

The Return of the Exiles—No. 8, Days of Anxiety

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, December 26, 1907

Stirring were the times during which Israel worked by faith to restore the temple of Jerusalem. Through the messages delivered by Haggai and Zechariah, the people were roused to put forth every possible effort to build. As they labored, they were sadly harassed by the Samaritans and others who feared not God.

The enemies of the faithful builders devised many discouraging hindrances. The provincial officers of the Medo-Persian realm visited the returned exiles, and requested them to state the name of the one who had commanded them to rebuild. If the Jews at that time had not been trusting the Lord for guidance, this inquiry made by men high in authority might have resulted disastrously to the builders. "But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius."¹ The officers were answered so wisely that they decided to write a letter to Darius Hystaspes, king of Medo-Persia, directing his attention to the original decree made by Cyrus, commanding that the house of God at Jerusalem be builded, and that the expenses for the same be paid from the king's treasury.

Darius searched for this decree, and found it, whereupon he directed those who had made inquiry, "Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place."²

"Moreover," Darius declared, "I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered. And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt-offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail: that they may offer sacrifices of sweet savors unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons."³

The king further decreed that most severe penalties be meted out on any who should in any wise alter the decree; and he closed with the remarkable statement: "The God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this

house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed."⁴

Thus the Lord, in his providence, prepared the way for an early completion of the temple. But for months before this decree was made, the Israelites had kept on working by faith, "the prophets of God helping them."⁵

Just two months after Haggai's last recorded message was delivered, Zechariah had a most encouraging series of visions regarding the work of God in the earth. These messages, written out in the first six chapters of the book of Zechariah, were given in the form of parables and symbols. They came at a time of great uncertainty and anxiety, when it seemed as if the permission granted the Jews to rebuild was to be withdrawn. The future appeared very dark. God saw that his people were in need of being sustained and cheered by a revelation of his infinite compassion and love. His testimonies at this time were of peculiar significance to the men who were advancing in the name of the God of Israel.

After an introductory view of the nations having universal dominion in the earth, Zechariah hears "the angel of the Lord" inquiring, "O Lord of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years? And the Lord answered the angel that talked with me,"⁶ Zechariah declares, "with good words and comfortable words."⁷

"So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts: I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy. And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction."⁸

"Therefore thus saith the Lord: I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the Lord of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem."⁹

The prophet is now directed to cry out saying, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts: My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem."¹⁰

Next the prophet sees the powers that had "scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem,"¹¹ symbolized by "four horns."¹² Immediately

4. Ezra 6:12

5. Ezra 5:2

1. Ezra 5:5

2. Ezra 6:7

6. Zech 1:12

7. Zech 1:13

8. Zech 1:14-15

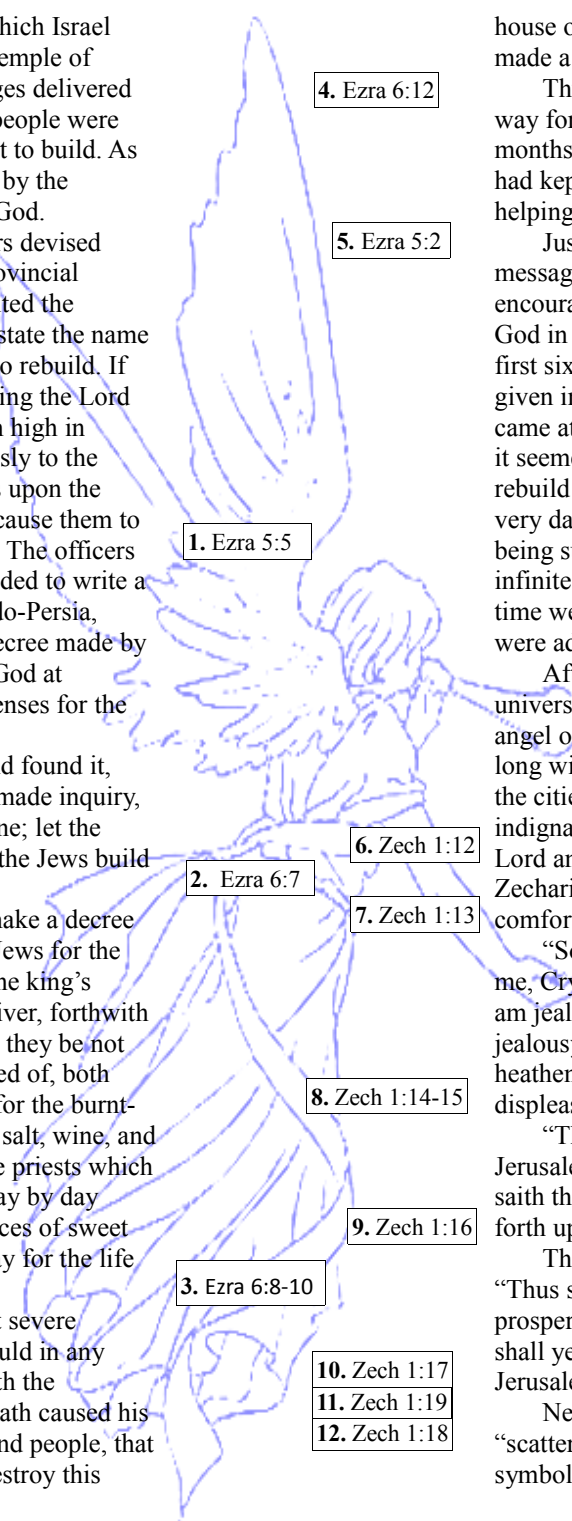
9. Zech 1:16

3. Ezra 6:8-10

10. Zech 1:17

11. Zech 1:19

12. Zech 1:18



afterward he sees “four carpenters,”¹³ representing the agencies used by the Lord in restoring his people and the house of his worship, as decreed by Cyrus and his successors, as well as by God himself.

13. Zech1:20

“I lifted up mine eyes again,” says Zechariah, “and looked, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand. Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me, To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof. And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him, and said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein: for I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire around about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.”¹⁴

14. Zech 2:1-5

God had commanded that Jerusalem be rebuilt, and the measuring of the city was a symbol that he would give comfort and strength to his afflicted ones. His protecting care, they were assured, would be like “a wall of fire round about.”¹⁵ O, how compassionate is our Heavenly Father! What comfort and hope there are in his promises!

15. Zech 2:5

The prophet is now inspired with an earnest message to the children of Israel who are still in Babylon, the land of their captivity. At the time the decree of Cyrus was given, nearly a score of years before, only a comparatively small number, a mere “remnant,” had returned to Judea. By far the greater portion had failed of discerning the opening providence of God, as revealed in the decree of King

16. Zech 2:6-9

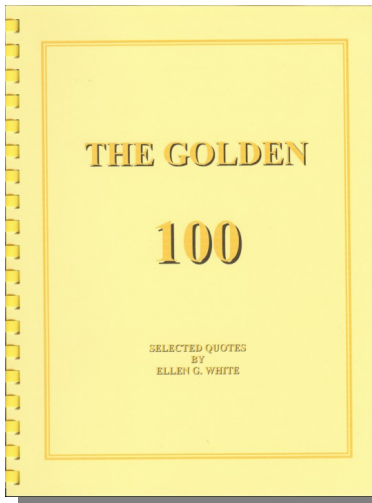
Cyrus. They had chosen to remain behind, in a heathen land, rather than to return to Jerusalem.

And now, many years later, the Lord was preparing the way for these thousands who had lingered, to return. A chain of circumstances was rapidly leading to the confirmation of the decree of Cyrus and the issuance of a second decree by Darius Hystaspes. The Lord foresaw the troublous times that would soon follow in the reign of Xerxes—the Ahasuerus of the book of Esther. And so, in a time of special favor and opportunity, the message was given through Zechariah: —

“Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the Lord: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the Lord. Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon. For thus saith the Lord of hosts: After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. For, behold I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me.”¹⁶

How sad it is to contemplate that this touching appeal met with so little response! Had this entreaty to flee from Babylon been heeded, how different might have been the condition of the Jews in the trying times of Mordecai and Esther!

The Lord’s purposes for his people have ever been the same. He desires to bestow on the children
continued on page 3

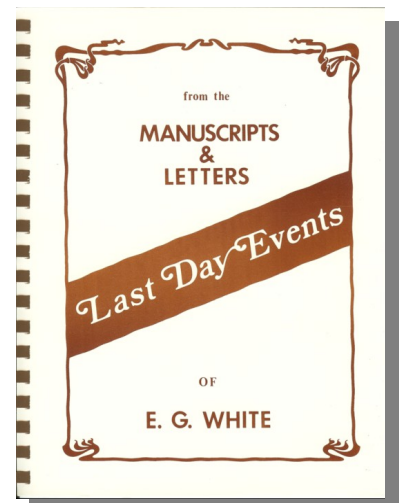


THE GOLDEN 100

The SDRPA has a book available entitled “The Golden 100.” It consists of 100 selected quotes by Ellen G. White. Its focus is on the apostasy in the SDA church and defining our position as the Remnant people of God. 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.

LAST DAY EVENTS
(non-conference edition)

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! Suggested donation of \$13.00 per copy.



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IN THIS ISSUE

E. G. White—Days of Anxiety —No. 8.....	1
Editorial—Choices.....	3
Children’s Story-A Happy Thought.....	4
Health Nugget—10 Weird and Deadly Ingredients to Avoid.....	5
Recipe—Quick Pizza Crust.....	6
Sunday Laws? Really?.....	7
Letters— Uganda & Kenya.	10
Christian Service— Chapter 1 Continued.....	12

of men the riches of an eternal inheritance. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. When those who choose to become obedient subjects of the Most High are finally saved in the kingdom of glory, God's purpose for mankind will have been fulfilled.

To us who are praying and longing for the coming of this most glorious kingdom, as well as to the children of Israel in the days of Zechariah, are spoken the words: "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of

17. Zech 2:10-13

Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord. And many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto thee. And the Lord shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again. Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation." ¹⁷ **Zech 2:10-13** E.G. White

Editorial—Choices

Joshua 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua made choices. Moses made choices. Adam, Enoch, Noah, Ruth, Judas, Peter, Paul, and every man and woman mentioned in the Bible made choices. Some were good choices, some not so good and others were very bad. We also have to make choices each and every day and sometimes every moment, just like those men and women who have gone before us. Some choices we have time to think through before we make them; others we only think about after the fact and regret what we did. Some choices are easy to make, some are hard, and sometimes we find ourselves caught between two options

that both seem correct. The decisions we make determine what kind of person we are and what kind of life we live, whether good or poor.

When you are facing hardship, disappointment, depression or anger have you ever stopped to think of your choices as two entities "fighting" for your attention? One would have you do wicked things and succumb to temptation and random impulses which will lead you down dark paths. The other is a "still small voice" that is ever there to whisper "follow me" and guide you along the well-lit paths of salvation. Which of these entities has your best interest at heart? Which of these choices will you make?

Brothers and Sisters, the signs of the world say time is getting very short! Are we all making the right choices? Are we overcoming every temptation Satan throws our way? Or will we be among those who say, "We knew that the judgments of God

were coming upon the earth, but we did not know that they would come so soon." (Maranatha 25.3) The time to get ready is now—not tomorrow or the next day! Overcome temptation daily with prayer, and God will give you the strength to keep overcoming and to keep making the right choices. This habit must be developed now if we are to stand fast through the time of trouble. Are we putting on the full armor of God so that we may withstand all of Satan's darts? Keep your eyes on our dear Saviour, choose not to allow the cares of this life to divert your attention away from Him. Make His sacrifice the dearest in your heart and He will keep you close to His own heart. Learn from the choices He made, follow His example, and it will lead you home to Him. May we all stand with our dear Saviour side by side on the sea of glass.

—*Keep your letters and emails coming we look forward to hearing from you.*

"It is transgression in the **little things** that first leads the soul away from God. By their one sin in partaking of the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve opened the floodgates of woe upon the world.

Some may regard that transgression as a very **little thing**, but we see that its consequences were anything but small.

The angels in heaven have a wider and more elevated sphere of action than we, but right with them and right with us are one and the same thing."

4T 573.3

Children's Story—A Happy Thought

“WHAT a messy looking room!” exclaimed Olive Kendall, as she came in from school and added to the confusion of the sitting-room by throwing her satchel on the lounge. “Why doesn’t somebody fix it up?” But no one answered. Only Leila and Nora were there to answer, and both their heads were bent over a geographical puzzle.

Olive threw herself into an easy chair and looked out of the large bay-window. It was pleasanter to turn her head that way than to look around the disordered room. She only wished she could turn her thoughts away from the room as easily, but she could not, so long as that voice kept saying:

“You know that Bridget is out with the twins, and that Kate is busy getting dinner, and that there is no one but yourself to put the room in order just you and your little sisters. Why not go to work and have a surprise for mamma when she comes in?”

“Leila and Nora, we really ought to fix up the Room,” said Olive, with a half-yawn. “The twins have scattered their things. Won’t you help?”

“In a minute,” answered Nora. “We only want a little crooked piece to go right in there.”

“Yes,” responded Leila, “it’s Finland.”

Olive looked about the room in a hopeless, helpless sort of way. “With Leila and Nora both in Finland,” she thought, “I may as well give up expecting their help. If it were only a game.”

She stood a moment in thought. Her face suddenly brightened. She went to mamma’s desk and cut six slips of paper, then wrote a word on each.

“Are you getting some strips ready for Consequences?” asked Leila, a new interest in her face, as she looked up from the pieces of map.

“No, but you’ve guessed pretty well,” admitted Olive, “for it’s a game a new one.”

“A game! A new one!” echoed the little sisters, not only losing interest in Finland, but letting the whole of Europe fall apart. “Let’s play it! I’m tired of this map-puzzle.”

“Yes, Olive, tell us how,” pleaded Leila, “and then we’ll help with the room. We truly will.”

“I don’t think you’ll like the game,” said Olive, “but I’m sure that mamma

will.”

“Then we shall, of course,” said Nora, very decidedly. “Let’s begin it now.”

So Olive laid the slips on the table the written side downward. Then she said, “Now, we are to draw in turn, the youngest first. Come, Nora!” Nora looked at the different pieces of paper, put her finger on the last, and then suddenly changed her mind, and took the one nearest her.

“Don’t look at it yet, Nora,” said Olive.

“Oh, I shall certainly look, if Leila doesn’t hurry,” said Nora, excitedly, shutting her eyes very tight, but soon opening them to ask, “Is there a prize, Olive?” and jumping up and down as Olive nodded.

After Leila had settled upon one of the slips, she and Nora made Olive shut her eyes while they changed about all the papers that were left, for fear that Olive, having made them, might choose a better one than they. At last they all had slips.

“Now read!” signaled Olive.

“Table,” said Nora, consulting her paper.

“Chairs,” read Leila, from hers.

“Carpet,” announced Olive.

“Now what?” asked Nora. “Do I pass mine on to Leila?” But Olive was on her knees, picking up a lot of playthings.

“Mine was carpet,” she said, as she hastily put a handful of toys into a little cart belonging to the twins, ‘so I’m to take everything off the carpet that doesn’t belong there. You are to put in order whatever your paper tells you, and the game is to do it as well and as quickly as you can.”

Nora flew to the table. She ran into the hall with Teddy’s hat, and into the nursery with Freddy’s whip. Then she got a brush and prepared to sweep off the table cover. To do this she piled some books on one of the chairs.

“My paper says chairs,” cried Leila, “and there are eight of them! If you put those books there, I’ll never get through.”

“The other table is yours also, Nora,” said Olive, as she straightened the rug in front of the fire. “Look on your paper.”

Sure enough, there was an “s” that Nora had overlooked! So the books found a place on the little stand while the big table was brushed, and then were piled nicely up, and the magazines and papers

laid together, after which Nora stood off and viewed the effect with such satisfaction as almost to forget the smaller table.

She was reminded of it, however, by Leila, who was flourishing a cluster about as she went from one chair to another, fastening a tidy here and shaking up a cushion there, until she was ready to say, “The whole eight are done.”

“I’ve finished, too,” said Olive, as she brushed the hearth and hung the little broom at one side of the open fire-place. “Now, we all draw again.”

Nora chose quickly this time, and went right at work when she saw the word ‘Mantel,’ hardly hearing Leila say “Desk,” and Olive, “Lounge.”

“Well, what do you think of the game?” asked Olive, a while after, as, having left the room to put away her school satchel, she returned and found Leila and Nora putting the finishing touches to their tasks, and rejoicing over the finding of Finland in mamma’s desk.

“Why, we think it a great success don’t we, Nora? And we see now why you didn’t know the name,” added Leila, laughingly.

“Here comes mamma up the walk,” announced Nora from the bay-window.

“Well, don’t say anything, and see if she notices the room,” suggested Leila. Mamma came to the sitting-room door, and looked in. No wonder she smiled at the picture, the room a model of neatness, the winter’s sun streaming in at the window, the fire crackling on the hearth, and three faces upturned for a kiss.

“So Bridget is home,” said mamma, in a tone of relief, as she glanced about the room. “I left her getting rubbers for the twins, and feared she wouldn’t return till dinner-time.”

“She isn’t home, mamma,” said Olive, while Nora and Leila exchanged happy glances, and Nora couldn’t keep from saying (though she said afterward she tried hard not to tell),

“We fixed it, mamma. It’s Olive’s game!”

Then of course mamma had to hear all about it, and papa, too, when he came to dinner. Otherwise he might not have brought up those slips of red card-board that he did that evening, nor have seated himself in the midst of them all, and said,

—Continued on page 6

Health Nugget

10 Weird and Deadly Ingredients to Avoid

Posted on June 5, 2013,
by Soren Dreier
Author: RiseEarth

Many of us have heard time and time again that we should stay away from processed foods. However, the reasons why are not as well-known.

When reading the ingredient lists of packaged, canned and frozen foods, many unpronounceable words, chemical compounds and abbreviations can be found. Most of us do not have time to google each unknown ingredient while in the middle of a busy grocery aisle.

As a general rule, if you can't pronounce an ingredient, it is best to steer clear. Real, whole healthy foods will usually have no more than five ingredients on the label. However, knowledge is power, and the more you know about the scary ingredients hiding within some of our most common food items, the more educated your choice to stay away from them will be. It's easier to say no to that tempting pastry or pre-packaged entree when you know exactly why.

The following are 10 common food additives that can wreak havoc on your health:

Monosodium glutamate (MSG):

A flavor enhancer derived and processed from seaweed, MSG was originally associated with take-out Chinese foods. Today, it is a prevalent ingredient in a wide variety of processed foods, such as salad dressings, flavored chips, gravies and many sandwich meats, to name only a few. MSG is linked to numerous side effects, including skin rashes, numbness, nausea, heart palpitations, migraines and seizures.

In his book *Excitotoxins: The Taste that Kills*, Dr. Russell Blaylock classifies MSG as an excitotoxin that stimulates the cells to the point of damage or death, potentially triggering or worsening conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and learning disabilities.

Aspartame:

Aspartame, an artificial sweetener used in many sugar-free products, is composed of aspartic acid, phenylalanine and methanol.

Aspartame is responsible for the greatest number of reported side effects of any food additive, including dizziness, headaches and fibromyalgia and multiple sclerosis symptoms. Individually, aspartic acid has been linked to reactions including nausea, abdominal pain, anxiety attacks, sleep disorders, and depression.

Phenylalanine:

An isolated amino acid which comprises 50 percent of aspartame, has been linked to seizures, insomnia and severe mood swings in large doses, among other symptoms.

Phenylalanine is especially dangerous to those with the genetic disorder phenylketonuria (PKU), and can cause mental retardation or death in people with this condition. Methanol is a neurotoxin and a known carcinogen, which breaks down into formic acid and formaldehyde, an embalming fluid, at 86 degrees Fahrenheit.

Carageenan:

Carageenan is a thickening agent extracted from red seaweed and often used as a fat substitute in many food products, including processed meats, as well as cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

In its processed form, manufactured via alkali chemical solvents, it can be hazardous to health. Some studies have linked carageenan to gastrointestinal disturbances including inflammatory bowel syndrome (IBS), intestinal ulcers and colorectal problems.

Bromiated vegetable oil (BVO): An emulsifier derived from corn or soy (usually genetically modified) combined with bromine, BVO is used in many citrus-flavored sodas. It also doubles as an industrial flame retardant. Banned from food use across Europe and in Japan, BVO has been linked to skin lesions, nerve disorders and memory loss.

Animal studies have found that it can cause behavioral and reproductive problems when consumed in large doses. Additionally, bromine is an endocrine disruptor, and inhibits the body's ability to retain iodine, which is essential for tissue health.

Hydrogenated vegetable oil:

Hydrogenated, and partially hydrogenated, oils are a fancy way of labeling trans fats. Trans fats appear in many fried, fast and processed snack foods, as well as some breakfast cereals and baked goods.

They are created by applying pressure and hydrogen to vegetable oils to create a semi-solid fat. Dieticians largely agree that there is no safe level of trans fats, and that they should be avoided entirely. Consuming them has been linked to heart disease, obesity, and multi-infarct dementia.

Butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT): A preservative used in some breakfast cereals, as well as a variety of other foods and cosmetics, BHT is also used in jet fuel, petroleum products and embalming fluid. A National Toxicology Program report published in 2005 states that BHT is, reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.

It can also cause liver damage, and harm aquatic organisms, according to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The MSDS also bluntly states that this chemical compound, should not be allowed to enter the environment.

Guar gum: Guar gum is a processed form of guar seed extract. It is used as a thickening agent in many foods, including gluten-free foods, and pharmaceutical bases. In large doses, guar gum has been linked to digestive blockages and other disturbances in digestive function.

According to a 2002 study published in the *International Journal of Cancer*, individuals who consume guar gum as a main source of fiber have a greater risk of developing colon cancer.

Caseinate: Caseinate is not to be confused with casein, a protein which naturally occurs in dairy products. Caseinate is the processed byproduct of casein, found in many commercial protein shakes and other protein supplements. To manufacture caseinate, the casein from skim milk is treated with calcium hydroxide and sodium

hydroxide, which are chemical alkalies.

Chemical alkalies inhibit the body's ability to absorb nutrients. Caseinate is processed at a high temperature, near boiling, which essentially changes the protein into an ultra thermolyzed protein, and creates MSG in the process. Caseinate has been linked to indigestion, allergies and heartburn, as well as an increased risk of colon cancer.

High fructose corn syrup: Contrary to popular belief, high fructose corn syrup is not the same as sugar. It is derived from corn (usually genetically modified), and because of its chemical structure is more rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream. High fructose corn syrup has been linked

to heart disease, diabetes and tissue damage. It also usually contains levels of mercury, due to the way in which it is manufactured.

Propylene glycol alginate: A thickener, stabilizer and emulsifier used in a number of processed foods, propylene glycol alginate doubles as an industrial chemical found in airport runway de-icers and anti freezes.

Remember, when choosing your ingredients, stick to what you can pronounce. If it sounds suspicious and you don't have time to look it up, trust your instincts and stay away.

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Source: thealternativedaily

RECIPE—Quick Pizza Crust

Ingredients:

- 1 c. water
- 1 tbsp. active dry yeast
- 1 1/2 c. whole wheat flour
- 1 c. barley flour or unbleached flour
- 1 tbsp. honey
- 1/2 tbsp. salt
- 2 tbsp. barley flour
- 2 tbsp. fine cornmeal

(Weimar recipe)

Preparation:

1. Heat water to 115 degrees. Stir yeast into heated water. Stir in remaining ingredients except last two.
2. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons barley flour on counter and turn dough out to knead at for about 2 minutes. sprinkle cornmeal onto two 12" ungreased pizza pans or cookie sheets.
3. Divide dough and roll into two large circles.
4. Place on pizza pans and bake at 350

degrees for 20 minutes. Serves 6.

Note—For toppings use your favorite cheese or cheese substitute, tomato sauce, sliced onions, and any other favorite veggie. Some examples would be: green beans; sliced sweet peppers; avocado; sliced or coarsely-grated summer squash.

Who would like to share your favorite vegan recipe? Send it to sdreditor@sdrpa.org

A Happy Thought

—Continued from page 4

"Now, I propose we make a set of cards in fine Style," as he proceeded to write on each the word that Olive or Leila or Nora would tell him.

"And now, what shall we call the game?" asked papa, with pen ready to put the name on the other side of the six bright cards.

"How would the 'Game of Usefulness' do?" suggested Olive.

"Or 'Daily Duty?'" put in Leila; "for we've promised to play it every day."

"Wouldn't 'Helping Hands' sound well?" asked mamma. And they promptly agreed upon that, for, when Nora went up to bed, one of her plump hands held the new cards, and the name that mamma had proposed was written on each.

"I wonder what the prize was?" she asked Leila the last thing that night.

"I guess it must have been mamma's smile when she looked in," said Leila.

And was not that a prize worth trying for?
—St. Nicholas.

Youth's Instructor March 7, 1883

CHRIST'S WORDS WERE VERILY TO THE RULER
THE INVITATION,
"CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE."
JOSHUA 24:15.

THE CHOICE WAS LEFT WITH HIM.
JESUS WAS YEARNING FOR HIS CONVERSION.
HE HAD SHOWN HIM THE PLAGUE SPOT IN HIS CHARACTER,
AND WITH WHAT DEEP INTEREST
HE WATCHED THE ISSUE
AS THE YOUNG MAN WEIGHED THE QUESTION!
IF HE DECIDED TO FOLLOW CHRIST,
HE MUST OBEY HIS WORDS
IN EVERYTHING...
(CSA 15.2)

Sunday Laws? Really?

A Few Thoughts on Revelation 13

As part of our research on the pioneers' teachings on the king of the north, I read through the transcripts of the secret, 1919, Bible Conference held in July in Washington DC. During this reading I came across an interesting account by E.R. Palmer. This account followed a discussion of the two horned beast of Revelation and whether it was the United States or Apostate Protestantism working through the United States.

E.R.PALMER: "I wish to bring before the Convention, – I don't want to take much of your time but I want to apologize at least for the rather radical thing that we did during the war period in dealing with 'Bible Readings,' and perhaps that will get one point before us in a little more concrete-form.

"I don't know that we have had much difficulty over this question of the United States in Prophecy, although it is well known that [there has] been some embarrassment in presenting the question outside of the United States, especially, and some of our brethren here in the United States have felt that we limited the subject too much to this country and that the second beast of Revelation 13 should be given a greater scope. And I notice it is referred to here in this convention as apostate Protestantism laying hold primarily of the Government of the United States and reaching out to all the governments of the earth the same as the Papacy did back there as represented in the first part of the chapter.

"When we got into the war, we found ourselves in some embarrassment over this chapter in 'Bible Readings.' Our agents were selling it extensively and the authorities were very active in looking up [the] matter that we were publishing to see if we didn't belong in the penitentiary with the leaders of another denomination that had just previously been examined and the same men who were instrumental under the Government in putting, the leaders of the Russellite movement in the penitentiary, came to our headquarters to see where we belonged, whether inside or out, and I was so unfortunate as to be the first one looked up by them, although this question didn't come before them through our office first. The Southern Publishing Assn., got into difficulty over the matter and the Government asked them to submit 'Bible

Readings' for examination and it was examined by the local attorney and sent up here to Washington.

"We thought it was an important matter for we had so many agents working on this book, and we put the matter into the hands of our attorney, Mr. Hogan, and he took the matter up very thoroughly and very carefully with the Department of Justice. It seemed that there was an impression on the part of leading men, beginning with the attorney there in Nashville, that our presentation of this subject, was an attack upon the United States Government. Some of our brethren will remember when the hearing was given before the Senate Committee here in Washington, that Mrs. Craft stood up before the Senators and declared that we were a disloyal people as a whole because we represented the United States Government as a two-horned hog; and while they didn't give serious consideration to her charge, yet that seemed to be rather the impression of these men who were looking up our literature during the time of the war.

"This led us to much earnest study as to what we should do in handling many of our books, and to look up that chapter in 'Bible Readings,' and we changed the first four questions, or rather the notes to these questions, so as to give a little different slant to the subject. Not having any mind to sacrifice the truth at all in order to smooth our way with the Government, but really to bring the chapter into harmony with the convictions of our editors and the General Conference Committee, a thing which we wouldn't have felt quite free to do without further counsel or consideration in such a meeting as this.

"So we made changes in this chapter, but with the unanimous vote of the Book Committee, and our Board, and the minority members of the General Conference Committee. And I have been surprised, but there has been no protest that has come to us since that time. I thought perhaps you brethren would know better whether it is being protested against.

"I hardly know how to get this matter before you as you haven't the books, except by reading these four questions and the notes as they were in the first edition, and follow it by the reading or the revised to see whether that meets your mind,— whether it was a proper thing for us to do.

"The title, is 'The United States in Prophecy,' sub-title, 'Making an image to

the Beast.' Changed in the revision, the title is 'Making an Image to the Beast,' sub-title 'The Prophecy of Revelation 13.'"

PRESCOTT: "You don't put in the heading, 'The United States in Prophecy' then?"

PALMER: "No, We changed it so it does not appear in the title. I want to say we submitted this to our attorney, and through him to the Department of Justice, and they appreciated very much our effort to change the phraseology."

PRESCOTT: "Was the book, 'United States in Prophecy' protested against?"

PALMER: "Not that I know of. It was dead on our shelves and not being sold at that time. They got after books that were being sold throughout the country."

[Elder Palmer then read the first four questions and their answers and notes in the old and in the revised edition, pointing out the changes made.]

Finding this account of changing SDA publications to meet the demands of the civil government of the United States in 1914 very fascinating, I filed it away in my head to work on later.

After several years I mentioned this incident to my brother. He has a 1914 and a 1919 edition of the "Bible Readings." He immediately got them out to compare them and found some amazing things.

First of all, the 1919 edition claims to be a reprint (not a revision) of the 1914 edition. He therefore had assumed that they were identical, but in comparing the two we find this not to be the case, the 1919 edition is a revision. The title of the chapter on Revelation 13 is changed, just as Palmer said he had changed it. There were minor wording changes in the first four questions, as Palmer pointed out. The most significant of these, seem to be in question 4.

The 1914 edition says that the churches of the United States are "clothed with civil power." The 1919 edition says they "dominate the civil power." At first this doesn't appear to be significant but when you think about it, it is. To be clothed with civil power, the churches would be invested with civil power by the state, thus making the state responsible for the acts of the church by giving the church civil power to enforce it's laws. But to dominate the civil power, the act would be of the church taking control of the government, thus making the church responsible for the laws it causes the state to enforce. If the two horned beast is the United States, as taught

by Smith, then the prophecy clearly states that it is the United State that creates the image to the beast and enforces his mark. But the way they worded it in the 1919 edition of 'Bible Readings,' it is the image of the beast (the protestant churches) who enforce the mark on the United States. The overall impression from the 1914 edition study is that the United States is the power that causes the image to be formed and enforces the mark of the beast, causing all the world to wonder after him. But the general impression formed by the wording of the 1919 edition is that there will arise a power within the United States, for which it is not responsible, that enforces this mark and causes the world to wonder after the beast. The first view is clear and consistent with the prophecy, the second is confusing and contradictory to the wording found in Revelation 13.

But the most profound alteration in the 1919 edition is found under question number 18. A question not mentioned by Palmer at the Bible Conference. The note in the 1914 edition brings out an explanation that I have never heard in my life, and if correct, puts an entirely different view on events in this world in the last 100 years.

"18. What does the prophet say the two-horned beast-power will attempt to enforce upon the people?"

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their hand, or in their foreheads.' Rev. 13:16.

"Notes. – This mark is the mark of the beast, or the false Sabbath. See Rev. 14:9,10, and reading on page 446. The hand is the symbol of labor; the forehead, of the mind, or that with which we worship. See Eccl.9:10; Rom. 7:25. To enforce the observance of Sunday as a 'civil sabbath,' by requiring only the cessation of labor, business, and trade on that day, would be to enforce the mark in the hand; to enforce it as a religious institution, or day of worship, would be to place the mark in the Forehead.

"Let the read note this twofold aspect of the Sunday Sabbath, as expressed by one of the most ardent and active Sunday-law advocates in the United States; 'We, the Sabbath Union, W. C. T. U., all the churches, and the Y. M. C. A., are laboring with all our might to carry the religious sabbath with our right arm, and the all the rest will receive it as a civil institution, and thus we will sweep in the whole nation.' Rev. W. F. Crafts, in Sunday Union Convention, Wichita, Kans., Sept. 20, 1889."

This question reads very differently in the 1919 edition.

"18. What does the prophet say the two-

horned beast-power will attempt to enforce upon the people?"

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their hand, or in their foreheads.' Rev. 13:16.

"Notes. – This mark is the mark of the beast, or the false Sabbath. See Rev. 14:9,10, and reading on page 446. God's seal, or mark, is set in the forehead (Rev. 7:3; 14:1), the seat of the mind, the Lord accepting only the worship of conviction and conscience. The mark of the beast, however, is said to be received in the hand or forehead. Some are deceived and give assent to the false teaching with their minds, receiving the mark in the forehead; others, coerced or indifferent, give formal, outward consent, and so receive the mark in the hand.

"Let the read note this twofold aspect of the Sunday Sabbath, as expressed by one of the most ardent and active Sunday-law advocates in the United States; 'We, the Sabbath Union, W. C. T. U., all the churches, and the Y. M. C. A., are laboring with all our might to carry the religious sabbath with our right arm, and the all the rest will receive it as a civil institution, and thus we will sweep in the whole nation.' Rev. W. F. Crafts, in Sunday Union Convention, Wichita, Kans., Sept. 20, 1889."

The second note, in the 1919 edition, is much more familiar sounding, and what I have been taught all my life. The implications of the first note are astounding and actually make much more sense with the quote from Rev. Crafts, than the second note.

Let's think about this a little bit. If the note in the 1919 edition is correct, then to cease from labor on Sunday, when the religious law comes in, would be to receive the mark in the hand. But how do we reconcile this with the statements in the Spirit of Prophecy that we should refrain from labor and do missionary work on this day, during the Sunday law enforcement? To follow this counsel would be to receive the mark in the hand according to the the 1919 Bible Readings. To remove this seeming contradiction, I have heard that the Sunday law will require church attendance on Sunday and that to submit to this attendance requirement will be receiving the mark in the hand. However this seems an impossible requirement when you consider all the atheists and anti-religionists in the world and in this very country. If this is truly what Revelation 13 means, then the whole world must be converted to Christianity before the Sunday laws can be enacted, an event that seems more and

more remote as time goes on. This teaching has lead many non SDA's to reject the advent message as irrational because they cannot see how we can expect the entire country to simply walk into the church and press for Sunday legislation.

However, the note published in 1914, makes much more logical sense and does not contradict the Spirit of Prophecy council. If this view is correct, then we already have a partial fulfillment of this prophecy in the United States today.

Remember that book "United States in Prophecy," that Palmer mentioned as being "dead on our shelves?" It was written by Uriah Smith in 1874. In it we find an astonishing little piece of history:

"In 1830, certain memorials for prohibiting the transportation of mails and the opening of post-offices on Sunday were referred to the Congressional Committee on the Post-offices and Post-roads. The committee reported unfavorably to the prayer of the memorialists. Their report was adopted and printed by order of the Senate of the United States, and the committee discharged from the further consideration of the subject. Of the Constitution, they say:

"We look in vain to that instrument for authority to say whether the first day, or seventh day, or whether any day, has been made holy by the Almighty.

"The Constitution regards the conscience of the Jew as sacred as that of the Christian, and gives no more authority to adopt a measure affecting the conscience of a solitary individual than of a whole community. That representative who would violate this principle would lose his delegated character, and forfeit the confidence of his constituents. If Congress should declare the first day of the week holy, it would not convince the Jew nor the Sabbatarian. It would dissatisfy both, and consequently convert neither. If a solemn act of legislation shall in one point define the law of God, or point out to the citizen one religious duty, it may with equal propriety define every part of revelation, and enforce every religious obligation, even to the forms and ceremonies of worship, the endowments of the church and support of the clergy.

"The framers of the Constitution recognized the eternal principle that man's relation to his God is above human legislation, and his right of conscience inalienable. Reasoning was not necessary to establish this truth, we are conscious of it in our own bosom. It is this consciousness which, in defiance of human laws, has sustained so many martyrs in tortures and flames. They felt that their duty to God was

superior to human enactments, and that man could exercise no authority over their consciences. It is an inborn principle which nothing can eradicate.

“It is also a fact that counter memorials, equally respectable, oppose the interference of Congress on the ground that it would be legislating upon a religious subject, and therefore unconstitutional.” United States in Bible Prophecy, page 74.

The law to close the post offices on Sundays, which the government had declared unconstitutional in 1830, was enacted in 1912. (See Bible Readings, 1914 edition, chapter on Revelation 13.) Today, we don't consider the fact that the post office and other government buildings are closed on Sundays to be unconstitutional in the least, nor do we consider it to be the enforcement of the mark in the hand. Maybe we should reconsider this point.

Uriah Smith also objects to the idea that the entire country must become Christian in order for Revelation 13 to be fulfilled.:

“The objector may further say: You are altogether too credulous in supposing that all the skeptics of our land, the spiritualists, the German infidels, and the irreligious masses generally, can be so far brought to favor the religious observance of Sunday that a general law can be promulgated in its behalf.

“We answer: The prophecy must be fulfilled; and if the prophecy requires such a revolution, it will be accomplished. But we do not know that it is necessary. Permit us to suggest an idea, which, though it is only conjecture, may show how enough can be accomplished to fulfill the prophecy without involving the classes mentioned. This movement, as has been shown, must originate with the churches of our land, and be carried forward by them. They wish to enforce certain practices among all the people; and it would be very natural that, in reference to those points respecting which they wish to influence the outside masses, they should see the necessity of first having absolute conformity among all the evangelical denominations. They could not expect to influence non-religionists to any great degree on questions respecting which they were divided among themselves. So, then, let union be had on those views and practices which the great majority already entertain. To this end coercion may first be attempted. But here are a few who cannot possibly attach to the observance of the first day, which the majority wish to secure, any religious obligation; and would it be anything strange for the sentence to be given. Let these few factionists be made to conform, by persuasion if possible, by force, if necessary. Thus the blow may fall

on conscientious commandment-keepers, before the outside masses are involved in the issue at all. And should events take this not improbable turn, it would be sufficient to meet the prophecy, and leave no ground for the objection proposed. ‘To receive the mark of the beast in the forehead,’ is, we understand, to give the assent of the mind and judgment to his authority in the adoption of that institution which constitutes the mark. By parity of reasoning, to receive it in the hand would be to signify allegiance by some outward act.” The United States In Prophecy, page 156-158.

Another point to consider is that the 2 horned beast causes all the world to receive this mark and wonder after the beast. We have always thought that this would mean that the United States has to enact these religious laws first, before the rest of the world does. We have also thought that communism, being atheist, would stand in the way of these laws. Perhaps it's time to re-evaluate this. The United States enacted a law closing the post office in 1912. In 1913 it set up the Federal Reserve, something that had been tried and stopped more than once in the previous 100 years, but this time it was here it stay.

This institution, the Federal Reserve, was used to fund the war in 1914, the communist revolution, in 1917, and the rise of Nazism in the 1930's. The atheistic communist revolution enacted civil Sunday laws in the 1930's as did Hitler. Communist China also recognizes Sunday as a civil day of rest, something unknown in imperial China. So, we now have more than half of the world taking the mark of the beast in their hand, as an irreligious Sunday rest day. All funded by the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States!

But it is not the mark of the beast until it is enforced as a religious law right?

“It will be said again, then all Sunday-keepers have the mark of the beast; then all the good of past ages who kept this day had the mark of the beast; then Luther, Whitefield, the Wesleys, and all who have done a good and noble work of reformation, had the mark of the beast; then all the blessings that have been poured upon the reformed churches have been poured upon those who had the mark of the beast. We answer, No! And we are sorry to say that some professedly religious teachers, though many times corrected, persist in misrepresenting us on this point. We have never so held; we have never so taught. Our premises lead to no such conclusions. Give ear: The mark and worship of the beast are enforced by the two-horned beast. The receiving of the

mark of the beast is a specific act which the two-horned beast is to cause to be done. The third message of Rev. 14, is a warning mercifully sent out in advance to prepare the people for the coming danger. There can therefore be no worship of the beast, nor reception of his mark, such as is contemplated in the prophecy, till it is enforced by the two-horned beast. We have seen that intention was essential to the change which the papacy has made in the law of God, to constitute it the mark of that power. So intention is necessary in the adoption of that change to make it on the part of any individual the reception of that mark. In other words, a person must adopt the change, knowing it to be the work of the beast, and receive it on the authority of that power, in opposition to the requirement of God.

“But how with those referred to above who have kept Sunday in the past, and the majority of those who are keeping it today? Do they keep it as an institution of the papacy? No. Have they decided between this and the Sabbath of the Lord, understanding the claims of each? No. On what ground have they kept it, and do they keep it? They suppose they are keeping a commandment of God. Have such the mark of the beast? By no means. Their course is attributable to an error unwittingly received from the church of Rome, not to an act of worship rendered to it.” The United States in Bible Prophecy page, 130-131.

This would indicate that Sunday becomes the mark when it is enforced by civil law, as it is in more than half the world, funded by the US, and when people consciously know that it is not God's Sabbath and choose to keep it anyway. The Christian world today and even many of the irreligious openly admit that Sunday is not the Bible Sabbath, but they contend that it doesn't matter anymore and rest on Sunday anyway, because it is convenient to do so. This was not the case 100 years ago when many actually thought that Sunday was the Bible Sabbath. Even a modern English dictionary today will tell you that the term Sabbath cannot be correctly applied to Sunday.

Should not this be recognized as a fulfillment of prophecy? But no, the Adventist leadership has followed the practice of taking that which was clear, simple, and logical, and making it ambiguous, unclear, confusing, and impossible to be fulfilled. Then we are told to look for this impossible fulfillment before we can expect to see the latter rain that will fit us up for the conflict that is occurring now! Again, the Adventist leadership has proved itself to be in the

horrifying position of perverting prophecy so that you, the individual will be caught unprepared when Christ comes.

“Satan is working that the history of the Jewish nation may be repeated in the experience of those who claim to believe present truth.” Selected Messages Vol. 2,

page 111.

“The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ – how

the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God’s servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth.” Selected Messages Vol. 1, page 406

Virginia Markwell

Letters

Uganda

Dear ones,

I deeply feel the necessity of making more thorough organisation of Remnant Church works united in formulas of our body system which is the Temple of God and created in His image! [Rom 12:4-5] The foundation of our Christian faith must be laid in practical Christian knowledge of doctrine and faith. We must first understand how to receive Christ Jesus the Lord, appreciate God’s amazing grace extended to the fallen man and then learn how to walk in him day by day. We have worked towards establishing a oversight committees to help in bringing up unity among the brethren of similar faith and doctrine.

I have a believe that it is this practical application of doctrinal truths which will bring great influence upon every renewing heart of each soul to the message of Christ’s Righteousness by faith, which we must labour to adduce in love, while preaching Christ. Our earnest efforts to bring the truth before the world will be simpler and self regenerating to enlighten the world with His glory if Christ’s ministers would publish it; making every church member part of the heavenly instrument to perform their tasks effectively as body organs and systems. As we labour differently for the Lord’s cause, it is a matter of great importance whether we are received or rejected to make our efforts matched in the highest heavenly intellect to finish the work appointed to each individual’s personal efforts, talents and gifts. [4T 75]

We have annexed much concern over the work in S__ N__ K__ where bro. I__ Oj__ lives. I have asked I__ Os__ and N__ O__ of K__ to visit that area and also meet with bro. I__ Oj__ of N__ to see how best they can help other brethren who are in the dare want of the Present Truth message. I did encourage bro. E__ O__ of K__ to visit this very area so that there is not much cry for our messages. I even rang bro. M__ P__ of M__ who lives near Tanzania boarder line to ensure that God’s faithful souls are

reached with the good news. I am sure these and many other are moving from all sides to see that the message is sent to anyone who may be hungering for it. These brethren I am talking about are confounded with the present truth message and some of them were appointed to be on the oversight committee across that region. I revealed to them that the SDRPA is extending help to N__ province and we also ought to do our part there. We have explored this region and I believe none can claim single advancement of the message within the area. I pray that let anyone who wants be established do it according the Gospel Order. [EW 100-101]

It is upon this background that since 2003 when Elders C__ and S__ visited Africa to see to what extent we are organised to the Gospel Order. I have encouraged ministers of the gospel to maintain a bond of unity amongst our churches to the level of making ourselves representatives of Christ. From correspondences of different destinations, we are established as ‘United Brethren Under John 17’ to pursue registration from our local authorities. In K__ and U__, we have pioneered the work of registration with local authorities and I am on the forefront to make up a call while in K__, N__ is mobilising the home churches there to see that our efforts are like a Mustard seed. [Mark 4:31] Many of us in our region are just getting stuck to make the next step because of the demands which are being proposed on form filled from the government side and which are appended to our constitution giving much power to ministers who are to be filled on the forms as managers of the holly blessed obligation! However, we formed up *oversight committees* wishing to register with governments where our brethren are established. Probably God protecting us as Babes in doctrinal movement of the very last days of this earth’s history from the follies of evil one; He is to slow the process so that each individual comprehends the system! Our greatest question is that could the ‘*name and registration*’ be of any virtue

before our dear heavenly father as reflected by Christ’s Righteousness!

Praise God! Despite of all that happening; I am travelling to different churches encouraging them to hold firmly in a bond of unity of a Christian fellowship as Remnant families who had adopted the name Seventh day Remnants in the August of 2006 in Z__-S__ near the Mwidishi River where we camped for a week encouraged by the visit of bro. S__ and G__ from U.S.A.

Unfortunately, the same name has been trademark in US Federal Laws making us feel the same pain of restrictions to use it as identity for our last day movement as our brethren over there!

Finally, we have a simple church established according to the ‘Gospel Order’ where each soul is complement to the other in a Christian fellowship as a body system. [Matthew 20:25-27] I have traveled to C__ U__ region to meet with bro. J__ M__ living in K__ and practically let him know how to log in for the incoming online conference. I suggested to him that it would be better if we met in T__ at bro. K__ place for that meeting but he decline to remain in K__ on that day. I just wanted him to be more conscious of the date; the more we shall be able to be part of the process to inspire, create a new start or simply become repeating pattern organization intended to enlighten the world with His glory. I also met with bro. K__ H__ and encouraged him to be online though it will be at night here in U__! I even rang bro. N__ O__ of K__ to mobilize others who may not be aware to join us.

Thank you for daring to encourage, support and even let us know of the meeting as children of the same Remnant family. God bless you.

NJ

Kenya

Hi, man/sister of God .

Am M__ of Kenya. I’ve been an Islamic from my child. til the day I

received a call.

I met a brother from N__ who gave me some tracks and a booklet titled "One God one people", christian and Islamic, Golden 100, this book has inspired me and other fellow who want to join the true Remnant of God. To leave Islamic is NOT EASY but we have come to agreement to join you to get eternal life.

So my special request is, can you help us to get those books again?. We are over 30 people and others who need them. please if truly you are the true REMNANT church help us. and if you can know that brother from N__ also please give me his contact. He nick named me as O__(b__n__). I used to called him W__ N__.

Very much waiting to hear from you. It is a long story to tell , I believe that boy will wonder but it's God work/call and good coordination from him, in facts those books are inspired.

Will talk more if I've come to know that you are the true Remnant church of God that brother of N__ told me and gave a lot of clarifications. I was just searching from internet is when I got this email.

Yours in faith

M

Kenya

Dear __ ,
yes i know brother M__ It's long when we met. I gave him 2 tracks and one Golden 100 booklet. I live in N__ town (Kenya) near S__ boarder to T__. This man I met in a bus when I was going to Nairobi. We sat together in a 2 seated chair. That is when I broke the silence and started talking about God. It is unbelievable to me, at fast we differ because of Jesus name. But I really bent low to know about Mohamed, the so called prophet. He told me all how he came. After that is when I asked him, well I've heard of Mohamed, can i just give you a short story of Jesus ? He agreed. I told him on a shallow way. But I was having a track entitled (Christian and Islamic) this track is talking where christianity started from eden and how islamic also came out. The conversation was good to both of us, because he was understanding. I left that track with him and another one called ONE PEOPLE ONE GOD. He dropped at L__ and I continued with my journey .

We were communicating till the time his phone was no longer in service. He just told me today that he went to S__ and was using another line and my contact also he lost .

The man is really in need of those booklets and tracks. He need many of those tracks and Golden 100.

We have been praying because of the loud cry that we have a printed shop started here. To serve Kenya and Tanzania. We asked those who can help us to sustain us in long term project. Of all the expectation we didn't get any donation outside. But we manage to get ksh. 30,000. From few brothers in Kenya and Tanzania. Now with this little amount we bought a small printer to start with.

Like now am planning to go to Tanzania because there is a call and more serious arise that a man from Islamic is really in need. You can see how the need of God's workers are?

I just don't know how the situation over there is? But if we can join hands in this work, I would be more happy to have some help to get these printing out. May I know from you if we can help the situation.

Bro. IO

Christian Service

Chapter One -Continued

When Jesus ascended to heaven, He committed His work on earth to those who had received the light of the gospel. They were to carry the work forward to completion. He has provided no other agency for the promulgation of His truth. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." "And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." This solemn commission reaches us in this age. God leaves with His church the responsibility of receiving or rejecting it.—Historical Sketches, p. 288. {ChS 23.4}

Upon us is laid a sacred charge. The commission has been given us: "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:19, 20, margin. You are dedicated to the work of making known the gospel of salvation. Heaven's perfection is to be your power.—Testimonies, vol. 9, pp. 20, 21. {ChS 24.1}

Called From Common Walks of Life

The common people are to take their place as workers. Sharing the sorrows of their fellow men as the Saviour shared the sorrows of humanity, they will by faith see Him working with them.—Gospel Workers, p. 38. {ChS 24.2}

In all fields, nigh and afar off, men will be called from the plow and from the more common commercial business vocations that largely occupy the mind, and will be educated in connection with men of experience. As they learn to labor effectively, they will proclaim the truth with power. Through most wonderful workings of divine providence, mountains of difficulty will be removed, and cast into the sea. The message that means so much to the dwellers upon the earth, will be heard and understood. Men will know what is truth. Onward and still onward the work will advance, until the whole earth shall have been warned; and then shall the end come.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 96. {ChS 24.3}

God can and will use those who have

not had a thorough education in the schools of men. A doubt of His power to do this, is manifest unbelief; it is limiting the omnipotent power of the One with whom nothing is impossible. O for less of this uncalled-for, distrustful caution! It leaves so many forces of the church unused; it closes up the way, so that the Holy Spirit cannot use men; it keeps in idleness those who are willing and anxious to labor in Christ's lines; it discourages from entering the work many who would become efficient laborers together with God, if they were given a fair chance.—Gospel Workers, pp. 488, 489. {ChS 24.4}

It is the privilege of every soul to make advancement. Those who are connected with Christ will grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Son of God, to the full stature of men and women. If all who claim to believe the truth had made the most of their ability and opportunities to learn and to do, they would have become strong in Christ. Whatever their occupation,—whether they were farmers, mechanics, teachers, or pastors,—if they had wholly consecrated themselves to God, they would have become efficient workers for the heavenly Master.—Testimonies, vol. 6, p.

423. {ChS 25.1}

Those in the church who have sufficient talent to engage in any of the various vocations of life, such as teaching, building, manufacturing, and farming, generally should be prepared to labor for the upbuilding of the church by serving on committees or as teachers in Sabbath schools, engaging in missionary labor, or filling the different offices connected with the church.—Review and Herald, Feb. 15, 1887. {ChS 25.2}

For the carrying on of His work, Christ did not choose the learning or eloquence of the Jewish Sanhedrin or the power of Rome. Passing by the self-righteous Jewish teachers, the Master Worker chose humble, unlearned men to proclaim the truths that were to move the world. These men He purposed to train and educate as the leaders of His church. They in turn were to educate others, and send them out with the gospel message. That they might have success in their work, they were to be given the power of the Holy Spirit. Not by human might or human wisdom was the gospel to be proclaimed, but by the power of God. — The Acts of the Apostles, p. 17. {ChS 25.3}

Among those to whom the Saviour had given the commission, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,” were many from the humbler walks of life,—men and women who had learned to love their Lord, and who had determined to follow His example of unselfish service. To these lowly ones, as well as to the disciples who had been with the Saviour during His earthly ministry, had been given a precious trust. They were to carry to the world the glad tidings of salvation through Christ.—The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 105, 106. {ChS 25.4}

The Life That Wins

It is not only by preaching the truth, not only by distributing literature, that we

are to witness for God. Let us remember that a Christlike life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favor of Christianity, and that a cheap Christian character works more harm in the world than the character of a worldling.— Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 21. {ChS 26.1}

Not all the books written can serve the purpose of a holy life. Men will believe, not what the minister preaches, but what the church lives. Too often the influence of the sermon preached from the pulpit is counteracted by the sermon preached in the lives of those who claim to be advocates of truth.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 21. {ChS 26.2}

The life of Christ was an ever-widening, shoreless influence, an influence that bound Him to God and to the whole human family. Through Christ, God has invested man with an influence that makes it impossible for him to live to himself. Individually we are connected with our fellow men, a part of God’s great whole, and we stand under mutual obligations. No man can be independent of his fellow men; for the well-being of each affects others. It is God’s purpose that each shall feel himself necessary to others’ welfare, and seek to promote their happiness.— Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 339. {ChS 26.3}

The religion of the Bible is not to be confined between the covers of a book, nor within the walls of a church. It is not to be brought out occasionally for our own benefit, and then to be carefully laid aside again. It is to sanctify the daily life, to manifest itself in every business transaction and in all our social relations.—The Desire of Ages, pp. 306, 307. {ChS 26.4}

It is the purpose of God to glorify Himself in His people before the world. He expects those who bear the name of Christ to represent Him in thought, word, and deed. Their thoughts are to be pure and their words noble and uplifting, drawing those around them nearer the Saviour. The

religion of Christ is to be interwoven with all that they do and say. Their every business transaction is to be fragrant with the presence of God.—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 21. {ChS 26.5}

Let the business man do his business in a way that will glorify his Master because of his fidelity. Let him carry his religion into everything that is done, and reveal to men the Spirit of Christ. Let the mechanic be a diligent and faithful representative of Him who toiled in the lowly walks of life in the cities of Judea. Let every one who names the name of Christ so work that man by seeing his good works may be led to glorify his Creator and Redeemer. --Bible Echo, June 10, 1901. {ChS 27.1}

Women as Missionaries

Women as well as men can engage in the work of hiding the truth where it can work out and be made manifest. They can take their place in the work at this crisis, and the Lord will work through them. If they are imbued with a sense of their duty, and labor under the influence of the Spirit of God, they will have just the self-possession required for this time. The Saviour will reflect upon these self-sacrificing women the light of His countenance, and this will give them a power that will exceed that of men. They can do in families a work that men cannot do, a work that reaches the inner life. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their work is needed. Discreet and humble women can do a good work in explaining the truth to the people in their homes. The Word of God thus explained will do its leavening work, and through its influence whole families will be converted.— Testimonies, vol. 9, pp. 128, 129. {ChS 27.2}

HIS CLAIM THAT HE HAD KEPT THE LAW OF GOD WAS A DECEPTION.

HE SHOWED THAT RICHES WERE HIS IDOL.

HE COULD NOT KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

WHILE THE WORLD WAS FIRST IN HIS AFFECTIONS.

HE LOVED THE GIFTS OF GOD MORE THAN HE LOVED THE GIVER. . . . THOUSANDS ARE PASSING THROUGH THIS ORDEAL, WEIGHING CHRIST AGAINST THE WORLD; AND MANY CHOOSE THE WORLD. LIKE THE YOUNG RULER, THEY TURN FROM THE SAVIOUR, SAYING IN THEIR HEARTS,

I WILL NOT HAVE THIS MAN AS MY LEADER. . . .

(CSA 15.5)