

Symbolic Code

Fall/Winter 2010



The
2010

*General Conference
Special*



10 Living Like Christ

13 Principles of
Family Finance

26 "Take Head
Lest Ye Fall"

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Symbolic Code

It is the mission of the *Symbolic Code* to declare the Gospel of Jesus for these last days. It will present important truths from different angles and on various topics. We hope that every article will be a blessing to you and help to strengthen your relationship with the Lord Jesus. If you are blessed by any of these articles, please let us know.

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The Symbolic Code is a free publication, available to Davidians. That everyone who thirsteth for the truth may find it, this magazine, as a Christian service, is mailed without charge. Send for it. It levies but one exaction, the soul's obligation to itself to prove all things and hold fast that which is good. The only strings attach to this free proffer are the golden strands of Eden and the crimson cords of Calvary—the ties that bind.

Those desiring to support this magazine please send contributions to the address above.

We need your help in order to have the *Symbolic Code* filled with contents that are relevant to you. So if you like writing, why not do so for the *Symbolic Code*.

We are interested in articles on:

- Christian living
- End time events
- News events
- Health
- Relationship (marriage, family, etc.)

All articles must be deeply spiritual, provocative, and unquestionably in accordance with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. For more information visit our website or write to us.

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New Beginnings

This is a time when many—believers and unbelievers alike will reflect on their life during the past year, which is now fading into eternity. At the same time, plans and resolutions for the coming year are laid. During 2010, many of us have had difficulties, hard times and triumphs. Hopefully, we have gained a heightened sense of how special we are to God and how much He cares for us. Regardless of which of these categories you were in, we all have reason(s) to give thanks to the Almighty.

So, "Another year now opens its fair unwritten pages before you. The recording angel stands ready to write. Your course of action will determine what shall be traced by him. You may make your future life good or evil; and this will determine for you whether the year upon which you have just entered will be to you a happy new year. It is in your power to make it such for yourself and for those around you. Let patience, long-suffering, kindness, and love become a part of your very being; then whatsoever things are pure and lovely and of good report will mature in your experience. Angels of God are waiting to show you the path of life. . . . Decide now, at the commencement of the New Year, that you will choose the path of righteousness, that you will be earnest and truehearted, and that life with you shall not prove a mistake. Go forward, guided by the heavenly angels; be courageous; be enterprising; let your light shine. . . ." *My Life Today* p. 5.

We trust the contents of this issue of *The Symbolic Code* will help us to focus on spiritual accomplishments in the New Year. So, let us first seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and the things needful for this life will be granted to us. David observed, "I have been young and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." *Psalms 37:25*. God keeps His promises. All He asks of us is obedience to His Will. "Every act of obedience to Christ, every act of self-denial for His sake, every trial well endured, every victory gained over temptation, is a step in the march to the glory of final victory." *Mount of Blessing*, p. 201.

General Conference 2010 Atlanta Georgia

Long before this exciting event arrived, we began preparation for this General Conference. We considered it a grand occasion with massive gatherings of between 80,000-100,000 Seventh-day Adventists. What a golden opportunity to share Present Truth with a people “robbed and spoiled” and hardly aware of it—A people honest in their deception, thinking that everything is alright when everything is all wrong, according to Inspiration (3T 252).

What massive quantities of CD’s, tapes and literature had to be prepared. Mt. Carmel rose to the challenge. A special magazine designed particularly for the occasion was prepared. It was called “These Times”. The topics included were: (Table of contents)

Facing Life’s Record

A Great Unexpected Harvest

The Man 666, Priest or President

The Dangers of Meat Eating

The Intriguing 144,000

The magazine was not only very professional in appearance, but the contents were life-saving—dealing with the issues of “These times”. Looking beyond the political and economic turmoil, it pointed our beloved SDA brothers and sisters to the need of recognizing these as signs of the approach of the “great and dreadful day of the Lord” – and hence the need to prepare for the Judgment of the living, Ezekiel 9, the purification of the church.

It may be of interest, to say that our magazine was well received by friends and foes and carried to all parts of the Adventist world—yes, every country in the world where Seventh-Day Adventists inhabit. Praise the Lord! We praise the Almighty that Present Truth is still a cause of much attention and even of positive agitation. As light is inherently stronger than darkness, so is the Truth innately stronger than error and rightly handled, dispels the darkness every time.

A team of our ministers, Bible workers, and interested



Bro. Jose Suarez handing out a Magazine

brethren (about 18-20 persons), from New York, New Jersey, Barbados and elsewhere traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, where the General Conference was being held. Most of us stayed in one large house with many rooms, driving to the General Conference meeting grounds daily, about 20 to 30



Top: Inside the Convention Hall. **Left:** Sis. Mireille Cesarin from France in foreground and a small group gathered around a worker in background. **Right:** Sis. Susan Litus from New Jersey in conversation.

minutes away.

What an experience it was to see Adventist brethren from all walks of life! What an experience to see how the church standards have greatly fallen. How true the words of Ellen White, “The church has turned back from follow-

ing Christ her leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt...” 5T 217. Alas, exclaims the weeping prophet, Jeremiah, : “How is the gold become dim! How is the most fine gold changed!” Lam. 4:1.

But there is a brighter side to this picture. We saw a



Sis. Rosalee McCormick shares a Magazine

special opportunity to minister to sin-sick souls who would perish without the message of Elijah to effect a conversion and reformation—turning the hearts of fathers and children to each other lest the Lord should “come and smite the earth with a curse.” Mal. 4:5,6. Oh what preparation is needed for the great and dreadful day of the Lord! Who will be able to abide his coming in the purification of the church in Ezekiel 9! Who shall dwell with “everlasting burnings”! (Isa. 33:14).

Security was very tight. We were not allowed to share literature on the meeting grounds or property, but only in certain designated places. But what a rich and marvelous experience was gained! In giving out thousands upon thousands of Present Truth filled magazines, CD's and other literature, who can measure the eternal impact of scattering like the leaves of autumn, the seeds of Present Truth in all parts of the Master's Adventist global vineyard!

In this vein, and at this point, we would like to share a few personal testimonies for your encouragement and for the Master's glory:

As we conclude, we reiterate the soul-heartening question: What but the records of heaven will tell of the life-giving, kingdom-building results for the Master's glory. May the almighty name of Jehovah be forever praise—from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same!

Bro. George Isaac's Experience

This was my first time going to a General Conference meeting to distribute literature. It was very slow at the beginning and very few people took tracts while others passing by called us names and refused to take the material. We continuously distributed tracts on a daily basis but in

small quantities at first. At the end of the day, after the meetings were finished, on our way home, while passing by the garbage, we would sometimes see some of the literature and, of course, we salvaged what we could.

As soon as we returned home, we would all gather together and relayed our individual experiences. We went out in teams of at least two and each team would relay their experiences. We were all strengthened by the testimonies and to know that through all the trials our faith was made strong and our spirits uplifted.

This was a great opportunity for me. I was able to reacquaint with many, many people that I had not seen for quite a few years. I also met a few pastors, some of whom I knew and others for the first time. There was a particular brother about 65 years old who, when I handed him a magazine, refused it but said to me “Why don't you go to the people in the world and give out your material to them?” I simply replied “You need it much more because your condition is worst.” At my response, he stopped and then began to talk with me some more, mainly trying to show me why we are in the wrong. When I asked him how long had he been a Seventh Day Adventist, his proud response was “I am a pastor for 32 years!” My next question was “you started 32 years ago and now, how do you see the Church? He responded “Very bad. The people do not care anymore. They no longer live by the principles. I was then able to witness to him some more explaining to him why the Lord had to send this revival and reformation message that he is refusing right now. I then offered him the magazine and CDs again and he took them and went his way.

On Friday, the day before the closing of the Meetings, there was a drastic change. It seemed as if the brethren heard about our magazine because there seem to be a flood of people asking for CDs and magazines. In less than two hours, two of us were able to empty two boxes (one box contains approximately 500 magazines). We were unable to distribute these magazines fast enough for the request so the people went into the boxes that we had stored on the ground and started to take the magazines out of the boxes themselves. It seemed as if the people suddenly became ravenously hungry for the truth. We left Headquarters with 42 boxes of magazines and 20 boxes of CDs and we returned with only 4 boxes of magazines and not even half a box of CDs. I would say the work was done and to GOD BE THE GLORY!!

Sis. Deborah Matthews' Experience

I arrived in the United States on June 20th from Bar-

bados en route to Georgia for the 59th Session of the SDA General Conference . Being an Adventist for the past 34 years, I was looking forward to the trip because it would have been the first time I would be attending the General Conference. I have always heard about the conference sessions but was quite excited since this would be my first time attending.

After traveling over 17 hours from New York to Georgia with other brethren from Mountain Dale and New Jersey, we arrived early Friday morning in Douglasville, Georgia and settled in for what I thought would be an enjoyable ten days of worship and meeting as well as socializing with old friends and brethren from all over the world.

My first trip to the Georgia Dome, which is about 20 to 25 minutes away from where we were staying was kind of low keyed because the dome had a capacity for seating over 70,000 and that Friday evening, being the first Sabbath, about 10,000 to 15,000 were there. This number soon picked up, however.

On Sabbath morning the Session was well attended with about 35,000 to 40,000 brethren. The Sabbath message was very disappointing for many. Even one of the local pastors from Barbados remarked on the lack of Spiritual content. He stated he was expecting more from the General Conference Secretary. After traveling from all over the world, and spending thousands of dollars I thought the preacher came up more than short. The Adventist message is unique and with so much going on in the world at that time, from the Earthquake in Haiti in January, to the Volcano in Europe, the Oil Spill in the Gulf, the world depression, etc, his message could have



Bro. Viximar Joseph from Haiti just gave a CD

been much more timely and seeing that we are preparing for a time of trouble which is ahead of us and the time when you cannot buy or sell and even the spiritual decline of the church, he mentioned nothing about these conditions.

But because I went there with a mission and that is to let persons hear the additional message to the third angel's message, I was comforted because I had something meaningful to share – Meat in Due season, mainly “These Times” magazine and CD's on bible prophecies, Daniel 2, Matthew 20, Revelation 12, etc, and they were well received by persons who were starving for the bread of life. We continued for the rest of the session distributing over 25,000 pieces of literature and over 20,000 CDs. We met with some opposition at times, but we were not disheartened for the Spirit of Prophecy says that Satan would not stand by idle and let God's work go forward. He has his right-hand helpers, but truth will always triumph.

I must say I was really disheartened by the standard of dress, the irreverence, and the cheap fodder placed before God's people. No one addressed the appalling attire, especially from our sisters, not leaving out the brothers with platted hair and dread locks. There was absolutely no reverence in the Dome at any time. Not even when they were praying, singing, or during special music. The employees of the Dome had to walk around with placards which stated “PLEASE KEEP SILENCE” – This was not heeded.

The new president on the last Sabbath afternoon asked for persons not to clap but to say “Amen” at the approval of what he was saying but some still clapped. Irreverent and disobedient Israel indeed! I do thank God I was there to have my heart blessed by individuals and to also be a blessing to some. To be able to share God's word and at the same time to be buffeted for the gospel sake. It was a blessing because Jesus had worst done to Him, even to lose His life, so I was thankful for the opportunity God gave me to serve. My prayer is that all who had the opportunity to hear according to Revelation 3, will “hear what the Spirit saith to the church” and repent before it is too late and finally be “spewed out” of God's mouth. Yes, some literature made it into the waste paper basket only to be picked up by others longing for something better. The others made its way into homes and hearts of others to make them finally ready to be fitted to stand with the Lamb on Mt. Zion.

Bro. Neftali Garay's Experience

This year was a defining year for Mountain Dale. General Conference was coming and shortly thereafter we



were going to hold our annual Session. Headquarters (by the amazing grace of God) sent a delegation properly equipped to attend the General Conference Session. It was

various parts of the Lord's vineyard including our DLI students working together to help reach thousands during the week and over 60,000+ on Sabbaths. One shining moment came when reinforcements were needed for the last Sabbath and Bro. William Horne from Headquarters drove Bro. Joseph Vixamar who marshaled great faith to not only come to the United States for the first time as a native Haitian, but made it all the way to Atlanta Georgia to help hand out literature and CDs at the General Conference meetings being held at the Super Dome. He was denied a Visa from the US embassy from his neighboring country the Dominican Republic only to be approved by the embassy in Haiti after the horrific earthquake had hit Port-Au-Prince.

All in all the Lord was magnified and I am forever awed at His brilliance and the lengths beyond Calvary to see in real time the Lord through His Holy Spirit seeking the Lost to save by a mighty hand.

not an easy task yet faith meticulously placed in the Mighty One of Israel made what appeared insurmountable like a walk in the park —truly all of things are possible with Jehovah.

A year and a half earlier the housing bubble burst, the markets had plummeted, and greed laid an iron grip on men's heart on Wall Street. Contrary to the economic climate that demanded fiscal conservation, the Lord inspired our previous Vice President (Bro. "JJ") while we were in a recession as a nation to forge ahead and strike.

We handed out a magazine titled "These Times" which was prepared on our new four-color press we all invested in. There was also a color business reply card created for the occasion to accompany each magazine. About 40,000 pieces of literature was handed out as well as CDs. Praise the Lord for providing the means, the materials and the volunteers who extended the reach and coverage of Mountain Dale's skeleton crew.

The response is still felt today. People continue to call asking for the four CDs, namely Rev. 7, Dan. 2, Zech. 6 and Ezek. 9 as these were advertised successfully at the back of the magazine and in the Business reply card. A lot of careful thought was put into creating this calculated response so that many souls in Laodicea might give themselves an opportunity to listen to the Present Truth message for these latter days. We also received a "Cease and desist" letter from the general conference.

We had an eclectic group of about 23 brethren from

God is marvelous and makes the impossible appear like a bad dream and when awakened all things are become possible with Him which evokes the deepest gratitude and earnest praises from our renewed hearts.

The usual resistance was felt on the front lines. Some members trying to protect members from what they perceive to be an attack on God's church. Few attempted to engage us in verbal confrontations or when that wasn't possible they hung around a few feet from us on the path dissuading others from making a candid investigation, which the Bible commands that every individual should and must do to know truth for themselves. Some agitated the security detail at the facility and imposed the ominous duty of protecting the minds of SDA members from being deceived that are otherwise there to keep the peace.

Others engaged in peaceful intelligent conversations curious to understand the differences and interested in peacefully resolving the apparent contradictions. All in all the Lord was magnified and I am forever awed at His brilliance and the lengths beyond Calvary to see in real time the Lord through His Holy Spirit seeking the Lost to save by a mighty hand.

This Article continues on page 30.

Field Report

—Philippines



Davao Area young people achieved the zenith of success in its Mini-D.L.I. class last April 19-May 15, 2010. “The Rod Is The Last Message” was chosen to be our theme for our Graduation.

Right after the 2010 session, some of the young people in Davao decided to stay at Rhea del Rosario’s residence (newly elected Educational Director) to take the opportunity to study the Spirit of Prophecy as well as the major topics of the Shepherd’s Rod series. We didn’t have any complete series of the books that’s why we’re so happy to study with books to read.

But then since our attendance was good enough to start the studies, Sister Rhea del Rosario decided to conduct a Mini-D.L.I. class for us, to be ready to share the present truth to our brethren in the church.

Our first class started last April 19, 2010. Our daily strength was the word of God and belief in His promises. It encouraged us to be strong and made us eager to study the gospel of God. We helped each other to study the topics given to us. It was a challenge for us to be one of God’s messengers. We practiced how to develop our speaking ability in order to build up our confidence, whenever we are in the field.

Everyday we were busy making our own outline and kept on praying to God that we could understand every topic that was discussed. Sometimes we faced some difficulties but God comforted us.

During our first vesper, we distributed the pamphlets entitled “How To Obtain The Seal” to the campers of a small group festival at Southern Philippines Adventist College. We went to different sites and put them in the tent of the campers. We were so glad for God protected us and guided us through our task that night.

Each sabbath, we visited different churches to meet new friends and also to share the wonderful message of God. We came to Kisante Church at Kisante, Makilala North Cotabato, Kiagot Church at Davao del Sur and the last was Digos Central Church at Digos City. In every church that we visited we aimed to have friends and got their names, addresses and telephone numbers so that we would be able to keep in contact with them.

Graduation day was fast approaching and our teacher gave us the topic that we had to study for the incoming graduation. All of us were busy preparing ourselves. We kept on practicing how to deliver it, kept on reading every passages that was related to our topic. We had to master

the linking of the passages and prepare ourselves for all the possible questions from the listeners.

It was Friday morning May 14, 2010, and prophecy students were busy preparing for the sabbath. All of us were ready to lecture on the topic given to us.

During vesper night, the topic was “Typology Of The Saints” the Rev. 7 part two. The Lord chose me to lead out in this discussion. On the sabbath morning, the day of our graduation, it was a great day for us all because we had a visitor Bro. Agapito Ignoro. Prophecy students were so worried what would be the possible questions that he might ask but with faith that God will help us, we believed that we could handle it. The first topic was “Holding The Four Winds” of Rev. 7 part one. It was discussed by Bro. Raymund Balansag. Next was, “The Great Image of Daniel 2” by Sister Rose Anne Garcia, “The Paradox of the Ages” of Zech. 6, by Sister Noreen Camarillo, “At The 11th Hour” of Matt. 20 by Sister La Vernei Balansag, “The Church And The Dragon” of Rev. 7 by Sister Marguia Amoc and the last was “The Establishment Of The Kingdom Of Glory” by Sister Rosalie Garcia. With the help of our great God, our program became successful with great joy and love.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Mini-D.L.I. class and we know that this is not the end of our class but a beginning of our mission to share the present truth to the church. With hope and courage and close communion to God we know that we can make it possible and dare to proclaim the truth to the children of God.

All honor and glory to our greatest Master Guide in heaven who blessed and made our Mini-D.L.I. class successful and for our brothers and sisters in Christ for their untiring support to these wonderful program of God.

By Anabel Amor Hualde



The following is a letter that bro Houteff sent out with the certificate of fellowship.

Each of us, you know, in our material being naturally pass through three periods: (1) infancy, (2) adolescence, and (3) maturity. Likewise, in our spiritual being, as seen in “Timely Greetings”, Vol. 2, No. 39, and Tract No. 14, “War News Forecast”, pp. 31-39, we pass through three such growing periods: (1) Righteousness by Grace, the equivalent of which is spiritual infancy (being born again), (2) Righteousness by Faith, the equivalent of which is adolescence, and (3) the Righteousness of Christ, which in fact is our spiritual maturity. And since the “infancy” period, the righteousness by grace is now in the past according to “Timely Greetings”, Vol. 2, No. 39, and we have now come to the time of the righteousness by faith period of “adolescence,” in which our safety and eternal interest lie, we must not neglect to attain to full Christian “maturity,” the righteousness of Christ, if we expect to be rewarded with life eternal and with a home in His Kingdom. We would therefore do well to carefully note some of the earmarks of a mature Christian —the true Davidian. Such a one cannot help but

Contribute Something Worthwhile to the World.

The mature Christian well knows that he was born into the world to improve it, both spiritually and materially, that he did not come simply to selfishly live in it and depart from it with a big “thank you,” but to bless it, to leave a memorial of what God has been able to accomplish through him for mankind, both spiritually and materially; that he is like a fruitful bough in a desert land, for he knows that “every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” Matt. 3:10. Then, too, such a fully matured Christian

Has a Vision and an Aim.

He sees that he gets a vision of what God would have him do. He never moves on in a butterfly fashion; he knows what is to be done and does it. He gives no place to any beckoning that would detract his attention and energies from reaching his goal. He well knows that “where there is no vision, the people perish.” Prov. 29:18. He is, moreover,

Considerate of Others.

His eye is sensitive to the needs of others, and he does all he can to relieve those needs regardless what personal inconvenience and effort may be required of himself. He is considerate of others’ time, feelings, age, reputation, and

Living By Victor Houteff like Christ



capacities, especially of other people's property, for "love worketh no ill to his neighbor." Rom. 13:10. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Phil. 2:3, 4. He is altogether

Unselfish.

He rejoices over the good fortune of others, and loves to have others receive credit for something he himself may have accomplished. He expects his credit from the Lord only. What his right hand does his left hand is kept in the dark about (Matt. 6:3, 4). He is also

Courageous and Fearless.

He knows no fear but the fear of God. He has courage to stand firmly but tactfully for right principle regardless of the consequences to himself. He knows that no one can do him harm if God does not permit. Moreover, he knows that though men may kill his body, they cannot touch his

Never Sensitive.

Foolish accusations never trouble him. He does not get upset about them. He never needs to be handled with gloves. His mind never dwells on anything that would make him feel hurt. If something is said against him, he never gets hurt over it, especially if he is not guilty of the thing. He does not retaliate, he lets the vain thing die of itself. He lets no discouragement come into his thoughts, not even if all forsake him. He well remembers that even the Lord Himself was forsaken by His own followers, and that out of several million people there were but two persons one hundred percent for Moses —only Caleb and Joshua. He is ever mindful of the scripture which says: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6. He therefore

Seeks Not Praise or Pity.

He does not seek pity from others, neither does he pity himself; he refuses to waste time blaming others for unpleasant situations or reverses or limitations; neither does

“His eye is sensitive to the needs of others, and he does all he can to relieve those needs regardless what personal inconvenience and effort may be required of himself.”

soul (Matt. 10:28). God alone is his defense. He is, further,

Charitable.

He is honest in his personal appraisal of himself and charitable with all others, realizing that if his own background were the same as theirs he himself would precisely be like them; that while others offend in one thing he himself may offend in another. He knows that God is able to correct His own servant (Rom. 14:4-7), and he keeps his hands off. He is

Master of Circumstances.

He is thankful in the face of the most disheartening difficult situations or environment. He does not dissipate his energies in complaining and repining, and he does not seek to escape responsibility and unpleasant facts. Nor does he allow himself to be beaten down in time of crisis, but he is ever on hand to "stand his post," and he draws on his spiritual resources to attain a mastery of his circumstances. He does not fall behind ancient Joseph, he is even ahead of him for he knows that he is living in an advanced season. Still further, he is

he expect praise for his deeds of worth. He never blows his own horn. It is enough for him to know that he is serving God, that God will reward him openly. In addition, too, he is always ready to hear; he is

Open Minded.

He is ever searching to know more of God and of what He would have him do, regardless of the channel through which the light comes. He never condemns anyone's idea before an honest, prayerful, investigation of it. He never runs away from anything, for he depends on God's Spirit of Truth to keep him from all error, fanaticism, and presumption. He never makes flesh his arm of Truth he depends on the Spirit of God to show him what is Truth and what is error. He is indeed a Berean (Acts 17:10,11). The keeping of the commandments and the Testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:17) is his map to the Kingdom. Besides, he is a

Logical and Sound Reasoner.

His decisions in all matters are liberal, based on sound logic and reason, not on emotions, partiality, or on "re-

spect of persons,” nor on selfish gain. God’s way is always his measuring rod. He therefore never lives in regret of anything but his sins. Along with these, he is

Constant.

He is not known to vacillate. He changes his mind only when he finds himself wrong or mistaken. He is indeed the David of the day. He is steady and dependable in whatever he is given to do, and ever

Accepts Correction.

He does not resent criticism, but is grateful for it and puts into use all that is constructive. He makes no excuses for his blunders, but uses them as stepping stones to improvement. He has

Unshakable Courage.

He forgets the past, and is always pressing for the high mark ahead. He therefore does all he can to remedy the cause of his troubles, and what cannot be remedied he accepts and adjusts himself to. He is the Moses of the day. He may fall seven times a day, but he quickly arises and runs ahead, and is ever hoping and

Watching God’s Providence.

Through faith and experience he is confident that God is leading him and that He will freely give the wisdom and strength needed to cope with even the most trying of life’s problems. In this respect he is like Ruth, the Moabitess. He never lets an opportunity slip by, and he has

Perfect Peace of Mind.

His mind is set to win and advance the Kingdom of God and, therefore, he fears neither hunger nor death. He is not at all anxious for the future. He never complains in his infirmities; he is ever thankful and conscious that there are thousands of cases worse than his. He knows that he cannot die if God wants him living, and that he cannot live if God wants him dead. He is the Job and he is the Paul of the day. He patiently waits, knowing that “all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28. He perfectly knows that every dark, gloomy, and stormy cloud has also a bright silver-lined side, and ever looks on the bright side. He is very

Careful of What He Does and How He Does It.

He searches and finds the beauty that is in all God’s creation, and he seeks to put art into all he does. He is

Very Discriminating.

He never sits with the scornful (Ps. 1:1), never eats where the drunkards do, is particular in choosing his company. His reading material, music, art, etc., are unquestionable. He therefore finds himself

In Great Demand.

He never makes enemies, and always seeks to make friends. He thinks positive, helpful thoughts, and so he is a serene, useful, happy man, in great demand. Even his enemies have certain respect for him. Yet he is very

Modest.

He does not try to attract attention to himself, but rather to his cause. He is modest in dress, speech, and manners, and he refuses to bask in the reflection of another’s glory. In success he is truly humble and thankful. He gives God the glory for all his deeds and accomplishments, and if there is any human glory, he shares it with his fellowmen. And above all, he is mindful of and

Obedient to the Laws of God.

He maintains faith in a better future. He does all to live and serve, and so he eats for strength, not for drunkenness. He keeps his hands off that which God has pronounced unclean. He is never fanatic, neither is he lax. He walks in the middle of the road where the light shines brightest. He is not carried with every wind of doctrine; he minds authority, and shuns quackery. Before he gets into the “guest” chamber (Matt. 22: 11), he makes sure that he

Has on the Wedding Garment.

He is aware that God’s Kingdom is made up of “mature” Christians, “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.” He therefore never wastes his time looking for specks or beams in another’s eye (Matt. 7: 1-5). If anything, he searches to see that there is nothing in his own eye. He knows that God has not made him a judge of His people, or corrector of heretics. He does what Truth says, and those who wish to fall in line may do so, but he never tries to push them over to his side.

I hope in prayer that these thoughts on the Scriptures will be of great help and encouragement to you and to all around you. May God bless you. q

Principles of **Family Finance**

By ELLEN G. WHITE

Money May Be a Blessing or a Curse.— Money is not necessarily a curse; it is of high value because if rightly appropriated, it can do good in the salvation of souls, in blessing others who are poorer than ourselves. By an improvident or unwise use, . . . money will become a snare to the user. He who employs money to gratify pride and ambition makes it a curse rather than a blessing. Money is a constant test of the affections. Whoever acquires more than sufficient for his real needs should seek wisdom and grace to know his own heart and to keep his heart diligently, lest he have imaginary wants and become an unfaithful steward, using with prodigality his Lord's entrusted capital.

When we love God supremely, temporal things will occupy their right place in our affections. If we



humbly and earnestly seek for knowledge and ability in order to make a right use of our Lord's goods, we shall receive wisdom from above. When the heart leans to its own preferences and inclinations, when the thought is cherished that money can confer happiness without the favor of God, then

the money becomes a tyrant, ruling the man; it receives his confidence and esteem and is worshiped as a god. Honor, truth, righteousness, and justice are sacrificed upon its altar. The commands of God's word are set aside, and the world's customs and usages, which King Mammon has or-

dained, become a controlling power.

Seek Security in Home Ownership.—If the laws given by God had continued to be carried out, how different would be the present condition of the world, morally, spiritually, and temporally. Selfishness and self-importance would not be manifested as now, but each would cherish a kind regard for the happiness and welfare of others. . . . Instead of the poorer classes being kept under the iron heel of oppression by the wealthy, instead of having other men's brains to think and plan for them in temporal as well as in spiritual things, they would have some chance for independence of thought and action.

The sense of being owners of their own homes would inspire them with a strong desire for improvement. They would soon acquire skill in planning and devising for themselves; their children would be educated to habits of industry and economy, and the intellect would be greatly strengthened. They would feel that they are men, not slaves, and would be able to regain to a great degree their lost self-respect and moral independence.

Caution Regarding Selling

Homes.—There are poor men and women who are writing to me for advice as to whether they shall sell their homes and give the proceeds to the cause. They say the appeals for means stir their souls, and they want to do something for the Master, who has done everything for them. I would say to such: "It may not be your duty to sell your little homes just now, but go to God for yourselves; the Lord will certainly hear your earnest prayers for wisdom to understand your duty."

God does not now call for the houses His people need to live in; but if those who have an abundance do not hear His voice, cut loose from the world, and sacrifice for God, He will pass them by and will call for those who are willing to do anything for Jesus, even to sell their homes to meet the wants of the cause.

A Praiseworthy Independence.—Independence of one kind is praiseworthy. To desire to bear your own weight and not to eat the bread of dependence is right. It is a noble, generous ambition that dictates the wish to be self-supporting. Industrious habits and frugality are necessary.

Balancing the Budget.—Many, very many, have not so educated themselves that they can keep their expenditures within the limit of their income. They do not learn to adapt themselves to circumstances, and they borrow and borrow again and again and become overwhelmed in debt, and consequently they become discouraged and disheartened.

Keep a Record of Expenditures.—Habits of self-indulgence or a want of tact and skill on the part of the wife and mother may be a constant drain upon the treasury; and yet that mother may think she is doing her best because she has never been taught to restrict her wants or the wants of her children and has never acquired skill and tact in household matters. Hence one family may require for its support twice the amount that would suffice for another family of the same size.

All should learn how to keep accounts. Some neglect this work as nonessential, but this is wrong. All expenses should be accurately stated.

The Evils of Spendthrift Habits.—

The Lord has been pleased to present before me the evils which result from spendthrift habits, that I might admonish parents to teach their children strict economy. Teach them that money spent for that which they do not need is perverted from its proper use.

If you have extravagant habits, cut them away from your life at once. Unless you do this, you will be bankrupt for eternity. Habits of economy, industry, and sobriety are a better portion for your children than a rich dowry.

We are pilgrims and strangers on the earth. Let us not spend our means in gratifying desires that God would have us repress. Let us fitly represent our faith by restricting our wants.

To a Family Living Beyond Its

Means.—You ought to be careful that your expenses do not exceed your income. Bind about your wants. . . . Parents should learn to live within their means. They should cultivate self-denial in their children, teaching them by precept and example. They should make their wants few and simple, that there may be time for mental improvement and spiritual culture.

Indulgence Not an Expression of Love.—Do not educate your children to think that your love for them must be expressed by indulgence of their pride, extravagance, and love of display. There is no time now to invent ways for using up money. Use your inventive faculties in seeking to economize.

Economy Consistent With Generosity.—The natural turn of youth in this age is to neglect and despise economy and to confound it with stinginess

and narrowness. But economy is consistent with the most broad and liberal views and feelings; there can be no true generosity where it is not practiced. No one should think it beneath him to study economy and the best means of taking care of the fragments.

The Other Extreme—Unwise Economy.—God is not honored when the body is neglected or abused and is thus unfitted for His service. To care for the body by providing for it food that is relishable and strengthening is one of the first duties of the householder. It is far better to have less expensive clothing and furniture than to stint the supply of food.

Our economy must never be of that kind which would lead to providing meager meals. Students should have an abundance of wholesome food. But let those in charge of the cooking gather up the fragments that nothing be lost.

Provide Conveniences to Lighten Wife's Labor.—Brother E's family live in accordance with the principles of strictest economy. . . . Brother E had conscientiously decided not to build a convenient woodshed and kitchen for his large family, because he did not feel free to invest means in personal conveniences when the cause of God needed money to carry it forward. I tried to show him that it was necessary for the health as well as the morals of his children that he should make home pleasant and provide conveniences to lighten the labor of his wife.

Learn When to Spare and When to Spend.—You should learn to know when to spare and when to spend. We cannot be Christ's followers un-

less we deny self and lift the cross. We should pay up squarely as we go; gather up the dropped stitches; bind off your raveling edges, and know just what you can call your own. You should reckon up all the littles spent in self-gratification. You should notice what is used simply to gratify taste and in cultivating a perverted, epicurean appetite. The money expended for useless delicacies might be used to add to your substantial home comforts and conveniences. You are not to be penurious; you are to be honest with yourself and your brethren. Penuriousness is an abuse of God's bounties. Lavishness is also an abuse. The little outgoes that you think of as not worth mentioning amount to considerable in the end.

Economy to be Practiced "Gather Up the Fragments."—Christ once gave His disciples a lesson upon economy which is worthy of careful attention. He wrought a miracle to feed the hungry thousands who had listened to His teachings; yet after all had eaten and were satisfied, He did not permit the fragments to be wasted. He who could, in their necessity, feed the vast multitude by His divine power bade His disciples gather up the fragments, that nothing might be lost. This lesson was given as much for our benefit as for those living in Christ's day. The Son of God has a care for the necessities of temporal life. He did not neglect the broken fragments after the feast, although He could make such a feast whenever He chose.

The lessons of Jesus Christ are to be carried into every phase of practical life. Economy is to be practiced in all things. Gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost. There is a religion that does not touch the heart

and therefore becomes a form of words. It is not brought into practical life. Religious duty and the highest human prudence in business lines must be co-mingled.

Follow Christ in Self-denial.—In order to become acquainted with the disappointments and trials and griefs that come to human beings, Christ reached to the lowest depths of woe and humiliation. He has traveled the path that He asks His followers to travel. He says to them, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." But professing Christians are not always willing to practice the self-denial that the Saviour calls for. They are not willing to bind about their wishes and desires in order that they may have more to give to the Lord. One says, "My family are expensive in their tastes, and it costs much to keep them." This shows that he and they need to learn the lessons of economy taught by the life of Christ.

To all comes the temptation to gratify selfish, extravagant desires, but let us remember that the Lord of life and glory came to this world to teach humanity the lesson of self-denial.

Those who do not live for self will not use up every dollar meeting their supposed wants and supplying their conveniences, but will bear in mind that they are Christ's followers, and that there are others who are in need of food and clothing.

Economize to Help God's Cause.—Much might be said to the young people regarding their privilege to help the cause of God by learning lessons of economy and self-denial. Many think that they must indulge in

this pleasure and that, and in order to do this, they accustom themselves to live up to the full extent of their income. God wants us to do better in this respect. We sin against ourselves when we are satisfied with enough to eat and drink and wear. God has something higher than this before us. When we are willing to put away our selfish desires and give the powers of heart and mind to the work of the cause of God, heavenly agencies will co-operate with us, making us a blessing to humanity. Even though he may be poor, the youth who is industrious and economical can save a little for the cause of God.

When Tempted to Needless Spending.—When you are tempted to spend money for knickknacks, you should remember the self-denial and self-sacrifice that Christ endured to save fallen man. Our children should be taught to exercise self-denial and self-control. The reason so many ministers feel that they have a hard

time in financial matters is that they do not bind about their tastes, their appetites and inclinations. The reason so many men become bankrupt and dishonestly appropriate means is because they seek to gratify the extravagant tastes of their wives and children. How careful should fathers and mothers be to teach economy by precept and example to their children!

I wish I could impress on every mind the grievous sinfulness of wasting the Lord's money on fancied wants. The expenditure of sums that look small may start a train of circumstances that will reach into eternity. When the judgment shall sit, and the books are opened, the losing side will be presented to your view—the good that you might have done with the accumulated mites and the larger sums that were used for wholly selfish purposes.

Watch the Pennies and Nickels.—Waste not your pennies and your

shillings in purchasing unnecessary things. You may think these little sums do not amount to much, but these many littles will prove a great whole. If we could, we would plead for the means that is spent in needless things, in dress and selfish indulgence. Poverty in every shape is on every hand. And God has made it our duty to relieve suffering humanity in every way possible.

The Lord would have His people thoughtful and caretaking. He would have them study economy in everything, and waste nothing.

The amount daily spent in needless things, with the thought, "It is only a nickel," "It is only a dime," seems very little; but multiply these littles by the days of the year, and as the years go by, the array of figures will seem almost incredible.

Do Not Emulate Fashionable Neighbors.—It is not best to pretend to be rich, or anything above what we are—humble followers of the meek and



lowly Saviour. We are not to feel disturbed if our neighbors build and furnish their houses in a manner that we are not authorized to follow. How must Jesus look upon our selfish provision for the indulgence of appetite, to please our guests, or to gratify our own inclination! It is a snare to us to aim at making a display or to allow our children, under our control, to do so.

Practice Economy From Principle.—Those whose hands are open to respond to the calls for means to sustain the cause of God and to relieve the suffering and the needy are not the ones who are found loose and lax and dilatory in their business management. They are always careful to keep their outgoes within their income. They are economical from principle; they feel it their duty to save, that they may have something to give.

Instructing Children How to Earn and Use Money

Teach Simple Habits in Daily Life.—Parents are to bring up and educate and train their children in habits of self-control and self-denial. They are ever to keep before them their obligation to obey the word of God and to live for the purpose of serving Jesus. They are to educate their children that there is need of living in accordance with simple habits in their daily life, and to avoid expensive dress, expensive diet, expensive houses, and expensive furniture.

When very young, children should be educated to read, to write, to understand figures, to keep their own accounts. They may go forward, advancing step by step in this knowledge. But before everything else, they

should be taught that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

There is such a thing as giving unwise help to our children. Those who work their way through college appreciate their advantages more than those who are provided with them at someone else's expense, for they know their cost. We must not carry our children until they become helpless burdens.

Parents mistake their duty when they freely hand out money to any youth who has physical strength to enter on a course of study to become a minister or a physician before he has had an experience in useful, taxing labor.

Encourage Children to Earn Their Own Money.—Many a child who lives out of the city can have a little plot of land where he can learn to garden. He can be taught to make this a means of securing money to give to the cause of God. Both boys and girls can engage in this work; and it will, if they are rightly instructed, teach them the value of money and how to economize. It is possible for the children, besides raising money for missionary purposes, to be able to help in buying their own clothes, and they should be encouraged to do this.

Discourage the Reckless Use of Money.—Oh, how much money we waste on useless articles in the house, on ruffles and fancy dress, and on candies and other articles we do not need! Parents, teach your children that it is wrong to use God's money in self-gratification. . . . Encourage them to save their pennies wherever possible, to be used in missionary work. They will gain rich experiences through the practice of self-denial, and such lessons will often keep them

from acquiring habits of intemperance.

The children may learn to show their love for Christ by denying themselves needless trifles, for the purchase of which much money slips through their fingers. In every family this work should be done. It requires tact and method, but it will be the best education the children can receive. And if all the little children would present their offerings to the Lord, their gifts would be as little rivulets which, when united and set flowing, would swell into a river.

Keep a little money box on the mantel or in some safe place where it can be seen, in which the children can place their offerings for the Lord. . . . Thus they may be trained for God.

Teach Children to Pay Tithe and Offerings.—Not only does the Lord claim the tithe as His own, but He tells us how it should be reserved for Him. He says, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase." This does not teach that we are to spend our means on ourselves and bring to the Lord the remnant, even though it should be otherwise an honest tithe. Let God's portion be first set apart. The directions given by the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul in regard to gifts present a principle that applies also to tithing. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." Parents and children are here included. □

Taken from: *Adventist Home*, pp. 372 – 389



By VICTOR HOUTEFF

Lessons *from* Nature

Since the well-being of the body is even more accurately taught by Mother Nature herself, no one who wishes to enjoy life dares overlook her counsel. Plants never do well in soil that is deficient, or depleted of its life-giving properties. Some plants do better in one soil or climate than do others. Some thrive in higher altitudes and others in lower. The same law seems to operate in mankind: The darker races fare better in the torrid regions, and the lighter in the frigid regions.

Man's dependency

While plant life subsists on inorganic matter, animal life subsists on organic. Moreover, as plant life was created before animal life, the truth is that the plant kingdom can get along without the animal, but that the animal kingdom cannot get along without the plant. Thus it is that vegetation needs only Mother Earth, but man needs both the earth and plant. In other words, plant life is dependent on the soil for existence,

while animal life is dependent on vegetation. Flesh diet is therefore, artificial, and thus deficient—incapable of maintaining life.

So, just as plants cannot thrive on poor soil, men cannot thrive on poor diet. And if one is aware of the fact that almost immediately after the soil is enriched, the plant awakens with health and vigor, then he will have no difficulty realizing that as soon as he corrects his own diet, his health will likewise spring up. Is it not true, then, that one's health depends on the food he uses as does the plant's on the soil in which it feeds?

If the sufferer's faulty diet is the cause of his ailment, and in most cases in our day it is, then no kind or amount of drug can cure him. Yet when something goes wrong with one's organism, he generally runs to a doctor, not to find and to remove the cause, but to be cured, while the cause remains and while it brings him closer and closer to the grave! And if he is not given drugs, he dislikes the doctor! Why not check up

on your daily diet and habits of living? Why take drugs when you need to take water, fresh air, sunshine, the right kinds of food; to exercise; or perhaps to clean up your home, your body, and your surroundings?

Degenerate habits

Let it be now understood that anyone living on a poor diet, or in unpleasant surroundings and unsanitary conditions, is subject to disease in one form or another, just as is a plant that is planted in poor soil and uncondusive surroundings. Then, too, one must remember that unbalanced food, regardless of quality or quantity, is poor food; and as too much fertilizer kills the plant, so too much food kills the man. Too much of anything is as bad as is too little. Illness, therefore, is only a warning of one's improper habits of living. But, alas, who can understand! and who is taking heed!

What else can the cause of diseases that are not hereditary or communicative, be but wrong living

—malnutrition, “unclean” flesh food (Lev. 11), overeating, poor elimination, insufficient exercise, lack of sunshine and fresh air, living in filth, neglecting to drink enough water between meals, or perhaps smoking or chewing tobacco, habitually using coffee, tea, or some other stimulant that whips up the body to the last ounce of energy? To be sure, such diseases as cancer are the result of wrong living. If such is not the cause of the sufferer's illness, then the last and final cause, as referred to before, is sin against the Decalogue.

Nature speaks

Nature teaches that if a tree becomes sickly from within rather than from without then to spray it with any kind of drug will only hasten its death, waste the drug, the time, and one's energy. The human body is no exception. If the disease is from internal cause, then what good will it do to try to remove it by the use of drugs? In such a case

drugs will not remove the cause but rather do greater harm and hasten the end.

If it is not possible to keep a water-cooled engine from overheating when the radiator is empty, and if nothing but to fill the radiator with water will cure the trouble, then why should it be possible to cure a diseased body without curing the cause? Stop and think.

True, many do suffer from hereditary and contagious diseases, but most persons suffer from diseases caused by erroneous habits of living. Alcoholic beverages and other stimulants, rich pastries, commercial sweets, overeating, wrong combinations, and too many grain products, any one or all of these collectively have more or less afflicted every human being of this age with one ailment or another.

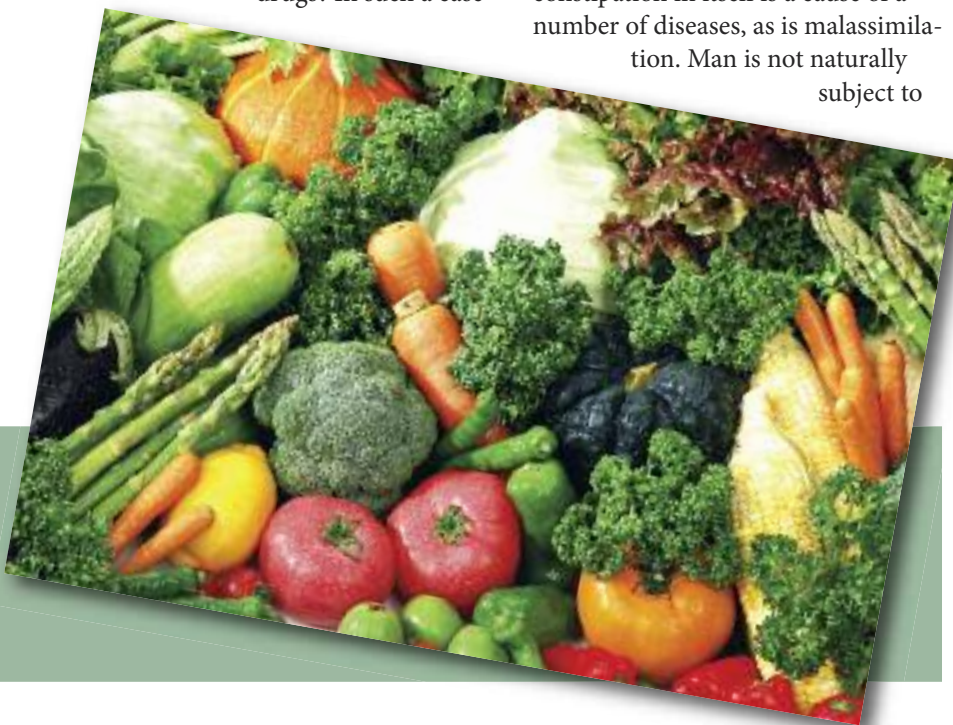
Constipation is one of the commonest diseases that one brings upon himself by erroneous eating. And constipation in itself is a cause of a number of diseases, as is malassimilation. Man is not naturally subject to

constipation, — no, not any more than is a water main subject to plugging up if nothing but water is put through it, the only thing the manufacturer ever intended that should be put through it.

That commercially prepared foods, too, are among the many causes of constipation, a faculty member of a certain health institute writes: “Because of our civilized foods and the way they fill the bowel with toxic material and gas, it is absolutely necessary to give oneself a series of colonic irrigations at least twice a year in order to stay well. Headaches, colds, flu, intestinal pains, mucous, gas, and many disturbing disorders disappear after one or two colon treatments.”

We should not overlook the fact that Noah lived 900 years of good, happy life, and that we have no record of his having had to take colonic irrigations or to under go an operation! Rather than resort to artificial means for cleansing now and then, why not eat the right kinds of food, the kinds that keep the bowels clean every day of the year? Moreover, a balanced diet will not only keep the bowels free from “toxic material and gas,” but will supply the entire system with the necessary minerals and vitamins, without which no one can keep well any considerable length of time. Then why spend your money on manufactured vitamins and devitalized foods at sky-high prices when you can have Nature's own, full of vitality, and at prices as low as gravity? Ever remember that artificial nutratives are no better than artificial arms or legs. ¶

Excerpted from: *The Entering Wedge*, pp. 15 - 19.



By Achan's illicit possession of the "goodly Babylonish garment" is typified that class of church members who covet the worldly styles and fashions in vogue now, when Israel of today is about to enter the promised land. And the price he paid, they shall pay. (Read Isa. 3:16-26.) And not only they shall pay it, but also those who, following in the next steps of Achan,

Covet Silver And Gold.

Achan's taking the Lord's money represents that class of church members who covet the "silver" and the "gold" which He has set apart for



The **Babylonish** **Garment** *of Today* By VICTOR HOUTEFF

Himself, and who thereby rob Him of that which is His Own—tithes and offerings. Those who withhold that which is His, and appropriate it for use according to their own wisdom, as well as those who oppress "the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not Me, saith the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 3:5), are acting Achan's part, and therefore, "are cursed with a curse:... even this whole nation." Mal. 3:9.

The tithes and the offerings are of the Lord's substance, and those who think that they can so manipulate them as to accomplish whatever end is desired, are deceiving themselves, not God, for His command is, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house." Mal. 3:10. The storehouse is the only place designated where one may bring the tithes and of-

ferings and unload from his shoulders the heavy responsibility which a faithful stewardship imposes. To do otherwise with them, is to leave one's account in the heavenly ledger standing in the red, even though one may appropriate them to some meritorious work of charity. While it is yet today, therefore, flee from this sin of Achan before it is forever too late! "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezek. 33:11.

Those who will today hear His voice and harden not their hearts as in the day of provocation, will He make His

Future Servants.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6. In other words, the workers

will be "taught rather by the unction of His Spirit, than by the outward training of scientific institutions.... God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals." "The most weak and hesitating in the church, will be as David – willing to do and dare." – Testimonies, Vol. 5, pp. 82, 81.

Moreover, "I will take illiterate men, obscure men," says the Lord, "and move upon them by My Spirit, to carry out My purposes in the work of saving souls. The last message of mercy will be given by a people who love and fear Me." – Review and Herald, Sept. 21, 1905. "He will use men for the accomplishment of His purpose whom some of the brethren would reject as unfit to engage in the work." – Review and Herald, Feb. 9, 1895.

To these workers the Lord is graciously saying: "And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien [those who are not of the 144,000] shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves." Isa. 61:5, 6. What an exalted privilege to be able to acknowledge no master but Christ, and to engage only in His work and live on His substance!

As this ministry, of which "there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations" (Joel 2:2), is to be free from all earthly encumbrances, therefore let no one longer delay in effecting the transition which will ultimately see him engaged heart and soul in the Lord's "closing work for the church," the ingathering of the "firstfruits" who are to be sealed from among the living. And while giving himself to this work, he will at the same time be preparing himself to give the message in the time of the "Loud Cry," which the purification of the church—the deliverance of the sealed and the destruction of the unsealed—is to usher in and which those who are to be purified are to proclaim.

Let each one wisely make this imperative transition by gradually curtailing pursuit of his own interests, and increasing pursuit of the Lord's. In this way, each one will steadily climb from an empty and unsung past of self-enterprise, to a full and glorious future of divine enterprise which shall call forth "from the uttermost part of the earth... songs, even glory to the righteous." Isa. 24:16.

"Let me tell you," says the Spirit of Prophecy, "if your heart is in the work, and you have faith in God, you need not depend upon the sanction of any minister or any peo-

ple: if you go right to work in the name of the Lord, in a humble way doing what you can to teach the truth, God will vindicate you. If the work had not been so restricted by an impediment here and an impediment there, and on the other side an impediment, it would have gone forward in its majesty. It would have gone in weakness at first; but the God of heaven lives." – Review and Herald, April 16, 1901. (See also Testimonies, Vol.7, p.25).

My brethren, if you choose to have a part in this grandest-of-all work, the crowning act in the redemption of the world, you must now quickly make ready. Let not the cares of this life rob you of the crown of eternal life. Do not offer excuses for not making the change; stand not on the side of those who shall say: "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused;" or, "I have bought five yoke of oxen and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused;" or, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." Luke 14:18-20. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:16, 17.

Therefore, while yet engaged in your present occupation, go ye into the vineyard of the Lord, and as your interest there grows, let your private interests be diminishing until you find yourselves completely divorced from them and wedded to the Lord's.

"Time," says the Spirit of Prophecy, "is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work. Laborers are needed who comprehend the greatness of the work, and who will engage in it, not for the wages they receive, but from a realization of the nearness of the end. The time demands greater efficiency and deeper consecration. O, I am so full of this subject that I cry to God, 'Raise up and send forth messengers filled with a sense of their responsibility, messengers in whose hearts self-idolatry, which lies at the foundation of all sin, has been crucified.'" – Testimonies, Vol. 9, p. 27.

But as the harvest is great, and the laborers few heaven is compelled to "finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness" (Rom. 9:28). Hence the Lord Himself now will take Charge of the Flock.¶

Taken from: *Tract 4* pp. 43 - 47

The Real Union Is a Lifelong Experience.—To gain a proper understanding of the marriage relation is the work of a lifetime. Those who marry enter a school from which they are never in this life to be graduated.

However carefully and wisely marriage may have been entered into, few couples are completely united when the marriage ceremony is performed. The real union of the two in wedlock is the work of the after years.

As life with its burden of perplexity and care meets the newly wedded pair, the romance with which imagination so often invests marriage disappears. Husband and wife learn each other's character as it was impossible to learn it in their previous association. This is a most critical period in their experience. The happiness and usefulness of their whole future life depend upon their taking a right course now. Often they discern in each other unsuspected weaknesses and defects; but the hearts that love has united will discern excellencies also heretofore unknown. Let all seek to discover the excellencies rather than the defects. Often it is our own attitude, the atmosphere that surrounds ourselves, which determines what will be revealed to us in another.

Love Must Be Tested and Tried.—Affection may be as clear as crystal and beautiful in its purity, yet it may be shallow because it has not been tested and tried. Make Christ first and last and best in everything. Constantly behold Him, and your love for Him will daily become deeper and stronger as it is submitted to the test of trial. And as your love for Him increases, your love for each other will grow deeper and stronger.

Though difficulties, perplexities, and discouragements may arise, let neither husband nor wife harbor the thought that their union is a mistake or a disappointment. Determine to be all that it is possible to be to each other. Continue the early attentions. In every way encourage each other in fighting the battles of life. Study to advance the happiness of each other. Let there be mutual love, mutual forbearance. Then marriage, instead of being the end of love, will be as it were the very beginning of love. The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven. All should cultivate patience by practicing patience. By being kind and forbearing, true love may be kept warm in the heart, and qualities will be developed that Heaven will approve.



The Enemy Will Seek to Alienate.—Satan is ever ready to take advantage when any matter of variance arises, and by moving upon the objectionable, hereditary traits of character in husband or wife, he will try to cause the alienation of those who have united their interests in a solemn covenant before God. In the marriage vows they have promised to be as one, the wife covenanting to love and obey her husband, the husband promising to love and cherish his wife. If the law of God is obeyed, the demon of strife will be kept out of the family, and no separation of interests will take place, no alienation of affection will be permitted.

Council to a strong-willed Couple.—Neither hus-

A Happy, Successful Partnership

By ELLEN G. WHITE

band nor wife is to make a plea for rulership. The Lord has laid down the principle that is to guide in this matter. The husband is to cherish his wife as Christ cherishes the church. And the wife is to respect and love her husband. Both are to cultivate the spirit of kindness, being determined never to grieve or injure the other. Do not try to compel each other to do as you wish. You cannot do this and retain each other's love. Manifestations of self-will destroy the peace and happiness of the home. Let not your married life be one of contention. If you do, you will both be unhappy. Be kind in speech and gentle in action, giving up your own wishes. Watch well your words, for they have a powerful influence for good or for ill. Allow no sharpness to come into your voices. Bring into your united life the fragrance of Christ-likeness.

Express Love in Words and Deeds.—There are many who regard the expression of love as a weakness, and they maintain a reserve that repels others. This spirit checks the current of sympathy. As the social and generous impulses are repressed, they wither, and the heart becomes desolate and cold. We should beware of this error. Love cannot long exist without expression. Let not the heart of one connected with you starve for the want of kindness and sympathy.

Let each give love rather than exact it. Cultivate that

which is noblest in yourselves, and be quick to recognize the good qualities in each other. The consciousness of being appreciated is a wonderful stimulus and satisfaction. Sympathy and respect encourage the striving after excellence, and love itself increases as it stimulates to nobler aims.

Too many cares and burdens are brought into our families, and too little of natural simplicity and peace and happiness is cherished. There should be less care for what the outside world will say and more thoughtful attention to the members of the family circle. There should be less display and affectation of worldly politeness, and much more tenderness and love, cheerfulness and Christian courtesy, among the members of the household. Many need to learn how to make home attractive, a place of enjoyment. Thankful hearts and kind looks are more valuable than wealth and luxury, and contentment with simple things will make home happy if love be there.

The Little Attentions Count.—God tests and proves us by the common occurrences of life. It is the little things which reveal the chapters of the heart. It is the little attentions, the numerous small incidents and simple courtesies of life, that make up the sum of life's happiness; and it is the neglect of kindly, encouraging, affectionate words, and the little courtesies of life, which helps compose the sum

of life's wretchedness. It will be found at last that the denial of self for the good and happiness of those around us constitutes a large share of the life record in heaven. And the fact will also be revealed that the care of self, irrespective of the good and happiness of others, is not beneath the notice of our heavenly Father.

A Husband Who Failed to Express Affection.—A house with love in it, where love is expressed in words and looks and deeds, is a place where angels love to manifest their presence and hallow the scene by rays of light from glory. There the humble household duties have a charm in them. None of life's duties will be unpleasant to your wife under such circumstances. She will perform them with cheerfulness of spirit and will be like a sunbeam to all around her, and she will be making melody in her heart to the Lord. At present she feels that she has not your heart's affections. You have given her occasion to feel thus. You perform the necessary duties devolving upon you as head of the family, but there is a lack. There is a serious lack of love's precious influence which leads to kindly attentions. Love should be seen in the looks and manners and heard in the tones of the voice.

A Disappointing, Self-centered Wife.—The moral character of those united in marriage is either elevated or degraded by their association; and the work of deterioration accomplished by a low, deceptive, selfish, uncontrollable nature is begun soon after the marriage ceremony. If the young man makes a wise choice, he may have one to stand by his side who will bear to the utmost of her ability her share of the burdens of life, who will ennoble and refine him, and make him happy in her love. But if the wife is fitful in character, self-admiring, exacting, accusing, charging her husband with motives and feelings that originate only in her own perverted temperament; if she has not discernment and nice discrimination to recognize his love and appreciate it, but talks of neglect and lack of love because he does not gratify every whim, she will almost inevitably bring about the very state of things she seems to deplore; she will make all these accusations realities.

Characteristics of a Companionable Wife and Mother.—Instead of sinking into a mere household drudge, let the wife and mother take time to read, to keep herself well informed, to be a companion to her husband, and to keep in touch with the developing minds of her children. Let her use wisely the opportunities now hers to

influence her dear ones for the higher life. Let her take time to make the dear Saviour a daily Companion and familiar Friend. Let her take time for the study of His word, take time to go with the children into the fields and learn of God through the beauty of His works. Let her keep cheerful and buoyant. Instead of spending every moment in endless sewing, make the evening a pleasant social season, a family reunion after the day's duties. Many a man would thus be led to choose the society of his home before that of the clubhouse or the saloon. Many a boy would be kept from the street or the corner grocery. Many a girl would be saved from frivolous, misleading associations. The influence of the home would be to parents and children what God designed it should be, a lifelong blessing.

Married life is not all romance; it has its real difficulties and its homely details. The wife must not consider herself a doll, to be tended, but a woman; one to put her shoulder under real, not imaginary, burdens, and live an understanding, thoughtful life, considering that there are other things to be thought of than herself. . . . Real life has its shadows and its sorrows. To every soul troubles must come. Satan is constantly working to unsettle the faith and destroy the courage and hope of every one.

Counsel to an Unhappy Couple.—Your married life has been very much like a desert—but very few green spots to look back upon with grateful remembrance. It need not have been thus. Love can no more exist without revealing itself in outward acts than fire can be kept alive without fuel. You, Brother C, have felt that it was beneath your dignity to manifest tenderness by kindly acts and to watch for an opportunity to evince affection for your wife by words of tenderness and kind regard. You are changeable in your feelings and are very much affected by surrounding circumstances. . . . Leave your business cares and perplexities and annoyances when you leave your business. Come to your family with a cheerful countenance, with sympathy, tenderness, and love. This will be better than expending money for medicines or physicians for your wife. It will be health to the body and strength to the soul. Your lives have been very wretched. You have both acted a part in making them so. God is not pleased with your misery; you have brought it upon yourselves by want of self-control. . . .

Mutual Love and Forbearance Rewarded.—Without mutual forbearance and love no earthly power can hold you and your husband in the bonds of Christian unity.

Your companionship in the marriage relation should be close and tender, holy and elevated, breathing a spiritual power into your lives, that you may be everything to each other that God's word requires. When you reach the condition that the Lord desires you to reach, you will find heaven below and God in your life.

Remember, my dear brother and sister, that God is love and that by His grace you can succeed in making each other happy, as in your marriage pledge you promised to do. Men and women can reach God's ideal for them if they will take Christ as their helper. What human wisdom cannot do, His grace will accomplish for those who give themselves to Him in loving trust. His providence can unite hearts in bonds that are of heavenly origin. Love will not be a mere exchange of soft and flattering words. The loom of heaven weaves with warp and woof finer, yet more firm, than can be woven by the looms of earth. The result is not a tissue fabric, but a texture that will bear wear and test and trial. Heart will be bound to heart in the golden bonds of a love that is enduring.

Each Has Individual Responsibilities.—The two who unite their interest in life will have distinct characteristics and individual responsibilities. Each one will have his or her work, but women are not to be valued by the amount of work they can do as are beasts of burden. The wife is to grace the family circle as a wife and companion to a wise husband. At every step she should inquire, "Is this the standard of true womanhood?" and, "How shall I make may influence Christlike in my home?" The husband should let his wife know that he appreciates her work.

The wife is to respect her husband. The husband is to love and cherish his wife; and as their marriage vow unites them as one, so their belief in Christ should make them one in Him. What can be more pleasing to God than to see those who enter into the marriage relation seek together to learn of Jesus and to become more and more imbued with His Spirit? You now have duties to perform that before your marriage you did not have. "Put on therefore, . . . kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering." "Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us." Give careful study to the following instruction: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church. . . . Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for

it." . . .

Mutual Forbearance Is Needed.—We must have the Spirit of God, or we can never have harmony in the home. The wife, if she has the spirit of Christ, will be careful of her words; she will control her spirit, she will be submissive, and yet will not feel that she is a bonds slave, but a companion to her husband. If the husband is a servant of God, he will not lord it over his wife; he will not be arbitrary and exacting. We cannot cherish home affection with too much care; for the home, if the Spirit of the Lord dwells there, is a type of heaven. . . . If one errs, the other will exercise Christlike forbearance and not draw coldly away.

Neither the husband nor the wife should attempt to exercise over the other an arbitrary control. Do not try to compel each other to yield to your wishes. You cannot do this and retain each other's love. Be kind, patient, and forbearing, considerate, and courteous. By the grace of God you can succeed in making each other happy, as in your marriage vow you promised to do.

Let Each Graciously Yield.—In the married life men and women sometimes act like undisciplined, perverse children. The husband wants his way, and the wife wants her way, and neither is willing to yield. Such a condition of things can bring only the greatest unhappiness. Both husband and wife should be willing to yield his or her way or opinion. There is no possibility of happiness while they both persists in doing as they please.

Unless men and women have learned of Christ, His meekness and lowliness, they will reveal the impulsive, unreasonable spirit so often revealed by children. The strong, undisciplined will will seek to rule. Such ones need to study the words of Paul: "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." ¶

Taken from *Adventist Home* pp. 106-118

“Take Heed Lest Ye Fall”

By VICTOR HOUTEFF



But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.” (Ezek. 2:8.)

With boundless patience and mercy, God bore for ninety long years with the Israel of today in their stiff-necked rebellion against the Testimonies of His Spirit, before their constant refusal to heed the repeated warnings, admonitions, and reproofs thus voiced, finally stirred Him, in divine anger, to denounce upon them the fearful condemnation of being “a rebellious house.”

Yet for the sake of the elect, who had not bowed the knee to Baal, He turned with mercy because of the great danger of their also falling into the same inextricable pit, unless they give careful heed to the clear-ringing echoes of the solemn warning: “But thou son of man hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house,” and at the same time avail themselves of the way of escape from the fatal disease of rebellion, which divine mercy has pro-

vided in adding the hope, giving, life-sustaining words: “Open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee” and “Feed thy people with thy rod.” (Ezek. 2:8; Mic. 7:14.)

And now, as it is going on seven years since God commanded us by the “Rod” to eat of the abundance of “milk and honey” which, in the substance of truth (spiritual food), doubtless bulks greater than all the truth put together which the church has had heretofore, there comes to every Present Truth believer the solemn questions: “Am I refusing the evil and choosing the good? Do I find myself walking faithfully in the glorious light? Or am I ‘rebellious like that rebellious house?’”

Who can stand, in the fear of the righteous, before the Great Judge, the—Mighty One of Israel? Has He not said, “Hear what I say unto thee,” “Hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.” What will you do when asked, “Give an account of thy stewardship?” Brother, Sister, what excuse will you give for time squandered and opportunities wasted; for responsibil-

ities shirked, and duties shunned; and without excuse for sinful habits and practices unforsaken; for reforms ignored; and evil communications indulged?

“Here,... is a subject for your prayerful consideration and earnest meditation. Closely examine your own heart as in the light of eternity. Hide nothing from your examination. Search, oh! search, as for your life, and condemn yourself, pass judgment upon yourself, and then by faith claim the cleansing blood of Christ to remove the stains from your Christian character. Do not flatter or excuse yourself. Deal truly with your own soul. And then as you view yourself a sinner, fall, all broken, at the foot of the cross.” *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 81.*

“‘Take heed,’ first to yourself, and then to the doctrine. Do not let your heart become hardened by sin. Closely examine your manners and habits. Compare them with the word of God, and then cut away from the life every wrong habit and indulgence.” *Gospel Workers, p. 105.*

"Inquire every day, Am I sound to the core, or am I false-hearted? Entreat the Lord to save you from all deception on this point. Eternal interests are involved. While so many are panting after honor, and greedy of gain, do you, my beloved brethren, be eagerly seeking the assurance of the love of God, and crying, Who will show me how to make my calling and election sure?" *Testimonies for the Church,*" Vol. 5, p. 97.

"Determine to know the worst of your case. Ascertain if you have an inheritance on high. Deal truly with your own soul." *Testimonies for the Church,* Vol. 1, p. 163.

"With fasting and earnest prayer, with deep heart-searching, stern self-examination, lay bare the soul; let no act escape your critical examination.

health destroying flesh pots, cheeses, pickles, candies, and the rich pastries? And that you are no longer one who defies nature in the abuse of his stomach by eating between meals, bolting his food, overeating, mixing fruits and vegetables, and ignoring wrong combinations?

Are you still insulting God by asking His blessing on the table upon which stands the enslaving and injurious pepper shaker, mustard can, spice boxes, and vinegar pitcher? And do you still have to confess shameful addiction to liquor, tobacco, coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate, or soda fountain drinks,

Brethren, have you ridded your person of the vain and useless stick pin, the racy tie; the fallen or rolled down socks; the pretentious silk

children? Are you faithfully performing the duties of a husband and father and head of the family? Are you still confirmed in the innumerable other abominable Laodicean practices?

Mothers, are you still indulging the whims, humors, and self-willed demands of your children; failing to curb and discipline their tastes, habits, actions, words, and thoughts; faithlessly neglecting to correct their misdemeanors and wrong doings; and in their presence excusing and defending them to others; then losing your temper, and landing on them with shouting, slapping, and jerking them about when you finally do make a belated effort to right matters?

And in respect to all, what of the many specific instructions carried in

"Oh, how important it is that faithfulness in little things characterize our lives, that true integrity mark all our course of action, and that we ever bear in mind that angels of God are taking cognizance of every act!"

Then, with self dead, and your life hid with Christ in God, offer your humble petitions....

"Oh, how important it is that faithfulness in little things characterize our lives, that true integrity mark all our course of action, and that we ever bear in mind that angels of God are taking cognizance of every act!" *Testimonies for the Church,*" Vol. 2, p. 158.

Brother, Sister, how is it with your soul? Pause here and examine yourself as to whether or not you have religiously put into practice all that you have heard the Rod speak through *The Symbolic Code* and the other publications of Present Truth. What is your answer? Can you rejoice in that you have forever parted with the

shirt? Sisters, are you heeding or ignoring the Apostles's instruction as to the wearing of a head-covering during prayer and at religious services? Have you lifted the necks, lengthened the sleeves, and dropped the skirts of your dresses? Have you discarded your tinkling ornaments, veils, chains, bracelets, display of watches, mufflers, bonnets, headbands, rings, changeable suits of apparel, crimping pins, high heeled shoes, sheer silk stockings, finger nail polish, rouge, lip stick, mascara, perfume, etc.? which begets the grotesque appearance of a sedate clown rather than the natural beauty of a peacock!

Fathers, are you still at the same old ways — either paying no attention to, or injudiciously ruling, your

the Code from month to month, concerning the brushing of the teeth; the care of the tooth brush; unkempt hair and dirty fingernails; the unnecessary sleeping of two in a bed; stockingless legs; and bobbed hair?

Let each critically examine his words and actions and movements, lest too late he be found still prostituting his time and wit to jesting, joking, frivolity, to vain and foolish talking, and to impure speech.

Next, ask yourself if you are selfishly seeking your own ease in caring only for your own individual wants, while the cause of truth languishes for men and means?

Are your thoughts, energies, and means being exclusively devoted to the acquisition of a home, automo-

bible, radio, furniture, finery, and sundry other luxuries and sumptuaries, while you allow the “closing work for the church” to cripple along as best it can?

Are you one of the pleasure-loving who serve the prince of this world in throwing away God's nickles and dimes on picture shows, dances, bowling, amusement parties, picnics, questionable magazines, cross-word and jig-saw puzzles, comic strips and

a faithful, self-sacrificing, loyal friend of God, or a rebel against His Word?

“In a divided, half-hearted life, you will find doubt and darkness. You cannot enjoy the consolations of religion, neither the peace which the world gives. Do not sit down in Satan's easy-chair of do-little, but arise, and aim at the elevated standard which it is your privilege to attain. It is a blessed privilege to give up all for Christ. Look not at the lives of

ing their own fancy. Oh that they would devote less time to dress and vain conversation, and send forth their earnest, agonizing prayers to God, for a sound experience. There is great necessity for close self-examination in the light of God's Word; let each one raise the inquiry, 'Am I sound, or am I rotten at heart? Am I renewed in Christ, or am I still carnal at heart, with a new dress put on the outside?' Rein yourself up to the great

It is safe to follow Jesus only.

funny pages, etc.?

Do any of the following outdoor amusements condemn you as a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God? — fishing, hunting, golfing, skating, tennis, base ball, basketball?

Are you, brothers and sisters, among those disgruntled spirits who, in a misconceived sense of duty, are sitting at home misusing their time and strength in writing aimless and misbegotten letters of complaint to harass those who are bearing the burden of the work?

Are you either a crank or liberal on dress reform, health reform, Sabbath reform, or any other one reform?

Are you one of those who are ever getting self in the way, and taking exception at much or little; giving expression to the inevitable hurt of ever exposed feelings; or giving vent to an abusive, unholy temper?

Or are you one of the precious few whom nothing can offend and who are faithfully, and diligently following the Lord by rendering cheerful, unselfish, service?

Fearful, solemn questions! How do they judge you, brother, sister? —

others and imitate them and rise no higher. You have only one true, unerring Pattern. It is safe to follow Jesus only. Determine that if others act on the principle of the spiritual sluggard you will leave them, and march forward toward the elevation of Christian character. Form a character for Heaven. Sleep not at your post. Deal faithfully and truly with your own soul.” *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 241.*

“Deal truly with your own soul. Search carefully. How few, after a faithful examination, can look up to Heaven and say, 'I am not one of those thus described! I am not a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God!' How few can say, 'I am dead to the world; the life I now live, is by faith on the Son of God! My life is hid with Christ in God, and when He who is my life shall appear, then shall I also appear with Him in glory.'” *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 145.*

“How can I endure the thought that most of the youth in this age will come short of everlasting life! Oh that the sound of instrumental music might cease, and they no more while away so much precious time in pleas-

tribunal, and in the light of God examine to see if there be any secret sin that you are cherishing, any idol that you have not sacrificed. Pray, yes, pray as you have never prayed before, that you may not be deluded by Satan's devices, that you may not be given up to a heedless, careless, vain spirit, and attend to religious duties to quiet your own conscience.” *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 144.*

Let no one think that, because he is not a youth, the snares pictured in the above quoted testimony are not just as verily set for him as for the youth. Hear the word of the prophet Isaiah: “But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses.” (Isa. 42:22.) ¶

Subject for Week of Prayer, Symbolic Code Volume 2 #11, pgs. DEC. 19-26 (or Blue Book pgs. 248-250).

Pen & Paper

To My brothers in Christ,

Grace be to you and peace from God the father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ. I would like to thank you for the effort made in sending us some books and audio cassettes. I would like to assure you that the books are of great utility. As we are living in the end of time we want to study the word of God so that our standard of Christian is lift up. Please brothers we are requesting for materials so that people can study the word of God. If possible please send us the following materials.

Angola, Central Africa

I respectfully beg for Bible study and any Christian literature. I am Sabbatarian who wants to know more prophecy and Sabbath keeping. I hope my request will meet your most sympathetic consideration. Thank you in advance.

Kenya, Africa

Dear Sir:

First of all, I would like to pass my warm Christian greetings to you and that the Glory and honor be unto the Mighty God who is in heaven through our Lord and Savior Jesus who by His grace has inspired this ministry with the Spirit of sacrifice. I thank you brethren I received the Bible Study materials and I am enjoying the present truth message. Only that I am missing Tract Nos. 11, 12 and 14. . . . I also would like to know if possible how much should I contribute. I need the Shepherds Rod Volumes. Please anything you feel I should have or know don't hesitate to inform or send for me.

Lusaka, Zambia

Dear Brethren of Davidian Seventh Day Adventist. I want first of all to appreciate the work that you are doing to publish and the distribution of Houteff's writings. This is the work of the Lord. I know that it is a worldwide commission. I am a SDA and am seeking the advancement of truth in these last days. So these are my requests from you: tracts and TGs along with the Shepherd Rod Series book. Thank you.

Kenya, Africa

Greetings dear Brethren:

This time I want to thank you for the literature and sermon tape sent to me. Feel assured they fell on humble ground and as a Seventh Day Sabbath Adventist I agree totally with the Elijah message of Jezreel – no second thought. It all makes perfect sense even a child could understand. I will not hide anything, I've seen worldliness rampant among the General Conference that I don't want to bring in conspiracy theories but I see, feel, Rome's hand involved in it! Now I know that the Illuminati – Jesuit Secret Society or New World Order have already reached all – yes – all Protestant daughters of Rome. We all know that, but to infiltrate the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and manipulate it, is now more evident than ever. This page is short indeed to enumerate point by point all the parallels to this evidence. Nevertheless, on a future occasion I surely will if God permits. Amen.

Well, anyway, I just want to request if possible more literature like present truth tracts, sermons, tapes, and study materials. I ask if possible, copies of all or most of the study charts and also a catalogue of resources for future request. Thank you.

Illinois, USA

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac; and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Just two days ago, I have finished listening to all five audio CDs of the SDA Prophetic Ministry. A certain church master gave me those CDs and as I listened and pondered upon the messages, I knew that it is one of the providence of God to lead me (as well as my friends and family to listen to His truth. Thus I am writing this letter. I was born and raised in an Adventist family. My father is a layman all his life, until now; my mother is a missionary at heart, a former literature evangelist and a laywoman as well. I have four siblings and I am the fourth child. I am currently residing in the Philippines. In my 22 years of existence as an Adventist, it was not until a year ago that the Lord in His mercy touched my heart and I started to diligently and earnestly study the Holy Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, as well as the writings of Jones and Waggoner, Houteff and other SDA history books.

Philippines

GC TESTIMONY CONTINUED

Sis. Rosalee McCormick

When the New Jersey group was first told about the trip to Georgia to attend the SDA General Conference Session of 2010, we were all elated at the prospect. The first reason being, many of us have never been to a General Conference Session before, and secondly, some of us have never visited the State of Georgia before. In some respects it was like a mini vacation of sorts, although it was a spiritual mission that we were embarking upon.

As weeks passed into months and we were getting closer to the date of attending the Session, many of the brethren were busy making plans to attend. And when asked by some if I was going, I responded, that I didn't know as yet, since I was still in the process of seeking employment and was not certain whether or not I would be able to attend, although I really wanted to attend. During the months that followed as I saw that I was not given employment, although on several occasions after receiving interviews which looked very good, again I received no employment. As can be expected, it was very disappointing at times to go through this again and again. But through it all I continued to trust the Lord, after all He knows what is best and what is His plan for my life.

So one day as I was again endeavoring to seek employment, and this time I thought it would really manifest in me obtaining employment, I was again disappointed. But this time it was somewhat different. The outcome was on a silence note. What I mean is that, after further prayer, I realized that the Lord was at this time not allowing me employment, because He wanted me to attend the General Conference Session in Georgia. So it was settled. As the date drew nearer, I refrained from seeking further employment. I knew definitely that the Lord had closed the door temporarily in not allowing me employment and had opened the door allowing me to go the Georgia. And I of course was very grateful indeed for the opportunity.

Well, the time had finally come for the long looked for Spiritual trip to the SDA General Conference. And yet while I was glad to be able to attend, I was sadly surprised that the number of brethren who had formerly shared their interest in attending this trip had lessened quite a bit. The Lord only knew the reason why. Some brethren who were not taking this trip, and who did not like long driving as we were set upon to experience, gave some advice,



of which I listened thoughtfully. I myself, never having entered upon a trip of such length, wondered whether I would be able to endure so many, many hours of driving. But praise the Lord, it was a great blessing and a wonderful adventure.

At last we arrived safely at our destination with the Lord guiding bro. Neftali, the only driver for the vehicle in which I traveled. After settling down in our new home, we eagerly looked forward to some good sleep/rest. We learned much about each other during our stay in such close proximity and despite some minor differences now and then we got along fairly well with each other. We prepared for the Sabbath and looked forward to worship and serving our SDA brethren in bringing them “meat in due season” by way of very well prepared messages in the magazine, praise the Lord, for such talents here given.

Upon awakening on Sabbath morning, I found to my great dismay, that I had experienced a stiff neck. I prayed earnestly that the Lord would heal me immediately. Some of the brethren even rubbed some oil on the area with the intent to hasten the healing process, but it was slow going. But even in this my first of several testimonies, the Lord allowed it was a good reason. After listening to the sermon we made our way to one of several locations that where we intended to distribute the magazines and CD's to our brethren. While some brethren stayed at one location, I went to another location by myself. As I entered upon my primary mission for attending this General Conference Session of 2010, I prayed that the Lord would give great success as we sought to share this most precious and serious message with our brethren.

Here are some testimonies that I personally experi-

enced in answer to prayer while doing the Lord's work in Atlanta. While standing in the sun and passing the magazines and CD's out to our SDA brethren I encountered a miracle from the Lord. It was in the process of doing His work that He was gradually healing my neck. And for some time during the next few days, each time I embarked upon sharing the message, the Lord continued to further heal my neck. I say praise be to His Holy name.

Another experience came as, one day while I was working with Bro. George Isaac, I was some distance from him and realized that it was starting to rain. I double-checked to make certain it was really attempting to rain, because earlier I was standing at a location in which water was being sprayed from below the ground beside the train station, and I wanted to be certain of the source of the water. When I concluded that it was starting to rain for sure, I lifted my voice and started speaking to the Lord in which I said: "Lord you are the maker of the heavens and the earth. You know that we are here doing your work and if it should start raining our materials would become wet and we would not be able to continue doing your work. I know Lord that you can even now speak to the rain and it will listen to you, because you have that kind of power." Well, to my great delight and blessing which affected all of us working, the Lord stopped the rain, almost immediately. Praise His holy name.

At another time near the same location, I was working with Sis. Debra or some other brethren. It was very, very hot and I felt probably like some of the other brethren, that I could not further bear the heat, as we were not in a shaded area. So again I lifted my voice to the Lord and said: "Lord could you please cover the sun and send breeze." And again, I experienced another great miracle from the Lord. For the rest of the evening until sunset, the Lord kept a cloud continually over the sun and sent much welcomed breeze. Again I thank and praised the Lord for His love and mercy towards us.

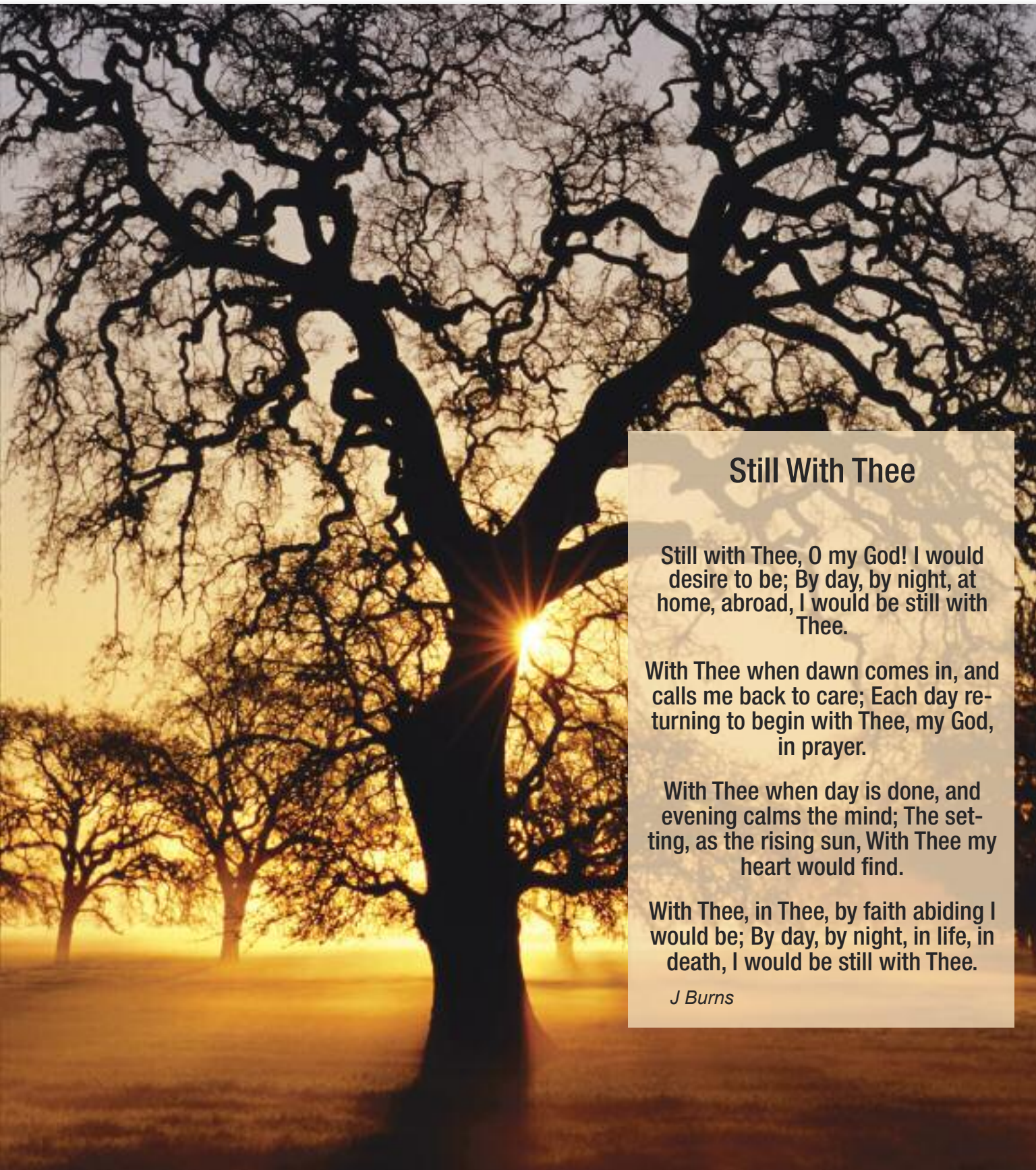
My final testimony as it concerns the weather came in another wonderful and marked manner. On this occasion I was in a different location working this time with Sis. Susan. By this time it was a little after 8pm and the day would soon be ended. As we continued passing out the magazine and CD's, I looked up in the sky I realized that there were dark clouds, it looked like we were going to have a very heavy down pour. I said to sister Susan, "look at the dark clouds and the see the lightening in the distance," but she was too busy to pay any attention. This time on like others I did not prayed as such but just spoke to the Lord in which I said: "Lord I know you will hold back the rain so we can finish our work." And so said, so

done. The Lord worked wonderfully by holding back the rain, although one could see that it wanted to let loose. After finishing our work, we all gathered into the vehicle. A few moments after bro. J. J had spoken to bro. Archer, we prayed for guidance and God's having again blessing his work as we sought to return home to our temporary dwelling. As we went through the green light, The Lord manifested His mighty power after he had for a while held back the rain. It was amazing how He again gracious answered my prayer, of which I believe others might have been praying as well.

The overall experience during my stay in Georgia was great and the Lord worked wondrously. Not only did the Lord work miracles with the weather, but He worked marvelously in getting Present Truth before many, many thousands of our brethren. Some of our SDA brethren graciously thanked us for coming and sharing, while others derided, scorned and mocked us. Some of them told us to "go out in the world and share with others, because they already have the truth." Some of our SDA brethren treated us like dogs or worst. Some told us that "it's best we discontinue sharing the materials, because the more we did so, the more they would tell the brethren to cast them in the garbage." But the Lord strengthened us and gave us courage and fortitude to continue doing His work with the love of Christ in our hearts.

We know Satan was angry and didn't want our SDA brethren to get the message and would do whatever he could to dishearten us or get us not to share the message, but the Lord was our stay and worked gloriously in causing us to triumph for His name's sake. We distributed many, many thousands of magazines and CD's to many SDA's attending the meetings and to whomever would receive it as we concluded our spiritual mission. Indeed many were glad to receive the magazines and CD's. We certainly believe and trust by the Lord's grace that many unbelievers were led to receive Christ as their Savior and be blessed by the fruits of our labor. Overall I believe along with all our present truth believers who went on this trip, a trip like no other and never to be forgotten, by our various experiences gained and testimonies borne, that this trip was a marvelous success. "Praise the Lord for His goodness to the children of men." We know that the truth triumphed no matter what because the Lord said: "warn them whether they will hear or whether they will forbear."

Rosalee McCormick



Still With Thee

Still with Thee, O my God! I would
desire to be; By day, by night, at
home, abroad, I would be still with
Thee.

With Thee when dawn comes in, and
calls me back to care; Each day re-
turning to begin with Thee, my God,
in prayer.

With Thee when day is done, and
evening calms the mind; The set-
ting, as the rising sun, With Thee my
heart would find.

With Thee, in Thee, by faith abiding I
would be; By day, by night, in life, in
death, I would be still with Thee.

J Burns