

The Return of the Exiles—No. 3, An Occasion For Rejoicing Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, April 11, 1907

As preparations for building the temple advanced from month to month, the faithful remnant of Israel began to gather courage. Long had they been deprived of every visible token of God's presence with them. And now, surrounded as they were by many sad reminders of the terrible apostasy of their fathers, which had finally resulted in lifelong captivity, they longed for some abiding token of divine forgiveness and favor. Above the restoration of personal property and many ancient privileges, they valued the approval of God. Wonderfully had he wrought in their behalf; and now they longed for an assurance of his pardoning love and protecting care. By working diligently to rebuild the temple, they hoped to hasten the restoration of special blessings connected with the sanctuary service. Within the walls of this second temple they expected to see revealed the glory of the Lord.

Wise plans for the prosecution of the work were laid by Zerubbabel the governor, Joshua the high priest, and their associates in authority. They "appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the Lord." "All they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem"¹ responded nobly, and with willing hands began to prepare the building material. Some of the immense stones brought to the temple site in the days of Solomon, had escaped destruction at the hands of the Babylonians. These stones were made ready for use, and much new material was provided.

The foundation-stone of the temple was laid amid scenes of great rejoicing.

Accompanied by the trumpets of the priests and the cymbals of the sons of Asaph, the people "sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth forever toward Israel."²

The sentiment of this hymn of praise and thanksgiving is that expressed in the one hundred and thirty-sixth psalm—a most appropriate recognition of God's merciful providences in behalf of the children of the captivity:-

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.

"O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth forever.

"O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth forever.

"To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth forever.

"To him that by wisdom made the heavens;" "that stretched out the earth above he waters;" "that made great lights;" "the sun to rule by day," "the moon and stars to rule by night,"—to him, the Creator of all these, the congregation of Israel gave thanks, acknowledging that "his mercy endureth forever."³

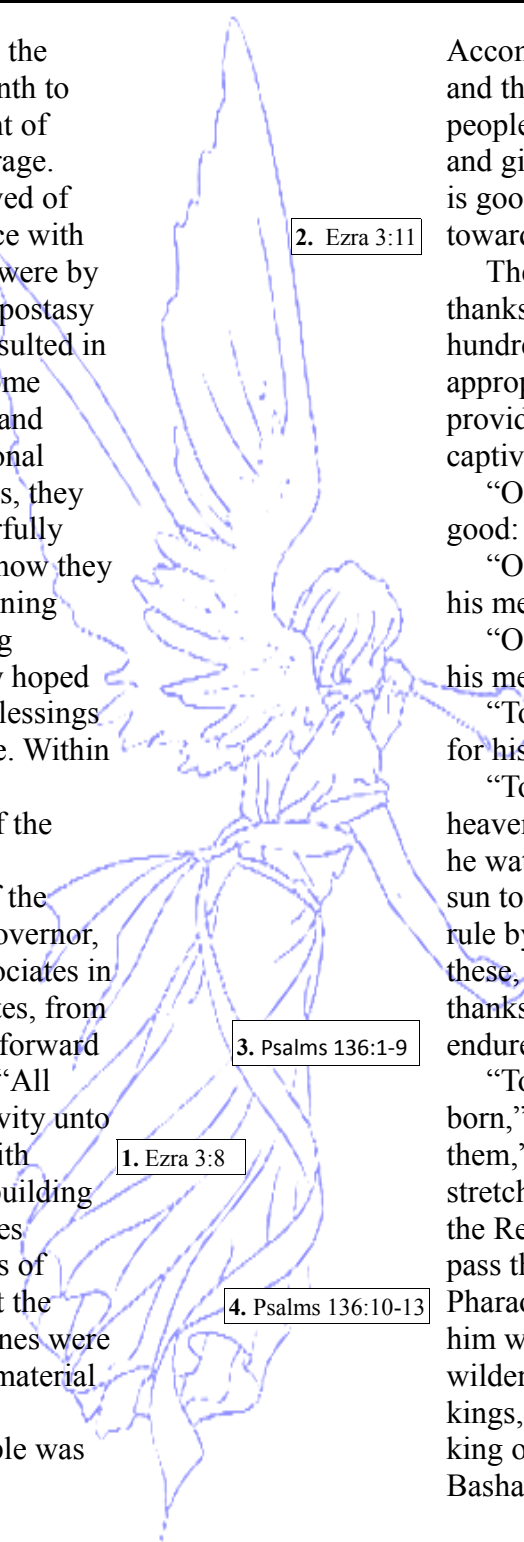
"To him that smote Egypt in their first-born," "and brought out Israel from among them," "with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm;" "to him which divided the Red Sea into parts," "and made Israel to pass through the midst of it," "but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea;"⁴ "to him which led his people through the wilderness;" "to him which smote great kings," "and slew famous kings," "Sihon king of the Amorites," "and Og king of Bashan," "and gave their land for an

2. Ezra 3:11

3. Psalms 136:1-9

1. Ezra 3:8

4. Psalms 136:10-13



heritage,” “even an heritage unto Israel his servant,”⁵-to him, the Mighty Leader of the hosts of Israel, the returned exiles now rendered praise as the One whose mercy endureth forever.

And this same Mighty Leader is the One who hath “remembered us in our low estate,” “and hath redeemed us from our enemies.” O, let us ever “give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth forever!”⁶

The laying of the corner-stone of the second temple should have called forth expressions of gratitude from every heart. The house that was about to be built was the subject of many prophecies. The Lord’s servants, and especially those who had had long experience in the things of God, should have recounted the remarkable providences leading up to the work that was being done; and they should have entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion. Especially should all the aged have rejoiced because God in his mercy had not cut them off in their iniquities at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar.

5. Psalms 136: 14-22

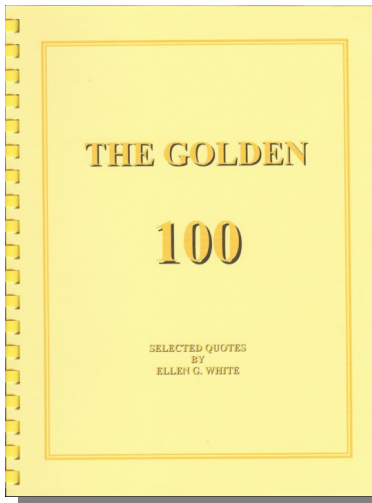
6. Psalms 136:23-26

7. Ezra 3:12

Throughout the long period of captivity they had been spared, and now they were permitted to witness this scene of rejoicing.

But mingled with the music and the shouts of praise ascending on that glad day, was a discordant note of sorrow and dissatisfaction. “Many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice.”⁷ Among the aged men who had seen the glory of Solomon’s temple, there were some who lamented and wept over the inferiority of the building that was now to be erected.

It was but natural and right that these aged men should have feelings of sadness because of the results of long-continued impenitence. Had they and their generation obeyed God and carried out his purpose for Israel, the temple built by Solomon would not have been destroyed, and the captivity would not have been necessary. It was because of their former ingratitude and disloyalty, that they had been scattered among the heathen. Through long years of

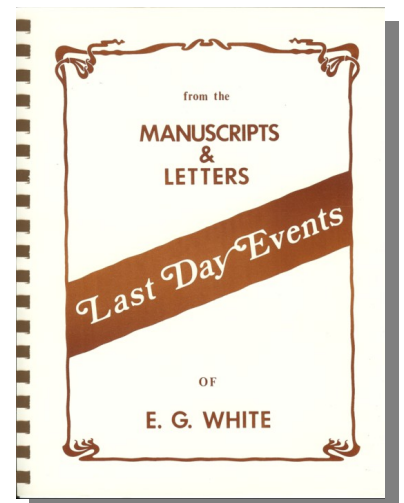


THE GOLDEN 100

The SDRPA has a new 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.



Seventh-day Remnant VOICE
Vol. 8, No. 3, July-October 2013.
Published by the Seventh-day Remnant Publishing Association, P. O. Box 1794, Willits, California 95490.
Phone 877 SDR-PA44 (877 737-7244)
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above address. Return postage paid.
SUBSCRIPTIONS are by donation only. Send questions about your subscription to the above address. Printed in USA.
Web: www.sdrvoice.org
E-mail: sdreditor@sdrpa.org

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exile they were brought to realize the sacredness of God’s law and the sinfulness of disobedience.

But conditions were now changed. In tender mercy the Lord had once more visited his people, and had allowed them to return to their own land. Feelings of sadness because of the mistakes of the past should have given place to feelings of joy. In a remarkable way God had moved upon the heart of King Cyrus to aid them in rebuilding the temple at Jerusalem, and this should have called forth expressions of profound gratitude. But some failed of discerning God’s opening providences. Instead of rejoicing, they entertained thoughts of discontent and discouragement.

This spirit of murmuring and complaining, and of making unfavorable comparisons, had a depressing influence on the minds of many. The expressions of doubt and discouragement weakened the hands of the builders. The workmen were led to question whether they should proceed with the erection of a building that at the beginning was so freely criticized and was the cause of so much lamentation.

There were many in the congregation,

8. Ezra 3:12-1

9. Psalms 107:8

10. Psalms 136:1

11. Psalms 106:48

however, who did not look upon the lesser glory of this temple, as compared with the first temple, with such dissatisfaction. “Many shouted aloud for joy: so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.”⁸

Our words and actions have a far-reaching influence for good or for evil. Could those who failed to rejoice at the laying of the foundation-stone of the temple, have foreseen the results of their mournful conduct on that day, they would have been appalled. Little did they realize the weight of their words of disapproval and disappointment. Little did they foresee how much they delayed the final completion of the Lord’s house.

“O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”⁹ “Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.”¹⁰ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the Lord.”¹¹

Editorial—Pillars

How many times, when driving down a highway, have you noticed just how high a bridge is over water, or over a canyon? Have you ever wondered if that bridge was strong enough to support the weight of all the traffic that was using it? Have you noticed the different sizes of the supports that hold up the bridge? Those supports are called columns or pillars. Does that word pillar sound familiar? In our cars we have crossed many bridges without giving a second thought to these pillars, trusting that they are firmly founded and will not fail. But along the highway of our life we must be more careful. Before we cross our bridges, whether small or immense, we need to be as sure of their supports as we are of bridges made of wood or stone.

Brothers and sisters, in our walk of life we are each preparing to cross a gigantic “bridge.” Our Heavenly Father has provided for all that we need to cross that bridge and to keep us safe in our walk to be with Him. He has provided the

information that makes up the pillars of our bridge. Do you know what that information is? Do you know how to inspect the pillars of your bridge in order to be sure that it will carry you safely to your destination?

We know from our study of the Bible that we have an angel that accompanies us everywhere we go. We know that the price for our sins has been paid, that a pathway to heaven has been made for us. In a way our whole life is spent on a very special bridge of faith as we keep our eyes on our Saviour.

In this issue of the Voice we are going to review again what these Pillars of our faith are. It is vitally important for each one of us to examine what we stand upon, to go to the Word and the Spirit of Prophecy to confirm the substance and foundation of each Pillar. Can you claim that you know them all? Can you explain them to someone else? Is your belief in them so securely founded that it cannot be

shaken by tempest, that it will not crack beneath the weight of trials?

Brothers and Sisters, please make sure that you have a firm understanding of these Pillars; they have our Beloved Saviour in every one of them. He is the foundation of this bridge of faith that will carry us across to our home in heaven.

On another note, we still eagerly welcome responses from our last issue, regarding the information presented in the Editorial. Comments and e-mail communication can be sent to DickGraves@juno.com

We are also looking for someone to assist us in the job of editor for the Voice. We are making an effort to share the work between several people, in order to more quickly and efficiently produce future issues for publication. If you would like to offer your services, please send an e-mail to the above address to let us know.

Children's Story—*The Escapes of Rafaravy-* Matthew 10:23.

Part 2 (Continued)

What is happening: Rafaravy lived in Madagascar during the early 1800's when it was a crime to be a Christian. After being enslaved because of her beliefs and coming close to being killed, she escaped and hid in the mountains with a friend named Sarah.

One day the soldiers came looking for her and she only had enough time to crawl under the bed and cover herself with a thin piece of matting.

Sarah and her husband sat down by the fire, and tried act calm as the soldiers came in.

“We have come to find Rafaravy.” Said one.

They started asking questions and Sarah evaded the answers as best she could, without telling a lie. This went on for about an hour, while Rafaravy listened and watched from under the matting. At first, her heart beat hard, and she breathed so loud she was afraid the soldiers would hear her. But then she began to think of all the sweet promises in God's holy word, and she felt that she could trust in him.

Finally, Sarah gave up all hope, and she got up and went out. Thinking that Rafaravy was in the mountains, and that Sarah was going to warn her, the soldiers went after her. As soon as they had gone, Rafaravy crept from under the bed, and escaped in the opposite direction.

When the soldiers realized that Sarah wasn't leading them to Rafaravy they decided to arrest her too, for helping to hide her. But Sarah escaped and finding Rafaravy, they hid and wandered about together.

First, they went to a friend of Sarah's. This friend told Sarah that soldiers had been there

looking for “some woman who had run away.” Sarah did not tell her that Rafaravy was the woman. The next day, they went to another friend, and then to another, and another. They stayed a little while with each, just as long as they thought it was safe.

One day they passed a house where they heard the officers and soldiers who were hunting for them. Afterward, a good woman hid them in a pit, and covered the top with thorns and briars, so that though the soldiers searched every house in the area, they did not find them.

Another day they were lying hidden in some coarse grass, when the soldiers passed quite near them.

On another day, as they were going to a friend's house, twenty soldiers came in sight. Sarah ran, and soon got away; but poor Rafaravy was so frightened that she could hardly move. She just managed to jump into a bog close by, and the soldiers did not see her. But she sank into the mud, and could not get out till Sarah came to help her.

Another time four men ran after them, but they hid themselves in the long grass, and escaped.

One good man made a little tent for them in his manioc plantations. The manioc grew so high as to quite hide the tent. They stayed there for three months. While they were there, some of his servants became Christians, and learned to read the Bible.

But after three months they heard the news that Mr. Johns, one of the missionaries, was waiting at the port of Tamatave. Rafaravy

and some of her friends wished to go and see him.

It was a long and dangerous journey. Tamatave was two hundred and fifty miles away and they had to walk all the way. There was no smooth, straight road, in fact, there was no road at all. There were no lights to see at night and no hotel to stay at. There were thick forests to go through, and deep rivers to cross, and high hills to climb. Some parts of the way were so steep and slippery that they had to slide down, instead of walking.

They also had to go right through the capital where the cruel queen lived, and where Rafaravy had three times been condemned to die. But they so dearly loved this missionary, that they were willing to take the risk, just to see him.

They did everything they could to keep from getting caught, and asking God for help, they set out on the journey. Sarah and her husband dressed up and went first, as if they were the master and mistress, with Rafaravy following behind in a coarse dress with a bundle on her head, as though she were their servant.

It was fifty miles to the capital. When they got near it, another slave recognized Rafaravy, and ran to tell her old master.

(To Be Continued)

What though her earthly house be
overthrown,
And not a roof to shelter her be left!
The secret place of God her soul has known,
And of that home, she cannot be bereft.

*Phebe A. Miner (Adapted)
The Youth's Instructor October 1, 1870*

***Sign in front of a Church:
“Worry, and Faith,
When one begins, the other ends”***

RECIPE—SLOVAK MUSHROOM SOUP

Ingredients:

1 Onion, chopped.
2 Tablespoons butter (any butter will work)
2 Tablespoons flour
1 Pound fresh mushrooms, sliced
2 Quarts cold water
3 Stalks Celery with leaves; cut tops off and reserve.
1/2 cup chopped Parsley (fresh is good, but if you do not have fresh then use dried).
1 clove Garlic, minced
salt to taste.

The following ingredients are optional to use as it makes the dumplings for the soup:

1 Egg well-beaten and 2 Tablespoons flour.

Preperation: Saute onion in butter until golden. Add the first 2 Tablespoons of flour and mix well. Add the mushrooms and stir until brown. Add cold water, celery tops, parsley, garlic and salt. (I added some McKays chicken seasoning to this as it makes a better flavor to the soup. 1 Tablespoon to each cup of water). Simmer gently about 1/2 hour or more. Add whole celery stalks and continue simmering gently for another 1/2 hour, then remove the celery stalks.

To make the dumplings: in a small bowl, mix the egg with a little salt. gradually add the other 2 tablespoons of flour and blend well. Slowly drip flour and egg mixture into soup and cook 2 to 3 minutes. If egg and flour mixture is held a little higher above the soup when dripped, pretty little egg drops are formed.

—Adapted from a recipe in the booklet entitled: “Quality Czech Mushroom Recipes.” —Michele Sessler

The passing of the time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening to our astonished eyes the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven, and having decided relation to God’s people upon the earth, [also] the first and second angels’ messages and the third, unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, “The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment flashed its strong rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God’s law. The nonimmortality of the wicked is an oldlandmark. I can call to mind nothing more that can come under the head of the old landmarks. Counsels to Writers and Editors, page 30

Health Nugget—Figs

The super-foods series

Seven Amazing Reasons to Eat More Figs

Natural News

At some time in our lives, many of us opted for tasty fig newton cookies as a healthier cookie than all the others. Then came the Fig Newmans sold in health food stores. Yippee, completely healthy treats!

Almost but not quite. They both contain corn syrup and processed flours and sugar. Although many sources claim corn syrup is not as bad as more highly processed high fructose corn syrup (HFCS), there are also claims that the label corn syrup may be currently used to disguise HFCS.

Fig Newmans are better choices. But even better than both choices are figs only, fresh or dried, unless you're willing and able to make your own fig jam and totally organic, processed sugar free cookie wrap for homemade fig newtons.

Figs have been around for centuries, probably originating in Egypt around 9200 BC. [1] Adding the 2,000 plus AD years after the BC point places figs into the Paleo diet philosophy of eating only foods that existed before the age of agriculture.

Dried figs or jam mixtures are used commercially because fresh figs don't hold up well, although they are recommended if you use them quickly. Still popular in the Mediterranean, eating figs has been mostly abandoned in North

America, except for those cookie versions of course.

Here is some nutritional information about figs that will surprise you and maybe motivate you to include figs in your diet.

Seven reasons for including figs in your diet

(1) This might be your first surprise: Figs help build stronger bones. They contain the essential bone building trio of magnesium, calcium, and vitamin K2.

Without magnesium, calcium is inert. And without K2, calcium strays away from bone matter and into the blood, possibly calcifying blood vessel inner linings.

(2) Figs are good for heart health. In addition to minimizing calcium deposits in your blood vessels, the magnesium and potassium in figs are essential for maintaining heart health and keeping blood pressure in line.

(3) Figs are high in both soluble and insoluble fiber. Soluble fiber helps slow digestion and make you feel fuller. It also helps stabilize and lower blood sugar levels. It's good for soothing irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

Insoluble fiber provides the bulk needed to help cleanse the large intestine and eliminate waste easily, reducing constipation incidences. Both types of fiber combine as useful tools for weight management.

(4) Figs help lower serum triglyceride levels. Triglyceride levels are considered more relevant markers for predicting heart health issues and obesity than cholesterol readings.

(5) Dried figs are at the top of the dried fruit list for phenol antioxidant levels. Fruit antioxidants have demonstrated higher eye health benefits than vegetable antioxidants, including carrots, even offering protection against age related macular degeneration (ARMD), the leading cause of blindness.

(6) Figs are alkaline producing, helping the body achieve and maintain that optimum 7.0-7.4 pH reading to lead a disease-free healthy life.

(7) Figs are very high in iron, the mineral that helps create red blood cells and prevent anemia. Pregnant women are encouraged to keep their red blood cell levels high. So shove the pickles and chocolates aside and snack on dried figs if you're expecting.

A cautionary conclusion Dried figs are higher in natural sugar content than fresh figs. Fresh figs have lower sugar contents, but they're not as commonly retailed as dried figs, and they don't keep nearly as long.

But if you're concerned about the sugar content and you're pre-diabetic or worse, consider fig leaves, not for concealing private parts, but for eating. Fig leaves have repeatedly demonstrated anti-diabetic properties.

A study that offered fig leaves for breakfast to diabetics showed they required less insulin injections than usual throughout the rest of the day.

http://www.naturalnews.com/z041332_figs_nutrition_healthy_food.html

“We must let the great principles of the third angel’s message stand out clear and distinct. The great pillars of our faith will hold all the weight that can be placed upon them.”

(General Conference Bulletin, January 1, 1900 par. 1)

The Pillars of Our Faith

Introduction & First Angel's Message

INTRODUCTION

What are the pillars of our faith? What are the main beliefs that we have as God's Seventh-day Remnant people? We need to have common beliefs to bring us together, beliefs that we are united on.

What does God say the pillars of our faith should be? He tells us in various places in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy what they are. But the one place where they are all listed is here:

"The passing of the time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening to our astonished eyes the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven, and having decided relation to God's people upon the earth, also the first and second angels' messages and the third, unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, 'The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.' One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment flashed its strong rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God's law. The non-immortality of the wicked is an old landmark."¹

As we go through this series of studies I would encourage everyone to study each of the pillars of our faith in order that we might know for ourselves what God says about each one. Then together we can go forward giving God's message to the world. Then Jesus can come and we can go home. May we each one be faithful to the end.

In this series of studies we will not cover every statement there is in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy on each one of these pillars. We will only give you the high lights of what God says concerning each one. Thus, this can be the beginning of the study you may do on your own.

THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."²

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven..."

Who represents the angels?

"No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order.³ The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the

light of God's messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth."⁴

"The angel represented in prophecy as delivering this message, symbolizes a class of faithful men, who, obedient to the promptings of God's Spirit and the teachings of his word, proclaim this warning to the inhabitants of earth."⁵

So as we read here we see that these are not literal angels coming down from heaven, but God's people who have studied His word and go forth sharing the precious message with others.

"...having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice..."

Yes, as God's people we are given the responsibility to give God's messages everywhere. How do we do that? By supporting God's ministers,⁶ and sharing within our influence.

"And the angel's flight 'in the midst of heaven,' the 'loud voice' with which the warning is uttered, and its promulgation to all 'that dwell on the earth,'—'to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,'—give evidence of the rapidity and world-wide extent of the movement."⁷

"...Fear God, and give glory to him..."

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."⁸

"To give glory to God is to reveal His character in our own, and thus make Him known. And in whatever way we make known the Father or the Son, we glorify God."⁹

"...for the hour of his judgment is come..."

"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."¹⁰

"It announces the opening of the judgment... But since 1798 the book of Daniel has been unsealed, knowledge of the prophecies has increased, and many have proclaimed the solemn message of the judgment near."¹¹

"Both the prophecy of Daniel 8:14... and the first angel's message, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come,' pointed to Christ's ministration in the most holy place, to the investigative judgment, and not to the coming of Christ for the redemption of His people and the destruction of the wicked."¹²

"The work of judgment which began in 1844 must continue until the cases of all are decided, both of the living and the dead; hence it will extend to the close of human probation."¹³ Yes, it is the time for the judgment, not when Christ comes, but now. Are you interested in your salvation? Today is the day of our salvation.¹⁴

4. 5T 455-456

5. 4SP 199

6. 2T 649;
CS 39
4T 472

1. CW 30

7. GC 355

8. Ex 20:3

9. 7BC 979

10. Dan 8:14

11. GC 355-356

2. Rev 14:6,7

12. GC 424

13. GC 436

3. see also
LS 429

14. 2 Cor 6:2

“...and worship him that made heaven, and earth and the sea, and the fountains of waters...”

“In Revelation 14, men are called upon to worship the Creator; and the prophecy brings to view a class that, as the result of the threefold message, are keeping the commandments of God. One of these commandments points directly to God.

“He is the Creator... It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man’s thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel.”¹⁵

What an awesome God we have! Just look around you at the signs in nature that our Creator gave us for us to see as He cares for it, He cares more for us.¹⁶

What is the work of the First Angel?

“It was to separate the church of Christ from the corrupting influence of the world that the first angel’s message was given.”¹⁷ “The first angel’s message of Revelation 14, announcing the hour of God’s judgment and calling upon men to fear and worship Him, was designed to separate the professed people of God from the corrupting influences of the world and to arouse them to see their true condition of

18. GC 379 worldliness and backsliding.”¹⁸ “The message was designed for the testing and purification of the church... The message was designed to enable them to discern their true spiritual state; it was sent in mercy to arouse them to seek the Lord with repentance and humiliation.”¹⁹

19. GC 353

“The preaching of the first angel’s message and of the ‘midnight cry’ tended directly to repress fanaticism and dissension.”²⁰

20. GC 398

Brothers and sisters, do we now see that God used this message to help His people to see the truth? The message also exposed the error and fanaticism that was working its way into the church of God. God is always watching out for His people. The first angel’s message has been, and will continue to be proclaimed by God’s true and faithful people to prepare ourselves and others for the time that is just before us.

Let us therefore seek God now with repentance and humiliation, for delaying in accepting His truth will have eternal results.

“During this time God’s people must be wide awake charged with intense earnestness. Satan, in cooperation with his angels and with evil men, will put forth every effort to gain the victory, and will appear to succeed. But from this conflict, truth and righteousness will come forth triumphant in victory. Those who have believed a lie will be defeated, for the days of apostasy will be ended.”²¹

Gary Cain

15. GC 437-438

16. Mt 6:25-33

17. 4SP 231

21. Manuscript 24, 1891

MISSION REPORTS

Kenya & Benin

Kenya JUNE 2013

The experience in true ministry will find opportunities to speak upon many things pertaining to the future immortal life. This experience thus gained will be of greatest value to those who are fitting themselves for the work of in the ministry. It is by the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that workers, both men and women, are prepared to become pastors to the flock of God. I believe that we are in the shaking time; the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken and those who belong to the Lord’s kingdom must work earnestly for the saving of souls; doing their part to bind up the law and seal it among His disciples.

On 13th June, 2013 I rode a motor bike to K___ to meet B___ and discuss the forth coming Camp meeting in September 2013. It took me 3 hrs to reach N___-K___. It also was a new experience since I got the arm fracture, I wanted to feel the miraculous healing after only 7 months yet I was given

18 months to feel complete healing of my bone. My interest was to locate the site for the meeting along the river Nile so that my brethren coming to Uganda can also see to learn nature explaining the handwork of God. We agreed to either pick one place on east or west bank of the river. I wanted to have an answer to brethren when I go for the camp meeting in Kisumu come August 2013; they need to know a place which has been identified to be announced in meeting.

The aim of this forthcoming Camp meeting is to strengthen unity of the church within the region for a common cause. This will be a ground where SDRPA Voice can come together to hear and share experiences in planning for the contemporary world to get ‘*present truth*’ burst into a loud cry! We need the E__ A__ region for a common cause of spreading the gospel but not under one man! Pray for us.

Just now, day by day, hour by hour, we are building for the last great day! I

hope our reward will be proportionate to our work. “*My reward is with me,*” Christ declares, “*to give to every man according as His work shall be.*”^{Rev. 22:12} God has His workmen in every age and in every other place of this fallen universe, using them by different available means within their reach to place the creator in His original position. “*And there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.*”^{1 cor. 12:6}

Our efforts today are to get Christ’s church established here on earth so that God may reign among His people. Satan took control mankind after his fall and now he is using exalted individuals to control the conscience of His created beings! This has always denied Christ his rightful position in the church and mortal man has taken the glory of God in form of superior pastors! But “*all ye are brethren*” working^{Mt. 23:8} “*to every man to profit withal*”^{1 cor. 12:7} This is our position in all our setting amongst all the churches of the saints.

On 16th June, 2013 while absent but in

earnest prayers; our brethren sitting in K____ – Kenya moved to adopt a congregational mode of organization amongst our Remnant churches in Kenya. This was reached on when they accepted SDR Church Constitution. It was a good step where the united churches in Kenya may now come up with a document describing them in a manner where no man will have control over God's heritage! Time was every much necessary for the brethren to learn how the Gospel Order work and then finally adopt it! We also allowed individual church members to learn how to determine their own fate other than a few individuals. These churches are now ready to unite with other churches of similar faith and doctrine worldwide. This is our greatest bid as learn to allow Christ reign in His church.^{Rev.3:2}

I thank our supporters for extending a helping hand to enable us progress matching towards Christ's kingdom.

God bless you.

J.W.

Uganda

July 2013

I have been spending most of my time to see that the Seventh day Remnant [SDR] church is established in Uganda – Africa and worldwide working with the brethren across our region. I acknowledge having taken some time to come up the name SDR due the challenges which were associated with identifying ourselves away from the nominal churches of the world including SDA church! Our simple principle from the Bible and SOP is that: 'all ye are brethren' yet the documentation from most governments provides room to see who is the leader of any movement coming up in any administrative environment. We are carefully trying to set up a very simple church organization on a principle of congregational structure where Christ is seen as the centre of all our doings other than human instruction and lordship; but united worldwide to sound the message of the loud cry like a cock crowing for the morning dawn! I have encouraged the K____ and U____ brethren to build up a strong Christian relationship amongst themselves calling upon them to get united and now in advanced stages of getting representatives

to the SDR conference soon to meet. We have taught how the gospel order works best in all churches of the saints emphasizing that 'unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.' Eph 4:7. Our main guiding principle is: 'Come out of her, my people'

In 2006, some of us took more than one day travelling without sleep to S____ – Z____ as representatives from 8 countries who convened to adopt the name SDR. We also learned how deeply we could organize according to gospel order by elder Gary. We have worked for the Lord under this name SDR and many churches have emerged worldwide taking a firm grip on it because it is not anyone's invention and imagination but biblically co-founded for the Last day separation movement of people God – the 'Remnants' and bearing the banner of God – the 'Sabbath'. It so demeaning for anyone to claim control of these very testing words of the last day events by registering with secular government! Let none derails us from our original understanding of these words "Seventh Day Remnants" at whatever level of service he may be offering to the dear ones of the Most high. Let us all be equal by being servants like the Apostle Peter put it: 'Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock' 1Pet 5:2-3

I urge for unity 'So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith ... he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.' Rom. 12:5-8.

In 2009, I did register SDRPA as a slow mail contact for Ugandan; I am pressing for the same to be a publishing entity within the region until will shall come down to individual countries, persons for the publication of 'Present Truth' messages from the Bible and SOP. Therefore I have formatted some of the SOP books from SDR website which include: Steps to Christ, Great Controversy, Ministry of Healing, The Abomination of Desolation and Church

History both in French and English, , booklets and tracts for the work around us. We kindly request support towards this mission so that all may learn for themselves about the soon coming of Christ.

Thank for your continual support and prayers towards the meetings held so far to organize the work within the region.

God bless you.

J. W.

Benin July, 2013

Shalom and greetings from Benin. We are praising Jesus for the success of our trips to Togo Republic few months ago. Hope you are be blessed of the Lord? Thank you so much for all your help in providing finances for our accommodation. We are enjoying our new home and it is better than our former accommodation and Stella and every member of the household are happy. We pray for more blessings and good health to you all. Since we returned back from Togo outreach we have been sick with influenza. Brother R____ is getting better and need also your prayers.

I traveled to Togo with S____ to see our scattered brethren and those who have been rejected by the families because of Jesus and His Sabbath. It was after spending 3 days with the brethren here in Cotonou with different congregations. Our journey to Togo was a huge success because the brethren were so happy to meet us. They are all doing well in Jesus despite the economic hardship. They are full of spirit and are working in the truth giving to them.

We had fellowships with the orphans, widows, disadvantaged brethren in the 3 congregations and several home cells in T____. There are so many needs in T____ and I want you all to pray for God's intervention and that hard times will not affect their faith in Jesus. We met Elder S____ and family along with Elder F____ whose aged mother is very sick. Pray for the work in T____. We need God to raise men and women for the work in Africa and we prayed especially for you for financial blessings.

We spent extra 3 weeks in T__ visiting the brethren, new converts, evangelism groups, orphans, widows, rescued prostitutes, aged ones, and sick brethren praying for them and encouraging them in the Lord Jesus Christ. The house fellowships are growing, believers are doing well though there are occasional threats and attack from the Voodoo adherent and some Catholic churches.

Many people here in the N__ T__ republic are receiving the 7th Day Sabbath teaching well. But there are great needs for French Bibles, evangelical materials, PA Systems, auto bikes, bicycles, etc for effective outreach. Some of the full-time evangelists need some monthly financial helps for their families while they preach the good news and the 3 Angel's message without hindrance. We have the same needs here in C__ and B__ F__ where we have brethren too. It is a very great task keeping the converted prostitutes and other brethren in the faith when we can't help them to become self reliant. It is a life full of temptation, etc. Many of the widows, orphans, even 60-75 year old widowers, rescued temple prostitutes, converted prostitutes etc besieged me for help to start some trade to feed their families and to become self reliant. I don't know exactly what promise to make hence I struggle myself and depend on faith. The needs here are enormous. My heart aches for these young girls whose age ranges from 10-21 years to be left to roam the street in search of food, clothing, education, etc and return back to their former lives.

I really don't know how to approach this very terrible and pitiable situation. They need little money to earn some living instead of being let loose to the lions out there to devour them. All these contributed to our sickness. Oh Jesus please come and assists your people. Please pray for these little ones who have embraced Jesus as their Lord and Savior not to return back to the world. Can anyone of you help and search for such group that can help our brethren not only in T__ R__ but also here in Benin?

We left Togo to Benin very late on a public transport, on arrival at the T__-B__ border post our luggage were checked by the Customs at the border post but on getting home to C__ we could not see one of our luggage where I put my digital camera, PC, etc. We can't be able to explain what really happened, the following day I went to the border post but no one could explain to me what happened or who

took my luggage. That's the way I lost my digital camera which I used to record all the events during the visit of the brethren. I lost also my PC, etc. We give God the glory for everything.

Please do not fail to pray for us and we will continue to do same to you all. God will bless you and your family for your unflinching love and support towards my family and God's work here in Benin, Africa.

M.P.

Letters to the Editor

Dear brother/sister,

1 John 3:1.

Sister L__ and myself would like to congratulate you on the professionalism of the excellent response given to the Seventh-day Remnant Church Council of Indiana.

We wish you the unifying power of the Holy Spirit to work mightily regarding this. We will pray with you.

Has there been any response from the Seventh-day Remnant Church Council of Indiana?

May this SDR name issue, which we have just learnt of the names origination, be only a stumbling block/mountain to be removed.

Zechariah 4:6

Western Australia

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**Letter to the Editor From the Philippines
This is a combination of 2 letters, all emphases are by the writer.**

“God will surely condemn every member of every church claiming to be Seventh-day Adventist (Remnant), who is not doing Him service, but through pride, selfishness, and

worldliness, is showing that the truth of heavenly origin has not worked a reformation in his character...”
–Manuscript Releases, vol. 19, page 175. par. 2.

“All who claim to be Sabbath-keeping Adventists (Remnants), and yet continue in sin, are liars in God's sight...”
–Manuscript Releases, vol. 19, page 177. par. 1.

“We may claim to be Seventh-day Adventists (Remnants), and yet fail of realizing how exalted is the standard to which we must attain in order to deserve this name. Some have felt ashamed of being known as Seventh-day Adventists (Remnants). Those who are ashamed of this name should never connect with those who feel it an honor to bear this name. And those who are Christ's witnesses, standing where the truths of the Bible have placed them, are worthy of the name they bear.-- Letter 6, 1903. (To Dr. E. R. Caro, January 4, 1902.)” –Manuscript Releases, vol. 5, page 455. par. 1.

“With God OUTWARD show weighs nothing. The OUTWARD forms of religion, without the love of God in the soul, are utterly worthless.” –SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, page 958, par. 10.

“I was shown that MERELY observing the SABBATH and praying morning and evening are NOT POSITIVE evidences that we are Christians. These OUTWARD FORMS may ALL be strictly observed, and yet TRUE GODLINESS be lacking.” –Spiritual Gifts, book 4, page 95, par. 1.

“We may, LIKE THE JEWS in Christ's day, manifest the GREATEST OUTWARD REVERENCE for God, and yet PROFANE His name CONTINUALLY.” –Prayer, page 292, par. 4.

“Legal religion will NOT answer FOR THIS AGE. We may perform ALL THE OUTWARD acts of service, and YET be as DESTITUTE of the quickening influence of the HOLY SPIRIT as the hills of Gilboa were destitute of dew and rain.”
–Christian Service, page 263, par. 3.

“The TRUTH as it is in Jesus, planted in the heart by the Holy Spirit, ALWAYS WORKS FROM WITHIN OUTWARD...” –SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 4, page 1181, par. 5.

“Sanctification is NOT an outward work”. –Selected Messages, book 3, page 146, par. 3.

“OBEDIENCE is NOT a mere OUTWARD compliance, but the SERVICE OF LOVE. The law of God is an EXPRESSION of HIS very NATURE; it is an embodiment of the great PRINCIPLE of love, and hence is the foundation of His government in heaven and earth.” –**Our Father Cares, page 69, par. 1.**

“He (*Jesus*) showed them what it was that constituted the SIN OF THE PHARISEES, that, though they were punctilious in the observance of OUTWARD FORMS, they did NOT IN HEART obey the commandments of God. “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall EXCEED the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall IN NO CASE enter into the kingdom of heaven.” –The Signs of the Times, January 31, 1895, par. 4.

“In his sermon on the mount, Christ had defined the FAR-REACHING PRINCIPLES OF the law of God, and had shown that its requirements do NOT CONSIST IN OUTWARD SHOW, but IN HOLINESS OF HEART and life. THIS (!) Christ placed FAR ABOVE ALL OUTWARD observances”. –The Youth Instructor, May 11, 1899 par. 5.

“The OUTWARD ACTS are a fair TRANSCRIPT of the PRINCIPLES within.” –Life Sketches of Ellen G. White, page 244, par. 3.

“OUTWARD conformity to the LETTER of the LAW was NOT sufficient. The very PRINCIPLES of the -LAW must be planted IN THE HEART, and love to God and love to man must be REVEALED IN the CHARACTER, words, and actions.” –The Signs of the Times, October 29, 1896, par. 5.

“FORMS and OUTWARD ceremonies pass for true religion. But through His servant Christ presents before us TRUE CHRISTIANITY.” –The Signs of the Times, July 14, 1898, par. 9.

“The believers began to look for defects in others. Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the Saviour and His love. They became more strict in regard to OUTWARD CEREMONIES, more particular about the THEORY than the practice of the faith. In their zeal to condemn others, they overlooked their own errors. They lost the

BROTHERLY LOVE that Christ had enjoined. . .” –The Acts of the Apostles, page 548, par.1.

“They (*the Jews*) depended upon some OUTWARD PERFORMANCE to show their superior piety. Thus they SEPARATED THEIR SOULS from God, and built themselves up IN SELF-SUFFICIENCY.” –Christian Service, page 98, par. 5.

“HEART service was neglected in the rigid performance of OUTWARD CEREMONIES. The Jews had so PERVERTED the divine commandments, by heaping tradition upon tradition, that, in the days of Christ, they were ready to ACCUSE HIM OF breaking the Sabbath, because of his acts of MERCY upon that day.” –Spirit of Prophecy, book 2. page 195, par.1.

“He (*The Pharisee in Luke 18*) is SATISFIED with a RELIGION that has to do ONLY with OUTWARD life. His righteousness is HIS OWN—the fruit of his OWN WORKS –and judged by a human standard.” –Christ’s Object Lessons, page 151, par.1.

“A man may be a law-breaker IN HEART; yet if he commits NO OUTWARD ACT of transgression, he may be regarded by the world as possessing great integrity. But God’s law looks into the secrets of the heart. EVERY ACT IS JUDGED BY THE MOTIVES THAT PROMPT IT. ONLY THAT which is in accord with the PRINCIPLES of God’s law WILL STAND in the judgment.” –Christ’s Object Lessons page 316, par. 2.

“Do NOT imagine that the performance of ceremonies, the observance of OUTWARD FORMS, will make you an heir of HEAVEN.” –The Review and Herald, April 5, 1892, par. 1.

“ . . inward PIETY and true DEVOTION are fast giving place to OUTWARD FORMS.” –Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, page 609, par. 4.

“NO OUTWARD forms can make us clean . . .The Spirit of God must do its WORK UPON THE HEART.” –Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, page 227, par. 2.

“They may produce an OUTWARD CORRECTNESS of behaviour, but they CANNOT CHANGE THE HEART; they cannot purify the springs of life. There must be a power working FROM WITHIN, a NEW LIFE from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ.” –God’s Amazing Grace, page 120, par. 3.

“OUTWARD FORMS take the place of the INNER WORK of grace.... The THEORY of the TRUTH has CONVERTED THE HEAD, but the SOUL temple has NOT been CLEANSED from its idols.” –Our Father Cares, page 300, par. 4.

“Without the GRACE of Christ the OUTWARD FORMS of religion were VALUELESS to ancient Israel. They are the SAME to modern Israel.” –Patriarchs and Prophets, page 590, par.1.

“He (*Jesus*) knew that the Jewish religion consisted MORE IN OUTWARD acts THAN INWARD piety.” –Spirit of Prophecy, book 3, page 54, par. 1.

“While it is our duty to seek for PERFECTION IN OUTWARD things, it should ever be kept in mind that this aim is not to be made supreme. It must be held subordinate to HIGHER INTERESTS. Above the seen and transitory, God values THE UNSEEN and eternal. The former is of worth only as it EXPRESSES the latter. The choicest productions of art possess no beauty that can compare with the BEAUTY OF CHARACTER which is the FRUIT of the Holy SPIRIT working in the soul.” –Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, page 143, par. 4.

“We call ourselves commandment-keeping people, but we do not comprehend the exceeding breadth of the FAR-REACHING PRINCIPLES of the law of God; we do not understand its sacred CHARACTER.” –The Review and Herald, June 3, 1890 par. 3.

“...many teach the law IN THEORY, but they do not cherish its PRINCIPLES. They do not obey the command of God to BE PURE, to LOVE GOD supremely, and their neighbor as themselves. While constantly LIVING A LIE, can such have strength?” (SpTA02a 9.1)

“The essence and flavor of ALL OBEDIENCE is the outworking of A PRINCIPLE WITHIN - the LOVE of righteousness, the LOVE of the law of God.” –That I May Know Him, page 118, par. 4.

“None will find excuse for sin. By the righteous PRINCIPLES of that law, men will receive their sentence of LIFE or of DEATH.” –The Review and Herald, January 28, 1909 par. 18}

“...the MOST RIGID OBEDIENCE to the mere LETTER of the law as applied to the outward life could entitle no man to enter the kingdom of heaven.” –Conflict and Courage, page 293, par. 3.

R O

“God has a church.

*It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment,
neither is it the various denominations;*

it is the people who love God and keep His commandments.

*‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them(Matthew 18:20).’*

*Where Christ is even among the humble few, this is Christ’s church,
for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity
can alone constitute a church.*

*Where two or three are present
who love and obey the commandments of God,
Jesus there presides, let it be in the desolate place of the earth,
in the wilderness, in the city enclosed in prison walls.*

*The glory of God has penetrated the prison walls,
flooding with glorious beams of heavenly light the darkest dungeon.
His saints may suffer, but their sufferings will, like the apostles of old,
spread their faith and win souls to Christ and glorify His holy name.
The bitterest opposition expressed by those who hate God’s great moral
standard of righteousness should not
and will not shake the steadfast soul who trusts fully in God. . . .’*

(Upward Look page 315)
