

Old Paths

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

The secret of the LORD is with them that
fear him; and he will show them his
covenant. Psalm 25:14

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Straight and Narrow

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The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. (Jeremiah 8:20)



The Little Time of Trouble

By Allen Stump

Nobody knows of trouble like Seventh-day Adventists. We speak of the great time of trouble, Jacob's time of trouble, and something called the little time of trouble.

While Ellen White uses the term *time of trouble* hundreds of times, she only uses the term *great time of trouble* once. The term *time of Jacob's trouble* yields eighty-six hits in the Ellen G. White app, although many are duplications. Very interestingly, Ellen White never mentions the phrase *little time of trouble*. This phrase is used once in the book *Last Day Events* as a chapter heading, which was added by the publishers and not by the author.

In responding to a letter to the White Estate asking if Ellen White used the term *little time of trouble*, the director of the Estate wrote:

Dear _____,

I checked the database of Mrs. White's published writings, and the only reference was the title of the chapter in *Last Day Events*, to which you already referred. The passage from *Early Writings* which it quotes seems to give the basis for the expression, but it doesn't actually use it. Interesting! The term "little time of trouble" was in wide circulation long before *Last Day Events* was published just a few years ago. But apparently the expression does not trace back to Mrs. White's own writings.

That's about all I have found up to now. If you come up with something more, I'd be grateful if you shared it here. Thank you for writing. . . . God bless!

[Signed] William Fagal, Director Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104, date July 28, 2000

So, is there a basis for such a concept as a little or smaller time of trouble? There are some concepts taught in the Bible for which we have given names, such as *incarnation* and *millennium*. Though neither word is in the Bible, these words represent concepts taught in the Bible. In a similar

manner, the idea of a little or lesser time of trouble does appear in the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, although the exact term is not used.

As we proceed with this study, we will see that inspiration portrays a lesser time of trouble, which will happen before the close of probation, as well as portrays a great time of trouble.

Let us begin our spiritual journey with the Old Testament book of Daniel and a text that is very familiar to Adventists:

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. (Daniel 12:1)

We are told:

When *this* time of trouble comes, every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 212.5; all emphasis in this article supplied unless otherwise noted)

Here we see that when Michael, who is Christ, stands up, probation closes, and there is a time of trouble such as never has been. This great time of trouble begins with the close of probation. Every case has been decided, and there are no more calls of mercy. This is important to remember. There is a parallel text to Daniel in Jeremiah:

For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time

of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. (Jeremiah 30:5-7)

Here is a time of trouble called Jacob's trouble. We read more about it in *Patriarchs and Prophets*:

When Christ shall cease His work as mediator in man's behalf, then **this time of trouble** will begin. Then the case of every soul will have been decided, and there will be no atoning blood to cleanse from sin. When Jesus leaves His position as man's intercessor before God, the solemn announcement is made, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. Then the restraining Spirit of God is withdrawn from the earth. As Jacob was threatened with death by his angry brother, so the people of God will be in peril from the wicked who are seeking to destroy them. And as the patriarch wrestled all night for deliverance from the hand of Esau, so the righteous will cry to God day and night for deliverance from the enemies that surround them. (Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 201.2)

Ellen White uses the word *this*, showing that there is more than one time of trouble. The timing of Jacob's time of trouble parallels the timing of the great time of trouble, for this trouble begins "when Christ shall cease His work as mediator."

In *The Great Controversy*, we read the following about this trouble called Jacob's time of trouble.

As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above. He has an accurate knowledge of the sins which he has tempted them to commit, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light, representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins and yet destroy him and his angels. He claims them as his prey and demands that they be given into his hands to destroy. (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 618.2)

This reference is also published under the subtitle "The Great Time of Trouble Begins After Probation's Close" in the book *Last Day Events*. It mentions *this time of trouble*.

Again, the word *this* implies there are other times of trouble.

So far we have two times of trouble—the great time of trouble and Jacob's time of trouble—both beginning with the close of probation. The Spirit of Prophecy mentions another time of trouble which *clearly* happens before probation closes. In order to separate that trouble from what Daniel calls *a time of trouble such as never was*, the time of trouble which happens before probation closes has been called *the little time of trouble*. There is no promise that this is a little trouble, so I think that the term *lesser time of trouble* is better, for there is no indication it is going to be little, just less than the trouble that occurs after probation closes.

With this in mind, let us look at some statements that fit within that frame.

In *Early Writings*, we read:

. . . at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully.

This view was given in 1847 when there were but very few of the Advent brethren observing the Sabbath, and of these but few supposed that its observance was of sufficient importance to draw a line between the people of God and unbelievers. Now the fulfilment of that view is beginning to be seen. "The commencement of that time of trouble," here mentioned, does not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary. At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. (Ellen White, *Early Writings*, pp. 85.2-85.3; 1854)

During this time, religious liberty in the United States will come to an end:

The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience. (White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 588.1)

During this time, church and state will unite to oppose God's people:

Those religious bodies who refuse to hear God's messages of warning will be under strong deception, and will unite with the civil power to persecute the saints. The Protestant churches will unite with the papal power in persecuting the commandment-keeping people of God. This is that power which constitutes the great sys-

tem of persecution which will exercise spiritual tyranny over the consciences of men. (Ellen White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 14, p. 161.4)

God's people will appear before courts and will be counted as traitors:

There will come a time when, because of our advocacy of Bible truth, we shall be treated as traitors. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 394.2)

This statement tells a lot as to how God's people will be viewed at that time. Treason or being a traitor is the worst of all crimes. Murder and rape are terrible, but only a few may be involved, but treason involves putting a whole nation at risk.

We are also told that those faithful to the Sabbath truth will be denounced as enemies of society:

Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgements of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. (White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 592.1)

At this time all earthly support will be cut off:

In the last great conflict in the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers they will be forbidden to buy or sell. (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 121.3)

Further, we are told that there will be martyrs in the last days before probation closes. Under the third plague, we read:

And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. (Revelation 16:4-6)

These wicked ones receive blood to drink, for they have shed the blood of saints and prophets. These are people living after the close of probation, and God is responding to them after the close of probation for what they have done before the close of probation. Further, we read that these martyrs will not be a few:

The two armies will stand distinct and separate, and this distinction will be so marked that many who shall be convinced of the truth will come on the side of God's commandment-keeping people. When this grand work

is to take place in the battle, *prior to the last closing conflict*, many will be imprisoned, many will flee for their lives from cities and towns, and *many will be martyrs* for Christ's sake in standing in defense of the truth. . . . You will not be tempted above what you are able to bear. Jesus bore all this and far more. . . . (Ellen White, *Selected Messages*, bk. 3, p. 397.4)

None of these martyrs, however, will die after the close of probation. We have these promises for the great time of trouble:

He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. (Isaiah 33:16)

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. (Psalm 27:5)

Further, in *The Great Controversy* we are given the reason no martyrs will be during that time:

If the blood of Christ's faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would not, like the blood of the martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God. Their fidelity would not be a testimony to convince others of the truth; for the obdurate heart has beaten back the waves of mercy until they return no more. If the righteous were now left to fall a prey to their enemies, it would be a triumph for the prince of darkness. Says the psalmist: "In the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me." Psalm 27:5. Christ has spoken: "Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." Isaiah 26:20, 21. Glorious will be the deliverance of those who have patiently waited for His coming and whose names are written in the book of life. (White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 634.1)

We have exceedingly great and precious promises for the time soon to come. I want to close with a few paragraphs from *The Great Controversy* because they give us courage in the Lord:

Jacob's history is also an assurance that God will not cast off those who have been deceived and tempted and betrayed into sin, but who have returned unto Him with true repentance. While Satan seeks to destroy this class, God will send His angels to comfort and protect them in the time of peril. The assaults of Satan are fierce and determined, his delusions are terrible; but the Lord's eye is upon His people, and His ear listens to their cries. Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth

Benefits of Bible Study

Ellen G. White

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as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected.

The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.

Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement.

We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. We must take time to pray. If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands. (White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 621.1–622.2)



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” In the Word of God is contained everything essential to the perfecting of the man of God. It is like a treasure-house, full of valuable and precious stores; but we do not appreciate its riches, nor realize the necessity of equipping ourselves with the treasures of truth. We do not realize the great necessity of searching the Scriptures for ourselves. Many neglect their study in order to pursue some worldly interest, or to indulge in some passing pleasure. A trifling affair is made an excuse for ignorance of the Scriptures.

“Given by inspiration of God,” “able to make us wise unto salvation,” rendering the man of God “perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works,” the Book of books has the highest claims to our reverent attention. Superficial study cannot meet the claims it has upon us, nor furnish us with the benefit that is promised. We should seek to learn the full meaning of the words of truth, and to drink deep the spirit of the holy oracles. To read daily a certain number of chapters, or to commit to memory a stipulated amount of Scripture, without careful thought as to the meaning of the text, will profit little. To study one passage until its significance is clear to the mind, and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained. We cannot obtain wisdom from the Word of God without giving earnest and prayerful attention to its study. It is true that some portions of Scripture are indeed too plain to be misunderstood; but there are many others whose meaning cannot be seen at a glance, for the truth does not lie upon the surface. In order to understand the meaning of such passages, scripture must be compared with scripture, there must be careful research and prayerful reflection. Such study will be richly repaid. As the miner discovers precious veins of metal concealed beneath the surface of the earth, so will he who perseveringly searches the Word of God as for hid treasure, find truths of the greatest value, which are concealed from the careless seeker.

But if you do not make the sacred teachings of God's Word the rule and guide of your life, the truth will be nothing to you. Truth is efficient only as it is carried out in practical life. If the Word of God condemns some habit you have indulged, a feeling you have cherished, a spirit you have manifested, turn not from the sacred monitor; but

turn away from the evil of your doings, and let Jesus cleanse and sanctify your heart. Confess your faults, and forsake them wholly and determinedly, believing the promises of God, and showing your faith by your works. If the truths of the Bible are woven into practical life, they will bring the mind up from its earthliness and debasement. Those who are conversant with the Scriptures will be men and women who exert an elevating influence. In searching for Heaven-revealed truths, the Spirit of God is brought into close connection with the heart. An understanding of the revealed will of God enlarges the mind, expands, elevates, and endows it with new vigor, by bringing its faculties into contact with stupendous truth. No study is better to give energy to the mind, to strengthen the intellect, than the study of the Word of God. No other book is so potent in elevating the thoughts, in giving vigor to the faculties, as is the Bible, which contains the most ennobling truths. If God's Word were studied as it should be, we should see greater breadth of mind, stability of purpose, and nobility of character.

But Bible study is made a secondary consideration, and a great loss is sustained thereby. The understanding takes the level of the things with which it becomes familiar. If all would make the Bible their study, we should see a people who were better developed, who were capable of thinking more deeply, who would manifest greater intelligence than those who have earnestly studied the sciences and histories of the world, apart from the Bible. The Bible gives the true seeker for truth an advanced mental discipline, and he comes from contemplation of divine things with his faculties enriched; self is humbled, while God and his revealed truth are exalted. It is because men are unacquainted with the precious Bible histories, that there is so much lifting up of man, and so little honor given to God.

The Bible contains that which will make the Christian strong in spirit and intellect. The psalmist says, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." The Bible is a wonderful book. It is a history that opens up to us the past centuries. Without the Bible we should have been left to conjectures and fables in regard to the occurrences of past ages. It is a prophecy that unveils the future. It is the Word of God, unfolding to us the plan of salvation, pointing out the way by which we may escape eternal death and gain eternal life. It gives not only the history of this world, but a description of the world to come. It contains instruction concerning the wonders of the universe; it reveals to our understanding the character of the Author of the heavens and the earth. In it is the revelation of God to man.

The searching of all books of philosophy and science cannot do for the mind and morals what Bible study can do, if it is made practical. He who studies the Bible holds

converse with patriarchs and prophets. He comes in contact with truth clothed in elevated language, which exerts a fascinating power over the mind, and lifts the thoughts from the things of earth to the glory of the future, immortal life. What wisdom of man can compare with the revelation of the grandeur of God? Finite man, who knows not God, seeks to lessen the value of the Scriptures, claiming that his supposed knowledge of science will not harmonize with the Word of God; but the divine Word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. 卐

The Bible Our Guide

Ellen G. White

(Reprinted from *The Bible Echo*, October 15, 1892)

Those who boast of wisdom beyond the teaching of the Word of God, need to drink deeper of the fountain of knowledge, that they may learn their real ignorance. Men boast of their wisdom, when it is foolishness in the sight of God. Let no man deceive himself. "If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God; for it is written. He taketh the wise in their own craftiness." The greatest ignorance that now curses the human race is ignorance of the binding claims of the law of God; and this ignorance is the result of neglecting the study of the Word of God. It is Satan's plan to so engage the mind that men shall neglect the great Guide Book, and thus be led into the path of transgression and destruction.

The Bible is not exalted to its rightful place among the books of the world, although its study is of infinite importance to the souls of men. In searching its pages the imagination beholds scenes majestic and eternal. We behold Jesus, the Son of God, coming to our world, and engaging in the mysterious conflict that discomfited the powers of darkness. O how wonderful, how almost incredible it is, that the infinite God would consent to the humiliation of his own Son that we might be elevated to a place with Him upon his throne! Let every student of the Scriptures contemplate this great fact, and he will not come from a study of the Bible without being purified, elevated, and ennobled. The truth will be opened to the mind, and applied to the heart by the Spirit of God. Through connection with God, the Christian will have clearer and broader views, unbiased by his own preconceived opinions. His discernment will be more penetrating, his faculties better balanced. His mind, exercised in the contemplation of exalted truths, will be expanded, and in obtaining heavenly knowledge he will better understand his own weakness, and will grow in faith and humility. When there is little attention given to the Word of God, divine counsels are not heeded, admonitions

1889 HSDA News

By Allen Stump

are in vain, grace and heavenly wisdom are not sought that past sins may be avoided and every taint of corruption cleansed from the character. David prayed, "Make me to understand the way of thy precepts; so shall I talk of thy wonderful works. . . . Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

There is a great work to be done by the earnest Bible student; for gems of truth are to be gathered up, and separated from the companionship of error. Though the Bible is a revelation from heaven, yet many do not comprehend its divine teaching. We are to discover new aspects of truth in both the Old and the New Testament, to behold the exceeding breadth and compass of truths which we imagine we understand, but of which we have only a superficial knowledge. He who earnestly searches the Scriptures will see that harmony exists between the various parts of the Bible; he will discover the bearing of one passage upon another, and the reward of his toil will be exceedingly precious.

All over the field of revelation are scattered glad springs of heavenly truth, peace, and joy. These fountains of joy are within the reach of every seeker. The words of Inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as living streams flowing from the river of the water of life. Our Saviour prayed that the mind of his followers might be opened to understand the Scriptures. Whenever we study the Bible with a prayerful heart, the Holy Spirit is near to open to us the meaning of the words we read. The man whose mind is enlightened by the opening of God's Word to his understanding, will not only feel that he must more diligently seek to understand that Word, but that he must have a better understanding of the sciences. He will feel that he is called to a high calling in Christ Jesus. The more closely connected man is with the Source of all knowledge and wisdom, the more he will feel that he must advance in intellectual and spiritual attainments. The opening of God's Word is always followed by a remarkable opening and strengthening of man's faculties; for the entrance of his words giveth light. By contemplation of great truths, the mind is elevated, the affections purified and refined; for the Spirit of God, through the truth of God, quickens the lifeless, spiritual faculties, and attracts the soul heavenward.

Then take your Bible and present yourself before your Heavenly Father, saying, "Enlighten me; teach me what is truth." The Lord will regard your prayer, and the Holy Spirit will impress the truth upon your soul. In searching the Scriptures for yourself, you will become established in the faith. It is of the greatest importance that you continually search the Scriptures, storing the mind with the truths of God. You may be separated from the companionship of Christians, and placed where you will not have the privi-

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Ordination

During the third week of August, I made a circular path through part of Florida, visiting believers in their homes and holding a Sabbath meeting in Margate, Florida, about halfway between Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale. The main purpose of the Sabbath meeting was to ordain Brother Olivier Dubois as an elder in the 1889 HSDA Church. Brother Dubois lives and works in Quebec, Canada, where his church wanted him to serve as an elder, but there was nobody there to do an ordination.



Aravna, Pastor Allen, and Olivier

Being a French-speaking area, the church in Quebec is closely aligned with the 1889 HSDA Church in France, but traveling to France for the ordination would have been expensive, and it was not possible for Pastor Jean-Christophe Bolotte to travel to Canada. I was asked to travel to Canada for this service, but due to COVID restrictions at the time, I



Group picture

Continued on page 10, column 1

2022 French Camp Meeting Report

By Allen Stump

After my red-eye flight to Paris, my plane landed, and I was able to meet with some very dear brothers and sisters. Pastor Jean-Christophe Bolotte, Ireana Railean from Moldova, and Sasa Galetic with his wife, Valeria, from Serbia found me outside the terminal, and we began our travels of about three hours to the village of Crozet, near Servant, in the center of France, for the 2022 1889 HSDA French camp meeting.



The meetings were held in this building.

The camp ran August 9–13, and the theme was on last-day events. The talks were based on last-day events, as outlined in the book *Last Day Events* by Ellen White. Two buildings with spacious outside area were rented for the camp, with several men staying in one building and the sisters on the second floor of the other three-story building. The third level was used by a few remaining folks, and the basement was used for the meetings.



Breakfast was served in this area.



Sister Railean sharing and Pastor Bolotte translating

Though it was forecast to be very hot in Paris, Servant was more moderate, and the temperatures for the meetings in the basement, while warm at times, were not oppressive.

A breakfast of fruit and cereal was served in the morning on the upper floor of the main building, and the afternoon meal was served outside in the shade provided by trees. Those preparing the meals did a super job to provide both healthy and tasty meals, and all were taken care of well in this area.

For those, like myself, who could not speak French, one brother and three sisters took turns providing very good translations.



Youth socializing



Baptismal group with Pastor Jean-Christophe and Brother Sasa kneeling



Baptism of Sister Mireille

This was the first time I had been able to travel out of the country since COVID. France had lifted the vaccination requirement earlier in the spring and just before I took off, they lifted the need for a negative COVID test. Perhaps life after COVID is beginning?



Clément and Ellen eating lunch in the shade

As noted, the meetings were on last-day events, and I found the meetings to be very interesting. One of my topics was the little time of trouble, a study printed in this issue. Three speakers were not able to travel for various reasons and spoke via a recorded message. There was not enough Internet coverage, so the meetings could not be broadcast live. I felt this was the only major drawback to the otherwise quiet and nature-like environment the camp location provided.

Pastor Bolotte had prepared eight souls for baptism. On Sabbath afternoon we had an ordination service for Brother Sasa Galetic as an elder, and hands were laid on Sister Railean for her work as a deaconess and for her Christian ministry in general and not as a pastor, elder, or



Sisters Mireille and Kétura

other position which God has designed for the men of the church. After the ordination, we headed to a small lake where a very solemn baptismal service was held, with Pastor Bolotte lowering seven sisters and one brother into the watery grave. With their baptism they were formally accepted into church membership. After returning to camp, a communion service was conducted, followed by testimonies and the formal end of the camp.

A great big thank you to Pastor Bolotte and the team in France for preparing such a blessed experience. The



Pastor Allen with Christia, Corisande, Jeanne, and Bruno

balance between meetings and free time for fellowship was appreciated, since some of us had not seen each other personally for over two years. It was a sweet foretaste of what it will be like when Jesus returns and when those who have been separated by distance or by death will be able to fellowship with each other not for just four or five days but for eternity!



Sharing greetings with those joining us via Zoom

could not do so. However, the way opened up for Brother Dubois to travel to the United States. His supportive wife, Aravna, was able to travel with him. Her immediate family is from Haiti, and much of her extended family lives in Southern Florida, so with her family joining her from Haiti, it was like a family reunion for them. I was personally overwhelmed with their love and kindness to me and with them making me a part of their family while I was there.



Aravna and her sister, René-Marty

der were also covered. God blessed with a solemn and sweet service. In the afternoon and early evening, we visited the home of one Aravna’s aunts, where many biblical questions were asked, and we endeavored to provide biblical answers. This was especially nice, since some of Ar-

avna’s family were not Adventists, and they had questions on the mark of the beast and on other important topics.

Please pray for Brother Dubois and Sister Aravna as they help forward the work in Canada. God is moving upon the hearts of many to be active in the work, and our time is short.

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. (Matthew 9:38)

Conference Church News

The conference church members of the 1889 HSDA-USA organization would like to invite you to attend their adult Sabbath school virtual fellowship at 10:30 a.m. PDT. The meeting is open to all who are interested in studying God’s word in an open discussion format. They are studying the life of Christ and have been discussing some fundamental points concerning the God of the Bible, the nature of sin, and Babylon; so, it has been a real blessing! The meetings are recorded and will soon be posted on YouTube. So, be sure to grab your Bible, and bring a friend too! Have a question or comment? You can contact Robert Motsinger at info@inyourforehead.com

Zoom meeting link is [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83952410093?pwd=emppZUtCVG5CQjVkJkZFe-mY3WUkwQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83952410093?pwd=emppZUtCVG5CQjVkJkZFe-mY3WUkwQT09;meetingID83952410093;passcode390459); meeting ID 839 5241 0093; passcode 390459; and phone 301-715-8592.

Lesson study for the life of Christ is at <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/SSQ/SS18900301-01e.pdf>

Youtube channel for the conference church of the 1889 HSDA-USA is at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Ucgn6W32xtcs1EHU1WobEHig>

Report from Pastor Daniel Mesa

There are always surprises at the Revelation With Daniel Ministry, now working together with the 1889 HSDA organization. I met a Sunday pastor recently and asked him to go through the *50 Bible Questions about the Trinity* videos and then have an interview with me. He said he would.

I’ll be going to Tennessee to share from the book of Revelation with a group of Methodist churches, and I am also heading to Honduras and Peru for more One-True-God revivals! May God continue to open the doors for the gospel to go to the Israelites and the Gentiles!



“The Bible Our Guide” continued from page 7.

lege of meeting with the children of God. You need the treasures of God’s Word hidden in your heart, that when opposition comes upon you, you may bring everything to the test of the Scriptures.

Truth is eternal, and conflict with error will only make manifest its strength. We should never refuse to examine the Scriptures with those who, we have reason to believe, desire to know what is truth as much as we do. Suppose a brother holds a view that differs from yours, and he comes to you, proposing that you sit down with him, and investigate that point in the light of the Scriptures; should you rise up filled with prejudice, and condemn his ideas while refusing to give him a hearing? The only right way would be to sit down as Christians and investigate the position presented, in the light of God’s Word, which will reveal truth and unmask error. To ridicule his ideas would not weaken his position, though it were false, or strengthen your position, though it were true. If the pillars of our faith will not stand the test of investigation, it is time that we knew it; for it is foolish to become set in our ideas, and think that no one should interfere with our opinions. Let everything be brought to the Bible; for it is the only rule of faith and doctrine.

We must study the truth for ourselves; no man should be relied upon to think for us, no matter who he may be or in what position he may be placed. We are not to look upon any man as a perfect guide for us. We are to counsel together, and be subject one to another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us to learn what is truth. Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment, that we may individually develop a character that will stand the test of the great day.

We are living in the last days, when error of a most deceptive character is accepted and believed, while truth is discarded. Many are drifting into darkness and infidelity, picking flaws with the Bible, bringing up superstitious inventions, unscriptural theories, and speculations of vain philosophy; but it is the duty of every one to seek a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. The importance and benefit of Bible study cannot be overestimated. In searching the Scriptures our minds are led to dwell upon the infinite sacrifice of Christ, on his mediation in our behalf. As we see his love, as we meditate upon his humiliation and sufferings, the same spirit of self-denial and sacrifice for the good of others will be kindled in our hearts. As we behold Jesus by the eye of faith, we shall be “changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”



“Christ Our Righteousness” Lessons Reprinted

We have recently reset and reprinted the biblical lessons, “Christ Our Righteousness.” This series of sixteen lessons is based upon the book of the same title by E. J. Waggoner. The lessons use the Bible to teach the righteousness of Christ and to teach how that righteousness can be ours.

Would you like something to study with family or neighbors that does not seem to be hard-hitting? Would you like something to study that keeps the focus upon Christ but also introduces strongly the law of God, including the Sabbath? Would you like something that is Christ-centered but also teaches he is the Son of God? These lessons are what you are looking for to fulfill such demands.

The sixteen lessons come in their own envelope, with a table of contents printed on the envelope. The suggested donation is only \$3.00, plus postage. They are available now, so please request your copy while the supply lasts.



Lesson Title	Lesson #
<input type="checkbox"/> Considering Christ	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus Christ the Son of God	2
<input type="checkbox"/> The Deity of Jesus Christ	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Christ as Creator	4
<input type="checkbox"/> The Incarnation of Christ	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Creation and Redemption	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Christ the Lawgiver	7
<input type="checkbox"/> The Righteousness of God (Part 1)	8
<input type="checkbox"/> The Righteousness of God (Part 2)	9
<input type="checkbox"/> The LORD Our Righteousness	10
<input type="checkbox"/> The Garment of Salvation	11
<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptance with God	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Faith	13
<input type="checkbox"/> Living by Faith	14
<input type="checkbox"/> The Victory of Faith	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Bondservants and Freemen	16

Name: _____
Beginning Date: _____
Completion Date: _____



From the File Cabinet of History

Ecumenical ideas are not new within the church. Notice the correspondence on the next three pages, written over fifty-five years ago. Remember that local ministerial associations are simply stepping stones to the churches becoming part of the World Council of Churches. As ministers fraternize today with Babylon, we can only expect to see more of Babylon in the church.

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)



The Victorian Conference of

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Church Pastor:
H. G. JOSEPHS

RINGWOOD AND CROYDON DISTRICTS
BOND STREET, RINGWOOD
SURREY ROAD, CROYDON

15 GLEN VALLEY ROAD
FOREST HILL

Telephone: 878-2670

28 - 3 - 67

Dr. L.E. Froom
6840 Eastern Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20012

Dear Doctor Froom,

Thankyou for your letter of Dec. 8, '66, and for the material you sent. I remember you mentioned this line-up of our basic doctrinal beliefs with those of the evangelical Protestant faiths, when you visited Australia. I am pleased to have this material, as I may have the opportunity of presenting it to a group of ministers sometime.

I mentioned about your offer of the work "The Conditionalist Faith" to a member of the Minister's Fraternal in Ringwood, the Rev. Allan Matthews, 15 Lois Street, Ringwood East, Victoria, Australia, who said he would like to have it. If you send me the books, I will be pleased to deliver them.

Fortunately, I am still able to continue my association with the ministers of the Ringwood area. The proposed transfer did not eventuate. So, I am able to fill my role as President of the Ringwood Ministers' Fraternal. I introduced a couple of reforms by commencing each meeting with a scripture reading and prayer. That seems a simple reform for a group of ministers, but that is the case.

I was pleased to have a chat with Pastor Pederson who visited our camp meeting this year. He was a good public relations inspiration. Many of our ministers here feel I should not have joined these organizations. I heard that the former Victorian President of the Conference said I should not have accepted the position of President of the Ministers' Fraternal. Some feel that Pastor Adams who visited us last week does not agree with us joining these organizations, because of some of the statements he made. But, even though we recognise certain intentions and objectives of the Inter-Church Council, we should be willing to take advantage of the climate to represent the Truth. If the time comes when we must resign, there will be no disgrace. It will be a further stand for Truth.

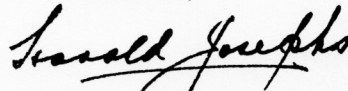
Pastor Llewellyn Jones is the Public Relations Officer for the Victorian Conference. He does an excellent job. He is the secretary of the Prahran Inter-Church Council. I told him of your offer of the "Conditionalist Faith" volumes, and I am sure he would like to have the same opportunity of being able to present a set to an interested minister. His address is:

547 Canterbury Road,
Vermont,
Victoria,
Australia.

I have recommended to the Ringwood Church (SDA) Board that they purchase a set of the "Conditionalist Faith" for the purpose of lending to any minister who may show some interest in the subject. Should anyone question concerning a particular text, they will find a classic exposition of the text in the volumes.

Thanking you for your interest,

Yours very sincerely in His
service,



H.G. Josephs

April 17, 1967

Pastor Harold G. Josephs
15 Glen Valley Road
Forest Hill
Victoria, Australia

Dear Pastor Josephs:

I appreciate your letter of March 28, and in accordance with promise I am sending a set of the Conditionalist Faith of Our Fathers to you for personal presentation to the Rev. Allen Matthews of 15 Lois Street, Ringwood.

Now I can well understand the reactions of some, feeling you should not have joined the Ministerial Association. That is the old view, when we were always harping on the differences, the negatives. But that is not in harmony with sound principle.

I am glad to report to you that the manuscript on Eternal Verities Triumphant is completed. I have the strong backing of Elders Pierson and N. C. Wilson and many, many others here in North America. I am sorry that we are so far away from our brethren in Australia that we cannot have the frequent contacts and interchanges that would be desirable.

We have had differences of view on this point that I mentioned. And I think that you have done the right thing if you will only hold steady and bear proper witness.

Thank you for the name of Pastor Llewellyn Jones. I will make contact with him.

Very sincerely in the Master's service,

L. E. Froom

LEF:ec

Youth's Corner

(The following excerpts are taken from the chapter entitled "Our First Experiences" published in the book *Pioneering in the Neglected Continent* by F. H. Westphal.)

Taken Prisoner

The brethren and sisters had gathered together, and we expected to have a good meeting. But just as we were about to open the service, an officer with two soldiers came and handed me a written notice from the chief justice, saying that we were prohibited from holding the meeting. The officer with his two soldiers remained on guard. A few minutes later a friend came with a note from a merchant inviting me to send him two men representative of our work, that he might take them to the judge, explain to him the character of our work, and appeal for permission to hold our meetings. I promptly complied with this kind suggestion, and the merchant took to the judge the two brethren chosen. These explained to him that our meetings were peaceful and of a religious character, and that we were trying to do the people good. The judge was favorably impressed by their representations and issued a decree permitting us to hold the conference, and the next day the officer came and brought an order to the effect that we might hold the meetings but were strictly prohibited from celebrating any baptisms.

We held meetings daily during the entire week, and when the second Sabbath arrived there were seven souls to be baptized. After the morning meeting the entire congregation set out in their vehicles for the appointed place of baptism. I remained with Brethren N. Z. Town and Jean Vuilleumier to make quite secure the tent in which we had been holding the meetings, because the strong afternoon winds that prevail there might otherwise blow it down. I noticed that the officer was excited, and that he and his two soldiers took their position at the gate through which we must pass on leaving the site of the tent. As we went out, he asked us where we were going. We told him that we were going to the river to hold a baptism. He informed us that this was prohibited, and that, if we carried out our purpose, he would be obliged to arrest us. We agreed to his doing so, and invited him to accompany us to the baptism, after which we promised to return with him to the judge. He then threatened to take us prisoners right away, but realized that he could not bring any charge against us until the baptism was an accomplished fact. Finally he consented to our plan and accompanied us to the water. There, in the presence of the officer with his sword and his two soldiers with their rifles, we baptized the seven candidates. The next Monday we appeared before the judge.

The Judge Asks Pardon

This courteous gentleman apologized for having been obliged to trouble us, but said that he had received a large number of letters (which he showed us) from priests, Protestant pastors, and churchmen of different faiths, accusing us of conducting our meetings in a way that constituted a public scandal and, in particular, of carrying out our baptisms in a very improper manner. For this reason he had at first prohibited our holding the conference, only giving consent when evidence was brought to him that our meetings were not of an incorrect character. Even then he had prohibited the celebration of any baptism. "But now that you have carried out a baptismal service, and the commissary has presented his report of it I find the facts to be very different from what the letters represented. The commissary's report of your baptismal service shows me that the charges brought against you in this respect are quite unfounded, the persons baptized being decently dressed for the rite, and that the services are orderly and very impressive.

"Now I have one question to ask you," he continued, directing himself to me. "Are you willing to obey the laws of the country?"

"Certainly," I answered him. "We pray for judges and governors and those appointed to maintain peace, order, and justice, and pay our taxes faithfully. In all civil matters you will find us loyal to the civil authorities, but in religious matters we must obey God."

"Those are my own ideas exactly" he replied. He went on to say we might hold our meetings at any time we wished, and that if we needed police to keep order, he would send us as many policemen as we might need.

After once more begging our pardon for having troubled us, he advised us to visit the governor of the province, who resided in the city of Parana. This counsel we followed, and our merchant friend took us in his coach to call on this high official. Like the judge, he had received a number of letters from priests and Protestant ministers with the same accusations against us as were contained in the letters they had sent to the judge. The latter, however, had sent an explanation before us to the governor, who received us kindly, saying that he was highly pleased with the class of work we were doing, especially with the strong influence we exerted against the liquor vice. He wished us the best of success, but advised us to be very careful not to arouse more than necessary the prejudice of other religious bodies. . . .

Other Churches in Argentina

. . . At Felicia I met a German family who had all been converted with the exception of the father. The oldest son

Continued on page 16, column 2.

Upcoming Events

Aurora Chapel Visit

Pastor Allen Stump will be visiting the Aurora Adventist Fellowship near Huntsville, Arkansas, on Sabbath, September 17. The meetings will be held at the Aurora Chapel, located at 4171 S Highway 127, Huntsville, Arkansas, 72740. Song service will begin at 12:30 p.m., Sabbath school at 1:00 p.m., the main message and study at 2:00 p.m., and a fellowship meal at 5:00 p.m., all times EDT.



The Aurora Chapel

We invite anyone in the area to attend and to get to know the folks at the Aurora Chapel. You will not be sorry!

Tennessee Youth Retreat

The Maranatha Seventh-day Chapel will be hosting a spiritual retreat October 6–9, 2022, in the beauty of God’s creation at Fall Creek Falls State Park in Tennessee. The theme is “The Gospel in Creation.” The first meeting will be Thursday at 5:00 p.m. CDT, and the camping will be in Eli Field. There is no cost to attend.



Fall Creek Falls is the highest free-fall waterfall east of the Mississippi River.

Bring your tent and camping gear, and take part in this retreat from the world’s demands. We are encouraged in the Scriptures to assemble ourselves together the more often as we get closer to the final days of this earth’s history. There will be meetings, outdoor activities, singing, camp fires, time for fellowship, sharing, and more.

The church will provide a supper of popcorn and watermelon in the evenings and a Sabbath lunch. Campers should bring food for the rest of their meals. Please contact Brother Todd Brown at 256–610–3350 to let him know that you are planning to attend and for answers to any questions you may have.



“Youth’s Corner” continued from page 15.

became deeply interested in the Sabbath truth and studied his Bible daily, imparting to the rest of the family the fruits of his study. He had begun to keep the Sabbath himself, and his mother and brothers and sisters were fast yielding, but the father, resisting the power of the gospel, became enraged at them all. Seeing that his anger did not in the least deter them, he became still more incensed, and one day, while the oldest son was sitting at the table studying his Bible, the father, who was seated behind him, nursing his anger, suddenly resolved to put an end to the Sabbath question so far as his family was concerned. He took his cane (the Argentine canes are about the length of an ordinary walking stick, but very heavy and strong) and thought to break his son’s skull with it. He raised it above the young man’s head and struck down with all his force. But to his utter astonishment and that of the members of his family, who witnessed, horrorstruck, his murderous attempt, the cane broke like a straw in his hands. All of the family with the exception of the father, praised God for His protecting care, and this incident decided them to obey the Lord and keep the Sabbath. The father, however, never yielded to the influence of the truth.

Brother Vuilleumier and I organized at Felicia a church composed of twenty-five German and French believers. In one of these families there were four little children, the eldest being a fine girl of about four years. The two youngest, which were twins of about two months, were also healthy, beautiful babies, but the second child, a girl, was a mere bag of skin and bones, without strength enough even to raise her little head. The mother was naturally very much concerned about this little one, and one day, as we were about to bow in prayer in her home, she brought the sick child into the room and asked us to request in our prayer that the little one might be healed. It was on that occasion that, for the first time, I prayed in Spanish. Others also prayed; and from that very moment the child began to mend, so that in a short time she was as fine-looking a child as one could wish to see.



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