AS we review the history of Israel and Judah, we can only say, What a tragedy to see the chosen people of God following the way of the world. Disobedient to the way of the Lord, they left a history that can be explained in only one tragic word—apostasy. Yes, there were a few bright spots in their history, but not many. The young King Josiah brought a brief revival and reformation, but the succeeding kings brought the church into a worse apostasy.

In the days of Jeremiah, God instructed Jeremiah to stand in the court of the temple and speak to the people. “The crisis demanded a public and far-reaching effort... From the messages given him he must diminish not a word, that sinners in Zion might have the fullest possible opportunity to hearken and to turn from their evil ways.” Prophets and Kings, 412-413. Praise God, Jeremiah obeyed and lifted up his voice at the peril of his life and rebuked and warned the leaders and the people. God’s judgments were about to fall upon the church for its apostasy.

Who were responsible for these conditions that God’s prophet should have to speak about so plainly? “For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.” Isaiah 9:16

In the time of Christ’s ministry on this earth, it was the leaders who were responsible for the apostasy, finally demanding His crucifixion. See The Desire of Ages, 737-738.

But now let us look carefully at Jeremiah’s appeal to the leaders and the people—for the blessing of the Lord had been withdrawn from the church because of their disobedience, apostasy.

“Please read the third chapter [of Jeremiah]. This chapter is a lesson for modern Israel. Let all who claim to be children of God understand that He will not serve with their sins any more than He would with the sins of ancient Israel. God hates hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong.” Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 4, 1154.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:11-12.

“I have been shown that the spirit of the world is fast leavening the church. You are following the same path as did ancient Israel... Your neglect to follow the light will place you in a more unfavorable position than the Jews upon whom Christ pronounced a woe.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 75-76.

“There is great similarity between our history and that of the children of Israel.” Testimonies, vol. 4, 27.

Could this mean that our church would have a similar attitude toward the warnings and rebukes that John the Baptist and Christ gave to the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas? To answer this tragic question, you should review the words of Christ in Matthew chapter 23. Woe, woe to all who are blind guides in God’s church in this final generation.

Let us not forget that Ellen White has prophesied that there would be a terrible apostasy in the church at the very end of time which would be called the Omega of Apostasy, and that this apostasy would progressively worsen until the coming of the Lord. See Series B, No. 7, 56-57; Selected Messages, book 1, 197-206.

Then there would be the same resistance to warnings and rebukes born by God’s chosen messengers as was experienced by Jeremiah.

As we approach these final hours of our probation, only a few will accept the warnings and rebukes of God for this time.

“When God’s wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? Now is the time for God’s people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 136. See also Ibid., vol. 1, 608-609; vol. 5, 10, 50; Testimonies to Ministers, 409-410.

“There is a stupor, a paralysis, upon many of the people of God, which prevents them from understanding the duty of the hour.” Testimonies, vol. 8, 119.

“The Lord is soon coming. The watchmen on the walls of Zion are called upon to awake to their God-given responsibilities. God calls for watchmen who, in the power of the Spirit, will give to the world the last warning message; who will proclaim the time of night. He calls for watchmen who will arouse men and women from their lethargy, lest they sleep the sleep of death.” Ibid., 304.

The shaking of Adventism will continue until God has a pure church—leaders, pastors, and laity.

We are a backsliding church. We have been retreating back to Egypt—instead of pressing on toward the Promised Land. It is time—past time—for leaders, pastors, and laity to repent and to seek the Lord that we may see and have the revival and reformation so greatly needed now in the church. See Testimonies, vol. 5, 217. God will raise up the Josiashs around the world, that the straight testimony will do its work, and Jesus can come soon. This is our prayer at Hope International.

Ron Spear—EDITOR

Our Firm Foundation May 1997
It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of Our Firm Foundation to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world.—Editors

Editor—Ron Spear
Associate Editors—Bob Bresnahan, Clark Floyd, Beth Jennings, Preston Monterrey, Jeff Pippenger, Vernon Sparkes, Harvey Steck, Jeff Wehr
Production Manager—Harvey Steck
Contributing Editors—Colin Standish, Russell Standish
Art—Bob Bresnahan
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Hope International is a special ministry assisting in the God-given work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We believe this Remnant Church of Bible prophecy has been brought into existence by the calling of the Lord, and we look for its final triumph in purity at the second coming of Christ. That the church does not now perfectly reflect the will of our Lord is cause for sorrow, but not for discouragement. The Word of God stands pledged that all within her borders will be sifted and tried, and though the greater portion will fail the test, there will yet remain a remnant to honor the Lord by their obedience to all His commands. Therefore, Hope International urges upon all the duty of supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church in every way possible, insofar as is consistent with the principles of the government of God and the leading of His Holy Spirit upon the heart.

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Training Children for God

That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace.” Psalm 144:12.

It should be the object of every parent to secure to his children a well-balanced, symmetrical character. This is a work of no small magnitude and importance. It requires earnest thought and prayer, no less than patient, persevering effort. A right foundation must be laid, a framework, strong and firm, erected, and then day by day the work of building, polishing, perfecting, must go forward.

The early training of children is a subject that all should carefully study. We need to make the education of our children a business; for their salvation depends largely upon the education given them in childhood. Parents and guardians must themselves maintain purity of heart and life, if they desire their children to be pure. As fathers and mothers, we should train and discipline ourselves. Then as teachers in the home, we can train our children, preparing them for the immortal inheritance.

At an early age the minds of children are very susceptible to impressions of good or of evil. Even in infancy a child is affected by a sorrowful expression on the mother’s face. In a home where harsh, fretful, scolding words are spoken, a child cries much, and upon its tender sensibilities are impressed the marks of unhappiness and discord. Then, mothers, let your countenance be full of sunshine. Smile, if you can, and the infant’s mind and heart will reflect the light of your countenance, as the polished plate of an artist portrays the human features. Be sure, mothers, to have an indwelling Christ, so that on your child’s plastic mind may be impressed the divine likeness.

Mothers, have you neglected your God-given responsibility of multiplying agencies for the service of Christ? Children are the younger members of the Lord’s family. Parents should not allow them to be hindrances. They should be led to consecrate themselves wholly to God, whose they are by Creation and by redemption. With their parents, children are to share spiritual as well as temporal burdens. They should be trained to be helpful. Thus they will be taught to serve the Saviour.

Opportunities of inestimable worth, interests infinitely precious, are committed to every mother. During the first three years of the life of Samuel the prophet, his mother carefully taught him to distinguish between good and evil. By every familiar object surrounding him, she sought to lead his thoughts up to the Creator. In fulfillment of her vow to give her son to the Lord, with great self-denial she placed him under the care of Eli the high priest, to be trained for service in the house of God. Though Samuel’s youth was passed at the tabernacle devoted to the worship of God, he was not free from evil influences or sinful example. The sons of Eli feared not God, nor honored their father; but Samuel did not seek their company nor follow their evil ways. His early training led him to choose to maintain his Christian integrity. What a reward was Hannah’s, and what an encouragement to faithfulness is her example!

The father should be the faithful high priest of the home, the house band of the family. He should not be so absorbed in business life or in the study of books that he cannot take time to study the nature and the necessities of his children. He should devise ways by which they may be kept busy in useful labor agreeable to their individual dispositions. It is a great mistake to allow young men to grow up without learning some trade. To the par-
Parents, your own home is the first field in which you are called to labor. The precious plants in the home garden demand your first care. To you it is appointed to watch for souls as they that must give an account.

The highest duty of parents is to give their children a religious training. To allow a child to follow his natural impulses is to allow him to deteriorate and to become proficient in evil. The results of wrong training begin to be revealed in childhood. In early youth a selfish temper is developed and as the youth grows to manhood he grows in sin. A continual testimony against parental neglect is borne by children who have been permitted to follow a course of their own choosing. Such a downward course can be prevented only by surrounding them with influences that will counteract evil. From infancy to youth and from youth to manhood, a child should be under influences for good.

In the home school—the first grade—the very best talent should be utilized. Instruction should be given as God has directed. Patience, carefully, diligently, mercifully, children should be trained. Upon all parents rests the obligation of giving their children physical, mental, and spiritual instruction. It is essential ever to keep before children the claims of God.

Physical training, the development of the body, is far more easily given than spiritual training. The nursery, the playground, the workshop, the sowing of seed and the ingathering of the harvest—all these give physical training. Under ordinarily favorable circumstances a child naturally gains healthful vigor and a proper development of the bodily organs. Yet even in physical lines the child should be carefully trained.
Soul culture, which gives purity and elevation to the thoughts and fragrance to word and act, requires more painstaking effort. It takes patience to keep every evil motive weeded from the garden of the heart.

The spiritual training should in no case be neglected. Let us teach our children the beautiful lessons of God’s Word, that through these they may gain a knowledge of Him. Let them understand that they should do nothing which is not right. Teach them to do justice and judgment. Tell them that you cannot permit them to take a wrong course. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ present them to God at the throne of grace. Let them know that Jesus lives to make intercession for them. Encourage them to form characters fashioned after the divine similitude.

The prudent mother keeps the door of her lips, that she may not utter one hasty, freftful word. Fathers and mothers, never scold. Consecrate to God the talent of speech. Tell your children exactly what you require of them. Then let them understand that your word is law, and must be obeyed. Thus you are training them to respect the commandments of God, which plainly declare “Thou shalt,”

Frequently one such correction will be enough for a lifetime to show a child that he does not hold the lines of control.

Few parents begin early enough to teach their children to obey. The child is usually allowed to get two or three years the start of its parents, who forbear to discipline it, thinking it too young to learn to obey. But all this time self is growing strong in the little being, and every day makes harder the parent’s task of gaining control. At a very early age children can comprehend what is plainly and simply told them, and by kind and judicious management can be taught to obey.

In the school, as well as in the home, the question of discipline should be understood. We should hope that in the schoolroom there would never be occasion to use the rod. But if in a school there are those who stubbornly resist all counsel and entreaty, all prayers and burden of soul in their behalf, then it is necessary to make them understand that they must obey.

Some teachers do not think it best to enforce obedience. They think that their duty is merely to educate. True, they should educate. But what does the education of children amount to, if, when they disregard the principles placed before them, the teacher does not feel that he has a right to exercise authority?

I know that many parents do not cooperate with the teacher by fostering in the home the good influence exerted in the school. Instead of carrying out in the home the principles of obedience taught in the school, they allow their children to do as they please, to go hither and thither without restraint. And if the teacher exercises authority in requiring obedience, the children carry to their parents an exaggerated, distorted account of the way in which they have been “misused.” The teacher may have done only that which it was his painful duty to do; but the parents sympathize with their children, even though they are in the wrong.

Those parents who themselves rule in passion are the most unreasonable when their children are restrained and disciplined in school. Parents, when the church-school teacher tries so to train and discipline your children that they may gain eternal life, do not in their presence criticize his actions, even though you may think him too severe. If you desire them to give their hearts to Jesus, cooperate with the teacher’s efforts for their salvation. How much better it is for children, instead of hearing criticism, to hear from the lips of their mother sweet and tender and loving words commending the work of the teacher. Such words make lasting impressions, and influence children to respect the teacher.

The teachers in our schools need the keen perception of the Spirit of God, that they may know how to deal with the youth in their care. Those who conduct church schools and larger schools should regard it as their privilege, not only to teach in the school, but to bring into the church with which they are connected the same talents that are used in the school. Talk to the parents along educational and medical missionary lines. Show them the privilege they have of using their God-given capabilities in training their children, thus cooperating with the teacher.

We are approaching the day of final reckoning. Christ told His disciples that prior to His second coming the world would be as it was in the days of Noah, when “they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away.” Matthew 24:38-39. Those who believed when Noah began to build the ark, lost their faith through association with unbelievers who aroused all the old passion for amusement and display. For one hundred and twenty years the antediluvians were on probation, free to choose to obey the voice of God and find refuge in the ark, or to refuse to hear His voice, and be destroyed. They chose to disobey, and were destroyed.

In those days “the earth was filled with violence.” Genesis 6:11. Is not violence now in the land? How much is human life worth, if man’s way is crossed, man’s passion excited? If the picture of the present state of the world is not sufficiently startling to arouse parents to do their duty in bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the
Lord, what will bring them to a right understanding?

Satan is marshaling his hosts. Are you prepared for the conflict just before us? Are you preparing your children for the crisis? Are your children forming habits of decision, that they may be firm to principle? Parental duty has been sadly neglected. Will you not now repent, and take up your God-given lifework? There is no time to lose. Redeem the time, because the days are evil. Pray that your spiritual perceptions may be quickened.

Strive to realize the importance of living in obedience to the Holy Spirit. When you do this, the heavenly angels will minister to you as teachers in the home, training you for the work of teaching your children.

Another class stand pale and trembling, trusting in Christ, and yet oppressed with a sense of their own unworthiness. They hear with tears of joy and gratitude the Master's commendation. The days of incessant toil, of burden-bearing, of fear and anguish, are forgotten as that voice, sweeter than the music of angel harps, pronounces the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter ye into the joy of your Lord." See Matthew 25:21. There stand the host of the redeemed, the palm branch of victory in their hand, the crown upon their head. These are the ones who by faithful, earnest labor have obtained a fitness for heaven. The lifework performed on earth is acknowledged in the heavenly courts as a work well done.

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REligious persecution against minorities has already existed on a large scale in America. When did this happen? It happened during colonial and post-colonial days. Who did the persecuting? It was done by religious people who were themselves persecuted for religious reasons in Europe.

This is, of course, one of the most tragic inconsistencies of the fallen nature of man. No sooner had the early American colonists stepped on to the shores of this great land, than they forced their fellow immigrants to conform to their religious dogmas. Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite wrote, “The people were taxed, against their will, for the support of religion, and sometimes for entertaining heretical opinions.” Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite, in Reynolds v. U.S., 145.

Many of the punishments against religious dissenters were very severe. For example, the Virginia Colony in 1610 had among its religious enactments, section 3, which declared: “That no man blaspheme God’s holy name upon pain of death, or use unlawful oaths, taking the name of God in vain, curse, or ban [invoke evil], upon pain of severe punishment for the first offence so committed, and for the second, to have a bodkin [dagger] thrust through his tongue, and if he continue the blasphemy of God’s holy name, for the third time so offending, he shall be brought to martial court, and there receive censure of death for his offence.” Tracts Relating to the Colonies in North America (Washington, 1844), vol. 3, no. 2, p. 10.

The first Sunday law in America was the Virginia Sunday law of 1610, which read: “Every man and woman shall repair [go habitually] in the morning to the divine service and sermons preached upon the Sabbath day, and in the afternoon to divine service, and catechizing [teaching the principles of Christian dogma and ethics], upon pain for the first fault to lose their provision and the allowance for the whole week following; for the second, to lose the said allowance and also be whipt; and for the third to suffer death.” G. Edward Reid, Sunday’s Coming, 77.

In 1671 the Plymouth Colony passed a Sunday law in which death was the fate for dissenters. In 1646 the Massachusetts Bay Colony passed a law compelling the people to attend church on Sunday, and invoked the death penalty for those who denied the inspiration of the Bible. In 1723 Maryland enacted laws imposing fines upon those who violated the Sunday laws. In 1739 Delaware put Sunday violators in the stocks for four hours. See American State Papers, 17–77.

These Sunday laws not only threatened to punish dissenters severely, but also they made it financially difficult for those who, for religious reasons, closed their shops on the seventh-day Sabbath, in addition to the enforced closing on Sunday. In fact, many Jewish store owners felt it necessary to open their shops on Saturday in order to be able to compete in the marketplace. In 1791 Mrs. Rebecca Samuel wrote to her parents in

Our Founding Fathers—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and others—did not agree with this cruel treatment of those who believed differently in matters of religion. George Washington wrote, "All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean [conduct] themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support." *George Washington Papers*, Letter Book 30, pp. 19–20.

Fortunately, America has progressed from persecuting religious dissenters—to tolerating religious dissenters—to providing religious freedom to all because it is a natural right.

President Washington was addressing the very significant issue of toleration versus liberty. There have been Sunday laws that have in them an exemption for those who choose to observe another day as the Sabbath. However, even these exemptions do not make Sunday laws either constitutional or Biblical. Exemptions for Sunday laws are wrong for the following reasons:

1. An exemption is nothing more than an act of toleration. But toleration is not synonymous with religious liberty. Dr. Philip Schaff wrote, "Toleration is an important step from State-churchism to free-churchism. But it is only a step. There is a very great difference between toleration and liberty. Toleration is a concession which may be withdrawn; it implies a preference for the ruling form of faith and worship, and a practical disapproval of all other forms. . . . In our country we ask no toleration for religion and its free exercise, but we claim it as an inalienable right." *Schaff's Church and State in the United States*, 14. (As quoted from *Facts for the Times*, 221.)

2. An exemption for Sunday laws is wrong because it demands more from those who are exempted than from those who worship on Sunday. Why? Because those who are exempt must "conscientiously" observe the day they keep. They must prove that the day they keep is the majority has the legal power to grant or prohibit rights and liberties to the minorities. Inalienable rights do not come from majorities; they come from the Creator. This assumption of power by the majority is clearly expressed in the following words, "There is not a Seventh-day Adventist in this State [Michigan] that dare plow his field, or reap his grain, or build his house, or thresh his wheat, or chop his wood, without pleading his right to do so under the exemption clause of our laws, which clause has its root in his conscientious and religious convictions and customs. The only legal right the Seventh-day Adventists have to do secular work in shop, on house, in field, or to run their presses, etc., in their publishing concern on the Christian Sabbath, is a right given them by this State on religious grounds only." *Michigan Sabbath Watchman*, June, 1892.

Of course, there are those who would grant no exemption. From the book, *Craft's Sabbath for Man*, the following is recorded, "Infinitely less harm is done by the usual policy, the only constitutional or sensible one, to let the insignificantly small minority of less than one in a hundred, whose religious convictions require them to rest on Saturday . . . suffer the loss of one day's wages rather than have the ninety-nine suffer by the wrecking of their Sabbath by public business." *Craft's Sabbath for Man*, 262.

With or without exemptions, Sunday laws would not only trample upon religious freedom but they would chip away

The free exercise of religion is something every man may demand as an inalienable right—not something which he must plead for as a privilege or luxury.
1890s, who suffered persecution under the Sunday laws, speak to that argument. In 1895 the State of Arkansas repealed the exemption clause in their Sunday laws to benefit some unprincipled saloon keepers and other merchants who wanted to conduct their businesses seven days a week. The repeal of the exemption allowed the unscrupulous saloon operators to serve their poison, but it created a hardship for honest and God-fearing people. These Sunday laws forced observers of the seventh-day Sabbath to pay heavy fines and to be imprisoned.

For example, Mr. McCoy moved from Kentucky to Arkansas in 1873. He served as a constable for seven years and as a justice of the peace for two terms. Then in 1884 he became convicted that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, and he joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In August of 1885, he was in his corn field with his horses plowing on Sunday. His farm was at least half a mile from the nearest public road, and several miles from any public place of worship. A Mr. Wetherford, a member of the Methodist Church, came to visit Mr. McCoy, and spoke with him for several hours as Mr. McCoy continued to plow his field. In September, Mr. McCoy was arrested and placed on bond based on the testimony of Mr. Wetherford. Why was he arrested? Was it because he disturbed the peace of those attending church on Sunday? I think not. He was singled out because he kept the seventh-day Sabbath.

A St. Louis newspaper had this to say about the unjust treatment of the seventh-day observers: “They have been from the first apparently an industrious and God-fearing people; the chief difference between them and other Christian bodies being that they observe the seventh day as the Sabbath, according to the commandment... It is a little singular that no one else has been troubled on account of the law, with perhaps one minor exemption, while members of the above denomination are being arrested over the whole State. It sours just a trifle of the religious persecution which characterized the Dark Ages,” Globe-Democrat, November 30, 1885.

It is amazing that many God-fearing people were persecuted for religious reasons while the Constitution of the State of Arkansas forbade it. The Constitution of the State of Arkansas declares that, Here is a “religious” man, who admits that the Seventh-day Adventists are “generally good citizens” and are “a very devout and respectable people.” However, he proposes to bring about certain conditions that would drive these “devout and respectable people” away from the State entirely, just to satisfy the religious bigotry of those in his county. So much for tolerance or religious liberty.

The National Reform Association (N.R.A.) movement, the strongest proponents of Sunday legislation in the 1880s and the 1890s, had this to say about the persecution of seventh-day observers under Sunday legislation: “As to the alleged cases of persecution in three States, I have read the Adventists’ description of the cases in Arkansas, and they [the Seventh-day Adventists] are not of the public spirited class that is willing to ‘suffer for the common good.’ The old man and his son of seventeen whose horse was sold for $27, and the man whose young wife and child died while he was in prison, brought that evil on themselves by breaking the law.” Pastor F. M. Foster, Christian Statesman, October 10, 1889.

The reasoning expressed by Pastor Foster is that the poor victims were guilty of murdering themselves by refusing to renounce their beliefs. But such reasoning is what led to the Inquisition. This sort of thinking places a premium on hypocrisy and a minimum on human life and individual rights.

What many fail to understand is that conscientious men are not the enemies of just laws or just governments. The one form of government that they threaten is a tyranny. When the prophet Daniel chose to pray only to the God of heaven, a practice contrary to the law of the land, he was in the truest sense the Babylonian government’s friend and supporter. Those who had a zeal to carry out the unjust law were indeed Babylon’s real enemies. See Daniel chapter 6. An unjust man refusing to obey a just law is quite different from a just man refusing to obey an unjust law. It is the difference between night and day.

The National Reform Association was founded in Xenia, Ohio, in 1863 by eleven Protestant denominations. Their purpose was to nullify the First Amendment, which guarantees the separation between church and state. Dr. David McAllister said, “Those who oppose this work now will discover, when the religious amendment is made to the Consti-
tution, that if they do not see fit to fall in line with the majority, they must abide by the consequences, or seek some more congenial clime.” Dr. David McAllister, at the National Reform Convention at Lakeside, Ohio, August, 1887.

It would seem evident that Dr. McAllister saw himself as upholding the truth while others of differing convictions were in the wrong. He would, no doubt, champion the cause of toleration if he were in the minority. However, it is quite evident that if he were in the majority, the minority would suffer.

The question for us today is, Have we learned from the distant past, and the not-too-distant past? Present-day evangelical Gary North wrote, “We must use the doctrine of religious liberty to gain independence for Christian schools until we train up a generation of people who know that there is no religious neutrality. . . . Then they will get busy in constructing a Bible-based socially political, and religious order, which finally denies the religious liberty of the enemies of God.” Goldstein, One Nation Under God, 41.

Columnist Cal Thomas wrote, “If we will not be constrained from within by the power of God, we must be constrained from without by the power of the State, acting as God’s agent.” Harper’s Magazine, March 1995, 30.

There are many who are caught up into the religious-political movement who have the best of intentions. However, their efforts are leading this nation into apostasy from God. It is bad enough to enact a day of worship that is contrary to the Sabbath inscribed by God’s own finger in the Ten Commandments, but to punish those who do not agree with us demonstrates a spirit that is far from the spirit of Christ.

Soon the national Sunday law will be here. It may begin at first with an exemption for Sabbath-keepers. However, eventually it will soon be unlawful for us to buy and sell. In the end, we will surely face a death decree. O, dear friends, how important it is for us now to keep the Sabbath holy! Jesus will soon be here. Soon we will have to take our stand for truth against the whole world. I repeat, keep the Sabbath holy, dear friends. Make it a matter of prayer and dedication to experience the sanctifying power of God’s holy day. Receive all the blessings it has to offer. Indeed, “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Exodus 20:8. □

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**Upcoming Meetings**

The Evangelism & Revival Department of Hope International presents these upcoming meetings:

**May 1997**

**Bentonville, AR** ......................................... May 9–10
Carroll Electric Auditorium, North Side of Business 71
Between Bentonville & Rogers

**Portland, TN** ............................................ May 16–18
1099 Wattwood Hollow Road

**Puyallup (North Hill), WA** ................................................................ May 24
Edgewood Grange Hall
1806 Meridian East

**Zanesville, OH** ............................................. May 31–June 1
5880 Friendly Hills Road

**Walla Walla, WA** ......................................... May 31
Senior Center
311 N. Main

**June 1997**

**Bakersfield, CA** ........................................... June 7–8
Beale Memorial Library
701 Truxton Avenue

**Parma, ID** ................................................... June 20–21
Parma Seventh-day Adventist Church
409 E. Curtis Ave

**Chula Vista, CA** ........................................... June 23–28
Medical Missionary Training Seminar
Watch for further announcements.

**Puyallup (North Hill), WA** ........................................ June 28
Edgewood Grange Hall
1806 Meridian East

**Angwin, CA** ............................................... July 4–5
Angwin Village Church
Circle Drive

Look for our “Upcoming Meetings” announcements in future issues. If you need more information, please call Hope International, (360) 832-6602, and ask to speak to someone in the Evangelism and Revival (E&R) Department.
The Deeds of the Final Church

WHEN I operated my own business, people would come to me, lay an impressive résumé on my desk, and stand back and smile apprehensively. I might thumb a bit through their résumé, but I never gave it a lot of attention; rather, I would turn to the individual and somewhat startlingly ask them, “OK, you have had a lot of book education, but tell me, what can you do?”

The final church is going to be comprised of a group of individuals who indeed will be studying, praying, sighing, and crying, but more than that, the final church will be a working church—a church that is doing something. There have been numerous articles and books published giving evidence of the character of the final church, but I want to focus on what those who will comprise the final church will actually be doing in the final chapters of this world’s history.

From the following passages of scripture and quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy, it is evident that the members of the final church will be gospel, medical missionary evangelists. Let me show you why this is imperative. Diseases will become pandemic—that is right, not epidemic, but pandemic, meaning universal chaos, sickness, and despair. In Counsels on Health, 18, we are told: “The present enfeebled condition of the human family was presented before me. Every generation has been growing weaker, and disease of every form afflicts the race. Thousands of poor mortals with deformed, sickly bodies, shattered nerves, and gloomy minds are dragging out a miserable existence. Satan’s power upon the human family increases. If the Lord should not soon come and destroy his power, the earth would erelong be depopulated.”

It is certainly not a very happy picture that is described here, but it does describe a tremendous opportunity for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Isaiah 24:3–6 indicates why this picture is painted for our future:

“The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.”

Now to a faithful Seventh-day Adventist the correlation should be crystal clear. Why are the people of the world in this condition? Because “they have transgressed the laws [of God], changed the ordinance [the fourth commandment], broken the everlasting covenant.” This may sound like gloom and doom to some extent, but I am impressed that Seventh-day Adventists are here presented with one of the greatest opportunities in history. Let me explain why this opportunity exists. Of course, we see that disease and disaster are worldwide, but we also understand that some of our Seventh-day Adventist books and pamphlets and other literature are becoming unpopular. I know that it is very difficult, if not impossible, for us to take the book The Great Controversy into some countries. We know that the day will come when it will be impossible for

Robert McClintock
Doors that have been closed to him who merely preaches the gospel will be opened to the intelligent medical missionary. God reaches hearts through the relief of physical suffering.”

Jesus obviously recognized this principle during His ministry here on earth. As the very first medical missionary, He pioneered this work in the early Christian church. We are told in Testimonies, vol. 9, 168: “Christ is no longer in this world in person, to go through our cities and towns and villages, healing the sick; but He has commissioned us to carry forward the medical missionary work that He began.” (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.) In my personal work I have seen many opportunities to witness for the truths of the Lord that were granted to us because we were carrying out the medical missionary work.

Many members are afraid to attempt to begin to carry out the medical missionary evangelistic work because either they lack sufficient training, or they fear that in their own strength they are not capable of doing the work that lies before them. But we have a promise in Isaiah 58:8 that says: “Thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.” That simply indicates that, if we will go forth in faith and in all humility of heart as sincere workers for Christ, doing what He has commanded us to do, we can anticipate that His righteousness, the righteousness of Christ, will be in front of us, and His glory will be behind us. We will be protected from the wiles of the evil one as we are carrying out this work in a Christlike manner.

This is illustrated in the following personal experience: One day a neighbor called us and told us that someone was stalled at the end of the road. She said that it was a woman in a large pickup truck which had run out of gas. However, the neighbor was home alone with no gas and no vehicle with which to help, so she asked if we would be able to help the woman in some way.

I happened to be tied-up at the moment and was not able to leave, but my wife went to the lady’s aid. While she was taking the lady to a nearby town for gas, the two were able to carry on a conversation and to recognize that they both were interested in spiritual things. My wife discovered also that this lady was suffering from a severe case of rheumatoid arthritis and was virtually crippled from it. My wife indicated to her that, because of the things that God had shared with us, we were able to help people in that condition. Hearing that good news, the lady responded, indicating that she would like to know more about it.

Of course, many times people say these kinds of things, but you never see or hear from them again. However, in this particular case the lady went home and talked to her husband, and within a couple of days they were at our doorstep. When they came, she said: “I want to tell you something interesting. I thought that my truck was out of gas, but, after I headed down the road, I had far too much gas in the tank, according to the gauge, for the couple of gallons that you put in it out of that small can. I believe that an angel caused my truck to stall so that I might be able to make your acquaintance and learn about what you do.”

The first time she came to visit, it took both her husband and her daughter to get her up the steps and into the house because of her crippled condition. We were able to work with her for a number of weeks, and in approximately six weeks she returned looking like a new woman. The swelling, crippling, and knurling [knotting] had subsided greatly and she was able to walk without pain and to function as a normal person again. That
God is very willing to help us. If we will just be willing to work with Him, He will send angels to aid us in the work that we are to do, and He will supply the healing power.

He will send angels to aid us in the work that we are to do, and He will supply the healing power. Many times what we do is not sufficient of itself to bring about the remarkable results that we get, but we get these results simply because we are doing what God has asked us to do. He supplies the healing power—the same as He supplied the healing power when Naaman the Assyrian went through his first set of “hydrotherapy treatments” for leprosy.

Satan wants this world to become an utter desolation. In The Great Controversy, 589, we are told: “While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation.” We have a tremendous opportunity as Satan brings all this ruin, desolation, sickness, and disaster upon this earth. If we have done our part and have been faithful in learning and carrying out the medical missionary work, we will be able to be very useful in the final movements, in counteracting the work of Satan, and thereby being brought in contact with those who have honest hearts and are earnest seekers for truth. Many, many people are looking for peace of mind.

We are told in The Desire of Ages, 270, about the paralytic who was looking for healing—healing not only for the body but also for the soul. We are told that today thousands are suffering from physical disease, who, like the paralytic, are longing for the message, “Thy sins be forgiven thee.” Matthew 9:2.

Jesus said in John 10:10, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” You and I have the opportunities to share that abundant life with those with whom we come in contact, if we will take the time that it takes to receive the proper training to be able to carry out the gospel medical missionary work.

Many people who are in ministerial lines do not realize the necessity of developing an interest in the medical missionary work. Again, from Counsels on Health, 533, we are told: “You will never be ministers after the gospel order till you show a decided interest in medical missionary work, the gospel of healing and blessing and strengthening. Come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty powers of darkness, that it be not said of you, ‘Curse ye Meroz, . . . curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord.’ Judges 5:23.”

Do you remember Meroz? Meroz was that little town in Old Testament times which would not come to the help of the tribes of Israel when they were fighting with their enemies. The Lord said “Curse ye Meroz, . . . curse ye bitterly . . . because they came not to the help of the Lord.”

Friends, do we understand that unless we take a decided interest in the gospel medical missionary work—and I do not mean to just tolerate it, or say that it is fine for others to do, but to take a personal interest ourselves—it may be said of us “curse ye Meroz”? Each one of us is called to be a minister—not just those who are evangelists or who are ministers of congregations. Each member is to be a minister, ministering to those with whom he or she comes in contact.

Medical Ministry, 253, tells us that: “The minister will often be called upon to act the part of a physician. He should have a training that will enable him to administer the simpler remedies for the relief of suffering. Ministers and Bible workers should prepare themselves for this line of work, for in doing it they are following the example of Christ. They should be as well prepared by education and practice to combat disease of the body as they are to heal the sin-sick soul by pointing to the Great Physician.”

Each person who undertakes to be a minister for Christ also needs to be able to recognize the causes of disease, and to be competent in dealing with the relief of disease—combating diseases of the body. Many times individuals come to me and say, “I am really glad that you are doing the type of work you are doing, but you know, I don’t have that talent, and I really don’t have that interest.” Yet the counsel tells us that it is a universal work for every member:

“We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. The world is a lazaret filled with victims of both physical and spiritual disease. Everywhere people are perishing for lack of knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us. The members of the church are in need of an awakening, that they may realize their responsibility to impart these truths.”

Testimonies, vol. 7, 62.

As Jesus considered all of His people in this world who are in the other folds, He said, “My people perish for a lack of knowledge.” Hosea 4:6.

By and large, the world is ignorant of the benefits of healthful living. Many people could be enjoying far better health of both body and mind if they only knew how to live differently. We are told in Medical Ministry, 223–224, “Nature will want some assistance to bring things to their proper condition, which may be found in the simplest remedies, especially in the use of nature’s own furnished remedies. . . . If the sick and suffering will do only as well as they know in regard to living out the principles of health reform perseveringly, then they will in nine cases out of ten recover from their ailments.”

But who will teach them how to live?

Each church member is to labor to develop the medical missionary work. We are told that it should be a door-to-door work. But within the realm of our need to educate the world to better principles, we discover that most of our people have not had a burden for the medical missionary work. They have not had a burden for developing the skills that have been passed.
down to us from Jesus. What we find instead is that most of our people are
taught ignorant of the importance of health
and the medical missionary work, and one
not only are we ignorant of the importance of calling
will teach the world, but also the next
question, Who will teach us?

We are desperately in need of short-
training courses. Some of our organizations
provide long courses of training for the young people who are of college age, but
to those among us who are housewives and
mothers, and those who are professional
people, or construction workers, need an
opportunity to take short courses of study
so that those who cannot take two or three
or four years to go to college can still have
the training they need. This need is spelled
out in Testimonies, vol. 9, 172:

"Workers—gospel medical missiona-
aries—are needed now. You cannot afford
to spend years in preparation. Soon
doors will open to us or will be
forever closed." I have dedicated the rest of my
life to providing that type of training for people who have the need, and who rec-
ognize their desire to follow the Lord
more fully by being prepared for the gos-
pel medical missionary work. Furthermore,
I would challenge others who have these
skills to share them with each one of our
friends and relatives who are in this mes-
sage, so that we may all be prepared to do
the work that is at hand.

James gave us a commission. He said
in Matthew 10:7-8 "And as ye go
preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven
is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the
lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:
free y e have received, freely give."

As Jesus was contemplating this com-
mission, He had looked at the condition
of the world about him. Earlier in Mat-
thew 9:37-38, He said to His disciples:
"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the
labourers are few; pray ye therefore the
Lord of the harvest, that he will send
forth labourers into his harvest."

Will you answer the commission? Will
you seek out training? Or, if you are one
who can teach, will you begin to train
others?  

Footnote:

1 A public hospital dedicated to treating conta-
gious diseases, especially for lepers.

UPHOLDING THE SABBATH

"I was amazed as I saw the fourth commandment in the very center of the Ten Prece-
cepts, with a soft halo of light encircling it. Said the angel, 'It is the only one of the ten
which defines the living God who created the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein.'"

Life Sketches of E. G. White, 95-96.

Facts of Faith
by Christian Edwardson

Very few church members can give
from the Word of God an intelligent
reason for most of our prominent truths. The
evidence is clear that most of Christianity is
unprepared for the crisis
that is on the horizon. This book will so-
lidify your confidence
in Biblical facts of faith. PB, 6 x 9
inch size, 320 pages. $8.50.

Christ and the Sabbath
by W. W. Prescott

A thorough presentation of Christ
the Creator, and the Sab-
bath. Trace the Sabbath
from its origin to its end-
time sign of sanctifica-
tion for God's remnant.
PB, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inch size, 34 pages. $1.00.

The Sabbath: Saturday or Sunday?

This 60-page booklet addresses the
great testing question for earth's final gen-
eration: Which day is God's true Sab-
bath—Saturday or Sunday?

Compiled from studies in Bible Readings
for the Home Circle (1916 edition). It also
contains the excellent material printed in the tract
"A Test and A Sign." PB, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inch size. $1.50.

The Truth About the Sabbath
by Jim Pinkoski

This book is illustrated cartoon-style,
but is not humorous. Good for sharing
with those not fa-
miliar with Ad-
ventist truths. It
presents the all-
important Sab-
bath message. Prepare your
neighbors for the
test. PB, 8 1/2
x 11 inch size,
56 pages. $2.75.

The Law and the Sabbath
by Allen Walker

As the title suggests this book dis-
cusses very thoroughly the relationship
between Sabbathkeep-
ing and the law. Chapters include "Right-
eousness by Faith," "Is Obedience Legalism?"
and "Dispensationalism." An excellent
investment in truth. PB, 5 x
8 inch size, 240 pages.
$6.95.

Please see page 3 for shipping and sales tax information.
When man was created in God's image, he was in harmony with his Creator, with his fellow being (Eve), and with creation itself. However, sin broke this perfect harmony and played a distorted note—a note that has lasted nearly 6,000 years with pain and suffering upon the entire creation.

Since the days of the Greek philosopher Plato (427-347 B.C.), much of the known civilized Western world has had a dualistic view of man's nature—body and spirit. Contrary to Plato's views upon the nature of man, the Holy Scriptures describes man as being composed of three different faculties interacting with each other as one whole being.

Let us now study some Bible passages that reveal the teaching of man's wholeness:

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

The Greek word translated "wholly" (holoteles) means "entirely, completely, perfectly." Twice the apostle Paul emphasized in this verse the idea of wholeness. Remember that he is addressing the Thessalonians, who lived in a city with a strong Greek mentality in which they had a fragmented view of man. In order to get his message across, he spoke in the terms familiar to the Hellenistic culture. This strategy was not unusual for him. Paul referred to this same approach with the Christians dwelling in the Greek city of Corinth when he stated:

"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; to them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.

The apostle obviously wanted to reach the people at the level where he found them. Therefore, the thought that Paul wished to express to his fellow Christians in Thessalonica was that the spirit, soul, and body were to be perfectly consecrated to the Lord in holiness and to be preserved blameless.

In his book The Almost Forgotten Day, 11, Mark A. Finley describes how myths can easily be accepted as truths if they have been in existence for a sufficient period of time. To prove his argument, he conveys the case of the spider: "About 350 B.C., the great Greek philosopher Aristotle classified the spider as having six legs. And for the next twenty centuries everyone believed the spider had six legs. No one even bothered to count. After all, who would dare challenge the great Aristotle?

"Well, along came Lamarck, the outstanding biologist and naturalist. He carefully counted the legs of the spider. And guess how many legs he counted? Exactly eight! The myth that had been taught as truth for centuries was destroyed because Lamarck bothered to count."

To abandon any myth, no matter how long it has been in existence, and to search for truth must be an ever increasing quality of every Christian believer.

An older myth than that of the spider has lasted nearly six thousand years—the myth of the immortality of the soul, or that there is conscious existence apart from the body. This myth sprang out of a false notion of what constitutes the nature of man, and the failure to comprehend the wholeness of his faculties.

"In our Firm Foundation May 1997"
Some Seventh-day Adventists have had a difficult time trying to explain this passage. Proponents of the false concept of the immortality of the soul have claimed that this Bible verse (1 Thessalonians 5:23) clearly teaches that the soul is a “complete” different entity. This notion is a reflection of holding a dualistic view of man’s nature. Of course, this teaching is just speculation—an idea introduced nearly six thousand years ago by the father of lies, Satan himself, when he told Eve: “Ye shall not surely die.” Genesis 3:4. Like in the tale of the pied piper, he has played his hellish tune to mesmerize fallen humanity and lead them to utter destruction and eternal oblivion.

Today ancient paganism and spiritism have put on a new mask—the New Age movement. Through this philosophy, Satan teaches those who have discovered the futility of materialism as a means of happiness and peace, can find their long-sought-after paradise by looking to the “inner man.” The New Age movement proposes that it has the answers and solutions for all of the problems that confound mankind. Thus, this movement focuses one’s attention—not on outside sources like God and the Holy Scriptures—but on the “inner man”, which they understand to be the “spirit.”

Spirit (Pneuma)

When the Bible speaks about the spirit (pneuma) in this specific reference (see 1 Thessalonians 5:23), it is referring to the spiritual faculties of man. It is not describing the spirit as something metaphysical, immortal or disembodied.

“There is nothing inherent in the word pneuma denoting an entity in man capable of conscious existence apart from the body, nor does New Testament usage with respect to man in any way imply such a concept.” The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary, 1040. Furthermore, the New Testament also uses the word “spirit” to describe something pure, holy, sacred, and consecrated to God, that has divine discernment.

Some may question whether or not every person has spiritual faculties with at least some degree of discernment and responsiveness to goodness and God. The Bible tells us that Christ is the “true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” John 1:9. “As through Christ every human being has life, so also through Him every soul receives some ray of divine light. Not only intellectual but spiritual power, a perception of right, a desire for goodness, exists in every heart.” Education 29.

To verify this proposition, let us consider the following passages:

“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.” Romans 7:14. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.” Colossians 1:9.

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:5.

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering yourselve, lest thou also be tempted.” Galatians 6:1. The Greek word used in the above passages for spiritual is “pneumatikos,” which comes from the Greek term “pneuma.” When we study these expressions as a whole, we will observe that these passages do not convey an idea of something immaterial but rather the quality of purity, holiness and divine discernment. It would be both ridiculous and inaccurate to interpret these Bible verses otherwise. Now I ask the reader: Is the law ghostly? No, it is concrete—written on two tables of solid rock. Are Christ’s church members bodiless creatures? Are they floating in the air? No, they are composed of matter—the flesh. See the following Bible passages:

“Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church.” Colossians 1:24.

“Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?” Philémon 1:16.

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Christ] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” Hebrews 2:14.

There is nothing inherent in the word pneuma denoting an entity in man capable of conscious existence apart from the body, nor does New Testament usage with respect to man in any way imply such a concept.”

Understanding the word “spirit” as being something bodiless or immaterial would lead us to a preposterous and incorrect interpretation of the following verses:

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23–24.

God requires that His true worshippers worship Him in spirit. Does that mean that you have to die and become a bodiless “person” in order to render adoration to God “in spirit” and “in truth”? Absolutely not! The Bible unequivocally warns us:

“For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.” Isaiah 38:18.

As we continue with our analysis of the wholeness of man composed of three faculties, let us study the word “soul.”

Soul (Psiche)

“The usage of the Greek word psiche in the New Testament is similar to that of nephesh in the Old Testament. It is used for animal life as well as human life (Revelation 16:3). In the KJV it is translated forty times simply as ‘life’ or ‘lives’ (see Matthew 2:20; 6:25; 16:25). In some instances it is used to mean simply ‘people’ (see Acts 7:14; 27:37; Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 3:20; etc.). Sometimes it refers to the emotions (Mark 14:34, Luke 2:35), to the mind (Acts 14:2;
We must view the nature of man—spiritually, mentally, and physically—realizing at the same time that none of these faculties can exist on their own. They form an entire and a whole being.

finds no support in the Inspired Writings. There is nothing in the words translated ‘soul’ or in their usage in the Bible that even remotely implies a conscious entity that survives the body after death, or that attributes immortality to it. In fact, the New Testament specifically teaches that the soul (psuche) is destroyed along with the body in ‘hell’ (Matthew 10:28).” Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary, 1037.

The word “soul” in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 refers to the mind, the mental abilities—the place of the emotional and behavioral characteristics of an individual. We may well agree with this definition if we compare it with the subsequent references, in which the same Greek expression (psuche) used for the word “soul” is then applied to the term “mind.”

“For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set

Body (Soma)

The body is the entire material or physical structure of a human being:

“Mind—Body Relationship

Our faculties are so intermingled that their influence upon each other is certainly astonishing.

While psychologists have studied for several decades the mechanisms of psychosomatic diseases (disorders having physical symptoms that originate from mental or emotional causes), the Holy Scriptures plainly and unquestionably declared nearly 3,000 years ago:


“A sound [tranquil] heart [mind] is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones [body].” Proverbs 14:30.

Trust [spiritual faculty] in the Lord with all thine heart [mental]; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge [spiritual] him, and he [God] shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear [spiritual] the Lord, and depart from evil [a moral and spiritual action]. It shall be health [medicinal result] to thy navel [body], and marrow to thy bones [body].” Proverbs 3:5-8.

A merry heart [mind] maketh a cheerful countenance [body]; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.” Proverbs 15:13.

Perhaps with this Biblical definition and psychosomatic principle, we can better understand Proverbs 15:17, which says: “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.” We must therefore create a very peaceful and happy atmosphere around our dining tables in order to ensure better digestion. Thus any sensitive subject with the potential to create negative emotions and controversy, should be completely banned from mealtime.

Restoring Man’s Three Faculties

The Word of God teaches us that when Christ came to this earth, He symmetrically developed all three faculties:

“And the child grew [physical], and waxed strong in spirit [spiritual], filled with wisdom [mental]: and the grace of God was upon him.” Luke 2:40.

“And Jesus increased in wisdom [mental] and stature [physical], and in favour with God [spiritual] and man.” Luke 2:52.

He also worked toward the restoration of these three faculties in fallen and suffering humanity:

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching [mental] in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom [spiritual], and healing all manner of sickness [physical] and all manner of disease among the people.” Matthew 4:23.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies [physical] a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind [mental], that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and per-
fect, will of God [spiritual].” Romans 12:1-2.

He indeed wanted to save not just our spiritual and mental faculties, but our physical being as well:

“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” Romans 8:22-23.

Yes, brethren, God wants to restore all things as they were at the beginning. Let us never forget that, “When Adam came from the Creator’s hand, he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a likeness to his Maker. ‘God created man in his own image’ (Gen 1:27), and it was His purpose that the longer man lived, the more fully he should reveal this image—the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator.” Education, 15.

However, sin entered into this planet and delayed God’s plan for mankind. Nevertheless, He is very committed to restoring His original plan. He will restore all things to their Edenic state. The scriptures thus read:

“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, a burnt offering [a living sacrifice] before the altar. The Hebrew word used in Leviticus 1:3, 10 and 13 for burnt offering is Olah which means: That which goes up. Another word used also in the Old Testament for burnt offering is kalil which means: Whole, complete. See Psalm 51:19.

I personally like the association that the concept of burnt offering conveys: going up and completeness. It seems that in order “to go up” in our Christian walk we must be fully or completely consecrated to God. We must wholly surrender ourselves without reservations, to advancing and being lifted up to a heavenly atmosphere. Thus we become also a living sacrifice in the service of God.

May our Lord help us each and every one to daily become a living sacrifice. May He help us to consecrate ourselves to Him, fully—completely. May He help us to find and incorporate into our lives, not Satan’s counterfeit “holistic” medicine, but the true divine wholistic medicine—the kind that brings a full restoration of man’s faculties as we live in harmony with God’s eternal laws in the physical, mental and spiritual realms.

Let us reject the myth of the immortality of the soul, as well as the false teaching of dualism taught by Plato. As the biologist Lamarck, destroyed an ancient myth by investigating the evidence and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3:19-21.

Conclusion

In the light of our discussion regarding the wholeness of man, we should offer ourselves, figuratively speaking, as God left in nature itself, and by proclaiming the truth about spiders to the world, let us destroy this Platonic, hellish myth of the immortality of the soul by searching the evidence that God has left in the Holy Scriptures. Let us proclaim to the universe the truth of the wholeness of man.

1. (Greek Holokletes) Strong’s # 3651.
2. (Greek Pneuma) Strong’s # 4151.
3. (Greek Psuche) Strong’s # 5590.
4. (Greek Soma) Strong’s # 4983.
5. (Greek Pneumatikos) Strong’s # 4152.
Under the Divine Rebuke

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the children of Israel greatly increased their membership and improved their organization during their wilderness wandering, they were in a deplorable spiritual condition. This is evident from many scriptures of which the following are samples:

"Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the Lord thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the Lord. Also in Horeb ye provoked the Lord to wrath, so that the Lord was angry with you to have destroyed you... Likewise when the Lord sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, Go up and possess the land which I have given you; then ye rebelled against the commandment of the Lord your God, and ye believed him not, nor hearkened to his voice. Ye have been rebellious against the Lord from the day that I knew you." Deuteronomy 9:7-8, 23-24. See also Psalm 78:17-18, 36-41.

Their entire journey was marked by disobedience and rebellion. "Yet the only records of their wilderness life are instances of rebellion against the Lord. The revolt of Korah had resulted in the destruction of fourteen thousand of Israel. And there were isolated cases that showed the same spirit of contempt for the divine authority." Patriarchs and Prophets, 407.

"For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the Lord; and how much more after my death?" Deuteronomy 31:27.

"They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee. And when the Lord saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters. And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith." Deuteronomy 32:16-20.

The secret of their backslidden spiritual state is found in the statement that they were children in whom is no faith. In Hebrews 3:17-19 we are told that unbelief, or lack of faith, was the reason for their failure to enter Canaan and was the thing that especially grieved and provoked God: "But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness? And to whom were they angry forty years? was it not with them to exposures in his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

Between the crossing of the Red Sea and the capture of Jericho there was no exhibition of faith that was worthy of mention in the divine record. "By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days." Hebrews 11:29-30. The very purpose of the wilderness sojourn was to teach them lessons of faith and obedience, but they were slow to learn.

Divine Rebuke

During the wilderness wandering, Israel was not only under the divine rebuke but they were a partially rejected people:

"And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the Lord, was consumed." Numbers 32:13; see also Deuteronomy 2:14-15.

"For nearly forty years the children of Israel are lost to view in the obscurity of the desert... During these years the people were constantly reminded that they were under the divine rebuke. In the rebellion at Kadesh they had rejected God, and God had for the time rejected them. Since they had proved unfaithful to His covenant, they were not to receive the sign of the covenant, the rite of circumcision. Their desire to return to the land of slavery had shown them to be unworthy of freedom, and the ordinance of the Passover, instituted to commemo-
rate the deliverance from bondage, was not to be observed.” Patriarchs and Prophets, 406.

The divine rebuke or partial rejection continued till the crossing of the Jordan into the Promised Land. “And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way. And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day. And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.” Joshua 5:7-10.

On that day the “reproach of Egypt” was rolled away, the divine rebuke removed, the period of rejection ended, and the covenant of grace renewed. Here Joshua circumcised the children of Israel. And “the children of Israel encamped at Gilgal, and kept the passover.” Since the rebellion at Kadesh the Lord had forbidden the Israelites the privilege of celebrating these two ordinances because their rebellion had made them void of meaning. Their desire to return to Egypt, and the fact that in their hearts they did return to Egypt, made the Passover of none effect. The Passover also pointed forward to Calvary and that event also was lost sight of. Circumcision was a symbol of the cutting of sins from the heart and was therefore a sign of righteousness by faith.

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.” Romans 2:28-29; see also Romans 4:11.

Without this inward experience circumcision was a farce.

“Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.” Jeremiah 4:4; see also Jeremiah 9:25-26; Ezekiel 44:7.

The rejection of divine leadership through the prophet of the Exodus movement, together with the abundance of evidence that the Israelites were not separated from their sins, knew nothing of righteousness by faith as an experience, and were still lusting after the things of Egypt, and were not therefore delivered from their former bondage, made the rite of circumcision and the ordinance of the Passover meaningless.

“...the suspension of the rite of circumcision since the rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea had been a constant witness to Israel that their covenant with God, which it was the appointed symbol, had been broken. And the discontinuance of the Passover, the memorial of their deliverance from Egypt, had been an evidence of the Lord's displeasure at their desire to return to the land of bondage. Now, however, the years of rejection were ended. Once more God acknowledged Israel as His people, and the sign of the covenant was restored.” Patriarchs and Prophets, 485.

Reminded of Sins

There are many texts that indicate that Moses constantly reminded the Israelites of their sins during their period of partial rejection and he especially did not permit them to forget their rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea:

“Moses faithfully set before them their errors and the transgressions of their fathers. They had often felt impatient and rebellious because of their long wandering in the wilderness; but the Lord had not been chargeable with this delay in possessing Canaan; He was more grieved than they because He could not bring them into immediate possession of the Promised Land, and thus display before all nations His mighty power in the deliverance of His people. With their distrust of God, with their pride and unbelief, they had not been prepared to enter Canaan. They would in no way represent that people whose God is the Lord; for they did not bear His character of purity, goodness, and benevolence. Had their fathers yielded in faith to the direction of God, being governed by His judgments and walking in His ordinances, they would long before have been settled in Canaan, a prosperous, holy, happy people.” Patriarchs and Prophets, 464.

“...it was the design of God that Moses should frequently remind Israel of their...
"Heathen nations had reproached the Lord and His people because the Hebrews had failed to take possession of Canaan, as they expected, soon after leaving Egypt. Their enemies had triumphed because Israel had wandered so long in the wilderness, and they had mockingly declared that the God of the Hebrews was not able to bring them into the Promised Land." Patriarchs and Prophets, 486.

The rebuke of God is upon us because of our neglect of solemn responsibilities. His blessings have been withdrawn because the Testimonies He has given have not been heeded by those who professed to believe them.

"Their delay to enter the goodly land dishonored God and detracted from His glory in the sight of surrounding nations." Ibid., 464. It was at this time that the heathen said: "Where is their God?"

The Advent Movement

Notwithstanding the fact that the Advent movement has steadily increased its membership, improved its organization, extended its influence, and has prospered in material things along all lines, God's remnant people are in a sad spiritual state. They have lost their first love and are lukewarm and are spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. See Revelation 2:1-5; 3:14-22. We are said to be under the divine forbearance:

"I saw that at present we are under divine forbearance, but no one can say how long this will continue. No one knows how great the mercy that has been exercised toward us. But few are heartily devoted to God. There are only a few who, like the stars in a tempestuous night, shine here and there among the clouds.

"Many who complacent ly listen to the truths from God's Word are dead spiritually, while they profess to live. For years they have come and gone in our congregations, but they seem only less and less sensible of the value of revealed truth. They do not hunger and thirst after righteousness. They have no relish for spiritual or divine things. They assent to the truth, but are not sanctified through it. Neither the Word of God nor the Testimonies of His Spirit make any lasting impression upon them. Just according to the light, the privileges, and opportunities which they have slighted will be their condemnation. Many who preach the truth to others are themselves cherishing iniquity. The entreaties of the Spirit of God, like divine melody, the promises of His Word so rich and abundant, its blessings, etc., are kept back by them. The Lord knows they are barren blessings, but they go on, as the Lord has said, 'servant sets up a veil, and shutteth it.'

"Ibid., 464. It was at this time that the heathen said: "Where is their God?"

The Divine Rebuke

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore, and repent." Revelation 3:19. The Laodicean message is a divine rebuke. It is evidence of a partial rejection or separation. The union between Christ and the church is not complete, as evident from the fact that He is outside the door knocking and pleading to be invited in. He is not in the innermost sanctuary of the hearts of His people, and He does not have full possession of His church-temple.

"Since the time of the Minneapolis meeting, I have seen the state of the Laodicean church as never before. I have heard the rebuke of God spoken to those who feel so well satisfied, who know not their spiritual destitution. . . . Like the Jews, many have closed their eyes lest they should see; but there is a great peril now, in closing the eyes to light, and in walking apart from Christ, feeling need of nothing, as there was when He was upon earth." Review and Herald, August 26, 1890. The Laodicean message is here called "the rebuke of God" and Laodiceans are said to be "walking apart from Christ."

"The rebuke of God is upon us because of our neglect of solemn responsibilities. His blessings have been withdrawn because the Testimonies He has given have not been heeded by those who professed to believe them. Oh, for a religious awakening! The angels of God are going from church to church, doing their duty; and Christ is knocking at the door of your hearts for entrance. But the means that God has devised to awaken the church to a sense of their spiritual destitution, have not been regarded. The voice of the True Witness has been heard in reproof, but has not been obeyed. Men have chosen to follow their own way instead of God's way because self was not crucified in them. Thus the light has had but little effect upon their minds and hearts. . . . If you wait for light to come in a way that will please everyone, you will wait in vain. If you wait for louder calls or better opportunities, the light will be withdrawn, and you will be left in darkness." Testimonies, vol. 5, 719-720.

Not in Midst

The following statement is a comment on Revelation 3:20 and shows that as long as Christ is kept outside the door He is not in the midst of Zion and He is excluded from His own temple:

"The church is in the Laodicean state. The presence of God is not in her midst. . . . What a terrible thing it is to exclude Christ from His own temple! What a loss to the church! Our Redeemer sends His messengers to bear a testimony to His people. He says, '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.' Revelation 3:20. But many refuse to receive Him, because they fear that He will be an expensive guest. The Holy Spirit waits to soften and subdue hearts, but they are not willing to open the door and let the Saviour in; for they fear that He will require something of them. And so Jesus of Nazareth passes by. He longs to bestow on them His rich blessings and gifts of grace, but they refuse to accept them." Notebook Leaflets, 99-100.

The cause of the present spiritual weakness of God's remnant people is declared to be their Laodicean condition which makes the church "a place whence the divine presence and glory have departed! For this cause there is weakness, and strength is lacking. Unless the church, which is now being leavened with her own backsliding, shall repent and be con-
verted, she will eat of the fruit of her own doing, until she shall abhor herself.” Testimonies, vol. 8, 250.

That the situation is not hopeless is indicated by the promise of a revival: “When purification shall take place in our ranks, we shall no longer rest at ease, boasting of being rich and increased with goods, in need of nothing. . . . When she resists the evil and chooses the good, when she seeks God with all humility and reaches her high calling in Christ, standing on the platform of eternal truth and by faith laying hold upon the attainments prepared for her, she will be healed. She will appear in her God-given simplicity and purity, separate from earthly entanglements, showing that the truth has made her free indeed. Then her members will indeed be the chosen of God, His representatives.” Ibid., 250-251.

**Aimlessly Drifting**

Just as Israel of old wandered aimlessly about in the wilderness during the time of their partial rejection while they were under the divine rebuke, so modern Israel is said to be “drifting” as though they were “without chart or compass.”

“The solemn question should come home to every member of our churches, How are we standing before God, as the professed followers of Jesus Christ? Is our light shining forth to the world in clear, steady rays? Have we, as a people solemnly dedicated to God, preserved our union with the Source of all light? Are not the symptoms of decay and declension painfully visible in the midst of the Christian churches of today? Spiritual death has come upon the people that should be manifesting life and zeal, purity and consecration, by the most earnest devotion to the cause of truth. 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.” Review and Herald, July 24, 1888.

While we are in the Laodicean condition the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary is being hindered and retarded:

“To those who are indifferent at this time Christ’s warning is: ‘Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.’ Revelation 3:16. The figure of spewing out of His mouth means that He cannot offer up your prayers or your expressions of love to God. He cannot endorse your teaching of His Word or your spiritual work in anywise. He cannot present your religious exercises with the request that grace be given you.” Testimonies, vol. 6, 408.

Our Laodicean attitude has brought the priestly ministration of Christ to virtually a standstill which has delayed His return. The Bridegroom tarries while the church slumbers and sleeps.

**Constantly Reminded**

Through the Spirit of Prophecy the Lord has constantly reminded the Advent people of their sins, and especially of their Laodicean condition, and the great sin of rejecting the message of 1888.

“The Lord directed Moses to recount to the children of Israel His dealings with them in their deliverance from Egypt and their wonderful preservation in the wilderness. He was to call to mind their unbelief and murmuring when brought into trial, and the Lord’s great mercy and loving-kindness, which had never forsaken them. . . . It is just as essential that the people of God in this day should bear in mind how and when they have been tested, and where their faith has failed; where they have imperiled His cause by their unbelief and also by their self-confidence. God’s mercy, His sustaining providence, His never-to-be-for-

“...The apostle Paul plainly states that the experience of the Israelites in their travels has been recorded for the benefit of those living in this age of the world, those upon whom the ends of the world are come. We do not consider that our dangers are any less than those of the Hebrews, but greater. There will be temptations to jealousies and murmurings, and there will be outspoken rebellion, as are recorded of ancient Israel. There will ever be a spirit to rise up against the reproof of sins and wrongs.” Testimonies, vol. 3, 358.

This prophecy was fulfilled following the 1888 meeting when year after year the prophet of the Advent movement reminded the church and her leaders of what happened at Minneapolis and the terrible consequences of that rebellion against heavenly light and divine leadership.

**Conflicting Attitudes**

During all the years the church has been boasting of her progress and prosperity in increased members, facilities, institutions and worldwide mission enterprises, the Lord through the Spirit of Prophecy has been rebuking the members of the church for their sins and backslidings: for the loss of their first love which has resulted in lukewarmness and spiritual poverty. The reproof has not been understood or appreciated by those under the Laodicean deception, and, therefore the Testimonies have been practically set aside, and by many virtually rejected.

Not being able to understand the manifest contradiction between the attitude of the church and the prophetic agency of the movement through whom God speaks, the tendency has been to question the authority of the latter and conclude that God’s prophet was altogether too pessimistic.

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This reproof and reminding of their mistakes has been no more acceptable to modern Israel during their wilderness wanderings than to ancient Israel while they were under the divine rebuke.
To Every Man His Work

When Christ ascended on high, He bade His disciples take the gospel work where He had left it, and carry it forward to completion. Though more than eighteen centuries have passed since that command was uttered, it has lost naught of its force. Today, the last warning message of mercy, the closing invitation of the gospel, is sounded to the world. A great work is yet to be accomplished, a work which will require most earnest, determined effort. Everyone who has received the light of truth, is required, in turn, to aid in giving the light to the world. If we would at last share the reward of the righteous, we must wisely improve the time of our probation. Moments are more precious than gold. We have been redeemed by the blood of Christ; our time, our talents, belong to Him. We should improve every opportunity to advance the cause of our Master.

We should seek to preserve the full vigor of all our powers, for the accomplishment of the work before us. Whatever detracts from physical vigor, weakens mental effort. Hence, every practice unfavorable to the health of the body, should be resolutely shunned.

Says the great apostle, “I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” 1 Corinthians 9:27. We cannot maintain consecration to God, and yet injure our health by the willful indulgence of a wrong habit. Self-denial is one of the conditions, not only of admission into the service of Christ, but of continuance therein. Christ Himself declared, in unmistakable language, the conditions of discipleship: “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” Matthew 16:24.

Yet how many who call themselves Christians are unwilling to exercise self-denial, even for Christ’s sake. How often the love for some pernicious indulgence is stronger than the desire for a sound mind in a sound body! Precious hours of probation are spent, God-given means squandered, to please the eye or to gratify the appetite. Custom holds thousands in bondage to the earthly and sensual. Many are willing captives; they desire no better portion.

They are few who walk in the clear light of God’s Word, who maintain their freedom in Christ by daily self-denial. Yet none need fail in this work of self-renunciation. God will give help to every earnest seeker. He reads the intents and purposes of the heart. He marks every soul-struggle. If we sincerely seek His grace, our life will correspond with our profession of faith; our light will shine forth, in good works, to the world.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked.” Galatians 6:7. He knows whether our hearts are wholly devoted to His service, or given to the things of the world. We may profess what we will, but unless our life corresponds with our profession, our faith is dead. The rule given by the apostle Paul is the only safe rule for our guidance in all the affairs of life. “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31. In the selection of our food, we should not seek merely to please the taste, but should choose that which is most healthful. In dress, we should seek that which is simple, comfortable, convenient, and appropriate.

The coming of the Lord draweth nigh. We have but a little time in which to make ready. If precious opportunities are slighted, it will result in eternal loss. We need a close connection with God. We are not safe a moment unless guided and controlled by the Holy Spirit. The soul should be often uplifted to God in prayer, even while we are engaged in our business vocations. These silent prayers rise like precious incense before the throne of grace. Satan is baffled. He cannot overcome the Christian whose heart is thus stayed upon God. No hellish arts can destroy his peace. All the promises of God’s Word, all the power of divine
Conscientious, enthusiastic workers are needed. The time for labor is short. The months of 1886 are swiftly passing. Soon this year, with its burden of records, will be numbered with the past. Let the precious months remaining be devoted to earnest soul-labor for our Master. Could we behold a faithful record of the manner in which we have spent the months already past, would the view be satisfactory? Deduct every action which would benefit no one, which was performed merely to gratify “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,” (1 John 2:16) and how little remains of willing service, performed for the glory of God! Is not the record alarming? How many will have such an account to meet in the day of final Judgment! How many precious hours have been squandered in selfish gratification! How often, to please ourselves, have we neglected opportunities to work for Christ! Even when we consecrate to God the full strength of our powers, we can do but little in comparison with all that Christ has done for us. Let us, then, serve Him with undivided affection, by zeal and fidelity manifesting our gratitude for the love which we are powerless to repay.

In the service of God there is no middle ground. Said Christ, “He that is not with me is against me.” Matthew 12:30. Let none expect to make a compromise with the world, and yet enjoy the blessing of the Lord. Let God’s people come out from this world and be separate. Let us seek more earnestly to know and do the will of our Father in heaven. Let the light of truth which has shone upon us be so received that its bright rays may go forth from us to the world. Let unbelievers see that the faith we hold makes us better men and better women, that it is a living reality, sanctifying the character, transforming the life. Let the Word of God dwell richly in our hearts. Let our conversation be upon heavenly things. Let us surround ourselves with an atmosphere of Christian cheerfulness. Let us show that our religion can stand the test of trial. Let us by our kindness, forbearance, and love, prove to the world the power of our faith.

Many who set out well in the Christian life, are losing spiritual strength, and placing themselves in the enemy’s power, by their indulgence in vain and trifling conversation. They cannot look up to God with holy confidence, to ask for needed strength. By their irreligious course, they bar the way of souls that might have come to Christ. Let these careless triflers remember that every word and act is photographed in the books of heaven. No human hand can erase one disgraceful blot.

Life, with its marvelous privileges and opportunities, will soon be ended. The time for improvement in character will be past. Unless our sins are now repented of, and blotted out by the blood of the Lamb, they will stand in the ledger of heaven to confront us in the coming day.

As we are daily brought in contact with those who have not a knowledge of Christ and the truth, shall we talk only of our farms, our merchandise, our gains and losses; or shall we speak of those things which concern our future life? shall we seek to win souls to Jesus? Oh, what shameful neglect of duty stands registered against the professed followers of Christ! Let us earnestly examine ourselves by the light of God’s Word, seeking to discover every defect of character, that we may wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Life is short. The things of the world must perish with the using. Let us be wise, and build for eternity. We cannot afford to idle away our precious moments, or engage in busy activities that will bring forth no fruit for eternity. Let the time hitherto devoted to idleness, frivolity, worldliness, be spent in gaining a knowledge of the Scriptures, in beautifying our life, and blessing and ennobling the life and character of others. This work will meet the approval of God, and win for us the heavenly benediction of “Well done.”

Review and Herald, June 15, 1886.
A Call to Laodicea

Written January 1, 1898, to Edson White from "Sunnyside," Cooranbong, New South Wales, Australia.

I wish you a happy New Year. 1897 with its burden of record has passed into eternity. Today W.C.W. spoke to the people here in Cooranbong. The discourse was, I understand, appropriate for the occasion. The ordinances were administered. The meeting was a profitable one. . . .

There is need of fifty laborers now in Melbourne and Sydney. We have not enough efficient workmen, and there is also a dearth of means to carry forward the work essential to be accomplished for this time. If those who knew the truth, the present truth for this time, would individually realize that a responsibility rests upon them to communicate to those who know not the truth, the light the Lord has graciously given them, they would more nearly meet the mind of Christ. They would be His light, penetrating the darkness of error which covers the religious world, and which is as dense as the darkness that enveloped the Jewish nation in the days of Christ.

Shall Seventh-day Adventists walk in the same path as did the Jewish nation? Shall the message to the Laodicean church be applicable to this people? Shall those who have seen great light, who have had large opportunities and many privileges, cease to do service as witnesses for Christ? Those who know the truth, but who feel no special burden to reveal corresponding works, will be like that servant who knew his Master’s will, but did it not.

The Lord has appointed every converted soul to witness for Him. The light that has been given to the individual members of His church is to shine forth, not merely in much talk, but in good works. Every talent entrusted to every soul is to be traded upon. The talents that might have been put out to the exchangers by those who have done nothing in the service of God will be required again with the improvements that the Lord required His stewards to make. Every jot of light, of ability, of influence, is to be used, not for self-pleasing, but for the Lord. We are to be yoked up with Christ in perfect obedience to the Lord our God, who is holy, just, and good. Thus God’s people may develop characters of increasing consecration, efficiency, and tact, and act as laborers together with God.

Why are so many so slow in recognizing the work they ought to do in seeking to save that which is lost? Consider prayerfully what is to be done. Kill indolence. Lay hold of personal labor. Too much labor is done by those who minister in word and doctrine in behalf of churches that should be set to work themselves. The church members should carry a weight of responsibility. They should keep their own souls in the love of God by exercising all the powers they have. By precept and example they should bear witness of the power of the truth and grace of Christ upon human hearts. This will commend the truth that the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign between them and their God. Obedience in the observance of the Sabbath testifies of the sanctification received through its observance.

In many of our organized churches the banner of truth is trailing in the dust because the members are not doing service to God, but are serving their own pleasure. They work through the influences that surround the soul. By precept and example, in self-indulgence, in their worldly habits of dress, in their words and actions, they testify against the truth, against self-denial, against the meekness of Christ. They are cold spiritually, and far separated from Christ. If they followed in the footsteps of Christ, they would be partakers of His self-denial, of His self-sacrifice, that they might lift up and save the souls that are ready to perish.

The talents entrusted to men may be used in an unconsecrated manner, by doing a good action from impulse in a haphazard way, refusing to see opportunities that are close by and that should claim the attention. Many practice self-denial and self-sacrifice by fits and starts. They need to seek the wisdom that comes from God alone. They need to consult their Leader. They need to do much praying, much trusting in Jesus Christ that His Holy Spirit may work in them, revealing a straightforward course of service which God will approve, and which will be a benefit and blessing to many souls. The consecration of all our words and actions to God makes us His witnesses. It develops a character that is the result of cherishing the truth in all its principles. Truth is not a cheap commodity; it is as precious gold, tried in the fire.

We pass through this world but once. Let every step taken by those who claim to be sons and daughters of God be forward. Listen to the words of Christ: He that “will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” Matthew 16:24. This alone will designate each of us as His disciples. Are we witnessing before the angels of heaven and before the worlds unfallen that we as human beings recognize that we understand what this means, “Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s?” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Entire consecration to God, living an undivided heart-life of service, this is a living testimony to the world that you recognize your accountability to improve. Every entrusted talent is to be treated as absolutely and really belonging to Him whose you are by Creation and redemption. Consecration of words, of voice, of every work, is needed. This act of sanctification of soul, body, and spirit is not an

Ellen G. White
act on the part of the human agent of creating anything and rendering it to God. All we have is from God and by Him. It is just as much His, if we do not recognize it thus and take some credit to ourselves. By consecrating all to God, you are simply showing the angels of heaven that you recognize that soul, body, and spirit belong to the Lord, and are to be devoted to His service.

The talent given to the unprofitable servant, which he wrapped in a napkin and buried in the earth, was the Lord’s own, entrusted to the servant for use. It was to be so used that it would gain other talents. Our life is to be a life of earnest, thoughtful service to God. Those who feel no real obligation to represent the truth in life and character, who do not testify to the power of the grace of Christ by revealing the reformation it has wrought in them, fail to exalt the law of God before those whose characters are demonstrated in making that law void by their wrong principles.

The true commandment-keeping people of God show to the world a character of unspotted integrity, testifying by their own course of action that the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. Thus the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, through His obedience to the law of God, exalted and made that law honorable. God will surely condemn every member of every church claiming to be Seventh-day Adventist, who is not doing Him service, but through pride, selfishness, and worldliness, is showing that the truth of heavenly origin has not worked a reformation in his character.

Please read carefully Revelation 3:15-18. The voice of Jesus Christ is heard.

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore [not half-hearted], and repent. Behold, I [your Saviour] 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. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” Revelation 3:19–21.

Will the churches heed the Laodicean message? Will they repent, or will they, notwithstanding that the most solemn message of truth—the third angel’s message—is being proclaimed to the world, go on in sin? This is the last message of mercy, the last warning to a fallen world. If the church of God becomes lukewarm, it does not stand in favor with God any more than do the churches that are represented as having fallen and become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird. Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, calling themselves the commandment-keeping people are leading others into sin. The word comes from God to every member of our churches, “And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of

All who claim to be Sabbath-keeping Adventists, and yet continue in sin, are liars in God’s sight. Their sinful course is counterworking the work of God.

of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, will receive of the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God. Only those that are sanctified through the truth will compose the royal family in the heavenly mansions Christ has gone to prepare for those that love Him and keep His commandments.

“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” 1 John 2:4. This includes all who claim to have a knowledge of God, and to keep His commandments, but who do not manifest this by good works. They will receive according to their deeds. “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.” 1 John 3:6. This is addressed to all church members, including the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Churches. “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this and the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.” 1 John 3:7–10.

All who claim to be Sabbath-keeping Adventists, and yet continue in sin, are liars in God’s sight. Their sinful course is counterworking the work of God. They bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.” Hebrews 12:13–17.

This is applicable to many who claim to believe the truth. Rather than give up their lustful practices, they venture on in a wrong line of education under Satan’s deceiving sophistry. Sin is not discerned as sinful. Their very consciences are defiled, their hearts are corrupted, even the thoughts are continually corrupt. Satan uses them as decoys to lure souls to unclean practices which defile the whole being. “He that despised Moses’ law [which was the law of God] died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:28–31.

Disease and Its Causes
Part 8
Drugs and Their Effects

Ellen G. White

The human family have brought upon themselves diseases of various forms by their own wrong habits. They have not studied how to live healthfully, and their transgression of the laws of their being has produced a deplorable state of things. The people have seldom accredited their sufferings to the true cause—their own wrong course of action. They have indulged in intemperance in eating, and made a god of their appetite. In all their habits they have manifested a recklessness in regard to health and life; and when, as the result, sickness has come upon them, they have made themselves believe that God was the author of it, when their own wrong course of action has brought the sure result. When in distress, they send for the doctor, and trust their bodies in his hands, expecting that he will make them well. He deals out to them drugs, of the nature of which they know nothing; and in their blind confidence they swallow anything that the doctor may choose to give. Thus powerful poisons are often administered, which fetter nature in all her friendly efforts to recover from the abuse the system has suffered; and the patient is hurried out of this life.

The mother who has been but slightly indisposed, and who might have recovered by abstaining from food for a short period, and ceasing from labor, having quiet and rest, has, instead of doing this, sent for a physician. And he, who should be prepared to give a few simple directions, and restrictions in diet, and place her upon the right track, is either too ignorant to do this, or too anxious to obtain a fee.

He makes the case appear a grave one, and administers his poisons, which, if he himself were sick, he would not venture to take. The patient grows worse, and poisonous drugs are more freely administered, until nature is overpowered in her efforts, and gives up the conflict, and the mother dies. She was drugged to death. Her system was poisoned beyond remedy. She was murdered. Neighbors and relatives marvel at the wonderful dealings of Providence in thus removing a mother in the midst of her usefulness, at the period when her children need her care so much. They wrong our good and wise Heavenly Father when they cast back upon Him this weight of human woe. Heaven wished that mother to live, and her untimely death dishonored God. The mother’s wrong habits, and her inattention to the laws of her being, made her sick. And the doctor’s fashionable poisons, introduced into the system, closed the period of her existence, and left a helpless, stricken, motherless flock.

This is not always the result which follows the doctor’s drugging. Sick people who take these drug poisons do appear to get well. With some, there is sufficient life force for nature to draw upon, to so far expel the poison from the system that the sick, having a period of rest, recover. But no credit should be allowed the drugs taken; for they only hindered nature in her efforts. All the credit should be ascribed to nature’s restorative powers.

Although the patient may recover, yet the powerful effort nature was required to make to induce action to overcome the poison, injured the constitution, and shortened the life of the patient. There are many who do not die under the influence of drugs; but there are very many who are left useless wrecks, hopeless, gloomy, and miserable sufferers, a burden to themselves and to society.

If those who take these drugs were alone the sufferers, then the evil would not be so great. Parents not only sin against themselves in swallowing drug poisons, but they sin against their children. The vitiated state [impaired quality] of their blood, the poison distributed throughout the system, the broken constitution, and various drug diseases, as the result of drug poisons, are transmitted to their offspring, and left to them as a wretched inheritance. This is another great cause of the degeneracy of the race.

Physicians, by administering their drug poisons, have done very much to increase the deterioration of the race, physically, mentally, and morally. Everywhere you may go you will see deformity, disease, and imbecility, which in very many cases can be traced directly back to the drug poisons administered by the hand of a doctor as a remedy for some of life’s ills. The so-called remedy has fearfully proved itself to the patient, by stern, suffering experience, to be far worse than the disease for which the drug was taken. All who possess common capabilities should understand the wants of their own system. The philosophy of health should compose one of the important studies for our children. It is all-important that the human organism be understood; then intelligent men and women can be our own physicians. If the people would reason from cause to effect, and would follow the light which shines upon them, they would pursue a course which would insure health, and mortality would be far less. But the people are too willing to remain in inexcusable ignorance, and trust their bodies to the doctors, instead of having any special responsibility themselves.
Several illustrations of this great subject have been presented before me. The first was a family consisting of a father and daughter. The daughter was sick, and the father was much troubled on her account, and summoned a physician. As the father conducted him into the sick-room, he manifested a painful anxiety. The physician examined the patient, and said but little. They both left the sick-room. The father informed the physician that he had buried the mother, a son, and a daughter, and that this daughter was all that was left to him of his family. He anxiously inquired of the physician if he thought his daughter’s case hopeless.

The physician then inquired in regard to the nature and length of the sickness of those who had died. The father mournfully related the painful facts connected with the illness of his loved ones. “My son was first attacked with a fever. I called a physician. He said that he could administer medicine which would soon break the fever. He gave him powerful medicine, but was disappointed in its effects. The fever was reduced, but my son grew dangerously sick. The same medicine was again given him, without producing any change for the better. The physician then resorted to still more powerful medicines, but my son obtained no relief. The fever left him, but he did not rally. He sank rapidly and died.

“The death of my son, so sudden and unexpected, was a great grief to us all, especially to his mother. Her watching and anxiety in his sickness, and her grief, occasioned by his sudden death, were too much for her nervous system, and she was soon prostrated. I felt dissatisfied with the course pursued by this physician. My confidence in his skill was shaken, and I could not employ him a second time. I called another to my suffering wife. This second physician gave her a liberal dose of opium, which he said would relieve her pain, quiet her nerves, and give her rest, which she much needed. The opium stupefied her. She slept, and nothing could arouse her from the death-like stupor. Her pulse and heart at times throbbed violently, and then grew more and more feeble in their action, until she ceased to breathe. Thus she died, without giving her family one look of recognition. This second death seemed more than we could endure. We all sorrowed deeply; but I was agonized, and could not be comforted.

“My daughter was next afflicted. Grief, anxiety, and watching had overtasked her powers of endurance, and her strength gave way, and she was brought upon a bed of suffering. I had now lost confidence in both of the physicians I had employed. Another physician was recommended to me as being successful in treating the sick; and although he lived at a distance, I was determined to obtain his services.

“This third physician professed to understand my daughter’s case. He said that she was greatly debilitated, that her nervous system was deranged, and that fever was upon her, which could be controlled, but that it would take time to bring her up from her present state of debility. He expressed perfect confidence in his ability to raise her. He gave her powerful medicine to break up the fever. This was accomplished. But as the fever left, the case assumed more alarming features, and grew more complicated. As the symptoms changed, the medicines were varied to meet the case. While under the influence of new medicines, she would, for a time, appear revived. This would flatter our hopes that she would get well, only to make our disappointment more bitter as she became worse.

“The physician’s last resort was calomel. For some time she seemed to be

While under the influence of new medicines, she would, for a time, appear revived. This would flatter our hopes that she would get well, only to make our disappointment more bitter as she became worse.

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Review and Herald, August 15, 1899
CHRIST came to set men free. He said, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me . . . to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.” Isaiah 61:1. Perfect liberty is found only in Christ, God’s law is called the law of liberty. The Inspired Word calls that law a hedge. It marks out the unchangeable principles of right between man and God, and between man and man, which must be recognized, else liberty is impossible to intelligent beings. All slavery, physical, moral, and intellectual, comes from breaking that law. Liberty is found only in obedience to it. Still there is a sort of slavery in the futile attempt to keep it in our own strength. But Christ, through the new covenant, writes that law in the heart, so that we not only have power to keep it, but His will becomes ours, and with Christ we delight to do His will, because His law is in our hearts. Here is perfect liberty. The perfectly saved will be perfectly free. Throughout eternity they will do just what they please, because they please to do just what makes liberty and joy possible.

Now, as to the relation of the state to the conscience of man, Christ found men enslaved to kings and priests. He taught that all men are brothers, sons of one Father, and therefore equal before the law—equal in civil rights. Rulers were, therefore, only their servants, chosen under God to protect them in the enjoyment of their rights. He freed us from the chains of priestcraft by teaching the absolute independence of the individual soul in matters religious, and by promising the Spirit of truth to guide each one into all truth.

It is true that all liberty comes through keeping God’s law, but God Himself, who wrote that law in the hearts of men in the beginning, who spoke it amid the thunders of Sinai, that all might hear and obey, who waited through the new covenant to rewrite it in every trusting soul—God Himself, who did all this, still made man as free to disobey these precepts as to obey them. Why did God allow all this fearful iniquity that man might be made free? To this there can be but one answer. It was because He knew the worthlessness of all forced obedience, and that, therefore, the freedom to sin was absolutely necessary to the possibility of righteousness.

After having made men free to sin, that the internal principle of love might work itself out in outward acts of righteousness unhindered by force—after having made men thus, has God given to any human authority the right to take away that freedom, and so to thwart His plans? He has commanded all men to worship Him and obey His precepts, and this command applies to each individual personally; but has He ever commanded any man or set of men to compel others to worship Him, or to act even outwardly as if they worshiped Him? To ask these questions is to answer them emphatically in the negative.

The civil power is the power of arbitrary force to compel men who will not be righteous, to at least be civil, that men may live together in peace and quietness. The true power of the church is the power of divine love manifest in the flesh, to win men to lead righteous lives. The two powers are entirely separate, and Jesus so taught when He said, “Render to Caesar [the civil powers] the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” Mark 12:17.

When Peter, as a member of the Christian church, sought to defend the truth by the sword, Jesus, pointing to His Father as the Church’s only Source of power, said, “Put up again thy sword into its place: for all they that take the sword [i.e., in religious matters] shall perish with the sword.” Matthew 26:52. The tares are to be allowed to grow with the wheat until the harvest. Then God will send forth His angels to gather out the tares to burn them. No human effort of arbitrary force can be used in rooting them out, lest in the act the wheat shall be rooted also. See Matthew 13:24-30.

Again Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight.” John 18:36. Every civil law has the power of the sword back of it. If it is right to make law, then it is right to enforce it. In denying the church the power of the sword, Jesus therefore forbade the church to ask the state for laws enforcing beliefs and observances. Paul understood this when he said, “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.” 2 Corinthians 10:4.

The early church, strong only in the power of God, triumphed grandly, even over the opposing forces of a false religion, upheld by the state. Only when she allied herself with the state, seeking its aid, did she deny her God, lose her power, and darken the world into a night of a thousand years. The present effort of the church to get the state to enforce the observance of Sunday, and to introduce the teaching of Christianity into state schools, is but a revival of the pagan and papal doctrine of force in religious things, and as such it is antichristian.

The Watchman, May 1, 1906

Ellen G. White
Letters to the Editor

It gives me great encouragement and motivation to know that there are brethren like you all around the world who are standing for truth and righteousness in the midst of the apostasy that is sweeping through God’s church. Praise God! Praise God! BJ, Wisconsin

I am giving my Our Firm Foundation to others to read. I gave the special one all about Sister White to the first elder of our church. He was glad to get it. I am praying that God will bless the work you are doing. Thank you! Let us be faithful. Your sister in Christ, FM, Wisconsin

Thank you for this wonderfully informative publication, for bringing Mrs. White and others into our home with the love of Jesus. Also thank you for helping those that cannot afford the full subscription price. Could you avail this to our friends? They were over last Sabbath and enjoyed reading it. CO, California

I wish to thank you for sending Our Firm Foundation to Africa. The articles in your magazines are so touching that they bring Heaven a little closer to my heart. Through your magazines I have learned that we have so much ground to cover especially in character building before Jesus comes. The issues of Our Firm Foundation are part of my life and I so look forward to receiving old and new magazines. Please also send me “Earth’s Final Warning” and the book entitled The Lord’s Day and A National Sunday Law. I want to use them as witnessing tools.

I just love your magazine, Our Firm Foundation. Keep it coming. Fling out the banner! Let it float skyward and seaward, high and wide! Hope International, fling out the banner! God bless you. Your brother in Christ, TM, Zimbabwe

I wish to apply as a student in your Bible correspondence course. The light I receive from your materials in Our Firm Foundation has made me to seek for more.

The problem with us is that we have no one to direct us to what we really believe as Adventists. But light came when a friend started giving us Our Firm Foundation to read. It has been a source of encouragement to all of us. May the Lord continue to provide and bless your ministry and His Church. CN, Nigeria

I do look forward to your magazine every month. It gives me hope that I am not alone in my belief that God will help us to overcome all sin in our lives if we so desire. May God continue to bless your efforts to reach out to the world with the undiluted message of the three angels and the mighty angel of Revelation 18. Thank you for your assistance in helping me to receive your magazine. DL, Texas

I received everything you sent me. I thank you so very much for sending these items, especially the Holy Bible. It is beautiful. Thank the Lord for people like you. I also would like to thank your organization. We need in prison the Word, the good Word! TP, New York

I have found it very difficult to continue in silence without communicating with you about the following things. I’d like to congratulate you for establishing your ministry, which is of very precious value to Seventeenth-day Adventists. I have read some of your issues and I am drawn nearer to the cross as I come across them. May God bless you so that your light shineth broader. GL, Tanzania

I would like to greatly commend you on the great job you are doing to hasten the coming of our Lord through your magazine Our Firm Foundation. I am praying that the Lord who is able to keep us from falling, open His mysteries to you so that you pass on the great light of truth to the world. In our country it is very difficult to get Mrs. White’s books and I do not have the money to order some from the USA. . . . I would be very grateful if I receive these and I will share them with a group. I am a young person who is striving for power to overcome sin completely and prepare for the latter rain and the second coming of our Lord so please pray for me. May the Lord bless you in the good work. Your sister in Christ, TM, Zimbabwe.

I am a Jehovah Witness young man. My parents are also of that denomination. I have come to realize that our denomination is full of errors and lies. Though I have been there for three full years, I have read many books of that denomination. Their prophecy is full of lies. They say that Jesus started ruling in 1914. . . . As I started reading Adventist books I acknowledge that their Inspiration is from God. As I told my friends about this new truth, they were amazed. They said they could like to have more of the Adventist truth than the Jehovah’s. Right away now, we have formed a group of ten young men to teach the present truth from the Adventist books.

So please we need your help. Send us these books: Prophecy and Kings, Patriarch and Prophets, Sons and Daughters of God, Sanctified Life, The Desire of Ages, Acts of the Apostles, and any other valuable books. God bless your publications. Yours faithfully, PT, Kenya

I have not been getting Our Firm Foundation magazines again, and it worried me to think you may have cut my name from you mailing list. Please do not stop sending me the magazines. I need this historic teachings. It is a special blessing to my soul. There is not other historic magazine like Our Firm Foundation. As we have wandered away from the old landmarks, Our Firm Foundation with only truth filling message can direct our foot into the right side of God. AA, Ghana

Note From the Editors: We make an honest effort to send faithfully Our Firm Foundation magazines to as many free subscribers as possible. However, our funds are limited and as we exercise our stewardship toward Christ, we must take the necessary steps to continue our ministry, and help as many as we are financially able. We want to thank our faithful donors for the support provided in order that we may continue proclaiming and sharing the three angels’ messages. Mark your donation “Subscription Assistance.”

May 1997 Our Firm Foundation 31
Camp Meeting 1997

July 16-20, 1997

Please plan to join us.

Speakers will include Rob McClintock, Jeff Pippenger, Vernon Sparks, Ron Spear, Colin & Russell Standish, Tom Waters

If you plan to attend the Eatonville camp meeting, and wish to stay on our grounds, you are more than welcome. Water and restrooms will be available at several locations on the grounds. There will be limited shower facilities, but hookups for water, sewer, and electricity are not available. Please plan on a real camp meeting. Although we cannot provide a full food service, we will have some fresh produce and other basic food items for sale. If you would like to help with special music, or playing the piano, please call us at our office and ask for Diana.

As usual, there will be no charge for staying on our campus, but we cannot provide either lodging or food. Please do not take it for granted that we will be able to provide special services for those who need them. Instead, please call and let us know what your needs are. We will do our best to accommodate all who desire to attend, but, unfortunately, there are limits to what our staff can undertake during the hustle and bustle of camp meeting.

If you do not plan to stay on our grounds, you should make reservations ahead of time at the hotel or motel of your choice. The following information may be of some assistance:

- Eagle’s Nest Motel—10 miles south of Hope International. Call (800) 877-2533.

Please note:

Spanish meetings will also be conducted on the grounds, starting Thursday evening, July 24th through July 27th.