

Seventh-day Remnant VOICE

June-September 2008

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

The Pillars of Our Faith Second 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

As we continue to discuss the Pillars of Our Faith, we would like to remind you that we are not the ones who have chosen these pillars, we have taken them from the pen of inspiration.²

In our last issue we discussed who the angels are that are proclaiming the messages of Revelation 14. We also discussed briefly the First Angel's Message. We will now cover briefly the Second Angel's message.

"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."³

"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city..." We need to understand who this applies to before we can understand the full meaning of this verse. "The term 'Babylon' is derived from 'Babel,' and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion... Babylon is said to be 'the mother of harlots.' By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith... Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome's example of iniquitous connection with 'the kings of the earth'—the state churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world. And the term *Babylon*—confusion—may be appropriately applied to these bodies, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects, with widely conflict-

4. GC 381-383;
see also 4SP 232

1. 8T 302

5. GC 606-607;
see also 4SP 424

2. CW 30

6. TM 61

7. TM 117

8. PP 124

3. Rev 14:8

9. 4SP 357

10. 7BC 979

11. 7BC 985

ing creeds and theories."⁴

"In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven."⁵

"The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error."⁶ "The churches, represented by Babylon, are represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."⁷

"The existing confusion of conflicting creeds and sects is fitly represented by the term 'Babylon,' which prophecy (Rev 14:8; 18:2) applies to the world-loving churches of the last days."⁸

"If we turn from the testimony of God's word, and accept false doctrines because our fathers taught them, we fall under the condemnation pronounced upon Babylon; we are drinking of the wine of her abominations."⁹

"...because she made all nations..." Another point we need to consider is, who are the nations? Have the countries of the United States, Mexico, Germany, etc, accepted being the depositories of God's message of salvation? No. "Nations" are the denominations who profess to be giving God's message to the world. Therefore the nations referred to in the verse, refers to the churches that have accepted the responsibility of giving this message. Countries we have mentioned and others in the world have an important part to play in these last days, but they are not what this verse is referring to. The denominations are drinking from the wine of Babylon, thus not following their duty in giving God's message to the world. Please read the following quote to see why we say this: "God has a controversy with the churches of today. They are fulfilling the prophecy of John. 'All nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' They have divorced themselves from God by refusing to receive His sign. They have not the spirit of God's true commandment-keeping people. And the people of the world, in giving their sanction to a false sabbath, and in trampling under their feet the Sabbath of the Lord, have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."¹⁰

"...Drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." The next point that needs to be understood is: "What is that wine?"—"her false doctrines."¹¹

"The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the

wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines...¹²

“This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth.”¹³

A question that some ask is, “Is the Seventh-day Adventist denomination Babylon? Or is she only a harlot?” We believe the question should be, “Is there a difference between the two names, harlot and Babylon?” We praise the Lord for the Spirit of Prophecy which gives us the answer: “Babylon is said to be a harlot, and the prophet beheld her drunken with the blood of saints and martyrs. The Babylon thus described represents Rome, that apostate church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. But Babylon the harlot is the mother of daughters who follow her example of corruption.”¹⁴

We see here, as well as reading other statements, that ALL denominations, including the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, have become Babylon. By their fruits ye shall know them.¹⁵

This message is one of the pillars of our faith. We cannot take a neutral position on this message.¹⁶ We should study and know for ourselves what this pillar means, being faithful students of God’s word.¹⁷ We are being tested on these points of our faith. We need

- 12. TM 61
(see also 6T 317;
4SP 235; 3SM 405;
2SM 118)
- 13. GC 388
- 18. EW 237
- 19. EW 238
- 20. 2 Thess 2:12
- 14. 4SP 233
- 21. Rev 18:4; GC 390;
EW 261; 4SP 240
- 15. see Mt 7:16-20
- 16. see 3T 281
- 22. Rev 3:20-21
- 17. see Acts 17:11;
2 Tim 2:15

to be united on ALL the pillars to fulfill Christ’s prayer in John 17. May we be faithful.

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE SECOND ANGEL?

“...But the beloved of God, who were oppressed, accepted the message, ‘Babylon is fallen,’ and left the churches.”¹⁸

“...and a large company who had the living testimony left these fallen churches.”¹⁹

“Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work. When those that ‘believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness,’²⁰ shall be left to receive strong delusion and to believe a lie, then the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and all the children of the Lord that remain in Babylon will heed the call: ‘Come out of her, My people.’”²¹

May we follow God’s word and come out of Babylon. God’s people will come out of Babylon because Christ is not there²² and we want to follow Christ.

Gary Cain

EDITORIAL

We have been reprinting articles by Sister White in our issues of the Voice. These articles are not edited but presented as they were originally. We have been including the references for the quotes in the articles in the center column. As we have been doing this we noticed that they did not always reference the quotes and we have had to look them up.

In this issue we printed the article “Accountability for Light.” We could not find a reference for the eleventh quote: “If I had not come and done among you works which no other man did, ye would not have sin, but now you have no cloak for your sins.” This quote is not found in the Bible. What is found is the following: “If I had not come and spoken unto them, they

had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.” John 15:22-24. It appears that Sister White took the first phrase out of verse 22, “If I had not come and...” then she skipped down to verse 24 and took the words “done among” and then replaced the word “them” with the word “you” and continued on in verse 24 with “works which no other man did.” Then she replaced the words “they had not sin” with “ye would not have sin” and then went back to verse 22 with “but now you have no cloak for” and replaced “their sin” with “your sins.” Then continued with “had not sinned.” While she did not change the meaning, she did change the wording. In today’s publishing we would not have put quotation marks around it implying a direct quote. That’s why we referenced it with “see John 15:22-24.”

Please note, we have a new address. When we originally started this publication we felt a central location was better than being near the printing of the magazine. Relatives were in the Lincoln area

and the magazine wouldn’t be confused with any other ministry if we used that address. As fuel prices escalate (hopefully they are coming down now) and the relatives that we visited have passed away, the seven hour round trip was becoming a burden. We have taken out a new mailing permit at our new address. Please use the new address for all of your correspondence as the post office will be forwarding the mail for only a few more months.

Did you notice that the trip to the Philippines was sponsored by a home church? This brings me to a question that I have been asked, “How do I join your church?” Well the SDRPA is not a church so you can’t join it. I belong to a home church in Mendocino County. We meet in the homes of the members. If you live in this area you are welcome to join. Otherwise you can form your own church even if there is only one member.

Editor

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Accountability for Light

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald April 25, 1893

When Christ was on earth he stood as the representative of humanity. He was on trial in behalf of man, and the test was made in his experience as to the possibility that humanity could overcome through divine power. God created man in his own image, but Satan had determined to obliterate that image, and deface from the soul the impress of the character of God. He determined to make man wholly like himself. Christ was the brightness of his Father's glory; and because of this, Satan hated him. He set every ingenious device at work to tarnish the glory of Christ, and lead him into sin. The spotlessness of Christ's life, the unstained purity of his character, brought against him the most intense hatred. Though Satan was upon his track every moment, seeking to overcome him, Jesus said, He "hath nothing in me."¹ He determined that he would not respond to the temptations of the enemy. The Son of God was obedient to every jot and tittle of the law, and left a perfect pattern for man to copy through divine strength. Jesus looked forward to the triumph and joy that man might attain through the agency of the Holy Spirit. The followers of Christ were not to be left to their human weakness. He said to his disciples, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."²

It is through the mighty agency of the Holy Spirit that the government of Satan is to be subdued and subjected. It is the Holy Spirit that convinces of sin, and expels it from the soul by the consent of the human agent. The mind is then brought under a new law, and that law is the royal law of liberty. Jesus came to break the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul; for sin can triumph only when the liberty of the soul is extinguished. Jesus reached to the very depth of human woe and misery, and his love attracts man to himself. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit, he lifts the mind up from its degradation, and fastens it upon the eternal reality. Through the merits of Christ man may be able to exercise the noblest powers of his being, and expel sin from his soul.

Concerning the advent of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."³ Now read carefully, that you may discern what is the work of the Holy Spirit: "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believed not on me."⁴ If they do not believe on Jesus as a personal Saviour, they have no promise of salvation; for it is through faith in Christ alone that there is hope for the lost. "Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more."⁵ From the time he ascended to his Father, he has represented man, as his surety and substitute. The Father looks upon the Son in the perfection of his character, as one who has borne the penalty for sin,

and has wrought perfect righteousness for the repenting soul, and he is reconciled to all who believe in Christ as one fully able to save from sin.

It is essential that we, who are fallen through sin, shall put on the robe of Christ's righteousness which has been prepared for us. The Holy Spirit was to convince "of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."⁶ The fallen worlds have watched the conflict and trial of the Son of God in behalf of humanity. They have seen the crooked working of him who was once highly exalted of God, but who was expelled from heaven with a large number of angels, who has made this world the stage of his action, the field of his controversy against God. In heaven he complained against the law of God, declaring it unnecessary and arbitrary. He misrepresented the Lord Jehovah, and the high Commander of heaven. He claimed that he was above law, and maintained that right was upon his side; but he has fully made manifest that the principles he advocated were evil and injurious. It has been proved that "the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."⁷

We are exhorted in the inspired records to "receive with meekness the ingrafted word, which is able to save your soul."⁸ A mere casual faith in the word is not enough; it must be received into the heart, ingrafted in the very character. It is only when this is the case that we have that faith which works by love, and purifies the soul. Then open wide the door of the heart for the entrance of sacred, solemn truth. The psalmist says, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."⁹ It is as we render obedience to the command of God that we have light and peace. As we make the testimonies of God our delight, we have guidance and counsel. We then eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, and find that his words are spirit and life.

As we walk in the commandments of God, we follow on in the way cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. The faithful of all ages have walked in this path, and they have shone as lights in the world. In this age the light transmitted from them has been shining with increased brightness upon the path of those who are walking in darkness. Some have received the truth, believed and obeyed it. The light of the third angel's message has penetrated into many a darkened mind. The light of the wisdom, the goodness, the mercy, and love of God has been shining forth through his holy word. We are not in the place where our fathers were. Advanced light is shining

6. John 16:11

1. John 14:30

2. Acts 1:8

7. Ps 19:7

8. James 1:21

9. Ps 119:130

3. John 16:7

4. John 16:8

5. John 16:10

upon us in these last days. We cannot be accepted of God; we cannot honor him by rendering the same service, doing the same work that our fathers did. In order to be accounted guiltless before God, we must be as faithful in our time in following and obeying our light, as they were faithful in following and obeying the light that shone upon them. Of every individual member of his church, our heavenly Father requires faith and fruits according to the grace and light given. God cannot accept less. Every soul should place himself where the light will shine upon him. He should treasure every ray, that he may brighten and bless the souls of others with the heaven-sent radiance.

The darkness of the world is great, and individually we shall have light just to the degree to which we improve it. We are to keep the commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,"¹⁰ by disseminating the light of truth that has blessed our souls, to those who sit in darkness. Every soul is accountable for the talents intrusted. As a church, as individuals, we are to stand upon the elevated, holy ground where the truth has placed us. We are to represent to the world in character and unity the accumulated light which shines upon us in these last days. If we were blind, we should have no sin in neglecting to diffuse the light; for we would not then see our privilege in reference to our own souls and the souls of our children and neighbors. Every soul to whom the Lord has granted light will be accountable for the light, and will be expected to walk in the light according to the degree of grace and truth given him.

Many have gone into their graves in full faith that Sunday was the Sabbath. Through his deceptive power, Satan made of none effect the fourth commandment, and men taught for doctrine the commandments of men. Sunday, the child of papacy, has been accepted and nourished and cherished by the religious world. They have looked upon Sunday as the Sabbath, the sanctified day of rest, when there is not a particle of Scriptural evidence to justify the claim of this spurious Sabbath. Through the agency of the man of sin, men have been led to exalt Sunday where the Sabbath of the Lord alone should be exalted. The Lord God of hosts is to be exalted, and his law is to be honored. In this day he has sent special light. The third angel is represented as flying in the midst of heaven, heralding to the inhabitants of the world the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. The third angel's message is to go everywhere. It is to be proclaimed by the human agent, and it becomes everyone who hears to be attentive to the heaven-sent message, and in no case to be careless, to refuse to hear or receive it; for it is a message from God to man. If we are rational beings, and the light has come to us, we shall be held accountable for it. But those who have not had the light which is now shining upon the people of God concerning the Sabbath question, will not be accountable for the light; for it has never been brought before them, and they have died without condemnation.

Christ said of the Jews, "If I had not come and done among you works which no other man did, ye would not have sin, but now you have no cloak for your

11. see John 15:22-24

12. John 3:17-21

10. James 2:8

13. John 5:40

sins."¹¹ "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God."¹²

It is plainly stated in the Scriptures that if the whole congregation sin through ignorance, the priests shall make an atonement for the sins when they are made apparent, and the sin of ignorance shall be forgiven. The work of Jesus is to forgive the sins of the past, but if light comes from heaven to the church, and men refuse the light because its acceptance involves a cross, then they stand guilty before God; for they have made it manifest that they love the world more than they love Christ and the truth. Those who have an opportunity to hear the truth, and yet take no pains to hear or understand it, thinking that if they do not hear, they will not be accountable, will be judged guilty before God the same as if they had heard and rejected. There will be no excuse for those who choose to go in error when they might understand what is truth. In his sufferings and death Jesus has made atonement for all sins of ignorance, but there is no provision made for willful blindness. Those who have hid their eyes from the truth lest they should be convinced, must exercise repentance toward God for the transgression of his law, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, that their sins of ignorance in the transgression of the Sabbath may be forgiven.

Let none plead as an excuse for not keeping the Sabbath, that their fathers died accepted of God when keeping the first day of the week. No doubt they were accepted; for they did not sin against the light that is shining upon you in your day. God would have us walk in the light which shines upon us. We are to appreciate the truth that is presented to our understanding; for if we do not walk in the light, it becomes darkness, and our darkness will be proportionate to the light that is given.

We shall not be held accountable for the light that has not reached our perception, but for that which we have resisted and refused. A man could not apprehend the truth which had never been presented to him, and therefore could not be condemned for light he had never had. But if he had opportunity to hear the message, and to become acquainted with the truth, and yet refused to improve his opportunity, he will be among the number of whom Christ said, "Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life."¹³

Those who deliberately place themselves where they will not have an opportunity of hearing the truth, will be reckoned among those who have heard the truth, and persistently resisted its evidences.

Mrs. E.G. White

DIET

We continue our study on the eight laws of health. Our focus in this issue is on diet. We have many choices of what will be going in our mouths. God has provided an abundance of delicious fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains that in preparing, will nourish us as princes for health and strength.

We read in Ecclesiastes, *“Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!”*¹

Our food is to give us strength. What causes drunkenness? A combination of foods (like sugar and milk) cause the food to ferment in the stomach and not make good blood.

One hundred twenty five years ago Ellen White wrote:

“Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator. These foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing. They impart a strength, a power of endurance, and a vigor of intellect, that are not afforded by a more complex and stimulating diet.”²

“If ever there was a time when the diet should be of the most simple kind, it is now.”³

“We should avoid errors, not only in the quality, but in the quantity of our food. Eating too largely of even a simple diet will injure physical, mental, and moral health.”⁴

“Let the mind be directed to the lessons of the book of nature, and to nature’s God, who made the world in six days, and rested on the seventh; ‘wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.’ Do not make light of the Sabbath requirements; and when it comes to eating on the Sabbath, those who would feed on Christ, who would have the rich blessing of God, will partake of a very simple diet on that day.”⁵

“I write this because I am sure that the Lord means you to have tact in meeting the people where they are, in their darkness and self-indulgence. As far as I am concerned personally, I am decidedly in favor of a plain, simple diet. But it will not be best to put worldly, self-indulgent patients on a diet so strict that they will be turned from health reform. This will not convince them of the need of a change in their habits of eating and drinking. Tell them the facts. Educate them to see the need of a plain, simple diet, and make the change gradually. Give them time to respond to the treatment and the instruction given them. Work and pray, and lead them along as gently as possible.”⁶

“How much suffering would be saved if the highly seasoned food and a great variety of food were

changed for a simple diet of grains and nuts and fruits. Such a change could not fail to restore health to those who have made themselves sick by overeating.”⁷

“By returning to the food provided for man by God in the beginning—the fruits and grains produced by the earth—man’s mind is made clear, and he is filled with an earnest desire for a knowledge of the Word of God. By eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God, by receiving and believing His words, he grows to the full stature of a man in Christ Jesus.”⁸

Today hundreds of articles are written and research done by health professionals showing the benefits of the diet that God gave us versus the diets that have been concocted by men. Below is an example in the article:

Eat for your Health

“The foods you eat every day can have a tremendous effect on your health. Decades of research have produced study after study showing links between diet and serious illness. A healthy diet has the power to prevent heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, some forms of cancer, blindness, and birth defects. It does matter whether your breakfast is a doughnut or a bowl of oatmeal, whether your sandwich is ham and cheese or hummus and tomato... Dozens of other food choices you make can affect how long—and how well—you live.

“The influence of diet on heart disease and some forms of cancer is well known. But determining which foods have the greatest effects has not been easy. The search for the diet-heart connection has been fruitful, but attempts to establish links between cancer and diet have had less success. For example, pooling of data from the Nurses’ Health Study and the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study showed that a diet high in fruits and vegetables has strong benefits for the heart but no significant benefits for cancer prevention. This doesn’t mean that certain nutrients, vitamins, or types of food don’t have an effect, but rather that the specifics have been more difficult to pin down than expected.” www.everydayhealth.com

This web site lists thirteen super foods of which nine are fruits and vegetables: Apples, avocados, almonds, cabbage, blueberries, garlic, flax seed, and pomegranates.

In this issue you will find simple and healthy recipes that will give you strength, and prevent many modern life style diseases that are killing hundreds of people.

Elizabeth Cain

7. 17MR 355

1. Eccl 10:17

8. 17MR 355

2. CD 81

3. CD 82

4. RH 5-8-1883

5. RH 6-8-1897

6. 14MR 245

**Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables
constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator.**

LETTERS

Good morning Brother Snipes,

It has been great talking to you over the phone.

I am glad your test message got through to me, therefore we will be able to communicate through the email.

Let me first introduce myself. I am an SDA in Botswana. I joined the church in 1985 at the age of 21.

I studied the doctrines and thought I understood them until I met the Standish Brothers Publications in 1999/2000.

At the moment I am a church elder since the early 90's, am considered controversial by the church in Gaborone because I do not agree with church policies which are unbiblical.

I live in a small village on the outskirts of the capital city Gaborone. So the small church where I live is hungering and thirsting for the truth.

Of late, about a month or so ago, I came across sdaapostasy.com and lightministries.com. In these websites I have realized and am studying things I have never heard before, especially the issues on the apostasy of the SDA Church. And by God's grace I have understood and I am presenting these messages to the church (SDA).

That is where I also saw your articles on the same subject.

So, as I study and present the messages, I face the lack of Sister E. G. White's original writings. And as I have requested from you, may you help me as to where to get them.

May God keep you firmly in the light.
Many Thanks K. M., Gaborone,
Botswana

Dear everyone,

I would like to share a spiritual lesson that God showed my family.

One day our family was going through a serious trial. It seemed we had failed the test. None of us were ready for the results of our actions. We all were searching our hearts and realized we had fallen asleep and the results were not good. My son had gone outside and picked some dandelions and started putting them in a vase. He started naming them, one by one, this one is daddy and this one is mommy and so on. Then he realized he had thirteen flowers and one stood taller than the others. So he said these are the twelve disciples and the tall one is Jesus.

That night when we were getting ready

for bed all the twelve little ones had closed up but the one he named Jesus was blooming brighter than ever.

God was showing me, "Yes you fell asleep but I can still shine in your life if you let me." That flower never did close up that night. And God will never stop shining if we allow him.

I hope this will give each of you hope also. Love and prayers. D. M., Idaho

It is with great joy that as we wait for the second coming of Christ; we are called to work for Him!

"God has a great work to be accomplished in Africa and no plans must be laid without the aid of His infinite wisdom. After your plans of labor have been talked over together, mingled with earnest prayer, work, for Christ..." 3MR 293.

As the separation movement progresses in East and Central Africa, it should be noted that Satan is using afflictions, lack of materials, amid gloom and darkness so that the true and faithful Christians will be lost and forgotten in the deep and lonely places. While they are separating from the Babylonish world, they are being lured to pay homage to her due to her shrewdness and cunning.

It is therefore necessary to pursue this great and arduous work by meeting the people where they are. When I received my support I determined to continue to Kisoro Town which has a common boarder with both Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

"A great work will be accomplished by God's people if they will work in unity and unselfishness and with humility of heart" RH 8-5-1909.

This has remained our humble appeal wherever we go to meet our brethren. And on the 5th of June, 2008, I traveled to Kampala so that I could establish a reliable contact with the brethren I could stay with when I traveled to Rwanda and possibly DRC.

K.R. directed me to J.D., a deaconess in Kisoro Home Church, who would receive me. Others whom we had been meeting with in Kampala were scattered about doing the canvassing work and it had impressed K.R. for me to visit their region.

While I was in Kampala; I downloaded some French tracts and the book "The Abomination of Desolation and Church History" for the people of Rwanda and DRC. I also picked up some booklets and

tracts in English from J.M.'s place for the brethren in Kisoro.

We started the journey at night and arrived the next day, the 10th of June. I was welcomed by M.D. who was told by T.D. to wait for me and then taken to J.D.'s home for a rest.

M.D. told me that he had enrolled as a student with Bob Sessler's Bible correspondence course; and was happy to meet me! He eventually became an interpreter during my stay in the region (2 days) while doing tract outreach work.

On the Sabbath day, 14th of June, I preached in the church about: "The Abominations in the Church." Ezek. 16:1-2. "...Cause Jerusalem to know her Abominations," and, "Jerusalem is a representation of what the church will be if it refuses to walk in the light that God has given... By rejecting God's warnings in this our day, men are repeating the sin of Jerusalem." 8T 67-68

The church members comprehended the message and S.M., one of the church members, was impressed and requested me to go to Kisoro Teachers College and preach to the Scripture Union Group (SUG). I accepted to go on Sunday morning and the head girl welcomed us.

I presented a lesson on "World Council of Churches (WCC)." I told the SUG that the aims of the SUG in Uganda's institutions of learning are the same as those of the WCC. The WCC works to see that all religions of the world are under one system, the papal one. So the SUG works to see that all the different religions in Uganda are under one umbrella, thus one church! This system works counter to God and therefore seeks to destroy His Kingdom. God wants His people to be peculiar and separate from any connection with the worldly unions!

This was my call to the many students who listened attentively and thereafter I gave out some booklets: "The Bible History of Separation part 2" and "The Glorious Everlasting Gospel According to God's Word" and some other tracts. They requested me to go back on Wednesday for the evening fellowship but I asked S.M. to go back because I was to proceed to Rwanda. I made a special call inviting them to join us for special Sabbath worship services. S.M. offered a prayer and we left hoping to meet them over the Sabbath.

Therefore, on the 15th of June, M.D.

and I proceeded to Cyahanthi to meet T.D.'s father, who was an Adventist pastor. Cyahanthi is 7 km away from Kisoro near the border line with Rwanda.

When we gathered at T.D.'s father's home in the evening, I started the discussion by going through a rigorous Seventh-day Adventist Church history in Uganda. Relating the active participation in the 1994 Rwanda Genocide, of ADRA in promoting world principles under the guise of the church. I told his family members that the SDA church is now "Babylon Fallen," get out of her because her sins have reached into heaven and God has remembered her iniquities; see what is happening now! Fruits don't lie!

T.D.'s father accepted the message and promised that he will join the church. Amen!

We spent a night at his place and the next day we crossed to Rwanda through Cyanika with T.D. because M.D. felt weak with fever.

After 30 minutes drive by minibus, we arrived in Ruhengere town in the northern part of Rwanda to meet D.G.. We were seeing and understanding the magnitude of God's work.

I was prompted to ask him how the separation movement started?

He told us that the active participation of the churches in the 1994 genocide caused a major separation movement in all the churches. The people began to see the wrongs that led the church into a deplorable condition of iniquity. Many sought refuge in the word of God. God's true and faithful people started worshipping in lonely valleys and others sought refuge in the dense forests of the DRC.

The Bible and the SOP became their source of hope and assurance and, as they earnestly studied, they discovered that they should come out of the Babylonish churches of the world and stand as worshippers of God in spirit and truth. As many ran away from this political-religious revolution seeking asylum; they stood by the word of God and the SOP and their numbers grew.

Some crossed over into Uganda bringing with them the knowledge of these separated brethren. We met in Kampala and decided to visit them, all because of the civil strife!

I then gave them some tracts in the French language that I had printed out and photocopied to help them do the work with the elite class.

Many groan with earthly afflictions waiting for the soon coming of Christ. We made a special call to God's people for

those who lack enough to eat and wear. They ask for Bibles and SOP books so that they can actively participate in soul winning. I encouraged them to stand firm in the faith.

It took us 2 hours drive by a commuter bus through the hills and deep valleys of Rwanda to reach Kigali, a clean, beautiful city where public and environmental health is the attention of every one! T.D. kept me alert so that I was not victimized or fined.

On reaching Kigali T.D. phoned M.R. to come and pick us up near the big Catholic church that hosts Radio Maria of Rwanda.

About 30 minutes later M.R. met us and T.D. introduced me as 'Omunyamahanga' meaning from a foreign country in Kinyarwanda. He welcomed me and using simple Kiswahili we discussed how to finish the Lord's work in a more united way.

"When God's chosen people are of one mind... many, many souls will be converted, because of the unity which exists among believers." 6MR 331

And we also need to have Gospel Order to help us finish the work.

"There is order in Heaven; and there should be system and order upon the earth, that the work may move without confusion and fanaticism." 4T 601. "Fanaticism once started and left unchecked is hard to quench as a fire which has obtained hold of a building." 2SM 35. These are my areas of concern as we advance the present truth in the region. M.R. welcomed the idea and promised to make strong appeals if I would be going to minister deep up country. He suggested that it would be better if I would get enough time to move across the country and then invited me for a camp meeting due to take place in September, 2008, at Kitagara near Gishenyi; he would communicate the dates. I gave some tracts in the French language that I had printed in Cyahanthi praising God for having lead us through this long journey.

After 2 days in Rwanda we joined M.D. to proceed to Kisoro for the last gathering at Mghinga National Park near the foot of Mt. Muhavura, which is at the borders of DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. Many representatives came from these 3 countries to hear me in what I saw as a special Sabbath worship service! About 100 people attended this meeting in an open space surrounded by the eucalyptus trees that provided the shade. I was welcomed in Jesus name and given an opportunity to speak to the congregation with M.D. as my interpreter. As they listened to my sermon on unity for the cause of the present

truth, they eagerly hoped to find a way for the supply of SOP material to reach them and welcomed the idea of unity. I offered prayer. Several ministers came to greet me and give me their contact addresses so that if the Lord opens the means you can send material directly to them but going through Kenya to Rwanda would be better. They asked me to stay longer. I encouraged them to use the address they see on the booklets for a more direct supply.

After the meeting, I returned to Kisoro to rest and in the evening returned home that very night. Once again special thanks to you for supporting me in all my endeavors while making this long journey.

God bless you richly. Joel, Uganda

On Wednesday, January 16, 2008 we departed from San Francisco International Airport to attend a Camp meeting in the Philippines. This time I was joined by my wife Julie and our two younger daughters, Joanne and Janice. Joanne and Janice, while Filipinos, have never been in the Philippines and have never experienced riding in an airplane. It was really an experience for them to fly such long hours in the plane to travel with us. Even though we were at the San Francisco Airport early we were the last passengers to board the plane. Because the plane was ready to take off we never had a chance to sit together. Joanne was sitting by herself, Janice by herself, Julie by herself and I by myself. The flight attendant just told us to wait until we reached cruising altitude, and, praise God, my wife and our two daughters were able to sit together on such a long, 14-hour flight.

We arrived at Manila International Airport Thursday around 11:00 pm. We ended up sleeping in the Domestic Airport while we waited for our connecting flight early the next morning, Friday. It was such an experience again for Joanne and Janice to sleep just on the floor without a bed. But, praise God, we were able to arrive in Mindanao, which is the biggest Island in the Philippines, safely.

We spent our first Sabbath in Calao-calao which is a small town in Bukidnon and, praise God, the brothers and sisters really treated us good with the delicious Filipino food.

The following day, January 20, our brothers from Davao City came to pick us up, we were traveling with them in their van to Davao for the Camp Meeting. The Camp meeting started on January 21, and it ended on January 27. We expected only 100 people to attend but, praise God, the number was doubled.

During the meeting, we saw some broth-

ers and sisters that we did not expect to attend because they were from another group, the group that had separated from us a long time ago. But, we're told that they are no longer part of that group, but part of our group now. Praise God for that!

We preached the three Angel's messages for the whole week and really emphasized that not only has the SDA church become Babylon, but that, the whole protestant world is Babylon. We encountered some hard questions, but, praise God, He provided us the answers for it in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

One time an elder of the church who attended this meeting asked a question and our Bible worker would respond to it, and the Elder would ask again a hard question and our Bible worker would respond to it. Praise God that the Holy Spirit, in the form of the Latter Rain convicted this elder so that he decided to be baptized at the end of the meeting. This is the elder that during his testimony said that in his Church where he was an elder, no off-shoots are allowed to enter the church without his approval. So when he was invited to come to the meeting, he was not

planning to be baptized, but just to observe only. But the Latter Rain really was poured out in the Camp Meeting as the Lord promised in TM 508. "The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labor for souls, are God's appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain." Praise God for that promise. There were 16 precious souls who decided to be baptized. It was really an experience for us to be there and to be part of God's work in the Philippines. We really thank the Lord and the Rancho Tehama Home Church for helping the work in the Philippines and for everybody's prayers, making this a success in God.

We came back February 19 and arrived in San Francisco International Airport 10:00 am Tuesday morning and our daughter Jane with Eric her husband picked us up at the airport.

Praise the Lord that we were able to arrive safely and be back in Rancho Tehama again.

Hopefully there will be another Camp meeting next year as the lord opens the

way.

Thank you for allowing us to share this wonderful experience. May God bless you!

Your brother in Christ,
Jonathan Bongcayao

Dear Gary,

Thank you for sending us the April — May issue of your magazine. It was indeed very interesting.

During 1996 my wife and I toured your country and met you and your wife at Bob Sessler's home. Since then we have received some good material from him.

We would like to be on your mailing list and also receive some DVD's. Unfortunately we find it difficult and expensive to obtain US dollars, but hope you can accommodate us.

Our ministry has a number of interested people who are hungering and thirsting after the Bread and Water of Life in our troubled country.

Please consider our request.

Christian greetings,

Elwyn de Beer, South Africa

RECIPE

Scalloped Potato Casserole

5-6 medium potatoes, cooked and cubed—or enough to 3/4 fill

your size casserole

1/2C sautéed, chopped onion

1C cooked mushrooms

2C sauerkraut

3C gravy

Mix all together, season to taste. Pour into casserole and bake at 350° for one hour or until center is hot. May cover with foil, removing and baking another few minutes to lightly brown on top.

**Parents should make it their first business
to understand the laws of life and health,
that nothing shall be done by them
in the preparation of food,
or through any other habits,
which will develop wrong tendencies in their children.**

THE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD

Part 1

For thousands of years the question of who and what constitutes God's church has raged. Some, having studied for themselves, have comprehended the importance of this truth. While others have either misunderstood, or have overlooked, the truth on this subject. To comprehend this vital truth is to find freedom in Jesus Christ, but to misunderstand it is to be kept in bondage and captivity to Satan. So it is of the utmost importance to all of God's followers that they take the time to study for themselves and understand who and what constitutes God's true church.

As there are at least 100 different denominations today all claiming to be God's true church, and yet they all conflict with each other in belief, can they all constitute God's church? Is only one out of them all the true church of God? How can we know for sure? The only way to understand this is to obtain knowledge and wisdom; but from where? Can we depend alone upon the knowledge and wisdom from earthly sources? No, because we would become the enemies of God.¹ Can we then depend alone upon the knowledge and wisdom from other men? No, because if we depend on the words of other men—be they pope or priest, minister or elder, guru or shaman—we will be cursed.² Can we then depend alone on our own wisdom? No, because that is foolishness.³ Then where do we obtain the knowledge and wisdom with which to understand who and what constitutes God's church? It must be from God Himself, and He mercifully promises to grant us all the knowledge and wisdom we need to understand His truth.⁴ The wisdom and knowledge which comes from God, as is found in His inspired word, must be our ONLY foundation and dependence in trying to understand the truth of this vital issue.

"To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."⁵

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."⁶

We must search and study God's word for ourselves in order to know who and what is declared to be God's church, and we cannot allow any man, or group of men, to be our conscience or to do our study for us. And to make sure that we obtain the correct understanding, we must go back to the basic truths as found in God's inspired word, and thus build up a solid foundation of truth which we can stand firmly upon.

Since there are only two different powers in this world—either good or evil, and only two different sources of doctrine—either light or darkness, so God's word lists only two kinds of churches—the pure righteous church of God,⁷ or the corrupt Babylonian synagogue of Satan.⁸ The church of God is founded only upon God's light of truth,⁹ because God is only the Author of light, goodness and truth.¹⁰

11. see Is 14:4-23; Ez 28:15-17; Rev 12:7-9; John 8:44

12. see John 14:30; 2 Cor 6:15

13. see Eph 1:22, 5:23-24; Col 1:18

14. see Ps 92:15; John 8:29

15. see John 14:30; Mt 16:18

16. see Deut 32:4; 2 Sam 22:32; Ps 18:2; Mt 7:24-25

17. see 2 Thess 2:3-4

18. see Mt 16:23

1. see James 4:4

19. see Deut 32:31,37-39; Mt 7:26-27; Rev 18:2-8

2. see Jer 17:5

3. see 1 Cor 1:19-20, 3:19

4. see James 1:5; John 7:17, 14:26

5. Is 8:20

6. 2 Tim 2:15

7. see Rev 12:1-5; Eph 5:27

8. see Rev 2:9, 17:1-6

9. see 1 Tim 3:15

10. see Gen 1:3-4; Mt 19:17; James 1:17

While the church of Satan is founded upon lies, for the devil is the author of all darkness, error and falsehood.¹¹ So if any church holds to a mixture of truth and error, it cannot be God's true church, but is part of Satan's synagogue, because Christ and Satan have no union or partnership with each other at any time.¹²

God's true church has only Christ as its Head and Leader.¹³ Thus with Christ as its Leader the church will always do only those things which please God,¹⁴ and by so doing the gates of hell cannot prevail against it because there is nothing the Devil can find in it to use to his advantage.¹⁵ Thus God's church cannot and will never fall, but will stand forever because it is founded upon the Eternal and Everlasting immovable Rock—which is Christ Jesus.¹⁶ Whereas the church which Satan controls will put a man in the place of Christ as its head and leader.¹⁷ Thus that church will not do those things which please God, but will do those things which please men.¹⁸ This church cannot possibly stand, but will indeed fall and be destroyed, along with all those who remain in it, because it is founded upon the ever shifting, unstable and deceptive tiny rocks of sand—which is fallible mortal beings.¹⁹

As the above Biblical truths plainly reveal that God's true church does not deviate from good, light, and truth at any time, even by the slightest degree, the vast majority of religious people cannot comprehend this. They declare that this Scriptural identification of God's true church is too straight and narrow to possibly be correct. They then are further shaken by the thought that there has never yet been a denomination in the entire history of this world which has always done only those things which have pleased God at all times. And as they cannot harmonize their thinking with the Scripture truth and this knowledge of history, they become confused, the above Scriptures are ignored, and they are led to believe that God's true church must be made up of a combination of both good and evil existing together within it. But there does not need to be any confusion, because there is no contradiction between the Scriptures and historical facts in this issue!

You may say, how can this be so? The whole problem lies in our understanding of who and what constitutes God's true church.

Multitudes have been taught that God's true church is made up of a building, or a denomination, which has been devoted to the worship of God. With this understanding in mind, there is an urgent desire to find some denomination to join; but which one?

With the 100 or so denominations to choose from, and with all these declaring most positively that they are the one and only true church of God, this can be quite an unnerving and difficult task to have to decide between! But with this idea, people have been led to believe that they must be members of, or otherwise connected to, some denomination in order to worship

God, be part of His true church, and thus to have their salvation assured. But this is not what the Scriptures teach regarding God's true church!

Jesus, in speaking of Himself and God's true church, declared:

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine... and I lay down my life for the sheep... and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."²⁰

First of all, Jesus stated that God only has "one fold" or one true church—not many! So this Scriptural truth debunks the idea that all the denominations collectively make up God's church. The word "fold" translates the same as "flock."²¹ So who or what makes up this identity of God's true church—His "one fold" or "one flock"? People have been taught that God's one and only true fold or church is a denomination—such as the Catholic church. But is God's one flock any particular denomination?

"And ye are my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God."²²

Thus God's one true church, His one fold, His one flock of today is not a denomination—no matter how exalted their name, or how loudly they profess—because God's one true church is made up of people. We must understand this vital point of truth, that God's church is made up of people and not a denomination, in order to be free in Jesus and not continue to remain in bondage and captivity to men!

Even in Christ's time this battle of denominationalism was raging. Various church followers were battling with each other for converts and the right to declare themselves the one and only church of God. Each denomination was declaring that only they had the truth, and only in their church could God be truly worshipped. But did Christ sanction this belief? Did Christ choose one denomination over another for His people to worship God in? One person directly asked Christ this very question, and please read carefully what answer He gave:

"The woman (of Samaria) saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain (the temple at Mount Gerizim); and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for (the message of) salvation is of (was committed to) the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."²³

Therefore God's true church is not made up of this denomination or that denomination, but is made up of individuals who worship God in spirit and truth. So you do not need to find any denomination in order to worship God, but you can worship Him in your very homes—just like the disciples and followers of Christ chose to do.²⁴ This beautiful knowledge that God's church is made up of people and not any denomina-

tion is what sets you free in Jesus, and leads you to correctly understand other related issues regarding God's church. Whereas, the belief that God's true church is a denomination, will leave you in bondage to men, and to misunderstand other related issues regarding God's church.

Some may still be having problems in seeing the difference between these two understandings, so let us briefly examine the following related scenarios from both perspectives which will help to show the difference between the two issues, and it should become clearer why one leads to freedom in Christ, while the other leads to bondage of men.

The Bible teaches that God is offering rest for all who are weary.²⁵ With the understanding that God's church is made up of people, then we would individually find our rest only by going directly to Jesus,²⁶ and if we choose to leave Him, then we lose our rest and salvation. Whereas with the understanding that God's church is a denomination, then we would find our rest only by going directly to the denomination, and if we choose to leave the denomination, then we believe that we have forsaken our rest and are lost.

The Bible also teaches that God's church is the body of Christ.²⁷ So in understanding that God's true church is made up of people, then we individually become part of Christ's body by joining Christ Himself and are baptized.²⁸ And if we should choose to break away from Christ, then we would no longer be part of His body or church and are lost. Whereas with the understanding that God's church is a denomination, then we would become part of Christ's body by joining the denomination through baptism. And if we should choose to break away from, or should be cast out of, the denomination, then we would believe that we are no longer part of the body of Christ and are lost.

The Bible teaches that God's people will obtain immortality or eternal life.²⁹ With the understanding that God's church is made up of people, then we would find eternal life only through Jesus,³⁰ and by disconnecting ourselves from Jesus, we have no chance for eternal life and salvation. Whereas with the understanding that God's church is a denomination, then we would find eternal life through the denomination, and by disconnecting ourselves from the denomination we believe we have no chance for eternal life or of salvation.

As you can see, all these scenarios involve the issue of our salvation! The Bible does indeed teach that we must be saved.³¹ With the understanding that God's church is made up of people, then we would individually find our salvation by connecting ourselves directly to Jesus Christ³² and in separating ourselves from Christ, we are lost. Whereas with the understanding that God's church is a denomination, then we find our salvation by connecting ourselves to the denomination, and in separating ourselves from the denomination, we believe we are lost.

Now let us put all of these points together. With the understanding that God's church is made up of people, then we would individually find our rest, become part of Christ's body and true church, find our eternal

20. John 10:14-16

25. see Is 28:12, 30:15;
Jer 6:16

21. see Strong's
Con., #4167

26. see Ps 37:7;
Mt 11:28-30

22. Ezek 34:31

27. see 1 Cor 12:27;
Eph 1:23, 5:30

28. see Gal 3:27-29;
Mt 12:30;
Rom 12:5;
Mark 16:16

29. see Rom 2:7

30. see 1 Tim 1:16-17;
1 John 1:1-2;
John 1:1-4, 14:6

31. see 1 Tim 2:3-4

23. John 4:19-24

32. see John 3:17;
Is 45:22;
Acts 2:21, 4:10-12,
15:11, 16:30-31;
Rom 5:9-10

24. see Rom 16:5;
1 Cor 16:19;
Col 4:15;
Philemon 2

life and salvation, by going directly to, and becoming connected directly with, Jesus. Thus our eyes are directed upward, and our attention becomes centered and focused upon Jesus. He becomes the object of our love, adoration and praise. Jesus becomes our “All-in-All,” His life becomes our best and all absorbing theme to contemplate on. Hence our desire to please Him becomes paramount, and His will and commands become our delight to follow and obey. And by continuing to behold Jesus day after day, our very lives and characters are more and more changed into His perfect image, and our desire to lead others to also join with Jesus and find salvation in Him enlarges more each day. But by leaving, separating, disconnecting and breaking ourselves away from Christ, then we no longer have any rest; we are no longer part of His body or true church; we no longer have any assurance of salvation or hope for eternal life; which means that we are lost.

But with the understanding that God’s church is a denomination, then we would find our rest, become part of Christ’s body and true church, find our eternal life and salvation, by going directly to, and becoming connected directly with, the denomination. Thus our eyes are directed downward, and our attention becomes centered and focused upon the denomination. It becomes the object of our love, adoration and praise. The denomination becomes our “all-in-all,” its history becomes our best and all absorbing theme to contemplate on, and our desire to please the denomination becomes paramount. The will and commands of the denominational leaders becomes our delight to follow and obey. And by continuing to behold the denomination, our very lives and characters are more and more changed into the imperfect image it reveals, and our desire to lead others to join with us in the denomination grows more each day. But by leaving, separating, disconnecting and breaking ourselves away from the denomination, then we believe we will no longer have any rest; we believe we are no longer

part of Christ’s body or true church; and we believe we no longer have any assurance of salvation or hope for eternal life; which means we believe we are lost.

The most serious consequence to those who believe this way is that their denominational leaders can be as corrupt and wicked as the devil himself, their denomination can even apostatize from the truths of the Bible and exchange these for the doctrines of hell, and yet it would not matter one bit! Why? Because you believe that your denomination is the true church of God. So even if you can be shown evidence that reveals your church to be controlled by the Devil himself, it would not shake your blind faith in the denomination in the least! This is because you believe that your church is going through to heaven, and that by your remaining connected to it your ticket to heaven is thus assured, but if you would be separated from it, you would be lost!

I earnestly pray that you can clearly discern the stark difference between these two ideologies and the pathway which it leads you to follow. One leads to complete liberty and freedom in Christ, the other leads to complete bondage and captivity to men! The one is the gospel truth of the Bible which centers in Jesus, the other is the heinous falsehood of Catholicism which centers in Satan! I sincerely hope that you can clearly understand that if you believe that God’s true church is a denomination, that you are in bondage to the men who control that church. And, more importantly, that Christ has been robbed from you as your Saviour because the denomination has taken His place—it has become the object of your worship and source of your salvation!

This sad scenario, of the denominational church being made into the object of worship instead of Christ, is exactly what the Jewish people were led into. And what is even more disheartening, is that the majority of religious people today are being led to believe the very same thing.

Bob Sessler

**But the hour cometh, and now is,
when the true worshippers shall
worship the Father in spirit and in truth:
for the Father seeketh such to worship him.
God is a Spirit: and they that worship him
must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

Things That Spread

Galatians 5:9

“Oh, look how it spreads!” cried Ruth, watching Cook trying to mop up a great blot of ink that Benny had dropped on the white tablecloth.

“It’s not the only thing that spreads,” snapped Cook, annoyed at being interrupted in her work. “Children’s naughtiness spreads too, making everybody around them a lot of trouble.” Then, jerking the blinds down, she hurried out of the room, leaving Ruth alone in the darkness.

Through a tiny crack in the dark shade at the other side of the room a little sunbeam struggled in on the floor, its brightness spreading through the threads of the carpet, leaving a streak of sunshine much wider and brighter than where it entered.

“Sunshine spreads too,” said Ruth, “and kindness.” Then she hummed softly, “Let us gather up the sunshine lying all around our path.”

“Lots of other things besides ink and naughtiness,” Ruth said out loud; and then, following Cook into the hot kitchen, she heard her grumble:

“Everything spreads for me—especially work; and there are the berries to pick for supper besides.”

The day was hot, and Cook was tired and cross; so, taking the basket out of her

hand, Ruth said, “Let me pick the berries, Cook; I love to hunt them hiding among the leaves,” and before Cook could object she was gone. Soon she was back with the tempting berries, and as she capped them on the wide, cool porch, she overheard Cook telling Sarah, the maid, about her sister’s sick baby, and that she had been rushing all afternoon, so she could get the doctor’s medicine down to the child before supertime.

“But now I can’t and the poor dear is in sore need of it,” she sighed.

“Let me go, Cook,” begged Ruth brightly. “I know where Tommy’s mother lives, and I can skip down in no time.”

“Mamma may think the walk too long,” objected Cook.

“I’m sure she won’t,” insisted Ruth; “she likes me to help people, and I just love babies.”

“You surely do, Ruth,” agreed Cook. “You are one comfort, truly; and happiness keeps spreading all the time wherever you are.”

Just then Benny came up the walk, pushing baby’s stroller in front of him and grumbling:

“Here I’ve been wheeling this cross youngster about for a solid hour, and he

won’t go to sleep. I feel like spanking him good, the little rascal.”

“Poor little Teddy,” said Ruth. “He is sick, and it is so hot, and then he misses his dear Mamma.”

“Nothing ails him but real crossness,” said Benny.

“O Benny dear, don’t say that,” begged Ruth. “His poor little gums are very hot; look how red and swollen they are. Come, baby! I will take him along down to Cook’s sister’s,” and she started off with a smile on her lips.

“Thanks to your kindness, Benny, Mamma’s head is almost well,” said mother when she took her place at the table that evening.

“It was Ruth who coaxed baby to sleep, Mamma,” replied Benny. “I couldn’t do anything with him. She must be a fairy, I think.”

“It was just the happiness spreading,” said Ruth; and then she told them the story of the spreading of the ink and the sunshine. — Olive Plants in *Little Stories for Little People*. Adapted from Treasury of Devotional Aids for Home and School.

Virginia Markwell

**It is by faithfulness to duty in the parental home
that the youth are to prepare themselves
for homes of their own.
Let them here practice self-denial,
and manifest kindness,
courtesy, and Christian sympathy.**

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