

The Trial of Our Faith

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, April 8, 1880

God leads his people on, step by step. He brings them into positions which are calculated to reveal the motives of the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advance step the heart is tested, and tried a little closer. If any find their hearts opposed to the straight work of God, it should convince them that they have a work to do in overcoming, or they will be finally rejected of the Lord.

This world is the place in which to prepare to appear in God's presence. Individuals will here show what power affects their hearts, and controls their actions. If it is the power of divine truth, it will lead them to good works, and make them noble-hearted and generous, like their divine Lord. But, on the other hand, selfishness, covetousness, and pride will manifest themselves as the sure result of yielding to evil impulses.

All who become connected with the cause of God will have opportunity to know what is in their hearts. If they prize anything higher than the truth, their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus, and he is consequently shut out. If individuals, when tested, refuse to sacrifice their idols, and overcome selfishness, pride, and evil passions, it will be said of them as of Ephraim of old, They are joined to their idols, let them alone;¹ and the Spirit of God will leave them with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels.

Many who profess to be Christ's followers are unwilling to closely examine their own hearts, to see whether they have passed from death unto life. Some lean upon an old experience, seeming to think a mere profession of the truth will save them; but God's word reveals the terrible fact that all such are cherishing a false hope. It would be more pleasing to God if such professors of religion had never taken his name, since they are a continual stumbling block to unbelievers, and evil angels exult over their crooked course. Such are a curse to the cause at home or abroad. They draw nigh to God with their lips, while their hearts are far from him.² When those sins which God hates are subdued, then Jesus will come into their hearts, and they may commune with him; they may increase in divine strength day by day, and be able with holy triumph to say, "Blessed be God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."³

The people of God should not imitate the fashions of the world. All who do this will gradually lose that peculiar, holy character which should distinguish

them as God's people. In these last days some of the fashions are shameful and immodest. If God's professed people had not greatly departed from him, there would now be a marked difference between their dress and that of the world. We are living in a time when earth's inhabitants are growing more and more corrupt, and the line of distinction must be more plain between them and the Israel of God, or the curse which falls upon worldlings will fall on God's professed people.

The following scriptures furnish clear and unmistakable directions for those who would learn God's will: "In like manner also that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shame-facedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."⁴ "Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time, the holy women also who trusted in God, adorned themselves."⁵

Young and old, God is now testing you. You are now deciding your own eternal destiny. Pride, fashion, empty conversation, and selfishness are evils which, if fostered, will increase, and choke the good seed sown in your hearts, till soon the word will be spoken concerning you, as was said of Eli's house, that your sins shall not be purged with sacrifices nor offerings forever.⁶ Oh, that every lukewarm professor could realize what will be required of him, in order to pass the close and searching test of the Judgment. Dear readers, do not deceive yourselves concerning your condition. You cannot deceive God. Says the True Witness, "I know thy works."⁷

The sin of this age is disregard of God's express commands. The power of influence in a wrong direction is very great. Yet there are those who recklessly place themselves in scenes of danger and peril, and expose themselves to temptations, out of which it would require a miracle of God to bring them unharmed and untainted. These are presumptuous acts, with which God is not pleased. Satan's temptation to the Saviour of the world to cast himself from the pinnacle of the temple, was firmly met and resisted. The arch-enemy quoted a promise of God as security, that Christ might with safety do this on the strength of the promise. Jesus met this temptation with Scripture: "It

4. 1 Tim. 2:9, 10

5. 1 Pet. 3:3-5

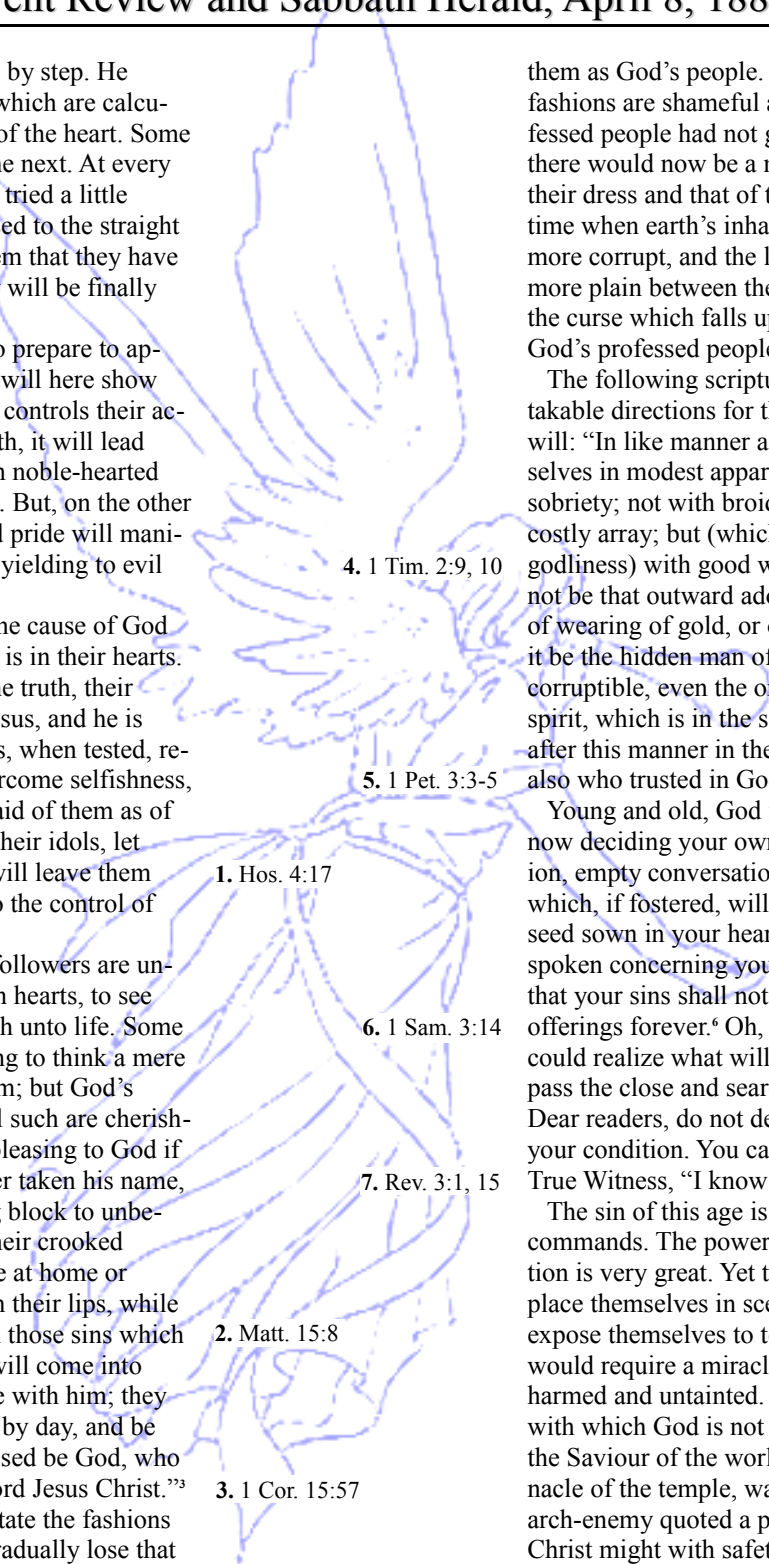
1. Hos. 4:17

6. 1 Sam. 3:14

7. Rev. 3:1, 15

2. Matt. 15:8

3. 1 Cor. 15:57



is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”⁸ In the same way Satan urges men into places where God does not require them to go, presenting Scripture to justify his suggestions.

The precious promises of God are not given to strengthen man in a presumptuous course, or for him to rely upon when he rushes needlessly into danger. God requires us to move with a humble dependence upon his providence. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.⁹ Nothing can be done prosperously without the permission and blessing of God. He can set his hand to prosper and bless, or he can turn his hand against us. “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.”¹⁰ We are required, as children of God, to maintain the consistency of our Christian character. We should exercise prudence, caution, and humility, and walk circumspectly toward them that are without. Yet we are not in any case to surrender principle.

8. Matt. 4:7

11. 2 Cor. 11:14

9. Jer. 10:23

10. Psa. 37:5

12. Jam. 4:7

Our only safety is in giving no place to the devil; for his suggestions and purposes are ever to injure us, and hinder us from relying upon God. He transforms himself into an angel of purity,¹¹ that he may, through his specious temptations, introduce his devices in such a manner that we may not discern his wiles. The more we yield, the more powerful will be his deceptions over us. It is unsafe to controvert or to parley with him. For every advantage we give the enemy, he will claim more. Our only safety is to reject firmly the first insinuation to presumption. God has given us grace through the merits of Christ sufficient to withstand Satan, and be more than conquerors. Resistance is success. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”¹² Resistance must be firm and steadfast. We lose all we gain if we resist today only to yield tomorrow.

by Mrs. E. G. White

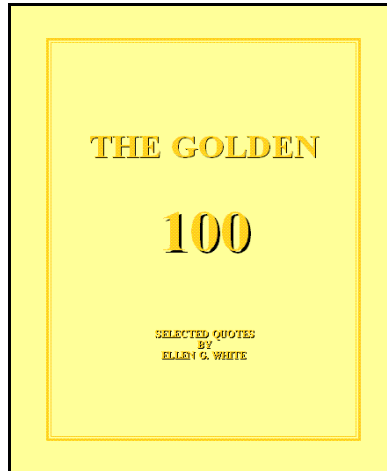
Editorial

We have good news about a new Seventh-day Remnant church being raised up in Kenya who have come out from the SDA church. Our Ugandan worker has visited with the worker from there and is expected to visit with him again soon in order to help get things setup. You can read about this experience both in the letters section on page 8 and in the June 19, 2011, Kenya mission report on page 15.

We have already been told that this would happen! “I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. “...The light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.” EW 261. This is the Loud Cry of the third angels message!

The SDRPA has a new book available entitled “The Golden 100.” It consists of 100 selected quotes by Ellen G. White regarding the apostasy in the SDA church. It

is spiral bound, is about thirty pages and is formatted with a 16 point font so it will make a handy reference for mission workers in the field. We are asking a suggested donation of \$7.50 for each copy.



We would like to bring to the attention of our readers some of the needs of the mission workers that we are currently supporting both in Colombia and in Uganda.

In Colombia our worker has been oper-

ating a present truth TV program since May 2006 called “It’s Written,” which covers several cities. He lives three hours from the city where he does the program each Sabbath and would not have to do all the traveling if he had a video camera at his home. That would save him lots of time and money on traveling expenses and enable him to do more programs with several themes. It will cost about \$9,000US dollars to purchase a quality video camera in Colombia.

In Uganda our worker is involved in all sorts of work. He is involved in the translation work for the people in Rwanda and the Congo, printing, evangelism and camp-meetings, etc. He needs a Public Address System (PAS) for holding camp-meetings. This will cost \$600US dollars.

If you would like to donate toward these mission needs it would be greatly appreciated. Please be sure to specify where you would like your donation to be applied and 100% of your donation will go where specified. Thank you!

Editor

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BOOK AVAILABLE!

The SDRPA is offering the book “The Last Day Events” (non conference edition) for a suggested donation of \$13.00 US. In this spiral bound book you will find over 200 pages of unpublished letters and manuscripts of E.G. White concerning the last days. **English & Spanish** versions available! Also some earlier Voice articles are now available in Spanish!

ARE YOU COVERED?

Continued

Now the Bible stated that “God imputeth righteousness without works” to us. The Greek word “imputeth” is #3049 and it means to “conclude, account or reckon.” So when we sincerely confess and repent of our sins, God imputes righteousness to us. He does not conclude, account or reckon that we are still sinful, but that we are indeed righteous. And this merciful action of God is all provided to us as a gift!

Yet, even though this precious robe of righteousness is free to us, without money and without cost, did it cost the Lord Jesus anything to be able to cover us with it? Yes indeed—it cost Him His life! Why?

“The wages of sin is death.”¹

What is sin?

“Sin is the transgression of the law.”²

And so what is going to happen to all who break God’s 10 commandment law and commit sin on this earth? They will die an everlasting death.

“Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.”³

Now the Scriptures reveal to us all a very amazing fact of truth. This fact is the truth that Christ is the Creator of all men and women on this earth!⁴ So Christ is our Creator, and we therefore are His creation! But since we chose to commit sin and now deserve death and will be destroyed, what did our Creator do? Did Christ just stand idly by in heaven and watch all of His creation hopelessly wandering around just waiting for the penalty of sin to be executed against them at any time by God? No. So what did our Creator do?

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”⁵

How did Christ come into the world to save us sinners?

He as born through the lineage of Abraham and David to a human mother named Mary, and the God of heaven was His Father.⁶ Jesus also partook of all the same passions and infirmities common to fallen humanity.⁷ So quite amazingly, Jesus—our Creator—lowered Himself to become one of His creation, in order to save us sinners.

Now, how did Jesus live while on this earth in order to save us sinners?

Jesus Christ never once gave in to these passions or infirmities of His human nature, but overcame all the evils that are common to this world, and never once committed sin.⁸ He did always those things that pleased God, and thus He could say in truth that those who had seen Him, had actually seen the character of God the Father being manifested.⁹

As all this is true, then how would Christ try and save us sinners?

“...I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners

10. Matt. 9:13 to repentance.”¹⁰

So Christ would try to save all the sinners on this earth by calling them to repentance from their sins. But how would repentance from their sins save them from the penalty of death for having already sinned?

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.”¹¹

11. John 12:32-33

“...he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all... He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth... Thou shall make his soul an offering for sin... He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”¹²

1. Rom. 6:23

2. 1 John 3:4

3. Isa. 13:9

12. Isa. 53:5-11

4. (see John 1:1-3; Heb. 1:1-3)

13. Matt. 1:21

14. John 8:36

“...and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”¹³

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”¹⁴

So Jesus would draw all men and women unto Him—He would draw you and me unto him—by bearing our sins and iniquities, offering up and sacrificing His life by dying on the cross, thus suffering our punishment. Jesus then was resurrected from the grave and ascended to heaven¹⁵ so that He could then offer His spilt blood to atone for and wash away our sins,¹⁶ and then offer His sinless righteous life as a covering for our past sinful unrighteous life! And all this He offers to us free for the taking! So all who would accept this free gift could be set free from their sins and be saved from death and destruction!

But who is guilty of putting Christ on the cross and crucifying Him? All who have chosen to sin. If no one would have sinned, then Christ would not have needed to die to pay the penalty for their sins. So then because we have chosen to sin, then you and I are also guilty of killing Christ! And if you think about it, since Christ is our Creator, then we are guilty of killing the One who gave us life! What a horrible and solemn thought! So then who gave Christ the nail prints in His hands and caused Him to suffer all that He did? You and me!

“And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”¹⁷

Oh dear ones, we were supposed to be the closest friends of Christ—for no other reason than just be-

15. (Matt. 28:1-7; Acts 1:1-11)

5. 1 Tim. 1:15

16. (Matt. 26:28; Col. 1:14; Psa. 51:2-3, 7; Rev. 1:5)

6. (see Luke 1:31-35; Rom. 1:3)

7. (see Heb. 2:14-18, 4:15)

8. (Matt. 16:33; John 8:46; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:19; John 8:28-29)

9. (John 8:20, 28-29, 14:9)

17. Zech. 13:6

cause He is our Creator who gave us life! And yet, we—His supposed friends—killed Him! Since Christ knew this beforehand, then why would our Creator choose to voluntarily come down to this dark world to save those who were going to kill him?

“...Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.”¹⁸

“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you... Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”¹⁹

So because of His great love for you and me, Christ came to this earth, was born a human, lived among us and was indeed one of us and thus felt all that we do, including when we are tempted to sin. Yet He resisted all temptations and never once committed sin. He then died on the cross, spilling His blood in full payment for our penalty for sin. All this so that we could have our repentant sins forgiven and become justified, have our filthy garments removed and be clothed with His pure robe, having His righteousness imputed or placed on our account, and making us as if we had never committed sin! All this merciful kindness was provided because of Christ’s infinite love for you and me—because he sees us as His friends.

But more than this dear ones.

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God...”²⁰

Christ went through all that He did so that we could have the privilege and honor of being brought back to, and be, accepted by God!

Since this precious robe of Christ’s righteousness is given to repentant sinners for free, without money and without cost and without works, but comes to us as a gift, then is this a gift we can see? No, it is a gift that we cannot feel or see.

Since we cannot see or touch this gift, but it is placed on our account or imputed unto us, then how do we know that it is a real gift? We must believe that we have received it, we must believe that all our sins are really forgiven and that we are justified and stand before God clothed in His Son’s righteousness as if we have never sinned! And we must believe that the Father accepts us in His Son’s righteousness! This takes faith. The Bible calls this process Justification by Faith²¹ and Righteousness by Faith.²² And God will indeed accept us as His own son or daughter, not because we are worthy, but because we are clothed with the precious covering of His Son’s righteousness!

This wonderful act of mercy and love is beautifully portrayed in real life. Anciently, when baby lambs are born to mother sheep, the animals of prey are well aware of this time. And as can sometimes happen, they will hunt down and kill a baby lamb leaving its mother childless, and will also kill a mother sheep leaving its baby lamb an orphan. So now you have a childless mother sheep, and an orphan baby lamb within the same flock. The childless mother, of course, will continuously call out for her lamb child to return from its wandering back to her side, but no corresponding answer comes back to her. And, the orphan lamb will continuously call out pleading for its mother, but no answer comes either.

18. Eph. 5:2

19. John 15:9

20. 1 Pet. 3:18

23. Isa. 59:1-2

21. (Rom. 3:28, 5:1; Gal. 2:16, 3:24)

22. (see Rom. 3:22, 9:30, 10:6; Gal. 5:5; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 11:7)

Now you would think that it would be quite an easy matter for the shepherd to connect these two unfortunate victims together, and both would then be happy. But such is not the case at all. No matter how hard the orphan lamb tries to connect itself with this mother sheep, she refuses to accept the orphan as her own son or daughter lamb. And why? Because it does not smell the same as her precious and only child. In this sad state, the orphan lamb will not survive. But all hope is not yet gone, because there is still one last chance that this orphan lamb can be saved from certain death.

What the shepherd is forced to do is to take the dead child lamb and skin it, then take its wool and cover the orphan lamb with it. And then something truly amazing and marvelous takes place. The mother sheep will not look or investigate beneath the covering, but out of pure joy and relief she will instantly accept this orphan as her own child, will protect it, will feed it and raise it as her own child, all because she recognizes that it has the same smell as her precious child.

This true life occurrence beautifully portrays the gospel and plan of our salvation. Isaiah tells us:

“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”²³

So because of sin a gulf or chasm opened up between us and God the Father and all connection was cut off. There was absolutely nothing that we ourselves could do to provide a way to bridge this gulf and reconnect ourselves with our Father because the stain of sin was upon us—showing us that we are not His children, but are children of someone else—children of the wicked one. So even though the Father would be calling for us to come home, yet He could not recognize us as being His children because of our sins. Thus we were all doomed to wander until we lost our lives. It was then that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, stepped in and willingly chose to sacrifice His life so that all who desired to be reconnected with their heavenly Father could have the stain of sin removed from them, and then be covered with His precious righteousness. The Father would then immediately accept them back as being His own children without investigating beneath the covering, because He recognizes His Son.

Oh dear ones, this amazing plan of our redemption and salvation shows us very clearly that it is not just Christ who loves us tremendously by dying in order to provide us with forgiveness and with His robe of righteousness. But that God the Father loves us tremendously as well! And you know something: God is not just sitting up in heaven waiting to execute all who have chosen to sin. But He is intensely earnest that all should accept His Son and be saved.

“O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and

live: turn ye, turn ye from you evil ways; for why will ye die?...²⁴

So God the Father is not just waiting to execute judgments upon the head of us sinners. He does not delight or take pleasure in the wicked dying. He is very earnest that all should repent of their sins and find life.

But it is even more than this! Did you know that Christ was not the One who developed this plan for our salvation? Although Christ agreed to carry out the will of God, yet it was the Father who came up with this glorious and amazing plan in order to bring us back together again!

“Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire... Burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I (Jesus Christ), Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God...”²⁵

“...God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”²⁶

So it was the Father who came up with the plan of our salvation! He is the One who sent His Son into the world so that we might be saved from sin and death! So the Father is very earnest that we all should repent of our sins, be clothed with His Son’s righteousness and be saved from destruction. In fact, He is so earnest and actively involved in the plan of our salvation, that when one sinner finally decides to repent of their sins, and accept the free gift of justification and righteousness, that He lifts up His melodious voice and sings for joy!

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”²⁷

“The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty, he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy. He will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.”²⁸

But you know dear ones, the Father’s love for us, and His desire for us to be saved from our sins through His Son’s righteousness, goes even farther than this! Christ revealed a story about a wayward son who was finally coming to his senses and realizing how greatly he had sinned against his father. Christ further revealed that when this wayward son decided to come back home, he feared that his father would not accept him back because he had been such a great sinner. Yet he stirred himself up and decided to try anyway. Christ then continues:

“And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe and put it on him...For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.”²⁹

So how much love does the Father have for you? It was out of infinite love for you that the Father de-

24. Eze. 33:11

25. Psa. 40:5-8

(see also Heb. 10:4-9)

26. 1 John 4:9

30. Jer. 31:3

31. John 3:16

32. 1 John 4:10

27. Luke 15:7

28. Zeph. 3:17

33. Rom. 5:6-10

34. 1 John 3:1

29. Luke 15:20-24

veloped this glorious plan for your salvation. It was out of infinite love for you that the Father willingly allowed His only begotten and precious Son to die at your hands—the very person He was trying to bring back to Him as His son or daughter. The Father could not bear the thought of losing you, and so He was willing to sacrifice His most precious possession—His Son Jesus Christ—in order to bring you back to Him so that you might be covered with the best robe—the robe of righteousness!

What love is this!! Love that is beyond all human measure and understanding!! Just think about it: How much love would it take for you to be willing to allow those who murdered your son to become part of your family? And if you did allow them to join your family, how much love would it take for you to really and truly look upon and accept them as your sons and daughters? And yet, when we truly confess and repent of our sins, the Father accepts His Son’s sacrifice as payment of our debt, and His Son’s spilt blood as forgiveness and washing away of our sins! And the Father will not look beneath the robe of Christ’s righteousness covering us to see the sinners and murderers that we once were, but He gladly and joyfully accepts us or adopts us as truly being His sons and daughters who have finally come back home!

So how much does God the Father love you?

“The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”³⁰

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”³¹

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (or atonement) for our sins.”³²

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us... For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”³³

“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God.”³⁴

Since both the Father and Christ have revealed such immense love for you and me, in that while we were yet sinners who did not love either of Them, and were even enemies to Them both, God still sent His Son to die for us: then the real question is: Will you, dear one, allow this infinite love to soften your hearts? Will you come to your senses and stir yourselves up to come back to God? Will you confess and repent of all of your sins and accept the free gift? Will you be one of those brands plucked out of the fire? Will you make the Father sing over you with joy because you have come back home to be lovingly embraced with His strong and protecting arms? Will you make the righteousness of Christ your own by faith? (*To be continued*)

Bob Sessler

Children's Story—*The Forbidden Book*

Psalm 27

Pastor Henschel owned the only Bible in the village of Rauberg. Five hundred years ago, Bibles were very expensive and there wasn't enough money in the entire Austrian village to buy one. But Peter Henschel had been given the Bible by an Italian scholar, who had also taught him to read. The words of scripture filled his heart with love for God and for his fellow men.

Pastor Henschel felt very privileged to be able to share this precious possession with others. "You are welcome to borrow the Good Book, my friend," he said to anyone who asked for it, "Only give it the best care so that it will be in good condition for a long time." The Book had never been returned with so much as a speck of dust on it. It was held reverently and treated gently by everyone in the village.

But then, one day, there came an edict from the king. The edict forbade the reading or even the possessing of a Bible.

After the edict was posted in Rauberg, pastor Henschel kept the Book hidden in a secret place and it was only read during the night.

One night, he got out the Bible and placed it on the table, after pulling the heavy curtains shut, so no one could look in. He sat down and began to read "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the —"

A heavy pounding sounded at the door. Pastor Henschel placed both hands on the Bible, as if to protect it, and turned toward the door.

"Open the door," he said quietly to his wife. "It is no use to resist. Only the king's soldiers would pound like that."

As soon as she unbolted the door, the soldiers threw it open and burst into the room. The captain took one look at the Bible on the table and yelled, "So! We have caught you at last! In the very act of reading the forbidden book! Give it here,

sir, and save yourself much trouble, and perhaps save your head."

"I will not give up my Bible. Go and tell your king that. Or take me to prison, but I will not give up this book," said pastor Henschel firmly.

"Ha, you don't fear the king, then? It is a dangerous thing not to fear the king!" exclaimed the soldier.

"No, I have no fear of the king! Said Pastor Henschel. "Here, I'll show you why. Here are the words of a king called David."

The soldiers looked at each other in silence. How could this man not fear the king? Did he dare to defy the king? What kind of power could lie in that book to produce such courage?

Then the captain turned red with anger. "Why should I listen to you? I'm here on orders from the king and I intend to obey him!" he yelled.

"But there is one greater than your king and when I have finished reading tonight you can take me wherever you like."

The captain was puzzled. He frowned darkly at the preacher, who sat so calmly before him. He had been carrying out the king's orders for two weeks and had learned a lot during that time. This Book seemed to hold a strange power over those who read it. He had only found three copies and when he had seized and burned them, the people had wept with sorrow. Those who had owned the books had fought so desperately to keep them that he had them bound and thrown into prison. This pastor might not fight, but he had some weapon of resistance. What was it?

"Well, read then, if you must! And be quick about it!" the captain barked.

Pastor Henschel turned back to the Book on the table and began to read aloud. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my

foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear."

When he had finished the captain said, "Let me see those words! Are they really there? Or did you make them up?"

"No, I did not make them up. Have you ever read the Bible?"

"Well, no, the king's men have no time for dillydallying."

"Then, sit down here and read it with your own eyes." invited the pastor.

Eight soldiers, dressed in the stiff uniforms of the king stood around the room. Their fingers growing numb as they clutched drawn swords and waited for their captain. He was so deeply engrossed in reading the Book that he forgot all about the king's men and the king's edict. He read on and on while his men were consumed with curiosity to know what he was finding.

At last he closed the book suddenly and stood up. "You won't part with this Bible?" he asked the preacher.

"No sir, I should say not!" exclaimed the pastor.

"Well, I do not know what I shall tell the king, but keep your Book and may it bless you!" The captain's face was pale and his voice had lost its sharpness as he ordered his men to put up their swords and leave the house.

When he could no longer hear their feet Pastor Henschel laid his hand reverently on the Book and said "God will see that the captain and his men come to no harm. Surely another seed has been planted and soon there will be a time when the Bible won't be forbidden anymore, but will be the best loved and most widely read book in the world."

Adapted from *Our Little Friend*.
by Virginia Markwell

He (Christ) pointed to the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority,
and we should do the same.

The Bible is to be presented as the word of the infinite God,
as the end of all controversy and the foundation of all faith.

Christ's Object Lessons—p 39.

Health Nugget—*Phytic Acid*

Phytic acid in grains, nuts, seeds and beans represents a serious problem in our diets. This problem exists because we try to eat raw and unprocessed “whole foods” in as simple and natural a state as possible, or we eat high bran cereals. But whole and raw is not the best when it comes to grains, nuts, seeds and beans (and even some tubers like yams), nor are quick cooking or rapid heat processes like extrusion.

Phytic acid is a storage form of phosphorus in many plant tissues, especially the bran portion of grains and other seeds. It tightly binds phosphorus in a snowflake like molecule. This means, with our digestive process, it is not really available. In addition other minerals such as calci-

um, magnesium, iron, and zinc are also bound in the “arms” of the phytic acid making them unavailable. These compounds are called phytates.

Not only does phytic acid grab these minerals but it also inhibits enzymes we need to digest our foods: pepsin needed for protein breakdown in the stomach, amylase for the breakdown of starch to sugar, and trypsin for protein digestion in the small intestine.

Consequently we have nutrient deficiencies, tooth decay, lack of appetite, digestive problems, and many other health problems.

To get rid of the phytates in whole wheat bread it needs to rise 3 times. (My brother did his experiments in nutrition science to

discover this. I don't know how many loaves of bread he made to find this out!) For beans, the phytates can be greatly reduced by soaking the beans in acid water (vinegar or lemon juice-or Vitamin C?) for 12 hours before cooking. Raw nuts and seeds should be soaked for 12 hours and then germinated up to 18 hours. Those of us who have had commercially prepared whole grain products, and raw nuts for years run a great risk of protein and mineral deficiencies.

For more information the research data that this article was based on can be found at (<http://www.westonaprice.org/food-features/1893-living-with-phytic-acid.html>).

Jean Johnson

RECIPE—*Carob Coconut Candy*

Ingredients:

½ C—Raw Almond Butter
½ C—Carob Powder
½ C—Honey
1 t—Coffee Substitute (Roma)
2 T—Water

1 C—Raw Quick Oats
1 C—Sunflower Seeds

¼ C—Walnuts
Shredded Coconut

Directions:

- Mix the raw almond butter, carob powder, honey, coffee substitute and water real well with a spoon.
- Then add the quick oats and the sunflower seeds. NOTE: It mixes up better if you grind half of the sunflower seeds (optional).
- Put walnuts in a little plastic bag and use rolling pin to grind them up. Mix some in the candy and sprinkle some on top.
- Mix up well, and either press into a glass pan or roll into balls.
- If you roll into balls, roll them in the shredded coconut.
- If you are placing into a pan press candy down real well and sprinkle walnuts and coconut on top and press into the candy.
- Place into the refrigerator until ready to serve. It is so great!

by Linda Webb

“A diet of flesh meat tends to develop animalism. A development of animalism lessens spirituality, rendering the mind incapable of understanding truth.”
Review and Herald, May 27, 1902.

—Letters—

KENYA

(Combination of four emails)

Hi, thanks for the good work you are doing. I have been searching for the true remnant church in this (these) last days and it seems as if I have got it (found it). How many branches do you have in Kenya? I live in _____ district, in south _____ province Kenya. Please let me know. Sincerely,

I. O. Kenya

Hi, thanks for the good work you are doing. Did the representative here in Kenya got (get) your email truly? Nobody has contacted me. So kindly you may confirm with them. Looking forward for a positive response. Thanks in anticipation. GOD bless your work.

Sincerely, (**Editor's Note:** The worker in Kenya did not respond, so we got him in contact with our worker in Uganda instead.)

I. O. Kenya

Hi Man of God. How are you doing over there? Here we are okay in blood of our Christ. Yes, thanks a lot for connecting us to your branch in Uganda. I have requested him if possible to meet at _____. I have a team here in _____ district and we have a problem to (with) our worship because we have not find (found) a true remnant church to unite with. So I have tell (told) them about you and your church. And they ask me one thing to ask you. There request is, can we arrange so that we (can) get in a round table talk, you and your officials of the church, so that we can know all about the remnant. (Amos 3:3) If we are one we should teach with one voice everywhere around the world. Please let us know from you and your team. We want you to officiate a branch (church) here near us please. From where we are to Uganda is around \$3.50. It will be very difficult to go and worship there every Sabbath. Thanks in anticipation. GOD bless your work.

Sincerely,

I. O. Kenya

Hi brother thanks a lot for good direction. We met, talked (**Editor's Note:** He met and talked with our worker from Uganda) and come to conclusion that we want to plant a church here in my district. (**Editor's Note:** Dear brethren, we welcome you with open arms to the Seventh-day Remnant movement! Praise God!) The problem I realize is that those who have the truth are not moving. So my big request is, whenever you go on your knees don't leave me behind. I want to start door to door evangelism because that was the work I was doing in SDA (church). And with time I know our God will provide us with public address system, which we can do our rallies and crusades. So my friend just help me (by) praying and let our God be God. Brother ____ gave me some good books to start with. Thanks! Sincerely,

I. O. Kenya

COLOMBIA

Dear brethren, Thank you for all the good information that you send me. Please send me the voice magazine to my e-mail. God bless you.

J.L.G. Colombia

AUSTRALIA

Dear brethren, Glad to have received the below information and Remnant Voice Magazine from you. My husband and myself are flat out organizing and preparing for our yearly camp to be held April 15—18. I am chief cook and bottle washer for around 120 people. When camp is over, and we can relax a little, I would like to send a donation to your ministry. Thank you again! (**Editor's Note:** Thank you for your donation, we appreciate it very much!)

A. & P. M. Australia

MALAWI

Dear the Editor, Am very grateful to receive the appropriate scripture for (from) the Remnant Ministries that I have been looking (for) here in Malawi. How can I access some Spirit of Prophecy books from on the Present Truth message of end time?

The documents sent (Voice Magazine) will be used to proclaim last messages to the people in Malawi.

May the Almighty God bless you for sending me the inspiration work within the Remnant Voice.

Your fellow Christian,

R.K. Malawi

GERMANY

I got mail from you this Sabbath, and was able to read most of the articles in the Voice. The one about Justification by faith was really good! Thank you so much!

M.K. Germany

MALAYSIA

Greetings from Malaysia! Yes, I would like to receive SDR Voice by email in order to help cut postage costs. Keep up the good work! God bless you!

V. F. Malaysia

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dear Mr. Markwell, Thank you so much! Have a great Sabbath and May God richly Bless and Keep you close to Him each day. Please pray that God will help us to get this message out. We are praying for you and your staff that God will continue to use you to share God's Love message to a dying world. Always in Christ,

L., P. & J. New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Markwell, May God richly Bless you, your staff, and family. Could you tell us if there are people in New Hampshire who are studying by themselves? We would love to meet some people and worship with them. We have had our own home church for 18 years. Thank you so much for answering our questions and concerns. (**Editor's Note:** If there is anyone who has a home church in the New Hampshire area and would like to have these sisters in Christ visit, please let me know and I will get you in contact with them.)

L., P. & J. New Hampshire

REVELATION NINE—Reviewed

The Arabian Peninsula, the birthplace of Islam, is one of the hottest and driest regions in the world, consisting mainly of deserts. Since ancient times tribes of the nomadic race have populated the region. Considered the descendents of Noah's third son Shem they are called Semites.

In the sixth century AD, north of the Arabian Peninsula two great powers were locked in a seesaw power struggle. The Christian Byzantine kingdom, successors of the Roman Empire was to the Northwest and controlled the Mediterranean Sea, North Africa and the lands of Palestine. In the northeast lay the Zoroastrian Persian kingdom. Both the Byzantine and Persian kingdoms had client Arab tribes allied to their cause of trade and conquest.

The Arabian Peninsula became a land of refuge for those seeking escape from both of these empires. Heretic Christian sects like the Nestorians, and Jewish tribes escaping the oppressive Byzantines found refuge in the protective deserts and cities of the Peninsula.

Arabia was divided into tribes and cities. Each city had gods and goddess. Once a year the tribes and cities of Arabia would meet in the city of Mecca during an event known as the Hajj. In Mecca, the Kaba (Cube), a large cube shaped building housed 360 idols from all the tribes of Arabia. The Kaba was the center of Arabian religious life. Here all the warring tribes would put aside their differences as they circled the Kaba. From the Kaba they would proceed to the other shrines outside of Mecca during this five day religious event. The Hajj was a tradition that Arabs of the peninsula remembered going back hundreds of years.

MOHAMMAD

It was in this world Mohammad Ibn Abdallah was born in the year 570 AD in the city of Mecca. His father died before he was born and his mother Amina died when he was 6 years old. Al-Muttalib his grandfather took charge of the youth and died 2 years later. Abu Talib his uncle adopted young Mohammad into his family and raised him as his own son. At the age of 12, young Mohammad was taken on a caravan-trading venture to Syria and experienced the world outside of Arabia for the first time. Here Islamic tradition informs us that a Christian monk named Buhaira, proclaimed Talib's young nephew is the last prophet and warns him about the Jews. For the next 13 years little is known of his life except that he was involved in caravan trading in and out of Arabia.

At the age of 25, Mohammad marries a 40 year old wealthy, widow named Khadijah who owns trading caravans. She was twice widowed and reported to have spent time as a Roman Catholic nun. During the next 15 years of his life he interacts with Arabs known as the Hanefites. Hanefites were Arabs who rejected idol worship and were searching for the true religion. They looked to the religion of the Jews and

Christians as being close to the goal. The Hanefites abandoned their idols and would retreat to the caves of Mecca in meditation and prayer.

At age 40 Mohammad had his first vision in the year 610 AD. He was in a cave on Mt. Hera and thought he was demon possessed. He went to Khadijah and told her about the event. She consulted with her uncle Waraca, a Hanefite who converted to Christianity, who assured them Mohammad vision was from God. Waraca declared Mohammad was a prophet to the Arab peoples, Waraca died 2 years later never becoming a Muslim.

Mohammad proclaimed Allah as the one true god and rejected the idol worship of Mecca. Khadijah, his wife, was Mohammad's first convert to Islam. Few listened to Mohammad's message and animosity grew against him as he confronted the idol worshippers and preached his religion to Mecca. Abu Talib, his uncle and his tribe, the Hasims, protected him during this early Meccan period. In 619 Khadijah, his wife, and Abu Talib, his uncle, died. Abu Talib headed the Hasim clan, of which Mohammad was a member. The new leader of the Hasim tribe his uncle, Abu Lahab, refused to protect Mohammad. During the next 3 years Mohammad would fear for his life. He sought refuge and protection in nearby cities from those seeking his life.

Then in 621 during the Hajj, Arab tribes from the city of Yathrib later to be called Medina, came for the annual pilgrimage. They met Mohammad and thought him to be a prophet and invited him to their city to bring peace and settle disputes between the warring tribes. Yathrib was founded by three Jewish tribes and the idea of monotheism was familiar to its Arab tribesmen. The Arabs of Medina had been told by Jewish tribesmen about the coming Messiah who would one day conquer the world including the Arabs. The Arab tribes hoped to find this individual before the Jews. Meeting Mohammad they thought he was the one.

THE HEJIRA (FLIGHT)

The next year the situation became intolerable for the Muslims and in June, 622, they made what has become known as the Hejira or flight. In small groups the 150 Muslims of Mecca left for the city of Medina 280 miles to the north. When word reached those of Mecca about the escape to Medina they tried to kill Mohammad. Mohammad and Abu Bakr were able to sneak out of the city and escape to Medina by another route in September, 622.

In Medina the warring Arab tribes submitted to Mohammad leadership and prophet-hood. The Jewish tribes rejected his claims of prophet and ridiculed his revelations. With most of the new arrivals from Mecca without work they needed to earn a living. Ghazu or caravan raiding was a way tribes would prevent one tribe from becoming too powerful. The Muslims in Medina began to rob the caravans head-

ing toward Mecca. This is where the Muslim doctrine of Jihad was created.

With their caravan business being threatened, Mecca responds with one thousand soldiers at the battle of Bedr in March, 624, the Muslims fielded 300 warriors. The battle went to the Muslims. Mohammad proclaimed his victory was a sign from Allah and his status in Medina was magnified. The lack of enthusiasm by one of the Jewish tribes caused them to be expelled by the victorious Muslim army. The direction of prayer was also changed from Jerusalem to Mecca as the Jews rejected Mohammad's prophet-hood.

Exactly one year later Mecca amassed 3,000 soldiers at the battle of Uhud and the Muslims fielded 1,000 soldiers. The battle did not go as planned. The Muslims defeated by Mecca retreated to Medina. Disheartened, Muslims blamed the second Jewish tribe as conspirators against their cause. Their homes and possessions were confiscated, and they are expelled from the city in 626 AD.

The Meccans in the hope of ending the caravan raids by the Muslims assembled 10,000 soldiers to attack the city of Medina in the year 627. After a two weeks siege in the hot sun they are unable to penetrate the fortress like city. They returned to Mecca. After this unsuccessful attack, Mohammad and the Muslims attacked the last remaining Jewish tribe. The tribe surrendered to the mercy of Mohammad. The men were killed and the women and children were sold into slavery.

The Muslims then begin to consolidate their power with the surrounding Arab tribes and cities.

Mecca began to feel the economic impact of its trading losses and Mohammad's power grew in the north. They reluctantly signed the 10 year Hudaibiah peace agreement with Mohammad and the Muslims in March, 628. Muslims are allowed to return to Mecca and worship at the Kaba once a year. The people of Mecca would leave their city so the Muslims could come and worship.

Two years later, in January, 630, Mohammad leads 10,000 warriors to Mecca and nullifies the treaty of Hudaibiah because Muslims have been killed. The city submits to Mohammad and his warriors and accepts him as prophet. Mohammad goes to the Kaba and destroys the 360 idols in the structure. From Mecca, the "Muslims" wage Jihad on the surrounding cities forcing them to accept Islam as their religion and Mohammad as their prophet.

Mohammad made his final Hajj in 632 and died unexpectedly 3 months later in June. His friend and father in law Abu Bakr (Father of Aisha) succeeded him as leader of the Muslims

AFTER MOHAMMAD

Abu Bakr received the title "Caliph" or successor of Mohammad. There was a struggle over who would succeed Mohammad, some felt Ali the husband of Fatima, Mohammad's daughter deserved the position. Under Abu Bakr Islam's power in the Arabian peninsula was completed. In 634 AD Abu Bakr died and was succeeded by Umar (Omar) the 2nd Caliphate.

Umar advanced the Muslim armies against Syria and Palestine. In 637 AD, the armies of Byzantium

lost control of Jerusalem to Islam. Uthman the 3rd Caliph succeeded Umar. Uthman ordered a complete revision of the Quran, this would cause a mutiny. He was killed and his death was considered justified because the mutineers claimed he ceased to be a Muslim. Following Uthman there was a struggle between rival factions of Islam about who was the rightful successor to lead Islam.

Ali the 4th Caliph, Mohammad's son-in-law and husband of Fatima, succeeded Uthman. Not everyone accepted him as rightful Caliphate. War broke out between the rival groups, his succession was short lived, 2 years later he was killed, the **Shi'a** (Party of Ali) mourned the death of Ali, and his two sons (Grandsons of Mohammad). Ali is revered as a saint by the Shi'a who are dominant in Iran and Iraq. The Shi'a feel Ali was the rightful successor to Mohammad and don't recognize the three earlier Caliphs. The **Sunnis** accept Ali and the first three Caliphate as legitimate.

Wherever the followers of Mohammad met the foreigner, there was a single rule of action. "Confess, that there is but one God, and that Mohammad is His prophet; pay tribute, or choose death."¹ The atoning blood of Christ was spurned. Jesus was a prophet, they thought; but He, like Moses, was inferior to Mohammad. In the rejection of Christ, the Mohammadan had nothing in which to place his faith, save in his own ability to obtain righteousness by works.

So while the papacy was exalting man in the West, and perfecting its system of self-righteousness, the new religion of the East was propagating, under another name, the same device of the devil to destroy the souls of men.

The Arabs had never exercised any influence in the earth. In the history of nations, these free men of the desert had passed with scarcely a notice. Mohammadanism united the scattered tribes, and sent them forth as the conquerors of nations. The rapid progress which attended the Arabian arms was due, in great measure, to the strife between the Romans and the modern Persian Empire. This strife resulted in the fall of the latter. Modern Persia had stood as a barrier wall, keeping in check the power of Mohammad; but when that power fell, the barrier was gone, the "bottomless pit" opened, and the Arabs deluged the world. When the "bottomless pit" was opened, there arose a smoke which hid the face of the sun.² The figure is a strong one, representing the darkening effect of Mohammadanism, as it spread over the face of the earth.

This same characteristic is emphasized in the symbols used throughout the history. "There came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth."³ The Arabs themselves are called locusts by the prophet John, and the doctrine which impelled their actions was as a dense smoke, issuing out of a furnace. The work of these locust-like warriors is described in the eighth plague, sent upon the land of Egypt in the days when Pharaoh refused to let Israel go. "I will bring the locusts into thy coast: and they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped... And shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field:

1. S. N. Haskell, *Seer of Patmos*, p 164

2. See Rev. 9:2

3. Rev. 9:3

and they shall fill thy houses, and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians.”⁴

The wisdom of Solomon led him to say, “The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands.”⁵ In using this one figure the divine historian tells the whole story of the Arabian conquest. There was no king, there was no organized government; but there was one common faith which bound the hordes of Arabia to their caliph.

When Mohammad first advocated his doctrine, he gained adherents by the power of argument; but this process soon became too slow for his ambition, and arms were taken to defend and extend the territory of the new religion. In the course of a few years, Persia, Syria, Egypt, Africa and Spain had been conquered by the Arabian arms. It was in 632 that Calid, the lieutenant of the first caliph, began the conquest of Persia. His efforts were crowned with victory. To every man was offered death, or the acceptance of the Mohammadan doctrine. With the sword above their heads, multitudes thanked God for Mohammad, His prophet.

When the tribes of Arabia were gathered for the conquest of Syria, the caliph Abubeker instructed the chiefs of the army as follows: “When you fight the battles of the Lord, acquit yourselves like men, without turning your backs; but let not your victory be stained with the blood of women or children. Destroy no palm trees, nor burn any fields of corn. Cut down no fruit trees, nor do any mischief to cattle, only such as you kill to eat... As you go on, you will find some religious persons who live retired in monasteries, and propose to themselves to serve God that way; let them alone, and neither kill them nor destroy their monasteries: and you will find another sort of people that belong to the synagogue of Satan, who have shaven crowns; be sure you cleave their skulls, and give them no quarter till they either turn Mohammadan or pay tribute.”⁶

It would seem that God put a spirit of gentleness into the hearts of these warriors toward those Christians, who, in the solitudes of Syria, were keeping the law of God; but the tonsured priests and monks were to be slain without mercy, unless they accepted the faith of Mohammad and paid tribute. Syria was soon wholly in the hands of the the Arabians.

In 638 the conquest of Egypt was begun. The conquest of Africa, from the Nile to the Atlantic, was attempted by the caliph Othman in 647; but the Moors were not conquered until the beginning of the next century, and then the Moslem faith was accepted from Syria to the Straits of Gibraltar. In 711 the Arabs crossed these straits into Spain, and the horn of the Crescent, the Moslem standard, reached the Pyrenees. Thus the power of their arms was extended.

They had hoped to encircle the Mediterranean, and, having driven out the papacy, to seat Mohammadanism in place of Christianity in the City of Seven Hills.⁷ But in 732 A.D., the onward progress of the Arabians was checked by Charles Martel, in the battle of Tours, in France, and relinquishing the hope of gaining Europe on the west, the Mohammadans retreated into Spain. Here they established schools, and by the cultivation of the arts and sciences, won, by

4. Ex. 10:4-6

5. Pro. 30:27

8. See Rev. 9:6

9. See Rev. 9:10

6. E. Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, p 1793

10. See Rev. 9:2-6

7. See Rev. 17:9

11. See Pro. 30:27

the intellect, what they had failed to gain by the sword. It was from Toledo, Salerno, and other Spanish centers of learning, that the light of scientific knowledge shone into the darkness of Europe during the Middle Ages, and acted its part in breaking the strength of the papacy at the dawn of the Reformation.

This is the history of the Arab Moslems as they marched south and west. They gradually lost their warlike characteristics, and conquered by the power of the intellect. The attacks on the Eastern Empire were of a different character. The constant pressure and oft-repeated assaults of the Arab Moslems led men to wish for death.⁸ They reached the Pacific Ocean before Columbus sailed to America. To the Moslems who fell in battle was given the sure promise of a life in paradise. This made them unmindful of death, and especially in the East the Moslems stung men with their false doctrines, and tormented them by repeated attacks.⁹

Only forty-six years after the flight of Mohammad from Mecca, (A.D. 668), the Arab Moslem army appeared under the walls of Constantinople. They were especially anxious to gain possession of this center of wealth and commerce, and there was a saying among the followers of the prophet, that the first army which besieged the city should have its sins forgiven. With this inducement ever before them, the troops landed and formed the siege. But they had underestimated the strength of the fortress, and were dismayed by the use of fire, recently introduced into Grecian warfare. On the approach of winter, they retreated; but for six summers, in succession, the siege was carried on without success. Finally in 677 a thirty years' truce was signed by the Greeks and Moslems at Damascus.

During the years 716 and 718 a Moslem army again overran Asia Minor, crossed the Hellespont, and for the first time, landed on European soil. History states that the general stood at the head of one hundred and twenty thousand Arabs and Persians, and that one thousand eight hundred ships approached the Bosphorus, both armies intending to attack the capital at the same moment. The citizens of Constantinople loaded ships with combustibles, sent these into the midst of the fleet of the enemy, and the Arabs with their arms and vessels were consumed by the flames or the waves. The following winter was unusually severe, and this, together with the aid rendered the Greeks by an army of Bulgarians, and the report of still stronger forces who were arming in the West, made it advisable to give up this second attempt to capture Constantinople. These were the “locusts” that spread over the face of the earth. Like the insect from which they are named, they devoured everything that came in their way, and stung men as a scorpion stings with its tail.¹⁰

The failure of the Arabs to capture Constantinople during these years was due to the absence of a centralized government; for the Moslems were still controlled by caliphs; and jealousy had led to the elevation of several leaders, each faction having its following. They went, as Solomon said of the locusts, in bands without a king.¹¹

The dash of the Arab cavalry is proverbial in his-

tory. Arabia is considered to be the home of the horse; and Gibbon says (chapter 50): "These horses are educated in the tents, among the children of the Arabs, with a tender familiarity, which trains them in the habits of gentleness and attachment. They are accustomed only to walk or to gallop; their sensations are not blunted by the incessant abuse of the spur and the whip; their powers are preserved for the moments of flight and pursuit; but no sooner do they feel the touch of the hand, or the stirrup, than they dart away with the swiftness of the wind; and if their friend be dismounted in the rapid career, they instantly stop till he has recovered his seat."¹²

Since so much of the success of these human locusts depended upon the steeds which they rode, it is not surprising that the prophet John saw them "like unto horses prepared unto battle;"¹³ and it is also not surprising to find that the tail of a horse was often used as an ensign by the Bedouin chiefs. The crown worn by the Arab, was the turban which was unfurled when Mohammad became prince of Medina. Personally the Arab is grave and dignified; "his speech is slow, weighty, and concise; he is seldom provoked to laughter, his only gesture is that of stroking his beard, the venerable symbol of manhood."¹⁴

Though they wore long hair, which to the European has the appearance of effeminacy, yet from the days of Ishmael, a tenderness mingled with the savage nature of the lion, seems to have characterized the men of the desert. Gibbon, in his graphic description of the Arab, nicely illustrates this fact in these words: "If a Bedouin discovers from afar a solitary traveler, he rides furiously against him, crying with a loud voice, 'Undress thyself, thy aunt [my wife] is without a garment.' A ready submission entitles him to mercy;

resistance will provoke the aggressor, and his own blood must expiate the blood which he presumes to shed in legitimate defense. A single robber, or a few associates, are branded with their genuine name; but the exploits of a numerous band assume the character of a lawful and honorable war. The temper of a people thus armed against mankind, was doubly inflamed by the domestic license of rapine, murder, and revenge."¹⁵ The breastplates of iron, spoken of by John,¹⁶ refer to the cuirasses with which the soldiers were provided from the days of Mohammad.

Enough has been said to show the vividness of the prophetic description on the charge of the Arab cavalry, who were armed with swords, protected by breastplates of iron, and seated on horses swift as the wind.

"They had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name is... Destroyer."¹⁷ This character might in truth be imputed to the Arab caliphs, who directed the armies for so many years after the death of Mohammad; but it is especially applicable to Othman, the founder of the Ottoman Empire. This, the first attempted centralization of government was the outgrowth of the doctrines of Mohammad. "Othman," says the historian, "possessed, and perhaps surpassed, the ordinary virtues of a soldier; and the circumstances of time and place were propitious to his independence and success."¹⁸ The close of the thirteenth century was near. The Crusades had thrust Europe against the Turks in a most reckless manner. Constantinople had numerous emperors, but the Greek government grew weaker, and the time of its destruction was stealthily approaching. (*To be Continued*)

Jim Snipes

15. E. Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, p 1726

16. See Rev. 9:9

12. E. Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, p 1721

13. Rev. 9:7

17. Rev. 9:11

14. E. Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, p 1725

18. E. Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, p 2228

“The Scripture is all true,
but by misapplying the Scripture
men arrive at wrong conclusions...

Some will take the truth applicable to their time,
and place it in the future.

Events in the train of prophecy that had their fulfillment
away in the past are made future,
and thus by these theories the faith of some is undermined.”

“Prophecies fulfilled have become facts of history,
clearly defining our position.”

Manuscript 31, November 8, 1896 (Manuscript Releases, vol 1, p 195); Review and Herald, November 29, 1881 (vol 1, p 297 col 3).

MISSION REPORTS

Philippines & Africa

PHILIPPINES

February 2, 2010

Since my arrival in this country, I have encountered a lot of Catholics that are open for hearing the truth and they are not so bad. Most understand English very well in the larger cities and some towns, however when you get to the countryside not so much.

The Catholics do dominate this part of the world with an overwhelming majority of 80%. I see this as truth because everywhere I go there are images of their god the pope in their institutions, establishments and such.

The Protestants are far behind with a staggering 11% trail. I hear them preach on the radio and what they teach here is no different than in America. They also talk about prophecy but they are all false as they did in America. As we that study prophecy know that their punishment is greater than those that they are deceiving. They will reap what they have sown. They are all lost sheep and we need to help them see the path to the kingdom of God by sharing to them the truth that we have.

The 9% that is left seems to be SDA and Muslims along with the other striving so called religions. I see more SDA run organizations like universities and hospitals around my area than I did Protestants.

We have angered the GC out here in many locations by radio and they know brother _____ and _____'s website along with the SDA movie that is hitting them hard. This is the same overwhelming evidence that is working against them that we can find at www.sdaapostasy.org. This is crushing them and their Jesuit-infiltrated Catholic-SDA run organizations out here. With these websites that our brothers have given to us, we are starting to cripple the enemy in our area and stirring up many.

There are only a few radio stations right now that we are involved with but as we grow we will keep moving around and moving on because it is written "And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into a house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out

of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city." Matthew 10:11-15.

There are also churches out here that still call themselves SDA but have separated from the GC and some of them heard about us and invited us to speak in their church as well. The path found in the 7 churches gives them a picture as to why people are separating from all denominations and coming into the present truth. Revelation 18:4 "Come out of her my people..." They are excited to hear about the remnant of her seed taken out of Laodicea and its condition. This condition is found in all apostate fallen churches that keep not the commandment of God and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12.

We do speak on Sabbath sometimes in these churches as opportunity presents itself to share truth with the lost. And when we are done, _____ and I will depart from that place and leave because even though they have physically separated themselves from the Laodicean GC we know that they are still spiritually connected with them and they don't keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

We have compiled all the overwhelming evidence about the Sabbath and how to keep it and how to not partake of these pagan celebrations as the world does and some other topics. There are some other churches that have heard about the seventh day Sabbath truth and have separated from Sunday worship but are now celebrating the feast days. We compiled the evidence for them to study and they seem to be okay with it. Hopefully their workers will spread this truth. We need to pray for them on that.

The radio stations where we place our recordings are run by Catholic families and usually don't give us any problems. It is the GC people that are trying to keep us quiet and silence us. It won't work nor are we afraid. We can discern the love of God that is surrounding us and the heavenly angels that He has given to us to watch over us. We lift up God the Father, Jesus His Son and the Holy Ghost above everything. We praise their names and honor them by keeping the commandments of God and the faith of His Son Jesus Christ.

It is clear to us that our mission here on this earth, in this last great conflict that is over the Sabbath, is to spread the truth and to give it to everyone. It is not our job to convict or convert. It is the job of the Holy Spirit. The enemy, Satan, is well pleased with those who do not share the truth because they are afraid. I implore you to take advantage of every opportunity to share the truth with others. If they reject it, you have given the truth to them, just move on to the next soul.

In the midst of all this, there are lots of listeners who want Bibles so that they can study for themselves. There are several people that are now requesting to be baptized and some to go as far as requesting Elder _____'s booklets.

We also have printed a lot of SDA apostasy materials and are sending them off to different islands in the Philippines. One issue with those who have separated from the GC is not all of them believe that the GC is fallen and is Babylon. So the materials that we provided for them will help them understand the real condition of the GC of SDAs. A lot of them responded and requested more study materials.

Some people around the neighborhood are starting to drop by our parent's house inquiring about truth and how the GC is so corrupt. They are confused on what to do. Once they depart from the house, there is peace with them after hearing the present truth.

There is a family of 6 people in a Muslim area that is about a 15-hour trip from us who are now accepting the present truth and are convicted to be re-baptized. We were about to introduce them to another present truth home church near to their place but they are overwhelmingly convicted to travel the distance to be baptized at our church. We pray that the Lord will open the way for us to provide them their travel expenses to our church. In fact, there are 2 more additional souls for baptism aside from that family.

There are also several in the mountain area that are inquiring about the present truth but we have recently found out that these people are involved with chanting and 'habak'. 'Habak' is a belt-like equipment that they will tie around their waist. It's made up of oil, leaves of a certain tree, some Bible verses, etc. By using this

thing, they claim to have the power to be invisible, bullet-proof and so on. One of the followers of this group has confirmed this is true and he is afraid and wants out and has contacted us on what to do. We have informed him of all the truth. He believes and wants to join our movement and hopefully a few others. Their religion consists of a lot of the present truth mixed with spiritualism and their system is set up hierarchical like Babylon. We are preparing to gather all the information to combat this type of spiritualism and inform the leader to repent and to convert to the truth. We definitely need prayers on this because this is a very touchy situation that could stir up a lot of things. It's like a young boy hitting a hornet's nest.

We are also working hard on the video and the website which are about to be completed in a couple of weeks. God has provided the internet as a tool to get this message out there to the world.

Finally, we have wonderful news of a young man from a far island who has heard part of the truth from the SDA church and is now converted to the present truth message and has responded to it very well and has a strong voice to the SDA churches in that area. We supplied him with all the evidence and study materials for him to study for himself, because for now, he is by himself receiving the present truth. We continue to pray for him as we believe that God is using him for a big work.

May you continue to pray for the effort here in the Philippine Islands and to all the different parts of the world. Let the gospel spread to all nations, kindred, tongues and people and the end shall come, Matthew 24:14. May the sealing of the 144,000 be in our time and those who are praying to be a part of this number, may it be granted unto us all. To the remnant scattered abroad, peace be unto you.

B. C.

ZAMBIA

September 21, 2010

Dearest Elder _____,

Greetings to you and all the brethren in the faith. The grace of God is still with us after passing through a very hard moment toward the camp and after the camp. As I told you I lost my young sister and the only sister who was alive in the family. She died on the 25th of August. We started the camp on the 29th of August. Brethren from Namibia arrived and by then the little money we had was spent on the funeral and by the grace of God at the last sdrVOICEapr-jun2011

day, the day of meeting, I received three messages of condolences from relatives from afar, with a sum of money. This is the amount that helped us very much in the camp program and unto this day my wife and I cannot understand this thing. Meaning that without the death of my sister we may have failed completely.

We had sister _____ from Malawi and brothers, _____ and _____ with sister _____ from Namibia. It was not an easy thing to start this year's camp because many of the brethren who were the keys to this camp had funerals within the meeting week. We praise our living God for the great work that He did by sending his angels from different countries to revive us in the almost failing camp. The message that came at this camp was a message warning us to get prepared for the soon time of trouble before us and also to strengthen us in these most sinful days in which we are living. We really enjoyed this camp. The last message had a call and about 4 souls came to the Lord and later in the evening we had the Lord's supper. After the camp was over, I joined the brethren from Namibia, escorting them and going to visit my young brother _____ in _____ where his wife was attacked by HBP which later caused heart failure. The condition was bad, but the grace of God abounded. The brethren faced another temptation with the police over a mistake made by the migration officers in recording the dates of their entry into Zambia. Again the grace of God helped us. I told the brethren to leave the case with me and so they left me with the police and after ten minutes the case was solved and from there I was told to drive the brethren to where I dropped them off.

When I came back home two days later the six month old baby who was left by my late sister, had fallen sick and was admitted to the hospital. She had just been discharged. Please kindly pray with us. We have a big responsibility of keeping two orphans now. Pray for this 6 month old baby and that the Lord my bless us with means to feed her.

Brother _____, I have received the two names of the brethren who wrote to you about materials. God willing I will find some for them. Please help me with the means to print more materials for free distributions. Right now we have a lot of calls, but the trouble is means to print more copies for the distributions. We need many Great Controversy's and Steps to Christ. But we need more than \$700 for many of our copies to meet the present demand. Please pray that the grace of Jesus

may help us to do the work while time lingers.

Your brother in faith,

B. W.

UGANDA

September 24, 2010

The last month of August, I was again busy formatting the books Abomination of Desolation and Church History and Last Day Events both in English and French languages which are an excellent tool in giving a complete picture of what the SDA Church is to the perishing souls especially in these last days. These books did prove to be a big source of information that could help many of the scattered and separated churches to have similar doctrines and thereafter establish themselves as the Remnant of the Most High. I had earlier formatted a copy of Abomination of Desolation and Church History, which I was using as a master copy, but it was corrupted! Therefore, I had to download a new copy from _____'s web site and work on it to fit the same paging of A4 as the original volume of the books bound by _____.

On 10th September, 2010, I traveled to _____ to discuss the pending issue of registration with some of the brethren and to begin the last steps of the process! I first met _____ at his home in _____ and discussed with him at length about the issue of Registration. My plan was to go with him to the internal affairs ministry and pick up the forms and after that fill in the necessary requirements. _____ told me that he subscribed to the registration issue but many times when I was in _____ to speak about it; I had left him a step behind and the brethren in the _____ region seemed to be very confused about the matter at stake. So _____ suggested that I should go on and meet some of the elders one by one so that we could get to know their individual thinking. _____ promised to make a follow up visit to explain in greater detail why it would be very necessary to hasten and progress on registration so that all can embrace it. He also encouraged me to continue meeting with some of the elders and members of the different churches outside _____ instead of going to pick up the forms! He indicated that this would show our people that this is part of their great efforts to have the message reach everyone in harmony. I told him that I had convinced a number of churches and I would therefore wish to do it as a team. I later continued to meet elder _____ at

_____ in _____ but he wasn't bothered over the name SDR. He thought the characters of every individual Christian were important in these last days! God is more concerned with character than with what name we call ourselves by.

The work of getting registered had not yet been done as I had anticipated. We now have to thoroughly convince everybody of the picture of what we are going to do with our organization! I had thought to give this process time so that the Holy Spirit could do what is best among the brethren who seemed to have a strong heart in accepting the idea. The lapse of time has not cleared our frictions as I had hoped. It has become a time of trial for us to take a more determined stand in expressing what we really want to do even though it may be hard to mention because of the frictions among my brethren. I had hoped to listen more to the minority voices. We should now carefully pray and watch for opportunities to explain, and in no case allow ourselves to be diverted from this solemn work of organizing for the great events before us! Instead a few of us have become careless and indifferent in action in regard to this work, not realizing the danger we may be in now! Neither have they realized, seen and understood the mercy of lengthening the time to form our characters for the future! Yet day after day strong measures here in Uganda are being put in place to have every meeting of more than 10 people reported to the police chiefs within the nearby location! I believe, slowly all this will infringe on our freedoms and persecution will soon befall our people countrywide. _____ and I have now taken up this matter seriously to arouse everybody to have it done. For about a year, I have been traveling to different churches within the country calling for unity among our people and encouraging them to get the registration done. Some considerable efforts have been required because the majority of the elders in every church I have reached did not accept the idea! I (we) have now decided to have a few of us to make up a committee that will oversee the process. These are: _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ as described in our constitution. As this will be done; the application and oversight committee will temporarily be in place until after registration can be accepted. I now believe the process will move faster than expected! I have also agreed with them to have the first meeting in early October to finally go through the constitution and empower each one of

these people listed above to start receiving applications for representation.

I left _____ to come back home and then head to _____ to meet with those of _____ and _____. I first telephoned _____ who stays in _____ to mobilize the members for the meeting. He told me that they are only waiting for the signing of the declaration document. So I had to cancel my travel to that place and wait until we could organize our papers. However, the work in which we have a common interest is in great and trying circumstances in Uganda. We are placed under these circumstances to compel us at this time to fulfill our long awaited duty, which is the responsibility of earnest faithfulness. I pray that we shall go on faster now that we can carry the full burden and with conscience and intellect convince all those who hold the Present Truth, we advocate, to establish ourselves. Thank you for supporting us especially in suggesting that we have a constitution which we are following.

Thank you for putting _____ in your prayers always because the long deadly sickness which disturbed him often is gone from him. He has now resumed traveling out to preach the present truth. He is a living testimony for having been healed! Praise God because he almost died! God bless you.

B. J.

KENYA

June 19, 2011

(Editor's Note: This mission trip is in response to brother I.O.'s request in the letters section where he requested one of our workers to meet with him).

On 25th May, 2011, elder _____ sent me some funds to get some tracts printed out for the work in Kenya. I replaced my printer's cartridge, which was old, to enable me make master copies for photocopying. My target was to carry 1000 tracts and a few booklets to give to _____. For four days I was too busy to get some real work out. I determined to even work at night to ease my load.

Praise God that He is settling a correspondence which was disturbing _____. It brought him to the very humbling message of mercy with good effect upon _____'s heart. This prepared them for the handling of issues which include the opening up of a new field in _____ district-Kenya and also the issue of Registration. I came to believe that when the Lord God calls for working in

His vineyard; we must comply with the call, and the greater the privileges we enjoy, the greater is our danger, if we do not improve them and live up to them!

On 4th June, 2011, the Sabbath evening I traveled to _____ boarder and early the next morning, 5th June, 2011; I got on a taxi to _____. On my arrival there, my cell phone was dead! I got on a mobile money outlet to humbly request one of the attendants to help me with his cell phone and make contacts to the people I really wanted to meet. When I called _____, he told me that he is in the city already just waiting for me. _____ had also directed _____ to come and wait to meet me! Three people were now in the city looking for each other and none of us knew the other, nor had we ever met before! It was like a hide and seek game! It took me a long time before seeing _____ in _____. Late in the evening I asked a motorcyclist for a cell phone to call _____. It was now getting late to continue looking for the people that I have never met! The cyclist told me to buy air-time and load it on his cell phone and then use it! I finally called _____ and stood at _____ petrol station that is near the taxi park for easy identification; telling him the colors of the clothes I had put on! He reached me with a smiling face to greet me in Kiswahili by calling my name at 5:40 p.m. and then I responded with praises to the Almighty Father for having accomplished this! Our Wonderful God helped us! It would take us another four hours to drive and reach _____, his home town. Therefore, I suggested that we should look for _____ so that we could go and stay at his home and then have all our discussions about the Lord's work. I then called _____ and his mother picked up the phone and told me in Kiswahili language that we should get on a taxi to take us to their home in _____ East of _____ because _____ was still in the city!

We got to the taxi and we boarded with a cousin brother to _____ unknowingly! When we reached _____ East; we asked for help from _____'s cousin brother not knowing that he was his cousin brother who then helped to lead us to their home! _____ had not come back from the city and his mother and wife welcomed us to their home with prayers thanking God for having guided us and for spreading His merciful arm to lead me in a foreign land.

As they hurriedly prepared something for us to eat, I told _____ that I had come to discuss a few issues among which was how to start a Sabbath school in _____ district and uniting him with other

brethren in Kenya. _____ is one whom I had known since 2006 and he had already done his part by introducing us to _____ of _____. _____ told me that he has been a local evangelist in the SDA church and many of the church members would like to hear from us. So we waited to see _____ and tell the idea to him for a fast response.

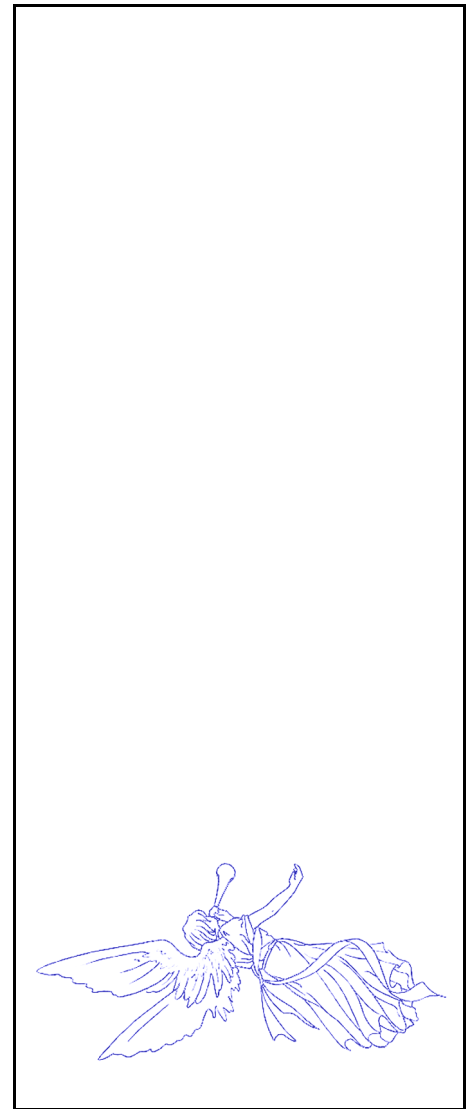
_____ came back late and he was happy to meet us at home. He told me that he was waiting for me the whole day in town! I introduced myself to him, but _____ had met him in the city earlier and they were of the same tribe speaking the same language which eased my task. I believed that work had already started because I met _____ when they had met with _____. They spoke the same Luo language of Kenya but they were from different places! So we scheduled our discussion for the next morning, 6th June, 2011. We prayed and each one went to his room until morning.

After the morning devotion, we opened our main discussion about how the work could be best accomplished in Kenya and especially opening up a new field in _____ district _____'s home area. I also introduced the issue of handling Registration with the name SDR in Kenya. I requested to know the obstacles that may delay the process. _____ was extremely happy to hear me talk about registration because he had just sent away two brethren from Western Kenya who had come to seek guidance over how they could unite under the name SDR. He told us that he was pressing with considerable effort to see registration take place. The two brethren who left his place a day before I arrived were also waiting for a good report to hear if we discussed the registration issue positively. I encouraged them to continue pressing the issue because the feeling against registration/organization may be very strong among some of our people, but no development of the work of

saving souls would produce a marked result if we were not united. We must engage in the work of registration/organization, though it has cost us much study and many prayers, sacrifice and conflict with other separated brethren!

_____ agreed to visit _____ district to see how he can best start the opening up of the work there. I gave _____ a few booklets and tracts I had carried to start house to house evangelism so that when _____ goes there some organized groups will be ready for Bible study lessons. _____ told me that some of his efforts while working are sometimes watered down by _____ separates who always introduce fanatical extreme doctrines! I told him that we had had similar difficulties in Uganda but we are trying to ignore them by being focused on Christ and the original teachings of the pioneers of faith. He requested me to go back and help with the enlightening of some of the brethren about the value of being registered/organized. _____ told me that he is now meeting some of the churches around him, about the issue of registration and where he is expecting some problems; he will invite me to help him. This is expected to be done in a short while as they organize their annual camp meeting in August 2011.

Brother _____, who was in the meeting told us that he was doing his simple business in Southern Sudan and would like to expand this work to the Sudanese people. In Southern Sudan many people come from different countries for metropolitan business. They would carry our messages of Present Truth in printed form to their home countries. His interests were in Ethiopia and a few of the Arab speaking countries of North Africa. I was happy to hear that brother _____ operates in Southern Sudan where _____ had destroyed our contacts. It would be of good hope if new openings would be put in place to have the work revived. I promised



them that in His providence, we shall have some prints out for that region.

Praise God that this was one of the most blessed trips and I hope that the fruits will speak better than I write the report.

Thank you for all your support and prayers to strengthen my efforts.

God bless you.

B. J.

Reformers are not destroyers.

They will never seek to ruin those who do not harmonize with their plans and assimilate to them.

Reformers must advance, not retreat. They must be decided, firm, resolute, unflinching; but firmness must not degenerate into a domineering spirit.

God desires to have all who serve Him firm as a rock where principle is concerned, but meek and lowly of heart, as was Christ.

Testimonies for the Church, vol 6, p 151.