

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



Photo taken in Medellin, Colombia

“The flowers breathe fragrance and unfold their beauty in blessing to the world (The Desire of Ages, pp. 20, 21).”

Prayer Requests

We ask that you join us in a prayer of thanksgiving for the safe return of Pastor Stump and Brother Alberto from their extended missionary trip to South America and for continued prayer for the dear people they visited while in Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay, and Curaçao, some of whom have since been disfellowshipped because of their stand for the truth. We also ask for your prayers for Brother Bob and Sister Ardis Habenicht, whom Pastor Allen and Brother Elvis visited in Brazil. Brother Bob has had a serious fall and continues to

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The Church of God

One of the greatest theological questions today which carries some of the greatest consequences is “What is the church?” There is a great deal of confusion upon this question, and this confusion is not something new. Since the beginning of the Christian era, there has been a great deal of controversy about the concept of the church or, simply, who and what are the people of God?

In our common vernacular, the term *church* has several meanings. It can mean a chapel or the actual place or building where people meet for worship; it can be a specified denomination; it can be an ecclesiastical power as distinguished from the secular—the *separation of church and state*; it may represent the actual act of conducting a worship—we had *church tonight*; it is to some a General Conference; and it is considered to be the congregation or the whole body of believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

The term *church* is not found in the Old Testament. It first occurs in the book of Matthew with the statement of Jesus that he would build his “church” upon the truth of Peter’s confession that Jesus was the Son of God (Matthew 16:18). “Peter had expressed the truth which is the foundation of the church’s faith (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 413).”

In Matthew 18:17 Jesus again mentions the church, this time in connection with gospel order. These are the only direct references in the Gospels. The book of Acts makes twenty-one references to church or churches, and Paul, James, and John also use the term in their writings. The word *church* is found in the Authorized Version in 1 Peter 5:13, but it is a supplied word to try to make the meaning clearer and is not found in Greek text.

The Greek word translated church is *ekklesia* (ἐκκλησία). It is from two words: *ek*, meaning from or out of, and *kaleo*, meaning to call. The word *ekklesia*, therefore, means to call out or those who are called out. *Ekklesia* was a common expression in the days of Christ and used for any assembly where the people were called to meet. While the term *church* is not translated in the Old Testament, the Greek word *ekklesia* was used in the Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, in the place of the Hebrew *qahal* which was usually translated as assembly (seventeen times) or congregation (eighty-six times).

And the chief of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the **assembly** [*ekklesia* in the LXX] of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword (Judges 20:2).

And all this **assembly** [*ekklesia* in the LXX] shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD’S, and he will give you into our hands (1 Samuel 17:47).

And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the **congregation** [*ekklesia* in the LXX] of Israel stood) (1 Kings 8:14).

In the New Testament this concept of the called out assembly is expanded. The church is:

1. The whole body of believers:

Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God (1 Corinthians 10:32).

For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it (Galatians 1:13).

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:28). (See also Ephesians 4:11-16.)

2. A group of believers assembled in a home for worship:

Likewise greet the church that is in their house (Romans 16:5).

Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house (Colossians 4:15). (See also Philemon 2; 1 Corinthians 16:19.)

3. Believers living or assembling in a city or a specific location:

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers (Acts 13:1).

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours (1 Corinthians 1:2).

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write (Revelation 2:8).

4. Groups of congregations:

And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of *Galatia* (Galatians 1:2).

For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in *Judaea* are in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 2:14).

Then had the churches rest throughout all *Judaea* and *Galilee* and *Samaria*, and were edified (Acts 9:31).

5. Finally Paul indicates that the faithful in heaven are also a part of the church of God:

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put

all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:20-22).

In each of these cases, we see that the church is never a chapel, denomination, conference, or anything other than a group of believers.

The Bible declares that the church is a sacred institution. It is not of men but of God and belongs to him. It is called “the church of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 10:32; 11:22; 15:9; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:13; 1 Timothy 3:5)” and “the church of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15).” The churches collectively are said to be “The churches of Christ (Romans 16:16).” Jesus “gave himself for” the church (Ephesians 5:25) and, as such, can be said to be the possessor of the churches.

The first mention of the church after Matthew is in the book of Acts. As a result of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, we read: “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47).” Verse 41 states that “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.” Here we see three thousand souls were added unto them or the disciples, but in verse 47 it states that the Lord added to the church; therefore, the church is an equivalent expression to the disciples or the believers. It may be noted that the expression “unto them” in verse 41 is italicized in the King James Version, showing that it is an added expression to help clarify the text. If we remove it, the text reads “there were added about three thousand souls” and verse 47 states that they were added to the church. Clearly, the souls became part of the church that they were added to.

Now let us return to the first mention of church in the Bible. It is found in Matthew 16. Jesus had questioned the disciples about the popular opinion concerning himself, and, after receiving their answer, he straightly asked them who they thought he was. “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16).” Jesus went on to declare, “Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:17, 18).”

Some people teach that the rock the church would be built upon was Peter, but this cannot be, for the gates of hell did prevail over him the night he denied Jesus. Furthermore, the name Peter is *Petros* (πέτρος) which means a stone, but the word that is used for the “rock” that Jesus would build his church upon is *petra* (πέτρα) which means a large stone. There is a city in Jordan named Petra which was carved out of a huge, solid-rock mountain and is thus named Petra.

But what was the rock (*petra*) upon which Jesus would build his church? Jesus said, “Upon *this* rock I will build my church.” What is “this rock”? The word “this” indicates that it is something that has been introduced before in the discussion. Now it is true that Jesus is called the rock that led the children of Israel (1 Corinthians 10:4) and he is called the

chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20), but this does not meet the context of Matthew 16. The only thing that meets the context is the confession of Peter, and that confession was that Jesus is the Son of God. Ellen White noted:

Peter had expressed the truth which is the *foundation of the church’s faith* (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 413; all emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted).

A foundation is that which something is built upon. That upon which Christ would build his church is the truth that he is the Son of the living God. Christ would build his church, but it did not appear fully structured and complete all at one time. In the book of Acts we see Christ, piece-by-piece, adding to his church which has as the central foundational doctrine the revelation that Jesus is the Son of the living God. Historians admit that the doctrine of the trinity was unknown in the times of the apostles and did not develop until almost 300 years after the time of Jesus. How could he have founded his church on the trinity, if this teaching did not exist during the time of the apostles? Of course, it was not founded on the trinity and could not have been, for it is in direct opposition to the doctrine of Jesus being the Son of God.

When God began the Advent movement, he gave our pioneers a platform or foundation of eternal truth, not one of errors and fables. Notice the inspired history of the movement:

As a people, we are to stand firm on the platform of eternal truth that has withstood test and trial. We are to hold to the sure pillars of our faith. The principles of truth that God has revealed to us are our only true foundation (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 201; 1904).

This testimony was written in 1904 and states that there was a “platform of eternal truth,” truth that we are to stand upon that will not change! These principles were given by God and “are our only true foundation.” She also wrote:

The principles for which we fought in the early days, and which were brought out in the power of the Holy Spirit (*Ibid.*, p. 206).

Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His Word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority (*Ibid.*, p. 208).

Here Ellen White speaks of “fundamental principles” and says that they are of “unquestionable authority.” This is an authority that only God has and is further evidence that God is the author of these fundamental principles. The first fundamental principles were published by the church in 1872 and

were anti-trinitarian and are acknowledged as so by the corporate church in the book, *Issues*, page 39. Ellen White also noted:

The truths given us after the passing of the time in 1844 are just as certain and unchangeable as when the Lord gave them to us in answer to our urgent prayers. The visions that the Lord has given me are so remarkable that we know that what we have accepted is the truth. This was demonstrated by the Holy Spirit. Light, precious light from God, established the main points of our faith as we hold them today (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 53; Letter 50, 1906).

Ever we are to keep the faith that has been substantiated by the Holy Spirit of God from the earlier events of our experience until the present time (*Upward Look*, p. 352; December 4, 1905).

I know and understand that we are to be established in the faith, in the light of the truth given us in our early experience. At that time one error after another pressed in upon us; ministers and doctors brought in new doctrines. We would search the Scriptures with much prayer, and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds. Sometimes whole nights would be devoted to searching the Scriptures, and earnestly asking God for guidance. Companies of devoted men and women assembled for this purpose. The power of God would come upon me, and I was enabled clearly to define what is truth and what is error (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, pp. 319, 320; Letter 50, 1906).

These testimonies all declare that the truths we had in the time era of 1904-1906 were truths that we had from the earliest days of our establishment and had been given by the Holy Spirit of God, point-by-point as the brothers and sisters came together to study the Bible and pray. During the transition from the 19th century to the 20th century, Ellen White was not advocating a new faith in the experience of the Advent people, as is commonly taught today, but rather she was calling for a retaining of the faith once delivered to the saints.

Of course, light is to increase: "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day (Proverbs 4:18)." New light, however, does not change the old light; it only makes it brighter and clearer. This certainly could not be said of the teaching of the trinity compared to the truth the Adventist pioneers understood about God and Christ. Their position was not one of a Triune coequal, co-eternal, consubstantial god, but of one of God, the Father, who is the Supreme Being of the universe, and Jesus Christ his literal, begotten Son.

Paul, writing to Timothy, declared: "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15)." God's church is to be a pillar and stay or foundation (margin) of

truth. This could hardly be said of the trinity, which is built upon tradition and the teachings of men. Notice this admission by the harlot:

Our opponents [Protestants] sometimes claim that no belief should be held dogmatically which is not explicitly stated in scripture (ignoring that it is only on the authority of the Church we recognize certain Gospels and not others as true). But the Protestant churches have themselves accepted such dogmas as the Trinity for which there is no such precise authority in the Gospels. . . (Graham Green, "The Catholic Church's New Dogma: The Assumption Of Mary," *Life Magazine*, October 30, 1950).

Jesus said that he would build his church upon truth and not tradition. Ellen White, speaking of the church, states:

The church is God's fortress. His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. *From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth.* In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a *faithful testimony* to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 11).

Here Ellen White noted that it is "*faithful souls* . . . who have borne a *faithful testimony*" that make up the church.

In 1886 Ellen White visited Europe and saw sights firsthand upon which her eyes had never before gazed. Cathedrals and state churches were something she had only read about or seen in vision, but now she experienced these things firsthand, and she wrote to her sister and brother-in-law about what she saw. With this background in her mind, she stated:

God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). Where Christ is even among the humble few, this is Christ's church, for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church (The Upward Look, p. 315).

This understanding perfectly agrees with what we read of those who give the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. Verse 12 states that they "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." The remnant, according to Revelation 14:6, will share the "everlasting gospel." This cannot be done with the trinitarian doctrine! The remnant will also be preaching the truth about the beast and will not have ecumenical talks that last fifteen years, as was recently done in Poland,

to find agreement with the harlot!* Revelation 12:17 and 19:10 also reaffirm the keeping of the commandments and declare that the spirit of prophecy will be a part of the true church of God. Sadly today in Adventism very little is said about the spirit of prophecy, and in some churches it is set aside and even downgraded!

Surely Christ's church will keep all ten of his commandments and not just eight or nine! To worship a false God such as the trinity might be excused in times of ignorance, but those times of ignorance are surely past. We are supposed to be living in the time of the remnant when the light of God's glory is to go throughout the whole earth; the time when the 144,000 are being made up, a group that has "no guile (Revelation 14:5)" in their mouths. The Greek word for guile is *dolos* (δολος) and it means deceit or bait. Bait is used to capture something surreptitiously. The bait promises something good but only brings disaster. The trinity claims to bring something good but only brings ruin in the end.

As we noted earlier, Christ builds his church upon truth. His people have not yet achieved perfection, but Christ has a plan to bring his people to a final maturity where it will be truly said that there is no guile in them. Paul states when Jesus returns for his church that it will be "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing (Ephesians 5:27)." While this might not fully be the case today, the work of the final atonement is sure. The outpouring of the latter rain is soon to come in its fullest sense, and the church will be brought to perfection.

God's church has a city it will call home—the New Jerusalem. God the Father is the ruler and he will be worshipped there especially on his holy day, the Sabbath. The people of the world are members of a mystical city called Babylon. Babylon has a god called the trinity, and, interestingly, the day dedicated to the trinity is Sunday! (See *Douay Catechism*.)

It is God's purpose to see his people transformed into his likeness and character. The character of God is one of love (1 John 4:8, 16). This love was manifested by the gift of his only begotten Son (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9, 10). As we behold this love, we will become changed into the same image (2 Corinthians 3:18). Clearly it is Satan's purpose to keep our eyes off of the real Jesus and onto something that would not, could not, change us into the character of God. The trinity doctrine, which denies the Father and Son relationship, is truly the doctrine of antichrist (1 John 2:22, 23). If Satan can keep us where we continue to hear this lie over and over, it will eventually be believed.

Babylon is built upon the great false lie of the trinity. The papacy boldly declares, "The mystery of the *Trinity* is the *central doctrine of Catholic faith*. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church (*Handbook for Today's Catholic*, p. 16)."

God does not leave any room for doubt as to what relationship he wishes his people to have to Babylon. In Revelation 14:8 he declares:

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication (Revelation 14:8).

God says that Babylon is a fallen city and he tells us how we shall relate to Babylon. In Revelation 18:1-4 we read:

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

Brothers and sisters, can you see what company one keeps in Babylon? *It is a dwelling place of devils and foul spirits!* If you knew that there was a demon living in your house right now and you could not find a way to drive this demon out, would you continue to live there? Would you stay in this house during the day or even go into it? I dare say that you would not even venture to go inside for a moment. There is not just one demon, however, in Babylon but every evil angel (called foul or unclean spirits in Mark 9:25; 12:43). Furthermore, Babylon is called a cage or holding place of every unclean and hateful bird. Isaiah prophesied that literal Babylon would become a desolation where the owls would live (Isaiah 13:21; 14:23). Barnes New Testament Notes states: "Spiritual Babylon—Papal Rome (#Re 14:8) will be reduced to a state of utter desolation resembling that of the real Babylon." Babylon is a place of utter spiritual desolation and the habitation of demons. Is this the kind of place you desire to live and where you wish your children to live?

Furthermore, we are told that those who do not come out of Babylon will finally become partakers of her sins and receive of her plagues. All who receive of the plagues will finally be lost. The issue is very serious. Today there are many who have learned the truth about God who believe that they can stay in the mainline Seventh-day Adventist Church and still do God's will and not be affected by the influences around them. We must remember, however, that by beholding we will become changed (2 Corinthians 3:18) and God will not be mocked (Galatians 6:7). We have been counseled:

I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither

young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness (*Early Writings*, pp. 124, 125).

While God may send some for missionary work at times, we must be very careful to be sure we are in God's revealed will in such cases where we believe we can witness.

What about church membership? Is non-attendance without a withdrawal of membership acceptable in God's sight? Would it be proper or approved of God for one to remain a member of the Catholic Church once they learn the truth as long as they do not attend mass? Could one belong to the Masonic Lodge and not attend and be approved of God?

Even though you may not feel able to speak a word to those who are working on wrong principles, leave them. Your withdrawal and silence may do more than words. Nehemiah refused to associate with those who were untrue to principle, and he would not permit his workmen to associate with them. The love and fear of God were his safeguard. He lived and worked as in view of the unseen world. And David said, "I have set the Lord always before me."

Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone. Thus, as did Moses, you will endure the seeing of Him who is invisible. But a cowardly and silent reserve before evil associates, while you listen to their devices, makes you one with them. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty (*The Review and Herald*, May 9, 1899)."

Beloved, Revelation 14:8 and 18:4 are very plain. You can, of course, say that I do not know God's sovereign will for you, but I tell you the truth that God does know and if you disregard the plain words of inspiration, ruin is sure. (In the light of this, it would be enlightening to read Ellen White's testimony concerning her brother's death, as recorded in *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 2, pages 163-164.)

God's plan is for his people to live in the New Jerusalem, (we begin living there now spiritually according to Hebrews 12:22), to worship the true God on the Sabbath, and to become changed into his same righteousness, by faith, as we behold his righteousness and have Jesus living in us. Satan's

plan, however, is for you to be in Babylon, to worship the trinity on Sunday based upon tradition wherein is no sanctifying power, and to become like Satan as you behold him.

The true church of God today will preach the second and fourth angels' messages. It must be so. While this is not popular today, it has never been popular to call the fallen and nominal churches Babylon or a daughter of Babylon; however, as we have noted, those who remain in Babylon will be finally lost. In speaking of the last days, Jesus said to "remember Lot's wife (Luke 17:32)." She lived in the spiritual Babylon of her day, and because of her attachment to it she was tragically lost. Today many still cling to spiritual Babylon. Why? I sadly believe it is because the experience of salvation in Christ alone is lacking and that these people have been clinging to "the church" in a Catholic-like effort to find salvation. Beloved, "the church" is not the ark of safety, only Jesus is, and if we are in step with Jesus we can be sure he will bring us into fellowship with him and the Father and with their church. Nowhere in inspiration are we told that the church provides our salvation. We are to look to Jesus, to his saving merits and sacrifice. We are to look to heaven and see him in the Most Holy Place as our High Priest making intercession for us today. We can have the courage to leave Babylon when we realize that our salvation is not in it and neither is our Leader!

Beloved, if we value our eternal lives, we cannot stay where it is not safe spiritually. Every Sabbath, in thousands of pulpits across the world, the Adventist people are being rocked into a spiritual sleep by preachers teaching a new theology, and many of the people do not know the truth from error.

I could tell you story after story of experiences where church members have learned and acknowledged the truth about God and realized that there is apostasy in the denomination but have failed to admit that the denomination is apostate. They hear lies spoken about their heavenly Father and about Jesus and say little to nothing in defense of them, but when someone says something that seems to be an insult to the "church" they take open offense. These people do not wish to live with devils but cannot seem to bring themselves to admit the truth of Revelation 18:2.

Some people will proclaim that there is apostasy and will try to arouse the people but are unable to face the full picture. I recently received an electronic newsletter from a well-known independent Adventist minister. He was decrying the state of affairs in the church and all the new theology that has entered into the ranks of the professed people of God, but he has failed to realize it is the trinity doctrine, a doctrine in which he believes, that is the root problem from which stems all the new theology and apostasy. Yet, there is no clear message from this minister to come out and be not a partaker of her sins or receive her plagues.

But there is no union between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness, and there can be no union between their followers. When Christians consented to unite with

those who were but half converted from paganism, they entered upon a path which led further and further from the truth. Satan exulted that he had succeeded in deceiving so large a number of the followers of Christ (*The Great Controversy*, p. 45).

The early Christians who saw the papacy developing also saw the absolute necessity of separating from the apostate church.

It required a desperate struggle for those who would be faithful to stand firm against the deceptions and abominations which were disguised in sacerdotal garments and introduced into the church. The Bible was not accepted as the standard of faith. The doctrine of religious freedom was termed heresy, and its upholders were hated and proscribed.

After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. *They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children's children.* To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. *If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war (Ibid.).*

Perhaps you remember reading statements by Ellen White about the church and its secure position and that it may appear to fall but does not. The sinners in Zion will be sifted out, it is proclaimed. We are to stay in Zion and not move, but how do we relate to statements such as:

Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. *The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out--the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place (The Upward Look, p. 356).*

Though it may be a "desperate struggle" for you to leave Babylon, you dare not remain. In reading such a statement, we must remember that the inspired definition for the church was not the great cathedral, the national establishment, or even a denomination, but "it is the people who love God and keep His commandments." It is "faithful souls." Faithful souls will not be sifted out or shaken out, but who are said to be shaken and out of what are they to be shaken?

One of Ellen White's early references to the shaking came from a vision given on January 26, 1850. In this vision, she noted:

The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold

and unyielding stand for the truth, and to sacrifice for God and His cause (The Present Truth, April 1, 1850).

The time is important to note. She is not talking about being shaken out of the Adventist church denomination here. That would be impossible, for the church denomination was not formed for another thirteen years. The context of what they are shaken out of is truth. Those who will not stand for truth are shaken out of the truth. Even after the Adventist denomination had been formed for more than twenty-five years, Ellen White wrote:

Why is it that we find men *leaving the faith*? Are we in a position where we shall know what we believe, and *shall not be shaken out*? That *souls leave the truth* should not discourage us in the least, but only make us seek more earnestly for the blessing of God (*The Review and Herald*, April 9, 1889).

Here again the issue is not leaving a *church* in the sense of a denomination but rather "leaving the faith" or "souls [that] leave the truth." Ellen White is speaking of being shaken out of the movement of God and left on the wayside because truth and faith were lost!

But did not Ellen White say that the church received God's supreme regard? Yes, she did. Notice:

During ages of spiritual darkness the church of God has been as a city set on a hill. From age to age, through successive generations, *the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders.* Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is *the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard.* It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12).

Usually the first two sentences in this quotation are not included, and we are told that though the church is defective and feeble it is still the object of God's love. We agree, but we should also read the second sentence, for it qualifies the true church. It says that "the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders." So, the true church that is the "theater of His grace" which has God's "supreme regard" is the church that has the pure doctrines of heaven and not devilish doctrines of hell like the trinity doctrine!

It might be said that since truth is progressive and the unfolding takes time we must allow for growth and that the heresies now in the body of believers will finally be removed. My brothers and sisters, we are not living in the time of Martin Luther. We are living in the time of the sealing. We are living in a time over 150 years since Ellen White declared that we were given a platform of eternal truth! If we have not advanced in the light since 1850 shame on us, but *condemnation* upon us if we have retreated, backslidden, and finally accepted the foundation of the great whore for our church!

We face a similar situation today that the early Christian church faced. Judaism had been called and raised up by God.

It was God's "church" or assembly for almost two millennia. Abraham was called out of Ur and his family became the nation of Israel. Israel was called and named of God. They were "the apple of his eye (Zechariah 2:8)." And Israel had received a special promise from God:

Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

Year in and year out, the sun and moon would rise and set, the tides would come in and go out, and the heavens could not be measured. The Jews felt that there were the favorites of heaven and could never lose that position.

The Jewish people cherished the idea that they were the favorites of heaven, and that they were *always to be exalted as the church of God*. They were the children of Abraham, they declared, and so firm did the foundation of their prosperity seem to them that they defied earth and heaven to dispossess them of their rights (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 294).

When Jesus left the temple for the last time and declared "Behold, *your house* is left unto you desolate (Matthew 23:38)," you can be sure that the Jewish leaders got out the scroll of Jeremiah and read the above quoted verses and confidently declared: "Jesus is an imposter! He has spoken against the sacred Scripture. He says the temple is not God's house any more. This is blasphemy!"

What the Jews had failed to realize was that the promise of Jeremiah was based upon the people experiencing the new covenant—having God's law written in their heart! It was to a people in whose hearts God's law was written that the promise was made. (See Jeremiah 31:31-34.) These people did not have God's law in their hearts; they were, at that very time, planning the murder of the Son of God. The prophecy of Daniel 9:24 that set the time of the Jewish nation for seventy prophetic weeks was also disregarded. When Stephen was stoned, the last drop of corporate mercy was gone for the nation of Israel as the seventy weeks expired.

Today there are statements of Ellen White that some see as free passes for the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church. After all, we are told, "she is Laodicea and there is no eighth church." We hear, "The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall," but as we saw earlier, it is imperative to know the inspired definition of the term *church*. Jeremiah did not give the Jews a blank check for apostasy or sin and neither did Ellen White give it to the Advent people. Yet, the Adventist Church declares that the God who says, "I change

not (Malachi 3:6)" changed and will now do something for corporate Adventism that he would not do for Judaism. No, no, no! We need to be far better students of the Spirit of Prophecy if we believe this.

During the 1901 General Conference session, changes were made in our constitution that Ellen White says heaven approved. One of the big issues was the office of General Conference president. Ellen White stated in 1896 that "It is not wise to choose one man as president of the General Conference (*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 341)." She knew the church was becoming hierarchical, and instead of the Holy Spirit controlling the work, men were becoming the leaders. The brethren finally took action, and during the 1901 General Conference they set up a new constitution without a General Conference president. Ellen White noted, concerning the events of the conference, "If any people have reason to praise God, we have. Angels of God have been at work here (*General Conference Bulletin*, April 25, 1901)."

Sadly, this change only lasted two years. In 1903 a new constitution brought back the office of the General Conference president. From this meeting in Oakland, California, Ellen White went to St. Helena and with this backdrop wrote the testimony found in volume 8 of *Testimonies for the Church*, pages 247-251, entitled: "Shall We Be Found Wanting?" In this testimony, she makes it very clear that the church would have no free ride to heaven regardless of what it did and that the church would be judged and the decision was not already chosen or fixed into stone. Notice the wording of this firm testimony from God's unflinching and uncompromising servant:

In the balances of the sanctuary *the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: "Found wanting." By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged.*

Who can truthfully say: "Our gold is tried in the fire; our garments are unspotted by the world"? I saw our Instructor pointing to the garments of so-called righteousness. Stripping them off, He laid bare the defilement beneath. Then He said to me: "Can you not see how they have pretentiously covered up their defilement and rottenness of character? 'How is the faithful city become an harlot!' My Father's house is made a house of merchandise, a place whence the divine presence and glory have departed! For this cause there is weakness, and strength is lacking (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 247, 251)."

In this testimony it is very clear that she is writing about the "visible" corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church will be held accountable in direct proportion to the great light she has had. If her experience would not come up to

the level of her light, she would be found wanting! Then she says that she “saw our [divine] Instructor,” Jesus himself, declaring that the once “faithful city” had “become an harlot!”

We are living almost one hundred six years since this testimony was written. Since time and place must be considered, let us ask ourselves: “Is the church more spiritual today than it was in 1903?” You may say, “We now number our members in the millions not just a few thousand.” This is true, but members of Catholicism number at the billion mark. You can say, “We have many great institutions” but so does the papacy. What have we done with the truth about God? It has been discarded as an old horse and buggy. What about our sanctuary doctrine and the nature of Christ? They have been sold to the evangelicals for an ecumenical mess of pottage. What about our stand on the Spirit of Prophecy? It can be taken when convenient or, better yet, forgotten.

In fact, as we review the three angels’ messages we can see that we have forsaken each part in greater or lesser degrees. Are we really accountable for this? Writing in volume 9 of *Testimonies for the Church*, Ellen White states:

In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import--the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.

The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God’s people are to be true to the trust committed to them (p. 19).

Adventism has the truth of the everlasting gospel entrusted to it. What have we done with it? There is a very large offshoot that claims to be the true church because they have a copyright on the name and will sue anyone who tries to use it, but according to the Bible and according to the Testimonies this offshoot is not and cannot be the true church. God still has a church, though! It is the Advent movement that holds onto the original platform of eternal truth. This movement has a purpose and mission:

The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to “the principalities and powers in

heavenly places,” the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10 (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9).

Beloved, the corporate offshoot is in no position to cry against the harlot because they are sleeping in bed with her. They cannot proclaim God’s love in final and full display while teaching the trinity doctrine! Those who refuse to leave Babylon will finally be lost in its destruction. We can claim the corporate offshoot is not part of Babylon if we wish, but the evidence shows otherwise, and why should we try to live as close to the edge of Babylon as possible when we can follow the command of God and come out? Remember Lot’s wife!

Allen Stump

*In February of 2000 it was reported that the Adventist Church had spent fifteen years in dialog with the papacy concerning relations. In these talks both sides affirmed “a need to cultivate respect for each other and learn to understand each other.” According to a report given on the Adventism World News at that time, the dialogue was “conducted on the basis of partnership, care to uphold a full identity of both sides, as well as their autonomy and independence, in the spirit of mutual respect and Christian love, and in recognition of the ideals of tolerance and religious freedom.”

“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her (Revelation 18:3)”

(Next Month: “The Mystery of God and the Second Angel’s Message.”)



The Red Flag’s Waving Now Available

We are pleased to announce that we now have copies of Bill Stringfellow’s book, *The Red Flag’s Waving*. Today we use a “red flag” as a metaphor, a figure of speech, to tell us something is wrong or there is a real danger. Within the past few years, we have seen a red flag waving, and it has been absolutely amazing. As you read this provocative booklet, you will discover what caused Pastor Stringfellow to see a red flag waving. You’ll see it too and be glad you did.

This forty page booklet on the truth about God is written in Bill’s interesting manner and style. You will want to have a copy for yourself and extras to share.



The Grace of Life

By Onycha Holt

As Christian women, we are all familiar with Paul's counsel for women to be subject to their husbands, even as Sarah was subject to Abraham and called him Lord, and perhaps we have grappled with an apparently unsympathetic and even chauvinistic bent to Paul that seems to leave little room for any other type of male-female relationships. For example, we read in the letter to the Ephesians: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. . . . Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. . . . and the wife see that she reverence her husband (Ephesians 5:22, 24, 33)." Peter reinforces this concept with: "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation [lifestyle] of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear (1 Peter 3:1, 2)."

There is sometimes little solace to be found in the verses Peter addresses to men: "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered (1 Peter 3:7)." No one likes to be compared to someone else and be found wanting, and then to have that lack used as the reason for being shown respect. It just doesn't make sense until you understand what Peter is really saying.

Peter is advising the husband to give honor to the wife not just because she is weaker (which she is physically) and not just so that his prayers are not hindered, but also because she is an heir together with him of the "grace of life." What, however, is this "grace" of life? Among other texts, we know that we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), that the grace of God was upon Jesus as he grew (Luke 2:40), that "we are justified freely by his grace (Romans 3:24)," and that "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Romans 5:20)," but this is not the kind of grace to which Peter is referring in 1 Peter 3:7. In these examples we see the *grace of God*, but Peter is talking about a *grace of life*. This is a grace that affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, and loveliness to life. Together the husband and wife have the opportunity to share a life that is full of these blessings, and because of this they will want to honor each other in the biblically-prescribed ways, for each one contributes to the life they share. The husband is to love his wife just as Christ loves the church, and when the wife is loved in such a complete and unselfish way, it will be her joy and desire to submit to the leading and headship of her husband.

Paul says the same thing, just in a way that may not be as evident. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it. . . ."

Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself (Ephesians 5:28, 29, 33)." How can loving your wife demonstrate your love for yourself? According to this, loving your wife benefits you because it is loving yourself and that seems to hint of an ulterior motive, but this is clarified by going back to Paul's first thought where he says men are to love their wives as they love their own bodies. It is obvious that the husband loves his own body because he keeps it clean, feeds it, and gives it enough rest, and as long as he does not prevent his wife from doing the same thing, it may seem he is in compliance with Paul's injunction. Or on the opposite end of thought, one could unrealistically think that because he does these things for his own body, he needs to do them literally for his spouse too. So, he must, in a concrete sense, feed her, wash her, and put her to bed. If she is incapable of doing these things for herself, perhaps due to a stroke or other illness, then he does need to do these things for her or see that they are done, but if she is able to care for herself, we can see the foolishness of interpreting Paul's counsel in such a literal way. But what about the first thought that as long as the husband provides food, shelter, and water for his wife it is sufficient fulfillment of the biblical command to love his wife as himself?

Let us first look at the example of Jesus. How does he care for us? He provided manna for the Israelites, but they had to gather it. He provided water for them but not in a glass on the table. Jesus does not do the journeying for us, but he provides protection along the way. So, there is a partnership involved between Jesus and us. In like manner, there is a partnership between the husband and his wife. He needs to provide the resources and opportunities necessary for his wife to accomplish her tasks, just as Jesus provided the manna and the water from the rock for his people but did not do the work for them. The husband does not need to literally do everything for his wife that he does for himself in order to be in compliance with Paul's counsel, but there is more. Let us look at the example of how the Father and the Son relate.

Jesus demonstrated pure and unselfish love while here on earth, but it was a revelation of the Father's love. It was not something Jesus did on his own and through his own means. He was constantly connected with the Father, and his work on earth was deeply interwoven with the work of the Father in heaven. Together, in an intimate relationship, they worked for the salvation of the human race by a revelation of the height, the depth, and the grandeur of the Father's love which was displayed by the Son. As another example, the Father is the Creator of all things, but he accomplished creation by means of his Son. The two of them worked closely together in the creation of this earth. The Father did not just give the Son the opportunity to create and then stand back and not be involved. He told Christ just what to do and the Son was submissive to the Father's will and did it. Throughout the Bible we see the Father and the Son working in partnership for the benefit of mankind.

Since we are made in the image of God, creativity is one aspect of God that we can also experience to a very limited degree. Under God's influence and guidance, creativity helps to provide good mental health. We can, among other things, be creative with music; with physical artwork; with words, written and spoken; with work in the kitchen, garden, and workshop, among other things; and most of the time this creative process is something that is shared only by the individual and God. It is not something that one human being can do for another. God is the author of all good things and "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17)." We have the precious privilege of being used by God to bring beauty and truth into the lives of others, but we must be closely and intimately interwoven with him to do so. In the Garden of Eden, part of God's counsel to Adam and Eve was that they were to stay in close proximity with one another. Even though they might each be working individually with plants or other individual things in the Garden, they were to be doing so close to the other. It was in this way that they would find added safety from Satan. So, the principle is that there are some things we do individually, but we do so in close proximity to our partner, and if the husband, for example, must leave the home for employment, he must provide a safe place physically and spiritually for his wife and family to be in while he is gone, for this is how he would treat himself.

So, while there are things that the husband must do for the wife such as getting the washing machine moved in because it is usually too heavy for her and there are certain things he cannot do for his wife such individual creative acts that only she can do under God's guidance, there are also things that can be physically done by either of them or by both of them together. What is the biblical example in this case? I return again to Paul's admonition: "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies (Ephesians 5:28)." When alone, does the man open the door for his own body to go through it? Of course. So, ought he to do for his wife if he is in her presence. This isn't just chivalry. This is Bible command. If he were going to drive to town and the car was covered with snow and ice, would he clean the snow and ice off before he left? Of course. So ought he to do for his wife. Men often decry the growing independence of women, but I fear women are many times forced to be independent because the men in their lives do not supply godly love to them. The husband cannot do everything for his wife, of course. Work is a blessing, and men and women both need to partake of it, but whenever the husband can do thoughtful things to show his appreciation to his wife, it will endear him to her. It helps make their home full of the "grace" of life, and he will be fulfilling the Bible command.

The work as a husband is not done until his wife rests in the evening. No more sitting at the television or with a book while she toils in the house. You must treat her as your own body; however, the Bible presents a very sweet balance.

Women cannot just receive these treasures from their husbands; they must also give. God created Eve to be a help meet to Adam, and the same principle is true today. No more sitting around with a book either while your husband is toiling, unless, of course, it is physical or creative work that you cannot do with him or if he directs you not to be involved. You see, God's original plan was for Adam and Eve to spend their time in close proximity with one another. Our world today sends each one in almost opposite directions for the better part of the day. There is little spiritual safety in this course, and it is very hard for love to be cultivated and nourished in such an environment.

Women have a great part to play in making the home a sweet haven of peace and joy. Being submissive to the leading of the husband goes a long way in bringing joy to him. This is our biblical command, and we can do it grudgingly or out of loving appreciation. Remember, God loveth a cheerful giver, and if we are having a hard time being a cheerful giver, God will help us if we ask, for he has promised to comfort us, to never leave us, and to help us in our time of need.

One might wonder which comes first, the husband's love to the wife or the wife's submission to the husband? In answer, let us consider why we love God. "We love him, because he first loved us (1 John 4:19)." We are not submissive to him first and then he loves us. There is nothing that we can do that will generate God's love toward us in any way. He loves us first, and in response to that unsurpassed love, we love him back and show that love by obedience to his will, by submission, if you please. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)." And it is the same in human relationships. The burden is on the shoulders of the husband to show love first, for this is what Christ did, and when this godly love is received in the heart of the wife, she will do the same that we all do to Christ, willingly submit to his headship. Christianity is the only religion in the world that understands such love. Judaism cannot, for it does not know the love of the Father in giving his Son and the love of the Son in giving his life. Islam is a religion that teaches power and control in relationships instead of love and service. Buddhism is a religion of self improvement (works) void of the help of God. Confuciusism centers on morality but has no belief in God. Shintoism focuses on spirits and nature, Taoism on ethics, etc. Only the love of Christ can change the stony heart into a heart of flesh, a heart full of spiritual life.

A life of grace is offered to each one of us. It starts with the house-band of the home drawing the help meet and children close to him with godly love so that all are under the headship of Christ. The love of the Father becomes the source of every action, the heartbeat of every life, creating a little heaven on earth, where the husband is bent on serving the wife and the wife is eager to help the husband, and just as the angels ever bow before the throne of God ready to fulfill his commands, so each will be ever ready to serve and please the other.

Ornycha Holt

Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate

We belong to God first by creation and second by redemption. The Apostle Paul states, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own (1 Corinthians 6:19)?” Paul further states, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (Romans 12:1).” Since we twice belong to God, it is very reasonable that we serve him and give our lives to him.

Taking proper care of ourselves through health reform is important. We are living in a time when our minds are so dull that we need the best health possible to be able to clearly discern spiritual matters. Many years ago, Ellen White counseled us against the use of two items as injurious to our health. Those two items are coffee and tea. So, since we are called upon to give glory and honor to God, let us take a look at both tea and coffee (as well as chocolate) to see if we can understand why the Lord, through his servant, gave this counsel.

Coffee and, tea, and cacao plants are evergreen trees or bushes that grow in the tropics or subtropics. The seeds or leaves of all three plants contain caffeine, a substance which causes the nerve cells to fire more rapidly and has a brain-stimulating effect that affects both behavior and mood. The knowledge of the stimulating effects of these three plants has a long history, going back thousands of years. Even animals have been given caffeine-containing products to improve their ability to work: “Weary horses and mules are given large vessels of tea to increase their capacity to work. Mules are said to be gamboling like colts as a result of their tea rations...The distance between villages is accounted for in terms of the number of cups of tea necessary to sustain the person traveling that route. It has been ascertained that three cups of tea is equal to eight kilometers (Quoted from William Emboden, the author of *Narcotic Plants*, in *Caffeine The Most Popular Stimulant*, p. 90).”

Coffee

No one disputes the fact that coffee contains large amounts of caffeine (unless decaffeinated) and that coffee is a major industry worldwide. This is due to one reason only—the physiological effects of caffeine on the human body. Its stimulating effect is known by athletes, by tired workers in general, and by sleepy people behind the wheels of their cars. It is one of the most popular drugs in the world. “Caffeine reaches almost every part of the body and therefore has the potential to affect most of the body’s functions (*Ibid.*, p. 101). Ellen White tells us: “All should bear clear testimony against tea and coffee, never using them. They are narcotics, injurious alike to the brain and to the other organs of the body (*Counsels on Diets and Foods*, p. 402).” Caffeine produces acute (short-term but often severe) effects on the cardiovascular system, on the digestive system, on

breathing, on energy expenditure, and on urination. It also affects the skeletal system and is related to bone loss and fracture risk, and, depending on the brewing method, it is related to increased levels of cholesterol (*Caffeine*, p. 353). Caffeine is a central nervous system stimulant and also stimulates gastric secretion and respiration. These are just a few of the results of caffeine on the human body.

Tea

Tea, second only to water in worldwide consumption, also contains caffeine, but using the word *tea* can be confusing, as there are many varieties of tea. As Seventh-day Adventists, we have been counseled concerning the use of tea: “Tea and coffee produce an immediate effect. Under the influence of these poisons the nervous system is excited; and in some cases, for the time being, the intellect seems to be invigorated, the imagination more vivid. Because these stimulants produce such agreeable results, many conclude that they really need them; but there is always a reaction. The nervous system has borrowed power from its future resources for present use, and all this temporary invigoration is followed by a corresponding depression. The suddenness of the relief obtained from tea and coffee is an evidence that what seems to be strength is only nervous excitement, and consequently must be an injury to the system (*Child Guidance*, p. 403).”

There are many herbal teas that lack caffeine, and their use is not contraindicated, except when used as a hot drink. “Hot drinks are not required, except as a medicine. The stomach is greatly injured by a large quantity of hot food and hot drink. Thus the throat and digestive organs, and through them the other organs of the body, are enfeebled (*Counsels on Diets and Foods*, p. 106).” What is contraindicated is the use of black teas, green teas, oolong tea, and instant teas which contain caffeine used in making iced teas. Even though vitamin C is found in green tea (five cups of Japanese green tea provides 25 to 30% of the recommended daily allowance), the presence of caffeine and the caffeine-like substances of theobromine and theophylline make it unsuitable as a beverage.

Chocolate

A typical cup of coffee contains about 80 mg of caffeine, a typical cup of tea 40 mg, and a 50 gm milk chocolate bar about 10 mg of caffeine, so many people think that because chocolate contains a noticeably smaller amount of caffeine than coffee and tea, it is safe to ingest. Chocolate, however, has a higher amount than coffee and tea of theobromine, a substance that “is similar to caffeine in structure and effect on the body [and] though it is only one-tenth as potent. . . cocoa and chocolate products typically have approximately 10 times as much theobromine as caffeine. Therefore, the caffeine-like effects produced by consuming a cocoa or chocolate product may be about twice as great as the effects

one might expect from the actual caffeine content (*Caffeine The Most Popular Stimulant*, p. 50).”

You may have read mission stories from Africa about a habit in which the Africans often engaged—chewing kola nuts. Kola nuts also contain theobromine, as well as caffeine, and they were chewed for the same physiological reasons that we use coffee, tea, and chocolate today. Satan knows the evils of general caffeine and theobromine use, and he has been promoting its indiscriminate use in cultures all over this world and across millennia, including in the Seventh-day Adventist Church today. Let’s come up to a higher standard and keep our bodies fit temples for the Holy Spirit.

Some Final Thoughts for Perspective

It should be noted that most soda drinks contain liberal amounts of caffeine. For example, a 12 oz can of Mountain Dew has 55 mg of caffeine, Pepsi has 37.5 mg, and Classic Coke 34 mg. More and more, we see these kinds of drinks being used among Adventists, but are they any better than coffee or tea? Besides the high amounts of caffeine, all soft drinks either contain large volumes of sugar (an average of 10 teaspoons/can) or, perhaps worse, artificial sweeteners.

When reading a compilation such as *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, Ellen White can seem to be a very stern person; however, she lived a balanced life, realizing that at times circumstances were not normal and something more than normal action was required. For example, there are two incidences of Ellen White seemingly going against her own counsel when she was seasick on a ship. In one instance, she drank tea as a medicine:

Once when crossing the waters I was sick and could retain nothing on my stomach and I did take a little weak tea as a medicine, but I don’t want any of you again to make the remark that “Sister White uses tea.” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, pp. 301, 302).

Ellen White also counseled against the use of meat, but on one trip she used “beef tea,” a drink made from slowly simmering round steak to become a medicine:

I remained on deck until dark, and then went into the cabin, where the pitching of the boat made me very sick. This was on Monday, and I was unable to sit up from that time until Thursday morning, taking but once during that time a little beef tea and cracker (*The Signs of the Times*, July 18, 1878).

To our knowledge, while Ellen White seemed to speak strongly against the use of coffee and tea except for the use of tea as a medicine, there appears to be no reference to chocolate in her writings. Grace Jacques, however, a granddaughter of Ellen White, testified what breakfast was like when she was a young girl at Elmshaven: “Now we often had a hot drink for breakfast, Postum, sometimes cocoa, which is really just chocolate flavored milk. We had a lot of milk (*Legacy of Light* CD published by the EGW Estate;

video clip VTMV04.avi).” From this testimony, Ellen White did not see the wrong in an occasional use of chocolate as she did in the use of coffee and tea. There is some research that would suggest that chocolate may have more than one health benefit; however, this should not be considered a license to indulge in chocolate, for one can be addicted to the substances in chocolate just as to those in coffee and tea. “Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth (Romans 14:22).”

Ornycha Holt


West Virginia Camp Meeting

With spring come thoughts of warm days and camp meeting! We will be hosting our annual camp meeting this year June 16-20 at the Smyrna Sabbath Chapel in West Virginia. As always, we keenly look forward to this special time of study, prayer, and fellowship, and we are very eager to see all of you once again. We are also very desirous to meet new friends and families. Please do not let anything prevent your attendance this June because time is short and more than ever we need to draw closer to one another and closer to our Redeemer. Our theme this year will be “The Three Angels’ Messages.” We are planning for this theme to be expanded in areas such as righteousness by faith, prophecy, and health reform, among others. We also hope to have a seminar on how to use Bible and Spirit of Prophecy computer software.

As always, there is no charge for attending or camping, but this is a camp meeting. There is plenty of room for tents and RVs, but no hook-ups. Sabbath afternoon lunch will be provided, but everyone is responsible for their remaining meals. There are local motels and stores within ten miles.

Some tentative speakers this year include Lynnford Beachy, Ed Cyrus, David Sims, Dr. Glenn Waite, Dr. William Van Grit, and Allen Stump.

Next month we will publish more details, but if you have any questions for now, you may call us at 304-732-9204 or email us at info@smyrna.org.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon. May God bless you to be able to attend. 

“Prayer Requests” continued from page 1

recuperate in Florida from his injury. Also, we humbly entreat your prayers as Pastor Allen leaves this month to attend the first anti-trinitarian council of the Ukraine and Russian brethren. May God richly pour out his Spirit in this meeting! He is working in a mighty way, and may all of us be found faithful when the final events wrap up in a rapid way and Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, returns to claim his people as his own!

Ornycha Holt

Julienne's Testimony

(Brother Elvis Alberto from Curaçao recently accompanied me on a trip to South America. The following is the testimony of his wife, Julienne, concerning God's watch care over her and their children while Brother Elvis was away.

Pastor Allen Stump)

I want to share this testimony with you. As you may know, we have a little farm at a village called Kenepa where we have all kinds of fruit trees and vegetables growing, and where we live at Westpunt we also have fruit trees and vegetables growing and three goats to take care of.

When Elvis left on the morning of February 6, I went in the yard and looked at all of the berries, papayas, mango, cowpeas and pigeon peas, trees, eggplants, pumpkins, and so on, not to mention the farm in Kenepa where there is much more of the same growing, and I wondered how I would be able to take care of all these things, knowing that the rainy season was over. The wind had started to blow hard, as is usual at this time of the year, and it had stopped raining. So, from now on we would have to water the plants ourselves. Elvis told me before he left to just do what I could until he returned.

With all this on my mind, I turned my eyes to heaven and cried out to my Heavenly Father and asked Him to please help me take care of the farm and home during Elvis' absence. If He would please give me a hand and help me water the plants and trees by letting it rain the whole month of February so that I would not need to water all the plants and trees, it would be a great help to me, even though I knew that the rainy season was over and that it was really time to harvest.

Well, brothers and sisters, the Lord not only gave me a hand but both hands and He watered the farm and the plants at home during the whole month of February so that I hardly had anything to do except some weeding!

To make the blessing even greater, our meteorology service gave their monthly report of rainfall for the month of February on March 4 and you know what it said? Since 1956 it hadn't rained so much in the month of February. Fifty-three years ago!!!! Can you believe it? The average rainfall in February is normally just 25 ml. This year on the 17th of last February it rained 135 ml. On one day it rained more than it usually rains for the whole month, filling all of what we call here dams, which are like artificial lakes. And it's not over yet. The meteorology service said that the area where we live got the bigger pack of rain than the rest of the island!

Amazing, isn't? See how specific the Lord is! I am very grateful and humbled with the way that my Father has answered my simple prayer. It is just amazing! And still it's not over yet.

I had asked the Lord to help me with the month of February, but by the beginning of March it stopped raining again. I once again turned my eyes to Heaven and asked my Father to

please help me this last week before Elvis' return, that it would still rain these last few days, and since yesterday [March 5], it is raining at the farm, and since today it is raining at home also. The Lord took charge once more.

And still it is not over yet! Before Elvis left, we harvested pumpkins, cowpeas and pigeon peas, eggplants, and so on. With all of this extra rain, there are many more pumpkins growing than before. The pigeon peas are budding again, as well as the cowpeas, and we will have a big harvest of cashew fruit. A big bed of peanuts is waiting to be harvested, and the okras are budding. So you see, the blessings just won't stop. We are very, very grateful and thankful for all that the Lord has done for us while Pastor Allen and Elvis were traveling through South America, sharing with our brothers and sisters there the truth about our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ our Lord our Saviour. ✍️

Tasty Recipe: Causa

A Recipe from Sister Karina Ashton in Chaclacayo, Peru

Boil 5 pounds of unpeeled yellow (or other) potatoes in salt water. Peel potatoes and put through a potato press or mash, leaving no chunks.

Knead the mashed potatoes with lemon juice and olive oil. Squeeze 5 juicy lemons to obtain 70 ml of juice (a little less than 1/3 cup) and slowly pour the lemon juice over the potatoes as you knead the potato dough. Slowly pour enough olive oil, as well, over the potatoes to keep the potato dough from sticking to your hands and to the counter. It must not stick. Once you have the dough divide into two equal parts. Take one half and stretch the potato dough out on a flat plate or platter.



Causa made by Karina Ashton

While cooking the potatoes, also cook 150 gm (1/3 pound) sweet peas, 150 gm (1/3 pound) broccoli, 300 gm (2/3 pound) chopped carrots, and 300 gm (2/3 pound) corn. Drain the vegetables. Mash 2-3 avocados to a creamy consistency and mix the avocados and vegetables together or use a vegan mayonnaise to mix with the vegetables. Spread the mixture carefully over the potato dough on your platter, flattening the mixture without breaking the potato bottom. Next stretch the other half of dough and spread the dough over top of the vegetables, stretching it carefully to cover the whole bottom part, including the edges. The mixed vegetables must not be seen.

Decorate the top with red pepper and cilantro or parsley and serve cold. Serves seven. Bon Appétit! ✍️

A Sign of the Times—World Pollution

“And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy *them which destroy the earth* (Revelation 11:17, 18).”

The Bible speaks of our accountability to God in our moral lives, but in Revelation 11 we see that God is going to hold people accountable for poor stewardship of the earth. The severity of the destruction of the earth by pollution is staggering. When one begins to understand the depths of the problems we face, it becomes amazing.

Nearly every nation on earth has problems with water, air, and/or land pollution, but no nation faces the degree of pollution that the nation of China faces, according to Professor Peter Navarro in his book *The Coming China Wars*. Notice some facts about China and its pollution to begin to understand part of the problems we face:

- China is home to 16 of the 20 most polluted cities in the world (p. 6).
- Of China’s 100 cities with more than a million people each, fully two-thirds fail to meet World Health Organization air-quality standards (p. 80).
- China is the world leader in sulfur dioxide emissions—the primary culprit responsible for smog. China’s highly toxic smog, or “chog,” not only reduces visibility, it also kills by attacking both the heart and lungs (p. 80).
- Chinese smog is sucked up into the jet stream and then travels as far away as Canada and the United States. Indeed, at times as much as 25% of the air pollution in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco originates in China (p. 78).
- China releases 600 tons of mercury into the air annually, nearly a fourth of the world’s non-natural emissions. Mercury destroys the nervous system (p. 80).
- China is the world leader in generating ozone-depleting substances (p. 80).
- An example of the severity of China’s self-inflicted air pollution crisis is the northeast Chinese city of Benxi. At one point this city, which burns roughly seven million tons of coal per year and produces more steel per capita than any other city in China, literally disappeared from satellite images because of the dense pollution (p. 77).
- Acid rain now falls over two-thirds of China’s land mass. Most of this acid rain is caused by sulfur dioxide emissions from China’s ubiquitous coal plants (p. 84).
- Much of the acid rain now falling on the forests, farmland, and rice fields of Japan, the Korean Peninsula, and Taiwan originates in China. “Chinese-made” acid rain is so bad that it approaches levels of acidity equal to that of vinegar (p.78).
- China is one of the most desert-plagued nations on Earth. Fully one-fourth of its land mass, primarily in the north-western part of the country, is desiccated dust. Within another 20 years, some experts predict that almost 40 percent of China will have been ground into sand. . .
- China’s tons of yellow dust are not merely sandblasting China’s neighbors and weighing down the regional economy, but these swirling toxic clouds are continuing at speeds of upward of 1,500 miles per day to complete their 7,000-mile journey to North American skies (pp. 85, 86).
- Japan, Korea, and Taiwan are now regularly pummeled by fierce sandstorms that deposit tons upon tons of toxic yellow dust across these neighboring lands. These dust storms first rise up in China’s Gobi Desert, suck up all manner of toxic pollutants as they pass over China’s industrial heartland, and then quite literally sandblast China’s neighbors (p. 78).
- China’s water pollution is so severe that it has reduced many of China’s lakes and many segments of its rivers to nothing more than turbid garbage bins and stinking, fluorescent green dead zones literally toxic to the touch. As a result, over half of the population—some 700 million Chinese—now drink water well below World Health Organization standards (p. 94).
- Across large swaths of China’s rapidly industrializing countryside, polluted water is killing tens of thousands of people every year, threatening the health of millions more, and cutting the crop yields of farmers who have few other economic resources to fall back on (*Financial Times*, as quoted by Navarro, p. 93).
- Each year China’s pollution kills close to a million Chinese, while 20 million more fall ill to a variety of respiratory and other ailments (p. 6).

In addition, we have these reports:

- Last summer, villagers complained that the Fuan Textiles mill in southern China had turned their river water dark red. Government authorities crawled through a hole in the concrete wall that surrounds the factory and discovered a pipe buried underneath the factory floor that was dumping roughly 22,000 tons of water contaminated from its dyeing operations each day into the nearby river. The textile industry is one of China’s dirtiest. In addition to heavy metals and various carcinogens, fabric dyes may contain high levels of organic materials, and thread is often dipped in starch before it is woven into fabric. The breakdown of large amounts of organic compounds such as starch can suck all the oxygen out of a river, killing fish, and turning the water into a stagnant sludge (Jane Spencer, *Wall Street Journal*, August 22, 2007).
- Bureau officials [in Taiwan] reminded people to wear hats or use umbrellas to avoid going bald as a result of the acid rain [fallout from China and possibly South Korea], adding that the acidity of rain in Keelung was only

slightly less acidic than vinegar (The Taipei Times, January 10, 2000).

In 2007 the Blacksmith Institute issued a report of the top ten most polluted places in the world. The pollution in these countries ranges from organic chemicals, mercury, particulates and gases, heavy metals, chromium, industrial effluents, radioactive materials, and lead, to chemicals and toxic byproducts. To view another list of the ten worst pollution problems, visit this slide show <http://www.newsweek.com/id/164813>. The more you research world pollution, the more serious and insurmountable the problems seem to be. Many countries are faced with staggering reclamation needs because of their history of disregard for nature and the environment.

Indigenous Indians of the Amazon rain forest in Ecuador, for example, are suffering following the exploitation of the petroleum reserves found in their native lands and the careless disregard for the pristine jungle environment in the disposal of the production waste by-products by an oil company in America and by a company in Ecuador. Even now, one of the world's largest gold miners, Canada's Barrick Gold Corporation, has received permits to mine gold high in the frozen Andes Mountains of Chile and Argentina. This would involve breaking up and physically removing glaciers to reach the frozen earth. Environmentalists, however, are seeking to stop this venture into another pristine environment because of the potential for destruction of the environment and for the probability of pollution that could take centuries to undo.

What part can you and I, as individual Christian citizens, play in reducing pollution in our own communities? Here are a few suggestions, gathered from several Internet sites. Much more can be found by searching ways to "Go Green." Also, the March, 2009 issue of *National Geographic* discusses these issues, and in the March/April, 2009 issue of *Vibrant Life* you will even find recipes in an article entitled "Green Cleaning" for an all-purpose cleaner, a furniture polish, a mopping solution, a bathroom cleaner, and a window cleaner. Let us, as Christian brothers and sisters, say no to pollution and yes to responsible caring for our environment.

Save energy resources by:

- Setting your thermostat a few degrees lower in the winter and a few degrees higher in the summer.
- Installing compact fluorescent light bulbs when your older incandescent bulbs burn out.
- Washing clothes in cold water whenever possible. As much as 85% of the energy used to machine-wash clothes goes to heating the water.
- Using a drying rack or clothesline to save the energy otherwise used during machine drying. If you must use a dryer, consider adding dryer balls to cut drying time.

Save water resources by:

- Taking shorter showers to reduce water use.

- Installing a low-flow showerhead. They are inexpensive and yield water and energy savings: as much as 280 gallons a month.
- Make sure you have a faucet aerator on each faucet. These inexpensive appliances conserve heat and water, while keeping water pressure high.
- Plant drought-tolerant native plants in your garden. Many plants need minimal watering.

Other ways to diminish pollution:

- Use less gasoline by walking, biking, car-pooling, and by combining errands into one car trip.
- Eat smart by eating vegetarian. Raising meat for market uses many more resources than raising vegetables and fruits.
- Bottled water generates large amounts of container waste, so use reusable water containers whenever possible.
- Buy in bulk, for this saves materials used in packaging and saves the energy used to fill and transport the smaller containers.
- Donate and recycle instead of trashing items and buy items made from recycled materials and buy second-hand items whenever possible.
- Use non-toxic dish cleaning liquids are now readily available in most large grocery stores.
- Use a laptop instead of a desktop computer, for they use considerably less power.
- Get off junk mail lists by registering with the Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference Service (dmaconsumers.org). You'll see a significant reduction in mail after three months.
- If you use disposable dinnerware, buy the kind that won't clog landfills or kill trees. Try EarthShell plates and bowls (earthshell.com).
- Choose energy efficient appliances. Look for the Energy Star label awarded to refrigerators, washers, and other products that exceed government efficiency standards by using less water or electricity.
- Support local farms and thus cut down the energy (and resultant emissions) used in transporting foods nationwide.
- Carry your own grocery bag and pay attention to packaging. Every American produces about four and a half pounds of garbage a day. So before you buy something, eyeball the amount of cardboard, plastic, and/or other materials used for the box or wrapping.
- Consider using solar chargers for recharging items.
- Use cast iron pans instead of Teflon-coated pans.
- Leave your shoes at the door—this cuts down on dust-born pollutants in the home.
- Buy products with natural fibers such as cotton and wool which are naturally flame-resistant and thus avoid the chemical flame retardant PBDE.

- Refuse to adorn your bodies with gold of any kind. More than 80% of the gold mined is used in the production of jewelry, and the pollution and environmental damage produced in mining gold is staggering.

We may not have very large spheres of influences to effect world pollution, but we should do whatever we can do in our homes and offices to reduce the spread and effects of pollution. It is true we each are not able to save the earth, but as good stewards, we have to do what we can and be faithful to the God of creation with the way we use his creation. We do not want to be found wanting before our Lord and Maker, as will the industry giants who have done much to destroy our earth.

Onycha Holt

Michael Woodward is Back!

We are very happy to announce that Michael Woodward has returned to Smyrna Gospel Ministries to help us in the print shop. He recently graduated from the Waldensian Center and has been a real blessing to us since his arrival the beginning of January. Before Pastor Allen departed for South America, Michael printed needed copies of *The Omega of Apostasy* and *The Red Flag's Waving*, and he assembled them while Pastor Allen was gone. Because of his help, Pastor Allen will be better able to work on many new projects we have envisioned, so we are very thankful for Michael's willingness to be part of our team.*



Michael Woodward

*We are eager to finish many projects, and Michael being here with us will help us to reach that endeavor. For example, we want to complete the Good News About God Series (one more DVD needed on the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church), and we have other DVD projects in mind for children, as well as adults. There are many books and booklets to write on topics that Pastor Allen has not had the time to address at length, and there are Lesson Studies on the Sanctuary, Righteousness by Faith, The Godhead, a set of children's Bible Studies, and more that we would like to see available for you. We also pray for new materials in Spanish to become available. All of this will take much time and more help is needed, but we eagerly look forward to hearing the hum of the press more and more and to seeing beautiful materials finally end up in your hands. Will you please pray with us that all of this can come to quick fruition, for time is very short!

Quiz on Genesis 45-48

1. What were the first reassuring words of Joseph to his brethren after he made himself known to them?
2. Whom did Joseph credit for sending him to Egypt and why?
3. What presents did Joseph give to his brothers?
4. What was Joseph's final counsel to his brethren before they returned to Jacob?
5. What did God tell Jacob in the visions of the night before he went to Egypt?
6. In Genesis 46:26 it says that there were 66 souls besides the wives that went to Egypt but in verse 27 it mentions 70. Who were the other four?
7. What verse in Genesis 47 should be referenced to Hebrews 7:7?
8. What was the process by which most all the common citizens of Egypt became slaves of Pharaoh?
9. How old was Jacob when he went to Egypt and how long did he live there?
10. What apparently strange act did Jacob do when pronouncing the blessing upon Manasseh and Ephraim?

Bonus: What oath did Israel ask from Joseph?

Answers to Quiz from Genesis 41-44

1. Besides Genesis 41:8 recording that Pharaoh was troubled after his dreams, in Daniel 2 we read about King Nebuchadnezzar being troubled after a dream.
2. In Pharaoh's dream, the seven fat cows and full ears represented seven years of plenty.
3. The two dreams were so similar in nature to show that they were sure to come to pass.
4. After he interpreted the dreams, Joseph instructed Pharaoh to build great storehouses, to appoint a man discreet and wise and set him over the land of Egypt, to appoint officers over the land, and to take up the fifth part of the grain of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.
5. Joseph's sons were named Manasseh, meaning who makes to forget, and Ephraim, meaning doubly fruitful.
6. When Joseph's brothers first came to buy grain in Egypt, Joseph accused them of spying.
7. Simeon was put into prison instead of one of the other brothers because he had been the most cruel against Joseph.
8. When the sons of Jacob first found their money in their sacks they felt a judgment of God was upon them.
9. When the brothers returned home after the first trip to Egypt, Jacob's reaction was one of grief.
10. At first Jacob did not desire Benjamin to leave for fear that he would not return.

Youth's Corner – Pedro Kalbermatter

Our story this month starts in the country of Peru at the Pedro Kalbermatter Academy. Pedro Kalbermatter Academy is located high in the Andes Mountains very close to Lake Titicaca. Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world and this academy rests on the Peruvian border of Lake Titicaca. Pedro Kalbermatter Academy is named after a Seventh-day Adventist missionary to the Indian tribes high in the Andes Mountains, Pedro Kalbermatter.

While Pedro was growing up, a great desire grew in his heart to be a missionary to the isolated Indian tribes in Peru. While he was still young, his father and older brothers studied the Bible with Pastor Westphal in Argentina, and they decided to become baptized, but there was no place to be baptized! There were no rivers and no lakes. There were no pools and no churches with baptismal tanks. The only place

that was a possibility was the well in the Kalbermatter's barnyard, but it was nine to twelve feet deep, and, of course, the men could not stand in it for baptism because the water would have been over their heads! So, over the next few days, Pedro's father and his helpers made a very large bucket, a bucket big enough for two men to stand in, and when it was done, they lowered the bucket down into the well with Pastor Westphal standing in it. When he was lowered far enough down the well so that the water came up to his waist, they tied the bucket securely so it could not move any further, and then one of Pedro's older brothers grabbed hold of a rope going down to the bucket and slithered down to Pastor Westphal! Pastor Westphal baptized him, then this brother grabbed the rope again and pulled himself out of the bucket. The next brother then slid down the rope to Pastor Westphal, was baptized, and climbed the rope back out of the bucket. Then Pedro's father lowered himself down to Pastor Westphal! It was a wonderful day for the whole family! It did not matter that they were baptized in a bucket in a well in a barnyard! They were new creatures in Christ!

After Pedro grew up, he worked as a nurse in Argentina. In Peru, Pastor Fernando Stahl learned of his desire to work with the Inca Indians, and he asked him to come over and help him in his work with the Indians high in the Andes Mountains. Pedro and his wife were so happy that they wanted to leave right away, even though it was winter! This was in 1919, and travel was not as easy as it is today. They

had to cross the Andes Mountains and that was usually done by train, but heavy snow prevented travel by train in many areas, so they also had to ride trucks, questionable-looking buses, and even mules, but they made it! On the way, they stopped at La Paz, Bolivia, to rest because they were sick due to the high altitude, and while there Pedro noticed the Indians in the streets. They were poor and miserable. Everywhere they were treated as the scum of the earth. They were pushed off sidewalks to make room for others to walk. They were taken advantage of because they could not read or write, and these were the descendants of the great Inca civilization, a vast empire at one time, but now they were reduced to being kicked about by the police and having to struggle to exist. Pedro felt very sorry for them and was eager to arrive in Peru. When his family was well enough, they continued on to Lake

Titicaca in Bolivia and took a steamer across the lake to the Peruvian town of Puno where they met Pastor Stahl.

At first, the Kalbermatter family went to the Platería Mission where two other missionary families and 600 baptized Indians lived. Following this, Pedro went to an isolated Indian tribe to establish a mission, but Pedro was not wanted there. First of all, the Catholic priest called him an infidel and a heretic, and the priest organized the local people to sabotage anything Pedro tried to do. Also against him were the owners of large tracts of land. On these tracts of land, the impoverished Indians were employed to do very hard work and were paid very small wages and were often cheated in their wages because they did not know how to add or subtract. The landowners did not want Pedro coming into their area and teaching the Indians, for they knew they would lose control over the Indians. So everywhere Pedro went, he met fierce opposition, opposition that was often intended to be deadly.

It made Pedro very upset to see how the Indians were treated. At the Platería Mission, for example, bands of thieves would attack the Adventist Indians at night, beating them with clubs or shooting them and stealing all their animals, food, their woolen ponchos, skirts, and close-fitting hats with ear flaps that protected them against the sharp winter wind and that took so long for the women to make. They were left with nothing. This happened while Pedro was at the mission, and he said, "We will go after these thieves, just like Abraham went after Lot and his family when they were



In such a well as this on an Argentine ranch, the Kalbermatter family were baptized.



Father and Mother Kalbermatter with their children.


kidnapped and all their belongings were taken!” They first went to the police for help, though, but the police would do nothing because the bands of thieves were coming from the land of the large plantation owners. The police knew if they arrested the thieves, they would be in trouble with the land owners, so they refused to do anything. Well, Pedro would not be put off. He rounded up the two other missionary men and Indian helpers at the mission who knew where the thieves were hiding, and off they galloped on their mules! After many uncertain moments that actually dragged into hours, the thieves were captured, tied up, and brought to justice, and all the stolen belongings were returned to the injured Indians at the mission.

Everywhere Pedro went to establish a work to help the Indians, he was viewed as an enemy. In one Indian village where missionaries had never been before, he purchased some land and hired local Indians to help him build a mission station. They made their own adobe bricks, built a two-room house for Pedro and his family, built a 75-foot building for a school at one end and a dispensary at the other end (remember Pedro was a nurse and so was his wife), and built a storehouse for supplies. Pedro and his helpers hand-dug a well for use at the mission compound, but in the process of all this, the local priest stirred up trouble and the lives of the workers were threatened by the rest of the villagers. His translator disappeared for fear and then Pedro had a very difficult time being understood by the rest of the workers, but finally the project was almost completed. All Pedro needed to do was go to the nearest town and buy roofing material. When he returned with the needed supplies, he looked and looked, but he only saw flat ground! There were no standing walls of the buildings, and the well was filled in with dirt! While he was gone, a mob had come and had knocked down every wall and had dumped all the dirt back into his well! He was very disappointed, but instead of quitting, he decided to build again! While he was gathering materials to do so,

someone from a nearby Indian tribe came to him and said, “Come over to our tribe. We have a good piece of land for you, and we will help you build.” So that is what he did, and they did help him, but again they were faced with much opposition.

Pedro worked hard for the Inca Indian tribes in the Andes Mountains. This is why he is remembered today in Puna with a school that is named after him. Pedro and his family would stay in one place for a few years until the mission work was given a good start, and then they would move on to a new area. They were true pioneers. Everywhere they went they taught the people how to read and write and how to do mathematics. They taught the people how to live and eat healthfully, and they taught them about their heavenly Father and his great love for them in the gift of his Son, Jesus.

When Pedro learned of an Indian teacher who had been falsely accused and thrown into jail, he thought, “I must go and help him!” He was always trying to help the Indians find justice. Even though this was in the middle of winter, he got on his mule for the 150-mile trip across the Andes Mountains. Along the way, he slept buried in the snow among the rocky crags, he saw great herds of vicuñas and sometimes deer and foxes, and he had to hunt his own food. Sometimes the great condor of the Andes, with a 10-foot wingspan, would swoop around him. As he got closer to the town, however, he began to wonder how he could help the Indian because he knew that the police would probably not listen to him. So, he prayed earnestly for God’s help. When he reached the town, an officer immediately came to him and asked, “Are you the doctor we are waiting for?” And before Pedro could explain, the officer took him to the magistrate who was very ill. What Pedro found was a room that was very dirty and filled with smoke and haze and the odor of alcohol because seven men were in one corner of the room playing a game. After examining the magistrate, Pedro realized he was ill with pneumonia. The magistrate begged Pedro to stay and help him, so Pedro took over his care. He sent the seven men out, and he opened up the windows for fresh air. He scrubbed the floor, and he bathed the patient. He changed the bed linens, and began treating him the best way he knew how and within days the magistrate was well! Of course, then Pedro was able to explain to him the difficulties of the Indian teacher, and the magistrate helped obtain his release! Pedro was very thankful for the way God had answered his prayer!

Pedro and his family faced many difficulties in their work for God, but they remembered the promises of Psalm 91 and the promise of Isaiah 26:3, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” These promises are for us today too, and we can be sure that if we are doing God’s will, he will keep us in the hollow of his hand and we can have perfect peace. 

The Fruit of the Spirit is Peace

Across

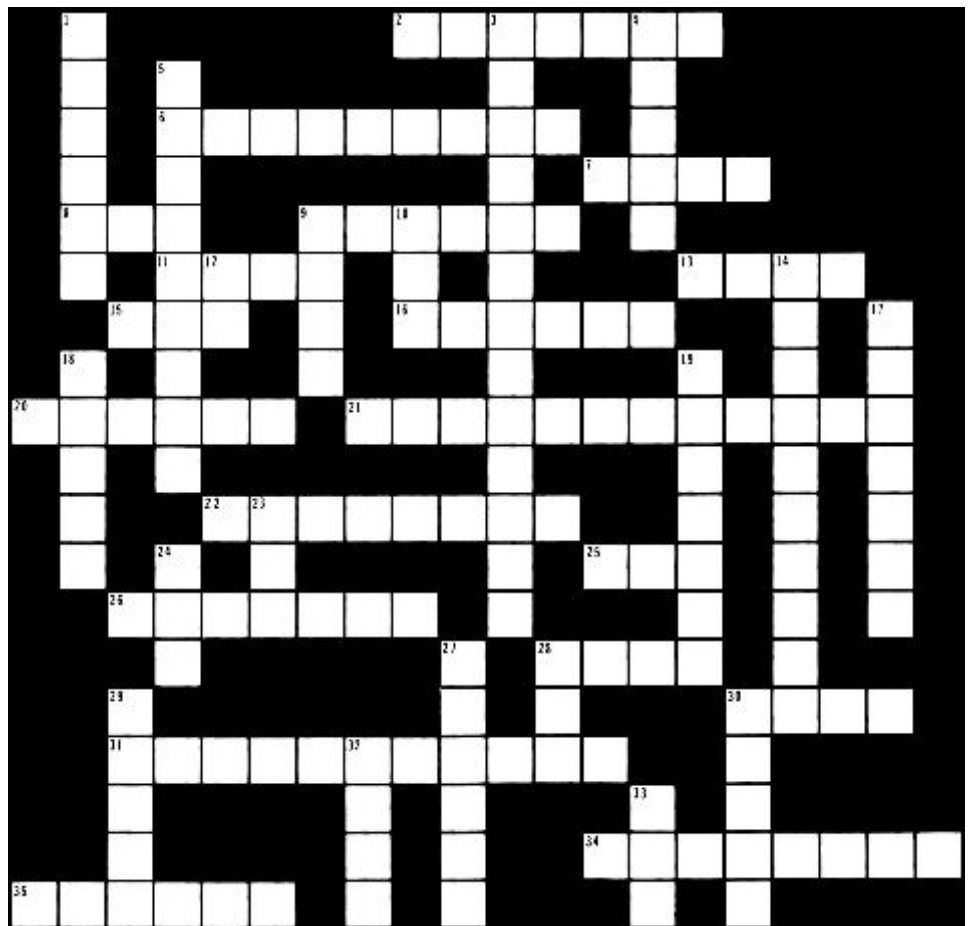
2. "There be peace ____ from the Lord (1 Kings 2:33)."
6. "I have peace ____ with me (Proverbs 7:14)."
7. "Let him ____ peace (1 Peter 3:11)."
8. "If the ____ of peace be there (Luke 10:6)."
9. "Let the peace of God rule in your ____ (Colossians 3:15)."
11. "A ____ of peace (Ecclesiastes 3:8)."
13. "There was not a ____ that made peace (Joshua 11:19)."
15. "This ____ shall be the peace (Micah 5:5)."
16. "We ____ for peace (Jeremiah 8:15)."
20. "The ____ of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)."
21. "The ____ of our peace (Isaiah 53:5)."
22. "And they ____ from him in peace (Genesis 26:31)."
25. "Thou shalt ____ in peace (Jeremiah 34:5)."
26. "He maketh peace in thy ____ (Psalm 147:14)."

28. "Neither was there any peace to him that ____ out (Zechariah 8:10)."
30. "Your peace shall ____ upon it (Luke 10:6)."
31. "The ____ of peace shall weep (Isaiah 33:7)."
34. "Neither shall the ____ of my peace be removed (Isaiah 54:10)."
35. "Preach the ____ of peace (Romans 10:15)."

Down

1. "The God of peace shall ____ Satan (Romans 16:20)."
3. "The work of ____ shall be peace (Isaiah 32:17)."
4. "He shall ____ into peace (Isaiah 57:2)."
5. "____ shall bring peace to the people (Psalm 72:3)."
9. "The man wondering . . . ____ his peace (Genesis 24:21)."

10. "Follow peace with ____ men (Hebrews 12:14)."
12. "____ me ye might have peace (John 16:33)."
14. "Thy ____ shall be in peace (Job 5:24)."
17. "Thou shalt go to thy ____ in peace (Genesis 15:15)."
18. "____ shall be the peace of thy children (Isaiah 54:13)."
19. "Thou wilt keep him in ____ peace (Isaiah 26:3)."
23. "The ____ of that man is peace (Psalm 37:37)."
24. "Let your peace return to ____ (Matthew 10:13)."
27. "Lord, thou wilt ____ peace (Isaiah 26:12)."
28. "He . . . shed the blood of ____ in peace (1 Kings 2:5)."
29. "All her ____ are peace (Proverbs 3:17)."
30. "Then had thy peace been as a ____ (Isaiah 48:18)."
32. "Thou hast removed my ____ far off from peace (Lamentations 3:17)."
33. "I am ____ peace (Psalm 120:7)."



Mission Report from Trip to South America

(The following is a condensed version of my report from the recent trip to South America. A full version of it, with color pictures, is available on the Internet. Pastor Stump)

Brother Elvis Alberto and I flew to Barquisimeto, Venezuela, for meetings with Brother Nelson Villalobos and other brothers and sisters in Barquisimeto and in the mountains of Venezuela. We were welcomed with open arms and had very



Meeting in Barquisimeto

powerful meetings during the several days we were there. We discussed the God of the Bible, Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, and the Holy Spirit. We had many question and answer sessions. We also discussed what constitutes the church and whether we are to return a tithe to a system that does not teach truth and is in apostasy. The meetings were of a most helpful nature, and the Lord blessed me to have a clear mind and to be able to fully understand the questions and answer them with Bible verses and Bible principles, even though I became ill while at Barquisimeto and had to cancel one leg of the trip. Brother Elvis did a very good job translating and making my points clear here and throughout the trip.



Talking with brethren in Venezuela

On February 12, our time in Barquisimeto came to an end, and it was very difficult to say good bye to my new friends in the mountains and in Brother Nelson's area. We traveled back to Caracas for a flight to Manaus, Brazil, and a visit with Brother Bob and Sister Ardis Habenicht at a wellness center where Brother Bob was receiving treatment for an injury to his head. After a brisk trip into the country, we found ourselves at the wellness center and met Sister Gracia and her many patients. Illnesses were as varied as drug and alcohol addiction to cancer. We conducted worship services for the



Pastor Bob Habenicht



Baptism in Brazil

patients. Many of these patients knew about God only by what they had learned at the center. Some had never owned a Bible before, so all the lessons for them had to be very simple and straightforward. I spoke on the greatness of God and his love in giving his only begotten Son. At the end of the first rather short meeting, I made a call for those who had not yet accepted the gospel to come forward for special prayer. The Holy Spirit was strongly working upon the hearts of all, and about ten patients came forward.

On Sabbath, we had two main meetings – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. In the morning, we discussed the gift of God in giving his Son and the divine nature of Jesus. The words were well-received. I spoke very plainly in the afternoon concerning the problems with the trinity doctrine. After the meeting, we had a baptism for five sisters and a brother. This baptism was held in one of the treatment pools, which was just large enough to be sufficient without being cramped. That evening, at the patients' worship, we

encouraged those there to learn more of God and of Jesus, for their lives would change as a result.

On Sunday, the 15th, we prepared to begin our journey to Ecuador. Before we left the clinic, we said sad goodbyes to the patients that we had come to know and love. Two such patients that stand out in my mind are Harley and Michael. Harley was there to stop a three-pack-a-day cigarette habit. The night before we left, he had a terrible struggle wanting a cigarette, but God helped him through the night. In fact, he shared a few thoughts for the morning worship on Sunday. Michael was there for help with drug addiction. He is from a Jewish background and has never owned a Bible. Michael was one of the people who came forward in my call Friday night, and he testified that when he left the clinic he would begin keeping the Sabbath and would go to church. We must pray for God to keep his hand over these two as they seek to know him better, and over the other dear souls at the wellness clinic as well.



Brothers Dalton, Roberto, and William

In Ecuador, we met with several brothers and sisters in scattered regions. We flew into Quito, took a taxi 90 miles north to Brother Roberto Lara's place for a meeting, and then took the bus to Vinces and Brother William Moreno's house for another meeting. We answered questions on feast days, the sacred name, and other concerns that have been raised by some of the believers in Ecuador. The next day we went to the home of Dalton Cruz's parents in Vinces for a meeting in the morning. There I discussed issues of the gospel and the spirit of antichrist. Many other issues were discussed, including more questions on the sacred name. After this meeting, we went back to Brother William Moreno's place to discuss the work in his area. Brother William hosts a three-hour weekly radio program. He has also started a few weekly, twenty-two minute television programs that reach the local areas. We were able to record a few short spots for him to use.

There is a great work to be done in Ecuador. There are few believers scattered over a large area. Sadly, we could only visit a few of them, but these brothers and sisters are of good

heart and desire to do much for the Lord. One thing that we saw in Ecuador and in many places in South America is a lack of Spirit of Prophecy books. Many believers have little knowledge of the counsels about country living, child training and education, and evangelism, and many issues of practical Christian living are unknown.

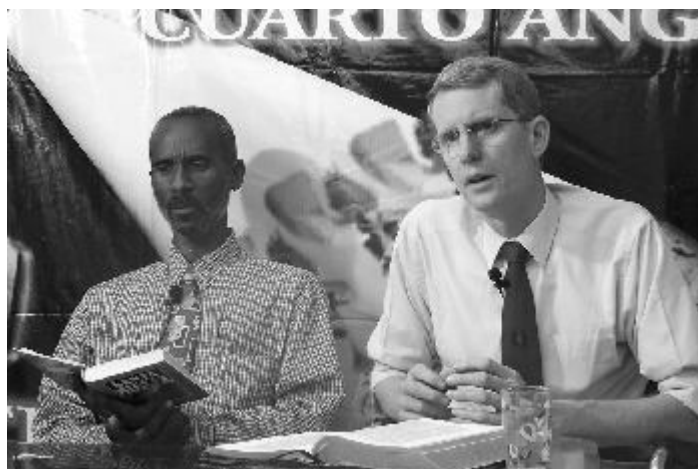
When we left Quito, Ecuador, on February 19, there was sadness in knowing that we would not see these dear brothers and sisters again on this trip. We were now on our way to Peru to visit Aland and Karina Ashton in their little city of Chaclacayo near Lima, Peru. Upon arriving at the airport in Lima, we were greeted heartily by Brother Aland who drove us to Chaclacayo. Brother Aland had meetings scheduled over



Aland Ashton's home

several days at his place, and on Sunday we passed out literature and visited the Seventh-day Adventist College in Lima. It was a rich blessing to meet with these precious people.

We next traveled to Chiclayo, Peru, and were greeted by Brother Cesar Cabanillas, who took us to his home in Chepen where we held several meetings. God had impressed Brother Cesar that God was sending someone to visit the



TV broadcast in Chepen



Elvis and PA with brethren in Venezuela

believers. This was before Brother Cesar learned of our planned visit, but he told the different brothers and sisters that God was sending someone to them and then we came! He was so thankful for our visit! This is also remarkable because nobody from outside Peru ever goes to Chepen. God has blessed the believers in Peru with a printing press, and they are currently printing Ellen White's Testimonies for the Church. Brother Cesar has a daily television broadcast that goes to many people in the local area. God has blessed this group with a printing press, and they are currently printing Ellen White's *Testimonies for the Church*. Brother Cesar has a daily television broadcast that goes to many people in the local area. We learned that our schedule for the next three days would include meetings in the morning with as many brethren as could come out, television broadcasts in the afternoon, and then larger meetings in the evenings. We also went back to the television station during the news broadcast for a live interview about our visit to Peru and our work. The news host was very good to ask us questions that allowed us to give answers for our faith. This was a wonderful opportunity to have a mini Bible study for the people via the news broadcast. The interview was not rushed and lasted about fifteen minutes. We were very thankful for this extra chance to witness! At one of the meetings in Brother Cesar's home, we discussed questions on righteousness by faith. The mainline church in Peru is teaching that justification by faith does not bring one into conformity to the commandments of God and that even though we have the "third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit," we cannot keep the commandments and will continue to sin until Jesus comes. We discussed the error of this teaching and all were blessed by the study.

Our next visit was scheduled with Sister Victoria Carrasco in Santiago, Chile. Our main studies in Chile were on the concept of what constitutes God's church. Although I had not planned to speak on this subject, God gave very good words. In these presentations we emphasized that God's church is the "pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15)." This, coupled with the fact that the 144,000 will have

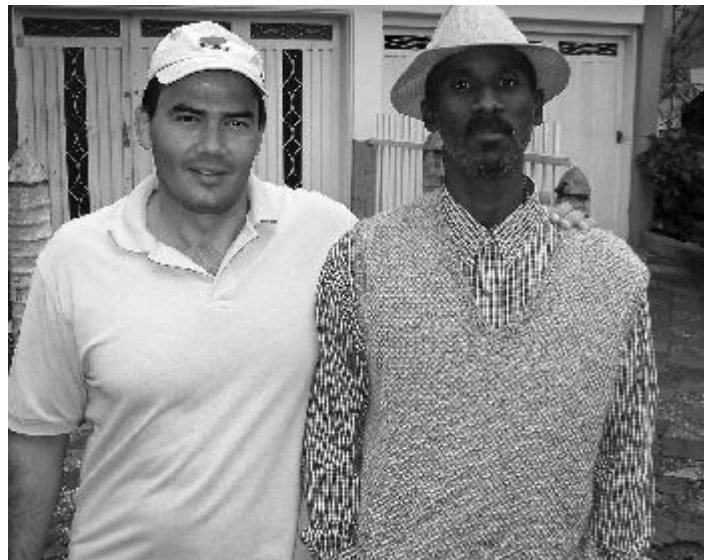
no guile in their mouths, necessitates that the true church will teach pure doctrines. We were able to discuss the issues of the truth about God, the sanctuary doctrine, and the nature of Christ as well.

Although we did not have any meetings planned for



Baptism in Chile

Sunday, in the morning a person stopped by who had not been at any of our earlier meetings and we were able to have a study on the truth about God and especially on the Holy



David and Elvis in Colombia

Spirit. He took many notes and asked many questions, receiving answers that helped him greatly. Sunday afternoon found us traveling to a very fast-moving river for a baptism. The Lord blessed us to find a clean area that had been partly dammed up with rocks, forming a pool. In these cold, brisk waters, we buried two souls in the name of the Lord.

After returning from the baptism, we had an ordination service for a brother to serve as an elder among the believers. This service was very solemn and we were thankful to be able to lay hands upon a faithful servant of God.



Jamie Ferreira and his family

O u r next stop w a s Colombia, and we had a v e r y pleasant a n d i m p o r t a n t visit w i t h Brother D a v i d

Correa. We were able to meet his family and friends, and we were very thankful for the Bible studies we had in his home.

We then flew to Uruguay to meet with Brother Jamie Ferreira and his family and the group of believers in their community. We had meetings in their home, in the village, out of doors, and with the old and young alike. There was even a horse-drawn covered wagon that picked up young people for the meetings. I was able to speak on the incarnation and the nature of Jesus, showing how he took upon his sinless nature our sinful nature and became man. Emphasizing the human and the divine in Jesus, we saw that Jesus is the perfect mediator between God and man. We noted on his human side that Jesus was tempted just as we are from both without and within by his own sinful flesh but that each time



Believers in Rio Blanco

he was perfectly obedient by the connection he had to his Father through his divine Spirit. We may also be a partaker of the divine Spirit, as Christ lives in us, and we may overcome each time we are tempted. The message was a blessing to the people and it helped them to see more clearly this important gospel issue. We held our last meetings in South America in Uruguay, and we were certainly blessed to meet with these precious people. We began to miss them as soon as we left.

Our last stop was in Curaçao with the group that meets with Brother Elvis and Sister Julienne Alberto. We had a very full

day with a baptism in the ocean for four precious souls, a wedding, the Lord's Supper, an ordination, and meetings and question and answer sessions interspersed in between! It was a beautiful way to end a very long trip.



Baptism in Curaçao

On March 12, I flew home and was met at the airport by my beautiful daughter, Heidi, and then greeted by the Smyrna family the next morning at a surprise breakfast!



Elvis, Ana-Julia, John Michael, and Julienne Alberto

We thank God for his safety and protection throughout this long journey and for the sweet brothers and sisters Brother Elvis and I met at each stop on the way, some of whom have already been disfellowshipped because of their stand for the truth. Please pray that God will sustain, enrich, and protect each person we met on this trip and that we will each be faithful until we can all meet again at the Tree of Life.

Allen Stump

Old Paths is a free monthly newsletter/study-paper published by Smyrna Gospel Ministries, HC 64 Box 128-B, Welch, WV 24801-9606 U. S. A. The paper is dedicated to the propagation and restoration of the principles of truth that God gave to the early Seventh-day Adventist pioneers. *Duplication is not only permitted, but strongly encouraged.* This issue, with other gospel literature we publish, can be found at our web sites. The urls are: <http://www.smyrna.org> and <http://www.presenttruth.info>. Phone: (304) 732-9204. Fax: (304) 732-7322.

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