

Old Paths

Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant. Psalm 25:14

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THOUGHTS ON THE LOVE OF GOD

By Pastor David Clayton

(Recently I received a letter from someone who believes in the truth about God and His Son. However, this person claimed that this truth did not make him a better Christian nor increase his love for God. He further stated that it appeared that we were only concerned with this one "pet subject" and kindly warned us against "fanaticism." We appreciate the concern this brother has for us. He is not alone in these concerns. Others have asked us why we seem so intent on placing such an emphasis on the doctrine of God. I believe that this study by Pastor David Clayton helps clarifying the issue. All emphasis in this article has been supplied. A. Stump)

There is a verse which is one of my all-time favorites. I often stop to think about it, but I never can quite fathom its depths, though I love to talk about it. It is God who is speaking and He says: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." (Jeremiah 31:3)

Though this verse was initially addressed to Israel, every person who is a child of God can find in this verse a principle concerning the way God regards us. God says, "I have loved thee..." and then He qualifies that love. He tells us what kind of love He has.

Now the people to whom God was talking were people continually in rebellion against Him. Every time God showed His love, showed His mercy, showed kindness to them, they went right back into apostasy. They were always doing the wrong thing. Yet God says to them that "my love for you is everlast-

ing." God doesn't use words carelessly. When God uses a word, it is weighted with meaning.

How long is everlasting? Now I like to apply that to myself, and I ask myself the question, "If I am lost, will God still love me?" The answer is yes. If I am a murderer God still loves me; even if I reject Him God will still love me. And because He loves me God follows His own counsel in not loving "in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18) What this means to me is that no matter how bad I get, or how ungrateful I become, God continues to love me and to manifest that love by drawing me with "loving kindness."

Here God describes His attitude toward us. The whole principle of the Scriptures is that the goal of the Christian life is to become like the One Whom we worship. If that is not our goal we need to refocus and evaluate just how much we understand Christianity. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are

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changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

As we behold the kind of love which God has we find, as we look at that love, there is a reflection in our own lives of that infinitely great love. So we are counseled to behold what manner of love the Father has for us, and here we see a glimpse of it. God says, “My love is everlasting.” You can’t do anything to change that! It’s not like the love of people which says, “I’m your friend as long as you don’t say anything bad about me. I’m your friend as long as you continue to speak well of me and to me.” God’s love is unconditional. He says, “My love is everlasting. Therefore, even if you hurt me, wound me, grieve me, and turn against me, I will continue to draw you with cords of love.” This is why Paul could say the goodness of God leads us to repentance. (See Romans 2:4.) God showers us with an abundance of blessings; He follows His own advice: He loves His enemies, He blesses those who curse Him, He does good to those who hate Him and despitely use Him. He demonstrates His love to us in such a wonderful way that, somewhere along the line, if we have any heart at all, it breaks.

I remember reading in *The Great Controversy* that sometime during the French Revolution they decreed officially, as a policy of the state, that it was their conviction that God did not exist. And one of these revolutionaries lifted his hands toward heaven and said, “God, I defy You. If You exist hurl Your thunders; strike me dead if You dare.” When there was no answering thunderbolt he said, “You dare not? Who will believe in You after this?” When I think about that, and I think about the blasphemy of that man, I see a loving God who understood the foolishness of a little speck of dust glaring into His face, and had mercy on him with the hope that one day he would come to his senses.

God is like that. You know if it were a human being dealing with this blasphemer he would strike him dead on the spot. But God is merciful, and He was merciful to that man as He is merciful to all of us. He pursues us in all our follies and waits for the day when we turn around and come home. Now that is why the greatest thing in the universe is love, because the Bible says, “God is love.” (1 John 4:8)

Let us examine a passage here from the book, *The Desire Of Ages*, page 478, and if you never paid special attention to this passage, you will marvel that such a thing could exist. I know that all of us want to do better, and sometimes we’re apathetic and listless.

We can’t find the strength or the energy or the drive to live as we should. We know the right thing but we can’t do it, and we wonder, “How can I find the strength?” Well, I found this blessed passage. Let us notice what it says:

“It is the gospel of the grace of God alone that can uplift the soul. The contemplation of the love of God manifested in His Son will stir the heart and arouse the powers of the soul as nothing else can.” (*The Desire Of Ages*, p. 478)

“It is the gospel of the grace of God alone that can uplift the soul.” Mark that word “alone.” You can’t force this into somebody; you can’t educate this into somebody. “It is the gospel of the grace of God alone that can uplift the soul.” I heard somebody say once, “If you see darkness don’t curse it, light a candle.” No matter how you curse darkness it won’t change. Therefore if you want somebody to be uplifted, show him the light of the gospel of the grace of God. That’s the only hope for helping people. “*The contemplation of the love of God, manifested in His Son, will stir the heart.*” Dead, lifeless and listless hearts are first stirred by the love of God which will “arouse the powers of the soul, as nothing else can.”

“It is the gospel of the grace of God alone that can uplift the soul.”

What are those powers of the soul? the willpower, the decisiveness, the energy. Some people, you say, are so listless they hear the same thing over and over and they never change. They hear that they must do better, they hear that they must stop telling lies, stop malice, stop gossiping, and they keep on doing it again and again. If you talk to them they say, “I wish I could change.” What they need is to contemplate the love of God as manifested in His Son. Don’t you want to remember that secret? Think of the love of God manifested in His Son, and you have the key to victory over sin. Let us now read another passage, this one from *The Ministry of Healing*, page 253:

“No tongue can express, no finite mind can conceive, the blessing that results from appreciating the goodness and love of God. Even on earth we may have joy as a wellspring, never failing, because fed by the streams that flow from the throne of God.

“Then let us educate our hearts and lips to speak the praise of God for His matchless love. Let us educate

our souls to be hopeful and to abide in the light shining from the cross of Calvary.”

“No tongue can express” You can put all your orators together, these men with their silver tongues. Words just flow from them; not haltingly like some of us, but “no tongue can express, no finite mind can conceive.” What is it to conceive something in this sense? No finite mind, that is the mind of no man or angel, can imagine, can visualize, “the blessing that results from appreciating the goodness and love of God.”

That’s something isn’t it? You have an imagination that can think of a great many things. You can think of so many blessings that you need and would like to have, but here it says not even your imagination can understand the degree of the blessing you will get from contemplating the love of God. That’s a marvelous clue to help us know how we are to stay on the road to victory. I met a brother recently who reminded me of something. This brother, when he calls me on the phone and whenever I see him, has just one subject. He says, “I will never forget it, and I can’t forget it.” He is always talking about the love of God through His Son. I see it has done something for him, and I know that every time I start thinking about this thing it changes my whole perspective of life also! The sun somehow is brighter, the trees somehow are greener, the rain doesn’t annoy me so much, and you can’t do anything to bother me when my eyes are focused on the love of this infinite One. So this really reinforces the point that this is what we need to keep our eyes upon.

“Even on earth,” she says, “we may have joy as a wellspring, never failing, because fed by the streams that flow from the throne of God.” Now you know what a wellspring is. I have some friends who live out in the bush away from civilization, yet they have showers, flush toilets, and an unending water supply. They simply pushed a pipe down into a spring, started the water flowing using a pump, and now they don’t have to worry about water. It says even on this earth we can have joy as a wellspring. Most of us do not have joy like that. It comes up for a little bit and then it’s quickly gone. It ebbs and flows, sometimes depending on how people treat us; depending on circumstances. But this says we can have joy like a wellspring; something that does not dry up or stop. Even on this earth we can have that. We talk about heaven in the future, but we can have heaven right here in the presence of our Lord!

There is a song that goes something like this: “The time to be happy is now and the place to be happy is here and the way to be happy ... (we might adjust it a little here), the way to be happy is to contemplate the love of God which will make us so happy we will make others happy and build a little heaven down here.”

Think of the love of God manifested in His Son, and you have the key to victory over sin.

Sister White uses a word that I find interesting; she says, “*let us educate*.” You might not have the natural instinct to do this but you can educate yourself into it. You can practice to think of and speak of the love of God. Your heart as well as your lips must be involved. So “*let us educate our souls to be hopeful and to abide in the light shining from the cross of Calvary.*” The word abide means “to stay, to remain, to dwell” there.

Let us look at another quote. This one is from *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 129.

“The truth as it is in Jesus can be experienced, but never explained. Its height and breadth and depth pass our knowledge. We may task our imagination to the utmost, and then we shall see only dimly the outlines of a love that is unexplainable, that is as high as heaven, but that stooped to the earth to stamp the image of God on all mankind.

Yet it is possible for us to see all that we can bear of the divine compassion. This is unfolded to the humble, contrite soul. We shall understand God’s compassion just in proportion as we appreciate His sacrifice for us. As we search the word of God in humility of heart, the grand theme of redemption will open to our research. It will increase in brightness as we behold it, and as we aspire to grasp it, its height and depth will ever increase.”

“*The truth as it is in Jesus can be experienced but never explained.*” In other words you can feel it but you can’t explain it to somebody else. You can never fully describe the joy of what it is to be in Jesus and to experience His love. You can never tell somebody in such a way that he can fully understand what you mean. This is not talking about something that makes you want to jump and somersault and leap over the chair. It’s talking about a steady joy, an abiding happiness that comes from the knowledge that you are the son of One who loves you infinitely, a wonderful

Father. That's what this joy comes from. "*The truth as it is in Jesus can be experienced.*" Pity the poor soul who doesn't know what this reading is saying. Pity that poor soul and help that soul. Its height and depth and breadth pass our knowledge. We may task the imagination to the utmost, think about it, imagine it, discuss it, debate it, and then we shall see only dimly the outlines of a love that is unexplainable.

On a hot or rainy day you can sometimes just barely see the outline of the mountains. You can barely see that thin line, or when at the seaside you can just barely glimpse the horizon where the sea meets the sky. All you can see is a dim hazy line. As we study this subject we can only see the dim outline. We can never see the trees and the leaves and every detail that somebody right up close would see because the subject is too broad for us to see more than the dim outline. But in spite of that here is what Sister White says: "Yet it is possible for us to see all that we can bear of the divine compassion." (*Ibid.*)

The scenes of Calvary call for the deepest emotion. Upon this subject you will be excusable if you manifest enthusiasm.

Praise the Lord! This is unfolded to the humble, contrite soul. I remember reading where Ellen White says that when Moses went up on the Mount and talked to God and said, "I beg you show me your glory," God showed him all that he could see and live. If he had seen more, he would have died. Here she says the same thing. It is possible for us to see all that we can bear. God will show us as much as we have the capacity to receive. Have you reached your limit already?" No, No, No! We have a far greater capacity. We need to dig into this subject and stay with it. You never need to be an unhappy person because the subject of God's love brings joy like a wellspring!

"*We shall understand ... [now here is a wonderful key] God's compassion [or God's love] just in proportion as we appreciate His sacrifice for us.*" Did you grasp the significance of this? If I understand God's sacrifice just a little bit, then I will have the concept that God's love is just a little thing, when actually God's love for me is higher than the heavens. God has no boundary to His love for me, but, because I can only understand a little of what took place when He gave His Son for me, my concept of His love is very

little. Do you see how much we are losing and missing out on? As much as we understand the sacrifice He made, that is how much we will think that God loves us and that is how much we will love Him in return. This is why we must contemplate this sacrifice. ***Think of the fact that it was His own, only begotten Son that He gave.*** Let us think of it more and more deeply till we understand, till it begins to fill all our vision and then our concept of the love of God will be greater and greater. The greater it becomes the less the world will trouble us, the more power we will have to influence people's lives and the more power we will have to overcome sin in our lives. This is the great key that unlocks heaven on earth. At the same time she says, "*As we search the word of God in humility of heart, the grand theme of redemption will open to our research. It will increase in brightness as we behold it, and as we aspire to grasp it, it's height and depth will ever increase.*" There is no limit.

Perhaps you may think that what we have discussed about the Godhead, the love of God, and what He did through Jesus has just about exhausted the subject and now it's time to move on to something else. Like one Brother said, "Do you think the Godhead is the only truth in the Bible?" I had a feeling somehow when he said it that he did not understand the subject very well at all. Ellen White says that as long as you study it, it will "**ever increase.**" So when do you reach your limit? When can you say, "I have had enough?" In *The Story of Redemption*, page 432, she says, "And as the years of eternity roll, they will bring richer and more glorious revelations of God and of Christ." Do you think we have reached our limit already? Of course not, heaven forbid! Beloved, let us keep on studying this subject; **let us be obsessed with it!**

Let us just notice two more quotations. The first one is from *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 213, and is one which I love to quote:

"Eternal interests are here involved. Upon this theme it is sin to be calm and unimpassioned. The scenes of Calvary call for the deepest emotion. Upon this subject you will be excusable if you manifest enthusiasm. That Christ, so excellent, so innocent, should suffer such a painful death, bearing the weight of the sins of the world, our thoughts and imaginations can never fully comprehend. The length, the breadth, the height, the depth, of such amazing love we cannot fathom. The contemplation of the matchless depths of a Saviour's love should fill the mind, touch and melt the soul, refine and elevate

the affections, and completely transform the whole character.”

In Ellen White’s time “enthusiasm” was a synonym for fanaticism, so she is saying that upon this subject you will be excused if you become zealous! Where Calvary is concerned you should never be calm. She says it should “elevate and refine the mind” and that’s what we have been talking about. (See *Christian Education*, p. 110.) When your affections are elevated and refined they will be like the affections of God, not like the affections of the world that wax and wane depending upon circumstances. God’s love is not like that. It is steady, constantly burning, always advancing, never ebbing, always flowing because it does not depend on our response. Love is a principle of high and holy affection that reaches friend and enemy, good and bad. It is unconditional. It flows to everyone who needs it. You know that when I have this kind of love it will be very difficult for anybody to offend me because love “thinketh no evil.” (1 Corinthians 13:5) When you do something bad to me I shall search and search and search until I find a good reason to excuse your doing it.

Somebody says that your child is rude, so as you correct the child, you hug him a little closer and in your mind you are thinking, “this person does not understand. I have known this child from the time he was born and I know the reasons why he is like this.” You are looking for every excuse because he is your child, while the person looking on can only criticize. God’s attitude is like that of a parent and when His love is in us that is how we will relate to other people too. This is my brother, my sister, a part of my Father’s family. I’m thinking the best of that person. So our affections will be elevated and refined and this love will completely transform the whole character.

Finally from *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 379:


“The love of God is fully able to restore, rebuild, encourage, and strengthen every believing soul who will accept the truth as it is in Jesus. But in order that this may be accomplished, men must yoke up with Christ. The cross of Christ must be studied. It must rivet the attention and hold the affections. The blood which there was shed for sins will purify and cleanse mind and heart from every species of selfishness.”

The love of God is fully able to do all the things that we need; to restore, to rebuild, to encourage and strengthen “every believing soul who will accept the truth as it is in Jesus.” It is able to restore, so if you’re a backslider remember this. It is able to rebuild, so if

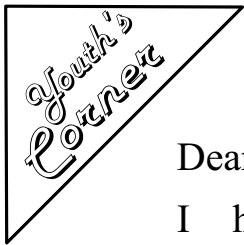
you had a fall remember this. It is able to encourage, so if you are discouraged remember this. It is able to strengthen, so if you are weak remember this. The love of God is fully able to do this for every believing soul.

Nobody can justly say, “I just don’t have the help I need.” Nobody can justly say, “I’ve failed too many times to overcome.” Every believing soul who will accept the truth as it is in Jesus may have all that he needs. “*But in order that this may be accomplished, men must yoke up with Christ. The cross of Christ must be studied. It must rivet the attention and hold the affections.*” You use a rivet to fasten something when you don’t intend to ever pull it apart again. A rivet means that the union is permanent. She says, The cross of Christ “*must rivet the attention and hold the affections.*” You mustn’t move from it. “*The blood which there was shed for sins will purify and cleanse mind and heart from every species of selfishness.*”

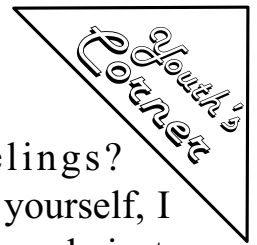
So we need to understand what God did for us in sending his Son to Calvary. When we fix our minds there, we will be rebuilt, restored, encouraged and strengthened. Not only that, but we will have something with which to help other people and we will find that sin flees from our lives. You will wonder that sin used to overcome you so easily when the strength that comes from this knowledge takes over your life.

Every truth that is really *truth* finds its center in the gift of God in giving His Son. If it is not related to this truth it cannot be important, so we need to keep that as our center. I don’t think you will ever hear anything more important than this. You will read things more eloquently stated, things which maybe you will find more interesting but, no matter how inadequately this truth has been stated in this article, it is still the most essential truth which you need to understand. So let us lock our minds in this direction and determine that by God’s grace we shall not lose our focus. 

(This article was based on a sermon Pastor Clayton delivered at the Jamaican camp meeting at Copper this last August. You may contact David by writing to him at: P. O. Box 23 Knockpatrick, Manchester, Jamaica. David’s phone number is: (876) 904-7803. You can also e-mail Pastor Clayton at: david000@cwjamaica.com)



Be Lovely



Dear Children:

I have been thinking how much good every one of you might do, if you would only try. Some children are willing to part with some of their little treasures to make others happy. They are quite free to give when it is in their power, but there is something more that they can do. It costs nothing, yet it is more difficult to give than all their treasures. It is KIND WORDS. I have been in families where unkind, fretful words cast a shadow upon the whole household, and I have felt the same darkness falling upon me. I have heard older children speak unkindly and fretfully to the younger members of the family, and have watched its effects upon the little ones who possessed happy dispositions, but were soured and spoilt through unkind and fretting words.

How careful an older sister should be of her young brother or sister lest her influence should prove an injury to him or her. Above all things should she exert a happy influence upon the

young members of the family. If she tries, she can do much to make home happy, and shed a sunshine in the family. But it is too often the case that the older children do not realize that their influence tells, and that they are responsible for the influence they exert. I have felt grieved as I have seen them watch almost every move of the little brother or sister, not with a view to help them, to encourage them, to make them happy; but to fret at, complain of, and tease them, until there is stamped upon their countenance a disagreeable, cross expression. This can be removed now if the work is taken hold of cheerfully, patiently and energetically; and happy countenances may be seen, and sunshine be in the dwelling instead of a shadow.

When the sister is tempted to break out into a fretful, fault-finding strain, I would say, Stop, ask yourself what good result will your words produce? Will they make the little brother or sister any better? or will they plant in their little breasts bitter, un-

happy feelings? Then say to yourself, I will try to speak just as sweetly and pleasantly as I can. It will act like a charm. You may not see the good results in a moment, but every time you check this fretful, fault-finding spirit, it will give you grace to stand against the next temptation. Persevere. Don't be discouraged if you do fail at first. If the tongue goes in its wonted course a few times when you are not on your guard, do not give up the battle. Go to God, and often plead with him for strength. It will be given. Jesus has promised to hear the needy when they cry. Claim the promise; it will be verified. Try in the strength of the Lord to cast a sunshine in the family. There are no shadows in heaven. All is happiness. There will be no fretful ones there; no unhappy looks; no unkind words; but every countenance will be radiant with joy. In heaven there will be an eternal sunshine.

(Ellen G. White — *Youth's Instructor*, May 1, 1859)

Letters

Excellent recent articles by Brother Beachy. Check out this book: *The Cultic Doctrine of SDA's*. NC

Our prayers are with you!! Remember—Jesus had to go aside to rest. We're not asked to go beyond what God has for us to do!! FL

(Note: This letter is a sample of several kind letters and cards I received concerning my health and work load. Many thanks to all who wrote and were concerned. A. Stump)

In my judgment you made a mistake in getting Beachy to analyze the data [from Jerry Moon's article] as his ability to do so is open to serious question against the backdrop of his research with the teachings of the first and second generation of Adventist writers on the Godhead. AR

I'm writing to obtain some literature you have posted on your web site. Internet

Could you please send me 5 copies of *The Foundation of Our Faith*, and 15 copies of *What did the Pioneers Believe??* FL

I think that it is astounding that the central wine of Rome's doctrine could be slipped into our Church without a word said. I pray for God's Church and the people within who are asleep. FL

Please seed 200 "100 Sabbath Question" tracts. Thank you. NY

May the Lord greatly bless your ministry as you continue to help people come to the knowledge of the truth about God, His Son, and many other important truths that are a part of the first great truth. CO

May God bless you Brothers and Sisters of Smyrna. We're praying for you. (Allen, you need to start juicing. Take care of that heart.) WV

Enclosed is a donation in amount of ... Kindly send *Old Paths* and *The Foundation of Our Faith*. AL

I am writing on behalf of ... and myself. We received your package in June with past issues of *Present Truth & Old Paths* - thank you very much for those. If possible, we would like to continue to receive these newsletters. We have up to July 1999 of each. We'll look forward to hearing from you. Thank you & may God bless you. Canada

Jamaican Camp Meeting Report

The annual Jamaican camp meeting at Copper took place this year from August 4-8. There were representatives from most of the parishes (states) in Jamaica as well as from overseas. A wonderful spirit of fellowship was present.

The camp at Copper has been greatly improved this year with the addition of running water for showers and toilets. No longer can one boast of the hardship of going to camp except for those who take the thrilling ride to and from the camp in the back of Brother Howard Williams' dump-truck.

Powerful, Christ-centered sermons were shared by the speakers and encouraging testimonies were shared by all.

Each day our souls were stirred by the messages from the various speakers which inevitably seemed to focus on two themes: The unspeakably great love of God toward us, manifested in the gift of His Son, and the urgent need to spread the truth far and wide with all our power and resources.

One of the great thrills of the camp meeting was the attendance of Marcia. Marcia recently responded to an advertisement placed on Jamaican television for information on the mark of the beast. Marcia really was blessed by the meetings and we were in turn greatly blessed by her witness. Marcia has been telling everyone about the new truths she has been learning and her witness has already resulted in a new Sabbath study group being formed in the Westmoreland area of Jamaica.



Roberto Carballo Praying

Brother Roberto Carballo from Puerto Rico gave a very encouraging testimony about what learning the truth about God had done for his life. Brother Larkland Heath, originally from Jamaica but now living in New Jersey, also attended and shared some insightful thoughts and his testimony.

Perhaps the reason that the Jamaican brothers and sisters love their camp meeting so much is the active participation that is always present. *A. Stump*

Illinois Bible Conference and Camp Meeting Reports

A Bible conference and camp meeting was recently held in Illinois hosted by the New Burnside SDA Home Church. Meetings were held at the New Burnside Community Center and Randall and Lucy Mercer opened their home and fields for many diligent campers.

The camp meeting was a great success. It was the best camp meeting I have ever attended. If you missed it, you really missed out on many blessings. The messages were very pointed, prompting us to go further in our Christian experience. I pray that you will be able to come to the next camp meeting. I would like to personally thank each of you who came—it wouldn't have been the same without you.

One of the great treats of the meetings was to have Pastor David Clayton and Brother Harold Webb (Israel) from Jamaica present. Pastor Clayton shared some deep, serious messages on prophecy, the love of God, the Sabbath and other topics. Brother Webb also gave some *very enthusiastic* messages!

Several others shared some very powerful messages as well. As a whole it was the best group of messages I have ever heard. I learned many new things, and left with rich experiences. I also heard the same report from many others who attended.

One highlight of the camp meeting was the presence of a non-Adventist man who traveled 12 hours to come. He had attended a Promise Keeper meeting and picked up one of our fliers, "God Wants a God Fearing Church." After receiving the *Present Truth* newsletter for nearly a year he became convicted of the Sabbath,

and wrote me an e-mail stating that he wished to attend the camp meeting.



Some of the youth who attended the camp meeting.

I was very glad to meet him, and he expressed his gratefulness to make so many new friends. While he was at the camp meeting he learned many things. One very important thing he learned was a revelation of God's character of love in the destruction of the wicked as opposed to the idea of eternal torment. This revelation had a profound effect upon him. He also learned the truth about God giving His Son to die for him.

When he left the camp meeting he was a changed man. He said, "I can't wait to tell my wife about these things. She will be my first convert." He was in tears as he left, leaving many new friends behind. It was a thrill for me to have gotten to know him. And it was also a thrill for many others to have made him a new friend.

It was thrilling to me to meet so many people I had never met before. Several people attended who had never attended one of our camp meetings.

Even though the timing (after Labor Day) of the camp meetings was not the best for school-age children, the Lord blessed with several young people being able to attend. They really enjoyed and appreciated the hay-ride and bonfire that was provided by Brother Mercer.

The camp meeting ended with four souls committing themselves unto the Lord in the watery grave of baptism.

Continued on page 12.



"Rise and shine" you happy campers!

A Time to Remember

By Harold Webb (Israel)

*Well the time had come for David and me to leave;
From Jamaica, to Miami, to Nashville, to Illinois if you please.
Randall and Lucy Mercer welcomed us as their guests.
Their hospitality was great, they treated us the best.*

*I'd rather have Jesus—Revival and Reformation was the theme.
The messages were inspiring; beautiful fellowship could be seen.
God's people gathered from all different places.
To God be the glory was seen on their faces.*

*Rise and Shine, morning devotion 6:30 began;
Setting the temperature for the rest of the day's program.
Speakers spoke on various subjects throughout the day;
Some controversial, most to the point, I'd say.*

*The Bible Conference and Camp Meeting were held at Brother Mercer's place.
A beautiful setting—quiet, spacious, and safe.
All expressed their delight to be there;
Old faces, old friends, did one another cheer.*

*We sang out our hearts giving God the praise
For bringing us together for these meaningful days.
Testimonies were given with hearts full of gratitude.
I love Lucy, she gave us delicious food. (Smile!)*

*David was the main speaker for this event.
God used him, a teacher of prophecy, He used his talent.
Doug, Todd, Trevis, Mac, Richard, Lynnford, and Perry,
Bob, Joe, Allen, Randall, Ben—God used—as well as Yours Truly.*

*Audience participation to everyone was free;
No dictatorship, you could agree to disagree.
Opposition and misunderstanding were sometimes seen;
In the end all recognized, after all, we are just human beings.*

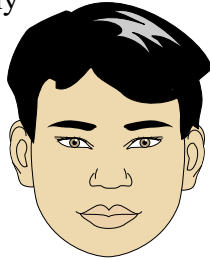
*Well the time had come for us to part.
I tell you, it almost broke our hearts.
If we don't meet down here again, be of good cheer!
Let us vow to meet Jesus, and each other in the air.*

Amen

All of One Blood

“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.” (Acts 17:26)

One of the greatest experiences I have had in my Christian walk was being able to attend the Jamaican camp meeting at Copper this year. Unlike the prior time I was able to attend a year-and-a-half ago, I was the only white person from America. We also had Brother Roberto Caraballo from Puerto Rico who added an additional very sweet savor to the camp. To be in a chapel with nearly one hundred brothers and sisters of a different skin color, in perfect harmony, truly reminded me of what Paul declared as recorded in Acts 17:26: “And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.”



The bond of the unity of faith was so tight that the differences of color and national backgrounds were swallowed up. I was told, “You don’t act like a white person,” or “you act just like a black.”

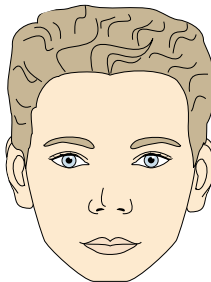
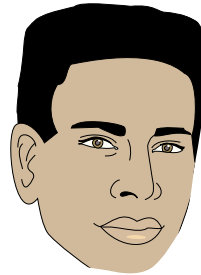
At the Illinois camp meeting, Pastor David Clayton and Brother Harold Webb gave a good testimony also of how they were received by the brethren.

The Scripture records that we are all of one blood. Under the great penetrating powers of the microscope the blood of one man is indistinguishable from that of another. The great God of heaven, when looking down upon men, does not look upon the skin color to determine whether grace, gifts, and mercy are to be bestowed, but rather looks upon the need and the heart of the believer.

Concerning Acts 17:26, *Robertson’s New Testament Word Pictures* states in part: “This view runs counter to Greek exclusiveness which treated other races as barbarians and to Jewish pride which treated other nations as heathen or pagan. The cosmopolitanism of Paul here rises above Jew and Greek and claims the one God as the Creator of the one race of men.”

How cherished and important is each soul to God. As the little children’s song says, “Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight.”

“The value of a soul, who can estimate? Would you know its worth, go to Gethsemane, and there watch with Christ through those hours of anguish, when He sweat as it were great drops of blood. Look upon the Saviour uplifted on the cross. Hear that despairing cry, ‘My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?’ Mark 15:34. Look upon the wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet. Remember that Christ risked all. For our redemption, heaven itself was imperiled. At the foot of the cross, remembering that for one sinner Christ would have laid down His life, you may estimate the value of a soul.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 197)



God loves each soul on the earth enough that if that one black, brown, red, yellow, or white person was the only one, Jesus would have died for that one person! This should tell us how precious we are in the sight of God and to think that someone would entertain the idea that God has left some group out or placed them at a disadvantage by endowing them with less intelligence than others is truly failing to understand the love of God in Christ Jesus and His great desire to save all men and women.

There is a song that says, “I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God.” God wants you to be a member of that one family.

“God declares that whosoever will may come ‘into the bond of the covenant.’ Ezekiel 20:37. In the creation it was His purpose that the earth be inhabited by beings whose existence should be a blessing to themselves and to one another, and an honor to their Creator. All who will may identify themselves with this purpose. Of them it is spoken, ‘This people have I formed for Myself; they shall show forth My praise.’ Isaiah 43:21.” (*Education*, p. 173)

Allen Stump

Week of Prayer
At
“The Church at Wilhoit”
October 25-31, 1999

To be informed call: (520) 442-3275

or

**Write to: “The Church at Wilhoit”
HC 68, Box 743, Kirkland, AZ 86332.**

NOTE: The emphasis is towards those who are working more closely in the “right arm of the gospel” as medical missionaries. (This includes all who have a desire to be a medical missionary.)

We will be sharing our experiences as we have experienced the blessing of working with the God of heaven. We will share our perplexities, our hopes, our fears, and our answered prayers. We will also be sharing treatments and herbal formulas, as well as things not to do.

The mornings and afternoons will be spent towards medical missionary outreach, while the evenings will be spent in Bible study and prayer.

We will also be discussing how to better coordinate our efforts as missionaries.

The cost is \$45.00/family for the entire week. Make payments to “The Church at Wilhoit.”

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“Lady” visited all the camp-sites and was especially friendly at meal time.

Illinois Camp Meeting Report continued from page 8.

A more complete report will be given next month, but a poem composed and read by Brother Webb on the last day gives an excellent overview of the meetings and fellowship. (See page nine.)

Cassette tapes are available for most of the meetings. For information on the tapes currently available and the cost, you may contact The New Burnside SDA Home Church, 1210 Birdwell Rd., New Burnside, IL 62922. You may also call: (618) 996-2525 and ask for Crystal.

Lynnford Beachy

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