The Scars of Sin, or the Book of Remembrance

By David Sims

God speaks of a Book of Remembrance.

“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name (Malachi 3:16).”

In this book are recorded all our good deeds, our thoughts upon God, our polite and kind words, the trials we have overcome, the battles with temptation we have won, the time we have spent in sweet fellowship talking of the love of God with other believers, our fear of God, fear to do wrong, and even our tender consciences asking forgiveness for the smallest wrongs - all are recorded in this Book of Remembrance.

What is this Book of Remembrance?

Where are these sins recorded? Is it something written with ink on paper, or perhaps an e-book? We don't know exactly what various recording devices God has, but of one thing I am sure; God, Christ, and the angels as well as the inhabitants of other worlds who have not sinned, must be perfect. They must have a perfect mind, a perfect recall, and a perfect memory. This “Book of Remembrance” at least includes the record of our lives recorded in our minds; as well as the photographic mind of every angel, every redeemed saint and every inhabitant that will ever live throughout all time; recorded in living color; in high definition.

The light from our sun travels at the incredible speed of approximately one hundred eighty-six thousand miles per second in open space, year after year, passing innumerable worlds, reaching the farthest galaxies detectable by the naked eye in two to twelve million years, and then finally after forty-six billion years reaching the farthest borders of our known universe (with our most sophisticated instru-

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difficulties. Aligning schedules, coinciding daily chores, and juggling classes with household tasks were just a few obstacles faced by the students and teachers. But the challenges did not outweigh the blessings! There was definitely trial and error involved, but everyone learned how to accommodate everyone else and work together on both sides. The home environment, complete with household duties and outdoor chores, did a wonderful job of bridging the student/teacher relationship. The things that they were required to accomplish as soon as they arrived on site in Colorado proved to be a bonding agent. Brother Thomas Akens, our teacher of history, English, Greek, and music, says that working together established a friendship right away, and they were thus enabled to relate as friends even before they related in the realm of student/teacher. For example, one of the first hands-on carpentry projects was the building of their own bunk beds for the dorm room, complete with drawers and shelves!

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Waldensian Center Report
By Tara May

(Note: Waldensian Center is a missionary college that is operated by Seventh Day Home Church Fellowships.)

The snow outside my window is weighty evidence that winter is in full swing. But the days are lengthening once again, and the Waldensian Center is now entering the second term of its second year. So much has taken place; so many literal and figurative miles have been covered, and doubtless each involved has contributed his or her fair share of blood, sweat, and tears to make this school a reality.

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Other industrial arts and agricultural activities while in Colorado included learning to operate a bulldozer, tractor with a bucket, building raised beds, shredding green waste, composting and planting garlic (since it was autumn and winter), changing brakes, and using power tools, to name a few.

Despite other obstacles like mismatched time zones and long-distance teachers, life at Waldensian Center soon settled into a routine, full and overflowing with projects and new experiences. A trip to Tennessee provided opportunity for students to try their hands at tile setting, plumbing, roof repair, clean-up, and operating a man-lift and a Bobcat. But perhaps the most important lessons learned there were habits of industry, perseverance and service. Six weeks spent at Smyrna Gospel Ministries in southern West Virginia contributed valuable hands-on experience with printing and desktop publishing, along with Brother Allen Stump’s applied math and church history classes.

Two sessions were held in northern California. The study of agriculture continued at this location, and included growing potatoes and strawberries, harvesting and threshing grain by hand, learning to work a farm tractor with cultivators, fertilizing organically, and building a greenhouse. The students practiced mechanics, and had an introduction to arc welding. They also gained a wide range of experience in residential house wiring which included rough wiring, and the installation of a meter base main distribution panel, fixtures and outlets. While studying in California, the Waldensian Center was blessed with the opportunity for several field trips to such places as the Grand Canyon, Sequoia National Park, Yosemite, ice caves and more.

Waldensian Center had yet another location. Here enters the Brown family, who felt called to open their hearts and home to the students and teachers, and “jumped in with both feet.” The school remained with the Browns in Alabama throughout the remainder of its first year, and for the start of the first term of the second year. Some of the things learned and experienced in these months included bookkeeping, and also a chance to learn how to can tomatoes at home, and can apples in a real cannery! Not to mention what was (for some of us) our first encounter with harvesting (and of course sampling!) in a Muscadine grape vineyard. Brother Chuck Clifford, along with his son Adam and daughter Rebecca, flew their Cherokee 6 to Alabama for a three-day long ground school introduction to mission aviation.

With the Cliffords’ return to Colorado early in the first term, the school’s students and teachers were divided into several different locations once again. Classes varied on site in the different places (Colorado, Alabama, and California), and one of the students who was staying in Colorado followed up an interest in mission aviation to solo a Cessna 150 in November of last year. All of the students continued to share Brother David Sims’ Bible classes, as well as Sister Linda Akens’ anatomy and physiology class via teleconference.

Some paramount areas of study at Waldensian Center since its beginning, regardless of location, have included that of natural remedies, hy-
I can never forget. I believe He is with this school, and the evidence is visible to anyone whose life has been touched by WC. If one thing were to be singled out as the most noteworthy point established in a student’s heart at Waldensian Center, it is without a doubt an unwarped perspective and clear perception of the purpose of Christ’s followers on Earth, and the zeal and unaltering drive to accomplish that purpose. One of our previous students is working at a lifestyle center at the present; another has started working in the print shop of a ministry; another student teacher is in the South Pacific doing Bible studies and helping to start a missionary school there, and another is helping with secretarial work for a ministry.

As you read this report of how God’s work is underway, prayers are going up and a diligent search is now being made to find a permanent location for Waldensian Center so the students and teachers will be able to participate in fellowship with one another, as well as study and learn on site together. This would simplify this work immensely, and be an untold blessing. Please continue to add your prayers to ours and continue to look for updates on how God is working here.

God bless you all till next time! ~

Yet, even with the incredible variety of different things seen, studied, and experienced by everyone involved throughout the existence of this school, I believe the greatest benefit gained during time spent in WC was that of the undeniable impressions upon the heart, soul, and character. No one involved could truthfully say that the experience thus far has not changed them forever. Every one of us faced trials at one time or another, and all of us received blessings like none we ever have or ever will. I have seen God as I have never seen Him before, and I
forever, just as surely as Jesus said concerning Mary's deed of love, “Verily I say unto you, Where-soever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her (Matthew 26:13).” Just as surely will our thoughts and deeds of love to our Master, and our victories won, be preached throughout eternity. How significant are the following words: “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1),”

**The Record of Sins**

If our good deeds will be in the Book of Remembrance, does that mean that our sins will also be remembered throughout eternity and our secret thoughts be published to everyone? God does say:

> “For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad (Mark 4:22).”

> “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil (Ecclesiastes 12:14).”

> “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works (Revelation 20:12).”

**Sins are Blotted Out**

There is good news! Don't despair! Notice what else God says:

> “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19);”

> There is coming a time when God will blot out our sins if we repent. This includes being blotted out from our own minds as well as from the minds of everyone else in the universe. Sin will never be recalled; not even by God Himself.

> “He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)”

> “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us (Psalms 103:12).”

**The Scars of Sin**

> “The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars (Jeremiah 17:1);”

This text presents yet another factor. Iron easily cuts flesh, just as diamond easily cuts metal and stone. God is speaking here of the fact that our sins are tattooed on our hearts, and affect even our thoughts and emotions. They are engraved on the horns of the altars, thus affecting even our offerings of praise and sacrifice of service. Sin leaves scars. Though sin can be and is forgiven if we repent, it always leaves scars which nothing can efface.

> What are these scars if God has blotted out our sins? They are the missing souls that might have been won through our influence. They are the missing pages of history in our lives, lost when God blotted out our sins, memories that we might have used to glorify God by drawing lessons from for the benefit of inhabitants of other worlds. These scars prevent us from reaching the full potential in the world to come that we might have reached otherwise.

> But, my friends, praise God! These scars we bear are given to us as a blessing. God blots out our sins so we can never recall them, or have them known by others. As one young person states, “God has a delete button!” God does the best thing that a merciful God can do. He blots those sins from the minds of all.
If you are saved, what will be written in your Book of Remembrance? Will the record of your life be but a short paragraph? Will it be a narrative filled with blank spots where God has blotted out your sins, or will it be a continuous narrative of victories from its start to its finish? It is your choice.

Seventh Day Home Church Fellowships

Seventh Day Home Church Fellowships is a sisterhood of Sabbath keeping groups and home churches throughout the world. It makes discussion, study, and fellowship possible for these believers, despite their being separated by many miles in some cases. It also provides a means of working together to make larger missionary projects and events possible. It seeks to answer the prayer of Christ that we all might be one, as He is one with His Father.

It is currently made up of:
- Pacific Virtual Fellowship - USA & CAN
- Marching to Zion Homechurch - NSW, AU
- R and B Fellowship - CO, USA
  www.clarionmessenger.org
- Nandewar Fellowship - NSW, AU
- Brown Family Fellowship - Georgia, USA

Representatives chosen by their respective groups attend teleconferencing council meetings where information is shared with one another, and decisions are made as to how we can help one another and carry out various projects.

A Beetle and a Window

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Let’s keep our eyes on Christ, waiting upon Him, depending upon and clinging to Him for strength.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God Hebrews 12:1-2."

Shall we not start climbing the upward path and running the race that is set before us?

Announcements!
You Are Invited!
You are invited to attend our teleconference worship services. We have two weekly services. They are on Friday night 5 p.m. PST, and the other is Sabbath morning at 11 am PST. These times are posted in six different global time zones on our website, as well as the information on how to participate. For your convenience the information is printed here as well. Call 218-936-7999 and follow directions to enter the access code, which is 755896.

Jesus and You and Me

We would like anyone who might be interested to join us for a series entitled “Jesus, and You and Me.” The focus of these classes will be on having a Godly courtship, marriage, and family. We will primarily be using the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy as our texts. We feel the need in our own families, and hope that as we study together we can be drawn closer to God’s ideal for our homes.

This series will be presented Sabbath evenings, starting March 7th at 8:00 pm EST, as a teleconference presentation. To join the conference you will dial (218) 936-7999 and the access code is 755896. For information and handouts for the class, please visit our website at 7thdayhomechurchfellowships.com, or call Todd or Rhonda Brown at (706) 675-6500.

~ Todd and Rhonda Brown

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A Beetle and a Window

Quickly and gracefully a beetle climbed up the windowsill and on up the window. It seemed to have such a firm grip on the window, with no fear of falling. Upward the beetle climbed, and was nearing the top when it suddenly lost its hold and fell to the windowsill below. It seemed stunned and paralyzed for a time; but finally, summoning every ounce of courage and clinging to the window, the beetle climbed up just as fast as before.

I was doing schoolwork when I happened to look at the window and witnessed the heroic climb of the beetle. As I watched, an object lesson began to unfold. Jesus is like the window and I am like the beetle. Though the path may be slippery and steep, I can reach the top by clinging to Jesus.

If I lose site of Jesus; if I take my eyes off the mark; if I become self dependent and not rely on Him for strength, I will fall and become a prey to the enemy. The Bible says:

“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint Isaiah 40:29-31.”

“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven Luke 10:20.”

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Activity for the Young
(18 and younger only)

Dear young person,

We need your help. We have a brand new church newsletter, but we don’t have a name for it. We know that young people often have unique and fresh ideas, so we are coming to you. Can you think of a name for this paper? Please send us one or two suggestions for a name, with your first choice marked. If we choose the name you picked, we will send you something special and print your picture.

There is one more thing you can help with. We will make the same offer for a logo picture. Please send us one or two pictures that you think would represent our newsletter well, with your first choice marked, and we will send you something special if we decide to use one of your pictures. Please remember that it needs to be one that you have made or taken yourself, or that you have received permission to use.

You can email these to us at admin@7thdayhomechurchfellowships.com. Don’t forget to include a picture of yourself. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon! ~
Think on These Things

“The plan of redemption is not merely a way of escape from the penalty of transgression, but through it the sinner is forgiven his sins, and will be finally received into heaven—not as a forgiven culprit pardoned and released from captivity, yet looked upon with suspicion and not admitted to friendship and trust; but welcomed as a child, and taken back into fullest confidence.”

“The sacrifice of our Saviour has made ample provision for every repenting, believing soul. We are saved because God loves the purchase of the blood of Christ; and not only will He pardon the repentant sinner, not only will He permit him to enter heaven, but He, the Father of mercies, will wait at the very gates of heaven to welcome us, to give us an abundant entrance to the mansions of the blest. Oh, what love, what wondrous love the Father has shown in the gift of His beloved Son for this fallen race! And this Sacrifice is a channel for the outflow of His infinite love, that all who believe on Jesus Christ may, like the prodigal son, receive full and free restoration to the favor of Heaven.” (7BC 950).”

One Month Medical Missionary Course

Waldensian Center will be offering a one month medical missionary course. If you might be interested in attending, please contact us to let us know of your interest and to discuss the possible dates.

Camp Meeting

We are tentatively planning a camp meeting in the spring or summer. We will be notifying you more on this soon.

This newsletter is a publication of Seventh Day Home Church Fellowships. It is for communication of events, news, and for edification. You can find these newsletters, literature, Bible studies, as well as find out how to contact any of the member groups on the web at: http://www.7thdayhomechurchfellowships.org

Contact us at: admin@7thdayhomechurchfellowships.com

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