

# Seventh-day Remnant VOICE

Apr-May 2008

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

## The Pillars of Our Faith Introduction & First Angel's Message

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

### THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE

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

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

Who represents the angels?

"No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven.

3. see also LS 429

4. 5T 455-456

5. 4SP 199

1. CW 30

6. 2T 649;  
CS 39;  
4T 472

7. GC 355

8. Ex 20:3

9. 7BC 979

10. Dan 8:14

11. GC 355-356

2. Rev14:6,7

12. GC 424

Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order.<sup>3</sup> The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God's messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth."<sup>4</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."<sup>8</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is the work of the First Angel?

“It was to separate the church of Christ from the corrupting influence of the world that the first angel’s message was given.”<sup>17</sup> “The first angel’s message of Revelation 14, announcing the hour of God’s judg-

13. GC 436

18. GC 379

14. 2 Cor 6:2

19. GC 353

20. GC 398

15. GC 437-438

16. Mt 6:25-33

17. 4SP 231

21. Manuscript 24, 1891

ment and calling upon men to fear and worship Him, was designed to separate the professed people of God from the corrupting influences of the world and to arouse them to see their true condition of worldliness and backsliding.”<sup>18</sup> “The message was designed for the testing and purification of the church... The message was designed to enable them to discern their true spiritual state; it was sent in mercy to arouse them to seek the Lord with repentance and humiliation.”<sup>19</sup> “The preaching of the first angel’s message and of the ‘midnight cry’ tended directly to repress fanaticism and dissension.”<sup>20</sup>

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

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

Gary Cain

## EDITORIAL

Now you can see, we are coming along on our plans to publish more frequently, our promises are being fulfilled.

In this issue we are starting a series on The Pillars of our Faith. Gary Cain shows us what they are and discusses the first one here, The First Angel’s Message.

Our SOP article this time is not by Sister White even though this paper is full of excerpts from her writings. We felt that the need for the kind of article that provides the background for our support of inspiration in the time of the end and that it was written by her husband made publishing of it appealing.

We have two letters here from Kelsey Nelson. She has spent the last 10 months in a primitive village in the Philippines. By the time you read this she will have returned to her home in the United States.

Bringing the gospel to primitive people that are illiterate and worship nature helps the young people to put in practice all the things they have learned. It helps to bring maturity as nothing else can, an experience that the young person will reflect on the rest of his life.

The Filipino natives that Kelsey taught are considered so backward that you can’t teach them very much. This attitude is so widespread that the natives themselves believe it. If any learning begins to get difficult they give up. It is not uncommon to have them repeat a grade several times.

The government treats them almost as if they didn’t exist. No schooling is provided for them as is provided for other Filipinos because they think they can’t learn anything.

What a joy it was to see these children and young people score higher on their government exams than the public school students for the first time this year!

In this issue we have reports from Benin and Uganda, Africa, and a trip to Mexico.

The story of the two angels in a previous issue was taken from the book “The King’s Daughter and Other Stories for Girls.” This book and “Sabbath Readings for the Home Circle” were taken from Ellen White’s scrapbook. These were stories that she read in other publications and saved because of the lessons they teach children. Virginia Markwell selected the two angels story because of the lesson it teaches about helpfulness. The part of the story about the angels was fanciful but she included it because it illustrated for the children how the angels work with us. We failed to credit the source of the story. You can read the entire book on line at

[www.gutenberg.org/files/13126/](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/13126/)

13126-h/13126-h.htm

Editor

### Seventh-day Remnant VOICE

Vol. 3, No. 2, April—May, 2008. Published by the Seventh-day Remnant Publishing Association, P.O. Box 1283, Lincoln, California 95648. Phone 800 372-9765

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the above address. Return postage paid.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** are by donation only. Send questions about your subscription to the above address.

Editor: Jim Snipes. Printed in USA.

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# THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

Once, man walked with God in Eden. With open face he beheld the glory of the Lord, and talked with God, and Christ, and angels, in paradise, without a dimming veil between. Man fell from his moral rectitude and innocency, and was driven from the garden, from the tree of life, and from the visible presence of the Lord and His holy angels. Moral darkness, like the pall of death, has since cast its shadows everywhere, and everywhere the blight and mildew of sin has been seen. And amid the general gloom and moral wretchedness, man has wandered from the gates of paradise for nearly six thousand years, subject to sickness, pain, sorrow, tears, and death. He has also been subject to the temptations and wiles of the devil, so much so that it is the sad history of man, throughout the entire period of his fallen state, that Satan has reigned with almost universal sway.

When all was lost in Adam, and the shades of night darkened the moral heavens, there soon appeared the star of hope in Christ, and with it there was established a means of communication between God and man. In his fallen state, man could not converse face to face with God, and with Christ, and with angels, as when in his Eden purity. But through the ministration of holy angels could the great God speak to him in dreams and in visions. "If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream."<sup>1</sup>

The manifestation of the spirit of prophecy was designed for all dispensations. The sacred record nowhere restricts it to any particular period of time, from the fall to the final restitution. The Bible recognizes its manifestation alike in the Patriarchal age, in the Jewish age, and in the Christian age. Through this medium God communed with holy men of old. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied; and so extensive was the range of his prophetic vision, and so minute, that he could look down over long ages, and describe the coming of the Lord, and the execution of the last judgment upon the ungodly.<sup>2</sup>

God spake to his prophets in the Jewish dispensation in visions and in dreams, and opened before them the great things of the future, especially those connected with the first advent of Christ to suffer for sinners, and His second appearing in glory to destroy his enemies, and complete the redemption of His people. If the spirit of prophecy nearly disappeared from the Jewish church for a few centuries toward the close of that dispensation, on account of the corruptions in that church, it re-appeared at its close to usher in the Messiah. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, "was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied."<sup>3</sup> Simeon, a just and devout man, who was "waiting for the consolation of Israel,"<sup>4</sup> came by the Spirit into the temple, and prophesied of Jesus as "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Israel."<sup>5</sup> And Anna, a prophetess, "spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem."<sup>6</sup>

And there was no greater prophet than John, who was chosen of God to introduce to Israel "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."<sup>7</sup>

8. Mark 16:17, 18

9. Acts 2:1-11

10. Acts 21:9, 10

1. Num 12:6

2. Jude 14, 15

3. Luke 1:67

4. Luke 2:25

5. Luke 2:3

6. Luke 2:38

7. John 1:29

The Christian age commenced with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the manifestation of various spiritual gifts. Among these was the gift of prophecy. After commissioning his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel, Jesus says to them, "and these signs shall follow them that believe: in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."<sup>8</sup>

On the day of Pentecost, when the Christian dispensation was fully opened, some of these gifts were manifested in a wonderful manner.<sup>9</sup> Luke, in giving account of his travels with Paul and others, when a quarter of a century of the Christian age had already passed, after speaking of entering into the house of Philip, the evangelist, says: "and the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judea a certain prophet, named Agabus."<sup>10</sup> Again, still later, we see the beloved John, in the Isle of Patmos, imbued with the spirit of prophecy in all its fullness. The wonderful Revelation was given unto him when more than half a century of the Christian age had passed. And here the new-testament record leaves us without a single intimation that the gifts of the Spirit should cease from the church till the day of glory should be ushered in by the second appearing of Jesus Christ.

Since the great apostasy, these gifts have rarely been manifested; and for this reason, professed Christians generally suppose that they were designed to be limited to the period of the primitive church. But from the time of the primitive Christians to the present there have been manifestations among the most devoted followers of Jesus, which have been recognized by nearly all of the leading denominations as the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Then should not the errors and the unbelief of the church be assigned as reasons why these manifestations have been so seldom, rather than that God has taken these blessings from the church? When the people of God attain to primitive faith and practice, as they most certainly will under the last message, the latter rain will be poured out, and all the gifts will be revived. The former rain was given at the commencement of the Christian age, in the time of the sowing of the gospel seed, to cause it to germinate and take good root. Then the church enjoyed the gifts. And when the latter rain shall be poured out at the close of the dispensation, to ripen the golden harvest for the garner of God, then will the gifts of the Holy Spirit be manifested in all their fullness.

To this agree the words of the prophet, as quoted by Peter: "and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And on my servants, and on my handmaidens, I will pour out in those days of my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show

wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come.”<sup>11</sup> The spirit of prophecy is here seen among the especial signs of the last days. Its revival in the last days was to constitute one of the most noted signs of the approaching end. This is evident from its being classed with the most prominent signs, in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars, and such wonders, in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, as blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke.

Of all the blessings which God has bestowed upon his people, the gift of his Son excepted, none have been so sacred, and so important to their welfare, as the gift of his holy law, and his Holy Spirit. And none have been so well calculated to thwart the plans of Satan, and, consequently, to stir his rage, as these. And when that people should arise in the last generation of men, who should be observing all ten of the precepts of God’s holy law, and should recognize the revival of the spirit of prophecy, they might expect to feel that bitterness from their opponents, which can arise only from the direct inspiration of Satan. “and the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”<sup>12</sup>

“The testimony of Jesus,” said the angel to John, “is the spirit of prophecy.”<sup>13</sup> It is the keeping of the commandments of God, and the recognition of the revival of the spirit of prophecy by the remnant of the church, or the Christians of the last generation, that stirs the ire of the dragon.

The Jewish age, notwithstanding its apostasies, opened and closed with special manifestations of the Spirit of God. And it is not reasonable to suppose that the Christian age, the light of which, compared with the former dispensation, is as the light of the sun to the feeble rays of the moon, should commence in glory, and close in obscurity. And since a special work of the Spirit was necessary to prepare a people for the first advent of Christ, how much more so for his second advent?

God has never manifested His power to His people simply for their gratification; but according to their necessities has he wrought for them. Then we may safely conclude that as His people are passing the perils of the last days in the final struggle with the aroused powers of darkness, when false prophets shall have power to show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect, our gracious God will bless and strengthen his fainting people with the gifts, as well as the graces, of the Holy Spirit.

We have seen that the manifestation of the spirit of prophecy in dreams and in visions became necessary in consequence of man’s being separated from the visible presence of God. But when the tabernacle of God shall be with men, and he shall dwell with them, and God himself shall be with them,<sup>14</sup> when Christ shall come again with all the holy angels, and receive his people unto himself, that where he shall be, there they may be also,<sup>15</sup> and when man redeemed shall

11. Acts 2:17-20

16. 1 Cor 12:1

12. Rev 12:17

13. Rev 19:10

17. 1 Cor 12:27,28

14. Rev 21:3

15. John 14:3

18. Eph 4:11-13

walk and talk with God, and Christ, and angels, in Eden restored; then there will be no further need of the spirit of prophecy.

When man in Eden stood in all the perfection of his manhood, before the blight of sin had touched anything that God had made for him, and with open face beheld the glory of the Lord, he could have no need of the spirit of prophecy. But when Eden was lost in consequence of transgression, and man was doomed to grope his way from the gates of paradise, enshrouded in the moral gloom that resulted from the curse and the reign of Satan, he needed the light of the spirit of prophecy. And his need in this respect will continue, more or less urgent, until the restitution, when the redeemed shall walk and talk with God, and with Christ, and with the holy angels, in Eden restored.

The apostle to the Corinthians clearly sustains this position. He introduces the subject by stating, “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”<sup>16</sup> He deemed the subject of too great importance to leave the church at Corinth in ignorance respecting it. He proposes to instruct them. We shall do well to avail ourselves of the benefit of his teachings.

In this chapter the apostle introduces the human body, with its several members acting in harmony, one dependent upon the other, as an illustration of the Christian church, with its members, and the several gifts God has set in the church. He then makes the application of the figure thus: “now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”<sup>17</sup>

Let it be borne in mind that God has set prophets, miracles, and gifts of healings, in the Christian church as verily as he has teachers, helps, and governments. And this expression, “God hath set” them in the church, means more than that he would communicate with this people by his Holy Spirit in the Christian age the same as he had in former dispensations. It conveys the idea that God had especially endowed the Christian church with them. He had established them in the church, to remain until the return of her absent Lord. This was done because the church needed them. Did the primitive church need them? So did the true church need them to light her pathway during the dark period of her persecutions and martyrdom. And much more does the church need the gifts in making her course through the perils of the last days, and in making ready to receive her soon-coming Lord.

The design of the gifts, and also the time of their continuance in the church, are definitely expressed by the apostle to the Ephesians: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”<sup>18</sup>

It cannot be shown that the church did, in the lifetime of Paul, reach the state of unity, knowledge, and perfection, here mentioned. And certainly the church did not enjoy these during her apostasy,<sup>19</sup> and the period of her flight into the wilderness,<sup>20</sup> Nor has she reached this state of unity, knowledge, and perfection, since the labors of Martin Luther. The church today is almost infinitely below this state of unity, knowledge, and perfection. And not until the Christians of the last generation of men shall be brought to the enjoyment of it by the last warning message, and all the means God may employ to prepare them to be translated to heaven without tasting death, will the ultimate design of the gifts be realized.

But Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, has distinctly shown when the gifts would cease. In the first part of this chapter the apostle discourses upon the pre-eminence of love (improperly translated charity) to the gift of tongues, gift of prophecy, faith, liberality to the poor, and courage to give one's body to be burned. These, in the absence of love, are valueless. He then describes the virtues and riches of love, closing with these words: "charity [love] never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."<sup>21</sup> While love is not only the crowning Christian grace here, but will reach forward to all eternity, and be the crowning glory of the redeemed, the gifts will cease with faith and hope. At the glorious appearing of the Lord, faith will be lost in sight, hope in fruition, prophecies will fail to be any longer a light to the church, tongues will cease to be a sign, and the faint knowledge of the present dim night will vanish before the perfect knowledge of the perfect day, as the dim rays of the moon vanish before the light of the rising sun.

Next come the forcible words of verse 9 and 10: "for we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."<sup>22</sup> We still wait for that which is perfect to come. And while we wait, may our dear, absent Lord manifest himself to his waiting people through the gifts. "for," says Paul, speaking of the present imperfect state, "we know in part, and we prophesy in part." How long shall the spirit of prophecy serve the church? When will it be done away? Answer: "but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." This should settle the question of the perpetuity of the gifts in the Christian church.

The popular view, however, is this: the gifts were given to the primitive church, to remain only during the lifetime of Christ's first apostles. At their death, the gifts were to be removed from the church. But let it be remembered that a great change takes place when the gifts are to cease, and that change is from an imperfect state to that which is perfect; from the dimness of night to the glory of perfect day. We need not inquire if such a change took place at the death of the first apostles; for all who have any knowledge of

19. 2 Thess. 2:3

20. Rev 12:6

23. 2 Thess 2:7

24. Acts 20:29, 30

25. 1 Cor 13:11

21. 1 Cor 13:8

26. 1 Cor 13:12

22. 1 Cor 13:9,10

the history of the primitive church, know that whatever changes did take place in the church about the time of the death of the apostles, were not for the better, but decidedly for the worse. Even in Paul's day, the mystery of iniquity already worked in the church.<sup>23</sup> And the apostle, addressing the elders of the church at Miletus, says: "for I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."<sup>24</sup> But if we apply this great change to the close of the present dispensation, and the introduction of the eternal day of glory, all is plain. Here we have the clearest proof that the gifts were not to be done away until the second appearing of Christ.

Paul continues with an illustration of the present imperfect state, and the future state perfection and glory: "when I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."<sup>25</sup> His childhood represents the present imperfect state; his manhood, the perfection of the immortal state. This is evident. Now suppose we are wrong, and that Paul's childhood represents the church in his day, endowed with the gifts; and that his manhood represents the church after his death, stripped of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and fast sinking away toward the great apostasy! Absurdity!

And still the apostle continues with another beautiful illustration of the change from the present dispensation, during which the church was to enjoy the comparatively-dim light of the gifts, as she walked by faith and hope, to the open glories of the world to come, when the redeemed shall walk with God in Eden restored, and talk face to face with Christ and angels. He says: "for now we see through a glass darkly; but then, face to face."<sup>26</sup> To the view that the gifts were to cease at the death of the first apostles, and that with their death came the glorious change illustrated by these words of the apostle, we need only to repeat, absurdity!

The truth of God upon this subject is consistent and harmonious with itself, and with all divine truth. The spirit of prophecy, in consequence of the fall and man's separation from the visible presence of God, became a necessity. This necessity has not been obviated by any past change of dispensation. And no dispensation needs the gifts of the Holy Spirit more than the Christian age; and at no time in the long period of man's separation from God's visible presence, have they been so much needed as amid the perils of the raging tempests of the last days. But when the Redeemer shall come, the controversy be ended, the saints' rest given, and they, all immortal, meet around the throne with angels, and face to face behold the glory of God and the Lamb, the Spirit of Prophecy will be numbered among heaven's choicest blessings of the past.

James White

If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross.

## TEMPERANCE or abstemiousness

Don't we all know that temperance—or abstemiousness—is abstaining from anything harmful and a moderate use of that which is good and good for us? Then why are so many of us sick?

To answer that, we need to examine temperance a little closer. I'm sure we all agree these things are bad for us: alcoholic beverages, tobacco, coffee, tea, soda pop. But what about meat, rich desserts, milk and eggs, and cheese? And even if we are vegans, do we eat more than our bodies really need, or when we are tired? Or what about combining too many things at one meal? Or mixing fruits and vegetables? This can cause pain, headaches, various illnesses, maybe a feeling of faintness or exhaustion.<sup>1</sup> But more importantly it can shorten our lives and deplete our vital force. So can being intemperate in work because we want to get a set amount of work done!<sup>2</sup>

Do we have irritable children with sensitive stomachs? Improve their diets.<sup>3</sup> Even irregular meal-times can cause cold limbs and decaying food in the system,<sup>4</sup> as can immodest or improper dress.

An improper diet jeopardizes our moral judgment.<sup>5</sup> “By indulgence in little extravagances men **become careless** in the use of money and form spendthrift habits.”<sup>6</sup> Being a good steward is also part of temperance. “Through habits of strict temperance and denial of hurtful indulgences we shall have calm nerves and mental acuteness to discern good from evil.”<sup>7</sup>

Even though “we don't make articles of diet a test question,”<sup>8</sup> we do want to educate the intellect so we can act intelligently. For: “an intemperate man cannot be a patient man,”<sup>9</sup> and temperance comes before patience in Peter's ladder: “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”<sup>10</sup>

### TEMPERANCE IN REST

Lack of sleep has been linked to obesity, heart dis-

ease, hypertension, blood sugar problems, food cravings, thyroid problems, depression, narcolepsy, disorders of the arteries, skin problems, lower levels of hormones, irritability, memory problems such as trouble finding words and trouble concentrating, loss of energy. Of course these are at least some factors that lead to loss of productivity, absenteeism, and accidents—both in the workplace and elsewhere.

Naturopaths say that during sleep is when the body heals. Then we can feel rejuvenated having greater insights. Also the body can process toxins to get them ready for elimination. Some are even saying that sleep before midnight is up to 3 times more useful for healing than sleep after midnight.

And God has told us that the hours before midnight are more valuable: “I know from the testimonies given me from time to time for brain workers, that sleep is worth far more before than after midnight. Two hours good sleep before twelve o'clock is worth more than four hours after twelve o'clock.”<sup>11</sup>

“This turning night into day is a wretched, health-destroying habit, and this reading much by brain workers, up to the sleeping hours, is very injurious to health.”<sup>12</sup>

“Give the weary brain a rest. Unreasonable hours are destructive to the physical, the mental, and the moral powers. If the brain were given proper periods of rest, the thoughts would be clear and sharp, and business would be expedited.”<sup>13</sup>

Sometimes just a change of activity gives us rest. Certainly having the stomach empty allows better sleep. The mind also needs time to slow down before bedtime in order to get good sleep. Unresolved problems can be resolved during sleep, but only if calmness precedes sleep.

A short nap during the day can also help the body restore itself.

So, don't overwork and leave sufficient time for rest and sleep.

Jean Johnson

1. See 4SG 129-130, CH 158-161
2. See CH 99
3. ST 9-18-1879  
11. 7MR 224
4. 5MR 224
5. See 4T 140, PP 378  
12. 9MR 46
6. ST 5-25-1891
7. 19MR 343  
13. 7T 256
8. CD 466.1
9. 1T 618
10. 2 Peter 1:5-7

## RECIPE

### PATÉ

ALMONDS	1 CUP
SUNFLOWER SEEDS	1 CUP
BRAZIL NUTS (optional)*	¼ to ½ CUP
LEMON JUICE	¾ CUP
WATER	¾ CUP or enough to process
SALT	1 tsp
Bragg's Liquid Aminos	1 Tbl
ONION GRANULES	2 tsp
GARLIC GRANULES	1 tsp
CUMIN	1 tsp
DILL WEED or seed	1 tsp

Soak almonds, sunflower seeds, and Brazil nuts 8-12 hours at room temperature. Drain, rinse off sunflower seed skins. Let sit an hour or two.

Process in food processor or blender until smooth and creamy. (I find the blender takes too much water.)

Serve with fresh veggies or crackers.

Will keep 2-3 weeks covered in refrigerator or until you see some mold (though I am still alive after skimming off the mold and eating it anyway).

\* You can use Spanish peanuts, pumpkin seeds, or whatever you have with the almonds

# LETTERS

## NEWS FROM BENIN

Dear brethren,

We send our greetings to you all who are united with us in one faith and one purpose in the name of Jesus, our only Saviour. We pray that this will get to you in peace.

This year's United Brethren, November 23-25, was held in Seme Kpodji, Southern Republic of Benin. Participants came from neighboring countries and from Libreville, Gabon, Central Africa. Many brethren could not attend this year's Convention due to economic and financial hardships, and many of them cancel at the last minute as we could not provide or assist them with transportation. We gave God all the glory for those who were able to attend and in all we recorded a total of 382 participants.

There were conversions, testimonies of salvation, healings and restorations. Some pastors from other faiths attended and some accepted the Sabbath message and the 3 Angels' Messages. All in all it was a wonderful time with the heavenly Father and His Son. We had Spirit filled teachings and messages from various preachers and from the Spirit of Prophecy. We heard a testimony from a woman who delivered an extended pregnancy after attending our last year's seminar at Ouidah. The doctor told her that her pregnancy was only 2 months old but in actual fact it was over a year. The power of the Holy Spirit breaks the power of witchcraft which has held this woman in prison for years. This woman has lost all hope of life and has spent all her resources as she was like the woman with the issue of blood in the Bible who met Christ and her life was changed. Her testimony brought tears of joy to many and her husband vowed to follow the God of the Bible all his life.

Another woman who attended the Convention said she was paralyzed in her body, met Christ during the Convention and she was healed and saved. Several people testified how Christ changed them through the SOP materials and our free Bible Correspondence courses, etc. We were refreshed in the Lord and were strengthened.

We praised God for all the brethren and friends who contributed for the provision of these Holy Scriptures. God will be their providers. Our appreciations go to Brother J who sends me my salary once in two months which without our lives would have been a hell. Brother G and Elder B and other secret disciples of love whose supports and prayers keep us moving; I

thank you all. All your labors are never in vain, you will be rewarded by our Heavenly Father.

Here in Benin separated brethren are suffering so much and in most cases we are being seen as outcasts as it seemed that our teachings and way of life is quite different from other religious groups. We have been very busy in teaching health messages, separation, Ten Commandments, Sabbath Truth, etc. We pray that God opens His doors of riches for you.

The Convention here was great but we experienced some difficulties and death. The money that was raised was not sufficient but we managed to cope and I entered into debts. We lost all the foodstuffs meant for the Convention in an accident. The pickup van we hired from the market that carried the foodstuffs ran off from the wooden bridge into the river and, praise God, no life was lost. Elder Paul (Seme Kpodji) lost his mother on the eve of the Convention, and I was at the hospital to see her before she gave up the ghost, she was 82 years, a spirit control Christian and will be buried this Thursday. We have some debts to settle, like that of the Convention facilities, some electric bills, foodstuffs, transportation, etc. What ever the Lord placed in your heart for us will be appreciated. All the brethren left for home with joy and are in great anticipation for the next Convention.

We distributed several copies of free Bibles. We have also posted some to our radio listeners and to those who are enrolled in our free home Bible course. We sent also to some brethren who attended last year's Convention. We gave out also some reading glasses, literatures, clothes and some medicines. God's doings are great and marvelous in our eyes.

### PRAYERFUL NEEDS

Pray that God will provide us with an evangelism van, laptop and a film (DVD) projector for conference and seminars as we always are in need of using Power-Point.

Praise God for the fellowship in Ouidah that is growing fast, ask God for His Spirit to control all the members. Pray for wisdom, provision, faithfulness and courage as I serve the Lord. We need used clothes and shoes for our less privileged brethren. I need a regular support in my efforts.

May God keep you all safe and bless the United Brethren all over the world.

Shalom. Michael & Stella Porter

Thank God Almighty for His provision. Thank you for your participation.

We know that every day will bring trouble and difficulty for God's work. The support to aid in the Gospel preaching will become more scarce as time goes on.

The Christian world is now delivering 90% of your resources for support to the enemy's cause. And soon it will be more. The enemy says: "We must do our utmost to prevent those who labor in God's cause from obtaining means to use against us. Keep the money in our own ranks. The more means they obtain, the more they will injure our kingdom by taking from us our subjects." TM 474.

For this reason "the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning... God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands." TM 300.

All this is so that "lest any man should boast." Eph.2:9.

May God bless His work and His laborers. Lovingly, J.L. Garay, Columbia

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Dear Friends & Family,

Hello! It's time for an update from me! I know you haven't really heard from me! I'm sorry that I haven't really kept up with you all except for a few quick notes during my break!

The school here is in a little village. We are about a 1/4 mile from the sea shore, if that. The weather here right now is perfect for me and I'm really enjoying it. It's not too hot, and not too cold. Though a few times, I have actually been a little chilly, when it is stormy here. We've passed the rainy season but we are still having storms and rain now and then. We now have 56 students; we started out with around 90 students. Slowly, throughout the school year, they drop out for various reasons. Some leave and go to other areas for harvest time, some drop out from having too many tardies or absences from class. Others leave because they break the rules.

Right now we are getting ready for the final Periodical Testing. The last two grading periods we were all teaching subjects instead of grades. I was teaching Math, Bible, Cursive Writing, and Oral Language. I've really enjoyed it! The Oral Language class is really good for them; I'm teaching them how to pronounce the words they have trouble with and I'm also teaching all of the grades to write in cur-

sive. They weren't taught that before so none of the grades really knew how. So, besides that, I've just been working on their reading skills and trying to introduce them to as much vocabulary as possible. I am really trying to introduce them to things they've never heard of. Their knowledge of things that we take for granted is very small. Normal things to us, i.e. what tall buildings look like, what a subway system is, what it looks like in a big city, how a real house looks inside and out, what a neighborhood looks like, what a real toilet is (they would be scared of an automatic flushing one!), a real stove, oven, or even a real shower! Anyway, I really just want them to know there are different ways to do things other than the lifestyle that they have here. There is a whole world that does things differently than they do!

These kids think that you shouldn't eat a meal without rice! And if you eat rice you have to eat what they call viand. Yeah, it is a real English word, but I'd never heard it till I came here! It's what you cook to eat with your rice. They think they'd just about die if they went a whole week without eating rice.

My house is made with a cement floor, metal roof and the walls are made of cement block about 3 feet up and then vertical boards the rest of the way up. I'm not living in a native style house anymore; my house is pretty nice now! It doesn't leak for the most part, but that's ok because the rainy season is over. I have a lot of windows with shutters on them, for times when I feel like having some privacy. I'm used to the cold showers now, and the hot weather. I'm not sweating so much every day now.

In December we went for a hike, it was a lot of fun! We walked down the beach, out past the village and then up a little trail that goes up into the mountain. We were on our way to one of our former student's Coconut plantations. They have a lot of Coconut trees there and we brought along about 10 people with us. Trina (another American teacher) and I went with our students who live with us and some of their friends too. We were very happy to be together and it was lots of fun just getting there! We hiked up the mountain a ways and then on over to the grove.

When we got there the boys got right to work. Up the trees they went and they climb those things so fast! Pretty soon they were throwing the coconuts down to us and we were whacking them open with the bolos. They cut the outer shell down a ways and then they whack open the top. They make a spoon out of the part they cut

off the top and when it's open you drink the juice and then oh man! It's so good inside!!!! I think I probably ate about six coconuts, and I drank the juice of two! I was so full! But they were really good! Or, as they say in Tagalog, "Masarap!"—which means delicious!

After about 2 hours we gathered up the other coconuts that we didn't eat and got them ready to take home. We brought back 4 coconuts and we really enjoyed our trip! The view on the way back was so nice and it gave us a beautiful shot of the whole village and the ocean.

Several times we've gone on a hike up the mountain. But the last few times we've gone up through the village and on up the trail to the Lingkahong River. It's a beautiful hike and we always see lots of really cool flowers and some really big and colorful spiders! The river is beautiful and it's so much fun to climb up the river bed to the waterfall. It's a wet adventure but it's a lot of fun! We hiked up to the bottom of the falls and then we climbed up the vines to get to the top of the waterfall where the swimming hole is. We played there and then we just relaxed for a while! It feels so nice! It is cooler up there and the view of the ocean is great! It is refreshing to be there and I enjoy being with the kids. I want to go back there as many times as I can before I leave. I just love it there, it's so cool!

Right now I have 9 Students in my home room grade. I am the Teacher for 2nd Grade. It's really my grade, the grade I'm responsible for. They are all special to me—but the boys are struggling with some serious character issues, mostly with crude behavior. The boys in my class are right around 12-14 and they are a challenge to work with for me at times. I'm really praying that they can learn to control their behavior. They could sure use some good role models and, sadly, they don't really have any.

I also really struggle with the way they treat animals here. The people here in the village all keep dogs but they are all walking skeletons that just get kicked around and fed scraps to eat. And it is very common for them to kill and eat them if they feel like it. And if they see a bird, they will kill it and eat it. There aren't many birds around here because of that. Almost any bird they see they will pick up a rock and stone the poor bird. Argg. Those are just small examples of how they treat their animals. But anyway, it's just so different than what I'm used to. They have no respect for them.

I know now for sure there is no perfect culture out there, but I can see even more

clearly now how culture can hold people in bondage. There are so many customs here that really are just so unbelievable to me, but as my students say "Don't panic, it happens all the time!"

I really do love it here and I realize I don't have much time here left! It's really a long time, to be somewhere away from home, but when I think of going home it makes me kind of sad. The team and all these people are so great. I'm really going to miss these people, and these kids. They've already become a part of me. I just hope my time here has let them see Jesus a little more clearly. It's been a good experience and I've already made so many memories. It's been a great privilege, but I am excited about going home, too; even if it does make me sad, because I do miss you all! I mean I haven't seen you all in forever and I really have missed you. There are just 6 weeks of school left and time really is going fast.

Well that's all for now! I'll see you all soon!

I Love and Miss you all!

Kelsey

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#### THE MOUNTAIN.

On Thursday February 13, we finished out school and walked with all the teachers to the next village. We spent the night in Agbalite, and then we got up at 2 am. We have a school break February 14-17 and we planned to come here to Mamburao so we could get in touch with our families. The only problem was, they decided not to send the boat out to the villages this time. So we all decided to walk over the mountain to Paluan and ride a Jeepney on to Mamburao. It's a very long walk so we all started out that afternoon for the next village. It would be best to start out from there together since some of the other teachers from that village were planning to walk, too.

Well, this morning we all woke up very early. We got ready and we were on our way by 2:22am when I checked my watch. It was very dark and we only had 3 flashlights, so walking was slow. At first we walked along the seashore, and then we started walking up the hillside. After just a few feet it got really steep! I really didn't know if I was up to a harsh walk after being pretty inactive for several months. I really was hoping that I wasn't going to regret deciding to come along. I wasn't planning on coming but Trina and the other teachers said I should experience walking over the mountain at least once before I left and that the view would be worth it.

Well as you can guess since we were walking so early in the morning I never saw the view at least from that side of the



mountain.

Anyway, back to my story. As we were walking Trina and the other teachers got really far ahead. Ma'am Mercy and Sir Boni were the only two walking with me. I had already told Ma'am Mercy I wasn't going to be walking very fast and she said she didn't mind because she wouldn't be walking very fast either. As we walked we got farther and farther behind 'til we were almost walking alone. It was ok with us though, because they knew the way and so did we.

The trail was dry, rocky and very steep for about 2 1/2 hours of the first part! And since it was dark and windy we couldn't go very fast. I was really struggling because my muscles in my legs were cramping up! I've been teaching in a classroom mostly for the last 8 months and I'm not in that good of shape right now especially for a hike like that! Up, up, up the trail we climbed; stopping to rest periodically. I was really beginning to regret coming along, here it is 3 am and I'm walking up a steep mountain in the dark! I can't see hardly anything and at the top of the mountain there are clouds and fog, and for all I know it's probably raining! Ma'am Mercy and Sir Boni were very patient with me though and they kept encouraging me. We finally made it to the crest where it flattens out at around 4 am. We walked faster across the top until we hit the fog and clouds. Then walking became a slippery trial! And then my flashlight got so dim that I couldn't really see anymore. The landscape on top is very grassy, but the grass is tall and very thick. It waves in the wind and covers the path and a lot of times you couldn't tell where your feet were. The wind started blowing really hard and by the time we crossed the top and got into the woods again it was pretty wet and very windy. Then we got to the area they call "Leech Territory." I was thinking complaining thoughts again, this time I kept them to myself. Ma'am Mercy gave me some laundry soap (bar) and told me to wet it and rub it all over my legs. We had to roll up our pant legs, too, because the leeches will climb inside your pant legs and suck on your legs. But if you can see them you can get them off with more soap. Also the soap makes it slippery so they can't climb on you as easily.

As we started across the area I was wondering if it would really be that bad. After a bit I felt an itchy spot on my ankle. I shined my dim light down on my ankle and sure enough there was one sucking away on my ankle! So, I smeared some soap on him and he fell off. I was wearing tennis shoes so he fell down into my shoe.

I stopped and took him out and went on my way. In a little bit I got some more! If you walked fast and kept quiet you wouldn't get as many, so I was trying to walk as fast as I dared without slipping!! In the end I only counted 12 that actually got on me and they didn't get very big. On the other side of the mountain we finally caught up with our group. They had gotten a little bit off the trail and they had just found their way back so we caught up with them. We were all carrying backpacks with our stuff in them and so it was interesting trying to climb over and under the fallen trees and down the narrow paths. All in all there were 7 of us; we finally reached the top of the other side of the mountain at about 6 am.

It finally began getting light enough by then that we could see with out our flashlights. We walked along for a while until it finally got light enough that we could see just how many leeches each other had! Some of them hadn't put soap on to protect themselves and they had several big ones and some other smaller ones. Trina had 27 in all and I'm sure the others had almost as many. We stopped and took them off by lathering up with the soap again. I was the only one who wasn't bleeding from the leeches.

We took pictures of our wounds and a few other pictures of the view and our friends and started on our way down the hill. It wasn't raining anymore and the view was really pretty! I smiled to myself, it wasn't that bad... and it was worth it after all. We walked slowly down the last of the trail to Paluan, it was steep and rocky. We finally arrived at the main road at 8 am. It took us almost six hours of walking! It is nearly 10 miles over the mountain. I was really tired from lack of sleep and my legs were pretty wobbly. But we still had to walk to Paluan. We walked from the main road about 2 miles to the town and then we realized we just missed the 8 O'clock Jeepney to Mamburao! The next one didn't come till 11:30 am! So we waited at the bus stop.

When we arrived at Mamburao they had a great meal prepared for us and it was so good to just sit and rest!

Well that's my mountain adventure! I'm going to go to bed. (I could use some sleep!)

Kelsey

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Dear ones,

The year 2008 is to be completed in the usual missionary spirit of commitment, faithfulness, confidence in the Lord and creativity based on support of benevolent sacrifices towards the Lord's work.

4T Pg 56 "When human sympathy is

blended with love and benevolence, and sanctified by the spirit of Jesus, it is an element which can be productive of great good".

The remarkable achievements that we have reached reveal many challenges which need much more effort to meet what we can do for our Lord.

1 Pet. 1:6-7. "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" (KJV).

It may be still very difficult to fully capture the scope of the work done here in Uganda and Africa but a notable scale up in demands tell that some wonderful, miraculous working is taking shape.

We therefore get courage to take seriously our responsibility and to be awake to see and realize the temporal burdens and cares of the families we visit, and to be useful, seeking to relieve them from where we can. I know Satan wants to control the means that are within our reach and make sure that we are failed in every other plan we ought to accomplish but we will prevail. Amen!

Therefore the lessons and experiences in this world help us to stand steadfast in faith.

Ro 8:38-39. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."(KJV).

God opened for us the Butesa project facility and now that some harvests were done; members meeting on chat agreed that our rewards from the harvests help us with the issue of registration.

On 20th Feb 2008 I traveled to Kampala to pick the papers of registration which we are to fill and submit for evaluation of our operations in the country; from the Ministry of Internal affairs.

After chat with Elder J, the next day I traveled to Joseph's place so that he can join me and travel together to pick the papers. We couldn't get them due to a number of reasons that we met at the desk and I can't put them here in this report. However, I encouraged Joseph to go back and pick them from the two different places and he said he would do it after he had come back from the sick bay. We discovered that it is always easier to accept us if we had a foreign contact wishing to help us to get started.

It would be good and quick for us to finish the whole process here if we got a document of affiliation to the already existing overseas Ministries like we have. I am happy that the Lord had inspired Elder J to prepare one of the kind to help all the African brethren wishing to do so! Amen.

So, we shall for a little while wait for that on our mails but snail mail would be better for such high value document.

Although the money from Butesa gardens has been allocated to help with the registration; I made it possible to have some reserved to continue with the farming. Not many rewards were generated from the garden but because of the interest we trying to maintain, I will continue with some farming of which I have finished preparing the ground. Next chat I wait to agree on what to crop there.

I extend my gratitude to the Tithe Committee of the SDRPA for the support sent to me monthly. This support has enabled me acquire a Laptop that is helping me so much in the translation work.

I have so far finished 2 booklets and 4 tracts that I hope Elder B will put on the Website to help the Ugandan readers. I visited B's site and saw Swahili language and yet ¾ here read Luganda and English best. So I was inspired to scale up this work and I believe soon many tracts will be mailed for formatting to the Website. I believe if these are finished; they are to become the main lessons in our local church services.

I have now managed to load on my laptop a translator's Modules of different Bibles and commentaries, dictionaries to make me carry on a good work.

I hope to be connected to internet for my e-mail ministry which I have started on. This will help me come closer to my brethren worldwide for a quick response to some queries raised concerning our separation movement and position. I have two brethren we are studying with on the issue of "Present Truth" which is the message for now.

Asiimwe Kyefura one of B's bible correspondence student from Mbarara was transferred to Kampala and when I reached there; I contacted him and met him at Namunghona and traveled with him to show him one of our separated churches there so that he can learn more from the brethren as they interact. He was welcomed in Jesus

name and we prayed for him. He promised to be coming for Sabbath services as he settles there.

I praised God that great and wonderful efforts are being made in various ways to reach His people and I believed all will hear His message. I hope some translated messages will be online soon for them to download and read for themselves.

Finally, I will soon go back to Kampala and meet Joseph so as to accomplish with the process of registration next month. Pray for us.

God bless you. Joel Nahate

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#### MEXICO TRIP

On August 6th Brother Gary and I flew to El Paso, Texas. We were invited to give a week of prayer in Ciudad, Juarez, at the home church there. We stayed in El Paso and drove across each morning and night. Crossing the Mexico/American border each day gave us some very interesting experiences which much prayer was sent to God for our passing coming back. We also knew that many of you were praying for us as well. Thank you!

Brother Gary spoke and I translated for him. He spoke on the Latter Rain. What is it, when does it come, how does it come, who receives it, why some do not receive it. It was a Spirit filled week of meetings. It was good to spend some time with the brethren there and study other topics in our times between meetings as well. The brethren there are very special to me now after spending time with them and sharing the word of God together.

One reason Brother Gary chose that subject is that many misunderstand the Latter Rain and are waiting for it to come upon them some day in the future and give them special ability, too—Oh Brothers and Sisters, let us study this subject, for it is ours now, if we want it. For further information on the Latter Rain, please contact Warning Last Call Ministry. Also [www.lightministries.com](http://www.lightministries.com) has information on this subject.

On Friday evening a brother came who seemed to be understanding what we were saying even with it being his first meeting with us. After the meeting I found out that he was from the central part of Mexico and he came for the meetings. He is the elder of a home church in his area. As we shared on Sabbath brother Gary found out that he

had contacted him in 2000 and had asked for some material. Brother Gary never heard from him again. Now we find out he has been faithful, studying, and sharing his faith. Lord willing we will be able to visit his home church some day.

On Sunday we rented a car and drove 10 hours from El Paso to Laredo, Texas, our next stop. We turned in our rental car and walked across the border. There we were met by some of the next group we were to meet with. They drove us for two and a half hours into Mexico. We have been to this home church several times and, again, it was a real blessing. We spent a week doing meetings each night and visiting homes, sharing the good news of Jesus and His truth. Brother Gary spoke on the 7th day Sabbath, 2nd coming of Jesus, Daniel 3 with Revelation 13 and natural remedies, and I translated. The family that invited us are very missionary minded and invited neighbors and others to come.

We caught the bus early in the morning back to the border to cross back in to the USA again. For our next meeting was back in Laredo, Texas.

We have never before been asked to give a study to a Catholic study group. What an opportunity to give God's message. What do we say? We had only one meeting with them. Brother Gary was asked to give a study on the need to study the Bible. We prayed a lot about what to say. Brother Gary started out sharing on why we need to study for ourselves while I translated. As we went along the subject of what happens when you die, why we did not belong to any denomination, and other subjects came up. We spoke for about an hour. We were going to have closing prayer but some were missing, so while we waited for them to come back, someone asked a question. After prayer we thought everyone would leave. They did not. They went into the kitchen and prepared Mexican sweet bread and hot chocolate, coffee, and an oatmeal drink for us who did not want the hot chocolate or coffee. They sat down and asked more questions. I praise the Lord that brother Hugo Colorado from the home church in Seattle area was there as well. He was the one who invited us originally. He helped us in answering some of the questions. We left the next morning for home and what blessings we received on our trip. Praise the Lord! Jeffery Rivera

More than any natural endowment, the habits established in early years decide whether a man will be victorious or vanquished in the battle of life. Youth is the sowing time. It determines the character of the harvest, for this life and for the life to come.

# DO WE WAIT FOR THE SUNDAY LAW BEFORE WE ACT? Concluded

“There are many, many in our churches, who know little of the real meaning of the truth for this time... Oh, how many who have not sought their souls’ salvation will soon make the bitter lamentation: ‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved’ [Jeremiah 8:20]!”<sup>1</sup>

“**There are many, many in our churches...**” Ellen White is referring to Adventist churches. “**The harvest is past...**” What passed them by? The harvest. What ended? The time for reaping. And they are “**not saved!**” They were deceived by a false doctrine that told them to stay right where they were because the harvest was not until after the Sunday Law! And it passed them by!

The harvest message of the Loud Cry of Revelation 18 is going forth right now, Brothers and Sisters. Those who awaken, who study for themselves, and who accept this precious message, are harvested out of the doomed harlot churches while those who do not awaken, who do not study for themselves, and who reject this message, will be passed by and the harvest will end leaving them to suffer the same punishment as their beloved harlot church.

We hope that you can see that it is the message of Revelation 18, which is designed to be the harvest message and the Devil along with all of his deceived agents within all the churches, especially within the independent ranks, and even among us, are doing their utmost to keep God’s people asleep, keeping them from hearing and following this life and death message. He is keeping them inactive and from moving forward and giving it so that the harvest will pass them by and they will be lost!

It is the message of Revelation 18 which God has designed to be the harvest message. The question is, “Will you be harvested out by following this message from God or will you remain in and allow the harvest to pass you by?”

“The message must go from east to west and from west to east again. A great shaking must come up. The professed believers in the truth for this time are asleep...”

“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 [last] call of mercy to [give to] the world, but the perversity of men diverts the work from its true bear-

2. LDE 78

1. 8T 252

ing, and the light has to struggle amid the darkness of men who feel themselves competent to do a work that God has not appointed them to do.”<sup>2</sup>

“**The message of the angel following the third...**” Or the fourth angel of Revelation 18. “**It is to be the harvest message...**” What is the message? It is the Loud Cry.

The very people who are saying that the Loud Cry is not to be given until after the Sunday Law, that you are not to separate from the church until after the Sunday Law, and, thus, you are to just sit back and wait are those men that the Spirit of Prophecy calls perverse who are diverting the work from its true bearing of today and putting it into the future. Thus, they are the cause of the Loud Cry having to struggle amidst the darkness of the error that these people are putting over it to try and keep it from being seen and followed.

We pray that these people will wake up before it is too late.

So, the time of harvest occurs when the message of the Loud Cry reaches you and your salvation is determined on how you react to these life and death messages.

This means that this time of harvest is not at some future event such as the Sunday Law, but it occurs as the people hear these precious messages which means today, even now, at this very time.

“Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”<sup>3</sup>

“**Today**” not after the Sunday law!

“Now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”<sup>4</sup>

“**Behold, now**” Not after the Sunday law, but NOW!

Dear ones, the Loud Cry is going forth right now. The precious message, to come out of the church because Christ isn’t there, and to fix your eyes on Him, to join Him, is going forth today. Decisions are being made today for God or not for God.

Dear ones, we pray that you can see the seriousness of the times in which we are living in now, not after the Sunday Law is passed, but the serious times in which we are NOW, TODAY living.

This is our prayer. Let us arise and shine for our light has already come and the glory of the Lord is already risen upon us.<sup>5</sup>

Taken from a sermon by Bob Sessler.

5. see Is 60:1

In every age there is a new development of truth,  
a message of God to the people of that generation.

The old truths are all essential;

new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it.

It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new.

# JIMMY and GRANDPA

## Psalms 106:15

Jimmy and Grandpa were walking home from church together. "I know the text," said Jimmy trying to keep step with his grandpa, "and Daddy said if I can tell it when I get home, he will give me a dollar."

"Let's hear it," said Grandpa, "and if you really do know it, I will give you another dollar."

"He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

"That's right," said Grandpa, "and here is your dollar."

"Thank you," said Jimmy politely, and then added, "But I don't know what it means."

"Let's sit down here in this little park," said Grandpa. "Here's a story I once heard a minister tell. He had taken his little girl into the city one day, and as they walked along a city street she spied a tray of small china dolls, and at once insisted that she should get one. Her father tried to persuade her to wait, but she was insistent, so he took her in and allowed her to choose the doll she wanted, and carry it away.

"By and by they came to a window

where large and lovely wax dolls were displayed. They had real hair and tiny teeth that showed between their smiling lips. They opened and closed their eyes, and if you turned them over they made a sound like 'Mamma.'

"The little girl gasped in astonishment. Never had she seen such lovely dolls.

"'Now,' said her father, 'one of these is what I really brought you into the city to get. But you have a new doll, one that was entirely your own choice. You insisted on it, so I can't buy you another doll today.' So they went home, the little girl soberly carrying a cheap little toy instead of the beautiful doll her father had intended for her."

Side by side the two sat on the bench in silence. Jimmy, thinking about the story, then he exclaimed. "Wasn't she silly? Her father meant to give her a great big doll and she chose the little one. How silly!" Then all at once his face changed. "Is that what the text means, Grandpa? God wants to give people something fine and big, and they coax so hard for something cheap that He lets them have it—and then He sends

leanness into their soul? What does 'leanness' mean?"

"Do you remember that man we saw in the restaurant," replied Grandpa, "who could hardly eat anything? I knew him. He has abused his stomach with drink until he almost has to starve himself. Suppose people set their hearts on the mean little things of this world. Like money, or fame, or houses, or cars, or friends, until they finally have no appetite, no desire for the fine things God might otherwise give them. Aren't we silly to choose these things instead of heaven and the happiness God wants to give us? If you remember that text you will understand what 'leanness' means even better as you get older."

"Are you sure you remember the text?" said Grandpa rising.

"He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul," answered Jimmy. "And I don't think I will ever forget it now."—Clara A. Alexander in *Our Little Friend*. Adapted from the book *TREASURE OF DEVOTIONAL AIDS FOR THE HOME AND SCHOOL*

Virginia Markwell

In childhood and youth the character is most impressible.  
The power of self-control should then be acquired.  
By the fireside and at the family board,  
influences are exerted whose results are as enduring as eternity.  
More than any natural endowment,  
the habits established in early years  
decide whether a man will be victorious or vanquished in the battle of life.

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Seventy-day Remnant Publishing Association  
P.O. Box 1283  
Lincoln, California 95648

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