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FOUNDATION

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*The Immutable Law of God • Christ Our Righteousness • The Seventh-day Sabbath
The Three Angels' Messages • The Non-Immortality of the Soul • The Sanctuary*

Our Friends & Family Won't Persecute Us...Right?



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Editorial

Clark Floyd

As we come closer to the time of the second advent of Jesus, I have been reminded of certain statements concerning Enoch, a man who was translated without seeing death. His life has been cited by Ellen White as an example of what we must be when Christ returns if we desire to go back to heaven with Christ either by resurrection or without seeing death.

“In the midst of a world by its iniquity doomed to destruction, Enoch lived a life of such close communion with God that he was not permitted to fall under the power of death. The godly character of this prophet represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be ‘redeemed from the earth’ (Revelation 14:3) at the time of Christ’s second advent. Then, as in the world before the Flood, iniquity will prevail. Following the promptings of their corrupt hearts and the teachings of a deceptive philosophy, men will rebel against the authority of Heaven. But like Enoch, God’s people will seek for purity of heart and conformity to His

Many look upon his life as something above what the generality of mortals can ever reach. But Enoch’s life and character, which were so holy that he was translated to heaven without seeing death represent what the lives and characters of all must be, if, like Enoch, they are to be translated when Christ shall come. His life was what the life of every individual may be if he closely connects with God. We should remember that Enoch was surrounded with influences so depraved that God brought a flood of waters on the world to destroy its inhabitants for their corruption. Were Enoch upon the earth today, his heart would be in harmony with all God’s requirements; he would walk with God, although surrounded with influences which are the most wicked and debasing. The palm tree well represents the life of a Christian. It stands upright amid the burning desert sand, and dies not; for it draws its sustenance from the springs of life beneath the surface.” RH 9/1/85.

“The Word must be studied; it must rule in the heart, that we may be prepared to bring from the treasure-house good things. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly; then when you are assailed, you will have the armor of God to wear. Having done all, you may stand. We need an abiding Christ with us, as Enoch had when he walked with God three hundred years. We can have what Enoch had: we can have Christ as our constant companion. Enoch walked with God, and when assailed by the tempter, he could talk with God about it. He had no ‘It is written,’ as we have, but he had a knowledge of his heavenly Companion. He made God his Counselor, and was closely bound up with Jesus. And Enoch was honored in this course. He was translated to heaven without

seeing death. And those who will be translated at the close of time, will be those who commune with God on earth. Those who make manifest that their life is hid with Christ in God will ever be representing Him in all their life practices. Selfishness will be cut out by the roots.” ST 5/12/98.

“Enoch had temptations as well as we. He was surrounded with society no more friendly to righteousness than is that which surrounds us. The atmosphere he breathed was tainted with sin and corruption, the same as ours; yet he lived a life of holiness. He was unsullied with the prevailing sins of the age in which he lived. So may we remain pure and uncorrupted. He was a representative of the saints who live amid the perils and corruptions of the last days. For his faithful obedience to God he was translated. So, also, the faithful, who are alive and remain, will be translated. They will be removed from a sinful and corrupt world to the pure joys of heaven.” 2T 122.

“Words can not describe the peace and joy possessed by him who takes God at His word. Trials do not disturb him, slights do not vex him. Self is crucified. Day by day his duties become more taxing, his temptations stronger, his trials more severe, but he does not falter, for he receives strength equal to his need.” YI June 26, 1902.

*We can have what Enoch had:
we can have Christ as our
constant companion.*

will, until they shall reflect the likeness of Christ. Like Enoch, they will warn the world of the Lord’s second coming and of the judgments to be visited upon transgression, and by their holy conversation and example they will condemn the sins of the ungodly. As Enoch was translated to heaven before the destruction of the world by water, so the living righteous will be translated from the earth before its destruction by fire.” PP 88, 89.

“Enoch was a marked character.



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ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor. He has spoken internationally and makes his home in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

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. —Editor

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About Hope International:

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Invitation to Writers

We are accepting article-length manuscripts (3,000 words) for possible publication in *Our Firm Foundation*. We prefer that submissions be submitted in Word .doc format as a computer file. Include a digital picture and a short bio. Please address all correspondence to Editor, *Our Firm Foundation*, 151 Ascension Lane, Marshall, NC 28753, or by email to editorial@hopeint.org.

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Our Friends & Family Won't Persecute Us...Right?

By Joe Olson



My message this month was not prompted by some crazy person screaming death and destruction to Adventists ...far from it. It actually came about as a result of a radio program I was listening to. Whenever I am driving to town on some work business, I will often turn on talk radio to hear what the news of the day is. I rarely ever watch the news, so what I hear about current events usually comes from others, maybe the radio, if I am forced to go to town, or maybe some internet headline. Also, I read a few news magazines, or the National Geographic, as you that have read many of these articles can attest to.

What can work, or operate, if you have no electricity?

The radio personality was talking to someone on the air and mentioned that he saw some news bit about computer malware installed in some

of our power grid systems. Malware, for all intents and purposes, is a virus for computers. Supposedly, this has been done by some foreign power bent on the destruction of the United States. Fortunately, these destructive little viruses were noticed and removed,,or,, so we have been told. I am just assuming here, but if there were viruses they couldn't remove, I'm not positive they would be forthcoming about it. Also, how do we know that ALL of the viruses have been located?

Anyway, the point of this comment on the radio led the announcer to say that he had read a study done in reference to our grid power. He said it indicated that if the power grid was knocked out for just one year, ninety percent of the U.S. population would perish. Ninety percent! We are talking about nine out of every ten people would be dead. When I

first heard that, I thought that it was a little steep on the numbers. But, then I began to think about what no power would mean. No power means no heat; no AC; no food; no water; no sewerage; no gas; no nothing. What can work or operate if you have no power? How long would people last in cities? Where would they go to the bathroom? Where would they get clean water? Where would food come from?

No power, no Amazon

Teenagers and young people... no cell phones or computers! Most of them would probably die overnight! Puts living out in the country on your own piece of land in a whole new perspective, doesn't it? Generators to produce electricity would only work ... if you went to town to buy gas.

How many of the population heat with a wood stove? How many cook with one? Even if you have land ... do you have a water supply? A well is no good to you if you don't have power. Well, you can buy these little cans to dip down into your well to pull water up, but how many people have one? If the power is out, you can't get on Amazon's website and buy one then.

What will you do?

But, this message is not about how to survive during these terrible calamities, although, it sure seems like God was aware of what was coming,



doesn't it? Maybe He DID know what He was talking about, when He told His prophet to tell us to get out in the country. Seems almost prescient now, doesn't it? Like ... He knew what was going to happen.

Anyway, this is what got me started to thinking about this message. You might wonder how I got from power problems to persecution. Well, what do you think will happen when there are no checks in the mail? What if you have money, but no way to spend it? What will happen when people get hungry? What do you suppose they will do? Can you even imagine what life would be like? What would you, as a parent, do to try to provide for your children and babies? We cannot even fathom it.

eventualities. They are gearing up for just such events. It seems like those in the know, know something most of us don't. What are they preparing for if there is nothing to worry about? And it will be too late to follow the counsel then.

"This is because we have forsaken God!"

Now, if I have set the stage here to prepare your mind... the question will naturally arise as to how this happened, this power failure, and whose fault it is. Somebody did this and we need to find out, and make them pay. This catastrophe cannot go unanswered. Do you see where this is going? Do you remember, the fall of the Twin Towers in New York? Do you remember the year? We remember that it was 9/11, but 9/11 of what year?

It was 2001... fourteen years ago. Does it seem that long ago to you? And when it happened, there were two, big named preachers that came out right after it happened and said... "This is because we have forsaken God!" They said, "We have not been following Him."

Do you remember them? Well, if you don't, it is to be understood. They shut them down in what they call... a New York minute. Ohhh, let me tell you, that went over like a lead balloon. But my point is that the leading religious men of that day blurted that out. Tell me... in your opinion, has the nation become more holy and righteous and pure... or less so? I don't want to put words in your mouth... you tell me. When the next tragedy strikes, what will the religious leaders say then? Do you know how many states have now legalized same-sex marriages? Do you know how many states have legalizing marijuana on the



ballot? Do you know how many states already have Sunday Blue Laws on the books?

There is no doubt that Jesus saw all this coming

Do you remember my article about the pope being the most respected religious leader in the world? Do you have any idea how hard he is pushing for Sunday to be the universal day of rest? Now... add these facts all together, and then let there be a national, or even worldwide catastrophe, and can you see how quickly things could escalate! It comes to my mind that we have been told that last day events would be rapid ones.

Now, on to my original thought for this message...my question about our family and friends. But before we open this thought, a quick reference from our Lord and Saviour... "And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake..." Matt. 10:21,22.

We still need to be in the country

And we are not even talking about end-time scenarios and Sunday laws ... we are just talking about the power grid! Try to go over it in your heads as to how things might play out. And waving your hand and just saying, "That can't happen", is not a very realistic response. This is not a "Get out of the cities!" message, but it could be. If you thought this power grid scenario was a possibility, what should you be doing? By the way, the moment anything like this happens, the police and National Guard will immediately cordon off cities and towns so no one can leave and no one can come in. They are already practicing for these





This was not Paul or Peter or any other disciple... this was Jesus talking. And this was in reference to what He saw was coming towards the end of time. Luke recorded basically the same thing... "And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake." Luke 16,17.

A modern-day study backs up the words of Jesus

Now, that should be the be all and end all of the question. "Our friends and family won't persecute us... right?" What was Jesus' answer to that? "Yes... yes, they will." We have the unequivocal word of the Creator of the Universe. But... unfortunately, that is not enough for some. You see, some people think we have become much more enlightened today. We don't have that same attitude that the people in Jesus' day had. Really? It's just too bad that we don't have some kind of study or experiment that could prove what Jesus said. I only wish

that we had something we could point to that would tell us... you know... scientifically... how we might act. If only...

Do you feel like I am setting this up? You're right... I am. There IS just such a study. Have you ever heard of the Milgram Study? If you had ever been to college, and had to take Psych 101, you learned about this study. This study was conducted in 1963. I was only seven years old. It was created by a Yale University psychologist, by the name of, you might have guessed, Stanley Milgram. Just as an aside, have you ever noticed that psychologist has the word, "psycho" in it? Just saying...

The Milgram Study in New Haven, Connecticut

Anyway, for the scientific world, a "Yale University" study, is way up there. This "Milgram Study" looked into how willing others were to inflict pain if they were told to do it. Here is how it was conducted...

This is taken from the Huffington Post website, dated March 13, 2015,

if you'd like to look it up. "Milgram told his study participants, a group of healthy men in New Haven, Connecticut, that they were involved in research about the effects of punishment on learning. The participants took on the role of "the teacher", tasked with administering electric shocks of increasing voltage to another man, "the learner", whenever he erred on a word recognition task. The learner sat behind a curtain, not visible to the teacher."

Okay, let me interpret this for you if I may... There were two groups of men... the teachers and the learners. If the "learner" made a mistake on a word recognition task, he was given a shock by his "teacher". And there were several of these "learner/teacher" pairs to give the study more credence. The more mistakes that were made, the higher the doses of electrical voltage. And remember, the learner and teacher could not see each other. In other words, Mr. Milgram did not want the results affected by the teacher seeing the learner getting electrocuted.



Milgram concluded that people will blindly obey orders – even evil orders

Now, we go on...“Of course, unbeknown to the teacher, the learner was an actor hired by the research team, and didn’t actually receive any shocks.” This is very good news! The learner didn’t actually get electrocuted! But... the teacher didn’t know that. This is extremely important! Back to the quote...“The results were surprising. Even when the learner cried out in pain, hysterically yelling, “Let me out!”, 65 percent of the participants continued to raise the voltage, ultimately delivering the maximum shock of 450 volts (by pushing a button menacingly labeled “XXX”).”

Six and a half people out of 10 kept

our nature to blindly obey orders, even when that means perpetrating acts of evil.” This isn’t Jesus saying this. This is not religious scholars saying this. This is not some end-time conspiracy theorist saying this. This is a Yale University psychologist saying this! We, as human beings, according to Milgram and his study, will “blindly obey orders.” Blindly obey! In other words, we will not think or reason or study out why we do what we have been told to do... we will simply do it.

Does what Jesus said make more sense now?

Pretty scary stuff isn’t it? Kind of sounds like family and friends and even loved ones could turn on others... if they were told to do it. Anybody remember how the Nazis got children to turn their parents in? It was for the benefit of everyone else... for the Fatherland! We will perpetrate acts of evil! And we will do it blindly! Incredible!

A little more from Jesus... “... they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake.” Luke 21:12. Does what Jesus said make more sense now? Can you see family and friends and parents and children “blindly obeying” when things get rough?

Milgram goes on to say... “It is not so much the kind of person a man is as the kind of

electrocuting the people, to the point of 450 volt charges, because they were told to do it. Remember, the teachers did not know that the learners were NOT getting shocked! They thought the learners were getting hit each time. And they were even willing to push a button, “menacingly labeled” XXX! Menacingly labeled! Triple X! The inference is that the teachers pushing that button knew full well this was bad news! The learners are screaming to let them out, but 6 ½ out of 10 were ignoring the “supposed” pain of the learners and kept pushing the button.

What does that tell you? Well, let me tell you what Milgram got out of it...“Milgram concluded that it is in



situation in which he finds himself that determines how he will act.” To me, that is scientific goobledook. It is **absolutely** the kind of person a man is, if he will obey blindly. It appears to me that Milgram is trying to excuse this behavior -- “Well... it is the situation that makes a person act like he does.” In other words, it is the situation’s fault... not the person’s. There can be no blame you know! Blame would mean someone was wrong. And... if there is wrong, there is sin. And of course, there cannot be any sin involved.

Then a new study was done... with a disturbing twist in the conclusion

But... thankfully... there has been NEW research done. Researchers wanted to know if most people really ARE capable of such evil. Apparently, even these imminently qualified researchers made no bones about calling what the “teachers” were





doing... evil. You know those college people... they call 'em like they see 'em. So, they wanted to replicate the experiment to see if Milgram was actually right in his conclusions. A group of Australian and Scottish psychologists re-enacted the study. Guess what they found? This is a quote... "The results mirrored Milgram's findings." The majority of the participants were willing to administer painful shocks. I think they were expecting different results, but the new people in the study were just as willing to do "evil" as the earlier ones.

There was one noticeable difference, though. Milgram had stated that it wasn't really the choice of the participant, it was his predicament, or his situation. This new study showed that obedience was a matter of choice. Did you catch that? The Australian and Scottish psychologists found that it was not blind obedience but a purposeful choice that was made. These psychologists put the "blame", if you will, directly onto the people in the study.

And here is the real kicker for me... This is a quote from Alex Haslam, a

psychologist from the University of Queensland... "... obedience was a matter of choice, and of deliberate allegiance to the experimenter and his cause. The more [the actor] identifies with the experimenter and his scientific goals... the more likely they are to obey."

Let me see if I can explain what I think he means here... If the one doing the shocking agrees with why the experimenter thinks the person should be shocked, then he is not blindly obedient. He is shocking the guy because he thinks he needs to be shocked. There is no blindness involved. There is no "situation" involved. There is thinking and purposeful decision-making going on.

So, where are we to place our allegiance?

In my opinion, that is worse than the first premise. At least in the first study, the psychologist thought they were blind. The second study revealed that they were not blind, but did it willingly and of a free will.

Now you have it. Jesus said what would happen. The psychologists did their own study, and agreed that Jesus

was right. Well... they might not have said it exactly that way. Will our friends and family and loved ones turn on us one day? Do you need any more proof? When things get tough, and the religious leaders say it is because we have forsaken God, they will call for a national day of rest. And those who refuse to obey this day... what do you think will happen to them?

So... in light of this... where should our allegiance be? To friends? To family? To loved ones? Or should it be with the One who told us this was coming? Please, please, recommit your life to Jesus today. He is the ONLY One who will see us through this horrendous time to come. The arm of flesh WILL fail us. God's arm will not!

HALLELUJAH!



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





Hope for Health

Are you trying to keep your blood sugar levels in check? When it comes to blood sugar health, **Bitter Melon** is one of the best herbs known! Actually a fruit, **Bitter Melon** has been shown to help improve the health of the pancreas, aid digestion, and help maintain a healthy blood sugar balance. And what is even better? There are NO harmful side effects!!

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Customer Testimonial

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Marriage God's Way

By Lois Storti



Counsel to a Strong-willed Couple:

“Neither husband nor wife is to make a plea for rulership. The Lord has laid down the principle that is to guide in this matter. The husband is to cherish his wife as Christ cherishes the church. And the wife is to respect and love her husband. Both are to cultivate the spirit of kindness, being determined never to grieve or injure the other. . . .

Do not try to compel each other to do as you wish. You cannot do this and retain each other's love. Manifestations of self-will destroy the peace and happiness of the home. Let not your married life be one of contention. If you do, you will both be unhappy. Be kind in speech and gentle in action, giving up your own wishes. Watch well your words, for they have a powerful influence for good or for ill. Allow no sharpness to come into your voices. Bring into your united life the fragrance of Christlikeness.

Express Love in Words and Deeds

There are many who regard the expression of love as a weakness, and they maintain a reserve that repels others. This spirit checks the current of sympathy. As the social and generous impulses are repressed, they wither, and the heart becomes desolate and cold. We should beware of this error. Love cannot long exist without expression. Let not the heart of one connected with you starve for the want of

kindness and sympathy. . . .

Let each give love rather than exact it. Cultivate that which is noblest in yourselves, and be quick to recognize the good qualities in each other. The consciousness of being appreciated is a wonderful stimulus and satisfaction. Sympathy and respect encourage the striving after excellence, and love itself increases as it stimulates to nobler aims.

There should be more tenderness, love, cheerfulness and courtesy among members of the household

The reason there are so many hardhearted men and women in our world is that true affection has been regarded as weakness and has been discouraged and repressed. The better part of the nature of persons of this class was perverted and dwarfed in childhood; and unless rays of divine light can melt away their coldness and hardhearted selfishness, the happiness of such is buried forever. If we would have tender hearts, such as Jesus had when He was upon the earth, and sanctified sympathy, such as the angels have for sinful mortals, we must cultivate the sympathies of childhood, which are simplicity itself. Then we shall be refined, elevated, and directed by heavenly principles.

Too many cares and burdens are brought into our





families, and too little of natural simplicity and peace and happiness is cherished. There should be less care for what the outside world will say and more thoughtful attention to the members of the family circle. There should be less display and affectation of worldly politeness, and much more tenderness and love, cheerfulness and Christian courtesy, among the members of the household. Many need to learn how to make home attractive, a place of enjoyment. Thankful hearts and kind looks are more valuable than wealth and luxury, and contentment with simple things will make home happy if love be there.” AH 106-108.

Who can say that they have the perfect marriage?

Sadly, it seems the divorce rate in the church is pretty much the same as the divorce rate in the world. God’s original design for marriage has become so perverted today that many people don’t even realize what that was. We know that God is a God of order, and when He does something He does it right. One of God’s first gifts to man was marriage, and He performed the first marriage back in the Garden of Eden.

In Genesis, you can see that God had very separate and distinct roles for the man and the woman. They are equal in His eyes, but He has given them different roles to promote order and harmony in marriage and the family. Today however, these gender roles have become very blurred due to social and cultural factors such as the Women’s Liberation Movement and women in the workplace. Satan is working very hard to destroy the foundation of our society, which is marriage and the family. He wants to create a power struggle between the man and the woman and for them to be dissatisfied with the roles He has given them. When the family is separated, there is disorder and chaos. This is Satan’s goal and he has succeeded in doing this to a great degree.

Marriage is supposed to mirror Christ’s love for His church

There is text in the New Testament, specifically in Ephesians 5 that has been greatly misused and misunderstood by many, and I know that I was one of those

who not only misunderstood its true meaning, but my back would go up every time I heard it. If you read Ephesians 5:22-33, you can see in these texts, marriage is supposed to mirror Christ’s love for his church, whom He loved so much that He was willing to die for her. The church is referred to as the bride of Christ, and Christ is our Bridegroom. So, husbands have a great calling and responsibility to love their wives in like manner. As you can see, in these passages there is much more addressed to the husbands than to the wives. If husbands would truly love their wives in this way, it would only be natural for the wives to love, respect and submit to their husbands in return. But, unfortunately these passages have been greatly distorted even by Christian husbands to excuse abusing their wives. It is not only the husbands who have overstepped their bounds, in many instances wives have as well, but I have heard some of these passages particularly misused by men. This is certainly not what God intended and it only serves to hurt the marriage relationship.

Blaming originated with the first couple

We see in Genesis that God created Adam first, giving him headship. He also gave him the responsibility of naming all of the animals and even naming his wife, Eve. After Eve sinned, God held Adam more accountable and addressed him first. This is where the blame game first originated and disharmony began. Sin is the great corrupter of all things. When God confronted Adam about what he had done, was he repentant for the sin that he had committed? No; in fact, what he said to God was, “The woman Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree,

and I did eat.” Not only did he blame Eve, but he blamed God as well. In that instant he turned on Eve and on God. His love for Eve put her above God and so Adam was willing to forfeit God’s approval and eternal life in that second that he knowingly sinned and took a bite of the forbidden fruit.

When the woman was asked “What is this that thou hast done?” she responded by blaming the serpent for beguiling her and God for putting the serpent in the garden. How many times do we blame circumstances, a person, or God for our sin instead of taking responsibility for our actions and repenting of those sins? This blaming behavior put a wedge between Adam and Eve as well as separating them from God.

As a result of their sin, things had to change

Because of their sin they must not only leave their idyllic dwelling place that God created just for them, but the woman would now experience pain and sorrow in childbirth. God also said to Eve that her desire would be for her husband and that he would rule over her. God was establishing headship in the male over the woman and the family. Adam would have to toil and work the fields to bring food home to the family. Had they remained obedient to God, they would have had a harmonious relationship forever. Unfortunately, sin brings discord and the harmony in their relationship could only be maintained by submission on the part of one or the other. So, we can see when we don’t follow God’s plan for marriage there will always be discord in the relationship. “Had the principle joined in the law of God been cherished by the fallen race, this sentence, though growing out of the results of sin, would have proved a blessing to them; but man’s abuse of the supremacy thus given him has too often rendered the lot of woman very bitter and made her life a burden.” PP 59.

The beginnings of spiritualism

“Eve had been perfectly happy by her husband’s side in her Eden home; but, like restless modern Eves, she was flattered with the hope of entering a higher sphere than that which God had assigned her. In attempting to rise above her original position she fell far below it.” PP 60. We see here the beginnings of spiritualism entering the picture. The serpent, which was acting as a medium for Satan, told Eve that if she partook of the forbidden fruit that she would not surely die, when God had told both Adam and Eve that they *would* surely die if they ate of the fruit, calling into question God and His authority. This is where the spiritualism enters in, with Eve supposedly reaching a higher plane and being as a god herself; a form of self-worship. How many women today would be satisfied with the role that God has set out for them as mothers, nurturers, teachers and wives, who love and respect their husbands? We have been taught that we can do it all. We can work, take care of a home, be a sexy and loving wife and we don’t need help from anyone else, not even God. Where did we learn that? Well, it all goes back to the garden and that wily serpent telling Eve she could have it all.

The passages we read in Ephesians are not saying that the wife has any less value in Christ’s eyes. In Gal. 3:28 it says, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” This is just saying that we are all one in Jesus and He does not love anyone less or give them any less value because of their race, sex, or station in life. After all, Eve was given the main role of bearing and nurturing the children. That is a huge and honorable responsibility, and not to be taken lightly. Satan wants nothing





more for this dissatisfaction to cause discord within the family and to end up with the breakup of the family through divorce. We know that divorce causes so much destruction, especially to the children.

God says that He hates divorce

In the Bible, Jesus says about divorce, "It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." Matthew 5:31, 32. As you can see here, Jesus is saying that the only reason to divorce would be in the case of adultery. As we know in this world today, people get divorced over many trivial reasons, not sanctioned by the Lord. Even in the case of adultery, I am sure that Jesus would rather the people involved would try to work things out and be able to forgive. But, this is the only reason given in the Bible for divorce. In fact, in Malachi 2:16, God says that He hates divorce. Those are pretty strong words. So, why so many divorces? I believe mainly because most people don't take seriously what God's word says about marriage and the blueprint He has given us to follow, or they just don't know.

Let us look to God's Word for direction in all matters

Our culture has had such an influence on how we view marriage and what our duties as husbands and wives are. Roles have become interchangeable with stay-at-home dads,

and mothers going out to work and sometimes being the main bread winners. God truly designed women to bear, nurture and care for their children. They are to make the home a loving and inviting place for the family to be; while the men are to be the spiritual head of the home, providers, protectors and disciplinarians. When these roles are adhered to, the home can run in

an orderly and harmonious fashion. Many women would cringe at these words, but I have seen God's plan in action, and it works! Do we want other people out there in the world raising our children, or do we want to raise them with the biblical values and morals that are so important for them to have?

When you understand that marriage is to reflect Christ's relationship to us, His church, it makes perfect sense. When we follow His design for marriage, it works, when we don't, it doesn't. I've heard it said that "marriage is not to make you happy, but to make you holy". Let's look to Jesus regarding every aspect of our lives and look to His Word for God's design for marriage and for all things that we need guidance in.



Lois Storti lives in the western mountains of North Carolina with her husband Mark. In her spare time she enjoys gardening and volunteering at a nearby nursing home. She and her husband attend the Walnut SDA Church in Marshall, NC and love serving the Lord both as a couple and individually.

The Power of Trust in the Lord

Lessons from Proverbs 3:5,6

By Emmanuel Machakaire

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Prov. 3:5,6.

These two verses are among the most beloved in the entire Bible. You may have memorized them in Sabbath school when you were a child. Or you may have learned to sing these words as part of a contemporary worship chorus. This text is striking in its simplicity. It is so simple that it can be understood by the youngest believer, and yet it is a comfort to the oldest saint of God. And it is good for everyone in between. These words cling to the soul because they speak to a great need we all feel—the need for guidance. Proverbs 3:5,6 suggests the basis on which guidance will come. It is a short course in knowing God’s will for your life. If you learn what this passage is teaching and begin to apply it to your daily life, it will make a profound difference when you need to make a tough decision.

LESSONS FROM FIVE KEY WORDS

As I was studying this text, I discovered that five key words unlock the message of this text. Let’s take those key words one by one and see what each one teaches us.

Trust

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart.” The word “trust” in Hebrew means “to lean with the full body,” “to lay upon,” “to rest the full weight upon.” In our thinking the word trust means to rely upon or to have confidence in. But the Hebrew word is stronger. It has the

idea of stretching yourself out upon a bed or resting on a hard surface. The word means to put your full weight on something. To trust in the Lord is to rest your whole weight upon him—to depend on him completely. ’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus.

Lean

“Lean not on your own understanding.” To “lean” means to rest upon something for partial support. Leaning is what you do when you walk with a cane or hold on to a walker because you are unsteady. This word is used for leaning against a tree or a stone cliff. You lean on something when you are not strong enough to stand alone. Leaning on the everlasting arms of Jesus.

Understanding

“Lean not on your own understanding.” “Understanding” refers to the mental processes by which you analyze a problem, break it down into its smaller parts, and then make a decision about what you are going to do. Understanding is the decision-making ability that God has given you.

In understanding you use all your mental powers, but do not lean on them for total support. “Don’t trust in your own mental ability to figure out your life. So deep is the impression of



self-exaltation in the human heart, so great the desire for human power, that with many mind and heart and soul become absorbed with the idea of ruling and commanding. Nothing can destroy this ruinous influence upon the human mind but seeking the Lord for heavenly eyesight. Only the power of divine grace can make man understand his true position and accomplish for him the work essential to be wrought in the heart.” –Lt 412, 1907, 1MCP 274. Lean instead on the Lord! Rest your weight on Him!

Acknowledge

“In all your ways acknowledge him.” This word deserves extra consideration because the word “acknowledge” can be hard to understand but it means accept (someone) to be what is claimed or accept his power and authority. In the Hebrew this word is an imperative – a command.

You could translate this by saying, “In all your ways know him.” The Hebrew word means to know deeply and intimately. It’s the kind of knowing that comes with personal experience. It means to know something through and through.

“Private prayer is needed in order to become personally acquainted with God. Oh, do we know God as we should? What comfort, what joy, we should have if we were to learn daily the lessons He desires us to learn! We must know Him by an experimental knowledge. It will be profitable for us to spend more time in secret prayer, in becoming personally acquainted with our heavenly Father”. MM 102, Pr 181. Seen in that light, we might translate verse 5 this way: “In all your ways know God intimately ... deeply ... personally. When you know God that way in every area of your life, he will direct your paths.”

Direct

“He will make your paths straight.” That brings me to the fifth word, which in the King James Version is translated, “He shall direct your

paths.” That isn’t bad, but I think the ESV translation is a little better: “He will make straight your paths.” Imagine that you are driving along a road that appears to be impassable. The road winds through the mountains and down into the swamps. It seems to have a thousand switchbacks. As you travel on, you discover that portions of the road are washed out, others are filled with potholes, and still others



Lay yourself completely on him for full support. Don’t lean for support on your own human understanding. In all your ways know God intimately. He will take the path of your life that seems to go up and down and around and sometimes seems to curve backwards, and He will make your way straight. That’s the promise of Almighty God to you.

Trusting in the Lord is an act of faith and it is the key to everything. Faith means believing in advance what will

are blocked by huge boulders. In some places the road apparently becomes a dead-end. This is the road of your life. As you look at it, it *appears* to be covered with boulders and rocks. Some parts of it seem to be filled with potholes; other sections appear to be going nowhere. That’s the way life is. Here is God’s message to you from Proverbs 3:5, 6. If you will know God in every area of your life, he will take personal responsibility to make your way smooth and straight. He will remove the obstacles if they need to be removed. He will fill in the potholes if they need to be filled. He will redirect the detour so that what seemed to be a dead-end turns out to be the shortest way to reach your destination. All you have to do is trust in the Lord.

only make sense in reverse. We want to know why things happen the way they do and why couldn’t things have happened some other way. It would be



wrong to say that faith provides all the answers. It doesn't. Perhaps in heaven we will fully understand, or in heaven our desire to know will be transformed by our vision of the Lord. By faith we see things that are invisible to others and by faith we believe in advance those things that right now make no sense but one day will make perfect sense because we will view them in reverse.

THE WORLD SAYS, "SEEING IS BELIEVING." GOD SAYS, "BELIEVING IS SEEING."

We believe, therefore we trust. That's why the search for God's will is so exhilarating. When God is leading the way, every obstacle will eventually be removed. The path may have many twists and turns, but in the end he will make your path straight.

The Bible says, in all your ways know God intimately, know him deeply, know him personally. Know him to that depth. Know him with that kind of intimacy.

Many of us go through life leaning almost completely on our own understanding. We like to be in control. I number myself among that group. I like to know what's going on. I like to be in charge of my own destiny. This passage is a warning to all of us who lay out life the way we want it and then say, "Here, God, stamp it with your blessing because I am going to go out and do it for you." God says, "I don't work that way. Know me first. Put me first in everything, including all your plans, all your thinking, and all your scheming. Put me first. And I then will make your way straight."

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE SECRET OF KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD?

Here it is: in everything you do, know God. Proverbs 3:5,6 tells us that the secret is a relationship with God. God says, "Know Me. Spend time with Me. Put Me first in every area of your life because when you do that I will take care of all the details of your life. Sometimes we focus all our energy on tough decisions about life. But God

says, "Know me and I will take care of the details." We want specific direction. God says, "In all your ways know me, and everything else will fall into place."

To know God is all that matters; to hold His hand is everything; to trust Him is the sum of it all. To see him present



everywhere, in everything, and to live in total surrender to him. The most important thing is not the decisions you face; the most important thing is your relationship with God. And the closer you get to God, the easier it will be for God to guide you in the way he wants you to go. The more you trust him the more his will is done in your life.

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF WAYS GOD LEADS HIS CHILDREN

Trusting God means taking all that you have and placing it at the disposal of the King of kings and the Lord of lords, trusting him even when it makes no sense. Proverbs 3:5, 6 ends with a promise: "He will make your paths straight." God is able to remove the obstacles in front of you. He is able to fill in the potholes and turn a dead-end into a four-lane highway. God rewards those who trust in him



by leading them straight to the right end and removing all the obstacles along the way. We rarely see this in advance. We mostly see the potholes. The boulders block our view. Many times it seems as if there is no path at all. But He will make a way even where it seems to be no way. No one can say how he will do it. There are thousands of ways in which God leads his children. He leads us through delays, detours, miracles, the advice of friends, unexpected opportunities, suddenly closed doors, answered prayer, unanswered prayer, inner impressions, and a still, small voice in the night.





LIFE IS A MYSTERIOUS JOURNEY, FULL OF UNEXPECTED TWISTS AND TURNS

The path ahead is a mystery to us all. No one can say for sure what is around the next bend. It may be a smooth road through a lovely valley or we may discover that the bridge is washed out and we have to find a way to cross a

adversity. Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness, and relies wholly on God. When we submit to God's way, the Lord Jesus guides our minds and fills our lips with assurance. We may be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Receiving Christ, we are clothed with power. No unrighteousness is seen in the life. We are able to speak words in season to those who know not the Saviour. Christ's presence in the heart is a vitalizing power, strengthening the whole being. YI, January 22, 1903.

You don't see it on this side. On this side you see the problems. But when you know God, he leads you step by step. When the journey is done, you will look back and say, "I don't know how I got from there to here, but I do know this: Jesus led me all the way." Doing God's will often involves great uncertainty and periods of deep doubt. But if you are willing to do what He wants you to do, to trust Him in His ways and timings, He then takes responsibility to reach into the chaos of life and lead you step by step to the place where He wants you to be.



"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting. We must take a lesson from Elijah's experience in learning anew how to trust God in the hour of trial. He who was Elijah's strength is strong to uphold every struggling child of His, no matter how weak. Of everyone He expects loyalty, and to everyone He grants power according to the need. CC 216.

deep river. Often the road will seem to disappear or it may suddenly seem to go in three different directions and we won't know which way to go. But there is One who knows the way because the past, present, and future are all the same to Him and the darkness is as the light of day. He knows the way we should go. He promised to direct your path and He will do it. You can count on it, just trust in His power and feel His presence.

If God is all that you have, you have got it all, you have all that you need, just trust Him for there is power in trusting Him.

When we are encompassed with doubt, perplexed by circumstances, or afflicted by poverty or distress, Satan seeks to shake our confidence in Jehovah. . . . But God understands, and He still pities and loves.

Oh, God, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things. Amen.

TO TRUST WHEN EVERYTHING LOOKS DARK, IS THE LESSON THAT WE NEED TO LEARN

Heaven will not fail those who trust in the Lord in their day of



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The Need of Earnestness

By Ellen G. White



We must not take the word of any man as authoritative on matters that concern our eternal interests. We must go to the Scriptures for ourselves. We must search for truth as for hidden treasures. No man can pay a redemption price for our souls; and those who stand condemned at the bar of God because they believed the testimony of man rather than the testimony of God, will appreciate the worth of the word of God. Those who deceived them cannot save their souls, nor the souls that they were instrumental in leading into error, away from Christ and the truth. God's word was given to lead men into truth, but many did not search its pages for themselves, and thus they were separated from him by wicked works.

not be found warring against the divine law. We want our sins blotted out, and our names written in the Lamb's book of life. We must be joined to Christ, grow up in him, and become like him in character and spirit. If we are thus united to Christ, we shall feel our constant dependence upon him. We shall see that there is nothing in us to make us self-sufficient, nothing in us in which we can trust; therefore we shall be clothed with humility.

Our hearts are in danger of becoming hard and unimpressible

I would that our eyes could be opened to see and to realize our danger of departing from the principles of God's law. Jesus, the world's Redeemer, the adorable Son of God, agonized with the Father, with strong crying and tears. This was not on his own account; but because we feel so little our need of fervent, earnest prayer; because we see so little our danger. He wept because we have no tears to shed. Our hearts are in danger of becoming hard and unimpressible.

We should seek more and more for the light and knowledge that we so much need. We want the grace of God abundantly bestowed upon us, that we may flourish as the palm-tree. We are in danger of losing our souls, because of confidence in self. We want to see our great need of a daily connection with Christ. We want to see that he alone can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Why are our hearts so cold? Why is our service so lifeless?

The time in which we live is full of peril

Although Noah, and Job, and Daniel were in the land, they could not save son or daughter. They could only deliver their own souls by their righteousness. We must individually stand or fall for ourselves, as we shall be judged by the great moral standard of God's holy law. We must watch. We must pray. We must search the Scriptures. We must know that we have a foundation for our faith. The cross of Calvary reveals the fact that if sin is found upon us, we shall hear the word, "Depart, ye workers of iniquity." We want to dig deep, and lay a sure foundation. We should be in earnest to obtain a living experience for ourselves. We must be partakers of the divine nature, if we would



The character of Christ must be seen in His followers

Let us arise in faith, and press closer to Jesus. Let us rejoice in his love. We may obtain the most precious victories. There is help for us in God. Let us grasp the promises, and look to Calvary. Jesus died to save us from sin; then let us cease to sin, and open the heart wide, that he may come in and abide with us.

The loveliness of the character of Christ, must be seen in his followers. It was his delight to do the will of God. Zeal for the glory of God was the controlling power in his mind. His unlikeness to the world provoked the bitter hostility of those who hated truth and righteousness. Because he would give no license for the exercise of the evil passions of our nature, he aroused the fiercest opposition and enmity.

The spotless Son of God was derided and mocked because of his unswerving obedience to the principle of God's holy law. So it will be with all who live godly in Christ Jesus.

Let no one talk of an easy religion

Let no one imagine that the path to Heaven is smooth and pleasant, that there is nothing to do but to believe. We are to be workers together with God; and through diligent and painstaking effort alone, can the conditions of the promises be met. The words of inspiration declare that "faith without works is dead, being alone." We are exhorted to "fight the good fight of faith." We are to wrestle with unseen foes, to labor, to watch, to strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many will be content with simple seeking, and will fail of an entrance. "Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat;" but "strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Keep back words that we are inclined to speak against God and each other

We are enjoined to work out our own salvation with

fear and trembling, "for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." We are required to take upon our necks the yoke of Christ, because every good impulse comes from the Spirit of God,

and we are quickened to earnest effort for a higher life. We are to strive to repress every word that implies a doubt; for doubt spoken, is a seed sown in the minds of others, and eternity alone will reveal the result. Here is the conflict, to keep back words that we are inclined to speak against God and each other; for "by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Our words are

influences that impress the minds of others, and they are reflected in every direction. Shall we cast suspicion upon others? Shall we start the root of bitterness whereby many shall be defiled? Religion is a principle to be carried out in practical life, and developed in character and actions.

We are ever to represent Jesus

We are to comfort, uphold, and encourage our brethren. We are to strengthen those who are weak in moral power. Oh! be sure that you do not misrepresent the character of your divine Lord by claiming to be sons and daughters of God, while speaking and acting like the children of the wicked one. Do not leave a false impression upon the minds of unbelievers, that Christians are a gloomy, unhappy people. Why should we be unhappy? If our feet are in the royal path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in, what is there that can make us unhappy and restless?

Have not some of you mistaken the way, and taken the wrong path? Shall we not search carefully, and see whether or not we have real Bible religion? Let us ponder the warnings, instructions, and promises of God, until our souls burn within us, and our whole desire is to stand by the side of Jesus, and wear his yoke, and bear his burden, and find rest unto our souls.

ST, July 20, 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.



He Is Coming

A dandelion seed head is the central focus, positioned on the right side of the page. It is in sharp focus, showing the intricate details of the white, feathery seeds. The background is a soft, out-of-focus field of pink flowers and green foliage, creating a dreamy and ethereal atmosphere. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the dandelion seeds.

There's a hush in the air,
And a tremor of fear
Through the hearts of vile men;
For Christ's coming is near.

There's a mist on the hills,
And a light in the sky;
There are tokens and signs
That the morning is nigh.

There are visions and dreams,
And good angels abroad;
There's a work in the earth—
The strange work of the Lord.

There are crowns and bright stars
For the ones that endure;
There are mansions above
For the good and the pure.

There's a glimmer of gold
Through a half open gate,
And a song on the lips
Of the children who wait.

And his chariot wheels
Will be heard by and by,
And the glory of heaven
Fill the earth and the sky.

—Eliza H. Morton

News Watch

Shares Worthless
Crash!
Anxiety deepens
Interest rates
Liquidity
Recession Forecast

The Week, May 8, 2015, All eyes on Kennedy in gay marriage case, page 4

“Oral arguments took place this week in the landmark Supreme Court case on whether same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry...”

“The shift in consensus in favor of gay marriage is ‘perhaps the fastest political transformation in U.S. history’, said the Wall Street Journal.”

“Ultimately, this train cannot be stopped, said Jennifer Rubin in the Washington Post.com. By a 58 to 34 margin, American voters now support same-sex marriage, while a similar proportion reject the notion that businesses should be allowed to refuse service to gays and lesbians on religious grounds. ‘Today, gay-marriage opponents resemble the Japanese soldiers in 1946 who fought on from bunkers on a remote island because they had not found out the war was over.’”



End Time Perspective: “Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built: but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.” Luke 17:28, 29.



The Week, May 8, 2015, Baltimore on edge after riots, page 5

“A force of 3,000 National Guard troops and state and local police imposed a tense peace on Baltimore this week, after riots erupted over the death of Freddie Gray—a 25 year old black man who suffered a severed spine while in police custody. Just hours after Gray’s funeral, rioters in West Baltimore set ablaze a CVS store, looted businesses, and hurled bricks at police, prompting Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to declare a state of emergency. At least 235 people were arrested...”

End Time Perspective: (1) “Our cities are increasing in wickedness, and it is becoming more and more evident that those who remain in them unnecessarily do so at the peril of the soul’s salvation.” CL 9 (1907).

(2) “Light has been given me that the cities will be filled with confusion, violence and crime, and that these things will increase till the end of this earth’s history.” 7T 84 (1902).

Health Gem

Dragon HerbaDrops

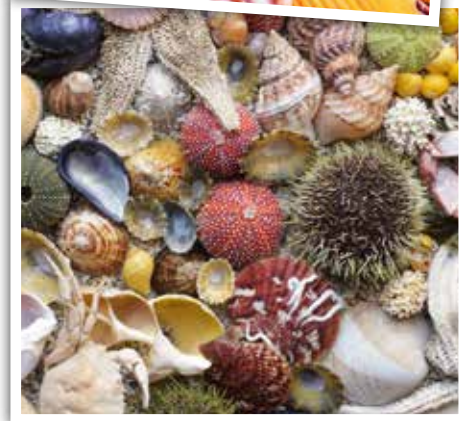
Our featured product this month is Dragon HerbaDrops, also known as *sangre de drago*. This rather unusual name for a health product, *sangre de drago*, means “dragon’s blood” in English. The sap of the *sangre de drago* tree, which grows in the Amazon is red, and when the bark is sliced to release the sap, it looks as if the tree is bleeding.

Here’s what happens to your body when you experience a wound:

One of the primary benefits of Dragon HerbaDrops is its usefulness for any kind of wound care. What exactly happens to our bodies when we experience a wound? The moment you cut or tear a blood vessel, the body springs into action. First comes vasoconstriction — blood vessels leading to the wound tighten to reduce the flow of blood to the injured area. Platelets (triggered by enzymes leaked from the torn blood vessel) rush to the scene. These sticky blood cells clump to each other and then adhere to the sides of the torn blood vessel, making a plug. Clotting proteins in the blood join forces to form a fibrin net that holds the platelet plug in place over the tear, and in just a few seconds or minutes (depending on how bad the scrape or cut is), the bleeding stops, usually, thanks to coagulation! The fibrin plug becomes a scab that will eventually fall off or be reabsorbed into the body once the repairing process is complete.

Once bleeding has been controlled, the next step is stopping infection. The blood vessels that were constricted now dilate to bring white blood cells rushing to the scene. White blood cells engulf and destroy any germs that may have gotten into the body through the open wound. When

the enemies of blood loss and infection have been vanquished, the body turns its attention to rebuilding. Fibroblasts (cells that are capable of forming



skin and other tissue) gather at the site of injury and begin to produce collagen, which will eventually fill in the wound under the scab and create new capillaries to bring oxygen-rich blood to the recovering wound. Skin

along the edges of the wound becomes thicker and then gradually stretches under the scab to the center of the wound, where it meets skin from the other side and forms a scar (about three weeks after the initial injury). Scar tissue will become stronger and fade gradually over the next several years as more collagen is added, but will only have about 80 percent of the strength of the original skin.

Not all wounds repair equally. Generally speaking, more serious wounds take longer to repair. Individual factors also influence how quickly your body is able to recover from a wound, including:

Age — young people usually repair faster than older folks

Nutrition — the body needs a good supply of vitamin C to make collagen

Smoking — non-smokers, on average, have a quicker recovery time than smokers

Stress — large amounts of stress can delay the process

Other infections or illnesses can also decrease the body’s ability to recover.

And if you happen to find yourself in the Amazon...

You can now see that the body has quite an ordeal to go through when it is wounded. If your body were compromised by any of the above situations it would benefit from a little outside help! Imagine soldiers being attacked on the front lines — they are exhausted from weeks of fighting. They have not slept well, they have not eaten, and they are depleted! Imagine how excited they would be to receive some help... any type of relief would be welcome! When you are wounded, your body, likewise, welcomes

any type of help or relief to fight.

When you're in the Amazon and you injure yourself or sustain a wound, your first instinct is to locate a sangre de drago tree. You would use your machete to release the sap, apply it to your wound and keep going! The sangre de drago sap will speed up the recovery time, eliminate worries of infection and prevent any down time. Now if you don't happen to live in the Amazon and you don't have a machete, then you would want to be sure to have a bottle of Dragon HerbaDrops in your first-aid kit at all times!

Dragon HerbaDrops is liberally applied to the skin for any type of wound care. When Dragon HerbaDrops is applied to the skin, it seals the area and dries quickly to form a protective shield, or skin-like barrier. It will immediately aid your body in all the aforementioned steps that your body is under-going!

Bleeding can be controlled immediately

Staff members at Hope for Health have personally used Dragon Herba Drops for a number of different injuries and were astonished at the results! One such incidence was a head wound that would not stop bleeding; green clay would normally help stop bleeding, but in this particular instance the clay was not helping, so Dragon HerbaDrops was applied. The bleeding stopped immediately! Not in 5 or 10 minutes – it was instantaneous! The wound was also repaired in record time! In the emergency room they probably would have used stitches on this cut; however, with the immediate application of the Dragon HerbaDrops, stitches became unnecessary. The cut was right above the eye and very painful, but a continual use of the Dragon HerbaDrops took the pain away and recovery time was minimal! It had a permanent place in our first-aid kit from that moment on!

Dragon Herbadrops contain one of the strongest antioxidants in the world

Similar trees can be found in places like the Canary Islands, parts of Mexico, and Morocco among



others, but the Amazon Rainforest's sangre de drago is believed to be the most potent. This is due to all of the biological invaders the tree must fight off, giving it high potency against invasive microorganisms. In

other words, it's great at keeping itself healthy, and even better for keeping you healthy. It offers what is believed to be one of the **strongest** antioxidants in the world, as it's made of 90 percent proanthocyanidins, the same substance found in grape seeds which is known to be extremely beneficial to the immune system. This substance gives sangre de drago sap its rich red color, which is used by the plant to protect it from sunlight.

Though this wonderful sap from the rainforest contains a number of beneficial phytochemicals (a broad name for a wide variety of compounds produced by plants), the anti-inflammatory and wound repair properties of sangre de drago can be attributed to two important alkaloids: taspine, an anti-inflammatory, anti-tumorous, and anti-viral compound, and dimethylcedrusine; an element responsible for repairing wounds and is a lignan. Lignans are another naturally occurring compound in plants and are central to Dragon HerbaDrop's ability to help with wound care. You may already be familiar with the health benefits of lignans as they are also prominent in flaxseeds and pumpkin seeds.

E-Coli bacteria promptly died in the presence of sangre de drago resin

In a study done in Belgium, it was found that the restorative properties of the raw sangre de drago resin were **four** times more effective at forming collagen and repairing wounds than the administration of the isolated chemicals. When sangre de drago resin was smeared onto a sterile plate, allowed to dry and then doused with E. Coli bacteria the bacteria promptly died versus a similar plate treated with the antibiotic ampicillin that showed the E. Coli bacteria was still alive! God, in His infinite wisdom, has combined chemicals found in many

plants in a unique way in the sap of the sangre de drago tree. The isolated chemicals alone are beneficial, but when combined they become a terrific force for wound care and an incredible boost to the immune system! They come premixed, no combining of chemicals needed, the Dragon HerbaDrops has it all!

With Dragon HerbaDrops in your first-aid kit you will also be ready for many types of stomach problems. Taken internally, practitioners are reporting that it may be a potent, cost-effective treatment for gastrointestinal ulcers. We are sure that many of you have spent hundreds to thousands of dollars

concentrations. It was also found that sangre de drago greatly inhibits the inflammation of nerve endings and the creation of an enzyme in white blood cells that is linked to inflammation and cardiovascular problems. Suffer no longer, buy a bottle of Dragon HerbaDrops today and find that relief you have long been searching for!

While traveling, keep Dragon HerbaDrops handy

Another common problem that you will want quick help with is diarrhea. Dragon HerbaDrops, when administered orally, has been shown to aid in the relief of diarrhea, according

medical expert, is an enthusiastic fan of sangre de drago as a medicinal. He says the sap can combat the dangerous effects of diarrhea induced by prescription drugs, chemotherapy, radiation, microbial infections, travel-related exposure, and viruses. This is good news for those of you who love to travel; there is nothing worse than being trapped in your hotel bathroom when you are on the trip of a lifetime! A bottle of Dragon HerbaDrops is just one ounce, so there will be no issues with airport security check points.

Even chronic conditions can be improved

For those of you struggling with



on prescription and over the counter promises that just don't deliver!

Dr. Mark Miller of the Albany Medical Center conducted a study on treating stomach ulcers in rats with sangre de drago. The conclusions that he and his colleagues found are incredible! Out of three groups induced with ulcers, two groups of rats, through their drinking water, ingested the sangre de drago in different concentrations (1:1,000 and 1:10,000 dilutions) and one group was used as a control. Both the bacterial content and size of the ulcers in the two groups of rats taking sangre de drago was greatly reduced at both

to a 2002 study from the American Journal of Gastroenterology. For the study, 184 U.S. residents who acquired diarrhea while traveling in Jamaica or Mexico were assigned a two-day regimen with a placebo or with a product containing sangre de drago. Study results revealed that the Dragon HerbaDrops was effective in shortening the duration of the travelers' diarrhea by 21 percent. In addition, a report published in the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine in 2003 found a number of clinical trials showing positive results for the use of Dragon HerbaDrops for relief of diarrhea.

Dr. J.E. Williams, an international

neuropathy damage, you may also have reason to celebrate this ancient remedy. Some health practitioners in the United States have recently had success in using Dragon HerbaDrops internally to help relieve neuropathy damage to nerves in the body as a result of high blood sugar levels. At Hope for Health we receive many calls for any kind of help for this chronic, often VERY painful condition. We are always pleased when we can offer a safe, well-established natural remedy!

Two other areas that many people would welcome a natural relief are: support for their cardiovascular (heart) system and the promotion of healthy

cell growth. For the heart, Dragon HerbaDrops' antioxidants provide strong protection from damaging free radicals. It has also been reported to be excellent for helping to maintain normal blood pressure at correct levels.

Research has also suggested that Dragon HerbaDrops shows promise as an "unhealthy cell" fighter. In a 2012 study published in the Journal of Ethnopharmacology, it was discovered through tests on mice and on human unhealthy cells that compounds found in Dragon HerbaDrops may help inhibit the growth of unhealthy cells. This means a lot to those suffering from problems related to unhealthy

normal. Her gums have improved and she doesn't even know what a cavity is! You can also use Dragon HerbaDrops as a mouthwash, put a few drops in water after you brush your teeth, and swirl it around in your mouth.

Our next testimony is from John; his dentist told him that his gum problems were so severe that surgery was required. He had a month before the surgery was scheduled so he decided to be proactive and hopefully avoid the surgery. He began flossing and then brushing with Dragon Herba Drops three times a day. When he returned to the dentist a month later the gum tissue had improved so much that

mouth, so she decided to leave them on for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes her tooth had tightened up and was more in alignment and the pain had significantly decreased. She continued this process for four days. After **ONLY** four days, the pain was completely gone and the tooth was no longer loose and was normally aligned!

Help for everything from your pet's tartar to porcupine attacks!

For those of you who are pet lovers you will appreciate this next series of testimonies: Tartar control can be difficult in dogs; however, veterinarians have found that Dragon



cells! Additionally, a 2002 study on unhealthy cells found that Dragon HerbaDrops might help induce apoptosis (a type of programmed cell death essential for stopping the proliferation of unhealthy cells).

Dragon HerbaDrops improves dental problems

Another exciting use you will have for Dragon HerbaDrops is with dental health. Here are several testimonies that will give you an idea of the benefits experienced:

Joan uses Dragon HerbaDrops every day with her toothpaste; she just adds a few drops to the paste and brushes as

surgery was no longer required! Needless to say John was extremely relieved and continues this procedure daily to insure that his gums remain healthy.

Our next testimony comes from Cheryl who had a cracked filling. After a number of weeks the pain increased dramatically, the tooth was now loose and out of alignment, so chewing was very painful. Hoping to solve the problem on her own, Cheryl came up with a unique idea. She had trays that were plastic moldings for her teeth, so she decided to put Dragon HerbaDrops in the trays. She felt relief instantly after inserting the trays in her

HerbaDrops rubbed on the gums twice daily will cause the tartar to just fall off! Normally a dog would be put under for the vet to clean the teeth, this is especially dangerous for older dogs that often have heart problems. The anesthesia can actually be fatal! The Dragon HerbaDrops is a no fuss, no danger, and minimal expense way to keep the tartar away, and keep your dogs healthy and happy!

Ruth always keeps Dragon HerbaDrops on hand for cuts, scratches and insect bites that her animals might receive. One particular instance she was happy she had it on hand was when her dog came home

with a nose full of porcupine quills. The Dragon HerbaDrops eased the dog's pain and eliminated infection after the quills were extracted.

No need for conventional wormers for pets

Roy has amazed his veterinarian in that his animals are parasite free without using conventional wormers. A few drops of Dragon HerbaDrops in the water bowl two or three times a week had not only helped eliminate his cat's infected gums, but was now proving to be an anti-parasite as well. Roy used 15 to 20 drops in water with sweet feed and a few clover blossoms twice a month for his 21-year-old Arabian Appaloosa. He never needed worming. None of the animals seem to mind the taste; they actually seem to crave the help. Roy found this out one morning after putting Dragon HerbaDrops in the water bowl on the front porch. He found his cat, the neighbor's dog, a raccoon and a skunk all sharing a drink! Even though the creek, running with good clear mountain water at the edge of the property, was only a few yards away, everyone wanted a drink of this special herb.

Hopefully, you are starting to realize that Dragon HerbaDrops has many benefits, both internally and externally. It has been reportedly used for over 40 different health issues! It is growing in popularity daily, so the number of different uses will continue to increase! This sap from the Amazon rainforest is truly a miracle of nature and the more it becomes known to the masses, the better.

Look for the pink skin creams!

This final application is in skin health and the anti-aging properties that are opening up a whole new market for this miraculous sap! Dragon

Herba Drops helps to protect the cells of the skin, and reduces redness and swelling. It also contains a group



of compounds, which actually repair collagen, the lattice-like main protein that makes up much of our tissues. After a decade of good science has been reported about this remarkable skin-enhancing agent, cosmetic companies are starting to include sangre de drago in skin elixirs, creams, soaps and other special preparations. Most of the time, cosmetic companies want ingredients that are pure white, to maintain whiteness of creams and lotions. However, sangre de drago turns these preparations pink, and so a new color of skin agent will be showing up soon in any store that sells skin care products. Look for the pink cream! Sangre de drago is a remarkable agent that is much more beneficial to the skin than any synthetic ingredient! And with Dragon HerbaDrops, you also derive an even more elusive and sought after effect – ageless, healthy skin!

It benefits everyone!

When the sap is harvested sustainably, and the sap is used in a sufficient amount and the people who do the hard work of tapping the trees in the Amazon earn a decent wage, then everybody in the system benefits! Harvesting sangre de drago sap is just one example of how rainforest products can help to keep some acreage intact due to the economic benefits of sustainable harvesting. Instead of cutting down the forest for timber, the forest can be managed better and can yield greater profits through trade in medicinal plants, fruits, and oil-bearing nuts and seeds. Charles, Prince of Wales says that the rainforest destruction in a year produces more carbon dioxide than all the cars, planes and ships in the world combined. He and a number of celebrities including the Dalai Lama, Robin Williams and Harrison

Ford are actively working to stop the destruction of the rainforest. You can do your part by purchasing Dragon HerbaDrops, which will keep the trees alive!

We mentioned earlier in this presentation that it would be a great idea to keep Dragon HerbaDrops on hand for wound care, bouts of diarrhea, dental issues and skin care. Other Hope for Health products you should consider keeping in the cabinet are:

Charcoal – This is particularly important if you have small children or mischievous pets in the house. You will want to administer charcoal immediately if poison has been consumed. It will also provide relief from vomiting or upset stomach.

Green Clay – Used internally the clay will eliminate toxins and restore pH balance, as well as replenish minerals. It is also beneficial to use externally for burns, cuts, scrapes, scars, fungal growths, rashes, and really any skin situation. We have a FREE DVD about the clay if you would like more information.

Colon Clear – This is a terrific blend of 100% natural ingredients that may help with occasional bouts of constipation. It will also reduce excess gas and gas-producing bacteria that thrive in the lower bowel.

Acerola Chews and/or C-Blast – Vitamin C is essential for keeping your immune system boosted. Hope for Health has two different sources to provide for the different needs your family may have. The Acerola Chews are chewable and have a great taste that your kids will love! Mom and Dad, you may want the chewable too, or consider C-Blast caplets. Both products are formulated with only the

finest, purest, whole-food ingredients that will give your immune system a blast of power!



Ultra Fighter – There may be times when you are exposed to a bug and vitamin C alone won't fight it off! Ultra Fighter will come to the rescue and save the day! It is a must-have blend of immune boosting ingredients that will defend, strengthen and protect your body during times of stress and exposure to bugs!

Pain Eraser – There is nothing worse than getting a headache or pulling a muscle and realizing you do not have any pain relief products in the cupboard! Pain Eraser contains 21 pain-relieving ingredients! It will reduce inflammation and swelling, as well as attack acute or chronic pain. You don't want to wait 2-4 days to have this fantastic product delivered to you when you are in pain, keep a bottle handy to erase away pain!

Lastly, you may want to consider keeping a jar of **Calendula Cream** or **Swedish Bitters Salve** on hand for any kind of skin conditions. They both provide quick and soothing relief to itchy dry skin, burns or bites!

Dr. Kaye Olson and all of the Hope for Health staff are ready and willing to answer any product or health questions you may have. We are also happy to consult with you regarding your diet and lifestyle changes.

Please call 828-649-0278. If you wish to order or would like a free copy of our informative catalog that includes our Dragon HerbaDrops, as well as all of our Hope for Health products, please call 1-800-468-7884.

THE BLESSED CHANGE

Once I was blind; no cheering ray
Brought light or comfort unto me,
Till Jesus met me in the way,
Touched my dimmed eyes—and now I see.

Once I was poor—an outcast driven,
In want and wretchedness; but now
Joint-heir of Christ of earth and heaven,
A glorious crown awaits my brow.

Once, in vile rags, forlorn and bare,
I walked, nor cared for better dress;
Now rich and costly robes I wear,
Clothed in my Saviour's righteousness.

Once fainting on life's dreary road,
I toiled, hope, strength, and courage gone;
Now Jesus takes my weighty load,
And I with lightened heart speed on.

Once all my days were sad and cold,
The night hours knew my moaning voice;
Now day and night, with joy untold
And full of glory, I rejoice.

—A.U.S., in N.Y. Observer



Hope for Health



If you have tried, or have heard of the benefits of Bitter Melon, then you know that this natural ingredient works wonders! But when we combined it with four other herbs, the results were nothing short of amazing! These natural ingredients compliment each other and work powerfully together to help improve the health of the pancreas, aid digestion, and help maintain a healthy blood sugar balance.

Bitter Melon **Plus**

BITTER MELON: Bitter melon, also known as balsam pear, is a tropical vegetable widely cultivated in Asia, Africa and South America, and has been used extensively around the world as a natural remedy to help maintain healthy blood sugar levels.

- In Turkey it has been used as a folk remedy for a variety of ailments, particularly stomach complaints.
- Studies indicate that bitter melon may help protect the heart and nervous system by reducing inflammation throughout the body.
- Studies suggest that bitter melon may play a role in controlling the production of insulin by the body, thus promoting healthy blood sugar control. Some of the documented studies show this bitter fruit to enhance cells' uptake of glucose, to promote insulin release, and to make the effect of insulin more potent.
- Bitter melon has an "exercise-like" effect on the body! When you exercise, it activates an enzyme called AMPK (a protein well known for regulating fuel metabolism and enabling glucose uptake) in muscle, which in turn, helps move glucose transporters to the cell surface.

ANAMÚ: A member of the pokeweed family and also known as petiveria alliacea, this Peruvian herb has a wide variety of health benefits!

- It is known for helping stimulate, strengthen, and nourish the kidneys and pancreas.
- It helps reduce blood platelet clumping, improving circulation throughout the body, particularly when there are circulatory issues.
- It is a potent immune system stimulator, benefiting people who tend to have weakened immune systems.
- Many studies show that this herb is highly effective at promoting healthy blood sugar levels.

NOPAL CACTUS LEAVES: Also called prickly pear cactus, this plant has a variety of health benefits such as helping: repair bones, reduce pain, aid weight loss, support healthy pancreas function, and nourish the digestive system! It has been found in many studies to help promote and maintain healthy and stable blood

sugar levels. It is little wonder that nopal is able to exert so many therapeutic actions considering it is packed full of essential nutrients! It contains vitamins A, B1, B2, B3, and C, in addition to the minerals potassium, calcium, magnesium and iron. Also present are 18 amino acids in the form of easily digestible protein.

ALFALFA: Known in ancient Middle Eastern countries as being "the father of all foods", alfalfa is rich in calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, niacin, protein, riboflavin, vitamins A, D, E, and K and contains more mineral components than any other plant studied! The roots grow deep, often more than 20 feet, bringing nutrients up from deep within the earth. Alfalfa has a mild blood purifying action, reduces inflammation, and is rich in both the major and trace minerals that build blood oxygen levels and tissue integrity. It is alkalizing and detoxifying. This herb is known to have an action that rebuilds cardiovascular integrity and tone, has tissue and blood-building minerals which enrich the blood, and helps reduce blood-clotting.

Price:

100 caplets.....\$11.99

Suggested Adult Usage:

- 1 caplet, two to three times a day (about 30 minutes before each meal) or as needed.

WARNINGS: Do not take if you are pregnant. Anamú and Bitter Melon can cause the uterus to contract, which could harm your unborn baby. This herb also has a mild blood thinning effect on the body. Individuals with blood disorders or on blood thinning products should consult their doctor before taking this herbal supplement.

To Order Call Today:

1-800-468-7884 or visit us on the web at:

www.hopeforhealthusa.com

*Prices listed above do not include shipping and handling or sales tax

We have many other health products besides these advertised. Please call for a free catalog of all our health care supplements. 1-800-468-7884

*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.



Combining nature, faith, and love to bring health to the world.

Ellen White's *Vision*

To the "Little Flock"

Dear Brethren: The Lord gave me a view, January 26, 1850, which I will relate. I saw that some of the people of God are stupid and dormant and but half awake; they do not realize the time we are now living in, and that the man with the "dirt brush" has entered, and that some are in danger of being swept away. I begged of Jesus to save them, to spare them a little longer, and let them see their awful danger, that they might get ready before it should be forever too late. The angel said, "Destruction is coming like a mighty whirlwind." I begged of the angel to pity and to save those who loved this world, who were attached to their possessions and were not willing to cut loose from them and sacrifice to speed the messengers on their way to feed the hungry sheep who were perishing for want of spiritual food.

Soon it will be too late to sacrifice earthly goods

As I viewed poor souls dying for want of the present truth, and some who professed to believe the truth were letting them die by withholding the necessary means to carry forward the work of God, the sight was too painful, and I begged of the angel to remove it from me. I saw that when the cause of God called for some of their property, like the young man who came to Jesus (Matthew 19:16-22) they went away sorrowful, and that soon the overflowing scourge would pass over and sweep their possessions all away, and then it would be too late to sacrifice earthly goods, and lay up a treasure in heaven.

I then saw the glorious Redeemer, beautiful and lovely;



that He left the realms of glory and came to this dark and lonely world to give His precious life and die, the just for the unjust. He bore the cruel mocking and scourging, wore the plaited crown of thorns, and sweat great drops of blood in the garden, while the burden of the sins of the whole world was upon Him. The angel asked, "What

for?" Oh, I saw and knew that it was for us; for our sins He suffered all this, that by His precious blood He might redeem us unto God!

Those who are not interested in the cause of God on earth can never enter heaven

Then again was held up before me those who were not willing to dispose of this world's goods to save perishing souls by sending them the truth while Jesus stands before the Father pleading His blood, His sufferings, and His death for them; and while God's messengers are waiting, ready to carry them the saving truth that they might be sealed with the seal of the living God. It is hard for some who profess to believe the present truth to do even so little as to hand the messengers God's own money that He has lent them to be stewards over.

The suffering Jesus, His love so deep as to lead Him to give His life for man, was again held up before me; also the lives of those who professed to be His followers, who had this world's goods, but considered it so great a thing to help the cause of salvation. The angel said, "Can such enter heaven?" Another angel answered, "No, never, never, never. Those who are not interested in the cause of God on earth can never sing the song of redeeming love above." I saw that the quick work that God was doing on the earth would soon be cut short in righteousness and that the messengers must speed swiftly on their way to search out the scattered flock. An angel said, "Are all messengers?" Another answered, "No, no; God's messengers have a message."

All will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for truth

I saw that the cause of God had been hindered and dishonored by some traveling who had no message from



God. Such will have to give an account to God for every dollar they have used in traveling where it was not their duty to go, because that money might have helped on the cause of God; and for the lack of the spiritual food that might have been given them by God's called and chosen messengers, had they had the means, souls have starved and died. I saw that those who have strength to labor with their hands and help sustain the cause were as accountable for their strength as others were for their property. The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth and to sacrifice for God and His cause. The angel said, "Think ye that any will be compelled to sacrifice? No, no. It must be a freewill offering. It will take all to buy the field." I cried to God to spare His people, some of whom were fainting and dying. Then I saw that the judgments of the Almighty were speedily coming, and I begged of the angel to speak in his language to the people. Said he, "All the thunders and lightnings of Mount Sinai would not move those who will not be moved by the plain truths of the Word of God, neither would an angel's message awake them."

I then beheld the beauty and loveliness of Jesus. His robe was whiter than the whitest white. No language can describe His glory and exalted loveliness. All, all who keep the commandments of God, will enter in through the gates into the city and have right to the tree of life and ever be in the presence of the lovely Jesus, whose countenance shines brighter than the sun at noonday.

The tree of life was to perpetuate immortality

I was pointed to Adam and Eve in Eden. They partook of the forbidden tree and were driven from the garden, and then the flaming sword was placed around the tree of life, lest they should



partake of its fruit and be immortal sinners. The tree of life was to perpetuate immortality. I heard an angel ask, "Who of the family of Adam have passed the flaming sword and have partaken of the tree of life?" I heard another angel answer, "Not one of Adam's family has passed that flaming sword and partaken of that tree; therefore there is not an immortal sinner. The soul that sinneth it shall die an everlasting death--a death that will last forever, from which there will be no hope of a resurrection; and then the wrath of God will be appeased.

"The saints will rest in the Holy City and reign as kings and priests one thousand years; then Jesus will descend with the saints upon the Mount of Olives, and the mount will part asunder and become a mighty plain for the Paradise of God to rest upon. The rest of the earth will not be cleansed until the end of the one thousand years, when the wicked dead are raised, and gather up around the city. The feet of the wicked will never desecrate the earth made new. Fire will come down from God out of heaven and devour them--burn them up root and branch. Satan is the root, and his children are the branches. The same fire that will devour the wicked will purify the earth."



EW 51

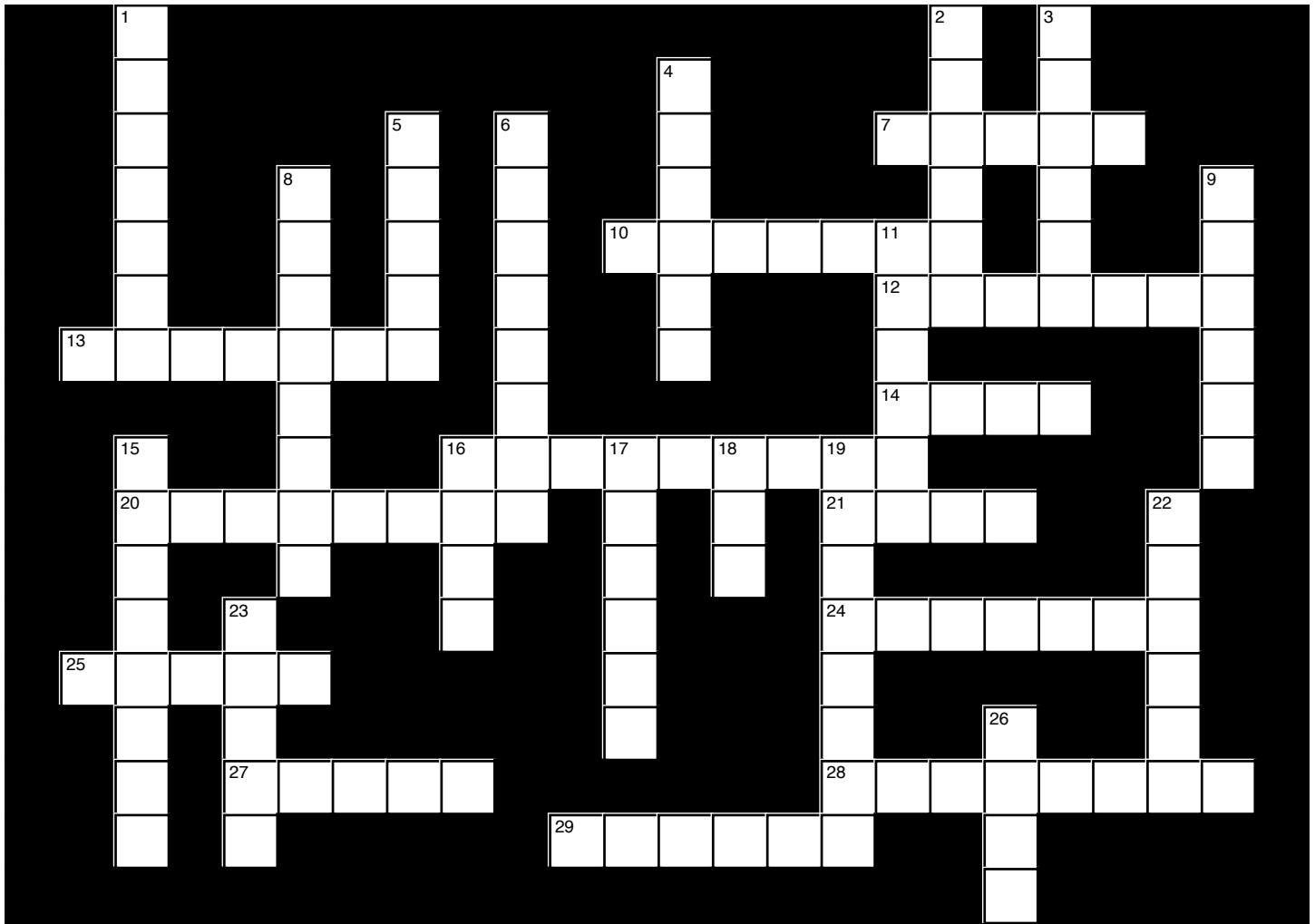
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• **To destinations outside the USA:** Actual shipping rate will be charged. **Sales tax:** North Carolina residents, please add 6.75%. **All money sent must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.**

Christian Crossword



ACROSS

- 7. A son of Zebedee
- 10. The age at which Uzziah ascended the throne of Judah
- 12. Called to life from the tomb by Jesus
- 13. A champion of the Philistines killed by David
- 14. The last of the New Testament epistles
- 16. Her beauty drove David to adultery and murder
- 20. Esther's name
- 21. A Benjaminite that assassinated King Eglon of Moab
- 24. The wife of King Ahab
- 25. The father of Abraham
- 27. David's oldest son
- 28. "God is with us"—the Hebrew
- 29. Jacob's eldest son

DOWN

- 1. And the walls came tumbling down
- 2. The wife of Herod Antipas' steward Chuza
- 3. Aaron's third son
- 4. A Philistine king of Gath
- 5. He died when he touched the ark
- 6. A wife of Moses
- 8. A high priest that presided over the first trial of Jesus
- 9. The first wife of King Ahasuerus
- 11. The first great prophet of the northern kingdom of Israel
- 15. A grandson of Aaron
- 16. A Canaanite god

- 17. The messenger god and herald of Zeus
- 18. One who helped hold up the hands of Moses during Moses
- 19. A full brother to Joseph, a son of Jacob
- 22. Danced at the birthday banquet of her stepfather who was king
- 23. Widowed when Judah's oldest son died
- 26. The firstborn son of Adam and Eve

Answers from Christian Crossword published in the May 2015 issue of Our Firm Foundation

