

Sabbath Remnant VOICE

Jan-Feb 2019

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

The Temptation Of Christ—Part 8

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, March 18, 1875

Christ was not in as favorable a position in the desolate wilderness to endure the temptations of Satan as was Adam when He was tempted in Eden. The Son of God humbled Himself and took man's nature after the race had wandered four thousand years from Eden, and from their original state of purity and uprightness. Sin had been making its terrible marks upon the race for ages; and physical, mental, and moral degeneracy prevailed throughout the human family.

When Adam was assailed by the tempter in Eden He was without the taint of sin. He stood in the strength of his perfection before God. All the organs and faculties of His being were equally developed, and harmoniously balanced.

Christ, in the wilderness of temptation, stood in Adam's place to bear the test he failed to endure. Here Christ overcame in the sinner's behalf, four thousand years after Adam turned his back upon the light of his home. Separated from the presence of God, the human family had been departing every successive generation, farther from the original purity, wisdom, and knowledge which Adam possessed in Eden. Christ bore the sins and infirmities of the race as they existed when He came to the earth to help man. In behalf of the race, with the weaknesses of fallen man upon Him, He was to stand the temptations of Satan upon all points wherewith man would be assailed.

Adam was surrounded with everything his heart could wish. Every want was supplied. There was no sin, and no signs of decay in glorious Eden. Angels of God conversed freely and lovingly with the holy pair. The happy songsters caroled forth their free, joyous songs of praise to their Creator. The peaceful beasts in happy innocence played about Adam and Eve, obedient to their word. Adam was in the perfection of manhood, the noblest of the Creator's work. He was in the image of God, but a little lower than the angels.

In what contrast is the second Adam as He entered the gloomy wilderness to cope with Satan single-handed. Since the fall the race had been decreasing in size and physical strength, and sinking lower in the scale of moral worth, up to the period of Christ's advent to the earth. And in order to elevate fallen man, Christ must reach him where he was. He took human nature, and bore the infirmities and degeneracy of the race. He, who knew no sin, became sin for us. He humiliated Himself to the lowest depths of human woe, that He might be qualified to reach man, and bring him up from the degradation in which sin had

plunged him.

"For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons into glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."¹

"And being made perfect, He became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him."²

"Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto his brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted."³

"For we have not a High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."⁴

Satan had been at war with the government of God, since he first rebelled. His success in tempting Adam and Eve in Eden, and introducing sin into the world, had emboldened this arch foe, and he had proudly boasted to the heavenly angels that when Christ should appear, taking man's nature, He would be weaker than himself, and he would overcome Him by his power. He exulted that Adam and Eve in Eden could not resist his insinuations when he appealed to their appetite. The inhabitants of the old world he overcame in the same manner, through the indulgence of lustful appetite and corrupt passions. Through the gratification of appetite he had overthrown the Israelites. He boasted that the Son of God Himself who was with Moses and Joshua was not able to resist his power, and lead the favored people of His choice to Canaan; for nearly all who left Egypt died in the wilderness. Also the meek man, Moses, he had tempted to take to himself glory which God claimed. David and Solomon, who had been especially favored of God, he had induced, through the indulgence of appetite and passion, to incur God's displeasure. And he boasted that he could yet succeed in thwarting the purpose of God in the salvation of man through Jesus Christ.

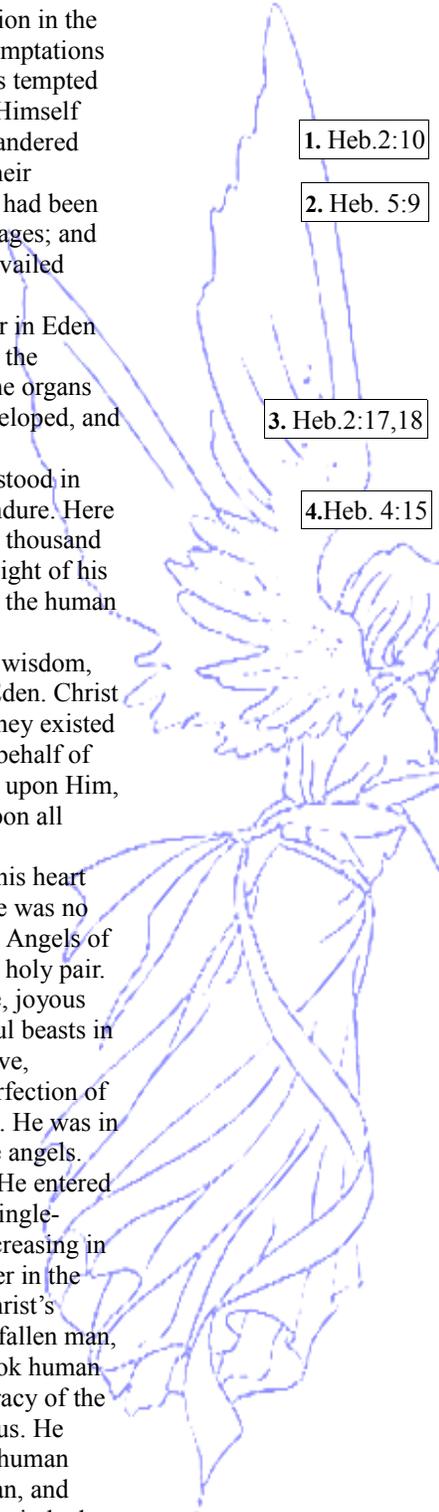
In the wilderness of temptation Christ was without food forty days. Moses had, on especial occasions, been thus long without food. But he felt not the pangs of hunger. He was not tempted and harassed by a vile and powerful foe, as was the Son of God. He was elevated above the human. He was especially sustained by the glory of God which enshrouded him.

1. Heb.2:10

2. Heb. 5:9

3. Heb.2:17,18

4. Heb. 4:15



Satan had succeeded so well in deceiving the angels of God, and in the fall of noble Adam, that he thought that in Christ's humiliation he should be successful in overcoming Him. He looked with pleased exultation upon the result of his temptations and the increase of sin in the continued transgression of God's law for more than four thousand years. He had worked the ruin of our first parents, and brought sin and death into the world, and had led to ruin multitudes of all ages, countries, and classes. He had, by his power, controlled cities and nations until their sin provoked the wrath of God to destroy them by fire, water, earthquakes, sword, famine and pestilence. By his subtlety and untiring efforts he had controlled the appetite and excited and strengthened the passions, to so fearful a degree, that he had defaced, and almost obliterated the image of God in man. His physical and moral dignity were in so great a degree destroyed, that he bore but a faint resemblance in character, and noble perfection of form, to dignified Adam in Eden.

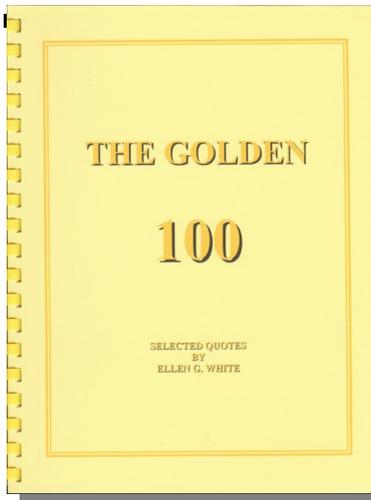
At the first advent of Christ, Satan had brought man down from his original, exalted purity, and had dimmed the fine gold with sin. He had transformed the man, created to be a sovereign in Eden, to a slave in the earth, groaning under the curse of sin. The halo of glory, which God had given holy Adam, covering him as a garment, departed from him after his transgression. The light of God's glory could not cover disobedience and sin. In the place of health and plentitude of blessings, poverty, sickness, and suffering of every type, were to be the portion of the

children of Adam.

Satan had, through his seductive power, led men to vain philosophy to question and finally to disbelieve in divine revelation and the existence of God. He could look abroad upon a world of moral wretchedness, and a race exposed to the wrath of a sin-avenging God, with fiendish triumph that he had been as successful in darkening the pathway of so many, and had led them to transgress the law of God. He clothed sin with pleasing attractions to secure the ruin of many.

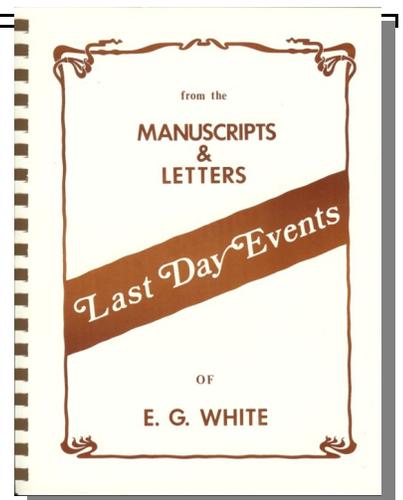
But his most successful scheme in deceiving man has been to conceal his real purposes, and his true character, by representing himself as man's friend and a benefactor of the race. He flatters men with the pleasing fable that there is no rebellious foe, no deadly enemy that they need to guard against, and that the existence of a personal devil is all a fiction. While he thus hides his existence, he is gathering thousands under his control. He is deceiving them, as he tried to deceive Christ, that he is an angel from Heaven doing a good work for humanity. And the masses are so blinded by sin that they cannot discern the devices of Satan, and they honor him as they would a heavenly angel, while he is working their eternal ruin.

—*to be continued*
—Ellen G White



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The SRPA 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.

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Editorial—What Does Propitiation Mean?

Let's look at the word "propitiation" and see what it means. It is used 3 times in the Bible and 284 times on the EGW CD-ROM. It is a word seldom used in our everyday lives, but it carries an important meaning that will help us better understand what we read in our studies of God's word.

The 1828 Webster's Dictionary defines "propitiation" as:

- 1. The act of appeasing wrath and conciliating the favor of an offended person; the act of making propitious.**
- 2. In theology, the atonement or atoning sacrifice offered to God to assuage His wrath and render Him propitious to sinners. Christ is the propitiation for the sins of men. Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2**

We can now understand that it is a big

word that applies to what Christ did for us on the cross. It gives us an idea of the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf, though no word could ever fully encompass its depth and meaning. We can try to understand, but it is so vast that we can only compare it to our personal human experiences of love and gratitude. For instance, we would be very grateful if a friend paid off a large debt on our behalf and saved us from ruin, but that would only be touching the surface of what Christ did for each of us on the cross.

Christ willingly gave of Himself to take the ultimate penalty for the breaking of God's law. God wanted each of us to be able to come home to heaven, and Christ's immeasurable sacrifice opened the way for us, but at great cost and suffering to Himself and the Godhead. As much as we think we

love our earthly parents and our brothers and sisters, Christ's love for His Father and the bond of the Godhead is far greater. We would run immediately to the aid of a loved one in pain, but Christ died alone in agony. The Father and the Holy Spirit could not intervene because they also loved us, and endured the pain along with Christ to ensure that our redemption was paid in full.

All of this is involved in the meaning of the word propitiation. It is up to each one of us to choose to accept this amazing gift Christ has offered us through His sacrifice. Let us show our love and gratitude in return to the Father, to Christ and to the Holy Spirit, and live each day with Their help that the reward of eternity might be ours.

The Spirit of Prophecy reveals that during those dark afternoon hours, the Father was at His Son's side, but because of the covenant they made together in eternity past—the everlasting covenant to save mankind—He must hide His presence during Jesus' suffering. He must not reach out to Him, for the salvation of the human race is dependent on His control at that moment. He must exert infinite, Godly restraint, to control His infinite, Godly desire, to help His frightened, suffering and dying Son. His only Son, whom He loves and with whom He has shared eternity past. Jesus must have no awareness of the Father's presence, nor the eternal bond of love that had always been between them.

The divine love of the Father for you and me restrained the overwhelming impulse to reach out and hold Him in His arms and assure Him that He was with Him at that time, His greatest hour of need. He couldn't, He wouldn't, for if He did we all would have been lost. It was this sense of His aloneness that forced from Jesus' parched lips the harrowing cry, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me" (Ps 22:1), when all the while, His Father was right at His side.

Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man [that is] my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.
Zechariah 13:7

The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt. DA 753.1

Oh, what pain the infinite heart of the Father must have endured, watching His beloved Son fear that He had been abandoned and left alone. How the Father withheld His divine embrace will be the study of the redeemed for endless ages of eternity. Reveal His presence? No; but there was one satisfaction the Father could allow as Jesus suffered alone. He could hide His Son's suffering from the sneering, sadistic crowd, who was staring in delight at His pain and torment, the pain and torment He was suffering for them. Oh, how the Godhead suffered; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were purchasing our redemption.

Inspiration informs us that there was only one time in all eternity that there was a "sundering" of the Godhead. Only once was the everlasting bond among them severed. Only once was one of the eternal trio forced to experience the total abandonment and separation from the others; a separation that literally broke the heart of the Son of God. Herein is the cost of our salvation, but not all; the rest will be for us to ponder in eternity.

"The Omega Rebellion" by Rick Howard p. 67-68

Children's Story—A Faithful Shepherd Boy

Gerhardt was a German shepherd boy, and a noble fellow he was, too, although he was very, very poor.

One day while he was watching his flock, which was feeding in a valley on the borders of a forest, a hunter came out of the woods, and asked:

‘How far is it to the nearest village?’

‘Six miles, sir,’ replied the boy; ‘but the road is only a sheep track, and very easily missed.’

The hunter glanced at the crooked track, and said:

‘My lad, I am hungry, tired, and thirsty. I have lost my companions, and missed my way. Leave your sheep, and show me the road. I will pay you well.’

‘I cannot leave my sheep, sir,’ rejoined Gerhardt. ‘They would stray into the forest, and be eaten by wolves, or stolen by robbers.’

‘Well, what of that?’ queried the hunter. ‘They are not your sheep. The loss of one or more wouldn’t be much to your master, and I’ll give you more money than you have earned in a whole year.’

‘I cannot go, sir,’ rejoined Gerhardt, very firmly. ‘My master pays me for my time, and he trusts me with his sheep. If I were to sell my time, which does not belong to me, and the sheep should get lost, it would be the same as if I stole them.’

‘Well,’ said the hunter, ‘will you trust your sheep with me, while you go to the village and get some food and drink, and a guide? I will take good care of them for you.’

The boy shook his head. ‘The sheep,’

said he, ‘do not know your voice and’ Gerhardt stopped speaking.

‘And what? Can’t you trust me? Do I look like a dishonest man?’ asked the hunter, angrily.

‘Sir,’ said the boy, ‘you tried to make me false to my trust, and wanted me to break my word to my master. How do I know you would keep your word to me?’

The hunter laughed, for he felt that the boy had fairly cornered him. He said, ‘I see, my lad, that you are a good, faithful boy. I will not forget you. Show me the road, and I will try to make it out myself.’

Gerhardt now offered the humble contents of his scrip to the hungry man, who, coarse as it was, ate gladly. Presently his attendants came up, and then Gerhardt, to his surprise, found that the hunter was the grand duke, who owned all the country around. The duke was so pleased with the boy’s honesty that he sent for him shortly after, and had him educated. In after years, Gerhardt became a very rich and powerful man; but he remained honest and true to his dying day.

Honesty, truth, and fidelity, are precious jewels in the character of a child. When they spring from piety, they are pure diamonds, and make the possessor very beautiful, very happy, very honorable, and very useful. May you, my readers, wear them as Gerhardt did. Then a greater than a duke will befriend you, for the Great King will adopt you as His children, and you will become princes and princesses royal in the kingdom of God.

—*Youth's Instructor*, March 1, 1871

Recipe—Rice Pulao

Ingredients:

1 ½ cup uncooked Brown Rice
14 oz. Can of Coconut Milk
Water—add to Coconut milk to make 3 ¼ cups
1 heaping teaspoon Salt
¼ teaspoon Turmeric
1 teaspoon Onion Powder
¾ cup Golden Raisins
(don’t substitute dark raisins)
10 oz. Frozen Green Peas
½ cup silvered Almonds

Directions:

Put coconut milk and water in kettle, add rice, salt, turmeric, and onion powder. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and continue cooking until rice is tender. Add more water if needed to rice to keep it moist. Combine other ingredients, reserving some of the almonds for a garnish. Serves 8-10

—The Joy of Cooking Naturally
by Peggy Dameron

When a sinner becomes sensible of the fact that only through Christ can he gain eternal life; when he realizes that obedience to God’s Word is the condition of entrance into the kingdom of God; when he sees Christ as the propitiation for sin, he comes to the Saviour in humility and contrition, confessing his sins and seeking forgiveness. His soul is impressed with a sense of the majesty and glory of God. The blessedness of an eternal life of peace and joy and purity is felt so deeply that an entire surrender is made.

The Colporteur Evangelist 68.4

Health Nugget—What Are Avocados Good For?

Bravo, Avocado!

Botanical Name: Persea Americana

Spanish conquistadors had their own historian, Oviedo, who reported positively about avocados discovered in Mexico around 1519. But this interesting fruit has graced Central and South America for perhaps 10,000 years, according to the avocado-inspired drawings and artifacts found in early Aztec settlements.

A judge from Santa Barbara took the first Mexican avocado trees to California in 1871. California now grows 90% of the U.S. avocado crop in more than 6,000 groves.

To enjoy an avocado (also called an “alligator pear”), it first has to be prepared. A common chef’s maneuver: cut around the long side of the fruit down to the seed with a large knife. Twist the top half off like a jar lid. Then firmly tap the knife blade on the center of the seed a few times until it sticks. Practice makes perfect. Twist the knife and voilà – it’s out. Carefully score the avocado flesh without nicking the peel, and then scoop it out with a spoon.

Health Benefits of Avocado

When it comes to nutrition, avocados are in a class by themselves because of the unusually large number of benefits they offer—more than 20, last count. Loaded with fiber, one avocado contains 36% of the daily requirement of vitamin K, 30% of the folate, and 20% each of the daily requirements of pantothenic acid (vitamin B5, needed to break down carbohydrates), vitamin B6, vitamin C, and potassium—more than twice the potassium of a banana. Vitamin E, niacin, and riboflavin levels deserve honorable mention. Eaten with other foods, your body is better able to absorb the nutrients, such as alpha- and beta-carotene and lutein.

Avocado is one of the few fruits that will provide you with “good” fats. That means it can help keep your cholesterol levels already in the healthy range, and help lower your risk for heart disease.

Avocados are one of the best fruits for

your health.

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 3.5 ounces (100 grams), raw

	Amt. Per Serving	% Daily Value*
Calories	160	
Calories from Fat	123	
Total Fat	15 g	23%
Saturated Fat	2 g	
Trans Fat	2 g	
Cholesterol	7 mg	0%
Sodium	0 mg	0%
Total Carbohydrates	9 g	3%
Dietary Fiber	7 g	27%
Sugar	1 g	
Protein	2 g	
Vitamin A		3%
Vitamin C		17%
Calcium		1%
Iron		3%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Studies Done on Avocado

Loosely described, lipids, their derivatives, and related substances are fatty acids. Scientists discovered only 40 years ago or so that they’re not just simple building blocks, but perform complex, cell-regulating tasks on a molecular level, like messaging hormones, for example.

One study was undertaken to see if avocados might have more lipids than other fruits and vegetables, which, while rich in carotenoids, are lipid challenged, impeding nutrient absorption. Researchers found that adding avocados to salad and salsa (foods used in the study) can significantly enhance your body’s ability to take up the benefits of carotenoids, due primarily to the lipids in the avocados.¹

The yellow-green color of avocados prompted another study, since color in other plant-based foods indicates carotenoid and

other “bioactive” action, indicating possible cancer-fighting properties. The premise was that the monounsaturated fat in avocados might help your body absorb important bioactive carotenoids in combination with other fruits and vegetables, and therefore significantly reduce your risk of cancer.²

Another study showed that the lipids extracted from avocados might prove photo-protective against harmful effects of radiation, such as sun damage, inflammation, and even skin cancer, if ingested before exposure.³

Avocado Fun Facts

Because ancient Aztecs considered avocados a fertility fruit, and the Mayans used them as an aphrodisiac, a stigma against the fruit carried clear through the 19th century. Growers finally launched a campaign to convince consumers they could eat avocados without compromising themselves.

Summary

Not just for guacamole, sliced avocados lend a buttery texture and delicious flavor to sandwiches and salads. But the health benefits of avocados are stellar, especially with the lipid content that allows your body to absorb nutrients they wouldn’t otherwise.

Avocados are also very high in essential vitamins and minerals, including fiber, vitamins K, B5, B6 and C, folate, and potassium.

Reference:

1 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15735074>, Carotenoid absorption from salad and salsa by humans is enhanced by the addition of avocado or avocado oil, Aug. 2012

2 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15629237>, Inhibition of prostate cancer cell growth by an avocado extract: role of lipid-soluble bioactive substances, Aug. 2012

3 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20978772>, Polyhydroxylated fatty alcohols derived from avocado suppress inflammatory response and provide non-sunscreen protection against UV-induced damage in skin cells, Aug. 2012

—www.mercola.com

Christ knew that no one could obey the law in his own strength. He desired to lead the lawyer to clearer and more critical research that he might find the truth. Only by accepting the virtue and grace of Christ can we keep the law. Belief in the propitiation for sin enables fallen man to love God with his whole heart and his neighbor as himself.
COL 378.1

The Government of God

Democracy, Dictatorship, or Republic?

Part 8 – The Message That Unites

“And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf’s foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went. As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living

creature was in the wheels. When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies. And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings. And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. **This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.** And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.” Ezekiel 1:4-28.

What a picture was this that Ezekiel saw! This is a picture of the government of God. It is similar to the one shown John in the book of Revelation, but while John was shown the organization of the redeemed, Ezekiel saw the organization of the entire universe. The universe itself is divided into four parts. Each of these parts is further divided into four parts, just as the camp of Israel was divided into four camps, each under a standard that corresponded to one of these heavenly divisions. Notice too that each creature has three sets of wings, each set containing two wings, so six wings for each creature. Six wings times four creatures is twenty-four,

corresponding to the twenty-four elders of Revelation, which we saw before represented twenty-four courses, each course serving two weeks in rotation. They are perfectly united, indicated by the fact that they all move at the same time. This order, this perfect organization was to Ezekiel “the appearance of the likeness of **the glory of the Lord.**”

There is another place where we read about the glory of God lightening the whole earth. In Revelation 18:1 we read about a mighty angel who descends from heaven and the whole earth is lightened with his glory. This angel bears the last message of mercy to a world about to be destroyed. What is this glory that lightens the whole earth?

After Israel’s great sin of worshiping the golden calf at mount Sinai, we read of Moses asking the Lord, “I beseech thee, show me thy glory.” Exodus 33:18. In response the Lord promised “I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.” Exodus 33:19

God commanded Moses to hew a new set of stone tables to replace the ones that had been broken at the calf rebellion and then to come up into the mountain. After Moses came up into the mountain “the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:5-7.

The judgment of God, His judicial system, His jury, is His glory.

“It is his righteous character that constitutes the glory of God; and it is this same glory that Christ prays may be given to his followers upon the earth.” *Review and Herald, November 3, 1896.*

Heaven’s plan of order is a perfect reflection of God’s character, His glory, it is based on His law which is a transcript of His character, His glory. Thus God’s character is

the foundation of His thrown and is the glory and light that surrounds it, it is also His governmental organization. As God's church reflects His character more and more closely on an individual level as well as on an organizational one, that light and glory will be reflected more and more by His people and His church. Just as Moses' face shown after communing with God.

Later on we find Moses himself pleading God's own character as a reason for Him to forgive the Israelites. When they were on the very borders of the promised land, Israel rebelled and refused to go forward at God's command. For we read, "It was upon this knowledge of the long-sufferance of Jehovah and of his infinite love and mercy, that Moses based his wonderful plea for the life of Israel when, on the borders of the Promised Land, they refused to advance in obedience to the command of God. At the height of their rebellion, the Lord had declared, 'I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them;' and he had proposed to make of the descendants of Moses 'a greater nation and mightier than they.' Num. 14:12. But the prophet pleaded the marvelous Providences and promises of God in behalf of the chosen nation. And then, as the strongest of all pleas, he urged the love of God for fallen man. 'I beseech thee,' he prayed, 'let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, The Lord is long-suffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression... Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.' Verses 17-19." *Review and Herald, March 18, 1915.*

"Graciously the Lord responded, 'I have pardoned according to thy word. And then he imparted to Moses, in the form of a prophecy, a knowledge of his purpose concerning the final triumph of his chosen people. 'As truly as I live,' he declared, 'all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.' Verses 20, 21. God's glory, his character, his merciful kindness and tender love,—all that Moses had pleaded in behalf of Israel was to be revealed to all mankind. And this promise of Jehovah was made doubly sure; it was confirmed by an oath. As surely as God lives and reigns, his glory should be declared 'among the heathen, his wonders among all people.' Psalm. 96:3." *Review and Herald, March 18, 1915.*

"It was concerning the future fulfillment of this prophecy that Isaiah had heard the shining seraphim singing before the throne. 'The whole earth is full of his glory.' Isa. 6:3. The prophet, confident of the eternity of these words, himself afterwards boldly declared of those who were bowing down to

images of wood and stone, 'They shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.' Isa. 35:2." *Review and Herald, March 18, 1915.*

This is an amazing prophecy! God promised to Moses, and swore a double oath to him that the earth would be filled with His glory. This is the work for the final church, for we read in Revelation 18 of the final messenger descending from heaven "and the earth was lightened with his glory." *Revelation 18:1.* Not the glory of the angel, the glory of God. But not only was it sworn to Moses by a double oath, it was repeated by David in Psalm 96:3 and again by Isaiah in Isaiah 6:3 and again by John in Revelation 18. Four times, the Lord promised his prophets that He would fill the earth with His glory. This promise must be fulfilled in the final generation on the earth. And it's fulfillment has already begun.

"Today this prophecy is meeting rapid fulfillment. The missionary activities of the church of God on earth are bearing rich fruitage, and soon the gospel message will have been proclaimed to all nations. 'To the praise of the glory of his grace,' men and women from every kindred, tongue, and people are being made 'accepted in the Beloved,' 'that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.' Eph. 1:6; 2:7. 'Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name forever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.' Ps. 72:18, 19." *Review and Herald, March 18, 1915.*

Since this is part of the final message of mercy to be given by the final generation and since it was so important that God swore to Moses that it would happen, we can depend on Him to fulfill His word. But how is the earth to be lightened with His glory?

"It is his righteous character that constitutes the glory of God; and it is this same glory that Christ prays may be given to his followers upon the earth. Hear the petition that he makes to his Father for them: 'Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth... And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they

also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world... And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.'" *Review and Herald, November 3, 1896.*

The glory of God is the perfect reflection of His character in His Church! Part of this reflection is the perfect unity that He has with His Father! His church must have it, too, or it cannot lighten the earth with His glory. His character is the foundation of His government. Not only is His character to be perfectly reflected in the church but His plan of government must be perfectly reflected in the church, for this organization, as shown to Ezekiel, is part of His glory.

"This request of Christ has no limit to its fullness. He desires that his followers shall reveal to the world his spirit of unity and love. But before this unity can exist among them, there must be a genuine renovation of every heart; there must be a vital connection with God; the character must be formed after the divine similitude.

"Though each is charged with responsibility, and each has a part to act, 'none of us liveth to himself.' **God has designed by the unity of his people to impress upon a sinful world, and also to reveal to the heavenly intelligences, the fact that Christ has not died in vain.** 'Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.' The pure and holy principle of love distinguishes the character and conduct of Christians from those of worldlings. Standing out from the world, we are to become representatives of the goodness, mercy, and love of God. Thus we may be spectacles unto the world, and to angels, and to men." *Review and Herald, November 3, 1896.*

The only way for God's word to come to pass in this generation is for perfect love, unity, and order to be reached in His church. What an awesome task! What a solemn charge! But He has promised four times and with a double oath, "as He lives and reigns," it will happen! What is that message that is proclaimed by a united, organized, and glorious church? It is a call to come out of Babylon. "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen... Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Revelation 18:2, 4. How is this message a declaration of God's glory, or character? It is a call of mercy, He calls his people to separate from the corrupt, fallen, religious system so that they are not destroyed in the destruction he is about to rain upon Babylon. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." *Amos 3:7.* He warned Lot before He destroyed Sodom and saved all who were willing to come out of that city. He warned Noah of a flood and saved all who were willing to come out of the world into the ark. "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." *Luke 17:26.*

"The Scriptures are constantly opening to the people of God. There always has been and always will be a truth specially applicable to each generation. The message given to Noah was present truth for that time; and if the people had accepted that message, they would have been saved from drinking the waters of the flood. Now suppose a certain people should say, 'We have all the truth that our fathers had; we don't want any more,' and the God of heaven should send them a message as he did to Nineveh. What would be the result?—The same as would have resulted to the Ninevites if they had not repented." *Review and Herald, June 29, 1886.*

This final message is God's glory, revealing His character, by mercifully calling His people out and away from the doom that awaits the wicked, but His character is also one of Justice. He declares that He "will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation." *Exodus 34:5-7.* This justice and mercy is seen in the warning of the judgments to fall on Babylon and all those who will not separate from her.

"We have a covert, a stronghold into which we may run and be safe. Our prayers must reach the mercy-seat, where mercy and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other. The grace which is sufficient for all, will enable us to rise above the severest trials, and to endure the most trying tests. Never was there a period when so much was at stake as there is now. Never was there a generation upon whom rested such weighty responsibilities as upon this generation; for God has entrusted to the men of this time the last warning message." *Review and Herald, April 23, 1889.*

"Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way

against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands his servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty, and leave results with God." *Great Controversy, 1888 Edition, page 609.*

"In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new. When Christ desired to open to His disciples the truth of His resurrection, He began 'at Moses and all the prophets' and 'expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.' *Luke 24:27.* But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the old. He who rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old. For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form." *Christ's Object Lessons page 127.*

It is a solemn responsibility and fearful work that this generation is required to do. But God has promised that it WILL be accomplished. The earth WILL be filled with His glory. His character WILL be perfectly reflected in His people and His government WILL be perfectly reflected in His church.

What a reward awaits those who are faithful in His work! For of the final generation, the 144,000, it is written, "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest." *Revelation 15:2-4.* They sing the song of Moses and the Lamb because they have fulfilled the promise given to Moses by the Lamb. They have been His instruments to lighten the earth with His glory!

Did you notice that they mention the fact that all nations shall come and worship? This is the direct fulfillment of the prophecy and oath given to Moses. This is what Sister White said was beginning in her day through the missionary activities of the church. The

world today is a very different place than it was in 1915. Almost half the world hadn't even heard of Christ back then, but today almost the entire world knows about Him. There are only a few isolated tribes left, here and there, who have not heard about Christ. The entire world will soon have had an opportunity to know Him. All nations will soon receive the final message as was promised so many centuries ago!

The song of Moses was written after the victory of God over Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea, and the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Israel sang "The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him... The LORD shall reign for ever and ever." *Exodus 15:2,18.* It is this same song of victory that the 144,000 sing after their victory over the forces of evil and the bondage of sin. For we read after the destruction of Babylon, "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God... Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." *Revelation 19:1,7.* The 144,000 sing the song of Moses because they have "gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name." *Revelation 15:2*

The final triumph is sure because it was sworn to Moses by a double oath that it would happen and repeated three more times to successive generations. By the love and unity, order and faith, of the final generation of God's Church, the earth will be lightened, and is being lightened by His glory! Don't you want to be a part of it?

The republic of the United States, when it was founded, was not perfect, it had many flaws, but it was based on two perfect and everlasting principles, republicanism and protestantism, civil and religious liberty. Benjamin Franklin and the founding fathers of this country understood how hard it is to keep a republic, for Satan hates this form of government and does everything he can to destroy it. The people of the United States have not kept their republic, just as prophecy indicated they would not.

Even God's church finds it hard to keep a republic, this is plainly seen by the repeated counsels sent from the Lord's prophet about kingly authority. Kingly authority is pleasing to the natural heart but it is not the plan of God.

Even though God's church has not kept

it's republic and has repeatedly stumbled and fallen away from the pattern, we must pick up and begin again. God has not changed His plan of order and we must come back to it and try again to keep it.

“The Lord has declared that the history of the past shall be rehearsed as we enter upon the closing work. Every truth that He has given for these last days is to be proclaimed

to the world. Every pillar that He has established is to be strengthened. **We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth.**—Manuscript 129, 1905.” *Selected Messages Vol. 2, page 390.*

Our victory is as sure as was the victory of Israel over the heathen nations of Canaan,

but we must do our part and do the work allotted to us to do, for God will not do our work for us. In order to reach the heavenly Canaan, we must follow heaven's plan of perfect order, and if we do this, God has promised that the final church will accomplish His purpose.

—Rick and Virginia Markwell
End off Series

Letters—Uganda, Namibia, Tanzania

Uganda

Dear ones,

Heb. 6:10-11

The Lord is looking upon us in mercy and love today desiring to see us seek to stand in right relationship with Him. Every day we meet temptations and trials in one form or another; but if we seek to walk humbly with God and do our best, seeking daily to come into close relationship with Him, He will work in our behalf and manifest his glory in these last days. I also believe that these temptations and trials bring us into a more confounded position of our faith and doctrine and yet we have to hang on until we are established as a morning star.

As we closed year 2018, we realized that God had brought us into privilege of meeting with those whom we had never met and applauded His efforts by a huge gathering. We ought to arise to a realization of our daily duty to give out the message for now and set before the brethren an example that will help them to press forward in the upward way to the aid of a power above ourselves. Our numbers in the camp showed we had grown big and we had many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn so that those who are self-sufficient see how to press forward with the increasing demands of the Remnant movement in the world as regards order & organization.

We have scheduled for a conference straight away in April, 2019, which is intended to foster unity of action and enhance victorious struggle, labors in need of help for the work being done in different parts of the great missionary field. I am now traveling to the different churches on every other Sabbath day to bring to the brethren the attention of the meeting at hand. I believe 2019 will be a year of great work to be done, and God loves to see that our leading brethren need to have greater light, that they may unite harmoniously, with the messengers whom He shall send to accomplish the work that He has designed they should do.

I have always had a especial interest in

organizing our work and efforts which has compelled me to have demands from authorities be in place, printed out the 'Constitution & Bylaws' of SRA movement in bulk so that we can help those willing to register with authorities from respective regions. I have printed out others present truth materials like "The Government of God part 1 & 2", "The Character of God" and "The Golden 100" (for the first time), "Time of Trouble" & "Caught Unprepared" & tracts. To the churches I visit, a few copies are left behind to help them engage in active labor, speaking to the people and spelling out the instruction opened before them in these prints.

I am grateful that in Uganda a bill for regulating the upcoming registration of churches has been drafted and soon it will be tabled in parliament to help us register if need be very fast. Therefore, I am monitoring every development about the matter at stake and updating my brethren of any other level reached upon to be under scrutiny of scriptures so that we don't err. "*The Bible and the Bible alone is to be the rule of our faith, the sole bond of our union...*" (SSW/10/01/1886) Sometimes I feel that unless those who can help in organizing our work are roused to a sense of their duty, they may not recognize that the work of God require them to plan along. I am encouraging everybody to find out what the Lord requires him to do in His vineyard.

To our sad note, our dear bro. Philip Ochala passed on and was sent off to rest on 01/24/2019 in Migori leaving behind 2 school age kids. A moment of silence be observed as we read this and any help to take on these kids will be of great appreciation.

We thank all brethren for standing to support God's work especially in Africa without which it would be very difficult to press on. We pray for your continual support which makes us do what we can't accomplish by our own efforts.

God bless you.

Namibia

Br. B & all Brethren,

02-02-19

Today, is the Sabbath and five days have passed since my Sarah was stolen from me and my children. Every Sabbath she would wake up, first speak to her children in Canada and America, and make sure her house was well prepared for the seen and the unseen guests. She loved flowers and where possible, would make sure there is a flower pot even if it meant picking from her garden. She was a great singer and would make sure there is gospel music in the background. Then she would move to the kitchen. My angel was a great chef. I found it difficult to resist where her hands have touched. She delighted in the whole family dining together around the table. She would then make sure everyone, including me, was properly dressed for the Sabbath. She would then remind me to make sure the offerings are ready. All these things are no more. I don't think I knew that I was living with an angel. I wish time could be reversed. My children and I and the entire family are shaken because the great pillar, a cornerstone of the M__ family is stolen and no more. My steps and that of my children, R__ and F__ Jr., from Monday, 28 January, are painful and the next step unknown. I have many, many questions but no answer. My children are asking the question: How can they be expected to live without their mother? I understand them because my S__, their mother was the greatest mother I have ever known. I have no answers for them. Yes, it is painful that she was snatched from our midst, but most of our pain is the manner she was stolen and more so on her national call of duty. From Monday, my children and I have no tomorrow, for tomorrow is reviling and the present dark and uninviting. For now life is momentary and it comes an hour at a time. The void is wide and deep, impossible for man to fill, but in God we trust. Thank you to you all for your well wishes and support.

— F & the children.

—N J

Tanzania

Dear brother J___, 02-12-19

My heart is full of joy and the name of God be glorified. Thanks so much for booklets donation. I received them yesterday brother I___ came with it. May God continue to bless you so much.

I just wanted to inform you that I received more copies of booklets. Just continue praying for us. I will be back shortly to inform you more about the meeting. We will be here till Sabbath, then on Sunday our guest will leave. Thank you so much for your kind support.

God bless you abundantly.

Bro. M___

Dear brother J___, 02-17-19

We had a very long, loving meeting and we praise and glorified the name of our Almighty above. Thank you, thank you so much for what you have done to us. We were so much happy with the donations of the booklets and your continual prayer and support. Thank you also for supporting brother I___, we were so blessed with the teachings and the messages we got from him. God's true servants are still on this planet.

Now brother, we came up with a good idea that we want to visit each and every

village where our members are and if possible are want to organize as many crusades as possible. We want God's people to hear the message so that they can decide for themselves what is good they can do with their lives.

We are praying for the following to help in spreading the word of God:

—Funds for more booklets and any necessary needs.

—Public Address System. (this will help us to reach even those who are far from where we are.) More so on gatherings like a crusade, efforts and on the Sabbath days.

—Projector and laptop if we can get even second hand in good condition.

We are united, our brethren from Muslims were so very happy that they feel part of us. God is working in a miraculous way that we can't understand, but I think He wants His message to be heard by many brethren.

Thank you again and may God bless your work. Just continue to pray for us as we also do for you everyday. Brother I___ left today to go back to Kenya, we are praying for his safe journey.

God be with us all.

Bro. M___

Dear brother J___,

02-18-19

The meeting was very successful and may

God's name be glorified for that. I want also to thank you for your prayers and financial support. The people were very much happy to see the booklets and the teachings they got.

They want to do door to door evangelism and more crusades more so where our members are, so that the people there can hear the word of God and decide what they can do before we return to dust or meet our beloved Jesus Christ. Due to that they are praying that if they can get more booklets, public address system, projector will help them more on this work. By the way, do you even have second hand projector that is still in good condition to help us with?

We are praying that God is the provider of every thing. He will open ways so that we can continue doing His work.

The demand of booklets continue to grow as we continue to spread the gospel. Let's pray for more funds for printings.

I reached home safe and my family is also well. On this Sabbath I will be at O___ to deliver the message of God. Kindly join us in prayer so that the will of God be done. God bless you and your entire family. Keep faith till we meet.

In God I trust

Bro. I___

Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. He accepts His baptism of blood, that through Him perishing millions may gain everlasting life. He has left the courts of heaven, where all is purity, happiness, and glory, to save the one lost sheep, the one world that has fallen by transgression.

And He will not turn from His mission. He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin.

His prayer now breathes only submission:

“If this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.”

DA 690.3

Story—Two Eskimos Find Christ

It was early springtime in the Northland where snow and ice prevail for eight months of the year. The river was still frozen many feet deep, but in another month the snow would be gone, yielding to the relentless rays of the sun as it rose higher and higher in the sky each day. Then the ice, too, would begin to crack and crumble. The heavy current of the river would soon prove its master and carry it downstream to Selawik Lake, where, under the almost continuous rays of the Arctic sun, it would soon melt and disappear. Erelong the early morning stillness would be broken by the persistent call of the loon intermingled with the shrill whistle of the Wilson's snipe.

Yes, springtime in the Arctic is a wonderful time to be alive, to be able to see and to work. To the lonely Eskimo trapper it is a time of fresh meat, fish, and furs. A time to put away the snow-shoes and paint the boats. A time of really living again.

But to John and Mary Brown, alone in their home away from the village, this particular spring morning was full of darkness and despair.

They awoke early, as usual, John rising to build the fire and boil the water for the hot drink with which every Eskimo starts his day. Mary tried to look at her watch to see what time it was. It seemed to her that John was up a little earlier than usual. It was still dark outside and she couldn't even see the time. Oh, well, maybe she was just sleepy; better lie down again. It would be light after a while.

Soon John was calling, "Get up, Mary." She tried to do as she had been bidden, but it was still dark, so she lay down again. This action was surprising to John, for in spite of her seventy years Mary had always been an active and most helpful wife. They had always done everything together since the last of their seven children had died. But this morning she was acting lazy.

"Here, Mary, I'm gonna give you this cup of coffee. We are gonna go pretty soon."

He handed Mary the cup, watching with surprise as her hand groped for it, apparently not knowing just where it was.

"What's the matter, Mary?"

"I'm sleepy. It's dark outside, just like in the fall time."

"What happened?"

"I don't know. I'm just sleepy."

John was going to take his boat to their spring camp some miles away by dogsled, while the river ice still lasted. He would need

Mary's help. He went out to hitch up the dogs.

Mary suddenly came to the awful realization that she could not see. But she was afraid to tell John. She did not believe that she would be blind permanently, and by groping she was able to find her way around without his knowing just what was the matter.

It was three miles from their home to the portage where the trail leaves the river and goes overland for a short distance. Mary went ahead to be by the dogs and tried to follow in the trail while John helped the dogs by pushing the sled up the bank of the river. She followed in the trail of the portage until they got to the lake where the snow was crusted over, but there she lost the trail and began walking off to one side. John saw her and called to her.

"Mary, why do you go where there is no trail?"

"Where is the trail?"

"Right here," he said. "Are you that blind?"

Then she told him the awful truth. From then on he kept her right with him.

They left their sled loaded with supplies on the river, and John took Mary to their spring camp. Later, another dog team happened by. The people saw the Browns' things on the river and took them up to their camp before the ice should melt and carry them downstream.

Word finally reached the village that Mary Brown had gone blind. An airplane was sent to bring her down where she could stay in the home of friends.

It was here that my husband, Glenn, and I first heard of the situation. We knew Mary only slightly, but felt she must be terribly discouraged. She was not a member of our church, but Glenn felt impressed that he should go and have prayer with her.

It was late one evening when Glenn went across the frozen river that divides the village to the home where John and Mary were staying. Tobacco smoke filled the one room where the family lived. It was not an ideal atmosphere for prayer, but God sometimes works under strange conditions.

This was one of those times. Mary was already in bed, and as it was late, Glenn came right to the point of his visit. He stated that he would pray for God to heal her if it was His will and if Mary so desired. After Glenn had prayed, Mary also knelt in her bed and prayed in the Eskimo language. They left the

results entirely in the hands of the loving and all-wise Father in heaven.

God saw fit to restore Mary's sight. She now has perfect vision in one eye and partial vision in the other. She comes regularly to church to give praise to the God who loves her and in His mercy gave her not merely physical sight but a vision of His kingdom to come. Mary wants to belong to that heavenly kingdom and she is now preparing herself for it. Here is her testimony, just as she spoke it through my interpreter:

"And now I praise the Lord for He have me learn that even though a person was blinded by sin, He can make us see on spiritual way."

This story could very well end here, but it has another climax.

After Mary's miraculous healing she and her husband went back to their home. Only occasionally when they were in the village did she have the privilege of attending church. John did not share her new-found faith.

It happened while they were alone at their home. John suddenly became sick. His abdomen swelled to an enormous size and he was in great pain. If he lay still in bed, the pain subsided, but it was necessary for him to go fishing through the ice, take care of the dogs, and go for wood to burn in the barrel stove. With this exertion the pain was very severe. Neither John nor Mary knew what to do, and there was no one to whom they could turn for help or comfort. No one, that is, except God.

And to Him they turned. They both humbled themselves before God and prayed that He would heal John of this great pain. We do not believe in bargaining with God, but it must be remembered that John's understanding of spiritual things was limited. Even Mary had only recently received the healing power of the Saviour physically, and she was just beginning to respond to the healing of the soul. So they both promised the Lord that if He would heal John, they would give themselves to Him and go to whichever church He led them to. There were three in the village.

God heard and answered their earnest prayers, and now John walks beside Mary every Sabbath morning on their way to Sabbath school. Every prayer meeting finds them in their place. They are now living in the village and receiving Bible studies from my husband. After the study on tithes, Mary told Glenn, "I'm willing to do whatever you

tell us to do.”

John cannot read, nor even write his name; but what a wonderful thrill it was to watch that dear old man come forward one Sabbath day and put his X on a temperance pledge.

Both John and Mary are anxious to tell their loved ones about the wonderful truth that is dawning in their lives. During the Signs campaign Glenn spoke about how souls were won through the Signs. As soon as he had finished, Mary said they would like to send two subscriptions to some of their relatives.

I asked Mary how it was that they chose the Adventist church instead of one of the other two in the village. She answered with just one word, “Agaiyun” [God]. Yes, it was God. He it was who spoke to both of them through two modern miracles and led them to the foot of the cross. Brands plucked from the fire!

If you could understand what these people must go through to be Adventists up here, how your heart would rejoice over the sight of these two dear ones walking bravely across the frozen river, Bible in hand, on a Sabbath morning, faithfully witnessing to all the village that they accept the Bible for what it is—God’s Word.

—by Mary Ausmus Murphy
R&H 09/25/58

**In the contemplation of
Christ we linger on the shore
of a love that is measureless.
We endeavor to tell of this
love, and language fails us.
We consider His life on earth,
His sacrifice for us, His work
in heaven as our advocate,
and the mansions He is
preparing for those who love
Him, and we can only
exclaim, O the height and
depth of the love of Christ!
“Herein is love, not that we
loved God, but that He loved
us, and sent His Son to be the
propitiation for our sins.”
“Behold, what manner of
love the Father hath
bestowed upon us, that we
should be called the sons of
God.”**

**1 John 4:10; 3:1.
AA 333.3**

Christian Service –Chapter 10

Methods

House to House

Of equal importance with special public efforts is house-to-house work in the homes of the people. In large cities there are certain classes that cannot be reached by public meetings. These must be searched out as the shepherd searches for his lost sheep. Diligent, personal effort must be put forth in their behalf. When personal work is neglected, many precious opportunities are lost, which, were they improved, would advance the work decidedly.—{ChS 113.1}

Deeds as well as words of sympathy are needed. Christ prefaced the giving of His message by deeds of love and benevolence. Let these workers go from house to house, helping where help is needed, and, as opportunity offers, telling the story of the cross. Christ is to be their text. They need not dwell upon doctrinal subjects; let them speak of the work and sacrifice of Christ. Let them hold up His righteousness, in their lives revealing His purity.—{ChS 113.2}

God is no respecter of persons. He will use humble, devoted Christians, even if they have not received so thorough an education as some others. Let such ones engage in service for Him by doing house-to-house work. Sitting by the fireside, they can—if humble, discreet, and godly—do more to meet the real needs of families than could an ordained minister.—{ChS 113.3}

Among the members of our churches there should be more house-to-house labor, in giving Bible readings and distributing literature.—{ChS 113.4}

Those who engage in house-to-house labor will find opportunities for ministry in many lines. They should pray for the sick, and should do all in their power to relieve them from suffering. They should work among the lowly, the poor, and the oppressed. We should pray for and with the helpless ones who have not strength of will to control the appetites that passion has degraded. Earnest, persevering effort must be made for the salvation of those in whose hearts an interest is awakened. Many can be reached only through acts of disinterested kindness. Their physical wants must first be relieved. As they see evidence of our unselfish love, it will be easier for them to believe in the love of Christ.—{ChS 113.5}

Let the workers go from house to house, opening the Bible to the people, circulating the publications, telling others of the light that has blessed their own souls.—ChS 114.1}

Our Saviour went from house to house, healing the sick, comforting the mourners, soothing the afflicted, speaking peace to the disconsolate. He took the little children in His arms and blessed them, and spoke words of hope and comfort to the weary mothers. With unfailing tenderness and gentleness, He met every form of human woe and affliction. Not for Himself, but for others did He labor. He was the servant of all. It was His meat and drink to bring hope and strength to all with whom He came in contact.—ChS 114.2}

The presentation of the truth, in love and simplicity, from house to house, is in harmony with the instruction that Christ gave His disciples when He sent them out on their first missionary tour. By songs of praise, by humble, heartfelt prayers, many will be reached. The divine Worker will be present to send conviction to hearts. “I am with you always,” is His promise. With the assurance of the abiding presence of such a helper, we may labor with faith and hope and courage.—{ChS 114.3}

House-to-house laborers are needed. The Lord calls for decided efforts to be put forth in places where the people know nothing of Bible truth. Singing and prayer and Bible readings are needed in the homes of the people. Now, just now, is the time to obey the commission, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” Those who do this work must have a ready knowledge of -115-the Scriptures. “It is written” is to be their weapon of defense.—{ChS 114.4}

My brethren and sisters, visit those who live near you, and by sympathy and kindness seek to reach their hearts. Be sure to work in a way that will remove prejudice instead of creating it. And remember that those who know the truth for this time, and yet confine their efforts to their own churches, refusing to work for their unconverted neighbors, will be called to account for unfulfilled duties.—{ChS 115.1}

—To be continued