will receive into the heart the truth as it is in Jesus, will reveal its leavening power. When the kingdom of Heaven is established in the heart, the whole character is conformed to the character of Christ; for the truth is a life-giving principle. The power of God is working, like the leaven, to subdue the entire being. Even the thoughts are brought into captivity to the will of Christ. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

As the leaven, though hidden in the flour, and deposited only in one place,



# Letters to the Editor



Dear Hope International.  
Thank you so much  
for sending me Our  
Firm Foundation.

Dear Hope International,

Just a note to say that your articles are true messages from God which inspire me to improve my life in all areas as if He were here leading me out of this sad condition of the world straight into His arms.

Thank you for your inspiration—all of you!

God bless and Aloha. *DG, Hawaii.*

Dear Sir,

I am so thankful to have received the wonderful gift on July 3, 1998! The books are always interesting and informative, and on top of that it has been difficult to stop reading the books because they are making the Bible understandable.

Furthermore, I appreciate being led from darkness into the light! No longer do I feel like an outsider looking in, but a part of God's great plan!

Your fellow servant, *FM, Zambia.*

Dear Hope,

Just a note to let you know that your magazine has been a real blessing to us. Jesus is coming soon, and it's really great to receive the spiritual food that you send us in you magazine. We need this material to prepare us for what is ahead.

Maranatha, *KM, USA*

Dear Sir,

Our mouth was filled with laughter as we received these wonderful gifts such as Bibles, magazines, books, tracts, and articles, sent to us by you folks!

We greatly thank God for making it possible that all these materials reached us at the time we are having our second quarter crusade. It geared us up in sharing and extending the messages to people which helped them in finding their want of soul.

The Lord has added many more souls to His church, though some are awaiting baptism.

Sister E. G. White stated in her book "What service will stand highest in the

estimation of Him who gave Himself a willing offering to save a guilty race? What enterprise will be most dear to the heart of infinite love? What work will bring the greatest satisfaction and joy to the Father and the Son?—the salvation of perishing souls." *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, 91.

Meanwhile we still need your assistance in supplying us more Bibles, tracts and inspiration books, to reach these people we've come in contact with, because "tomorrow some of these souls may be where we can never reach them again." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 27.

Always remember me in your daily prayers as I will do the same for you here.

Yours faithfully, *CN, Nigeria.*

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my heartfelt sincere gratitude to Hope International. Thank God there are still people who love God!

From the day I received literature from you it was from joy to joy each day as I shared with my friends the gift you sent me!

When I began reading the magazine *Our Firm Foundation* it was almost impossible to put it down. I was particularly touched by Jim Hohnberger's article "Not I, But Christ."

I wish you all the best! May God bless you all in Jesus name!

*MV, Zimbabwe.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thanks so much for the gospel work you are carrying out worldwide.

I would like to thank you earnestly for your great offer of books and regular issues of *Our Firm Foundation* magazines. Thanks so much for the Spirit of Prophecy books. May God add you more. I am sure through the materials you sent me, many will know Christ which is our great mission.

God bless you! *RM, Kenya.*

Greetings in Christ:

I was a happy, joyful child of God when I received the Ellen G. White

Study Bible—that has now become my "main squeeze," and I am going to get every drop out of it! Thank you so much!

I am a serious student of the Bible and of Ellen G. White's works. I know if she was still with us, I would constantly go around with her, learning more, for she truly was a lady of God!

Again, thanks a million! Maybe I will get a chance to thank you in person when we all go home!

In His service, *JP, Washington.*

Dear Hope International,

Just a few lines to say that the *Our Firm Foundation* magazine is just great! Keep up the work, for we have not much time left!

I will be grateful if you can send me more of your publications, the *Conflict of the Ages* series, as well as copies of *Rome's Challenge*. Our only source of these books is through importation, which when they come in are particularly expensive due to government regulations as well as foreign exchange bottlenecks.

Sunday worshipers dominate in this city, so anything you have that will explain how Sunday was instituted in place of God's true worship day are highly needed. Also up to five Bibles are needed for new friends which I've embraced with the message.

I pray that the Lord will bless *Our Firm Foundation* where we can still have a straight truth in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is still God's church and will be until the end.

Your brother in Christ,

*EO, Nigeria.*

Dear Hope International,

Thank you for *Our Firm Foundation*. I have learned so much from your magazine! It helps me to stay focused on God. Your articles help me realize the times we are living in.

Sincere thanks to you, and I pray that the Lord's blessing be with you.

Yours in Christ, *TB, New Jersey.*



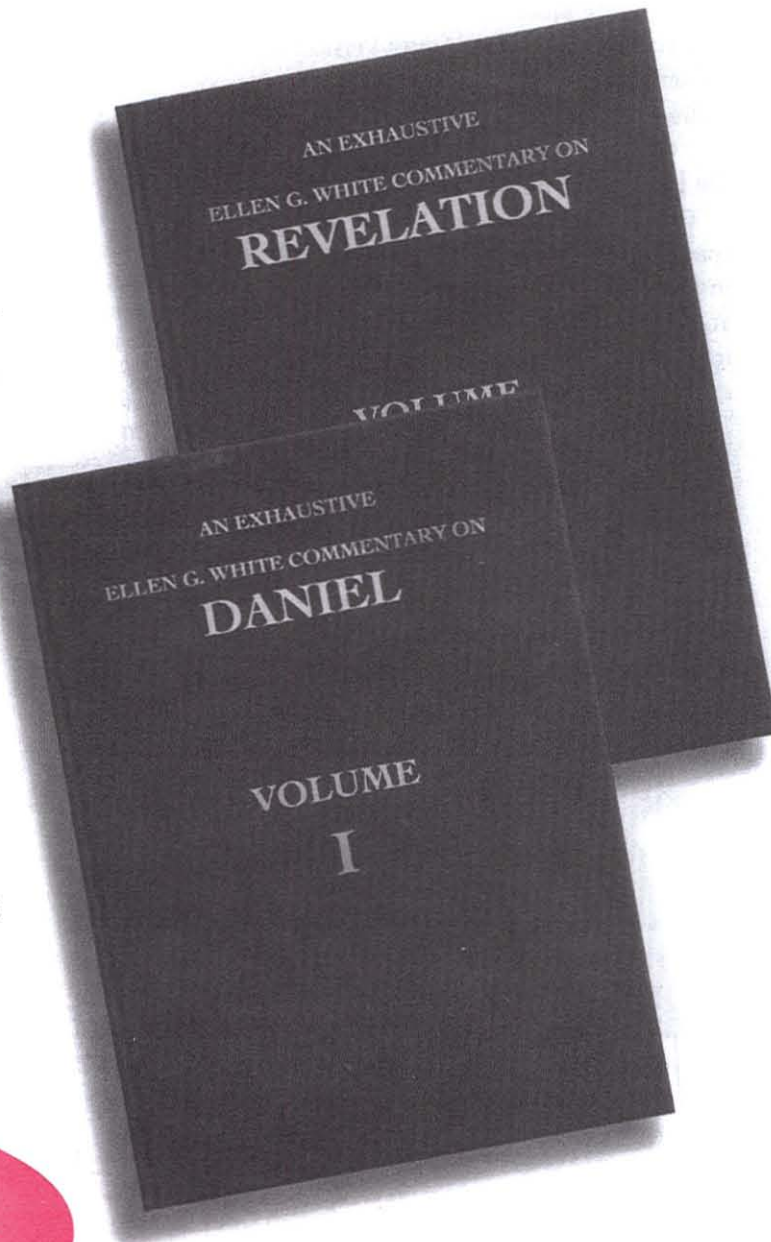
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