

Seventh-day Remnant VOICE

October-December 2008

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

A Call to Present Duty

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald August 3, 1905

Christ intended that a greater work should be done in behalf of men than we have yet seen. He did not intend that such large numbers should choose to stand under the banner of Satan, and be enrolled as rebels against the government of God. The world's Redeemer did not design that his purchased inheritance should live and die in their sins. Why, then, are so few reached and saved?—It is because so many of those who profess to be Christians are neglecting their heaven-appointed mission. Thousands who know not God might today be rejoicing in his love if those who claim to serve him would work as Christ worked.¹

Read the instruction contained in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. There you will learn what kind of education was given to the families of Israel. While God's chosen people were to stand forth distinct and holy, separate from the nations that knew him not, they were to treat the stranger kindly. He was not to be looked down upon because he was not of Israel. The Israelites were to love the stranger, because Christ died as verily to save him as he did to save Israel. At their feasts of thanksgiving, when they recounted the mercies of God, the stranger was to be made welcome. At the time of harvest they were to leave in the field a portion for the stranger and the poor. So the strangers were to share also in God's spiritual blessings. The Lord God of Israel commanded that they should be received if they chose the society of those who knew and acknowledged him. In this way they would learn the law of Jehovah, and glorify him by their obedience.

So today God desires his children, both in spiritual and in temporal things, to impart blessings to the world. For every disciple of Christ in every age were spoken these precious words of the Saviour, "From within him shall flow rivers of living water."²

Many of the youth, in the midst of churches, religious institutions, and professedly Christian homes, are choosing the path to destruction. Through intemperate habits, they bring upon themselves disease, and through greed to obtain money for sinful indulgences, they fall into dishonest practices. Health and character are ruined. Aliens from God, and outcasts from society, these poor souls feel that they are without hope either for this life or for the life to come. The hearts of the parents are broken. Men speak of these erring ones as hopeless; but God looks upon them with pitying tenderness. He understands all the circumstances that have led them to fall under temptation. This is a class that demands labor.

Not the youth only, but those of all ages who are in

poverty and distress, sunken in sin, and weighed down with a sense of guilt, demand our assistance. It is the work of God's servants to seek for these souls, to pray for them and with them, and lead them step by step to the Saviour. What misery exists in the very heart of our so-called Christian countries! Think of the condition of the poor in our large cities. In these cities there are multitudes of human beings who do not receive as much care and consideration as are given to the brutes. There are thousands of wretched children, ragged and half-starved, with vice and depravity written on their faces. Families are herded together in miserable tenements, many of them in cellars reeking with dampness and filth. Children are born in these terrible places. Thus in years of infancy and youth, their eyes behold nothing attractive, nothing of the beauty of the natural things that God has created to delight the senses. These children are left to grow up molded and fashioned in character by the wretchedness and wickedness around them. They hear the name of God only in profanity. Impure words, the fumes of liquor and tobacco, moral degradation of every kind, meet the eye and pervert the senses. And from these abodes of wretchedness piteous cries for food and clothing are sent out by many who know nothing about prayer.

While working for the poor, we should give attention also to the rich, whose souls are equally precious in the sight of God. The wealthy man needs to be labored for in the love and fear of God. Too often he trusts in his riches, and feels not his danger. The worldly possessions which the Lord has entrusted to men are often a source of great temptation.

Thousands are thus led into sinful indulgences that confirm them in habits of intemperance and vice. Among the wretched victims of want and sin are found many who were once in possession of wealth. Men of different vocations and different stations in life have been overcome by the pollutions of the world, by the use of strong drink, by indulgence of the lusts of the flesh, and have fallen under temptation. While these fallen ones excite our pity and demand our help, should not some attention also be given to those who have not yet descended to these depths, but who are setting their feet in the same path? There are thousands occupying positions of honor and usefulness who are indulging habits that mean ruin to soul and body. Should not the most earnest efforts be made to enlighten them?

Ministers of the gospel, statesmen, authors, men of wealth and talent, men of vast business capacity and power for usefulness, are in deadly peril because they

1. John 14:12

2. John 7:38

do not see the necessity of strict temperance in all things. They need to have their attention called to the principles of temperance, not in a narrow or arbitrary way, but in the light of God's great purpose for humanity. Could the principles of true temperance thus be brought before them, there are very many of the higher classes who would recognize their value and give them a hearty acceptance.

There is another danger to which the wealthy classes are especially exposed, and here also is a field for the work of the medical missionary. Multitudes who are prosperous in the world, and who never stoop to the common forms of vice, are yet brought to destruction through the love of riches. Absorbed in their worldly treasures, they are insensible to the claims of God and the needs of their fellow men. Instead of regarding their wealth as a talent to be used for the glory of God and the uplifting of humanity, they look upon it as a means of indulging and glorifying themselves. They add house to house and land to land, and fill their homes with luxuries, while want stalks the streets, and all about them are human beings in misery and crime, disease and death. Those who thus give their lives to self-serving are developing in themselves, not the attributes of God, but the attributes of Satan.

These men are in need of the gospel. They need to have their eyes turned from the vanity of material things to behold the preciousness of the enduring riches. They need to learn the joy of giving, the blessedness of being co-workers with God.

Persons of this class are often the most difficult of access, but Christ will open ways whereby they may be reached. Let the wisest, the most trustful, the most hopeful laborers seek for these souls. With the wisdom and tact born of divine love, with the refinement and courtesy that result alone from the presence of Christ in the soul, let them work for those who, dazzled by the glitter of earthly riches, see not the glory of the heavenly treasure. Let the workers study the Bible with them, pressing truth home to their hearts.

Such an appeal, made in the spirit of Christ, will not be thought impertinent. It will impress the minds of many in the higher classes.

By efforts put forth in wisdom and love, many a rich man may be awakened to a sense of his responsibility and his accountability to God. When it is made

plain that the Lord expects them as his representatives to relieve suffering humanity, many will respond, and will give of their means and their sympathy for the benefit of the poor. When their minds are thus drawn away from their own selfish interests, many will be led to surrender themselves to God. With their talents of influence and means they will gladly unite in the work of beneficence with the humble missionary who was God's agent in their conversion. By a right use of their earthly treasure they will lay up "a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth."³ They will secure for themselves the treasure that wisdom offers, even "durable riches and righteousness."⁴

3. Luke 12:33

4. Prov 8:18

Many have lost the sense of eternal realities, lost the similitude of God, and they hardly know whether they have souls to be saved or not. They have neither faith in God nor confidence in man. As they see one with no inducement of earthly praise or compensation come into their wretched homes, ministering to the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and tenderly pointing all to him of whose love and pity the human worker is but the messenger—as they see this, their hearts are touched. Gratitude springs up. Faith is kindled. They see that God cares for them, and they are prepared to listen as his Word is opened.

As God's children devote themselves to this work, many will lay hold of the hand stretched out to save them. They are constrained to turn from their evil ways. Some of the rescued ones may, through faith in Christ, rise to high places of service, and be entrusted with responsibilities in the work of saving souls. They know by experience the necessities of those for whom they labor; and they know how to help them; they know what means can best be used to recover the perishing. They are filled with gratitude to God for the blessings they have received; their hearts are quickened by love, and their energies are strengthened to lift up others who can never rise without help. Taking the Bible as their comforter, they find a new career opening before them. Every one of these souls that is added to the force of workers, provided with facilities for service and with instruction as to how to save souls for Christ, becomes a colaborer with those who brought him the light of truth. Thus God is honored, and his work advanced.

Mrs. E. G. White.

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MABEL'S DREAM

1 Corinthians 10:31

As the guests came into the beautifully lighted parlors at the home of Mabel Ashton that cold winter evening, there was nothing unusual in the way the rooms looked to indicate that this party was going to be any different from the many other parties they had been attending that winter. Some of the teenagers, as they greeted Mabel, noticed that she was unusually nervous, but, they thought it was just the excitement of the evening, and all were soon busy talking with each other.

The musicians were in their places, and the young people were beginning to wonder why the signal was not given for the band to strike up, when Mabel Ashton, her sweet face first red, then white, walked up to stand by the band. She closed her eyes for a moment, and everyone stopped talking. Then in a voice that shook at first but was clear and steady, she said:

"Friends, I know you're going to think me very strange; but before we do anything else, I have to tell you a little story.

"I had a dream last night, which has impressed me so much that I have to tell it to you. I dreamed that tonight had arrived, and you had all assembled here, when a guest came to the door and was ushered in. He seemed strangely familiar, and yet I couldn't recognize Him. He had an unusual face, peaceful, yet a little sad, and His eyes were more penetrating than any I had ever before seen. He was dressed in neat yet very plain clothing, but there was something about the way he looked that set him apart as no ordinary man.

"While I was trying to think where I had seen him, he came over to me, took my hand, and said, gently, 'You don't recognize me, Mabel?'

"Surprised at this greeting from a stranger, I could only say, 'Your face, sir, seems familiar, but I can't remember your name.'

"'But you have invited me here this evening, both you and your parents have extended many invitations to be present here anytime I can come. You've even invited me to live here; and I came tonight to join you and your friends.'

"I am very sorry,' I replied, 'but I'm even more confused, please tell me who you are.'

"Then he held out the palms of his hands, and I could plainly see the print of nails there. He looked right through me with those piercing yet tender eyes; and I didn't need Him to say, 'I am Jesus Christ,

your Lord.'

"To say that I was startled would be to express only a very small part of my feelings. For a moment I stood still, not knowing what to do or say. Why couldn't I fall at His feet and say with all my heart, 'I am so glad to see you here, Lord Jesus.'?"

"With those eyes looking into mine, I couldn't say it; because it wasn't true. For some reason, that at the time I only half understood, I was sorry He had come. It was an awful thought, to be glad to have all my friends here, but sorry to see my Saviour! Was I ashamed of Him, or was I ashamed of something in myself?

"I finally recovered enough to say, 'I'm sure you'd like to talk to my parents.'

"'Yes, Mabel,' He said, as He followed me to where my mother and father sat, 'But I came this evening to be with you and your friends; for I have often heard you talk in the young people's meetings about how wonderful it would be if you could have me visibly present with you.'

"I felt my face grow hot as the thought flashed through my mind, tomorrow night is prayer meeting night; I would have loved to see Him then. But why not tonight? I led Him to my parents, and somewhat shamefacedly, introduced Him.

"They both started in surprise, but, convinced by His appearance that there was no mistake, my father welcomed Him and offered Him a seat, remarking that this was an unexpected pleasure. After a somewhat lengthy pause, he explained to Jesus that I had been so busy with my schoolwork and had so little variety in my life that I had been allowed to invite a few friends over for the evening. He explained that he believed dancing to be healthful exercise and the church looked upon it differently than it did forty years ago.

"As my father stammered on I felt myself flush crimson with shame both for my dear father and myself. Why should he apologize at all for what he considered absolutely right? It sounded so hollow there in the presence of the Lord! Didn't Jesus know that my schoolwork wasn't so pressing but that I could keep late hours, sometimes several nights a week, at parties?

"Then father, anxious to relieve my embarrassment, said 'I am sure we can leave these young people safely to themselves, and nothing would please me better than to take You, my Lord Jesus, off into my study for a talk.'

"'No,' said Jesus, 'Mabel has often in-

vited me, and I came tonight especially to be with her. Will you introduce me to your friends, Mabel?'

"Of course, all this time you, friends, were looking at us, wondering at our embarrassment, and perhaps guessing that we had been made uncomfortable by the arrival of a not altogether welcome guest. I led Him first to some of the church members among you, and there was not one of you who looked so comfortable after the introduction as before.

"As it became known Who the guest was, faces changed color, and some of you looked very much as if you wanted to leave the room. It really seemed as if the church members were less willing to meet Jesus than those who were not Christians.

"One of you came up quietly and whispered to me, 'Shall I tell the musicians not to play the dance music. But to look up some sacred pieces?' Jesus heard the question, and, looking us both squarely in the face, He simply asked, 'Why should you?' and we couldn't answer. Some one else suggested that we could have a very nice evening if we changed our plans, and asked Jesus to talk to us. And He also was met with the searching question, 'Why should My presence change your plans?'

"After I had introduced the Lord Jesus to you all, and no one knew what to do next, Jesus turned to me and said: 'You were planning for dancing, weren't you? It is high time you began, or you can't finish your party before daylight. Won't you tell the band to begin, Mabel?'

"I was so embarrassed. If my original plan was all right, His presence should only add joy to the occasion; yet here were all my friends, and myself, made wretchedly uncomfortable by the presence of Him whom most of us called our best Friend.

"Determined to throw off this feeling and be myself, I told the band to play for the first dance.

"The young man with whom I was supposed to dance this first dance did not come for me, and no one went out on the floor. This was still more embarrassing. The band played again, and two or three couples, more for me than for any other reason, began to dance in a rather formal manner. I was almost beside myself with shame and confusion. Jesus turned to me and said, 'Mabel, your guests don't seem comfortable. Why don't you, as their host-

ess, make them feel better by dancing, yourself? Would it help you any if I offered to dance with you?"

"My confusion gave way almost to horror, as I looked into those tenderly sad eyes and cried, 'You dance! You can't mean it!'"

"Why not, Mabel? If my disciple may dance, may not I? Did you think all this winter, when you and others of My disciples have gathered for the dance, the card-party, or at the theater, that you left Me at home or in the church? You prayed for My presence in the prayer meeting; you didn't quite want it here; but why not,

My dear child? Why haven't you welcomed Me tonight, Mabel? Why has My presence spoiled your fun? Though I am a 'Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,' yet I love to share and increase the pure joys of My disciples. Is it possible that you leave Me out of any of your fun, Mabel? If so, isn't it because you feel that they don't help you to become like Me and to glorify Me? Have you done these things for the glory of God?"

"I saw it all now. Overcome with self reproach and profound sorrow, I threw myself on the floor at His feet, and sobbed out my repentance.

"With, 'Daughter, go in peace; thy sins be forgiven thee,' He was gone.

"I woke up and found that it was all a dream. And now I want to ask you, my friends, shall we go on with the program tonight, or shall we discuss for a time the question, 'What can young people do to make the world better for their having lived in it?'"

Everyone voted in favor of the latter plan.

Adapted from "Stories Worth Re-reading"
Virginia Markwell

DOCTOR EIGHT

The eighth doctor smiled as he said with a nod, "All things work together if you just trust in God."

"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power--these are the true remedies."¹

Trust in divine power! How sweet it seems! But what does it really mean?

Does it mean that I have my whole day (week, month, year, life) planned and seek His help when there appear bumps and hills of difficulty that seem insurmountable?

"Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, 'Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.' This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.

"A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love--this is the subject for the soul's contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness."²

Or does trust mean that I eat what I want, go to humans to regain my health and when they no longer have help for me that, THEN I turn to God?

"The only hope of better things is in the education of the people in right principles. Let physicians teach the people that restorative power is not in drugs, but in nature. Disease is an effort of nature to free the system from conditions that result from a violation of the laws of health. In case of sickness, the cause

should be ascertained. Unhealthful conditions should be changed, wrong habits corrected. Then nature is to be assisted in her effort to expel impurities and to re-establish right conditions in the system.

"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power--these are the true remedies. Every person should have a knowledge of nature's remedial agencies and how to apply them. It is essential both to understand the principles involved in the treatment of the sick and to have a practical training that will enable one rightly to use this knowledge."³

Or does trust mean that when I am almost bankrupt I pray for the Lord to bail me out of the financial difficulties brought about by following my own business plans?

"That which lies at the foundation of business integrity and of true success is the recognition of God's ownership. The Creator of all things, He is the original proprietor. We are His stewards. All that we have is a trust from Him, to be used according to His direction. This is an obligation that rests upon every human being. It has to do with the whole sphere of human activity. Whether we recognize it or not, we are stewards, supplied from God with talents and facilities and placed in the world to do a work appointed by Him."⁴

"God's requirements come first. We are not doing His will if we consecrate to Him what is left of our income after all our imaginary wants have been supplied. Before any part of our earnings is consumed, we should take out and present to Him that portion which He claims. In the old dispensation an offering of gratitude was kept continually burning upon the altar, thus showing man's endless obligation to God. If we have prosperity in our secular business, it is because God blesses us. A part of this income is to be devoted to the poor, and a large portion to be applied to the cause of God. When that which God claims is rendered to Him, the remainder will be sanctified and blessed to our own use. But when a man robs God by withholding that which He requires, His curse rests upon the whole."⁵

"There is no branch of legitimate business for which the Bible does not afford an essential prepara-

1. MH 127

3. MH 127

4. AH 367

2. SC 70

5. AH 369

tion. Its principles of diligence, honesty, thrift, temperance, and purity are the secret of true success. These principles, as set forth in the Book of Proverbs, constitute a treasury of practical wisdom. Where can the merchant, the artisan, the director of men in any department of business, find better maxims for himself or for his employees than are found in the words of the wise man,"⁶

And one last question: when our "brethren:" (or even family members) take a stand on some point do we go along with them to keep peace or do we part ways because they are no longer supporting what we were always taught?

"Those who are teaching the most solemn message ever given to the world, should discipline the mind to comprehend its significance. The theme of redemption will bear the most concentrated study, and its depth will never be fully explored. You need not fear that you will exhaust this wonderful theme. Drink deep of the well of salvation. Go to the fountain for yourself, that you may be filled with refreshment, that Jesus may be in you a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life. Only Bible truth and Bible religion will stand the test of the judgment. We are not to pervert the word of God to suit our convenience, and worldly interests, but to honestly inquire, 'What wilt thou have me to do?' 'Ye are not your own, for ye are

7. 1 Cor 6:19, 20

8. 1 Pet 1:18, 19

6. AH 391

9. CE 119

10. CE 119-120

bought with a price.'⁷ And what a price! Not 'with corruptible things, as silver and gold,... but with the precious blood of Christ.'⁸ When man was lost, the Son of God said, I will redeem him, I will become his surety and substitute. He laid aside his royal robes, clothed his divinity with humanity, stepped down from the royal throne, that he might reach the very depth of human woe and temptation, lift up our fallen natures, and make it possible for us to be overcomers—the sons of God, the heirs of the eternal kingdom. Shall we then allow any consideration of earth to turn us away from the path of truth? Shall we not challenge every doctrine and theory, and put it to the test of God's word?"⁹

"We should not allow any argument of man's to turn us away from a thorough investigation of Bible truth. The opinions and customs of men are not to be received as of divine authority. God has revealed in his word what is the whole duty of man, and we are not to be swayed from the great standard of righteousness. He sent his only begotten Son to be our example, and bade us to hear and to follow him. We must not be influenced from the truth as it is in Jesus, because great and professedly good men urge their ideas above the plain statements of the word of God."¹⁰

Jean Johnson

RECIPE

EGGLESS SOY SOUFFLÉ

2 Cups soybeans
2 qts Water
Soak overnight-drain and rinse.
Liquefy beans with:
Tomatoes (fresh or canned) about a quart
(may use tomato pureé)
1 fresh onion or onion powder (2 Tbs)
4 Tbs food yeast
Celery and garlic salt or granules (to taste)
4 Tbs oil
2 tsp salt—to taste
4 Tbs Braggs
Add just enough water to blend. Doesn't need to be real smooth.

Pour into 11x14 flat baking dish (oiled) and bake at 400° for 15 min.
Reduce temperature to 325° for 1 ¼ hours.
Let set before serving.

Note: soaked beans will be 4-5 Cupfuls.

Main dish: up to 12 servings. Keeps well.
Freezes well. Good to use as sandwich spread along with olives, mayonnaise, and other seasonings.

Adapted from Ten Talents by Frank and Rosalie Hurd.

As we need food to sustain our physical strength,
so do we need Christ, the Bread from heaven,
to sustain spiritual life and impart strength to work the works of God.

THE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD

Part 2

The Jewish people accused Stephen of speaking “blasphemous words against this holy place” or against their temple.¹ And what were Stephen’s words?

“But Solomon built him (God) an house. Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hands made all these things?”²

Stephen was basically telling all the Jewish church members that in this New Covenant period, God does not dwell in literal buildings, but desires to dwell in the individual hearts of His people through Jesus Christ. In other words, Stephen was telling them that any who desired to worship God must worship Him in spirit and truth, that no one needed to belong to the denominational church or to visit any temple in order to worship God. This of course meant that no one needed to remain subject to the authority of the corrupt priests or needed to remain connected to their apostate church any longer, but could find perfect rest and lasting freedom in Jesus Christ! The Testimony of Jesus makes it very plain:

“He (Stephen) referred to the history of the temple and declared that God dwelleth not in temples made with hands. The Jews worshipped the temple and were filled with greater indignation at anything spoken against that building than if it had been spoken against God.”³

The temple worshipping Jews became very angry that such words were spoken against their church and authority. And instead of recognizing this truth, taking their love and worship from the temple and placing it instead upon Jesus, they rejected Christ, rejected His truth, and stoned Stephen to death.

But what is even more amazing, is that in this New Covenant period, this exact same evil spirit, which rises up in angry defiance against anyone who speaks against their denomination, is still rankling in the hearts of many today. When any words are spoken which expose the corruption in their church, or touches upon the false doctrines which their denomination upholds, even if these words are the truth, instead of examining the points brought forth to see if it is indeed true, they rise up in angry defiance against the messenger and want him silenced immediately. This is just an evident token that their denominational leaders have successfully supplanted Christ from their hearts and put the denomination in His place, and have led these individuals to worship their de-

1. see Acts 6:13

2. Acts 7:47-50

4. Heb 8:10

5. 2 Cor 6:16

3. EW 198

nomination instead of God alone. May these deceived individuals wake up before it is too late, because if they do not exchange their denominational church for Jesus Christ, then they will also be led to fight in any underhanded way against any who dare speak a word against their beloved church-idol, even to the point of murder as did the Jews, and yet all the time blindly believing that they are doing God service!

But friends, the Bible truth is that we are no longer under the Old Covenant system where God’s presence dwelt in the literal temple building in the Most Holy Place directly above the two tables of stone upon which God wrote His ten commandments, and which temple the people had to resort to in order to worship God. But we are the people of the New Covenant system, where God’s presence can dwell in the body temple, where God desires to write His law in our heart or mind!

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.”⁴ “...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”⁵

So the Bible is very clear that God’s true church is not made up of any denomination—no matter how exalted their name, no matter how much Bible truth they may claim to believe or to have followed for decades, no matter how loudly they may proclaim to be God’s chosen, because what constitutes God’s true church is individual people

Praise God for this true understanding! Now individuals no longer have to remain in bondage to a corrupt priesthood or to an apostate church, but they can find true freedom in Jesus Christ! Therefore, any denomination or religious group which puts forth the claim that they are the true church of God, and therefore your salvation is jeopardized if you willingly separate from them, or are cast out, disfellowshipped, or excommunicated from their fellowship, you can then know that they have cast Christ out of their church and have taken His place among their people!

So God’s true church is not made up of any denomination, because what constitutes God’s true church is individual people!

Next time we will show how Christ is the center and not the church or denomination.

Bob Sessler.

The Jews worshipped the temple and were filled with greater indignation at anything spoken against that building than if it had been spoken against God

The Pillars of Our Faith

The Third Angel's Message

“The solemn messages that have been given in their order in the Revelation are to occupy the first place in the minds of God’s people. Nothing else is to be allowed to engross our attention.”¹

In continuing our study on the “Pillars of our Faith” we will now study the Third Angel’s message.

THE THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE

It is a message that covers all three messages, blended into one message. “The third angel’s message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels, is the message for this time.”²

“The third angel is represented as flying in the midst of heaven, symbolizing the work of those who proclaim the first, second, and third angel’s messages; all are linked together.”³

Brothers and sisters we do not have the option to pick and choose which angel we want to follow. They are linked together. “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”⁴

In our last study we discussed the Second Angel’s Message. As we continue with the Third Angel’s Message let us remember that these messages are the messages for our time.

Let us now briefly go through the symbols of the Third Angel’s Message. “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice...”⁵

“The third angel’s message was to be given, the minds of believers were to be directed to the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ had entered to make atonement of His people. The Sabbath reform was to be carried forward. The breach in the law of God must be made up. The message must be proclaimed with a loud voice, that all the inhabitants of earth might receive the warning.”⁶

“The third angel’s message will go forth, not in whispered tones, but with a loud voice.”⁷

“...If any man worship the beast...”⁸

“...we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy.”⁹

“...and his image...”¹⁰

“But what is the ‘image to the beast’? and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image to the beast. It is also called an image of the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy.”¹¹

“The ‘image to the beast’ represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.”¹²

“...and receive the mark in his forehead, or in his hand.”¹³

“Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast.”¹⁴

“...and yet you still cling to the false sabbath, refusing to keep holy the Sabbath which God calls ‘My holy day,’ you receive the mark of the beast.”¹⁵

So we can say that “In his forehead or in his hand” would signify the thought and action process of those who keep the false Sabbath, thereby receiving the mark of the beast.

“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”¹⁶

Some may ask, can a loving God truly have the wrath of which is spoken of in the above text? Yes! The Bible is clear that there are consequences for those who refuse to follow Him. “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;”¹⁷ and also “And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.”¹⁸

In Rev 16 we are given the account of the seven last plagues and to whom they fall upon. In Rev 19:20 we see what happens to the beast and the false prophet. In Rev 20:9-15 we also find who will be cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”¹⁹

“The fearful threatenings of the third angel are to be realized, and all the wicked are to drink of the wrath of God.”²⁰

Brethren, those who teach that “God does not kill” cannot teach the Third Angel’s Message. This teaching destroys at least one of the Pillars of our Faith. For the Third Angel tells us of the justice of God. Being that the Three Angel’s Messages are one message, this belief effects their understanding of all three angels’ messages. (If you would like a booklet or video on “Errors that Attack the Pillars of our Faith,” please contact us).

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”²¹

(quoting this verse then) “This is the law and the gospel.”²²

“And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”²³

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE THIRD ANGEL?

“I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.’”²⁴

1. 8T 302

2. 8T 197

(see also 7BC 980)

16. Rev. 14:10-11

3. 3SM 405

(see also 6T 17;

CWE 26; 2SM 117;

7BC 985; GC 450)

4. Mark 10:9

17. Ex 20:5

18. Rev 15:1

5. Rev 14:9

19. Rev 20:15 (see also

Col 3:6; Eph 5:6;

Rom 1:18; Ps 75:8)

6. EV 695 20. EW 274

(see also 7BC 980)

7. 5T 252

8. Rev 14:9

9. GC 443

(see also GC 439;

4SP 278)

10. Rev 14:9

21. Rev 14:12

11. GC 443

22. 2SM 385

12. GC 445 (see also

4SP 278; GC 444,

449; 3SM 385)

23. Ex 20:6

13. Rev 14:9

14. 7BC 976

24. EW118

15. 7BC 980 (4SP 279;

GC 605; TM 133)

“...the third angel’s message, which shows the way into the most holy place.”²⁵

“The third angel’s message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth.”²⁶

“The third angel’s message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment...”²⁷

WHAT DOES GOD SAY THE POSITION OF HIS PEOPLE SHOULD BE?

“The peculiar work of the third angel has not been seen in its importance. God meant that His people should be far in advance of the position which they occupy today. But now, when the time has come for them to spring into action, they have the preparation to make.”²⁸

“Let the light of the glorious angel which unites with the third angel shine upon me; give me a part in the work; let me sound the proclamation; let me be a colaborer with Jesus Christ. Thus seeking God, let me tell you, He is fitting you up all the time, giving you His grace.”²⁹

Brothers and sisters we have a responsibility as God’s people to study and understand the Three Angels’ Messages and to share them with others. This is our work.

WHAT DOES THIS “GLORIOUS ANGEL” SAY THAT UNITES IT WITH THE THIRD ANGEL?

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”³⁰

“When Jesus began His public ministry, He cleansed the Temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of His ministry was the second cleansing of the Temple. So in the last work for the warning of the world, two distinct calls are made to the churches. The second angel’s message is, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication’³¹ And in the loud cry of the third angel’s message a voice is heard from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities’³²

After quoting Rev. 18:1-2, 4, we are told: “In this scripture the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel, (Rev. 14:8) is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844... Of Babylon at this time it is declared, ‘Her sins have

25. EW 260

26. 6T 61

27. EV 184

33. 4SP 421-422 (see also EW 277; GC 603)

28. 5T 714

34. UL 277; (Manuscript 75, Sept. 20, 1906)

29. UL 283

35. Kress Collection 124 (July 4, 1900)

36. Rom 12:1

37. 1 Cor 10:31

30. Rev 18:1-5

38. 1T 469

39. 1T 486 (see also 3T 62, 161; 8T 166)
31. Rev 14:8

32. Rev 18:4, 5;
R&H, Dec. 6, 1892;
2SM 118

reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.’ (Rev. 18:5) She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of his judgments, these faithful ones must be called out, that they ‘partake not of her sins, and receive not of her plagues.’ Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from Heaven, lightening the earth with his glory, and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard, ‘Come out of her, my people.’ As these warnings join the third angel’s message, it swells to a loud cry.”³³

WHEN IS THIS MESSAGE TO BE GIVEN?

“All are to hear the last message of warning. The prophecies in the book of Revelation, chapters 12 to 18, are being fulfilled. In the eighteenth chapter is recorded the very last call to the churches. This call is now to be given.”³⁴

“The message of the angel following the third is now to be given to all parts of the world. It is to be the harvest message, and the whole earth will be lighted with the glory of God. The Lord has this one more call of mercy to the world, but the perversity of men diverts the work from its true bearing, and the light has to struggle amid the darkness of men who feel themselves competent to do a work which God has not appointed them to do.”³⁵

THE RIGHT ARM OF THE MESSAGE

Together with the Three Angels’ Messages God in His mercy foresaw the necessity of giving the health message that would, “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.”³⁶

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”³⁷

It is the duty of every God sent medical missionary and pastor to give the full separation message, united with the health message. God has given us direct instruction for this. When we look back in history during the late 1800s and early 1900s we find that the separation of these two messages were a hindrance to God’s work. Surely we do not want to repeat that history today.

“One important part of the work of the ministry is to faithfully present to the people the health reform as it stands connected with the third angel’s message as part and parcel of the same work.”³⁸

“The health reform, I was shown, is a part of the third angel’s message and is just as closely connected with it as are the arm and hand with the human body.”³⁹

“Again and again I have been instructed that the medical missionary work is to bear the same relation to the work of the third angel’s message that the arm and hand bear to the body. Under the direction of the divine Head they are to work unitedly in preparing the way for the coming of Christ. The right arm of the body of truth is to be constantly active, constantly at work, and God will strengthen it. But it is not to be made the body. At the same time the body is not to say to the arm: ‘I have no need of thee.’ The body has need of the arm in order to do active, aggressive

work. Both have their appointed work, and each will suffer great loss if worked independently of the other."⁴⁰

40. 6T 288

"Medical missionary work is in no case to be divorced from the gospel ministry. The Lord has specified that the two shall be as closely connected as the arm is with the body. Without this union neither part of the work is complete. The medical missionary work is the gospel in illustration. But God did not design that the medical missionary work should eclipse the work of the third angel's message. The arm is not to become the body. The third angel's message is the gospel message for these last days, and in no

41. 6T 240-241 (see also 6T 288-293; Chs 132-140)

case is it to be overshadowed by other interests and made to appear an unessential consideration. When in our institutions anything is placed above the third angel's message, the gospel is not there the great leading power."⁴¹

It is my prayer that these messages, ALL INCLUSIVE, will also do a work in each of our lives, that we may have victory over all our sins, that we live by the Spirit and not by the flesh, that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ will not be in vain for any of us. Praise God for this message! We do not need to receive the mark, number or name of the beast, but have the seal of God.

Gary Cain

Editorial

I want to share with you some of the things that are happening.

Sometimes we think that things should be happening a lot faster than they are. We are impatient at what seems to be the slowness of the movement. Even the irregularity of the Voice is looked on as a failure. We see some things that appear to be opening up and then nothing more comes of it. We find ministers that agree with the separation message and then go off on a tangent to the point where we can't agree with them on one or more of these other doctrines. We can no longer use them at our convocations. We can no longer preach at their meetings. We see a great revival in one place and then because things don't happen fast enough the revival wanes, people go back to the apostate religions they left. Many of the home churches get smaller, not larger.

So, do we determine the truth by its success? Is the goal to have a lot of conversions? Do we measure success by numbers? Is the Voice to be measured by how many subscribe?

If we were seeking advertising to increase our business we would look at where we can get the most exposure for the least expense. We would want to advertise to those most likely to buy our product. If we want to advertise our convictions, share the truth we have found, where do we go? Who do we talk to? Are we so committed to the Lord that we are ready to "advertise" when the opportunity presents itself? Who have you talked to about their eternal destiny? I'm not just

asking you these questions, I'm asking myself the same questions.

Yet, things are happening. Look at the mission reports in prior issues. Look at the mission report in this issue. There are more reports coming in future issues.

And we have been getting the Voice to you more frequently. We have been getting extra help in assembling the articles for the magazine, in proof reading, in collating and stapling.

We were able to purchase a folder for a very reasonable amount. This has speeded up the assembling of the Voice. We have found a new source of heavier paper at lower cost than the lighter paper we used before. This is the first issue that uses the heavier paper throughout rather than just the cover. Things are happening!

I want to express my thanks for the extra help we have been getting from Rick Markwell. He is helping with type setting and proof reading as well as being the circulation manager.

I want you to notice the new phone number. 1-877-SDR-PA44 (737-7244). It should be easier to remember than the last one. We changed it because the last one spelled out 800 ePayroll and we were getting phone calls all hours of the day and night from employees seeking their password to access their accounts which we didn't have.

When we started the publishing association some of the donors thought we were starting a church and they sent us tithe money. We set that money aside and would not use it for publishing. Then we

set up a tithe committee to determine how to handle those funds. The tithe committee approved the support of two men that were doing the work of ministers. One in Uganda, Africa, and the other in Columbia, South America. We are sending them each \$250 a month. We have now exhausted the tithe that was sent to us. We determined not to stop their support and have continued to do that. We feel that it is important to continue to support them, especially since the world's economy has slowed down. We have been using the general account (money that was donated that was designated to be put where it is most needed) to meet this commitment. We wanted to make you aware of this commitment in case the Lord directs you to support it.

We are thankful to those who continue to support the publishing of the Voice in these hard economic times. The Lord can use these hard times to further His cause. We should never be discouraged.

I don't know how soon you are going to receive this but I would like to make you aware of a situation that has developed with our Spanish speaking brethren. They are planning a convocation at the end of March in California. They invited Brother Noe (you can read about him in Gary's report on his trip to Mexico) to speak. In order to do this Brother Noe had to get a Visa. He spent over \$1000 and a lot of time applying. The problem is that they refused to grant him one. We solicit your prayers regarding this situation. It can be turned around yet.

Through trials and persecution, the glory—character—of God
is revealed in His chosen ones.

The church of God, hated and persecuted by the world,
are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ.

Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory.

MISSION REPORT

MEXICO TRIP 2008

(August 8 through September 3)

Brother Jeff worked until noon on Thursday August 7, and picked up the rental car. Neither of us had a car that we could take on our trip to Mexico, so we decided that we would rent a car. We were told that renting a car would accomplish our needs better than any other method of travel. Jeff drove to my place that evening.

Friday morning we left my place for Ontario, CA, about an 8 hour drive. Arriving in Ontario we turned the car in and Jeff's family picked us up. We stayed with them through the Sabbath hours. We had a study with them on Sabbath morning. In the afternoon we went visiting with a family that we are sharing with about present truth. The family goes to a home church that invites many popular ministries to speak. While they have not invited me to speak, they are still open to sharing.

Sunday morning we picked up another rental car that we were going to take into Mexico. We drove to Tucson, Arizona, and spent the night there ready to cross the border in the morning.

Monday morning we headed for the border at Nogales, Arizona. Going through the border here we only have two 12 hour days drive to Guadalajara, Mexico, our first stop.

When you get to the border there is a light that turns green or red and that tells you whether you can cross or they want you to pull to the side and talk to you. We got the green light and away we went. At km 21 is where we have to check the passport and car permit. We had to make copies of all our documents because they keep a copy as well as what ever they put in the computer. When they typed Brother Jeff's name in they found out that when we drove into Mexico back in 2004 on another missionary trip, Jeff did not turn his car permit back in when we came back across the border. So he can not take a car across the border until he gets that done. Also they said that the papers for the car rental did not give us permission to take this car into Mexico. Needless to say we were stunned. After trying to talk to the person at the desk we asked if we could talk to the boss. So we went and talked to him. Same story, we cannot take a car, especially that car, any further.

After a few hours of trying we left and headed back to the USA, 21 km back (that is about 13 miles). We went to find a Mexican consulate in Tucson, Arizona, to see

if we could find help there. We finally found the consulate and found out they only dealt with agriculture issues. But told us that we had the right papers and should be able to go through and to try again. To the border we went. We went to another person to get our permits. They told us the same story. We can not go with our papers. Of course we are praying a lot and very frustrated on what to do next. We know there is a consulate back in Phoenix, Arizona, 4 hours back. We see no other choice. Away we go back to Phoenix. We arrive in Phoenix at about 9:00 at night and got a motel room.

Tuesday morning we found the consulate and got the same story. Jeff needed to send his papers to a place in Mexico to get the permit canceled and it would take from 6 months to a year to accomplish this transaction. We also talked to the car rental place and they say we have all the right papers we need to take the car into Mexico. After more prayer we gave up trying to go by car and returned to Southern California, 5 hours from Phoenix.

We made it back to the rental agency in time with a half hour to spare and, praise God, we got all our money refunded on the rental car including its insurance. Now we are out just the money for gas, food and motel as well as time on the road.

The only option we have now is to fly tonight or tomorrow morning for we need to be in Guadalajara Wednesday afternoon. We are exhausted not only because of the drive but mostly because of the red tape. But God gave us strength to continue.

We do not have computer access except at a library and I do not like to use a credit card at the library computer. We need to find someone who will do our research for us on the best flight to Guadalajara. Elizabeth is working, we can't find Lizary. Brother Jim comes to mind, so I call him. Help! We need to have someone to help us find a good price for flying to Guadalajara. Jim is on his way on a trip and cannot help us right then. But Brother Rick is home, we talk to him.

To make a long story short Brother Rick, with the help of the Lord, found us a flight for the next morning out of Ontario for a better price than what I was finding a month earlier. We needed a one way because we were going to work our way back to the USA zig zagging across Mexico northward. That night in Brother Jeff's dad's garage we repacked our belongings into 3 big suitcases and 3 smaller ones.

For we were taking material with us to pass out, especially the "Last day Events" book in Spanish, a box of 36 books, and 25 each of other Spanish booklets plus tracts.

Wednesday morning we arrived at the Ontario, California, airport at 4:30 am. When we got to the ticket counter the lady told us that there was an embargo going to Guadalajara and we could only take a carry on and one check in. Another trying experience.

One thing that Brother Jeff and I are feeling stronger and stronger about is the more we are challenged in getting across the border the more impressed we are that God wants us to go. So we ask the lady to read it again and to see for sure, for we spent a long time on the phone talking to customer service the night before checking on what we could take and the weight, to make sure we were doing everything correctly. We wanted no more problems. Finally she said we could check all our luggage. But not our box of books. No boxes to Guadalajara. She would not budge on that one. So I told her to print a tag and we would find a suitcase to put the books in. And I would be back. I stayed with the bags and Jeff went to find a suitcase he could buy from somewhere. Twenty minutes later he comes back all dejected. He could not find anything. While I was waiting I noticed a TSA person walking by with more badges on him than normal and was impressed that he had the answer. So when he walked by again I sent Jeff to ask him. He sent Jeff to Southwest Airlines ticket counter, for they would sell him a bag he thought. And that is what they did. They sold Jeff a duffel bag with their name on it for \$25. I put the box in the bag and ran to the ticket counter. I got my tag and turned the bag into the check in area and away we went, all with a half hour to spare until our plane left. Remember this happened at 5 am!

Brother Demitrio Ledezma and sister Ruth picked us up at 5:30 their time (2 hours ahead of California time). They took us to the ranch an hour out of Guadalajara. Elizabeth and I were there in 2001. They have really developed the property in planting lots of corn and beans, building a house and part way through building a 2 story health center and church. We were there a few hours and drove back to Guadalajara to spend the night. We were there through Sunday sharing and visiting brethren and Jeff's family who live there.

On Sabbath, August 16, we spoke on

Rev. 14:8 and 18:1-5 because there were people there who do not know the last message of mercy. (See Gary's article in this issue.)

In the afternoon the guys went for a long walk. As we started our walk a wasp landed on my finger. I saw him so was careful to keep an eye on him. He finally flew away. A half mile later I got stung on my knuckle. It hurts more when stung on the bone/ligament area than on the fat of the flesh. So what do I do out in the middle of the country? I looked for some clay or mud. There was a stream near by so I found some mud there. When it dried I put some more on and by the time we got back to the house it was feeling fine. We left for town at sundown, what a beautiful day in the country.

On Sunday we went to a very large outdoor market called "tiangis," the largest open market I have ever been to. It was on the outskirts of Guadalajara.

Brother Jeff has family who live in Guadalajara so we called and spent the evening visiting them. We shared what we were doing on our trip and especially on the health message because they all wanted to feed us.

Monday morning we got up and packed to go to our next destination. We took a taxi to the bus station 45 minutes away. We shared with the taxi driver our faith. We had called him because he gave us a discount because he knew the Ledezmas. The bus ride was 6 hours, it was a good trip. Mexico is raining part time now. We arrived in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, at 5:30 pm. San Miguel is where Elizabeth's sister Esther and family live. It is also where we used to home base in the 90's when we stayed in Mexico 4-6 months at a time. It was not that far out of the way from the rest of our trip so we could use some rest time before the next meeting. It was good to see all of the family that live in the area.

Early Wednesday morning Esther and husband took us to Queretaro, the closest large city, 45 minutes away, to catch the bus to Fresnillo, Zacatecas. We arrived in Fresnillo at 5:30 pm. Brother Noe Sanchez and Brother Jerry Astorga picked us up. They had been doing children's meetings for a few days before for the town. Jerry and family were supposed to go home that day but decided to stay until Sunday. Brother Jerry is from Ciudad, Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas, where we did meetings for a week last year. It is where we met Brother Noe. We spent the next 2 days getting to know each other and what we believed. Went for

hikes in the mountains of rock and cactus, around the area. Brother Noe's family farm grapes, corn, tomatoes, peppers, etc. Brother Noe works part time in the ministry. On Friday night we had our first meeting at the church they have been building for a few years, a little at a time. It is in a small town that has one paved road through the middle of town. The church seats about 60 people and has 2 rooms for Sabbath Schools for children. Many of Noe's family are part of the home church.

On Friday night I spoke on Ezekiel 33 about the watchman and his responsibilities of sounding the alarm and the responsibility of the people knowing what the sound means so they can respond correctly. The church was about 1/3 full.

Sabbath morning, August 23, it was raining. Brother Jerry had the lesson study for the adults. The home church there is going through SOP chapter by chapter and studying each book rather than studying the SDA Reform quarterly like so many other Spanish home churches. I praise the Lord for the conviction of studying chapter by chapter. They have been doing this since they started this church. I spoke Sabbath morning on Rev 14:8 and Rev 18:1-5. Tying in the Ezek 33 study and God's ministers giving the right message now. The church was packed, mostly of young adults. We had potluck at the family's house in town down the street. Then some of us went to the mountains and walked along a stream for awhile. We had our next meeting at 7 pm. We did a Q&A this time. Questions were about Laodicea, YAWEH, eating meat, angels holding back the four winds in Rev 7:1, etc. meeting ended at 9:30 pm.

Sunday we went to visit people who are SDA but did not go to the regular church on Sabbath but stayed home to study for themselves. Their son came to our meetings. We went for a hike for a few hours. Since Noe found out that we like to hike and like the mountains, he took us out there every opportunity we had. We had our meeting at 7 pm. I went through the 7 churches of Rev. 2 and 3. Emphasizing Laodicea and it cannot be God's last day church. Then going back to Smyrna and Philadelphia. Then going to Rev 12:17 (the same church).

Monday morning Noe and family took us to Zacatecas to the bus station. We are riding for 7 hours this time to Monterrey, Mexico. Jeff's aunt lives there and is with us in the message. We have visited others there before but were not invited to meet with them this time. So we had a meeting

with Jeff's aunt that evening on the latter rain, for she had questions on that subject from the handouts that I gave her. On the bus ride to Monterrey it stopped near the middle of the trip at a bus station and we had a ½ hour break. Jeff got out to see if he could find us something to eat. I stood up in the isle to stretch. A man near the front kept looking at me while I was stretching. He finally came back to talk to me. He asked me what I was doing in Mexico. So I shared with him about what we believe and why we were traveling in Mexico. He spoke pretty good English. He told me that he translated for different Christian ministries that come and hold meetings in Mexico. We talked the whole time of that break. I gave him a Steps to Christ and a Spanish tract we have.

On Wednesday we took a bus to Monclova to stay with an aunt and uncle of Jeff's. We have shared with him when we have been in Mexico before. He always seems to be open to what we share. The first night we shared with his aunt and uncle Is. 4:1 because they were asking about why there were so many churches and religions.

On Friday morning we took the bus from Monclova 2 hours north to Sabinas. This is where some brethren live we have visited several times before. They are always wanting us to come when we are in Mexico. When we arrived in Sabinas we took a taxi to their house. They were very happy to see us.

That afternoon a friend of one of the sons came over, his name is Mario, and he asked about the Seventh day Sabbath. We had shared some with him last year when we were there. That is when he almost committed suicide because of all the bad things that had happened to him. That was when Jeff was awakened in the middle of the night and went with one of the sons to talk to Mario and, Praise the Lord, he is still alive.

This time we studied the reason we keep the seventh day Sabbath and how the Catholic church tried to change the Sabbath to Sunday. The rest of the family started joining us as we went along in the study.

On Sabbath morning, August 30, we shared a study on the Early Rain. Because if we do not understand how the Holy Spirit came, as needed, before the day of Pentecost, we will not understand how the Holy Spirit can come now in the measure we need it before the larger amount comes when it is needed.

It had been raining very hard for most of 3 days so after lunch we walked about a

mile to see if the road was flooded. The road had about 4 ft. of raging water flowing over it. The police were blocking the road so no one would pass. We were not going to be able to go that way to the border. This is the road out of town to get to the border and Laredo, Texas, our next stop. The other way to Laredo was at least 3 times longer. By sundown we decided to go through the border another way. Directly north is Piedras Negras. We had gone through that way in 2004. Only a 2 hour trip by bus. And we could then head up to San Antonio, Texas. We would need to skip going to Laredo. We were going to Laredo to see if we could catch up with Brother Hugo since we had not been able to make this trip with him as planned. We could not find him. We had heard his mother was very ill and he could not travel with us. He had stayed in Morelia instead of meeting us in Guadalajara.

Sunday morning after breakfast the brethren took us to the bus station. We took the bus to Piedras Negras bus station. Then we were going to find a way across the border. Just before we got to the bus station a man across the isle heard us talking about our dilemma. He told us of a way to cross the border that we did not know of. When we got off the bus the man told us to follow him. We did, it was across the street. We paid for a taxi to take us across the border and drop us off just on the USA side. Then we would catch a passenger van to San Antonio. All for \$40. What a deal. So we waited a few minutes for a taxi to come. As we took our luggage out to have him load it in his trunk he stopped loading and said how much stuff do you have? We told him, we have 3 large suitcases and 3 medium suitcases. He started unloading what he had put in and said it was too much for him. He took someone else that was waiting.

Finally another driver agreed to take us and all our suitcases. Of course he could not close the trunk, you pray it all gets there with you. Anyway with much prayer on our part, we and all our suitcases arrived on the USA side. On the USA side is the other part of the company that takes us to San Antonio. As we were unloading the taxi they asked if all that was ours. We said yes. The man said it would be an extra \$80 for us to take all our luggage and continue our trip. This is when I got excited about them changing the price in the middle of our trip. We had paid for the trip all the way to San Antonio. Now he was raising the price more then double for the rest of the trip and we were at their mercy.

He walked away for I would not pay \$80 more. It was a hot and humid day so we went and sat in the shade on the porch of this business. It was a house converted into a business.

While sitting there sweating wondering what to do, one of the drivers asked us what we were doing there. Jeff explained the reason for our trip and what we believe. For the next hour we shared our faith with the two drivers on the porch. One of the drivers offered to take us to San Antonio if we could not work out something with the boss. Finally the boss came out and said that the next van had a space for another person besides us and if no one else came and we would pay \$18 we could put our suitcases in that spot and go. We said yes. 20 minutes later we were on our way. Praise the Lord!

The trip to San Antonio is about 2 hours. We were told we would be dropped off at a certain mall and to tell the person at the other end that. So Jeff called his brother, that we were going to spend 2 nights with, so we could then fly to Sacramento. It was the least expensive way home. We did not know what time the van would arrive so would call back when we knew. Little did we know that we would get a scenic tour of south San Antonio before we were dropped off. They took almost every one home. It was going to cost \$40 extra to take us home. So we opted for the mall drop off. It was sundown when we got dropped off at the mall. What a day!

Jeff's brother and his wife picked us up and took us home. The next day Jeff and I rented a car and toured central San Antonio. "The Alamo" and the "river walk" are close by so we spent our time that day seeing the sights. It was a nice relaxing day, hot, but we did not need to meet any deadlines.

September 3, Wednesday morning, we got up and packed our suitcases and drove to the rental car place, dropped off the car and they took us to the airport. Today we get to go home! We arrived at the airport and checked in and we were on our way soon. Elizabeth picked me up and Jeff's brother Benjamin met him. We ran a few errands in Sacramento and got home at 10:30 that night.

So many very special memories that only those of us who took the trip can appreciate them even now. I would invite you to keep all our brethren in Mexico in you prayers. Jeff and I hope to keep in communication with Brother Noe from Zacatecas for we both feel that he is with us in this message and is a good brother to

work with in Mexico. Also I see a need to translate the 21 questions into Spanish so we can use them as well as the Spanish work continues to grow.

Thank you so very much for all your support for this missionary field we have a burden for. For was it not for you, my brethren, we would have a more difficult time to take these missionary trips. All of us working together makes it all work out. Brother Jeff took pictures along the way. Hope all have the opportunity to see them some day. Your servant in the Lord's work.

Gary Cain

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