

# 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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**We can learn from God's little creatures. See page 11.**



# One Hundred Thirty-Six Years in the Wilderness

By Allen Stump

The children of Israel spent forty years in the wilderness. It was certainly not God's intention to have that happen. Within eighteen months they came to the borders of the Promised Land, and God desired to take them in. Spies were sent out, and the people believed the evil report of the ten instead of the report from Joshua and Caleb. We read of their unbelief. They had been miraculously delivered from Egypt; they had been fed bread from heaven; and they had been cooled in the day by the pillar of cloud and warmed at night by the pillar of fire. We think, "If I had been there and seen all of that, I would not have been faithless. I would have believed." Really? Would you have believed?

As a people has Adventism done better? No, Adventism has done worse. In the fall of 1888, God wanted to send a message to help his people go quickly into the Promised Land, but that message was not received, and the people failed to enter the heavenly Canaan.

Why was the message of 1888 needed? We are told:

The facts concerning the real condition of the professed people of God, speak more loudly than their profession, and make it evident that some power has cut the cable that anchored them to the Eternal Rock, and that they are drifting away to sea, without chart or compass. (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, July 24, 1888, par. 1)

Writing just a few months before the 1888 Minneapolis General Conference Session, the church was warned that they were, as it were, "drifting away to sea, without chart or compass." The purpose of the messages of A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner was to give our people a chart and compass so we could sail the good ship Zion to the heavenly port.

One of the most important points we learn from 1888 is that we cannot trust in men. It was the prominent men of

the General Conference who rejected the message of Jones and Waggoner. As Ellen White would write:

While they trust to the guidance of human authority, none will come to a saving knowledge of the truth. (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 141.1)

Despite the fact that many of the leaders opposed the message, within a few years there was an attempt of the laity to receive the message to the point that God began to pour out the latter rain, and the loud cry was beginning.

Let every one who claims to believe that the Lord is soon coming, search the Scriptures as never before; for Satan is determined to try every device possible to keep souls in darkness, and blind the mind to the perils of the times in which we are living. Let every believer take up his Bible with earnest prayer, that he may be enlightened by the holy Spirit as to what is truth, that he may know more of God and of Jesus Christ whom he has sent. Search for the truth as for hidden treasures, and disappoint the enemy. *The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.* (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, November 22, 1892, par. 7; all emphasis in this article supplied unless otherwise noted)

That was four years after the Minneapolis Conference. Surely the end must have been at hand but even prior to 1888, God had been sending the message that the end was at hand.

We are now upon the very borders of the eternal world, but it is the purpose of the adversary of souls to lead us to put far off the close of time. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 306.1; 1881)

Brethren and sisters, I have been shown that we are standing upon the threshold of the eternal world. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 18.2; 1885)

We are standing, as it were, on the borders of the eternal world. We are looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord; the night is far spent; the day is at hand. (Ibid., p. 382.2; 1885)

It is no time now for God's people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. (Ibid., p. 464.3)

Clearly in the revelations from God, it was clear he was trying to prepare his people for the final events just before the 1888–1892 time period, but something happened. Maybe we should acknowledge that something did not happen. While the loud cry may have begun in 1892, it was cut off. It did not finish, unless we are willing to say the greatest outpouring of the Spirit ever upon his people would need, dating back to the fall of 1888, one hundred thirty-six years to finish once it was begun. That position is not honestly tenable by anyone's standards.

Ellen White, writing to Dr. Percy T. Magan, shared a conditional prophecy recorded exactly forty years before the bombing of the United States Navy at Pearl Harbor and said the following cryptic words:

We *may* have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years as did the children of Israel; but for Christ's sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action. (Ellen White, *Letters and Manuscripts*, vol. 16, LtMs, Lt. 184, December 7, 1901, par. 17)

Notice that Ellen White did not write we *would* or *must* but that we *may* have to remain in this world many more years. But it was not to be blamed upon God or Christ, for it would be the result of "insubordination" and the advent people's "own wrong course of action."

The Bible, in Revelation 13, predicts a great crisis to come upon the earth in the last times over the law of God. This crisis especially is over the fourth commandment. The year before her letter to Dr. Magan, Ellen White wrote:

God has given men the Sabbath as a sign between Him and them, as a test of their loyalty. Those who, after the light regarding God's law comes to them, continue to disobey and exalt human laws above the law of God in the great crisis before us will receive the mark of the beast.—Letter 98, July 1900. (Ellen White, *Evangelism*, p. 235.3)

Remember that Ellen White said we might have to be in this world for longer than expected. That has certainly become true. But certainly after another one hundred

twenty-three years, we must be very near what she would describe as "a stupendous crisis" (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, November 23, 1905, Art. A, par. 7).

The nations are angry and events are soon to take place predicted in Revelation 13. In his inaugural speech last month, President Trump said:

I was saved [from an assassin's bullet] by God to make America great again.

We will not forget our country, we will not forget our constitution, and we will not forget our God. Can't do that.

We are one people, one family and one glorious nation under God.

And we will pursue our manifest destiny . . . (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/20/us/politics/trump-inaugural-speech.html>)

Trump invoked God and that he, Trump, was destined by God to serve a special purpose, not only to "Make America Great Again, but to use our national power to stop all wars and bring a new spirit of unity to a world" (Ibid.). He believes in the manifest destiny concept, that the people who came from Europe to what is now the United States had an obvious and certain purpose by God to spread democracy and their form of moral system to others. The United States is considered divinely ordained to succeed in this mission.

So if Israel could go into the Promised Land after a total of forty years in the wilderness, we must be very close after one hundred thirty-six years. We are told:

Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth, and when God shall bid his angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture. (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, November 23, 1905, Art. A, par. 8)

Now let us return back to some of the history concerning the events around 1888 so we can understand the message better and why it was rejected. As noted earlier, many of the leading men rejected the message brought by Jones and Waggoner.<sup>1</sup> Ellen White gives insight as to why this happened:

There are many outside our people who are in the favor of God, because they have lived up to all the light that God has given them. For nearly two years we have been urging the people to come up and accept the light and the truth concerning the righteousness of Christ,

1 See R. J. Wieland and D. K. Short, *1888 Re-Examined*, 1950 edition available at [https://smyrna.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/1888\\_re-examined.pdf](https://smyrna.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/1888_re-examined.pdf)

and they do not know whether to come and take hold of this precious truth or not. They are bound about with their own ideas. They do not let the Saviour in. I have done what I could to present the matter. I can speak to the ear, but I cannot speak to the heart. Shall we not arise, and get out of this position of unbelief? Shall we not bruise Satan under our feet? I beseech of you, Come up where the living waters flow. (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, March 11, 1890, par. 11)

Why was it that men did not know if they should accept the message or not? Because they had been looking to men, and the men they were looking to had become confused. In 1896 the following was first published:

Now, it has been Satan's determined purpose to eclipse the view of Jesus and lead men to look to man, and trust to man, and be educated to expect help from man. For years the church has been looking to man and expecting much from man, but not looking to Jesus, in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. Therefore God gave to His servants a testimony that presented the truth as it is in Jesus, which is the third angel's message, in clear, distinct lines. (Ellen White, *Testimony to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 93.1)

Returning to the Review article of March 11, 1890, Ellen White wrote that she saw "men taking positions contrary to thy word" (*The Review and Herald*, March 11, 1890, par. 12). She continued showing that just preaching the law was not enough. While the law must be preached, it was to be preached in Christ!

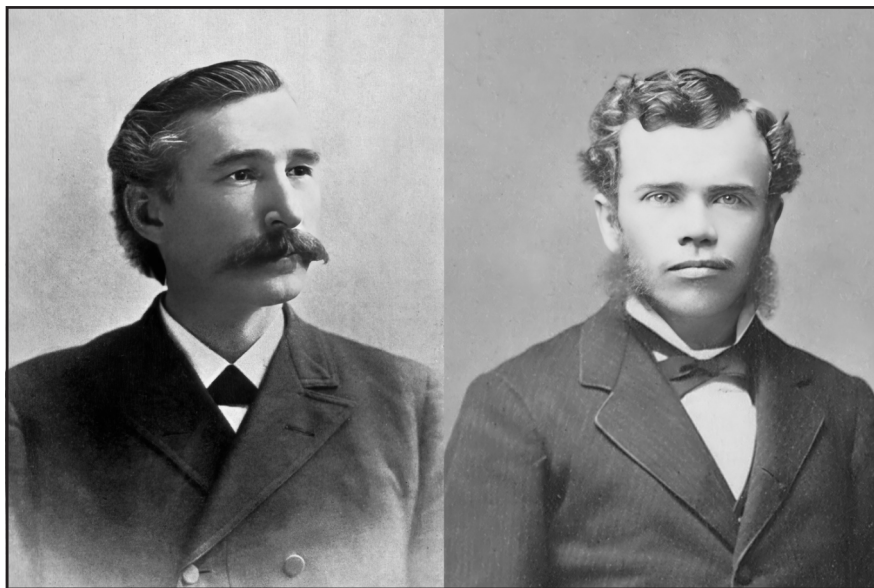
Brethren, shall we not all of us leave our loads there? and when we leave this meeting, may it be with the truth burning in our souls like fire shut up in our bones. You will meet with those who will say, "You are too much excited over this matter. You are too much in earnest. You should not be reaching for the righteousness of Christ, and making so much of that. You should preach the law." As a people, we have preached the law until we are as dry as the hills of Gilboa that had neither dew nor rain. We must preach Christ in the law, and there will be sap and nourishment in the preaching that will be as food to the famishing flock of God. We must not trust in our own

merits at all, but in the merits of Jesus of Nazareth. Our eyes must be anointed with eye-salve. We must draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to us, if we come in his own appointed way. O that you may go forth as the disciples did after the day of Pentecost, and then your testimony will have a living ring, and souls will be converted to God. (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, March 11, 1890, par. 13)

Remember that the great crisis is over the law of God, especially the Sabbath. It certainly must be preached, but it must be preached *with Christ in the law!*

Elder K knows not of what spirit he is. He is uniting his influence with the dragon host to oppose those who keep the commandments of God, and who have the testimony of Jesus. He has a hard warfare before him. As far as the Sabbath is concerned, he occupies the same

position as the Seventh Day Baptists. *Separate the Sabbath from the messages, and it loses its power; but when connected with the message of the third angel, a power attends it which convicts unbelievers and infidels, and brings them out with strength to stand, to live, grow, and flourish in the Lord.* (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 337.1; 1862)



A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner

If the Sabbath is presented as just the correct day versus a substitute day, people ask what difference does it make? The Sabbath loses its power when simply taught as the correct day of worship over another day, but when it is connected with the third angel's message in relationship to the mark of the beast, then a special power attends it. We must not forget that the third angel's message is fundamentally about righteousness.

Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "It is the third angel's message in verity." The prophet declares, "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." Brightness, glory, and power are to be connected with the third angel's message, and conviction will follow wherever it is preached in demonstration of the Spirit. How will any of our brethren know when this light shall come to the people of God? As yet, we certainly have not

seen the light that answers to this description. God has light for his people, and all who will accept it will see the sinfulness of remaining in a lukewarm condition; they will heed the counsel of the True Witness when he says, “Be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, April 1, 1890, par. 8)

The Sabbath message is about much more than physical rest. Its great truth is spiritual rest in Christ who creates in us a new and clean heart. Redemption is based in creation. This is why David could pray: “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10). This is why Paul could write we are “created in Christ Jesus unto good works” (Colossians 2:10) and “therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Instead of looking to men, we are to look to Christ who is able to give us a new heart which will certainly bring us into obedience to all the commandments of God as it will be a heart that loves righteousness and hates iniquity.

In 1896 we find this message giving a succinct overview of the message of Jones and Waggoner.

The Lord in His great mercy sent *a most precious message* to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. *It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God.* Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. *It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.* (Ellen White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 91.2)

Paul writes that true faith works by love (Galatians 5:6), and Ellen White adds that it “purifies the soul” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 51.2)

This is the third angel’s message in verity. We think that the message of the third angel is about the mark of the beast. Well, it is, but what is that all about? It is about the worship and rule of man instead of God. It is about man working for his own enlightenment and betterment

through his own ways instead of realizing that he is nothing but dust and must have God do a work for him.

What is justification by faith?—It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. When they begin to praise and exalt God all the day long, then by beholding they are becoming changed into the same image. What is regeneration?—It is revealing to man what is his own real nature, that in himself he is worthless. (Ellen White, *Special Testimonies*, Series A, no. 9, p. 62.2)

Perhaps the most simple presentation of E. J. Waggoner on the message of 1888 was his book, *Christ and His Righteousness*. It was also published under the titles of *The Lord Our Righteousness* and *The Righteousness of Christ* in England and Australia respectively. A list of the section headings gives an overview of Waggoner’s message:

- How Shall We Consider Christ?
- Is Christ God? [The Complete Deity and Sonship of Christ]
- Christ as Creator
- Is Christ a Created Being? [Not Created, but Begotten]
- God Manifest in the Flesh [The Incarnation]
- Important Practical Lessons [Creation and Redemption]
- Christ the Lawgiver
- The Righteousness of God [embodied in God’s law]
- The Lord Our Righteousness
- Acceptance with God
- Living by Faith
- Bondservants and Freemen
- Practical Illustrations of Deliverance from Bondage<sup>2</sup>

The message all the way through was Christ, Christ, Christ. The Bible presents the depravity of man so the need of Christ is clearly seen. Most have heard Paul’s statement, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), but reading this without knowing the context does not impress the reader as fully as knowing that, prior to this, Paul has quoted from Isaiah, Psalms, and Proverbs to clearly teach this vital point. Our naturally carnal, proud hearts want to be able to save ourselves, but this can never be. As Ellen White wrote:

*The proud heart strives to earn salvation; but both our title to heaven and our fitness for it are found in the righteousness of Christ.* The Lord can do nothing toward the recovery of man until, convinced of his own weakness,

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<sup>2</sup> You may read the book online here: [https://archive.smyrna.org/Books/COR/christ\\_our\\_righteousness.htm](https://archive.smyrna.org/Books/COR/christ_our_righteousness.htm)

and stripped of all self-sufficiency, he yields himself to the control of God. Then he can receive the gift that God is waiting to bestow. *From the soul that feels his need, nothing is withheld.* He has unrestricted access to Him in whom all fullness dwells. “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Isaiah 57:15. (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 300.1)

When our souls know their nothingness, we are then fitted to have the robe of Christ’s pure righteousness upon us.

In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.** (Jeremiah 23:6)

The church would naturally expect its leaders to be the ones who best understand and embody the message of righteousness; however, during the time of Jesus and John the Baptist, it was the religious leaders who most failed to grasp it. In fact, both Jesus and John delivered a strikingly direct message to them.

John addressed the Pharisees and Sadducees with the sharp rebuke: “O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come” (Matthew 3:17)?

Jesus said, “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell” (Matthew 23:33)? Not only were they snakes and the sons of snakes, but the children of those who killed the prophets:

Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. (Matthew 23:31)

Could it be better today? While we would hope so, only those actuated by the love of God will lay their own supposed glory in the dust and accept the righteousness of Christ. We have all broken the Father’s law, proclaimed by his Son, and stand guilty of sin before the judgment bar of God. Sin is breaking the Ten Commandments:

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4)

As we look into the law of liberty we see ourselves as transgressors (James 1:25). The biblical presentation of the law as revealing our transgressions is correct, but not complete, for the law is the righteousness of God. “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness” (Psalm 119:172). “Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law;” (Isaiah 51:7). This not only shows us what sin is and our need, but it also shows us the character of God and what God wants from us. This perfection of character, this righteousness, was perfectly exemplified in Christ.

The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness’ sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable. (Isaiah 42:21)

We are commanded by Christ to seek after this righteousness:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

**T**his righteousness of Christ begins, centers, and ends with Jesus. During his life on earth, Jesus made many “I am” statements, plainly declaring his all in all to us. Let us notice these statements in the order they are recorded in John’s gospel.

And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life:** he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

Jesus is the bread or the nourishment from heaven. He also told the Samaritan woman at the well that it was he who could give to mankind “living water” so that we need never thirst again (John 4:10, 13).

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world:** he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)

Christ is the light by which we may know the way to God and not stumble. He will use his words which are “a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door** of the sheep. (John 10:7)

Jesus is the entrance to heaven and all that is good for the sheep. As we will see in John 14:6, he is the way. Many people declare there are multiple ways to heaven, or to enlightenment, or to some future enhanced stage or way of life, but only Jesus can offer eternal life.

**I am the good shepherd:** the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

Jesus is a good shepherd who cares for his sheep as if each one was the only one upon the earth, and he would have died to save just that one.

Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, **I am the Son of God?** (John 10:36)

Jesus is the Son of God, and he clarified that he is the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16–18)

Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life:** he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: (John 11:25)

In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived. This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ. He cannot earn it [life, original, unbor-

rowed, underived]; it [life, original, unborrowed, underived] is given him as a free gift if he will believe in Christ as his personal Saviour. "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). This is the open fountain of life for the world. (Ellen White, *Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 296.2)

Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

Jesus is the only way to the Father. He is the truth about the Father, and he brings the life of the Father to us. He is the connecting link to heaven.

**I am the true vine**, and my Father is the husbandman. (John 15:1)

Jesus is the true vine for us as the branches. Only as we abide in him can we bring forth fruit and live.

Writing to the Corinthians, Paul gives a summary of what Christ is to us:

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (1 Corinthians 1:30)

E. J. Waggoner noted concerning this verse:

We are ignorant, wicked lost. Christ is to us wisdom, righteousness, redemption. What a range! From ignorance and sin to righteousness and redemption. Man's highest aspiration or need cannot reach outside the bounds of what Christ is to us and what He alone is to us. Sufficient reason this why the eyes of all should be fixed upon Him. (*Christ and His Righteousness*, p. 7.2)

Beloved, it is time to get out of the wilderness and let Christ and Christ alone sit upon the throne of our hearts. It is time we quit looking to men and look "to Jesus, in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered." It is time to receive the righteousness of Christ which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. It is time to lay the glory of man in the dust, but remember that "all His biddings are enablings" (Ellen White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 333.1)

Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. (Ibid., p. 69.1)

God help this people if we live past this decade. It is time to get out of the wilderness and time to find Christ as the bread of life; the light of the world; the door; the good shepherd; the Son of God; the way, the truth, the life; and the true vine.



## 1889 HSDA Week of Prayer

The 1889 HSDA–USA Conference had a week of prayer December 29 to January 4, hosted via the Smyrna Zoom room.

Each session included a brief, but impactful, devotional. Those who shared devotions were Brothers Kevin Attride, Todd Brown, Rob Chisum, Ingo Sorke, and Allen and Sister Sheri Stump. There were special musical selections by Sister Raquel Akens, Brother Roy Arraya, Sister Sheri Stump, and Sister Fay Ulett.

After the the studies and music, the forty to sixty believers who joined for the meetings were divided into break-out rooms for a dedicated time of prayer. After the prayer time, many of the believers joined back into the main meeting for fellowship and getting to know each other better.



The format somewhat evolved over the week to improve the meeting, and all were glad to work together in this. Many people who did not know each other made new friends as brothers and sisters in Christ during the week. Many testified that the week of prayer was a great experience and helped them to draw closer to the Lord and to each other. There were several requests that we have another week of prayer soon and not wait for next year, so be watchful in the March issue of *Old Paths* as we may be announcing a week of prayer for the spring season!

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Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him. (Ellen White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 93.2)

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# Mission Work in Kenya

By Ben Otineo

Receive our greetings from Kenya in Jesus our Lord. We are doing well here, and we hope that everything is fine there. We are continuing to reach souls with the present truth. Our local schools were opened three weeks ago, and parents were busy taking their children to schools. Due to this, we shifted our focus on market preaching from 4pm to 7:30pm which has been going on for weeks now.



**Brother Ben preaching in a market area**

In the markets we are teaching different topics, like salvation, the three angels' messages, the law and Sabbath, the one true God, and the state of the dead. We have taken souls through the topics listed and helped them see that their beliefs were not in line with the Bible. A good example is a study like salvation. A big number in these markets are Catholics who have not been taught salvation only in Jesus our Messiah. They do not even know what the Bible teaches that they should do when they sin. We thank God because after presenting the study on salvation, souls received Christ in their life and sought counsel on how to live a sanctified life.

Another important study we presented is about the state of the dead. The doctrine of man's consciousness in death, especially the belief that the spirits of the dead return to minister to the living, has prepared the way for modern spiritualism, and it is important that we let souls know the danger related to belief on consciousness at death, through

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**More market preaching**

# Just for Ministers and Gospel Workers

By Allen Stump

The work of ministers and gospel workers might have been well summed up by Paul when he wrote:

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. (2 Corinthians 4:5)

Whither the worker is a pastor, an evangelist, medical missionary worker, or any other type of gospel worker, the one who puts forth an honest and true effort is valued of God.

There is nothing more precious in the sight of God than His ministers, who go forth into the waste places of the earth to sow the seeds of truth, looking forward to the harvest. None but Christ can measure the solicitude of His servants as they seek for the lost. He imparts His Spirit to them, and by their efforts souls are led to turn sin to righteousness. (Ellen White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 369.3)

While maybe no person may see and appreciate your work, I assure you that God sees every effort, hears every prayer you offer for another, and feels every tear you shed for the lost and wayward.

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. . . . (2 Chronicles 16:9)

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: . . . (1 Peter 3:12)

A faithful record of all their works is daily made by the recording angels. All their acts, and even the intents and purposes of the heart, stand faithfully revealed. Nothing is hid from the all-seeing eye of Him with whom we have to do. Those who have thrown all their energies into the cause of God, and who have ventured out and invested something, will feel that the work of God is a part of them, and will not labor merely for wages. They will not be eyeservants and seek to please themselves, but will consecrate themselves and all their interests to this solemn work. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 468.1)

In looking through the Ellen G. White topical index under the heading of ministers, you will see over one hundred seemingly negative subheadings about ministers who love praise, preach themselves instead of Christ, who work for filthy lucre, and many other sad things. This should humble us as workers, knowing that Satan is very interested in causing us to fall, and we must stay very close to our helper



and friend. But if we work diligently and faithfully, God will do great wonders for us to help others, if we will put all of our energies into the work. We are not to work as common laborers nor as what might be considered professionals. Our work is to cover a large overlapping field, and we must be able to fulfill many duties without expecting reward or praise.

We recently went to the optometrist I know. He is friendly and professional and did a very good job. He, of course, has a fee for his services, and we were glad to pay him. An attorney recently did a trust and will for me. He also had a fee for his services, and I gladly paid him. We had a service technician recently at our home for a repair. We paid him. All of these services were scheduled to meet the convenience of the those who preformed the service. None offered their services for free.

But what about you, dear gospel worker? You do not charge a fee when giving a biblical study. Medical missionary workers go to a home and give hydrotherapy treatments and expect nothing for their time or travel expense and do such service at the time the people need, not just when it is convenient for them. You, pastors, go to people's dying bedsides day or night, good weather or bad. You get calls at midnight for prayer, and you never ask for any fee. And while we remember that Jesus said that "the labourer is worthy of his hire" (Luke 10:7) and that the Bible say "thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn" (Deuteronomy 25:4), we are to be mindful that God sees all of this and is the final and best paymaster. You do not do your service to have a *job*. Your work is a *calling*, and your great desire is to serve the one who has called you.

Hardship and a lack of appreciation put you in good company with Jesus Christ, your Master, and he will help you. Christ allows you to enter into his sufferings as a privilege:

And of all the gifts that Heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor. (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 224.5)

Brother and sister gospel worker, the hard work and the lack of acknowledgment is not to discourage you but, rather, to encourage you. You are receiving high honor from Christ and your work helps you grow in grace.

The true minister of God will not shun hardship or responsibility. From the Source that never fails those who sincerely seek for divine power, he draws strength that enables him to meet and overcome temptation, and to perform the duties that God places upon him. The nature of the grace that he receives, enlarges his capacity to know God and His Son. His soul goes out in longing desire to do acceptable service for the Master. And as he advances in the Christian pathway he becomes "strong


in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." This grace enables him to be a faithful witness of the things that he has heard. He does not despise or neglect the knowledge that he has received from God, but commits this knowledge to faithful men, who in their turn teach others. (Ellen White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 501.1)

If you have read this out of curiosity, perhaps thinking it did not apply to you because you are not a *minister* or a *Bible worker*, may I remind you that all are called to be gospel workers and ambassadors for Christ in some fashion. Every believer has a part to play in sharing the gospel and though you may not be recognized by others for your efforts to help the neighbor's children or take food to a shut-in, or pass out truth-filled literature, God sees your efforts and appreciates your work.

Let us all remember that all of us are "labourers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9). We are all "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20), and he has given to "every man his work" (Mark 13:34). Brothers and sisters, "let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9). ✠



## Schedule of Live Services

Please join us for our live stream services by clicking this link to directly join our meetings via Zoom, or, if you have Zoom open, you may use room ID 613 212 7443 and passcode: 916919 to enter the meeting.  If you wish to listen with a telephone in the United States dial: 1 646 931 3860 and enter conference ID 613 212 7443 followed by the # symbol, when prompted, then press the # symbol again.

- Sabbath morning 9:10 EST—Smyrna Sabbath School
- Sabbath morning 11:00 EST—Smyrna Worship Service
- Sabbath afternoon 2:00 EST—Study about the book of Revelation
- Monday evening 7:00 EST—Story Hour
- Tuesday morning 6:00-6:50 EST—Prayer group with Michael Woodward
- Wednesday evening 7:00 EST—Smyrna Prayer Meeting
- Thursday evening 7:00 EST—Study with Pastor Allen Stump. Currently covering *The Foundation of Our Faith*
- Monday–Friday mornings 7:00 EST—Readings coordinating the Bible with the Conflict of the Ages series



# Sorrel

By Winnifred Anderson

Sorrel is a leafy green plant that can be used as both an herb and a vegetable. It is rich in antioxidants, fiber, and nutrients like vitamin C and magnesium. Sorrel is also known as common sorrel or garden sorrel. Other names include spinach dock and narrow-leafed dock. Sorrel is a perennial plant that is native to Eurasia, and is often found in grasslands. In the United States it is hardy to USDA Zone 3, and flourishes in most any soil in full sun or light shade.

Sour, lemony, astringent can best describe the flavor of sorrel. Culinary uses include soups, salads, sauces, and sandwiches. You will find it perfect for infusing butter. Mature leaves can be acidic, so it is best to use the sorrel leaves in moderation.

To grow sorrel, plant the seeds in rich, moist soil in a partially shaded area. Sorrel self-seeds, so you might consider planting it in an area where it can be contained. It is quick to bolt, so remove the flower stalks to encourage growth.



A bed of sorrel

To harvest, pick the leaves throughout the growing season. The flavor is milder when the leaves are harvested young. The leaves freeze well.

## SORREL AND PEA SOUP

### Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp canola oil or oil of your choice
- 3/4 oz soft vegan butter
- 3/4 oz chilled, diced vegan butter
- 18 oz shelled peas, fresh or frozen
- 1 potato, peeled, cut into small dices
- 2 flat-leaf parsley sprigs, chopped
- 4 tbsp loosely packed small sorrel leaves

Extra sorrel chopped for garnish

Sea salt to taste

1 1/4 pints vegetable stock

3 tbsp heavy cream (try coconut cream)

### Directions:

1) Put oil and soft butter in a large pan placed over medium heat. Add potato, parsley, half of the sorrel leaves. Stir well for 2 minutes, then reduce the heat a little. Add 3 1/2 oz water and season lightly with salt. Partly cover and cook over very low heat, stirring occasionally, for 15 minutes until potato is tender. Remove from heat and cool a little.

2) Transfer to a food processor and blend until pureed. Return to the pan and stir in the stock. Bring to a simmer over a medium heat, stirring frequently. Reduce heat a little and leave to simmer gently for 5 minutes. Taste, adjust the seasoning, and stir in the remaining sorrel leaves and heavy cream.

3) Return to a low simmer, and whisk in the chilled diced butter. Adjust the seasoning, and spoon into bowls. Decorate with a swirl of cream and a little chopped sorrel. Serve immediately.

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“Health Matters” continued from page 14

awakening them to life. (Ellen White, *Counsels on Health*, p. 200.1)

There are many health benefits to exercise. Here are a few: helps control weight; increases lung capacity; improves blood circulation; lowers cholesterol; relieves stress, tension, and depression; can improve sleep; assists the body in the elimination of toxins; improves metabolism; helps prevent and treat diabetes; strengthens bones; tones and strengthens muscles; improves posture; and even helps prevent cancer.

For best results be sure to exercise in fresh air environments.

Next month we will look at the value of pure water. Until then, consider what you can do to move more. Physical labor is a true blessing. Exercise will enhance your quality of life. While exercising I encourage you to take long, slow, and deep breaths of fresh air, breathing through your nose.

And please remember:

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31) 卐

# Lessons from God's Little Creatures

Sheri Stump

It is winter in West Virginia. The ground is covered with a thick blanket of pure, white snow, and on my front porch little birds are feasting at our two bird feeders. These little birds are flitting around the feeders and seem to be perfectly happy despite the cold temperatures. I find the extreme cold weather challenging. When I go outside I wear layers of clothing, a heavy coat and gloves and still walk hunkered down inside my warm clothing, but the little birds are not warmly dressed and seem oblivious to the cold and snow.

Are these tiny creatures really carefree? Aren't they cold? Are they suffering at night?

Birds are wondrously made to endure harsh climates and very cold temperatures. These tiny creatures, whose body weights are calculated in ounces, maintain a typical body temperature of 105°F. One way they maintain their body temperature is by fluffing out their little feathers. Like a winter coat for us humans, the tiny bird feathers provide a thick layer of insulation from the cold when fluffed. Some little birds appear to be twice as fat in winter as they are in the summer months due to this fluffing of feathers.

At night birds reduce heat loss by seeking shelter in tree holes or other crevices and by allowing their body temperatures to reduce a bit. Birds often shiver all night to produce the heat necessary to survive the cold, using up all their fat reserves. These depleted fat reserves must be replenished the next day so they can survive the coming night.



Consuming food creates heat for the birds, but when food is most required for them to maintain their body temperatures is the very time of year when their food is most scarce. This is why we fill our bird feeders. And if we will remember that there would have been no cold winters when food would be hard to find except for the sin of our first parents and that all of the hunger the birds suffer is ultimately because of humanity, it is the least we can do for them to provide some help, especially in the cold times of the year.

Many bird species, like the chickadees, travel in groups and help each other. When one bird finds food, the others share in the bounty, and at night they huddle together sharing their warmth. Can we learn lessons from the birds?

As I consider the seemingly carefree life of the birds, I think of the time we are living in, our current political



Chickadees huddled together for warmth

changes, and the time of trouble looming before us. I want to rest in the kind of peace and trust in God revealed in God's tiny creatures.

Jesus clearly addressed the fearful times ahead of us with encouragement and actually uses the example of how he cares for the little creatures to assure us that he will take care of us.

Here is a scripture passage where Jesus uses the birds as an illustration for us:

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:28-31)

Let us trust God and resist the tendency to fear the future. We are in the capable hands of our Heavenly Father who loves us.

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# The Seal of the Living God

By Winnifred Anderson

(This is an article continuing the theme of our last camp meeting—Be Ready)

Seals have been used for thousands of years. A seal is used in connection with some law or enactment demanding obedience, the seal itself rendering valid or authentic any enactment or establishing of laws that a person or power may promulgate. We have instances of the use of seals in the Scriptures. In 1 Kings 21:8, Jezebel “wrote letters in Ahab’s name, and sealed them with his seal.” Again, in Esther 3:12: “In the name of King Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king’s ring.” In Esther 8:8, we also read: “The writing which is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the king’s ring, may no man reverse.” These letters carried all the authority of the kings they represented. The idea of law and seal are inseparable.

We must understand a seal to be strictly that which gives validity and authority to enactments and laws. We should not suppose that the laws and enactments of God that are binding upon men must have attached a literal seal, made with a literal instrument. The validity and authenticity are found in the name or signature of the lawmaking power, expressed in a manner showing what the power is and its right to make laws and demand obedience. We need to understand what the seal of God is. We need, also, to understand how this seal relates to us as a denominated people and to us as individuals.

Let us look at the seal of God.

What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eye, can read; for the destroying angel must see the mark of redemption. The intelligent mind has seen the sign of the cross of Calvary in the Lord’s adopted sons and daughters. The sin of the transgression of the law of God is taken away. They have on the wedding garments, and are obedient and faithful to all God’s commandments. (Ellen White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, Lt. 126 1898, p. 52.1)

Where is the seal of God found?

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the

LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (Exodus 20: 8–11)

The seal of God is found in the center of the Ten Commandments, in the fourth commandment specifically. In this commandment we find all that is required of a seal to give authority to rule and demand obedience. We find God’s name: “the LORD, thy God”; we find his title: Creator; we find the dominion over which he rules: the heaven and earth, and the sea. This shows his right to rule and demand obedience. Further, God says, “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples” (Isaiah 8:16).

Thus we find that the seal of God is in the fourth commandment and that this precept requires the observance of the seventh day of each week as the Sabbath. Keeping the fourth commandment has been a marked and striking peculiarity in the religious practices since the fourth century. Almost all of Christendom, through the influence of the papacy and paganism, have been beguiled into keeping the first day of the week. Thus when an individual begins to observe the seventh day as the “sabbath of the LORD thy God,” he becomes distinct from both the professed religious and the secular worlds.

From the previous paragraph, we can see there are basically two classes of worshippers: those who keep God’s command to worship him on the seventh day of the week, and those who are beguiled by the papacy and paganism to keep the spurious sabbath—the first day of the week.

Since the beginning of the Christian Era, God has always had a people that were faithful in keeping his commandments. Even during the period of the Dark Ages of papal persecution (AD 538—AD 1798), there was a people who kept “the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12). God has kept his hand over his word, protecting and preserving his truths and will continue to do so until the close of probation. As we are rapidly approaching the second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, he is even now preparing “himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27). So today, as has been through the history of the Christian church, God’s true people will keep all his commandments, including the fourth commandment, which will be the test of loyalty.

The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While

one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God. (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 605.2)

With increasing rapidity, the day-to-day activities and events going on in the world today reveal that the drawing of the line of distinction is nearer and nearer. “Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril; but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it. They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help” (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 209.2).

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. (Revelation 14:9–12)

This message is of a most fearful import. It sets forth such a severe threatening of God’s wrath that can be found no where else in all of God’s word. It must be plainly defined so all can understand its severity. All must know how to avoid the judgments pronounced in it.

Brothers and sisters, this is where our duty lies. We have a most holy, sacred message to share with the world. So we, as a denominated people, and we, as individuals that make up this denominated people, have the duty, and far beyond that we have the privilege of being co-laborers with God to give this third angel’s message to the world.

We have just entered into a new year, a time of new year resolutions. But sadly, many, if not most, of these resolutions are as ropes of sand. There is no strength in them. We cannot, as God’s people, be satisfied with this. We need to firmly resolve through God’s strength to move forward. “Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven. Go forward, my brethren and sisters. I can only write briefly upon these points at this

time, merely calling your attention to the necessity of preparation. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour” (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 216.2). Then let us go out and share this message!

It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. (Ibid., p215.4)

The seal is knowing God’s truth and “a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved” (Ellen White, *Maranatha*, p. 200.2).

The seal is our passport through the gates of heaven.

Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven. Go forward, my brethren and sisters. I can only write briefly upon these points at this time, merely calling your attention to the necessity of preparation. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour. (White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 216.2)

The seal is put upon those who overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. The seal is a property sign, showing we belong to God.

Now is the time to work. Now is the time to share the good news that Jesus is coming soon. Now is the time to perfect our character. Now is the time to BE READY to meet our God. 卍



Sister Winnie Anderson writes from her home in WV.

# Health Matters

## Exercise, One of God's Natural Remedies

By Sheri Stump

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)

In this article we will look at the second health principle on our list, exercise.

The eight principles for good health are: fresh air, exercise, pure water, nutrition, rest, temperance, sunshine, and trust in God.

### Exercise

Our bodies are made to move. We have a lymphatic system. The Cleveland Clinic website states:

As a vital part of your immune system, your lymphatic system protects you from infection and destroys old or abnormal cells your body doesn't need. Lymphatic system functions also include maintaining normal fluid levels in your body and absorbing fats and fat-soluble vitamins so they can make their way into your bloodstream...How can I keep my lymphatic system healthy?

To keep your lymphatic system strong and healthy, you should:



Avoid exposure to toxic chemicals like those in pesticides or cleaning products. These chemicals can build up in your system and make it harder for your body to filter waste.

Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated so lymph can easily move throughout your body.

Keep a healthy lifestyle that includes *regular exercise* and a nutritious diet. Your provider can give you specific advice tailored to your medical history and needs. (<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/body/21199-lymphatic-system>; emphasis supplied; accessed January 21, 2025)

The fluids of our lymphatic system flow best when we move. As the heart is the pump for the flow of blood throughout our bodies, physical exercise assists lymphatic fluid circulation. A sedentary life may result in pockets of stagnant lymphatic fluid which can cause inflammation, pain and may depress the immune system.

Our bodies are marvelous machines! David says, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvelous are thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139:14).

Putting our bodies to work can increase our physical strength, aid in balance, tone muscles, increase resistance to disease; and physical exercise can actually improve our emotional state, helping us to have a positive outlook on life!

I have found that a very good time to memorize God's word and inspired quotes is while walking. I have laminated pages with scripture verses and quotes that I want to store in my heart, and while walking, I am meditating on God's word. The circulation of blood due to exercise aids in memorization. My mind is stayed upon the Lord, causing faith and peace to pervade my mind.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on thee: Because he trusteth in thee. (Isaiah 26:3)

I also pray while walking. As I meditate on scripture, I pray God's word back to God.

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: It shall not return unto me void, But it shall accomplish that which I please, And it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)

While I walk and pray, I often remember those I am praying for, and I pray God's word for their situations and spiritual growth as well. In this way, my exercise time becomes a sweet time of fellowship with God, and I return energized, spiritually uplifted and free from the stresses and cares of this life.

Walking is recommended by Ellen White in the following quote:

Those who are feeble and indolent should not yield to their inclination to be inactive, thus depriving themselves of air and sunlight, but should practice exercising out of doors in walking or working in the garden. They will become very much fatigued, but this will not injure them.... It is not good policy to give up the use of certain muscles because pain is felt when they are exercised. The pain is frequently caused by the effort of nature to give life and vigor to those parts that have become partially lifeless through inaction. The motion of these long-disused muscles will cause pain, because nature is

*Continued on page 10, column 2*

# Youth's Corner—On the Trail of the Colporteur Transformations in Character

(On the Trail of the Colporteur Evangelist was compiled by the General Conference Publishing Department of Seventh-day Adventists. This month we finish Chapter 12.)

A Korean colporteur called at the home of a native doctor, who was a member of the Presbyterian church. When the doctor learned that the literature was published by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, he was very angry and insulting, and almost kicked the colporteur out of his house. About two months later, another colporteur was canvassing in the town, selling one of our health books. Being informed of the attitude of the doctor just referred to, he decided that he would not visit this doctor until the very last, lest being informed of the introduction of the book, he might hinder the sales. Unexpected circumstances hastened an interview with the doctor, however, and this is how it came about:

As the colporteur was canvassing the proprietor of a “noodle house,” and the man was just about to sign his name for the book, who should come in for a dish of noodles but the doctor. Taking in the situation, he came over to where the colporteur and the proprietor were standing, and reached over and took the book out of the colporteur’s hand. For a moment it looked as if the canvass which had given promise of being effective was doomed to defeat, but the doctor made a friendly inquiry as follows:

“This is put out by the Signs Press, is it not?”

“Yes,” answered the colporteur, and then went on to explain the nature of the book and the great need of such a book in Korea.

Without another word, the doctor reached in his pocket for a five-yen bill, and handed it over to the colporteur, keeping the book in his possession. This convinced the proprietor of the place that the book was all right, and he made a payment on a book.

The doctor then asked the colporteur if he had any other new books put out by the Signs Press, and the colporteur named over the list one by one. At the mention of every book the doctor would say, “Got that!” It developed that he had purchased every book that the Signs Press had published, and he spoke very highly of the value of the books in explaining prophecy and showing its relation to present world events.

In bidding the doctor adieu at this time, the colporteur thanked him heartily for his appreciation of the work the Seventh-day Adventist Church is doing, at which he became quite excited and exclaimed, “I never said anything in

praise of that church! I said those books explain the Bible thoroughly. I praised the Bible.” The colporteur pacified him by commending his interest in the Bible and in having secured so many books put out by the Korean Signs Press; and as he went on his way, he thought to himself, “We never know but that the man who opposes us the most is the one who is thinking the deepest.”

A rather severe experience awaited a native colporteur while engaged in work in the interior of Cuba. On arriving at an isolated shack, he found two men living there, who appeared to be rather desperate characters. They were most unresponsive and unsympathetic to the appeal of the colporteur; in fact, they were so rude as to throw the colporteur out of the house. In the skirmish, there dropped from the colporteur’s pocket the little book so familiar to all fellow workers, known as “The Colporteur Evangelist.” This little manual of specific instruction to colporteurs, of an inspired nature, would not be considered a subject to interest the uninitiated in the literature ministry. But even this little book proved the instrument through which God’s Spirit spoke to the hearts of those rough and rude men. They picked it up, scanned its pages, and were convinced that if this indicated the kind of literature the stranger was trying to tell them about, they ought not to have treated him as they did.

Before the day was over, the colporteur discovered that his little book was missing, and concluding it must have been left at the house where he had received such hostile treatment, decided to return home via the “isolated shack,” and reclaim his personal property.

On reaching the house this time, he was kindly received by the inmates. Much to his surprise, he was invited to come in, and found the men ready to ask questions, and manifesting an eager interest to hear of the things which he had to tell regarding world events and the soon coming of the Saviour. There was no difficulty about securing their order for the book he was selling.

From such “apparently hopeless material” evolved two loyal Seventh-day Adventists, whose tithe for one year added two thousand dollars to the Lord’s storehouse.

“As I entered a gasoline filling station,” says a colporteur, “I saw six or eight men standing in a group. One man especially impressed me as being a very rough fellow. It took a good deal of courage for me to attempt to canvass such a group, but I started in.

“I had not proceeded far in the canvass, before this particularly rough-appearing man interrupted by calling out

to me to bring the book over where he could see it. After he had taken it in his hand and examined it, asking questions as to where it was published, etc., I proceeded with the canvass. When I reached the second chapter of the book and began the explanation of the image of Daniel 2, this same man asked the price of the book, and then immediately told me to put his name down for the best binding. Following his example, the other men said they wanted a copy, and I took seven orders as fast as I could write them down. Then this very man, who seemed to be the ringleader and to have such a rough exterior, said, 'You make my home your headquarters as long as you are around here, and I will help you sell all the books I can.'

The experience of a colporteur in a "moonshiner's" home brings to mind the instruction recorded by the spirit of prophecy to guide the workers who go from house to house, as follows:

"In all our associations it should be remembered that in the experience of others there are chapters sealed from mortal sight."—"The Ministry of Healing" p. 158.

"There are many who err, and who feel their shame and their folly. They look upon their mistakes and errors until they are driven almost to desperation. These souls we are not to neglect. When one has to swim against the stream, there is all the force of the current driving him back. Let a helping hand then be held out to him, as was the Elder Brother's hand to the sinking Peter. Speak to him hopeful words, words that will establish confidence and awaken love."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 387.

"As I was walking along the road," states one colporteur, "I observed a narrow by-path leading in another direction, and felt impressed to follow it. It led me to a little cabin on a small clearing in the woods, and in this cabin lived a lone woman — the last of a family of four, all having died within a year. The woman was indeed sad and discouraged, and in need of a helping hand.

"I began to give the canvass for the book, and when I reached the chapter explaining the plan of salvation, and talked with her as to what it meant, she asked, in apparently deep sincerity, if I thought Christ cared for a sinner like her. When I explained that Christ came and died to save the lost, who included sinners of every description, she began to weep. I did not finish the canvass. We knelt in prayer, the Spirit of the Lord was present in great power, and the woman confessed her sins and gave herself to Christ. She frankly said that she smoked and drank, and that she had just been fined \$500 for selling whisky; but she said she knew that the Lord had sent me to her door.

"She purchased a Bible, and copies of 'Bible Readings,' 'The Great Controversy,' 'Daniel and the Revelation,' and 'Steps to Christ.' The Lord wrought a transformation in that moonshiner's life, and I was indeed glad to be the humble instrument through whom the Lord chose to reach her

heart, and also gratified to be able to place so complete a library of truth-filled literature in this little cabin home which had been the headquarters of the devil's soul-destroying business."

The following experience, as related by the wife of Elder G. R. Hawkins, is a most thrilling testimonial to the transforming power of God wrought through the humble instrumentality of the colporteur evangelist:

"My husband and I were invited by the president of the conference to work as field evangelists among the long-neglected churches and isolated members in the conference territory, it being expected that we would conduct short revival meetings in the churches, and administer baptism and the ordinances of the Lord's house to those who had been calling for more than two years for the services of an ordained minister.

"One of the places scheduled in our itinerary was a small out-of-the-way community, nestled among the foothills of the Ozarks, seventeen miles from the nearest railroad station. The postmaster at this little place, and three of his neighbors, wished to be baptized, and he had persistently sent written requests to the conference for a minister to come to them.

"It was with no little curiosity that we approached the place. We were met at the station, and conducted to a typical mountaineer's vehicle, drawn by the pioneer's best friend, the horse, and for eighteen miles we bumped over rocks and ruts in that country road, winding in and out of the deep, heavy timber and underbrush. Suddenly the driver halted, and we found ourselves in front of a humble cottage, and coming to meet us were the postmaster and his wife, and five rollicking children. We were greeted most cordially, and escorted into the house. The surroundings were beautiful — deep woods all around, and streams and living springs bursting forth from the hillside. Soon we were served with a generous supper — such a meal as only a Southern hostess knows how to prepare; and after the meal we all gathered in the living room to talk over the affairs of our Master's kingdom.

"And such an evening as we spent! Never shall we forget the scene — the radiance which beamed from the faces of host and hostess as, for the first time, they had an opportunity to meet friends of kindred faith, and ask the many questions which had been so long in mind; and the intense interest of my husband and myself to find out the history of these isolated children of our heavenly Father.

"How did the third angel's message find you, away out here?" was the first question my husband asked. Then the postmaster began telling his story, which, as nearly as I can state it, was as follows:

"From my youth I was a wild lad, with every bad habit of the age. I drank, smoked, chewed tobacco, played cards,



and used profane language. I was the ringleader among the boys and young men, and the heart of many a poor mother was terrified when she knew that her boy was in my company. This situation continued after I was married. I knew little about religion, and cared less. At times, when revival meetings were conducted in the neighborhood, many prayers were offered in my behalf, but each of these occasions left me with a more hardened heart and a greater determination not to yield to good influences.

“While I was about my farm work one day, a middle-aged man approached. I soon discovered that he was a book agent — a profession which I particularly disliked, and I prided myself on knowing just how to turn away all such callers in great haste. But the noble, dignified, yet kindly appearance of this gentleman, together with the earnestness he manifested, took possession of me, in spite of my prejudice, and I listened to his canvass. But after I learned that the book he was selling was a treatise on Bible subjects, I declined to subscribe for it. The old gentleman was not so easily turned away, however, though I did not buy the book. I permitted him to come into the house, and there, in a fatherly way, he placed one of his hands on my shoulder, and looking me straight in the eye, said:

“Young man, I am not merely a book agent by profession; nor do I work simply for the money there is in it; but I am a missionary out on the King’s business, and the great God of heaven has sent me with a message to you.” Placing his other hand on the book, without removing the hand from my shoulder, he continued: “The message is all in the book. God has given you a noble wife, and beautiful children, and in the judgment He is going to require their souls at your hands. This book is the key to unlock the Guidebook to a better land. You need the key. Let us kneel right here and talk to the King about it.”

“Usually I would have been angry at such remarks, but tears were in the old man’s eyes, and his voice trembled with pent-up emotion. To my great surprise, I observed that my family were kneeling by his side, so I dropped upon my knees beside the man of God. While he was pouring out his soul in prayer for my salvation, I resolved that, in order to ease my suddenly awakened conscience and to get rid of the old man, I would buy the book; so when we rose from prayer, I told him so. The book was called “Bible Readings for the Home Circle.” All the time I was saying to myself, “I will never read it!” But as though he were reading my very thoughts, the man again put his hand on my shoulder, with his eyes fixed more tenderly on me, and remarked:

“Now, if I were just a book agent, my work would be done, but as I am an ambassador for the King, I have another message for you: It is not enough that you buy the book; you must also read it. I will pray for you!” Then, leaving me dazed and puzzled, he was gone.

“I hurried back to my work, trying to forget about the book; but at every turn I could see that noble face uplifted in prayer.

“Stubbornly, I resolved never to take that book from the shelf. But that evening, instead of going directly to supper and to bed, I picked up that book and read it until midnight. I kept this up for about a week, and I noticed by the bookmarks here and there that my wife was studying it during the day. Then we decided that we would together go over one subject each evening — she would ask the questions, and I would read the answers from the Bible. One day I asked, timidly, if she could offer a prayer like that of the old man. My wife said that she could not pray as he did, but she would do the best she knew how. Thus we erected the family altar in our home.

“Before leaving our home that day, the man of God had given to my wife copies of two small books, one entitled, “The Shadow of the Bottle,” and another, “The Other Side of Death;” also quite a number of periodicals, among them the Signs of the Times. When she called my attention to this literature, I sent to the publishing house for more copies of the Signs and also for the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald.

“The Bible studies from the book resulted in my conversion, and on reading “The Shadow of the Bottle,” I decided that conversion must be followed by a reformation in my life. I then parted company with my demijohn, my pipe, and my tobacco, threw away my cards, and stopped swearing. Then came a short battle in my mind about the state of the dead, but the little book, “The Other Side of Death” and the lessons in “Bible Readings” soon made that all very clear to me. Then I began to keep the Sabbath. By the close of the first Sabbath I ever kept in my life, my wife had decided to keep it with me, and the same decision was reached by two of our neighbors.

“I have not seen a living preacher until today, but I know all the points of the third angel’s message. And now, pastor, when can I be baptized?”

“Then, without waiting for the answer to his question, he appealed to my husband with the most eager inquiry, ‘Oh, tell me who the King’s messenger was that brought me that book and prayed with me? Where does he live? How can I find him? It may be wrong for me to say this, but I would rather see him than an angel from heaven, or the dearest relative on earth.’

“We talked on and on, and planned as to the best way to accomplish what needed to be done. The next morning, bright and early, the postmaster got onto his horse and started out to spend the day inviting neighbors and friends to the schoolhouse, where my husband was to preach. For a year the people of that community, had been studying the message as it was written by the finger of God in the changed life of this man; and as he was the only one they

# Hid in My Heart

By Sheri Stump

knew who believed and taught such truths, they called his teaching, 'John's religion.' He was a living example of every phase of present truth. His life was so in harmony with the message he proclaimed, that his old cronies would jestingly say,

'There goes the third angel's message!' The people loved him, for, like the faithful canvasser who had visited him, he taught them, and prayed with them and for them.

"When it was noised abroad that 'John's preacher' had come, and that there would be a meeting, the people came from every direction, and filled the schoolhouse to overflowing. They crowded into the halls, and peered in through the windows. During the entire week that we held meetings, the audience continued to increase from night to night. At the close of the week's services, fifteen dear converts came forward to be baptized.

"We were to leave on Monday, as the time had come for our next appointment; but at eight o'clock that Monday morning the people came to John's home and entreated us to give them one more sermon. They gathered from far and near,— men left the field, women left the washtub; some had walked four miles, others had driven from six to ten miles. They said to us, 'We are so hungry for truth; we want to know more about John's religion. It has done so much for him. In saving him, it has helped our boys. Mister, please don't preach a short sermon! You have only to-day to teach us.'

"We could not refuse their plea, so for two hours I talked to them concerning God's message of truth. Then my husband preached to them for nearly the same length of time. Then we told them that it was time that they had something to eat, and that they ought to return to their homes. But they said, 'We can eat when you are gone! Go on and tell us some more.' John took them all to his melon patch, where they partook of the delicious fruit, and they then returned to the house and requested that we teach them all the afternoon. We did so, and stayed over one more night. We packed our grips with one hand, and turned the leaves of our Bibles with the other, so eager were the people to have every moment filled with instruction. A Sabbath school of twenty-three members was organized at this place, and in scores of homes a hearty welcome awaits the messenger of truth, for whose coming they are still praying."

*The greatest public benefactor is the man who sells good books.*— Gladstone.

*For the youth who purposes to enter the ministry, a year's drill as a canvasser is of more value than two years in the monastic seclusion of a theological seminary.*— Dr. Frank Crane.

*To Be Continued*

We are now on the fifth article in this series. The purpose of the Hid-in-My-Heart series is to memorize scriptures that define the fundamentals of our faith so that we will be ready to give an answer for the faith that is in us. These Bible teachings are taken from the 1889 Fundamental Beliefs. So far we have memorized or at least familiarized ourselves with scriptures for the Father, the Son, Scripture, baptism and now 1889 Fundamental Belief number five is the New Birth.

1889 Fundamental Belief number five;

That the new birth comprises the entire change necessary to fit us for the kingdom of God, and consists of two parts; First, a moral change wrought by conversion and a Christian life (John 3:3, 5); second, a physical change at the second coming of Christ, whereby, if dead, we are raised incorruptible, and if living, are changed to immortality in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Luke 20:36; 1 Cor. 15:51, 52.

From the writings of Ellen White, we read about these two changes;

...seek for that newness of life resulting from the new birth. Let them purify their souls by obeying the truth, and act in harmony with the instruction that Christ has given. (Ellen White, *Gospel Worker*, p. 314.4)

Such transformation of character as is seen in the life of John is ever the result of communion with Christ. There may be marked defects in the character of an individual, yet when he becomes a true disciple of Christ, the power of divine grace transforms and sanctifies him. Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, he is changed from glory to glory, until he is like Him whom he adores. (Ellen White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 559.1)

All the redeemed saints will see and appreciate, as never before, the love of the Father and the Son, and songs of praise will burst forth from immortal tongues. He loved us, He gave His life for us. With glorified bodies, with enlarged capacities, with hearts made pure, with lips undefiled, we shall sing the riches of redeeming love. There will be no suffering ones in heaven, no skeptics whom we must labor to convince of the reality of eternal things, no prejudices to uproot; but all will be susceptible of that love which passeth knowledge. (Ellen White, *Letters and Manuscripts*, Letter 27, 1890, p. 6)

These Ellen White quotes help us to understand the first change that takes place at true conversion, and the second change will take place at the last day, the day we are all looking forward to when we shall behold our Savior face to face.

The following scriptures clearly support this principle. They will also be our memory verses;

As usual I have included a list of the first letter of each word as a memorization help after each verse.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

Jaasuh, V, v, Isut, Eamba, hcstkoG. J 3:3

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (1 Peter 1:23)

Bba, nocs, boi, btwoG, wlaafe. 1 P 1:23

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (1 Corinthians 15:51)

B, Isyam; Wsnas, bwsabc, 1 C 15:51

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:52)

Iam, ittoae, atlt: fttss, atdsbri, awsbc. 1 C 15:52

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

FtLhsdfhwas, wtvota, awttoG: atdiCsrf: Twwaaarsb-cutwtitc, tmtLita: asswebwtL. 1 T 4:16-17

You may communicate with me at: sheri1844@icloud.com. I would like to know how you are doing with your scripture memorization.

Build a wall of scriptures around you, and you will see that the world cannot break it down. Commit the scriptures to memory, and then throw them right back upon Satan when he comes with his temptations, 'it is written.' This is the way that our Lord met the temptations of Satan, and resisted them. Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, April 10, 1888, par. 9

*(Sheri writes from her home in Smyrna Valley. She is the wife of Pastor Allen Stump and enjoys studying the Bible, singing, and sharing her faith with others.)*



*"Mission Work in Kenya" continued from page 8*

which Satan works for the accomplishment of his purpose. Apart from helping the people to know that there is no communication between the living and the dead, we also make them know that Mary, no apostle, nor saints are in heaven interceding for mankind.

We also give studies on the three angels' messages, including the Ten Commandments and the Sabbath. We also show that the Ten Commandments are distinct and different from the ceremonial laws.



**Typical market where the studies are given**

Of course we also make it a special point to study on one true God and his only begotten Son because many listeners are Trinitarians. Most of them have no knowledge of the origin and danger of the trinity doctrine.

I want to thank the brethren once again for their continual love, mercy, and supports. The radio programs are proceeding well in the two stations and door-to-door evangelism is also going on well in the morning hours before we attend the market meetings.



**These are the humble homes we are visiting. These people are good. They are welcoming and always ready to listen from God's word. I shared with them about salvation.**

# Upcoming Camp Meetings

## USA camp

This year's annual USA 1889 HSDA camp meeting will again be held at Fall Creek Falls State Park near Spencer, Tennessee. The gathering will specifically be held at the Piney Creek camp ground. The dates for the camp are August 19–24. There is no cost to attend and both room and board are provided as we are able. So please plan now to attend.

Cabin at Piney Creek camp ground



## Canadian camp

The last few years Brother Paul and Sister Cheryl Goodwill have been hosting a Bible camp meeting near Kitwanga in British Columbia. This year we are combining resources to host meetings May 22–25. The theme is “Looking to Jesus” These meetings will mostly be biblically based evangelistic meetings. For more information, please contact Paul or Cheryl Goodwill at 250–922–4066 or email at: goodwillpaul@yahoo.com.

## Peru camp

There will also be a camp meeting in Pucallpa, Peru, February 4–8. The evening meetings are being dedicated to evangelist work for the local people.

A team of workers has already left to prepare the way. A health fair is planned, and personal work will be done the week before the meetings. We solicit your prayers for this event.

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The lady is a Sunday-keeper but was willing to study with us. Cyrus arranged with her for Bible study meetings each Tuesday.

Dear beloved, we thank the Almighty God again for enabling us to do what we are doing. Thank you again for your prayers, loves, and supports. We will continue with markets evangelism in the coming days and weeks. Through your prayers and supports, we are able to reach different locations and reach new souls.

God bless you a lot



Here is Dominick a Catholic member. He was shocked to learn about the change in God's laws by his church which allowed idol worship and Sunday observance. He was also shocked to learn that Mary is not a mediator and the saints are not interceding for the living. Dominick has requested for more teachings before he decides on what to do.