

# Our Firm Foundation

Volume 21, Number 7

July 2006

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary



The Approaching  
Crisis



# Why Glossy Paper?

As all of you know by handling the magazine, we have switched to a new glossy paper. As a rule, glossy paper costs more than the paper we have been using so we never thought of changing. In addition, glossy paper is harder to underline and highlight. So for those reasons, and especially the higher price of the glossy paper, we have stayed with plain paper. We are sure that everyone realizes that we try to keep our costs at a minimum so that more of every dollar can reach souls for Christ. Some consider us too penurious because of our desire to put as much into the work as possible. We are always looking for ways to do things more economically, but not to do it cheap. This is God's work and it must be done to the highest standard.

As we constantly take these things to the Lord, and no doubt because of each one of your intercessory prayers, I received a brochure in the mail. The brochure had fabulous prices for the printing of magazines, books, tracts, etc. I couldn't believe my eyes and got very excited. But then I noticed that this brochure was from a printing company that does printing for other printing companies. These were wholesale prices to printers, not to individuals.

I just about threw the brochure in the trash, when the Lord said "What do you have to lose? Contact them." So I did. I sent an email saying that I recognized that their brochure was for printing compa-

nies, and that I must have received one by mistake, but was there any chance that they might do some printing for us?

I said in the email that we were a small, Christian, self-supporting ministry doing work for the Lord, and wanted to get the best prices we could so that more money could go to saving souls. I sent it off and put it in the Lord's hands.

A few days later, I received a phone call from "Vinnie" at this printing company. I thought to myself, this is odd, why call to say, "We don't print for individuals." Why not just email me back? But I answered the call.


"Vinnie" said just what I was expecting. She said that they don't send out this brochure to businesses or individuals that are not printing companies. She asked how I had received it. I had it there at my desk and I told her that it was addressed to me at Hope International. She then told me that this must have been "providential." Now that got my attention. I said "Really!" She said "Yes." She then went on to say that the owners of the company might be interested in helping us. I said "Really!" Then she said, "Well, actually, I am one of the owners." I said, "Really!" Then she said, "Well, actually, my husband and I own the business." I said, "Really!" Now I am on the edge of my seat!

Vinnie asked me if I would be willing to send some of the material that we would like to have printed. I said "of course," and said that it

would be sent out that day. She told me that she would send us some of the work they do to see if it was up to our standards. (I couldn't believe the humility of Vinnie! After all, they print for other printers. It HAD to be up to par, *and beyond.*)

She told me that she and her husband were Christians, and that part of their "work" for the Lord was to help out other ministries' printing needs, and that they were doing some work for other Christian ministries as well. I said "Really!" (I was too amazed to speak more eloquently.) We had prayer together.

As soon as I got off the phone, I told everyone in the office what had just transpired. We all rejoiced and praised God for His wonderful mercy and kindness to us. I then called Ron Spear to tell him the news. He was more excited than I was and said, "We have to go meet these people, this wasn't an accident, this was providential!" I told him that was what Vinnie said.

I called Vinnie back and told her that I had just spoken to the founder of the ministry and that he would like to meet her and her husband. And what happened next was amazing! 

*To be continued.*



*Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker here.*



**OUR MISSION** - It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work 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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#### ABOUT HOPE INTERNATIONAL

Hope International is a lay ministry founded, supported, and operated by Seventh-day Adventists to assist the Seventh-day Adventist church in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in every way that is consistent with the principles of God as revealed in Inspiration.

#### INVITATION TO WRITERS

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# *The Approaching* **Crisis**

**This is the time for action,  
not for indolence  
and spiritual stupor.**

**Ellen G. White**

**A** great crisis awaits the people of God. Very soon our nation will attempt to enforce upon all, the observance of the first day of the week as a sacred day. In doing this, they will not scruple to compel men against the voice of their own conscience to observe the day the nation declares to be the Sabbath.

In view of this, there must be, among God's commandment-keeping people, more spirituality and a deeper consecration to God, and a zeal in His work that has never yet been reached, to hold aloft the banner of God's truth. The law of God, the only standard of righteousness, must be prized in proportion as the professed Christian world manifest contempt for it.

The law of God should be loved and prized by God's true people now, more than ever before. There is the most urgent necessity of enforcing the words of Christ upon the mind and heart of every believer, both men and women, youth and children: "Search the Scriptures." John 5:39. Examine your Bibles as you have never done before.

Unless you arise to a higher, holier attitude in your religious life, you will not be ready for the appearing of our Lord. There are many who are not purifying their souls by obeying the truth. As great light has been given them, God expects proportionate zeal, devo-

tion, and faithfulness upon the part of His people. But there will be proportionate darkness, unbelief, and blindness as the truth is not appreciated and acted upon.

The Lord will not remove from His people every occasion to doubt; but He will give sufficient light and evidence to encourage faith and confidence; and if they walk as Christ, the light of the world, leads the way, they will not step aside into the paths of doubt and unbelief.

When declension and danger threaten the church, there will be more praying, more fasting, by the faithful few, and the Lord will answer the prayers offered to Him in sincerity, and at the same time He will come forth as an avenger because of the guiltiness of the evil-workers. He will be a protector; for He will "avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them." Luke 18:7.

It will appear as though Satan is triumphant, and that truth is overborne with falsehood and error; because the people over whom God has spread His shield, and the country which has been an asylum to the conscience-oppressed lovers of God and the defenders of His truth, are placed in desperate jeopardy through its oppressive legislation. Should our nation abjure the principles of Protestantism, to give countenance and sanction to

the Sunday law, they will in this act join hands with popery; for it will be nothing else than giving life to the tyranny which has been eagerly waiting and watching its opportunity to spring into active despotism. And now, as this evil is on the point of realization, it is the business of all believers in the Bible to arouse.

For years many have sat in calm expectation of this event, and they will not be working out the purposes of God if they comfort themselves with the thought that what is to come will come, and anything that they may do will not prevent it. They should not settle down in an easy, comfortable indolence, thinking that God will shelter His own people in the day of this calamity.

This is the time for action, not for indolence and spiritual stupor. Satan is preparing his forces with a power from beneath, and all heaven is in busy activity, ready to work in the interests of those who are awake to the condition of things, and, like faithful sentinels, are doing all they can to arouse the people to avert, if possible, the threatened evil.

If our people continue in the listless attitude in which they have been, God cannot pour upon them His Spirit. They are unprepared to cooperate with Him. They do not realize the threatened danger, and are not awake to the situation. They should feel now as never before their need of vigilance and well-concerted action.

## Avert the Danger

The following quotation from "Testimony, No. 32," which was published in 1885, shows that our people have not been left without warnings as to the duties and dangers of the times.

"God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance.

"While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice.<sup>1</sup> The Sunday movement<sup>2</sup> is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild, and apparently Christian; but when it shall speak, it will reveal the spirit of the dragon.

"It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures, and be able to give the reason for our faith. 1 Peter 3:15. Says the prophet, 'The wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.' Daniel 12:10.

"Those who have access to God through Christ have important work before them. Now is the time to lay hold of the arm of our strength. The prayer of David

should be the prayer of pastors and laymen: 'It is time for thee, LORD, to work; for they have made void thy law.' Psalm 119:126. Let the servants of the Lord weep between the porch and the altar, crying, 'Spare Thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach.' Joel 2:17.

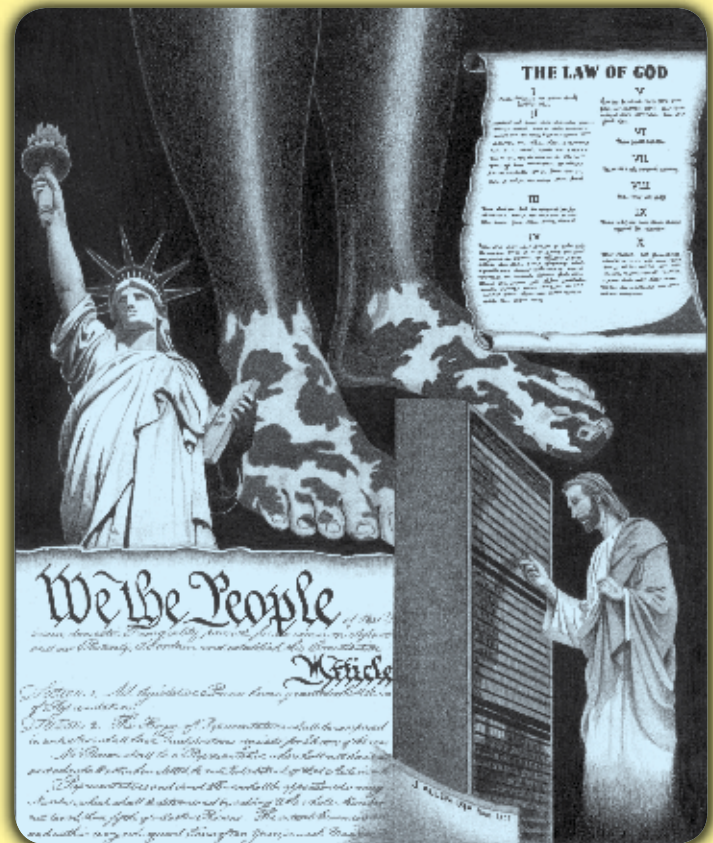
"God has always wrought for His people in their greatest extremity, when there seemed the least hope that ruin could be averted. The designs of wicked men, the enemies of the church, are subject to His power and overruling providence. He can move upon the hearts of statesmen; the wrath of the turbulent and disaffected, the haters of God, His truth, and His people can be turned aside, even as the rivers of water are turned, if He orders it thus. Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence. He who marshals the stars in order in the heavens, whose word controls the waves of the great deep—the same infinite Creator will work in behalf of His people if they call upon Him in faith. He will restrain the forces of darkness, until the warning is given to the world, and all who will heed it are prepared for the conflict.

" 'The wrath of man shall praise Thee,' says the psalmist; 'the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain.' Psalm 76:10. God means that testing truth shall be brought to the front, and become a subject of examination and

discussion, even if it is through the contempt placed upon it. The minds of the people must be agitated. Every controversy, every reproach, every slander, will be God's means of provoking inquiry, and awakening minds that otherwise would slumber.

"Thus it has been in the past history of God's people. For refusing to worship the great golden image which Nebuchadnezzar had set up, the three Hebrews were cast into the fiery furnace. But God preserved His servants in the midst of the flames, and the attempt to enforce idolatry resulted in bringing the knowledge of the true God before the assembled princes and great men of the vast kingdom of Babylon.

"So when the decree went forth forbidding prayer to any god save the king and as Daniel, according to his custom, made his supplications three times a day to the God of heaven, the attention of the princes and rulers was called to his case. He had an opportunity





to speak for himself, to show who is the true God, and to present the reason why He alone should receive worship, and the duty of rendering Him praise and homage. And the deliverance of Daniel from the den of lions was another evidence that the Being whom he worshiped was the true and living God.

“So the imprisonment of Paul brought the gospel before kings, princes, and rulers, who otherwise would not have had this light. The efforts made to retard the progress

earth. Obstacles must be met and surmounted. A great work is to be done, and this work has been entrusted to those who know the truth. They should make mighty intercession with God for help now. The love of Christ must be diffused in their own hearts. The Spirit of Christ must be poured out upon them, and they must be making ready to stand in the judgment. While they are consecrating themselves to God, a convincing power will attend their efforts to present the truth to others, and its light will find access to many hearts.

“We must sleep no longer on Satan’s enchanted ground, but call into requisition all our resources, and avail ourselves of every facility with which Providence has furnished us. The last warning is to be proclaimed before many people, and nations, and tongues, and kings; and the promise is given, ‘Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.’ Matthew 28:20.”<sup>3</sup>

### Give the Three Angels’ Messages

Through fraud and falsehood Satan is now using those who claim to be Christians to divorce the world from God’s mercy. They are working in blindness. They do not see that if a Protestant government

of prayer throughout the land, to petition that God may sweep back this cloud of evil, and give a few more years of grace to work for the Master.

The peculiar work of the third angel has not been seen in its importance. God meant that His people should be far in advance of what they are today. But now, when the time has come for them to spring into action, they have the getting ready to do. When Satan made his advances, it was high time for the watchmen on the walls of Zion to arouse and counteract his efforts to obtain the advantage.

It is not in the order of God that light has been kept from our people—the very present truth which they needed for this time. Not all of our ministers who are giving the third angel’s message, really understand what constitutes that message. The National Reform movement has been regarded by some as of so little importance that they have not thought it necessary to give much attention to it, and have even felt that in so doing, they would be giving time to questions distinct from the third angel’s message. May the Lord forgive our brethren for thus interpreting the very message for this time.

The third angel’s message comprehends more than many suppose. What interpretation do they give to the passage which says an angel descended from heaven, and the earth was lightened with his glory? This is not a time when we can be excused for inactivity. If this work, which was so essential, had been taken up by our ministers, there would be today a far different state of things in all our churches

Some in the church will prove to be false brethren; their faith, their love, their patience, their constancy will be tested and tried; and if they are not rooted and grounded in the truth, if they are not filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and the praise of God, they will become

*The people need to be aroused in regard to the dangers of the present time.*

of truth will serve to extend it. The excellence of truth is more clearly seen from every successive point from which it may be viewed. Error requires disguise and concealment. It clothes itself in angel robes, and every manifestation of its real character lessens its chance of success.

“The people whom God has made the depositaries of His law are not to permit their light to be hidden. The truth must be proclaimed in the dark places of the

sacrifices the principles that have made them a free, independent nation, and through legislation brings into the Constitution, principles that will propagate papal falsehood and papal delusion, they are plunging into the Roman horrors of the Dark Ages.

But this need not be, just at this point of time, if the church is aroused to her duty and her work. A vast responsibility is devolving upon men and women

offended at reproofs and warnings, will not humble their souls before God, and will go back and walk no more with those who love the truth.

The people need to be aroused in regard to the dangers of the present time. The watchmen are asleep. We are years behind. Let the chief watchmen feel the urgent necessity of taking heed to themselves, lest they lose the opportunities given to them to see the dangers. Let them blow the trumpet, not in a general way, but so that it may give a certain sound, that other watchmen upon the walls of Zion may hear, and in their turn send forth the warning note.

Perils now threaten the people of God; and what will they do? Can we not assist in lifting the standard, and in calling to the front those who have a regard for their religious rights and privileges? God calls us to awake; for the end is near. The prophecies that show us the closing scenes of earth's history, are fast fulfilling. The time is fast approaching when we shall be made to feel the hand of oppression, because we demand our religious rights. Shall we then dishonor God by keeping silent, when His holy commandments are being trampled under foot?

### Seek God


We have been looking many years for a Sunday law to be enacted in our land; and now that the movement is right upon us, we ask, What are our people going to do in the matter? Do you realize that the night will soon come, when no man can work? Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition is brought upon you?

If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils, and every position of truth which we hold will be severely criticized. The time that we are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted

to the charge God has given us, of preparing for the approaching crisis. Much time should be spent in prayer, that our garments of character may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.

We should especially seek God for grace and power to be given His people now. God lives; and we do not believe that the time has fully come when He would have our liberties restricted. The prophet saw "four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." Revelation 7:1. Another angel ascending from the east, cried to them, saying, "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." Verse 3.

This points out the work we now have to do, which is to cry to God for the angels to hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world, and shall have proclaimed the warn-

ing against disobeying the law of Jehovah. But every conceivable thing that the enemy can bring against the people of God, to hinder them in their work, will be employed. The Lord, on the other hand, bids all to be awake and to watch; for it was while men slept, that the enemy sowed tares. 

*Review and Herald,*  
December 11, 1888.

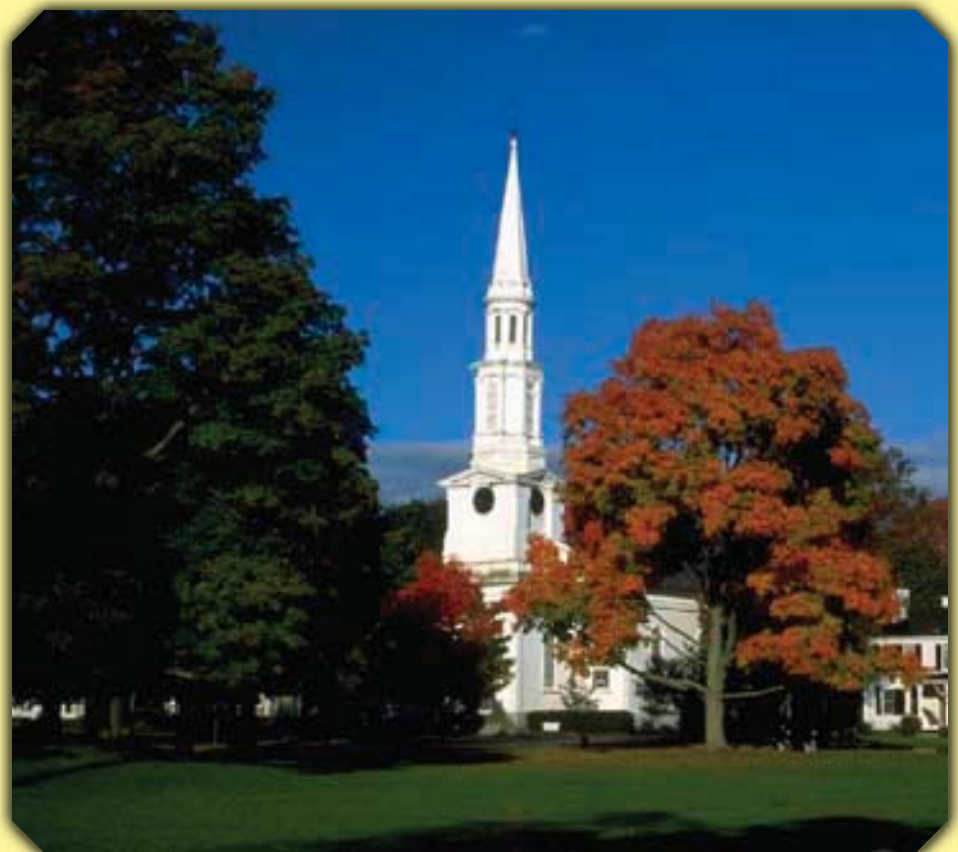


*Ellen G. White, 1827–1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God.*

*To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God's people around the world.*

### Notes:

- 1 See "How Will the Majority Decide?" by John Goodwill, *Our Firm Foundation*, vol. 21, no. 6.
- 2 See [www.tencommandmentsday.com](http://www.tencommandmentsday.com) (1st day) and [www.tencommandmentsday.org](http://www.tencommandmentsday.org) (7th day).
- 3 *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 452–454.



# How to keep the Sabbath

Isaiah 58 tells many more of the do's of the Sabbath and its joys and rewards than we usually take notice of.

*In Part 1 the author recommended that we look at the entire chapter of Isaiah 58, rather than just the last two verses, as an answer to the oft-asked question, How do I keep the Sabbath? Verses 1 to 6 were carefully examined, and now we continue with verses 7 through 11.—Editors.*

**I**saiah 58:7 says, "Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

Now here is a verse you may not have spent a lot of time on, but there is a lot of information here that is very pertinent to our subject. On the surface it would appear that God is speaking of the temporal needs, and He is, but God has a way of covering two bases with one foot (that is a nicer way of saying, "killing two birds with one stone"). If we take the physical items in the text and through cross-references find their spiritual application, as Christ did, we will notice that both the temporal and the spiritual needs are supplied.

**Deal thy bread.** Christ said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." John 6:35. He also likened His Word to bread: "It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God." Luke 4:4.

God is concerned about our physical hunger but more importantly the spiritual hunger that could keep us out of His kingdom: "Blessed are

they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6. So in the first part of this verse He is saying that we are to take the bread of life to those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Is that not an excellent Sabbath activity?

**Bring the poor.** Jesus said that we would always have the poor with us (John 12:8), but it is spiritual poverty that should be removed from every soul: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3. Where else does one find the riches of His kingdom but in the church, the depository of His truth. That is the house to which we are to "bring the poor": "But Christ as a son over His own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Hebrews 3:6. We are His house—but only as "we hold fast the confidence. . . ."

**Cover the naked.** "When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him." What kind of nakedness is God addressing here? I think a brief look at Revelation will answer that question. "Because thou sayest, I

am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Revelation 3:17.

The nakedness that God is most concerned with is our spiritual nakedness that can keep us out of heaven. The garment we must have is the righteousness of Christ: "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Revelation 7:14. "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Revelation 19:8. An individual can only put on these robes as he or she is introduced to the One who holds them.

**Thine own flesh.** Who is our "own flesh"? Paul answers this: "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

"For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the





# Lee Forbes

## Part 2



hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

“Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: and those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.” 1 Corinthians 12:12–26.

You see our own flesh is the body of Christ, His church, our brothers and sisters in the faith. How often do we see individuals in the church that we are not familiar with who seem to be troubled and we just continue on in our own little world? How often do we take note of those individuals of the body, our “own flesh” that have not been to church in a while and make the time to go and visit with them finding out their trials, burdens and discouragement and leading them back to a meaningful relationship

with the burden Bearer and helping to relieve their burden in some small way? Are you feeling a little guilty? I am.

### Verse 8

“Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.” Isaiah 58:8.

It is only as we focus on the ministry that God has put before us that our light can shine for Him. The old adage, “Nobody cares what you know until they know that you care” is especially applicable here. Christ said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16.

What are they supposed to see in our light? Is it not the good works that God would work through us? It is His promise that we will then have a surge in our health as we live in service to others. Then our righteousness (which is the righteousness of Christ living in us) will go before us as people are blessed by our service.

And what does God say will follow that? He says that His glory will follow us. His glory will be our protection and our passport into heaven. If you have ever traveled abroad, you know the feeling when you hand your passport to the customs official and he looks at you and says, “Welcome home.” Oh

what a blessing that will be when we stand before the gates of heaven and the heavenly customs official says, “Welcome home, we’ve been waiting for you!”

### Verse 9

“Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity.” Isaiah 58:9.

Behold what a wonderful promise! God says when we call He will answer and when we cry He will say, “Here I am.” He will be very personally near to us in our time of need but there is a condition! Upon that very large two letter word *if*, hangs a world of conditions. I say ‘a world’ because it is our world to be self-centered expecting everyone to do things and perform in the way we would or anticipate they should. Remember what I shared with you about the yoke? God is emphatically against the yoke of man’s making being placed on the neck of His children.

But God does not stop here. He also shares His disapproval with the judgmental finger of condemnation. We can judge a sinner by his sinful acts and that is wise for we are not to keep company with those who claim to be God’s yet deny the power of God to overcome sin in their lives. “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power



thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:5. But this concerns obvious sin.

Just because someone does not do those things that we think they should be doing does not necessarily constitute sin. The disciples were quick to denounce a man who preached the gospel because he did not follow in the way they did. "John answered Him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbade him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in My name, that can lightly speak evil of Me." Mark 9:38–39.

Thirdly there is something else that God is displeased with

and that is pride. It was pride that caused the loss of the highest angel in heaven: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." Isaiah 14:12–15.

Pride is also a chain that binds one to eternal loss. Notice Satan is chained to the bottomless pit for a thousand years and what does the Bible call a chain? "Therefore pride

compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment." Psalm 73:6. God hates pride! "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18.

### Verse 10

"And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday." Isaiah 58:10.

Again though it appears that God is addressing the temporal needs let us not lose focus on the spiritual issues at hand.

We are to seek out the hungering souls and feed them with the Bread of life. And what does it mean to satisfy the afflicted soul? When Naomi lost her husband and sons she felt she was afflicted for she had lost everything dear to her. "I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?" Ruth 1:21.

How often do we meet people who have suffered some great loss? How do we satisfy these afflicted souls? When the woman who had a disease for twelve years was healed by touching Jesus' garment what did He say to her? "Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour." Mathew 9:22. It is the faith relationship that brings wholeness to the afflicted soul. It is our duty as followers of Christ to bring those around us to a knowledge of this faith. It is then that our one little candle will be seen in the obscurity of the darkness around us. It is also at this time when our own lives seem to be enveloped in the darkness of despair that God's grace will shine in us as the brightness of noon day. Experiences that would be to others a time of devastation will bring out the bright rays of God's glory as we, through faith in Him, allow the Lord to work

His marvelous grace in us—that grace being the power to transform lives into the image of God.

### Verse 11

And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:11.

How often do you hear it asked? How often do you ask yourself? How can I know the will of God in my life? There have been ministers of many denominations that have written fluently on this subject yet most have missed the mark. Why? To put it very simply, because they do not keep the Sabbath!

We tell people throughout the world in our evangelistic series that the Sabbath will be the dividing issue between God's people and those who know Him not. But when confronted on the issue of Sabbath-keeping individually, we shudder, hesitate, and want to run and hide, or water it down to the point that it becomes no issue. Have you not noticed that we have gone so far as to drop the name "Seventh-day" from most of our publications and just call ourselves "Adventists?" My friends God gave us the name, "Seventh-day Adventist" and I will, by God's grace, wear it proudly to the day I die.

Notice the promise to those who have kept the Sabbath in the way we have been discussing: "The Lord shall guide thee continually." "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8. God wants us to have such an intimate relationship with Him that we will walk with Him as Enoch did. God does not want our paths to be mysterious. David said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105.



Just as surely as Jesus knew day to day the path that God wanted Him to follow, it is for us to know our path each day through prayerful study time with God. God said in His Word, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

But what does it mean to make fat our bones? We little consider the importance of our bones until there is something wrong with them. We are very aware of the necessity of our blood and speak of it often, but forget that our bones produce our blood. God is very mindful of this fact and actually speaks of the health of our bones many times.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." "The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat." Proverbs 17:22; 16:24; 15:30.

A merry heart, pleasant words, good reports are not just good for our attitude they are also essential to good health. When we keep the Sabbath as God has instructed us to, we receive a good report from our Lord. If you have not noticed, God is very mindful of our health in this text. Jesus said, "The thief

cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10.

He also said, "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." Mark 2:28. 📖

*To be continued.*

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# Solving Personal Conflicts

## Part 3

David Stramell



## Lessons Jesus Taught from the Sermon on the Mount

*True conversion is made manifest in the way we treat one another.*

Jesus has given us the greatest example of forgiving others the moment they offend us. At the cross He said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

The prodigal son's "Father ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him" (Luke 15:20) before confession could ever come out of his mouth.

Stephen, just before he was murdered, "kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:60.

Paul taught, "Bless them which persecute you," who harm you on purpose; "bless, and curse not." Romans 12:14.

Jesus has taught us that forgiveness should be offered to the guilty party, even if they do not fully acknowledge their faults, or make an attempt to make corrections. We are never justified in withholding forgiveness until others humble themselves in acknowledging their responsibility. Although the one who has wronged another must humble themselves in repentance and confession to receive God's

grace; our part is to forgive immediately after they make the offense, even though no verbal confession is given.

Unforgiveness cuts us off from the channel of God's mercy. "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:15. Therefore, we are to be quick to forgive that we might receive forgiveness from God; "For what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:2.

How sad to see so many Christian communities misunderstand these basic issues. One person is offended and feels justified in keeping themselves away from the individual who offended them, or even endeavor to hurt them by gossip and tale bearing. Yet they pray for God's mercy for themselves! What spiritual blindness has come over them, "having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Ephesians

4:18), which is exacerbated by an unforgiving spirit. God save us from such spiritual blindness!

When we "forgive" from our "hearts" (Matthew 18:35) we must be willing to:

**1** Not bring the incident up to that person again. Love "seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil." 1 Corinthians 13:5.

"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." Philippians 3:13.

**2** Not talk about the incident to others, because we are "at peace" with them. 1 Thessalonians 5:13.

**3** Not dwell upon the incident in self-pity, because we have forgiven just "as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32.

**4** Then, if possible, we are to endeavor to rebuild a new relationship again with the offender, following the example of Jesus, "reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19.

When respect for each other is expressed in sweet language free

from anger, and personal conflicts are solved quickly, the church will be a happy place and love will flourish. The Holy Spirit will be manifested in testimonies and revival. Cheerfulness and harmony will be reflected on the faces of the youth.

Hatred between the Arabs and Jews is beyond solving due to the failure of their leaders to solve their conflicts quickly. Both societies are in the prison of hateful thoughts toward each other. Life is made miserable because they neglect to learn from Jesus, the world's greatest teacher, that wholesome relationships are to be pursued at all cost.

To become reconciled to your brother, one must invest time and be open-minded to examine his viewpoints. The area of disagreement must be candidly examined from all sides, to know "the mind of the Lord" (Romans 11:34). If difference exists, courtesy and respect should prevail.

The sign of conversion: "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother," even if they hold differing viewpoints, "abideth in death." 1 John 3:14. "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." 1 John 2:10.

The greatest case for spiritual stumbling is failing to love those who oppose us.

The church should train intervention teams to negotiate peace and reconciliation. When potential family conflicts arise between parents and teens, husbands and/or wives, neighbors and friends, trained elders should be ready to respond armed with the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus envisioned a peaceful home and church. What a lovely picture—happy people working, living, and worshipping together in peace.

When individuals carry a grudge, they make life miserable for themselves and others. What a

happy church where no conflict exists between any member. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28. 📖

*Concluded.*

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# The *Effects* of Caffeine

“Through the use of stimulants,  
the whole system suffers.”



Patrick Jones



“In Him we live, and move, and have our being.” Acts 17:28. God gives us each breath we take, and each heartbeat. Every organ is fearfully and wonderfully integrated with every other organ. Systems mesh with other body systems. Trillions of cells harmoniously work together to make up the whole complex human body. Health is no simple thing. It is a wonderful gift from God. We have to cooperate with God in the up-keep of our body temples.

Caffeine is a chemical, an addictive drug, an intruder. Among its many actions, it operates using the same mechanisms that amphetamines, cocaine and heroin use to stimulate the brain. Like cocaine and heroin, caffeine is habit forming. Yet the use of caffeine is common. It is found in coffee, tea, colas, pop and energy drinks, and chocolate. In North America, 80 to 90 per cent of adults drink caffeine regularly. The average American drinks 10 pounds of coffee each year. Over half a billion cups of coffee are consumed in the USA—each day! Add to that billions of cans of

cola, pop, and other caffeine drinks. Then add a bit of chocolate for dessert. The average daily intake of caffeine is 280 milligrams!

## Physical Effects

What does caffeine do to the body? The wonderful possibilities are endless! If only you could choose the effect you wanted for yourself.

It is a stimulant that speeds up your breath and heart rates. Who would want to foul the delicate mechanism of our breath and heart rates with a drug? These might never be the same again! In fact, caffeine causes irreversible heart disease with arrhythmias and tachycardia, later requiring pacemakers. And just for a bonus effect on the heart, caffeine causes hypertension, strokes, higher cholesterol and triglyceride blood levels. No wonder that people with heart disease are advised never to use caffeine.

It is said that drugs may knock you out, but only God gives restful sleep. Caffeine, on the other hand, causes raging insomnia.

Even a dose in the morning is still with you at midnight, mixed into the food deep in your gut. You can trick your body clock into staying awake for 18 hours, which is abnormal. Then you will only be able to sleep six hours due to the residues of caffeine in your blood the next morning. You come awake without sufficient sleep, feeling draggy, but unable to get back to sleep due to caffeine in your colon. After only few months of this, there is permanent nervous system damage, lowered I.Q.

Yes, few people have given thought to the insidious way caffeine can affect sleep, even 12 hours after it is ingested. Caffeine mixes with the food in your digestive tract which isn't eliminated until the morning of the day after it's eaten. When you take caffeine in the morning, 19 hours later, at pre-dawn the next day, that previous day's dose of caffeine has finally reached your lower bowel where most absorption is taking place, giving a full JOLT of caffeine. You wake up with a start and can't get back to sleep.

Only God gives restful sleep. If you really must find out what delicious sleep every night really feels like—cooperate with Him by drinking pure water.

Caffeine causes bones to lose calcium. People who drink more than three cups of coffee a day increase their risk of osteoporosis by 82 percent. Caffeine has a diuretic effect and interferes with the delicate balance of phosphorous and calcium in the blood. Who knows what else this leads to. Caffeine causes excretion of the body's minerals and vitamins through the bladder. This ages our skeletons prematurely, giving dowager's hump, curved fingers, dissolving bones, osteoporosis, and hip replacement. Your urine is washing away calcium, magnesium, trace minerals, your bones—your very skeleton is dissolving and departing through your bladder, making the ocean a little saltier more quickly.

Caffeine causes adrenal fatigue (drying up the hormones in the body) promoting aging.<sup>1</sup> Another system messed up. Caffeine is a poisonous alkaloid and causes kidney stones and kidney damage. Then proteins don't get eliminated, the body blows up with edema, again causing aging. Caffeine is for those who are just itching to get on a dialysis machine as soon as they can.<sup>2</sup>

Caffeine causes birth defects, so no pregnant woman should drink it. Other effects to choose from for women are: higher incidence of uterine and breast fibroids and breast tumors. If you have access to the internet, try doing a search on "breast tumor caffeine." You will be amazed at what you find.

Coffee is a carcinogen. It comes from a burnt bean that exposes the entire GI tract to the cancer former. Coffee is also attracted to the pancreas where it causes cancer. Thus, another wonderful possibility awaits you, if you don't get the other effects. Or maybe, cancer will come with the other effects.<sup>3</sup>

For those who don't succumb to any of the previous, there are still more avenues of destruction that you can choose. Caffeine drinks accelerate hypoglycemia into diabetes. Or, another possibility is ulcers from its acidity. They can burn the stomach lining so badly that one stops making stomach acid, which causes burps all the time due to lack of stomach acid.

Here's one, two, no, three more: Caffeine causes hardening of the arteries in the brain, low blood circulation, and is suspected of causing Alzheimer's disease.<sup>4</sup> It seems

low." *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, 35.

## Spiritual Effects

But these are not caffeine's only effects on the body. Part of the body is the mind. The effects of caffeine on the mental and spiritual perceptions are disastrous.

"Through the use of stimulants, the whole system suffers. . . . The mind, too, is injured. The immediate influence of these stimulants is to excite the brain to undue activity, only to leave it weaker and less capable of exertion. The after-effect

*"The immediate influence of these stimulants is to excite the brain to undue activity, only to leave it weaker and less capable of exertion."*

there is not a disease that isn't caused by caffeine, except maybe the measles.

"The habit of drinking tea and coffee is a greater evil than is often suspected. Many who have accustomed themselves to the use of stimulating drinks, suffer from headache and nervous prostration, and lose much time on account of sickness. They imagine they cannot live without the stimulus, and are ignorant of its effect upon health. What makes it the more dangerous is, that its evil effects are so often attributed to other causes.

"Through the use of stimulants, the whole system suffers. The nerves are unbalanced, the liver is morbid in its action, the quality and circulation of the blood are affected, and the skin becomes inactive and sal-

is prostration, not only mental and physical, but moral. As a result we see nervous men and women, of unsound judgment and unbalanced mind. They often manifest a hasty, impatient, accusing spirit, viewing the faults of others as through a magnifying glass, and utterly unable to discern their own defects." Pages 35–36.

"Coffee is a hurtful indulgence. It temporarily excites the mind to unwonted action, but the after-effect is exhaustion, prostration, paralysis of the mental, moral, and physical powers. The mind becomes enervated, and unless through determined effort the habit is overcome, the activity of the brain is permanently lessened." Page 34.

Caffeine actually paralyzes the moral powers! That means as long as you use caffeine drinks, you will not, you cannot, make any progress spiritually! This is the effect of caffeine that is so dangerous—a brain that cannot hear the still small



voice of the Holy Spirit. Please don't let it be you.

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isaiah 5:20. The use of caffeine paralyses our judgment. We will call evil good and good evil. There is a woe on those that do that and it is all due to drinking the "harmless" caffeine drinks.

"The appetite and passions should be restricted and under the control of enlightened conscience, that the intellect may be unimpaired, the perceptive powers clear, so that the workings of Satan and his snares may not be interpreted to be the providence of God." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 491. In these last final dark days of earth's history, we need the clearest, sharpest minds possible.

### No Caffeine in Heaven

"With pure, clean lips God's servants must tell the triumphs of the cross. The practice of using liquor, tobacco, tea, and coffee must be overcome by the converting power of God. There shall nothing enter into the kingdom of God that defileth." *Temperance*, 69.

The only way to experience the delight of physical, mental, and spiritual balance, is to quit this alkaloid completely.

"Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul' (1 Peter 2:11), is the language of the apostle Peter. Many regard this warning as applicable only to the licentious; but it has a broader meaning. It guards against every injurious gratification of appetite or passion. It is a most forcible warning against the use of such stimulants and narcotics as tea, coffee, tobacco, alcohol, and morphine. These indulgences may well be classed among the lusts that exert a pernicious influence upon moral character. The earlier these hurtful habits are formed, the more firmly will they hold their victims in slavery to lust,

and the more certainly will they lower the standard of spirituality." *Counsels on Health*, 67–68.

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1. 📖

*Patrick Jones writes from Tennessee where he is faithfully serving the Lord.*

#### Notes:

- 1 Dani Veracity, "The Hidden Dangers of Caffeine: How Coffee Causes Exhaustion, Fatigue, and Addiction," News Target, October 11, 2005; [www.newstarget.com/012352.html](http://www.newstarget.com/012352.html). See also Caroline MacDougall, "Caffeine Effects: Kicking the Caffeine Habit," <http://chetday.com/caffeineeffects.htm>.
- 2 Quoted by Dr. Joseph Mercola, "Kidney Stones a New Risk for Coffee Drinkers," [http://www.mercola.com/2004/sep/22/kidney\\_stones\\_coffee.htm](http://www.mercola.com/2004/sep/22/kidney_stones_coffee.htm).
- 3 <http://www.diagnose-me.com/treat/T136795.html>
- 4 Quoted by Dr. Joseph Mercola, "Caffeine May Harden Your Arteries," [http://www.mercola.com/2001/sep/19/caffeine\\_arteries.htm](http://www.mercola.com/2001/sep/19/caffeine_arteries.htm).



Photo: © Hemera Photo Objects CD (man); Paul Williams (pond)





# The Consequences of Partial Obedience

Clark Floyd

*The Rest of the Story*

“God requires His people not merely to assent to His Word,  
but to obey it with all the heart.”

Isaac was his great grandfather, Esau was his grandfather, the sons of Israel were his cousins. His offspring grew into a great nation that was a scourge to the Israelites as they left their captivity in Egypt. His name was Amalek (Genesis 36:12); he was the patriarch of the Amalekites. These folks despised the God of the Hebrews and thus the Hebrews themselves.

As the nation of Israel journeyed away from Egypt, the Amalekites attacked Israel's rear flank and killed many of those Israelites that were lagging behind the general population. Israel had done them no harm. God took note of these actions of the Amalekites, and though He forbear with them for a while, their time was to run out.

In one of his last speeches to the Israelites before his death, Moses said to them: “Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; how he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.” Deuteronomy 25:17-19.

Earlier in Exodus, we have the record of an attack by the Amalekites against Israel. “Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.” Exodus 17:8.



God was definitely involved in that battle for “it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand [with his rod in it], Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.” Verse 11. Aaron and Hur helped Moses keep his hands up, and “Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. And the LORD said unto Moses . . . I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.” Verses 13-14.

The Amalekites became a constant enemy of Israel. In the book of Numbers, we have the recorded prophecy of Balaam: “Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever.” Numbers 24:20.

Ellen White writes, “The Amalekites had been the first to make war upon Israel in the wilderness; and for this sin, together with their defiance of God and their debasing idolatry, the Lord, through Moses, had pronounced sentence upon them. . . . For four

hundred years the execution of this sentence had been deferred; but the Amalekites had not turned from their sins. The Lord knew that this wicked people would, if it were possible, blot out His people and His worship from the earth. Now the time had come for the sentence, so long delayed, to be executed.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 627-628.

God “will execute judgment upon the transgressors of His law. He is forced to do this, to preserve the inhabitants of the earth from utter depravity and ruin. In order to save some He must cut off those who have become hardened in sin.” Page 628.

King Saul, through Samuel, was ordered by God to “smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass” (1 Samuel 15:3), because of what Amalek did to Israel.

Saul was only partially obedient. He destroyed many of the people, but he spared King Agag and



the best of the animals. God was dismayed and said to Samuel, "It repenteth Me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following Me, and hath not performed My commandments." Verse 11. Saul was no longer God's choice to remain as king.

The Amalekites remained a scourge to Israel. David's camp at Ziklag was attacked by Amalekites while David and his men were away. God gave David a great victory over these Amalekites at the

time, but they were still not totally destroyed. See 1 Samuel 30.

It was an Amalekite that claimed to have slain King Saul at his own request when he was wounded in battle. Even so, David had one of his men slay the Amalekite, saying unto him, "Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD's anointed." 2 Samuel 1:16.

God's prophecies against the Amalekites were still not fulfilled.

The Amalekites remained around for many more years.

## Haman

In the fifth century B.C. the entire near east was under the control of Persia. Xerxes, biblically known as Ahasuerus, was king of the Persian nation. His prime minister was Haman, who became quite upset with a Jew by the name of Mordecai because, "Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence." Esther 3:2.

Haman sought, not only to have Mordecai destroyed, but all of the Jewish people with him. He told the king that "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them." Verse 8.

The king allowed Haman to draw up and serve a death decree to destroy all of the Jews. This decree was to be executed on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month. If this decree would have been carried out, what would have happened to God's plan of redemption? It would not have been accomplished! Jesus would not have been born from the lineage of Abraham and David as promised!

However we know that through the prayers of Mordecai and Esther's total self-surrender, Haman's plans were reversed and the Jews saved from utter destruction. See Esther 8 and 9.

"Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them." "The other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand." "And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them." Esther 9:5, 16; 8:17.

## Amalek's End

But what does this have to do with Amalek and the Amalekites? Remember, the king of the Amalekites that Saul spared was Agag. Haman was a descendant of Agag. See Esther 3:1. Even though Samuel the prophet slew Agag (1 Samuel 15:32–33), evidently at least one of his children escaped.

Mordecai was a Benjaminite whose heritage went back to Kish. See Esther 2:5. Kish was the father of Saul, the first king of Israel, who was only partially obedient. More than 500 years after King Saul, Mordecai was almost destroyed along with his people by the remnant of the Amalekites.

Remember the earlier statement in this article: “The Lord knew that this wicked people would, if it were possible, blot out His people and His worship from the earth.”

Ellen White informs us: “The case of Saul should be a lesson to us, that God’s Word is to be respected and obeyed. All the crimes and calamities of ancient Israel resulted from their neglect to heed the instructions of their divine Ruler.

“Here is our danger. We must give diligent heed to what the Lord has spoken, even in apparently small matters. God requires His people not merely to assent to His Word, but to obey it with all the heart. To comply with the Lord’s instructions when it is compatible with our own interests, and to disregard them when this best suits our purpose, is to pursue the course of Saul. Pride in our own achievements or a stubborn adherence to our own will, renders the most exalted profession or the most splendid service odious in the sight of God.” *Signs of the Times*, August 31, 1882.

Josephus, in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, includes the following footnote: “Nor is it to me improbable, that those seventy-five thousand eight hundred of the Jews’ enemies [Josephus’ figure] which were soon destroyed by the Jews, on the permission of the king . . . were

*“To comply with the Lord’s instructions when it is compatible with our own interests, and to disregard them when this best suits our purpose, is to pursue the course of Saul.”*

Amalekites, their old and hereditary enemies (Exodus 17:14–15); and that thereby was fulfilled Balaam’s prophecy: ‘Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish forever.’ Numbers 24:20.”<sup>1</sup>

And, of course, after the time of Esther we never hear of an Amalekite. 📖



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Note:

1 Book XI, chapter VI, par. 12, footnote.





# The Temptation

## Part 2

*In Part 1 of this story, Walter and Andrew, both members of their church's temperance society, worked together at a grocery store. When they discovered that their employer also sold alcoholic beverages, they asked their parents if they should continue working so close to temptation. Walter's widowed mother said "No."—Editor.*

The next day Walter Hyde resigned his position. When he found himself out of employment, he did not sit down and fold his hands in discouragement, but went about looking for another job. He picked up a little work here and there. At last a gentleman, struck by his frank, manly countenance, and learning something of his history, interested himself in the boy's behalf and got him a job as clerk in a large manufacturing establishment, a far better position than he had before.

Andrew Strong remained in the store of Mr. Bates. "It was only for a little while," said his father and mother. They intended to find him another job as soon as possible. His father made inquiries to that effect whenever he thought it advisable, but nothing turned up. At first no apparent evils resulted from his stay. Familiarity with a danger causes it to seem less dangerous, so the family finally ceased to feel troubled regarding the temptations that surrounded Andrew.

For a long time Andrew remembered his pledge and was careful to avoid the liquor department of the grocery. But as days passed and he grew accustomed to the sight and smell of liquor, occasionally he tasted intoxicating drinks. He no longer attended the meetings of the

temperance club, for after he broke his pledge he felt he had no right to be there. He did not have the courage and resolution to confess his wrongdoing and change his ways.

Twenty years passed. In one of our large manufacturing cities, as the wealthy owner of nearly half the mills in the place was walking along the street one day, he saw a man by the roadside drunk. He stopped to see if he could not do something for the poor fellow.

"Do you know this man?" he inquired of a mill superintendent who was passing by.

"No. He is a stranger here. He came to me yesterday morning to work in the mill. I hired him, and then he told me he had been out of work so long that he had been unable to get something to eat; but it looks as if he spent it for liquor.

"What did he tell you his name was?" inquired the factory owner.

"Andrew Strong," was the answer.

"Is it possible!" The gentleman looked long and earnestly at the tramp and then said: "Yes, it must be he." Then, turning to the superintendent, he said: "Mr. Horton, if you will help me carry this man to my house, I will do you a good turn some day.

Mr. Horton looked surprised, but he did as his employer requested.

When Andrew Strong awoke from his drunken slumber he found himself in a well-furnished room surrounded by many conveniences. Beside him sat a gentleman whom he could not recall having ever seen before.

"Where am I? What does this mean?" he demanded as his senses returned to him. "Why am I here?"

"Andrew Strong," said the stranger, "do you remember me?"

"No, I never saw you before,"

was the answer.

"You are mistaken. You and I were once old friends. Don't you remember Walter Hyde, who used to work with you in the store?"

"Yes, yes," was the answer, "but are you Walter?"

"I am the same boy who talked with you about leaving the store because of the liquor sold there."

The man looked with bleary eyes into the face of his companion, and after a long pause said: "Then I suppose you are the Hyde that owns all these factories."

A pause, and then came a groan from the poor drunkard.

"Oh! that my father and mother had kept me from that liquor house. That is where I went down. If I had left the place as you did, I might now be an honored and respected man."

"My poor friend, do not despair," said Walter Hyde. "It is not yet too late for you to reform. I will help you."

He did help him. Andrew Strong became a man respected by his fellows and a blessing to society.



*Concluded.*

This story was taken from *Ellen G. White Scrapbook Stories*. The book is available from Hope International for \$8.99 plus shipping and sales tax (see page 30).



Photos: © Hemera Photo Objects CD



# MOCUMBI

**T**he respiratory tract is vital for human survival. Air, especially oxygen, is essential for human life. We are totally dependent on it. A 12-mile-thick layer wrapped around our planet, the atmosphere, consists of about 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, and 1% argon, helium, carbon dioxide, and other gases. It also harbors a fair amount of water vapor and an unwarranted amount of pollution. As this mixture is inhaled into the lungs, about a fifth of the oxygen is retained, while the rest is exhaled along with carbon dioxide and water vapor.

The inside of the lung resembles a sponge. All of the tiny pockets in the lungs (about 300 million) provide over seventy square yards of surface area for the exchange of gases in and out of the bloodstream. An adult breathes about 16 times per minute, taking in about one pint of air per breath. This intake amounts to about 2,000 gallons of air per day. During normal breathing this air travels about 50 miles per hour, but during a sneeze or cough it can reach speeds of 750 miles per hour. The maximum amount of air a person can inhale and exhale in one breath is called the vital capacity. A good vital capacity is related to a greater life expectancy.

In our daily life most of us breathe in air overcharged with pollution. This is specially evident in the big cities. Even in the countryside the air is many times overcharged with chemicals used by farmers to spray their crops. It is crucial for us to keep our air purifier, our lungs, in good condition to insure a good intake of oxygen to our blood stream. Prevention is the key.

Now, I will introduce you to another simple plant from this wonderful and mysterious continent that God gave me the privilege to be born on: Africa. I will never forget the days of my childhood when I played outside in the jungle, close to my parents' house, breathing fresh and pure air, with my three companions: a German Shepherd dog, a little monkey and a small leopard. Wonderful discoveries accompanied my childhood years there.

The common name of this African plant is Mocumbi. This tree cortex is traditionally used as a remedy to treat respiratory tract disorders such as cough, sore throat, asthma and also to eliminate secretions. Mocumbi bark provides a supplementary benefit to the treatment of colds and flu, where it seems to act as an anti-microbial agent with gentle and effective action. I have been using Mocumbi extract as a supplement to help in lung cancer problems together with other natural remedies with very good results. Lately I've used this bark to help a friend with lung deficiency capacity and in a short period of time we have seen a very significant improvement in lung capacity.

The key to good health is based on our faith in God and in disease-preventive life styles. Prevention means using all natural resources that God provided for us to maintain our bodies, and in this particular case, to take care of our internal air filter—the lungs. 📖

*Adapted from: Alfons Balbach and Daniel S. F. Boarim, As Hortaliças na Medicina Natural, Edições Vida Plena, Itaquaquecetuba, SP (Portuguese), 1993.*

If you have any questions regarding the information presented, please contact:

**Tony Morais, ND**

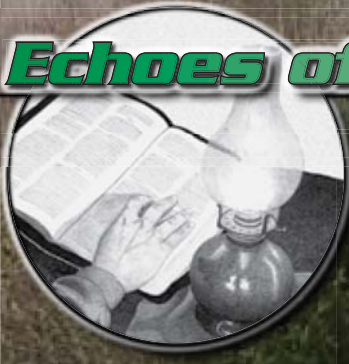
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### Disclaimer:

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# Called to Preach the Truth

*John N. Loughborough*



**F**or three and one-half years I had preached for the First-day Adventists, but supported myself principally by my own labor. When I accepted the truth I had about \$35 in hand. I still made earnest efforts to push the window-lock business in which I had been successful. Now as I went from place to place with the business, the conviction constantly pressed upon me to make known to others the truths I had learned. With all the efforts I put forth, my business would not prosper. Sometimes my sales for the week would only pay my fare and hotel bill. This state of things soon consumed what money I had saved, leaving me without money to pay my fare out of Rochester. Finally, about mid-December, my money was reduced to a silver three-cent piece.

A cloud seemed to hang over the next Sabbath meeting I attended. As prayer was offered for the

removal of the cloud, Sister White was taken off in vision. On relating the vision she had a message for me: "The reason this cloud hangs over the meeting is that Brother Loughborough is resisting the conviction of duty. God wants him to give himself wholly to the preaching of the message."

I did not take my stand then to do it for I could not see how I could be supported in so doing. On reaching home, I told the Lord if He would open the way I would go out; but this did not settle it. Finally, on the strength of the testimony I said, "I will obey, Lord, and Thou wilt open the way." At once all those perplexing doubts passed from my mind, and I was happy in the thought that the Lord would provide.

On the following Monday morning my wife, who did not know how low our funds were, came to ask for money with which to buy

matches and some thread. Taking the money from my pocket I said, "Mary, here is a three-cent piece. It's all the money I have in the world. Get only one cent's worth of matches, spend only one of the other cents, and bring me one cent so we will not be entirely out of money. I have tried very hard, every way in my power to make my business succeed, but I cannot."

With tears she asked, "John, what in the world are we going to do?"

I replied, "I have been powerfully convicted for weeks that the reason my business does not succeed is because the Lord's hand is against it for neglect of duty. It is my duty to give myself wholly to the preaching of the truth."

"But," she objected "if you go out to preach, how are we to be supported?"

I answered, "As soon as I decided to obey the call of duty, there

came to me the assurance that the Lord is going to open the way. I do not know how it will be done, but the way will open."

She retired to her room to weep and perhaps to pray; at least I saw no more of her for an hour. Then as she went out to make her little purchases I pitied her sad heart. No more than thirty minutes later there was a loud rap at the door. A gentle man inquired for me and I let him in. After introducing himself he said, "Because of my poor health I am moving to Ohio, and I wish to take along some small business with which to meet expenses. Mr. Garbutt recommended you as being able to purchase Arnold's patent sash-locks. I want an assortment of eighty dollars' worth and will pick them tomorrow noon and will pay you the money."

Now all I would have to do would be to walk half a mile to the factory and leave the order. They would bring the locks to my door and I would receive the commission of \$26 which had much purchasing power in those days.


Soon after the man left, my wife returned and found me singing. "You seem happy," she commented. "Yes," I agreed. "While you were at the store I had company. The Lord has opened the way for me to go out and preach the message." When I told her of the order for the locks, with a flood of different tears she retired to her room to weep and seek the Lord. Soon she returned as happy as I and ready to do what she could to prepare me for my labors. On receiving the money, I purchased wood, provisions, and whatever necessary home comforts should I enter the field.

On the next Sabbath (December 18, 1852) there was a general gathering of Sabbath-keepers of western New York, and during the prayer Sister White was

taken off in vision. Among other things presented to her was a message for me. "You are correct in your decision to give yourself to the work of the ministry. It is now your duty to go, and tarry no longer." Prayer was then offered that the Lord would further open my way.

Hiram Edson, who lived forty miles east of Rochester, had decided not to attend the meeting, but his wife was so impressed that he would be called away that she readied his clothing for any emergency. On that same day, while conducting family worship, the impression came to him, "Go to Rochester. You are wanted there." He asked his wife, "What does this mean? I don't know why I should go to Rochester."

Several times during the day when he went to the barn to pray, the impression would come, "Go to Rochester." Finally, he asked his wife, "Is my clothing in condition to leave? I feel that I may be gone for several weeks." She assured him that all was ready. After the close of the Sabbath, he took the train to Rochester. On arriving he said to Elder White, "I hadn't planned to come to this meeting, but I have been strongly impressed today that I should come, and here I am. What do you want with me?"

"Well," said Elder White, "we want you to take old Charlie horse and the carriage, and take Brother Loughborough around on a six-weeks circuit in southwestern New York and get him started preaching the message." So the following Monday, Brother Edson and I started out with Elder White's horse and carriage for a six-week trip. 



*John N. Loughborough, 1832–1924, pioneer evangelist and administrator also served the Lord as a literary evangelist, conference president in several states, foreign missionary, editor of the Pacific*

*Health Journal, and treasurer of the General Conference. He also authored several books and many articles for denominational papers. He was closely associated with Elder and Mrs. White for over 40 years.*



*Taken from Miracles in My Life, 19–22. This book is available from Hope International for \$5.99. Please see page 30 for shipping and sales tax information.*



## Glimpses of the Pioneers



Virgil Robinson

# James White: Husband of a Prophetess

## Part 2

The decision not to publish Ellen's visions in the *Review* curtailed, but did not stop, her work. Plans were set in motion to publish the visions in a little book. Also, she continued to write letters containing testimonies to members of the church and sent them out to ministers and laity alike. That lively interest in Mrs. White's supernatural visions was kindled widely is evident from what she wrote to Brother and Sister Abram Dodge of Battle Creek:

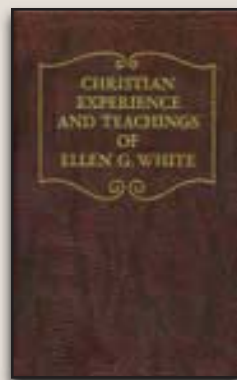
"There is a stir all around here since the conference reports are being carried. . . . Some are anxious to hear for themselves and will come to the meetings. The visions trouble many. They [know] not what to make of them. We shall have the visions published in pamphlet form, and if all the particulars are not published in the pamphlet, that I saw at Brother Cushman's, and if you desire it I can write it off for you."<sup>1</sup>

In July, 1851, the 64-page booklet, *A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White*, appeared for circulation among the believers. This was fol-

lowed in 1854 by the 48-page supplement with more of the visions. Both were advertised in the *Review*.

Actually, the columns of the church paper were not closed to Ellen's writings. During the years prior to the move to Battle Creek, she wrote several communications to brothers and sisters, to the church, and articles on general subjects such as hospitality, covetousness, and the duties of parents to their children. But the words "I was shown," or "I saw," did not appear, although in several editorials James defended the visions.

Thus the *Review and Herald* went forth bearing what James White described as the great Protestant slogan, "The Bible, and the Bible only."



Among the companies of believers, faith in the Spirit of Prophecy was not made a test of acceptance. And with the visions excluded from the paper's pages,

the majority of church members doubtless began to regard them as of little significance.

As the years passed, the proportion of Adventist readers of the *Review and Herald* to new or non-Adventist readers steadily increased, and there was an ever-increasing desire on the part of members to know more about Ellen's gift.

James's faith in the divine origin of the visions never wavered. But sometimes he found it awkward to step forward as Mrs. White's champion. How could a husband boldly promote his wife's books and seek to exalt her work before the world. For years he had stood in the forefront of the battle, and he had no desire to give his enemies a point on which to attack him. Perhaps he felt the less said about the subject, the better for the time being. When, in 1856, he received a letter from a man in Vermont chiding him for not putting his wife's writings more forcefully before the people, James replied in the *Review*:

"My position has been one of trial. The relations I have sustained to the work in the rise and progress



of the cause of present truth, have exposed me to a thousand thrusts from those who were opposed to the work.

"I have ever been slow to speak of Mrs. White's visions in a public manner; but in consequence of the almost utter silence of those who should have spoken fit words in season, I have felt compelled to speak."<sup>2</sup>

Several months previously, shortly before the publishing work was moved from Rochester to Battle Creek, Elder White wrote a series of short articles for the *Review* on the general subject of the gifts of the Spirit. In them he makes the significant statements:

"Can we for a moment suppose that God's people will pass through the perils of the last days, and face the time of trouble such as never was, and He not manifest Himself to them through those gifts which He Himself has set in the church? Nay, verily." "The counterfeit and no genuine would be the greatest possible absurdity." "Let the visions stand upon their own merits."<sup>3</sup>

At a very important conference in Battle Creek on November 16–18, 1855—the same one at which the main editorial and financial responsibilities for the *Review* were taken from James's shoulders—many attending felt that proper attention was not being given to the visions. A committee was appointed to prepare a conference address on the subject. The importance of the messages from the Lord through His servant was strongly presented by Elders Bates, M. E. Cornell, and J. H. Waggoner. They felt a great burden to exalt the spiritual gifts. In the conference address it was declared:

"Dear Brethren, while we hold these views [regarding the inspired nature of the gifts] as emanating from the divine Mind, we would confess the inconsistency (which we believe has been displeasing to God) of professedly regarding them as messages from God, and really putting them on a level with the

inventions of men."<sup>4</sup>

About two months later Ellen reported in the *Review* that visions were being given her less and less frequently.<sup>5</sup> She stated that she saw that the Spirit of God had been dying away from the churches.

To reverse this trend it was decided to bring together and print the visions given for the church. James, happy that the urging came from others, gladly cooperated in endeavoring to make the testimonies better known to the church members. The columns of the church paper were opened to her messages. However, it seems that during the subsequent five years, most of her testimony continued to be sent to individuals or published in Testimony pamphlets, later to be incorporated into Volume 1 of the *Testimonies for the Church*. During those years only nine articles from her pen appeared in the *Review and Herald*. The time was still future when nearly every week the *Review and Herald* would carry an Ellen G. White article.

James White did more than accept and print his wife's contributions. He prepared two series of articles on the subject. The first, entitled *Unity and Gifts of the Church*, appeared in December, 1857, and January, 1858.

The work of the Spirit of Prophecy played a vital role in bringing unity into the ranks of believers. In an additional article in the December 31 *Review*, James published *A Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Present Truth*. In it he recounted the experience that had taken place at Volney, New York, in 1848, during a time of great confusion when every one attending a conference offered his own interpretation of Scripture. Graphically he described the situation:

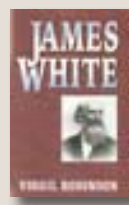
"The meeting would have proved a failure, and the good brethren would have separated in confusion and trial had not the Lord worked in a special manner. The Spirit of the Lord rested upon Mrs. W., and she was taken off in

vision. The entire congregation believed that it was the work of God, and were deeply affected. She related to them what she had seen, which was given to correct some errors among them, and in melting strains exhorted them to leave their errors, and those points on which they had differed, and unite on the important truths of the third message. And on that blessed evening, the brethren sacrificed their babel of sentiments, and united on the truth. And what was the result?

"Harmony began to prevail, and many came flocking to the standard of truth."<sup>6</sup>

Five years later, Elder White published another series of articles entitled "Perpetuity of the Spiritual Gifts," in the *Reviews* of February 4, 11, 18 and 25, 1862. In concluding them, James urged readers to apply to the visions the biblical tests, to follow the instruction of Paul to the Thessalonians not to despise prophesyings but to prove all things, and to hold fast that which is good. Anyone willing to do this would discover that the fruit of the gifts is beautiful, both for the individual Christian and for the church as a whole.<sup>7</sup> 📖

*The author was the great-grandson of James and Ellen White on his mother's side and the great-grandson of William Farnsworth (one of the first Seventh-day Adventists) on his father's side.*



This story was taken from Virgil Robinson, *James White*, 120–124. This book is available from Hope International for \$11.99 plus shipping and sales tax (see page 30).

#### Notes:

- 1 Ellen G. White letter to Bro. and Sr. Dodge, July 21, 1851.
- 2 James White, in *Review and Herald*, February 14, 1856.
- 3 *Ibid.*, October 16, 1855.
- 4 *Review and Herald*, December 4, 1855.
- 5 *Ibid.*, January 10, 1856.
- 6 James White, in *Review and Herald*, December 31, 1857.
- 7 *Ibid.*, February 18, 1862.



## Halloween Costumes

**News Item:** " 'It gets competitive out there on the playground.' Costume designer Sandy Boyd on the demand for her custom-made children's Halloween costumes, which range from \$400 to \$1,600 in price and include velvet, silk, and crystals." "Quotables & 'Toons," *World*, October 22, 2005, 14.

**End-time Perspective:** "How do the angels of heaven look upon the daughters of wealth and fashion who decorate themselves with costly jewels, and spend thousands of dollars in glorifying themselves? How will Christ judge those who make gifts to the rich, when the poor are starving around them, when men's actions are weighed in the golden balances of the heavenly sanctuary? Has Jesus not said, 'Know ye not that . . . ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's' (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)?" *Review and Herald*, March 17, 1896.

And this doesn't even address the issue of spending this money for a pagan and devilish festival!



## The Results of Labor Unions

**News Item:** "The roots of European economic stagnation go back to the 1960's and 70's. Strong labor unions in Europe pushed for laws mandating that workers receive several weeks of paid vacation and numerous extra holidays. The unions also achieved high minimum wage laws and rules making it very difficult to fire workers.

"This was supposed to create a workers' paradise, and Europeans indeed work fewer weeks than Americans work, and fewer hours when they actually are on the job. But combine that with laws that encourage very early retirement, and a lot of work in Europe ends up being left undone. . . .

"The irony is that the pursuit of happiness through more and more leisure seems to have become a treadmill for Europeans. A Harris Interactive poll from two years ago found that only 17 percent of Germans described themselves as 'very satisfied' with their lives, along with 16 percent of Italians and 14 percent of the French. Meanwhile, 57 percent of Americans reported that they were very satisfied." Timothy Lamer, "Roman Holiday," *World*, October 22, 2005, 35.

**End-time Perspective:** "The time is fast coming when the controlling

power of the labor unions will be very oppressive. . . .

"The trades unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 141–142.

It may appear that the labor unions are working for the benefit of the people, but God says to beware. We are not to entangle ourselves with labor unions or trade unions. As we can see, the unions have done the people no favors in the long run.



## Halfway to Heaven

**News Item:** "The 5,000-acre tomato field in southwestern Florida sure doesn't look like heaven. Bulldozers scrape the land flat while clusters of Porta Pottis signal an undeniable earthiness. But soon a massive cathedral will rise from this barren spot. Reaching 100 feet in the air behind a 65 foot crucifix, the Oratory will anchor Ave Maria, a whole new town and Roman Catholic university 30 miles east of Naples. Ground was officially broken last week, and the plan is to build 11,000 homes—likely drawing families who already hold the church at the center of their lives.

For Tom Monaghan, the devout Catholic who founded Domino's Pizza and is now bankrolling most

of the initial \$400 million cost of the project, Ave Maria is the culmination of a lifetime devoted to spreading his own strict interpretation of Catholicism." Susannah Meadows, *Newsweek*, February 27, 2006, 39.

**End-time Perspective:** All around us the Catholic influence is being spread. It may appear benign, but it most definitely is not. As soon as the Catholic Church can, she will reassert her authority, and then we will see what is her true intent!

"There are many who are disposed to attribute any fear of Roman Catholicism in the United States to bigotry or childishness. Such see nothing in the character and attitude of Romanism that is hostile to our free institutions, or find nothing portentous in its growth. Let us, then, first compare some of the fundamental principles of our government with those of the Catholic Church.

"The Constitution of the United States guarantees *liberty of conscience*. Nothing is dearer or more fundamental. Pope Pius IX, in his Encyclical Letter of August 15, 1854, said: 'The absurd and erroneous doctrines or ravings in defense of liberty of conscience, are a most pestilential error—a pest, of all others, most to be dreaded in a state.' The same pope, in his Encyclical Letter of December 8, 1864, anathematized 'those who assert the liberty of conscience and of religious worship,' also 'All such as maintain that the church may not employ force.'

"The pacific tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart. She is tolerant where she is helpless. Says Bishop O'Connor: 'Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world.' . . .

"Every cardinal, archbishop, and bishop in the Catholic Church takes an oath of allegiance to the pope, in which occur the following words: 'Heretics, schismatics, and rebels to our said Lord (the Pope), or his

aforesaid successors, I will to my utmost persecute and oppose.' [Pope Clement VIII, *Pontificale Romanum*, (Antwerp, Ann, 1626), 59.]" Josiah Strong, *Our Country*, (Astor Place, New York: The American Home Missionary Society, 1885), 46–48. Quoted in *The Great Controversy*, 564–565. Emphasis original.



### Mercury Rising

**News Item:** "Is your dinner fishy? There might be reason to worry. A recent study from the University of North Carolina at Asheville found that one in five women of childbearing age tested for mercury had levels that could cause neurological damage in babies. The culprit: fish—eaten by many of the 6,600 participants—which carry mercury from coal-fired power plants near lakes, streams, and oceans." Karen Springen, *Newsweek*, February 27, 2006, 64.

**End-time Perspective:** "Many die of disease caused wholly by meat eating; yet the world does not seem to be the wiser." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 385.

"Vegetables, fruits, and grains should compose our diet. Not an ounce of flesh meat should enter our stomachs. The eating of flesh is unnatural. We are to return to God's original purpose in the creation of man." Ibid. 380.

"Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to

work steadily toward it. I cannot think that in the practice of flesh eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us." Ibid. 380–381.



### Too Inclusive

**News Item :** "Church loses building after members flee pastor's universalism.

"Carlton Pearson, a high-profile pastor [of Higher Dimensions Family Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma] who lost 90 percent of his church's 5,000 members after publicly teaching that everyone will eventually be saved, held the final service in his church building on New Year's Eve. . . .

"Higher Dimensions' slide began about four years ago when Pearson began preaching a form of universalism that alienated his Pentecostal/evangelical followers. His 'gospel of inclusion'—that Christ died for the sins of the world, and therefore the whole world will be saved—denied the classic Christian belief that salvation involves turning from sin and accepting God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus." Bill Sherman, *Christianity Today*, March, 2006, 24.

**End-time Perspective:** Even those in the Babylonian churches recognize that there is no truth to the "everyone will be saved" doctrine. Many of the people in those churches will soon be coming out, but not before we are willing to preach and live the truth in all its glory! 📖

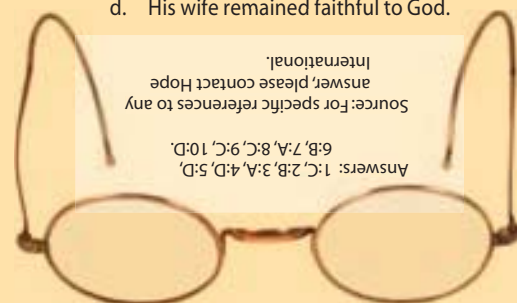
Contributor — Joe Olson

# Historical Footnotes

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” —E. G. White, *Life Sketches*, 196. Many today have neglected to study the history and people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. To help encourage interest in Adventist history, we have put together questions about people and events of our past. Our goal is to spark faith, and *further study* into “the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”

- When was the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists organized?
  - 1844
  - 1860
  - 1863
  - 1888
- John Byington was the first General Conference president, but he was not initially elected. Who was elected first?
  - Ellen White
  - James White
  - John Loughborough
  - Joseph Bates
- James & Ellen White, while working for the youth, presented a call by which they would testify “to all present that they chose to leave sin and . . . become Christ’s followers.” What was it?
  - They were asked to sit on the front row.
  - They asked the males and females to sit apart.
  - They asked how many would promise to study the Bible daily, to signify by raising their hands.
  - They had to come to the podium to make a public declaration of their faith.
- How long were the youth to wait before they could be baptized?
  - One week
  - One month
  - Six months
  - No wait at all
- Sometimes the miles of roads the Whites traveled were so rough, Ellen White had to do what?
  - Stop to rest
  - Pray for a smoother ride
  - Ride on the horse instead of the carriage
  - Walk
- What was interesting about the Whites’ two oldest sons’ baptisms?
  - They were not in the presence of James & Ellen White.
  - The boys were baptized at the same time.
    - They were both baptized on their birthdays.
    - They were baptized at night.
- What is significant about William Foy?
  - He was given visions before Ellen White.
  - He was the first convert of Edson White among African-Americans in the South.
  - He was the second General Conference president.
  - Ellen White saw him in heaven.
- William Foy was in a meeting where Ellen White declared what the Lord had shown her in vision. What was his response?
  - He cried, “I am a lost man!”
  - He began to weep and left the meeting.
  - He stood to his feet and praised the Lord.
  - He warned everyone to listen to her.
- Why was William Foy not willing to relate his visions to others?
  - Because of prejudice against those who “claimed” to have divine revelations
  - Because of his color (he was Mulatto)
  - Both
  - Neither
- Steven Smith is famous for the “Unopened Testimony.” He was disfellowshipped twice for his erroneous views. After 30 years, he came back to God. What helped?
  - Sister White came to see him.
  - The church kept praying for him.
  - He developed cancer.
  - His wife remained faithful to God.

Answers: 1: C, 2: B, 3: A, 4: D, 5: D, 6: B, 7: A, 8: C, 9: C, 10: D.  
 Source: For specific references to any International answer, please contact Hope



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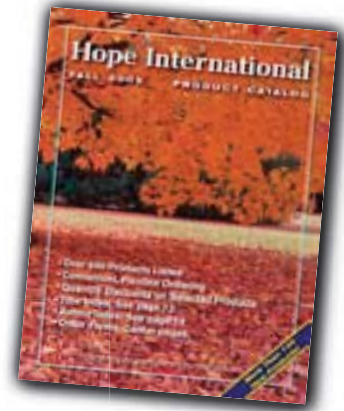
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✉ This is an important magazine with timely messages. I enjoy reading it.  
RAL; California

✉ I enjoy reading *Our Firm Foundation* and I am convinced that “now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Romans 13:11. May God bless your ministry, and quicken His work in and through you.  
CI; Idaho

✉ Thank you for your ministry. May the Lord always bless the work you do for Him.  
DI; Idaho

✉ I love to read the messages in your magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*. God bless you all.  
CW; Florida

✉ I would like to thank everybody at Hope International for all your faithful ministry for so many years. God has blessed Hope International and I pray He will keep on blessing.  
UT; Florida

✉ Thank you for the timely messages on magic, deception, etc. in your March, 2006 issue. People feed on falsehood, fiction, sensational drama, traditional and cultural fables etc. Children with no background to evaluate reality are most confused with witchcraft stories and religious fiction written by authors of bestsellers.  
May the Lord bless you all.  
MB; Tennessee

✉ I love your literature so much that I do not want to miss a single issue.  
Good work and God bless.  
FM; South Africa

✉ We appreciate the work you are doing. Your ministry has helped some people to continue focusing on the truth. I have been sending *Our Firm Foundation* to family members because of the urgency of the hour.  
We need more and more truth-filled messages at this time in earth's history.  
SN; Alberta, Canada

✉ I would like to take this time to thank you for the magazine you publish. Through the years this magazine has been such a blessing to me. It has been instrumental in keeping me focused to the real issues in this great controversy.  
RPD; Tennessee

✉ Thank you so much for *Our Firm Foundation* issue of April, 2006. The photographs you included are so delightful. The scenes over the landscapes depict just how it feels to be free from the bondage of fear.  
May the Lord bless you abundantly in your lives and witness each day.  
DS; Australia

✉ Over the past one year I became acquainted with your magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*.  
I would like to let you know that this has been a source of inspiration for me. I am grateful for the Spirit-filled messages in this Christian publication. Your firm stand on the

pillars of the doctrines of the church and your support of the ministry of Ellen G. White has been very encouraging and trustworthy. I usually get my latest publication from your web site. Because of this magazine, I have become very interested in studying the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. It is really amazing how easy it is to study the Bible side-by-side with the writings of Mrs. Ellen G. White. I keep praying that the Lord will bless your ministry as you faithfully proclaim the three angels' messages to every nation, kindred and tongue on the earth to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May He enable you to stand boldly against all erroneous winds of doctrine threatening and permeating our church today.

Keep contending for the faith that was delivered to us and keep your ministry in His hands.

Maranatha—Jesus is coming!!!  
AM; India

✉ I find it difficult to express my deepest joy since I started reading *Our Firm Foundation*, especially the article about Gospel Gimmicks. . . . I have been involved in all kinds of entertainment shows and have traveled around the world to represent my country. But after reading that article, I realized that I was far from God and that I was one of the greatest sinners. I need to put my life in order, by the grace of the Lord. The entertainment shows have no appeal to me any more. I have realized that I wandered away from the Lord because I neglected studying my Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. I very much appreciate the article the Lord used to bring me back to my senses.

May He keep you all safe from the evil one.

TM; South Africa

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