

The background of the entire cover is a silhouette of a man and a young boy against a warm, orange-hued sunset sky. The man is standing on the right, his arm around the boy's shoulder. The boy is on the left, wearing a baseball cap and riding a bicycle. The overall mood is peaceful and familial.

# *Our* Firm Foundation

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Volume 20, Number 8

August 2005

***Brotherly  
Love  
Needed***



Joe Olson

# The World Passeth Away

**"A**nd the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:17.

Just as this verse indicates, all of *this* world—its vanities, sins, structures, hopes and dreams, shall pass away, as in a moment. All that people live for, prepare for—it is all going to perish.

Our focuses are all wrong. We are ever so slowly, but steadily, moving toward our own end, if not the end of the world. Yet, how much time do *we* devote to our eternal interests? Truly, if we come up to the end and we still have our property and baubles of this world, we will indeed throw them to the bats and moles.

Oh how effective Satan has been, and is, with his deceptions, with his mesmerizing mind manipulations! And we so often play right into his hands. Just like Eve, we listen, rather than running away to God for His protection and advice. If Satan cannot get you to turn away from God, caught up in some "darling sin," just maybe he can get you thinking Christ's coming is not as close as it really is.

Maybe he can convince us that we know the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and that we will recognize the event unfolding and will commit our all *then*, right in the nick of time.

It reminds me of a plan I had devised as a small child. There must have been something I saw in the news or heard about relating to planes falling out of the sky.

I planned that if I were ever on a plane, and it began hurtling to the earth, that if I could just make my way to the door of the plane and jump out *just* before it crashed, I would make it and save myself from certain destruction.

The problem is, of course, that I am going in the same *direction* as the plane. I am going the same *velocity* as the plane. I am *in* the plane! At that point, it would be impossible to change my course. I am going too fast and have gone too far.

We are told that the final events will be rapid ones. It is entirely possible that many people *plan* to "get right" before the Lord comes. But they will be found unready and ill-prepared, and the door will be forever shut when they finally *are* "ready." Oh what a sad scene! What a catastrophic waste! "Too late!" will be the cry, "too late!" Those mournful words will never leave the memory of our dear Saviour and our Father. But I praise God that it doesn't have to be that way. We can "abide forever" if we will just be willing to do the will of God now!

It brings to mind the pernicious tradition of having a "bachelor party" the night before the wedding. The groom is to party and have his last night of "fun" before he gets connected to the old "ball and chain." What kind of message does that send to the bride? If you have made the commitment to get married and be "one" the rest of your lives, why would you, right before the supposedly joyous event, spend your last night having

"fun"? Wouldn't the idea be that you are getting ready to be married and *then* the "fun" would begin, or continue, for the rest of your lives? What a Satanically devised scheme! Yet, are we doing the same to Jesus? Are we wanting to have our last bit of "fun" before we commit to Him wholly? How do you think Jesus feels about that? How genuine is our commitment with that attitude?

As our verse indicated, the world and all its lusts are going to pass away. Will *we* pass away with it? In mercy, the Lord still keeps the door open. How much longer we do not know, but the signs are obvious.

Jesus has done, and is doing, so much for us, even now in the heavenly sanctuary above. Let us not show Him that we simply want to get on board before it is too late. Let us show Him that He means everything to us, and that we want Him in our hearts and lives right now!

Will you join me in a dedication, or re-dedication, right now? Let us take the time, right now, on our knees, to let our God and Saviour know that we *really* want to spend the rest of our lives with Him. ‡



Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.



### Our Mission

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work 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

Executive Editor: Ron Spear

Executive Director: Joe Olson

[executivedirector@hopeint.org](mailto:executivedirector@hopeint.org)

Managing Editor: Harvey Steck

[editorial@hopeint.org](mailto:editorial@hopeint.org)

Bookstore Manager: Celeste Morais

[shipping@hopeint.org](mailto:shipping@hopeint.org)

Hope For Health Center: Tony Morais

[hopeforhealth@hopeint.org](mailto:hopeforhealth@hopeint.org)

Hope Int'l School of Evangelism: Gary Foster

[his\\_ed@hopeint.org](mailto:his_ed@hopeint.org)

Layout: MontanaDigitalCreations.com

*Our Firm Foundation* is published monthly by:



**Hope International**

**P.O. Box 220**

**Knoxville, IL 61448 USA**

Phone: (309) 343-1844

Monday–Thursday: 8:00AM–5:00PM, Central Time

Friday: 8:00AM–12:00PM, Central Time

Fax: (309) 343-3721

Email: [office@hopeint.org](mailto:office@hopeint.org)

Web: <http://www.hopeint.org>

### About Hope International

Hope International is a lay ministry founded, supported, and operated by Seventh-day Adventists to assist the Seventh-day Adventist church in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in every way that is consistent with the principles of God as revealed in Inspiration.

### Invitation to Writers

We are accepting article-length manuscripts (750 to 3000 words) for possible publication in *Our Firm Foundation*. We prefer that submissions be neatly typed, submitted either as a computer file or on paper. Please address all correspondence to Editors, *Our Firm Foundation*, PO Box 220, Knoxville, IL 61448, or by email to [editorial@hopeint.org](mailto:editorial@hopeint.org).

**Subscription Information:** See page 30

**Shipping & Sales Tax:** See page 30

Copyright © 2005 Hope International

Content credited in this publication is the property of its respective owner(s), and is licensed or used with permission. Other items are the property of Hope International. Cover Illustration: © Photos.com

## 4 Brotherly Love Needed

*Part 1*

*Ellen G. White*

How do we show that we are the true brethren of Christ?

## 7 A Message to the Church

*Ellen G. White*

"When these words are believed and lived, the church will have a heaven below to go to heaven in."

## 9 How to Bring Our Church Back

*Part 3*

*Vance Ferrell*

Nine steps for a successful reformation.

## 12 Revelation, Inspiration & Ellen White

*Part 2*

*Russell & Colin Standish*

Subtle errors that undermine the authority of Inspiration.

## 15 Seven Times

*Lea Smith*

What will God say when He delivers His people?

## 17 The Ministry of Reproof

*Part 1*

*Anonymous*

"Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour."

### Editorial

***Glimpses of the Pioneers***

**page 2**

***Echoes of the Pioneers***

**page 20**

***News Watch***

**page 22**

***Letters to the Editor***

**page 26**

**page 31**

Hope International does not solicit tithes; however, we are a tithe-worthy organization and accept tithes. We use the tithe only for the gospel ministry. Donations designated "Gospel Ministry" will be considered tithe.





# Brotherly Love Needed

## Part 1

*How do we show that we are the true brethren of Christ?*

*Ellen G. White*

**T**he Lord and the intelligences of heaven are looking upon the church that has been favored with great light. If the people who have heard the truth for this time, walk in the light as Christ is in the light, they will have the regenerating influence of the Holy Spirit. Their hearts will be softened and subdued, and they will be meek and lowly of heart, like their Saviour, and it can be said of them, "By their fruits ye shall know them." Matthew 7:20.

They will love their Redeemer

sons of God, filled with evil surmising, and ready to speak evil of their brethren in the truth, ready to weigh others in their own scales of human opinion, and place their estimate upon those of whom they really understand but little. The worst of it is that often those who ought to understand why such action is out of place, drink in the spirit of the accuser, go to the polluted fountain of suspicion and distrust, and turning from the course justice marks out, are guided by some one's hearsay of another's action or character.

their brethren and sisters. How inappropriate it is to condemn others, when every soul is to be saved, not on his own merits, but by the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour! We are all erring, finite creatures, accountable to God for our words, works, and influence.

### Qualifications of a Reprover

O that the mercy and love of God were cultivated by every member of our churches! O that brotherly love might be revived, never to wane, but to grow more and more fervent! It is true that words of admonition and counsel are frequently needed in the church, but they are never to be given by those who are filled with suspicion and distrust, who are eager to weigh others in the scales of their own opinions.

No one can do the work of reproving and counseling in the way that Christ would have it done, whose heart is not filled with peace and love. We are near the end, there is no time to waste in educating ourselves in the line of accusation of brethren, and we are not to take up a reproach against our neighbor. Deal tenderly and graciously with every soul, and especially deal tenderly with those who are liable to err. They, of all others, need your help the most. Never take up a report against a brother or a neighbor, or harbor evil surmisings against him. Thou shalt not imagine evil in thy heart against thy brother. See Zechariah 8:17.

*No one can do the work of reproving  
and counseling in the way that  
Christ would have it done,  
whose heart is not filled with peace and love.*

with supreme affection, and honor all those who love Him, and who follow His precepts. They will not mount upon the judgment-seat, to judge their brother's motives and work, because they will remember that Christ has bidden them, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Verses 1-2.

I am filled with sorrow as I see finite men who claim to be the

By this course God's Holy Spirit is grieved, and the churches are weakened by the influence of distrust and suspicion; for they are led to speak evil of those who stand far better in the sight of God than do their accusers. Are we to take reports, hearsay, as if they were verity and truth? Are we not to rebuke the talebearer who would make a condemned brother's course appear as bad as possible?

The true brethren of Christ are those who guard the interests of

The powers of darkness will assault every soul, but let us not join with the evil one in his work, and deal with severity to discourage and dishearten the weak and erring. Let us be pitiful, compassionate one to another, and let an influence go out from us to heal, to bind up, to establish, rather than to wound and to uproot.

There is altogether too much haste in doing what is called "the square thing," and often that which we think is justice, the Lord writes in His book as oppression. The vows we take on entering the church either mean what they say, or they mean nothing. Let us love one another, be kind and courteous. O how much better would we have appeared before God if we had manifested an appreciation of the labor that has been done among us.

Those who have not had the burden of different responsibilities, may look back when some mistake is apparent, and say, "How much better could such and such an enterprise have been carried on;" but it may be that had they been placed in similar circumstances to those of the one they think erring, they might have done no better, or not as well.

### Prejudice vs. Unity

Prejudice is a terrible thing in the sight of God. It was prejudice that crucified the world's Redeemer. Let us as a people put away all prejudice; for it blinds the mind, and makes men incapable of doing justice to those they imagine blame-worthy. It will cause men to sit in judgment upon brethren whose in-most souls they cannot read, and if they could, would not understand. Instead of creating discord, of judging others, we need to bind the members of our churches together by the cords of strong brotherly love in heavenly union.

If a brother is halting, it is a great sin to set his case before the brethren in a discouraging light, and set others on his track, that they may discover his many frailties.

This is a Satanic proceeding, and altogether out of harmony with the Spirit of Christ. Instead of looking for the faults of our brethren, let us seek for every redeeming quality, obtain his confidence, come close to the one who needs his hands upheld, his feeble knees strengthened.

Let us, brethren, make straight paths for our feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way. Instead of drawing apart, let us press together as never before, working shoulder to shoulder. There must be no discordant notes struck now, there must be no alienation. We should present to the world a united front, and make it manifest that we are one in Christ Jesus, one with the brethren, bound in covenant relation, under obligation to answer the prayer of Christ to be one in Him

love of Christ, and then we shall defend the characters of those who are giving their lives to the service of Him who has died for them. We shall not then act the part of accusers, and treat our brethren and their labors as worthless. Let us daily pray that we may be led to a higher plane of thought and living, that we may love in sincerity and Christlike deeds.

### Qualified to Care for His Sheep

We are to watch for souls as those that must give an account. Instead of criticizing, pray for deliverance from this evil habit; for while our time is occupied with this kind of doing, souls for whom Christ died are perishing, whom we might save. Many are starving

*God cannot commit His sheep and lambs to the care of a church who make it manifest that they have no aptitude or wisdom to care for the flock of His pasture.*

as He is one with the Father. Then we can counsel together because the love of Christ is in our hearts, we can pray one for another, and claim the promises of God. We could then feel secure in the love of our brethren, and know that upon turning our back, we would not be stabbed with some evil report or judgment.

God desires that we should have tender, sanctified regard one for another, and as dear children in His family, we need to have the pure love of Christ. O, shall not the seed that produces roots of bitterness and unseemly fruit be banished from our hearts, that we may cherish the heavenly plant of love? As mature Christians we shall love more and more, not less and less.

We need the warmth and glow of Christ in our cold, stony hearts. We want our hearts broken by the

for the bread of life, and there is no time for accusing the brethren; rather pray one for another that ye may be healed, and go forth to seek and to save the lost and wandering sheep. Find the erring, discouraged ones by careful, diligent search, and bring them back to the fold.

Christ has said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. Strive to have a real connection with Christ, and become "laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:9. Work with self hidden in Jesus, and the Lord will add to the church such as shall be saved.

The great Master Shepherd will give wisdom to the under shepherds, that they may become living, working agents for His use. Let

them not seek to exalt themselves, but to lift up Jesus; then they may go in and out and find pasture. They will then be partakers of the riches of the grace of Christ, which passeth knowledge.

God cannot commit His sheep and lambs to the care of a church who make it manifest that they have no aptitude or wisdom to care for the flock of His pasture. But this state of inefficiency need not continue; for we may have high thoughts of God's mercy and infinite love.

Sinful and worthless creatures though we are, through a vital connection with Christ we yet may be renewed in knowledge and true holiness, and thus reflect the glory and image of our Creator and Redeemer, and be qualified to care for His sheep and lambs.

Not only have the sheep and lambs been dealt with in hardness, but even the shepherds themselves have been treated with reckless disregard. They have been spoken of in a way that shows that many in high and lower positions have little courtesy to give to God's ordained ministers.

The churches themselves have been educated in such a way that they have had too little respect for those who preach the Word of God, and who for years have given full proof of their ministry. But this way of dealing with the ministers and with the members of the family of God must be changed. The blessing of God cannot rest upon those who manifest little respect for the workers together with Him.

My brethren, I charge you to close your ears to faultfinders, close your hearts that they shall not be recipients of evil seeds of suspicion and distrust, and open your hearts to the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness.

In the fold of Jesus Christ the sheep and the lambs are to be gathered in one flock, to be nourished, to be defended from the attacks of wolves. Those who come newly into the faith are to be encouraged so that they shall have confidence

in the ministers who walk worthily before the flock of God. They are to be fed with the sincere milk of the Word, that they may grow thereby. See 1 Peter 2:2.

We are waiting for the coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. This faith distinguishes us from all other denominations, and as those who wait for the Lord, let us put on "as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:12-15. ❀

*Concluded next month.*

*Review and Herald, October 24, 1893.*



*Ellen G. White, 1827-1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God's people around the world.*



Photos: © photos.com

## A Better Country

*"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:16.*

This old world is not my home,  
For there's a better land I  
know;  
So perfect, pure, and beautiful;  
Where peace, joy, and eternal  
blessings flow!

No more trials and temptations;  
No tempter to hurt or kill;  
No sickness, pain, and suffering;  
Not one will say, "I'm ill."

No more care, worry, and sorrow;  
No sadness, guilt, or fear;  
No sighing, crying, and weeping;  
For Jesus will dry all tears.

No more death, sin, and sinners;  
No strife, hatred, or war;  
No fighting, killing, and dying;  
All troubles will be o'er!

Yes, this old world will pass away  
For the Bible tells me so;  
But my home is in an "heavenly  
country";  
Where Jesus dwells I long to  
go!

*—Reginald Holden, 2005*

*Our Firm Foundation*



# A Message to the Church

*"When these words are believed and lived, the church  
will have a heaven below to go to heaven in."*

*Ellen G. White*

Last night I had a wonderful experience. I was in an assembly where questions were being asked and answered. At one o'clock I awoke, and arose. For a time I walked the room, praying earnestly for clearness of mind, and for strength to write the words that must be written. I entreated the Lord to help me to bear a testimony that would arouse His people before it should be forever too late.

My soul was drawn out in the consideration of matters relating to the carrying forward of God's work. This work is to be carried forward without outward display. In establishing institutions we are never to compete with institutions of the world in size or splendor.

We are to enter into no confederacy with those who do not love or fear God. Those who are unable to endure the seeing of Him who is invisible, are surrounded with spiritual darkness that is as the darkness of midnight. Within, all is dreariness. They know not the meaning of joy in the Lord. They take no interest in eternal realities. Their attention is engrossed with the trifling things of earth. Having forsaken God, the fountain of living water, they hew out for themselves broken cisterns, that can hold no water. See Jeremiah 2:13. Let it not be thus with those who have tasted the power of the world to come.

In establishing the work in new

places, we are to economize in every way possible. The work of soul saving must be carried forward in the way that Christ marked out. He declares, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Mark 8:34. Only by obeying this word can we be His disciples. We are striving for a kingdom and a crown. We shall obtain both by following Christ's example.

We are nearing the end of this earth's history, and the different departments of God's work are to be carried forward with much more self-sacrifice than has yet been practiced. The work for these last days is a missionary work. Present truth, from the first to the last letter of its alphabet, means missionary effort. The work to be done calls for sacrifice at every step of advance. The workers are to come forth from trial, purified and refined, as gold tried in the fire.

## **Wearing Christ's Yoke**

The Lord calls upon men and women to unite with Christ by wearing His yoke. But He tells them that they are to refuse the yoke which human hands would place on them; for this yoke would be galling and oppressive. There are those who refuse to wear the yoke of Christ, and yet would place upon others a yoke of human manufacture. What a terrible deception! It

is as night amid the full blaze of gospel light.

Such ones are not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can they be, until they pass through the death struggle, and are born again. All through their experience are woven the threads of worldly wisdom. They look upon their work as meritorious, but in the day of judgment they will learn—unless they learn it before—that they are corrupted with selfishness. They have barred their hearts against Christ's entrance, and unless they repent and open to Him, they must one day hear the words. "Depart from me." Matthew 25:41.

## **God's Purpose for His Church**

Filled with the knowledge of the will of God in all wisdom and spiritual understand-

ing, walking worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, fruitful in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might by His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness—such were the early disciples. See Colossians 1:9–11. They sought above all things to know the will of God.

But do these words describe the church in its present condition? Many who claim to believe the truth are far from practicing its principles. The church is weak and inefficient because many of

its members follow their own impulses, refusing to do the will of God. Not by the Spirit of God, but by another spirit, are they led. They know not the meaning of the written Word. When they bring into the daily life the principles of God's law, they will be able to say from experience. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Psalm 19:7.

grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom

pleasure. Let us humble ourselves before God. He is waiting for us to draw near to Him, that our purposes may be more Christlike, that more of the purity and meekness and grace of the Redeemer may be brought into our work. We have walked in our own ways and followed our own counsel, as if we could counterwork the divine purposes. Let us now turn to the Lord.

Let us seek Him while he may be found, and call upon Him while He is near, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:6-8.

Yes, this is God's plan. Let us come to him just as we are, and he will fulfill his purposes for us.

The experience that I had last night has impressed me very deeply. I seemed to have Christ close beside me. I was filled with hope and courage and faith. I pleaded with God to sustain me, and He lifted me up, and made me to triumph in Him. I know that the Lord will work for His people when they sanctify their souls by obeying the truth. Then the whole being, body, mind, and soul, will be in harmony with Him. We shall possess a freedom crowned with glory. ✽

*Review and Herald*, November 18, 1902.



*Ellen G. White, 1827-1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God's people around the world.*

Photo: © photos.com

*When the word of the Lord is believed and obeyed, steady advancement will be made.  
Let us now see our great need.*

In the hearts of many, God has a work to do, if they will allow Him. They need a complete transformation of character. This is their only hope. Some now in the work will have to pass through the furnace of affliction before they will see the need of having all dross burned away from the religious experience.

The church must and will shine forth "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners." Song of Songs 6:10. God's servants must, by laboring together with Christ, roll away the curse that has made the church so lukewarm.

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints," writes the great apostle to the Gentiles, "is this

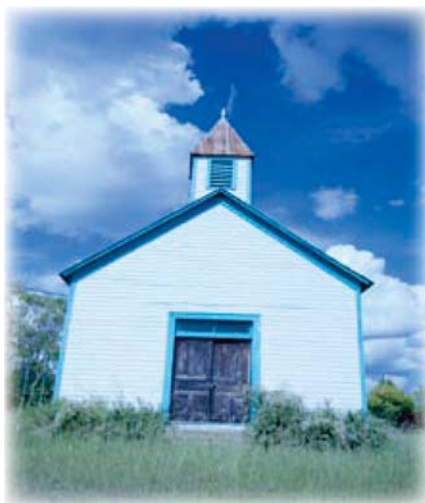
of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Ephesians 3:8-11.

When these words are believed and lived, the church will have a heaven below to go to heaven in.

These words were spoken by our Instructor: "Some are reckless, insensible of the results of sin, heedless of warning. Soon the handwriting on the wall, now unintelligible to them, will be read. But it will then be too late for them to repent. Like Belshazzar, they seem unable to see their peril. A straight testimony must be borne to our churches and institutions, to arouse the sleeping ones."

When the Word of the Lord is believed and obeyed, steady advancement will be made. Let us now see our great need. The Lord cannot use us until He breathes life into the dry bones. See Ezekiel 37:1-11. I heard the words spoken: "Without the deep moving of the Spirit of God upon the heart, without its life-giving influence, truth becomes a dead letter."

Let us from this time use our powers for God. Let us work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that He works in us, to will and to do of His good





# How to Bring Our Church Back

## Part 3

*Nine steps for a successful reformation*

*Vance Ferrell*

*The following article is a selection from the author's book entitled Bringing It Back: A Message to Our Denominational Leaders on All Levels. We pray that all of us might work and pray together for that unity in spirit and in truth that Christ longs to see in His church. —Editors.*

### Actively Working To Put Away Sin

**T**he next step in bringing the church back to obedience to God, is to actively work to put away wrongdoing. There are things being done in our churches, schools, hospitals, publishing houses, and executive offices which need to be changed.

There are wrong practices which need to be stopped—and biblical ones which need to be started. There are workers who need to be removed. There are faithful pastors and workers in the lower ranks who need to be given more authority. Admittedly, this can be difficult to undertake. But earnest prayer and resolute purpose will bring divine help.

It is also the work of our leaders to present God's Word to the people and, in all due love and kindness, help them return to obedience to it. Show them the importance of having their own daily study of the

Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, alone and with their families. Explain the life and death importance of obeying those books!

What are the sins which must be put away? Everything which violates the Ten Commandments. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was called out from the world and the other denominations, *to keep the Ten Commandments and to proclaim them*. That is our reason for existence! It is the Third Angel's Message!

It is true that some members or workers may reject such a call for purity of heart and life, *and they may leave the church*. That is unfortunate; but we tried to help them before they left.

Our denominational objective should not just be to make the church large by filling it with half-converted people who are uninterested in their own souls or the souls of others! There is a danger that, in an urgent desire for increased numbers in our churches and schools, we permit those who attend to go down to their graves unwarned.

It was not God's plan that our church become a social club. Far from it. We were given a message to be fulfilled in our own lives and to be taken to the world. The great truths which God gave us were to be our lifework and our message

to the world—all based on obedience to the laws of God through the enabling grace of Jesus Christ.

I understand that an attempt by our leaders to warn against sin is a difficult one. At an earlier time, while pastoring an Adventist church (as a denominationally paid minister) and recognizing the need to do it, among other urgent presentations I gave a sermon on the dangers of meat eating, both in the Bible and from a health standpoint. It was not denunciatory; yet it was clearly given. My congregation fully accepted it. They loved their pastor and they recognized what I had to say was right and what they needed. Afterward, my aged head elder who had been a life-long Adventist, commented, "Never before you came did I ever hear a sermon reproving sin!"

It is not easy for pastors and church workers to withstand the downward trend toward worldliness in our church. In fact, it seems so much simpler to just drift along with the current, and please people. Yet being men-pleasers is not the work which the God of heaven has given us as ministers and workers in the cause. In love, we must tell those within the sphere of our influence the truth about the dangers which confront them. We must

sound the warnings. We must call them back from the brink!

To not sound the warning is to not fulfill the ministry of reconciliation which God has entrusted into our hands. To remain silent is to betray the best interests of our flock. To pretend that the apostasy is not increasing *is to betray the best interests of the entire church!*

Those who are *truly loyal to the church* are those who are loyal to the foundation principles upon which it is based. Genuine loyalty to the church is loyalty first to the God which called the church into existence.

That is the fundamental error which, over a matter of centuries, resulted in the development of the Roman Catholic Church. “Tradition,” which by definition consists of the decisions of bishops and councils, is considered by Rome to be of higher authority than Scripture.

The little horn of Daniel 7, with the big mouth, represents the man-centered church of Rome. It became man-centered when the words of man were placed as a higher authority than the words of God.

*The third is the error that the Spirit of Prophecy is unnecessary in the lives*

and apostasy when the inspired writings were set aside for the opinions of men.

“Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” 2 Chronicles 20:20.

More on this later.

## Gathering and Instructing the People

The next step is to gather the people and instruct them in the teachings of God’s inspired books. Our people can never have success in changing their own lives, raising their children correctly, managing churches, teaching in schools, or giving the message to the world—if they do not know and do not practice the principles that are delineated in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy—the precious heritage which God gave to us!

We must sound the call. *We must gather the people and explain to them the importance of studying and obeying God’s written Word.* We must patiently teach them what is in the inspired books. This must include teaching them the basics of our historic beliefs so they can share them with others.

Each one of us must take hold of this good work. We must encourage them to begin studying on their own. We must unite with them in seeking repentance and forgiveness for the lost years in which this was not done. We must lead them to the throne of grace and plead with God for strength to put away sin and obey what is written. Both large and small study groups can be used for this purpose.

Joel 2 tells us of such a gathering to plead with God and seek repentance for years of neglect:

“Therefore also now, saith the LORD, *turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God.* . . .

*It is important that you be able to recognize the three underlying errors which exist in our church today and which urgently need correcting.*

## Three Dangerous Errors

It is important that you be able to recognize the three underlying errors which exist in our church today and which urgently need correcting:

*The first is the error that we can continue sinning, all kinds of sins, till death or the Second Advent—and still be saved!* People are deluding themselves when they imagine they can keep their cherished sins and not be lost. It is living in a fool’s paradise to think it is unnecessary to obey the law of God or most anything else in the Bible.

But every chapter from Genesis to Revelation shows this to be a deadly error, one which will destroy those who adhere to it.

*The second is the error that God’s Inspired Writings should not be the primary authority in the church.* There are times when policy books and the decisions of church councils are placed as a higher authority than the clear statements of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

*of the Advent people.* Yet there are important truths in those books which God’s professed people urgently need today. They need them in order that they may be protected from deception. That is why God gave us those books! The current errors we are confronted with are disproved in the Bible; yet they are usually dealt with more clearly—often with razor-sharp precision—in the Spirit of Prophecy.

## Restoring God’s Word As the Authority

Thus the **next step**, in God’s ancient church, was the restoration of God’s Word to its proper position—as the supreme authority and arbiter in all decisions which are made. God’s Word is above man’s word. In our church today, the inspired writings—the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy—should be the test of all church teaching, all standards, and all practices.

In every instance, God’s ancient church began slipping into error



*"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children.*

...

*"Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?"*

*"Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen."* Joel 2:12-13, 15-19.

Elsewhere we are told:

*"Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, the spiritual leaders of Israel had been instructed, 'that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: and that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.'" Deuteronomy 31:12, 13.*

*"Had this counsel been heeded through the centuries that followed, how different would have been Israel's history! Only as a reverence for God's Holy Word was cherished in the hearts of the people, could they hope to fulfill the divine purpose. It was regard for the law of God that gave Israel strength." Prophets and Kings, 465-466.*

The experience of Joshua, Moses' successor, reveals the importance of calling such gatherings and the wonderful results. You can read about it in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 521-522. It will provide you with

veth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psalm 34:18. See also Psalm 51:17; 147:3.

Later on, we will consider how important such gatherings were, and how the church was repeatedly

*"Satan deceives many with the plausible theory that God's love for His people is so great that He will excuse sin in them."*

additional guidance.

Their aged leader, Joshua, pled with them to put away their sins and remain true to God. Commenting on his words to the people, we are told:

*"Satan deceives many with the plausible theory that God's love for His people is so great that He will excuse sin in them. . . .*

*"The unconditional pardon of sin never has been, and never will be. . . . It would fill the unfallen universe with consternation. God has faithfully pointed out the results of sin, and if these warnings were not true, how could we be sure that His promises would be fulfilled? That so-called benevolence which would set aside justice is not benevolence but weakness." Patriarchs and Prophets, 522.*

Such gatherings, to plead with God for forgiveness and to learn from His sacred books, will bring hallowed results:

*"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and sa-*

turned around when the people were gathered together by their leaders so they could be taught right principles and covenant together to keep them. ✠

*Vance Ferrell writes from Tennessee, where he operates his ministry Pilgrim's Rest.*



This article was adapted from *Bringing It Back*, 21-29. This little book explains the simple steps needed to strengthen our denomination so it can more fully do

the work God intended for us to do in these final hours of earth's history.

You may order this book from Hope International for \$1.95 each. Quantities of 10 or more: 99¢ each; cases of 24: 80¢ per book. Please see page 29 for shipping and sales tax information.



# Revelation, Inspiration and

## Ellen White Part 2

*Subtle errors that  
undermine the  
authority  
of Inspiration*

*Russell and  
Colin Standish*

Dr. Roennfeldt also brought out the age-old so-called “incompatibilities” in the four gospel accounts. Rather than explaining them, he simply said, “I’m saying to myself, Who cares?”<sup>1</sup>

Well, *we* do! To cast doubt upon Scripture is no minor issue.<sup>2</sup>

During the discourse at the Elders’ Summit it seemed that no effort was spared in order to assert that Scripture is riddled with deficiencies. The truth that Jude 1:14–15 quotes from the book of First Enoch, one of the group of non-inspired writings which are known as the pseudepigrapha, written in the first and second centuries BC, was used to support the claim that some passages of Scripture are derived from copying the writings of those who were not inspired. While this is correct, no attempt was made to assure the Elders’ Summit attendees that God led Jude to include this accurate material in Scripture, thus placing the stamp of divine inspiration upon it.

While claiming Scripture is accurate in guiding us to salvation, Dr. Roennfeldt’s remarks were peppered with doubts that the Bible was free of error, as originally writ-

ten. Veiled questions were repeatedly raised. We notice but four of these which came forth in rapid succession.

“The Bible is reliable, but here and there in the Bible there are some incidental details which do not affect the essential meaning of the Scripture.”<sup>3</sup>

“We have evidence that the Bible is the Word of God but here and there are things that puzzle us in Scripture.”<sup>4</sup>

“There can be some differences of details but it does not affect the essential meaning of Scripture.”<sup>5</sup>

“We do not believe the Bible is inerrant, but [it] is an infallible revelation of God’s will.”<sup>6</sup>

Our question is, If the Bible is not inerrant in its original autographs, as written by the God-chosen authors, then how can anyone possibly assert it is “infallible in its revelation of God’s will?” At the best this could only be guesswork if it is conceded the Bible is not inerrant, for we would possess absolutely no guarantee that it was not mistaken in its claims concerning the way of salvation. Manifestly, the sources of error in the so-called “incidental,” “minor” errors, would

also operate on the minds of the prophets as they wrote the details of the plan of salvation.

But we have absolute certainty that the Bible is infallible, inerrant, in all that the writers wrote. To this the Spirit of Prophecy emphatically attests.<sup>7</sup>

### Lowering the Standard

A number of breaches of standards were suggested by attendees during the question time and through interjections. The speakers provided no godly counsel to help these individuals to reach the highest level of fidelity. Sabbath observance was one target of these questions, raised by the audience. Two examples suffice:

One attendee suggested that Sister White’s counsel concerning cleaning shoes prior to Sabbath (*Child Guidance*, 528; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, 355) did not apply today because in those days they wore boots which were often very muddy and took a considerable time to clean. This person was not cautioned by the theologians that the principle of true Sabbath keeping is to complete all possible preparations for the Sabbath during secular hours.

Similarly the principle of taking baths prior to Sabbath (see references above) was suggested to be unnecessary today because it takes far less time with modern conveniences. Dr. Roennfeldt appeared to support this view by telling of his experience as a child where the water was boiled in the copper and transported by buckets to the bath. We, too, experienced this as children, but it has not led us to excuse ourselves from following divine counsel under less arduous circumstances.

One elder set forth a specious view that theater-going (see *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, 406–407) was banned in Sister White's counsels because the theater-houses were associated with brothels. No documentation of this association on a large scale was understandably cited. Nor did the theologians counter this misguided suggestion by pointing out that fiction, either written or viewed, was condemned by God through H is servant. Even more importantly, they did not warn the elder that theater-goers will be destroyed with Satan. (*Ibid.*, 407).

One man present enthusiastically sought to have the Spirit of Prophecy deleted from our statement of faith. He, too, received no godly counsel. It was in this atmosphere that the Elders' Summit progressed. There was scarcely a hint that any believers in the gift of prophecy in our midst were present.

### Error Not Detected

Despite these and other obvious major shortcomings in the presentations at the Elders' Summit, there were those who, while strong proponents of truth, were beguiled by the presentations. This is a phenomenon all too often seen at such meetings.

How careful we need to be if we choose to listen to those whom we know to present error.

After the Elders' Summit in Melbourne, June 19, 2004, some in

attendance possessed no recollection of some of the most serious breaches of truth spoken.

### The Alpha and the Omega

In 1904, when the error of pantheism was being promoted by Drs. Kellogg and Waggoner, Sister White issued an urgent warning. This pantheistic error Sister White designated as the Alpha of Apostasy. She warned that the Omega of Apostasy was to follow:

"Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 197.

We are now deep into the Omega of Apostasy. Volume 8 of *The Testimonies for the Church* was published in March, 1904, specifically to meet the crisis of the Alpha. See *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, 5. The warnings are more urgent and even more pointed today as

"I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around

*Despite these and other obvious major shortcomings in the presentations . . . , there were those who . . . were beguiled by the presentations. This is a phenomenon all too often seen at such meetings.*

some of the "very elect" are being deceived.

"The experience of the past will be repeated. In the future, Satan's superstitions will assume new forms. Errors will be presented in a pleasing and flattering manner. False theories, clothed with garments of light, will be presented to God's people. Thus Satan will try to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Most seducing influences will be exerted; minds will be hypnotized." *Ibid.*, vol. 8, 293.

This is the very reason why the Servant of the Lord has warned us:

us becomes contaminated with the darkness." *Early Writings*, 124–125.

When this dire warning goes unheeded, it is little wonder that the minds of the very elect are opened to deception.

### Can We Sort Out the Error?

Since we have fully commented upon Dr. Bradford's views in his book *Prophets Are Human*,<sup>8</sup> we do not wish to extend this article by commenting upon the views he presented at the Elders' Summit.

After the conclusion of the Elders' Summit one brother asked



a very important question of Dr. Bradford. This brother read from a question he had prepared in writing.

"In your book, you state that in their inspired writings Bible prophets sometimes made mistakes. My question is: How can I tell the difference between Satan's inspired writings which mix truth with error and God's inspired writings which also mix truth with error? And how can I sort out the error in Satan's inspired writings and the truth in God's inspired writings?

Dr. Bradford replied, "The true prophet always leads people to Christ and to obedience to God; the false prophet never does this. Matthew chapter 7 is the answer to your question. By their fruit you can recognize them."

This was a patently unsatisfactory answer, for it suffered from two defects—one logical, the other factual:

1. If the Bible contains error, then it is futile quoting from the Scripture in order to discover which words are true and which are false, for the passage referred to in Matthew 7:16 could itself be one of the errors of Scripture.

2. We notice that Dr. Bradford implicitly agreed that he had stated in his book that Bible prophets included some mistakes in Scripture.

## Conclusion

Sadly, throughout there was no evident sense that the subjects of the presentations, the holy Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy, were addressed in the true sacredness of this body of God-inspired truth. When we read from and speak of these revelations of the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, we hold in our hands sacred tomes,<sup>9</sup> and speak of holy words. Too often the words of the Spirit of Prophecy were spoken from faulted recollections rather than read from the inspired writings themselves. This, too, was a feature of the discussion of Scripture. Too frequently the off-handed, pithy,

faulted comments of the speakers were met with waves of laughter. The atmosphere of levity followed by a number of rounds of applause in the question session, left us with a sense of sorrow, for men, rather than God, were thus honored.

God's inspired Word has a telling impact upon us today.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Ephesians 4:14.

Christ's agonized question, "when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8), rings down through almost twenty centuries to our day. He continues to weep for His professed people. ❖

*Concluded.*

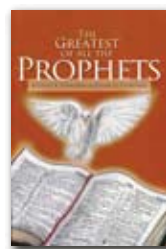
## Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Transcript of audiotape, Elders' Summit, Melbourne, June 19, 2004.
- <sup>2</sup> We here omit pages 80–85 of *The Greatest of All the Prophets*, in which several supposed disparities in the Bible that Dr. Roennfeldt spoke of are addressed at length.
- <sup>3</sup> Dr. Ray Roennfeldt, "Elders Summit," June 19, 2004
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>7</sup> See chapter 13 in our book, entitled "Are Inspired Writings Sometimes Correct and Sometimes Incorrect?"
- <sup>8</sup> See chapter 6, entitled "Stratagem II – Prophets Are Human"
- <sup>9</sup> Large or scholarly books.

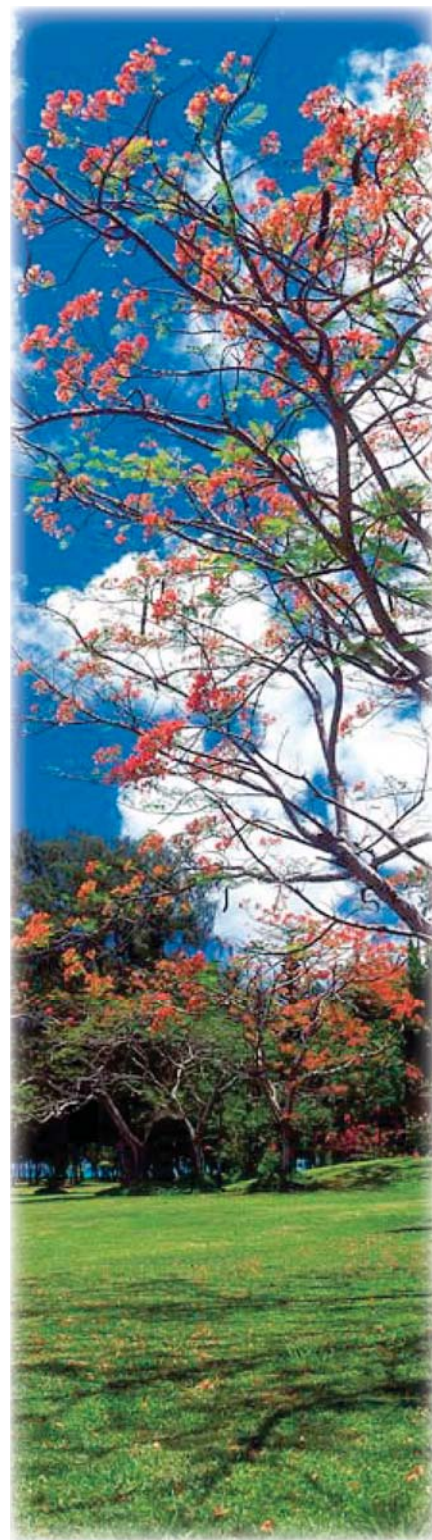
*Russell Standish, speaker and author, writes from Australia, where he directs Remnant Ministries.*

*Colin Standish, president of Hartland Institute, writes from Rapidan, Virginia.*

This article was selected from portions of chapter 11 of *The Greatest of All the Prophets*, by Russell and Colin Standish. Portions of this chapter have been omitted due to space limitations.



You may purchase this book from Hope International for \$16.99 plus shipping & handling (see page 30).



Photos © photos.com



# Seven Times

*What will God say when He delivers His people?*

*Lea Smith*

**I**n chapter 40 of The Great Controversy, Sister White speaks of several things that happen seven times during the period of time when God delivers His people. We here present a simple study that we believe will be of interest to many readers. — The editors.

## When God Speaks to the Saints

1. "By the people of God a voice, clear and melodious, is heard, saying, 'Look up,' . . . and from His lips they hear the request presented before His Father and the holy angels: 'I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am.' John 17:24." Page 636.

2. "Again a voice, musical and triumphant, is heard, saying: 'They come! they come! holy, harmless, and undefiled. They have kept the word of My patience; they shall walk among the angels.'" Ibid.

3. "It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. . . . The righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: 'It is done.' Revelation 16:17." Ibid.

4. "The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to

His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward." Page 640.

5. "Then the voice of Jesus is heard, saying: 'My grace is sufficient for you.' 2 Corinthians 12:9. The faces of the righteous are lighted up, and joy fills every heart." Page 641.

6. "Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints.

He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: 'Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!' See Isaiah 26:19." Page 644.

7. "Then that voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying: 'Your conflict is ended.' 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' Matthew 25:34. . . . Christ presents to the Father the purchase of His blood, declaring: 'Here am I, and the children whom thou hast given me.' See Hebrews 2:13. 'Those that thou gavest me I have kept.' John 17:12." Page 646.

## The Saints Speak, Shout, or Cry

1. "Again a voice . . . is heard, saying: 'They come! they come! holy, harmless, and undefiled. They have kept the word of My patience; they shall walk among the angels;' and the pale, quivering lips of those who have held fast their faith utter a shout of victory." Page 636.

2. "And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory." Page 640.

*"The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people."*

3. "Before His presence 'all faces are turned into paleness;' upon the rejecters of God's mercy falls the terror of eternal despair. 'The heart melteth, and the knees smite together, . . . and the faces of them all gather blackness.' Jeremiah 30:6; Nahum 2:10. The righteous cry with trembling: 'Who shall be able to stand?' Revelation 6:17." Page 641.

4. "Those who would have destroyed Christ and His faithful people now witness the glory which rests upon them. In the midst of their terror they hear the voices of the saints in joyful strains exclaiming: 'Lo, this is our God; we have



waited for him, and he will save us.' Isaiah 25:9." Page 644.

5. "From the prison house of death they come, clothed with immortal glory, crying: 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' 1 Corinthians 15:55. And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory." Ibid.

6. "On each side of the cloudy chariot are wings, and beneath it are living wheels; and as the chariot rolls upward, the wheels cry, 'Holy,' and the wings, as they move, cry, 'Holy,' and the retinue of angels cry, 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.' And the redeemed shout, 'Alleluia!' as the chariot moves onward toward the New Jerusalem." Page 645.

7. "As the ransomed ones are welcomed to the City of God, there rings out upon the air an exultant cry of adoration. The two Adams are about to meet. . . . As Adam discerns the prints of the cruel nails, he . . . in humiliation casts himself at His feet, crying: 'Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!' Revelation 5:12." Page 647.

### The Saints Sing

1. "Their voices rise in triumphant song: 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.' Psalm 46:1-3." Page 639.

2. "The living righteous . . . with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. Angels 'gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.' Matthew 24:31. Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers' arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the City of God." Page 645.

3. "In every hand are placed the victor's palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skillful touch, awaking sweet music in rich, melodious strains. Rapture unutterable thrills every heart, and each voice is raised in grateful praise: 'Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.' Revelation 1:5-6." Page 646.

4. "He [Adam] touches the golden harp, and the vaults of heaven echo the triumphant song: 'Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again!' The family of Adam take up the strain and cast their crowns at the Saviour's feet as they bow before Him in adoration." Page 648.

5. "And they sing 'a new song' before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb—a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience—an experience such as no other company have ever had." Pages 648-649.

6. "Amid the waving of palm branches they pour forth a song of praise, clear, sweet, and harmonious; every voice takes up the strain . . . 'Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.' Revelation 7:10. And all the inhabitants of heaven respond. . . ." Page 650.

7. "The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. . . . As the nations of the saved look upon their Redeemer . . . they break forth in rapturous song: 'Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His own most precious blood!' " Pages 651-2. ✠

*Lea Smith writes from Texas.*





# *The Ministry of Reproof*

## *Part 1*

*Anonymous*

*“Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour.”*

I would like to focus on a verse that is found in the message to church of Laodicea, recorded in Revelation 3:14–22, which is very familiar to us. It is verse 19: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

Here is an aspect of God’s love that we need if we are going to be delivered from the Laodicean disease. It is the loving ministry of reproof and rebuke in God’s church.

In Hebrews 12:5–6 we are counseled, “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art

rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”

As I have studied this subject, I have been convicted that as a minister I have not taken up the work that God has called us to do in this area. There are many statements in the Spirit of Prophecy which describe the serious ramifications in the absence of rebuke and reproof within the church. I will share a few of them here.

“Men and women who, with their different organizations, are brought together in church capacity have peculiarities and faults. As these are developed, they will require reproof. If those who are

placed in important positions never reproofed, never rebuked, there would soon be a demoralized condition of things that would greatly dishonor God.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 358.

“If wrongs are apparent among His people, and if the servants of God pass on indifferent to them, they virtually sustain and justify the sinner, and are alike guilty and will just as surely receive the displeasure of God; for they will be made responsible for the sins of the guilty. In vision I have been pointed to many instances where the displeasure of God has been incurred by a neglect on the part of His servants to deal with the wrongs and sins existing among them. Those who have excused these wrongs have been thought by the people to be very amiable and lovely in disposition, simply because they shunned to discharge a plain Scriptural duty. The task was not agreeable to their feelings; therefore they avoided it.” *Ibid.*, 265–266.

### **Who Is Responsible?**

This study would not be too uncomfortable for most if I only focused on the ministers, but from my study I discovered that all who are in positions of leadership in the church (including local elders and deacons) have a duty and a responsibility before God to enter into the ministry of reproof and rebuke.

Most readers would not feel uneasy if we left it there, but the Lord wants to disturb us and reveal His truth!

In Leviticus 19, we find some of the statutes in the Old Testament which the Lord gave to help us apply the Ten Commandment to our everyday lives. In verse 17 we read, “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.”

This verse is talking to each of us. God is calling each of us to be faithful in the ministry of reproof and rebuke. The first half of the verse, “Thou shalt not hate thy



brother in thine heart," makes it clear that the ministry of reproof is a part of loving our neighbor. It must be true then that if I truly love my brother in the church I will be willing to enter into the ministry of reproof.

We truly show honor and love to someone when we are willing to help them see the error of their ways and turn back to God. Restoration of the sinner should always be our motive when we enter into the ministry of reproof.

Please consider one more inspired statement before we study the principles of proper reproof and rebuke:

"When there are among God's

given through the testimonies of His Spirit, to guard His little flock from the subtleties of the enemy.

"When men stand out in defiance against the counsel of God, they are warring against God. Is it right for those connected with such ones to treat them as if they were in perfect harmony with them, making no difference 'between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not'? Malachi 3:18. Though they be ministers or medical missionaries, they have dishonored Christ before the forces of the loyal and the disloyal. Open rebuke is necessary, to prevent others from being ensnared." *Special Testimonies*, Series B, Number 2, 9–10.

name. Declare what God has said in regard to lying, Sabbathbreaking, stealing, idolatry, and every other evil." *The Desire of Ages*, 805–806.

As I was seeking to understand the difference between judging and a judgmental spirit versus entering into the ministry of reproof and rebuke, I found something remarkable that was very, very helpful:

"Christ has plainly taught that those who persist in open sin must be separated from the church, but He has not committed to us the work of judging character and motive." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 71.

In one sentence we are told that we must not judge motive and character, but that we must separate those who persist in open sin from the church. Judging has to do with trying to get "behind the scenes" and determine a person's motives, and God has not given us this work because He knows we would be wrong most of the time. (The next sentence in the above passage says, "He knows our nature too well to entrust this work to us.") However, we have been given the ministry of reproof and seeking to help those who are living in open sin.

"Christ's example forbids exclusiveness at the Lord's Supper. It is true that open sin excludes the guilty. This the Holy Spirit plainly teaches. See 1 Corinthians 5:11. But beyond this none are to pass judgment. God has not left it with men to say who shall present themselves on these occasions. For who can

*Restoration of the sinner should always be our motive when we enter into the ministry of reproof.*

people those who have departed from the path of humble obedience, those who have exalted self, those who have united with Satan in accusing and condemning the men appointed of God to be ministers of salvation, shall we keep silence for fear of hurting their feelings? When there are men in the church who love riches more than righteousness, and who stand ready to take advantage of their fellow men by unjust dealings, shall we make no protest? And when men standing in the position of leaders and teachers work under the power of spiritualistic ideas and sophistries, shall we keep silent, for fear of injuring their influence, while souls are being beguiled? Satan will use every advantage that he can obtain to cause souls to become beclouded and perplexed in regard to the work of the church, in regard to the Word of God, and in regard to the words of warning which He has

### **Reproof Versus a Judgmental Spirit**

We are living in a time when we often hear, "but we are not supposed to be judgmental," if a reproof or rebuke is given. What is the difference between reproof and a judgmental spirit according to the inspired writings?

"Christ here [in John 20:23] gives no liberty for any man to pass judgment upon others. In the Sermon on the Mount He forbade this. It is the prerogative of God. But on the church in its organized capacity He places a responsibility for the individual members. Toward those who fall into sin, the church has a duty, to warn, to instruct, and if possible to restore. 'Reprove, rebuke, exhort,' the Lord says, 'with all long-suffering and doctrine.' 2 Timothy 4:2. Deal faithfully with wrongdoing. Warn every soul that is in danger. Leave none to deceive themselves. Call sin by its right



read the heart? Who can distinguish the tares from the wheat?" *The Desire of Ages*, 656.

### False Sympathizers

There is another problem that faithful servants of the Lord will encounter when they engage in the ministry of reproof. It is false sympathy, and Mrs. White wrote a number of very strong testimonies rebuking those who engage in it. Here is a sample:

"In almost every case where reproof is necessary, there will be some who entirely overlook the fact that the Spirit of the Lord has been grieved and His cause reproached. These will pity those who deserved reproof, because personal feelings have been hurt. All this unsanctified sympathy places the sympathizers where they are sharers in the guilt of the one reproofed. In nine cases out of ten if the one reproofed had been left under a sense of his wrongs, he might have been helped to see them and thereby have been reformed. But meddlesome, unsanctified sympathizers place altogether a wrong construction upon the motives of the reprover and the nature of the reproof given, and by sympathizing with the one reproofed lead him to feel that he has been really abused; and his feelings rise up in rebellion against the one who has only done his duty. Those who faithfully discharge their unpleasant duties under a sense of their accountability to God will receive His blessing." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 359.

The next time someone delivers a reproof and we are tempted to side with the person who feels they have been abused, let us diligently heed this counsel:

"Reproofs always hurt human nature. Many are the souls that have been destroyed by the unwise sympathy of their brethren; for, because the brethren sympathized with them, they thought they must indeed have been abused, and that the reprover was all wrong and had a bad spirit. The only hope

for sinners in Zion is to fully see and confess their wrongs, and put them away. Those who step in to destroy the edge of sharp reproof that God sends, saying that the reprover was partly wrong and the reproofed was not just right, please the enemy. Any way that Satan can devise to make the reproofs of none effect will accomplish his design. Some will lay blame upon the one whom God has sent with a message of warning, saying, He is too severe; and in so doing they become responsible for the soul of the sinner whom God desired to save, and

to whom, because He loved him, He sent correction, that he might humble his soul before God and put his sins from him. *These false sympathizers will have an account to settle with the Master by-and-by for their work of death.*" *Ibid.*, 329. Emphasis supplied. ✨

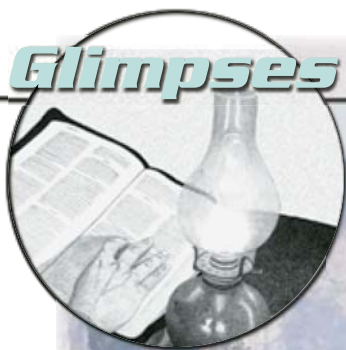
*To be continued.*

*Does Christ's counsel in Matthew 18 prohibit public reproof? We will look for an inspired answer to this question in the next part of our study.*



*These false sympathizers will have an account to settle with the Master by-and-by for their work of death.*





# James White: The Little Paper

## Part 2

*Virgil Robinson*



How was James White able to do so much writing in addition to his preaching and administrative duties? In later years he was to describe how for long periods of time he wrote his editorials between the hours of eight p.m. and midnight. This was not done so he could travel for pleasure. Field trips were not reserved for spring and summer. Some of his most difficult, as well as fruitful, trips were taken in the dead of winter. With Ellen by his side, he braved hardships and defied storms. Nothing would prevent him from visiting and bringing comfort and instruction to the scattered flock.

On May 15, 1850, James and Ellen set out from Oswego on a trip. Their first stop was at Topsham, Maine, where they fellowshipped with the Howlands and once again

saw little Henry, now nearing the age of 3. From there they paid a short visit to North Paris, where they found some of the members discouraged. The meetings James and Ellen held there did much to strengthen that company's faith in God.

From Paris they went down to Dorchester, where they enjoyed visiting with the Nichols family before going to Fairhaven. Did they find Joseph Bates at his home? The record is silent, but probably he was away. However, it is known that this was the year when Prudence Bates, Joseph's devoted wife, began to keep the Sabbath after she had resisted the teachings of her husband for four years.<sup>1</sup> Did this visit by the Whites have any part in bringing about the happy change? We do not know. . . .

Only a few more stops, and the travelers would be back

home again with their little boy. Crossing the frontier into Canada East, now known as Quebec, they arrived at Melbourne. There they found an active company of some twenty believers. Then they hurried back to Sutton and Irasburg, Vermont. At this latter place there were children awaiting baptism, much to the joy of their devoted parents and the young traveling minister who would administer the rite.

It was not far to Waitsfield, Vermont, and from there to Hamilton, New York, where they spent a profitable weekend. James found eleven persons waiting for baptism. One more day on the train, and they were safely home again.

How did Ellen and James travel? Part of the way by train. But where churches were close together friends drove them from one ap-



pointment to another by horse and carriage, or by sleigh in winter. To reach points not on the railway they may have used stagecoaches, still quite common in 1850.

Railway trains were crude affairs; coaches were made of wood and had stoves in them. The roadbeds were rough. Since they carried no nonsmoking cars, it was impossible to avoid inhaling tobacco smoke. Stations were inadequate.

In a letter, written some years later, Ellen described how they sometimes left smoke-filled waiting rooms and stood in the bitterly cold air outside rather than breathe warm, polluted air. Certainly they were not traveling for pleasure in those days.<sup>2</sup>

The tenth number of *Present Truth* was published in Oswego in May 1850. While on the trip just described James was thinking of a different type of publication, which he hoped would win many converts. His plan was encouraged by his wife, who wrote, "The Lord showed me that he, James, must take the testimonies that the leading Adventists published in 1844 and republish them and make them ashamed. He is now doing that work."<sup>3</sup> On July 21 he wrote to Leonard Hastings from Hamilton about his plans. He would publish a new paper, which he would call the *Advent Review*. (This is not to be confused with the *Review and Herald*, which was launched later in the year.)<sup>4</sup>

For material for this new paper, James went to back numbers of Advent papers printed by leaders of the 1844 movement and reprinted some of their articles. He would show that the large majority of Sundaykeeping Adventists had

forsaken the pillars of faith once so widely proclaimed.<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile, James had moved his family from Oswego to Centerport, not far from Auburn, New York, where he found another printer. Brother Harris, of Centerport, kindly offered part of his house to the Whites. Three years had passed since James and Ellen, accompanied by Elder Bates, had first knocked on the door of that home. It was there that Bates had dried out his clothes after falling into the Erie Canal.

In Centerport troubles began descending thick and fast on the Whites. After breakfast one morning James and Ellen drove one of their visitors, Elder S. W. Rhodes, two miles to Port Byron, where he boarded a boat. When they returned, Mrs. Harris met them at the door with the alarming words, "Your babe's struck with death!" The parents rushed into the bedroom and found it was true. Only prayer could save his life. James longed for the presence of another minister and decided to get one.

Leaving little James Edson in his mother's arms, he rode as fast as possible along the towpath of the canal. After he had gone five miles he overtook the line boat and persuaded Elder Rhodes to return with him to the bedside of the sick child.

We may be sure that all the way back to Centerport both men were praying that they might not be too late. At the house they hurried into the sickroom, where Elder Rhodes anointed the little fellow and prayed for him. The child opened his eyes and recognized his parents. From that hour he began to get better.<sup>6</sup> . . .

In August, Numbers one and two of the *Advent Review* appeared, followed by three and four in September. For this paper, James did little writing. Practically all its content included articles previously written by Miller, Himes, Bliss, Litchfield, and other Advent leaders.

Three thousand copies of each edition of the paper were printed<sup>7</sup>



and went far and wide. The results were thrilling. But though they contained material on which all Adventists had at one time united, they did not present the particular truths cherished by the Sabbathkeeping Adventists. James now prepared to issue a purely missionary church paper, one that could be used to carry "the light," as they called present truth, to people everywhere.

The hour had struck for the birth of James White's third paper, *The Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*.<sup>8</sup>

This periodical would enjoy a long and useful life. ❖

*Virgil Robinson was the great-grandson of James and Ellen White on his mother's side and the great-grandson of William Farnsworth (one of the first Seventh-day Adventists) on his father's side.*

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Virgil E. Robinson, *Cabin Boy to Advent Crusader*, Southern Pub. Assn.: Nashville, Tenn., 1960, 124.

<sup>2</sup> Ellen G. White letter to Edson and Emma W. 16a, 1870.

<sup>3</sup> Ellen G. White letter 8, to Arabella Hastings, Aug. 4, 1850.

<sup>4</sup> James White letter to Leonard Hastings, July 21, 1850.

<sup>5</sup> *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists*, vol. 1, 202.

<sup>6</sup> *Life Sketches* (1888), 272-273.

<sup>7</sup> James White letter to H. L. Hasting, July 21, 1850.

<sup>8</sup> *Origin and History*, vol. 1, 202-203.

This article was taken from Virgil Robinson, *James White*, 63-67. This book is available from Hope International for \$11.99 plus shipping and sales tax (see page 30).

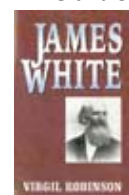


Photo © photos.com

# Separation *From the World*

C. H. Watson

**“B**ehold, I come quickly: behold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Revelation 3:11. “Let no man beguile you of your reward, . . . vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.” Colossians 2:18

The Bible is the story of a great eternal purpose; of the efforts made, being made, and yet to be made to defeat that purpose; and of the means ordained, employed, and available to fulfill that purpose. It teaches that this great purpose is the purpose of God concerning man; that this purpose is according to the will of God; that man was created to fulfill that purpose; that within that purpose man has been ordained to rule; that outside of that purpose man is a slave, and that that purpose can be fulfilled in and by those only who do the will of God.

The first teaching of the Bible regarding man is that human experience began right; that it was placed on an enduring foundation, even eternal truth, the essence of which is the will of God.

The next teaching is that notwithstanding its right beginning and its sound basis, *man's experience went wrong*. He chose a life outside the will of God. He voluntarily turned away from the life that fulfilled God's purpose, and elected to live in disobedience.

The third teaching is that man's turning away from God did not change God's purpose for man; that all the change which was made was in man himself, and in those things over which he had been given dominion.

Up to this point the two things that are especially set forth are first,

that man, with everything in his favor, failed to fulfill God's purpose; and, second, that notwithstanding this, the purpose of God is unchangeable and indestructible.

The foundation laid at the beginning has stood. Man by his own choice took himself off that foundation. But man's moving off did not move the foundation. That foundation is the will of God, which is the essence of all truth. In order to build on that foundation, man must live and labor within the will of God. Life lived and service rendered outside of that divine will are not established upon that foundation.

The blight of human experience is that man has persistently failed to appreciate his opportunities and possibilities within God's purpose for him. The whole story of the Bible is a sad revelation of that tragic fact. The first section of that story ends with the Fall of man, the second ends with the Flood, and the third ends with Babel. Each of these periods in human experience ended in human failure. After that, the story tells of God's efforts to have His will done on earth by a family.

### God Works With a Family

Throughout the first three sections of the Bible story, God is dealing with humanity as a race, and almost without distinction. In the fourth section we have the record of His dealings with the race through one of its families. Through the family of Abraham, God ordained that His eternal purpose would be fulfilled. He gave the literal children of Abraham a wonderful opportunity. But the section of the story that

gives us the history of that family ends with them all in bondage. What took it there?—Directly, the wickedness of its members. God gave to that family the knowledge of His will. The ways of obedience and disobedience were clearly marked for it in the experience of their father Abraham. But knowing his failures and their causes, they chose to depart from the will of the Lord. Consequently, at the end of the period they were found in bondage. Instead of being made rulers by the doing of God's will, they were made slaves by their departure from His will.

In the will of God there was one place in all the earth for that family. That place was Canaan. But in the course of their story we find them for four generations outside of Canaan: Why was that? It was because they had fled from Canaan before the face of difficulty. They fled to Egypt, and Egypt became the place of their bondage.

Abraham, too, had gone down unbidden into Egypt before them, and in all the story there is scarcely anything more disastrous to God's purpose than that sojourn of Abraham in Egypt. So far had the purpose of God dropped from the minds of that family while in Egyptian bondage that, though delivered at last with great wonders, and led by great power back to the border of the land where the Lord had willed them to be, they refused His purpose, they turned from the possibility of doing His will, and perished in the wilderness.

So the fourth section of the story ends in human failure as did the preceding three.



## God Works With a Nation

The fifth section of the story reveals God's effort to have His eternal purpose fulfilled through a nation. Having brought Israel out of Egypt, He made them a nation. He Himself was that nation's King. This part of the story teaches us the lesson of Israel's failure as a theocracy. It would seem, as one reads the provisions for the success of Israel as a nation, that it could not possibly fail. With them the Lord dwelt in person. Day and night the people saw the manifestations of His presence and glory. They worshiped Him, seeing with their natural sight that He was among them. They heard His voice speaking to them the words of His divine will. They quaked at the power of His speaking. They witnessed the smoke-clouded glory of His majesty. They acknowledged themselves His people, and covenanted to obey His voice. Never since the Fall had there seemed to be brighter prospects of having God's purpose for humanity fulfilled in His people.

But nearly four centuries after they heard God proclaim His will to them, they rejected Him as their King, and would not have Him reign over them any longer.

"The LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them." 1 Samuel 8:7

Why had they rejected the Lord in this way? Had He failed in His leadership of them? Had He been unwise in His kingship? Had He brought the people into great difficulty? Had He brought them into great suffering? Were they unhappy under Him as King? Had the kingdom become divided? Was it about to become divided? Had the kingdom and the nation reached a crisis that demanded a change of rulership to save it from disaster?

No, none of these things had happened. None of them were about to happen. None of them

were at all likely to happen under God as the nation's King. What then had happened?

Samuel, the servant of God, had grown old, and his sons were unsatisfactory. Did that warrant the nation's rejection of God? Not at all. That would have been no warrant for such a far-reaching action if it really had been the true underlying reason for their rejection of the Lord. But the Scriptures make it clear that Samuel's age and his sons' carelessness were not the reason, but the excuse, for their rejection of God as their King.

The reason for their action was within their own hearts. It was their

be concerned about the worldliness of Samuel's sons, and especially in view of Samuel's old age. Think of it!—determined to be worldly, they claimed that it was necessary for them to be like the world because Samuel's sons were worldly and he was old. But God called it rejection of Him, and that is just what all worldly-mindedness is. He gave them no reason to be deceived by their own worldly desires. But they rejected His counsel as they were determined to reject Him.

This business of offering a pious reason to bring about a worldly end in the experience of God's people, is an old-fashioned affair. It dates

*This business of offering a pious reason to bring about a worldly end in the experience of God's people, is an old-fashioned affair.*

own worldly-mindedness; and they were obstinately determined to have their own way. At the direction of God they were cautioned, they were warned, they were reprov'd, they were faithfully told that a human king would enslave them, would dispossess them, would take away their liberties, and would require their first, their best, and the goodliest of all for himself.

But the record is: "Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles." Verses 19–20.

As a nation, Israel was determined to be worldly, and their determination to be like the world is the one and great cause of their failure in this fifth part of the story.

They did not call their action a rejection of God. They claimed to

back at least to the days of Samuel. But it was wrong then, and age has not changed its nature a particle. It is still one of the methods pursued by the worldly-minded, and God's people are still misled by it.

We need very much to beware of this old-fashioned foolishness and pious wickedness in this closing work. During the last quarter of a century I have seen efforts of the same kind among this people. But a pious reason for worldly action is as hypocritical now as it ever has been. ❖

*To be continued.*

*Review and Herald, November 21, 1935*



*Charles H. Watson served as General Conference president from 1930 to 1936.*

# THE REASONING OF A DREAMER

**I** can dream about writing  
a poem  
that has a little rhythm  
and rhyme.  
But the question is, will I  
write it down  
to share with you in time?

For I'm a nowhere dreamer,  
don't you know?  
I pause to think,  
But do I go?

I can sit and plan  
And scheme,  
But in reality, you see,  
It's just a dream.

Just a dream you say...  
What's wrong with dreams?  
Nothing, but without action  
They're quite dead it seems.

Do I just imagine  
How wonderful life could be?  
Oh, if I would just go forth  
with the confidence  
That Christ is always with  
me.

With all the marvelous things  
That God has in store,  
Why must I sit back  
and be stifled once more?

Things can sound  
And look so good,  
But does it get past the mind  
Like it really should?

To get past the mind  
And really reach out  
Takes a heart full of love --  
That's what it's all about.

Why don't I get up  
And do it right now?  
Do you think it's because  
I don't know how?

Or, maybe there might be  
Some sins in the way  
That keep me from doing  
What I should each day.

What Kind of space  
Do I allow Christ to fill?  
Just a small part  
Or full surrender of the will?

If the love of Christ  
Is reigning within,  
It will not allow me  
To be held back by sin



To think . . . how different  
My world might be  
By allowing more of the Savior's  
love  
To flow in and through me.

When seeking my God daily  
In prayerful study of His word,  
Sitting back and just dreaming  
Would be totally absurd.

May I be a doer of the word  
And not just a hearer.  
That I may see past the "self"  
And Christ all the more clearer.

The only dreams  
worth having come true  
Are the ones filled with Jesus  
Living them through.

Only in Jesus  
Will I ever be found.  
For He'll lift me above  
where I have been bound.

Let the Holy Spirit  
Ever dwell within me,  
So my dreams will be actions  
Of love that sets free.

— Ron Beaton

# Historical Footnotes

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." — E. G. White, *Life Sketches*, 196. Many today have neglected to study the history and people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. To help encourage interest in Adventist history, we have put together questions about people and events of our past. Our goal is to spark faith, and *further study* into "the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

- In what year did Ellen White receive the vision about Jesus' work in the heavenly sanctuary?
  - 1844
  - 1845
  - 1886
  - 1914
- What was Ellen White's first published book?
  - Early Writings*
  - Great Controversy*
  - Steps to Christ*
  - Experience and Views*
- James White compiled a songbook in 1849. What was its name?
  - Hymns for God's Faithful Advent People*
  - Hymns for God's Peculiar People Who Keep the Commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus.*
  - The Advent Believers Songbook*
  - Hymnbook for Sabbath Keepers*
- How many times was Ellen White baptized?
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - Never was
- James White published a 24-page pamphlet that had Ellen White's first three visions in it. What was its name?
  - To the Little Remnant Scattered Abroad*
  - Fear Not, Little Flock*
  - A Word to the Little Flock*
  - Faith Triumphant*
- In 1848, James White, to make money to support themselves and to have a few dollars to support the cause, mowed 100 acres of hay by hand. How much did he receive per acre?
  - One dollar
  - 87 and a half cents
  - Fifty cents
  - One dollar and a half
- Why was Ellen White re-baptized?
  - Accepted message that the Lord was coming in 1844
  - Accepted the Sabbath truth
  - Was remarried
  - Saw in vision her impurity
- Who re-baptized her?
  - James White
  - Joseph Bates
  - William Miller
  - Uriah Smith
- When would the Lord give Ellen White a vision to make things clearer for those studying the events surrounding 1844?
  - When they fasted and prayed
  - When they were all in unity
  - When they asked for additional light
  - When they said, "We can do nothing more"

Answers: 1:B, 2:D, 3:B, 4:B, 5:C, 6:A, 7:B, 8:B, 9:A, 10:D  
Source: For specific references to any answer, please contact Hope International.



Photo: © photos.com

## Religious Devotion in the USA

"In Western Europe, where Pope Benedict XVI complains that growing secularism has left churches unfilled on Sundays, people are the least devout among the 10 countries surveyed for The Associated Press by Ipsos.

"Only Mexicans come close to Americans in embracing faith, the poll found. But unlike Americans, Mexicans strongly object to clergy lobbying lawmakers, in line with the nation's historical opposition to church influence.

" 'In the United States, you have an abundance of religions trying to motivate Americans to greater involvement,' said Roger Finke, a sociologist at Penn State University. 'It's one thing that makes a tremendous difference here.'

"The polling was conducted in May in the United States, Australia,

Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, South Korea and Spain.

"Nearly all U.S. respondents said faith is important to them and only 2 percent said they do not believe in God. Almost 40 percent said religious leaders should try to sway policymakers, notably higher than in other countries." Associated Press, "AP Poll: Religious Devotion High in U.S." June 6, 2005, <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,158683,00.html>

**End-time Perspective:** As we have been forewarned by God's prophet, the people will clamor for the legislators to change the laws to appease God. Prophecy is about to be fulfilled before our very eyes. It is definitely time to "Get ready, Get ready, Get ready!" *Early Writings*, 64.



Photo: © Photos.com

## Pope's Plea for Religious Sundays

**News Item:** "Pope Benedict XVI, in his first trip outside Rome since being elected, was greeted by enthusiastic crowds in the southern Italian city of Bari yesterday.

"At an outdoor mass attended by an estimated 200,000 people, he called for the rediscovery of the religious meaning of Sundays as an antidote to the 'rampant consumerism and religious indifference' that was making the modern world a spiritual desert.

"The 78-year-old pontiff also pledged to make Christian unity a priority." Barbara McMahon, *Guardian*, May 30, 2005, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/pope/story/0,12272,1495370,00.html>.

**End-time Perspective:** It is interesting to note that on his very first trip outside Rome the new pope focused on Sunday and Christian unity. There is no question on what the world will be called to unify on—Sunday!

"And his deadly wound was healed: and *all the world wondered after the beast.*" Revelation 13:3.



Photo: © <http://www.vicyouth.com/>

## Cultural Dancing?

**News Item:** "Congress participants also celebrated diversity with a Saturday evening concert. More than 500 performers from at least 11 countries sang, danced and shared other aspects of their unique cultures in a colorful and energetic celebration of the many cultures of the South Pacific." Nathan Brown, "Fiji: Youth Congress Draws 1,800," *Adventist News Network*, January 11, 2005, <http://news.adventist.org/data/2005/00/1105467502/index.html.en>.

**End-time Perspective:** This is an excerpt from an article on a youth congress held in Fiji. In what could have otherwise been a marvelous opportunity for the church to encourage the youth in higher and holier service and preparation for the Lord's coming, sadly, an event was hosted that lowered the standards instead. Let us never give up our constant prayer for our beloved church and our youth!

"There are amusements, such as dancing, card playing, chess, checkers, etc., which we cannot approve because Heaven condemns them. These amusements open the door for great evil." *The Adventist Home*, 498. See also *Counsels on Stewardship*, 201.



More photos can be found at:  
<http://www.vicyouth.com/pics/Fiji2005/index.htm>

## A Happy Marriage Is Good Medicine

**News Item:** "A happy marriage apparently is good medicine, but hostile spouses may be harmful to one another's health.

"Couples in conflict-ridden marriages take longer than the happily married to heal from all kinds of wounds, from minor scrapes or athletic injuries to major surgery, suggests a study out over the weekend.

"And the health toll taken by a stressful job seems to be eased when the worker has a pleasurable home life.

"This new research, reported at the American Psychosomatic Society meeting here, adds to growing evidence that marriage has an impact on health." —

Marilyn Elias,  
"Study: A happy marriage can help mend physical wounds," *USA Today*, March 7, 2005, page D.7.



Photo: ©Photos.com

**End-time Perspective:** "When the husband has the nobility of character, purity of heart, elevation of mind, that every true Christian must possess, it will be made manifest in the marriage relation. . . . He will seek to keep his wife in health and courage. He will strive to speak words of comfort, to create an atmosphere of peace in the home circle." *The Adventist Home*, 228.

Any questions here? Remember, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." And, "It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house." Proverbs 17:22;

25:24. I think that can apply to the "brawling man" as well!

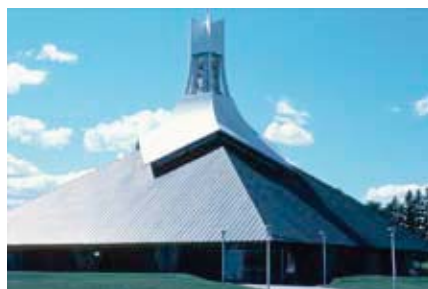


Photo: ©Photos.com

## Shepherd's Local

**News Item:** "What's a pastor to do when he's at odds with his congregation? In Canada, he starts a labor union. The Reuters news service reports that 30 ministers in Canada's United Church have started a drive to unionize the denomination's 4,000 pastors. 'The group is unique . . . but the problems are similar to those in many workplaces,'" said Buzz Hargrove, president of the Canadian Auto Workers union, which is helping with the effort. United Church spokesman Joe Ramsay doesn't see the similarities: 'You can't legislate the congregation to feel kindly toward you.'" *World*, November 20, 2004, 11.

**End-time Perspective:** Who would have thought as we remember the words of Inspiration about unions, that we would see the day in which *pastors* would attempt to unionize!

"We are now to use all our entrusted capabilities in giving the last warning message to the world. In this work we are to preserve our individuality. *We are not to unite with secret societies or with trade-unions.* We are to stand free in God, looking constantly to Christ for instruction." *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 84.

## The Hot Sound Of Hate

**News Item:** "In a cramped upstairs den in South St. Paul, Minn., a CD blares with fury. 'Hang

the traitors of our race,' the singer screams, 'White supremacy! White supremacy! Whiiiiite supremacy!' Byron Calvert, 33, leans back in his chair, smiling and snacking on veggies. Calvert is a mountainous man with a swastika tattoo, a prison record and a racist dream. He runs Panzerfaust Records, a five-year-old company that has quickly become one of the top 'white power' record labels in the country. Hundreds of bands in America and Europe produce such hate music. If Calvert has his way, their fans will soon be multiplying. In September he launched Project Schoolyard, a plan to snag kids 13 to 19 by distributing 100,000 free CDs of such bands as Day of the Sword, H8 Machine and Final War. Calvert cares less about the melody than the message. 'We hook 'em with the music,' he says, and then kids learn—and buy—more online. As his Web site declares, 'We don't just entertain racist kids, we create them!' " Sarah Childress and Dirk Johnson, *Newsweek*, November 29, 2004, 32.



Photo: © <http://www.freeyourmindproductions.com>

**End-time Perspective:** We might not believe that music has an effect, but some people recognize the effect music has. We are told that music can be very beneficial or perverted to serve evil:

"The history of the songs of the Bible is full of suggestion as to the uses and benefits of music and song. Music is often perverted to serve purposes of evil, and it thus becomes *one of the most alluring agencies of temptation.*" *Child Guidance*, 523.

God help us to stand in defense of sacred music and against that which defiles. ✠

*Contributor: Joe Olson*

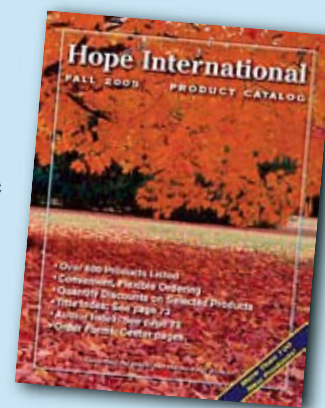
# New Publications

## available from the Hope International Bookstore

The following items represent a much larger selection available from Hope International. If you would like a **free Fall 2005 catalog**, please give us a call or drop us a line, and we will be happy to send you one. *You may now shop online at [www.hopeint.org](http://www.hopeint.org).*

**Order line: 1-800-468-7884**

Please see page 30 for shipping and sales tax information.



## General Books

**Barrett, E. Boyd**

### *Rome Stoops to Conquer*

First published in 1935, the author, an ex-Jesuit, observed that "Here, there and everywhere, propaganda is busy 'making America Catholic.'" This book discusses many aspects of Rome's plans for and influences on American life that are coming to pass before our very eyes.

Paperback  
**BEBE-RSTC \$12.99**

**Daniel, John**

### *Grand Design Exposed, The*

This book exposes a bold design for world domination, ferreting out history that begs to be left unknown. The solemn mission of this book is to remove the deceptive smokescreen and expose Satan's masterpiece on earth so that you may turn tragedy into triumph and rise to meet the Lord in the air when He returns.

Paperback  
**BEDJ-GDEX \$15.99**

**Franklin, Jere**

### *You Can Survive!*

From country living, to medical preparation, wilderness survival, log cabin building, gardening, cooking, financial planning, and, most importantly, the spiritual preparation—this book will help you get ready for what is just ahead!

Paperback  
**BEFJ-YCSU \$19.99**



**Gresham, Joe W.**

### *Dealing With the Devil's Deception*

Why do different Bible translations contain doctrinal differences? Is one translation better than another? If so, which one? These are some of the questions that are answered in this book.

Paperback  
**BEGJ-DWDD \$9.99**

### *Revelation: God's Last Message to Earth*

Discover for yourself what the book of Revelation has to say about our world today and the coming millennium. This book offers valuable insights to today's most intriguing questions.

Paperback  
**BEGJ-RGLM \$9.99**

### *Which Gospel?*

This series of 18 sermons on different aspects of the gospel is must reading for the serious Bible student who wants to know the "real gospel" as taught years ago.

Spiral bound notebook  
**BEGJ-WGOS \$9.99**

### *Wise Shall Understand, The*

This book is a simple, systematic commentary on the book of Daniel, which speaks repeatedly of last day events. The prophecies of this book are, in many respects, some of the most remarkable in the Scriptures.

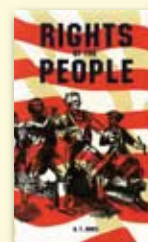
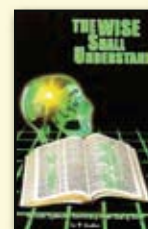
Paperback  
**BEGJ-WSUN \$9.99**

**Jones, A. T.**

### *Rights of the People*

This book was written to help the reader to see the relation that should exist between civil government and religion, according to the words of Christ and the American Constitution.

Paperback, 378 pages  
**BEJA-ROTP \$10.99**







## Koranteng-Pipim, Samuel, et al

### *Here We Stand*

The authors of this book are Seventh-day Adventist men and women who are willing to take a stand for sound Biblical teaching and practices. *Here we Stand* offers a Biblically compelling response to some of the new trends in the church: new methods of church planting and church growth, new questions about our doctrines, new views on Creation, new styles of worship and music, new issues on marriage, new changes in local church leadership, and new structure for the church.

Paperback  
BEKS-HWST

\$16.99

## Nelson, Frederic P.

### *Evolution Dissected*

*Evolution Dissected* separates biological evolution into distinct categories and examines the characteristics of each category — both of which lack unique supporting scientific data and are found to be highly irrational scientific hypotheses. A must-read for all high school and college students, teachers, and the scientific community!

Paperback, 8½ by 11, 117 pages  
BENF-EDIS

\$13.99

## Quevedo, Jane Allen

### *Thousand Miracles Every Day, A*

This book contains a selection of stories of miracles that shaped the mission and history of Adventist hospitals around the world — stories of “happenstance,” perseverance and a deep well of divine providence.

Paperback, 268 pages  
BEQJ-TMED

\$6.99

## Wilkinson, Benjamin G.

### *Answers to Objections to Our Authorized Bible*

When B.G. Wilkinson published *Our Authorized Bible* in 1930, several anonymous authors voiced their objections in writing. Now you can read their objections and Wilkinson’s response for your study.

Two 8½ by 11-inch paperback books  
BEWB-ATOT

\$14.99

## Bibles

### God’s Word

#### *Giant Print Bible*

Giant print King James Version reference Bible, with promises, miracles, prophecies of the Messiah, prophecies of the Second Coming of Christ and end-of-verse references.

Leather-bound  
BEGW-GPBI

\$59.99

## Outreach

### Batchelor, Doug

#### *Book of Amazing Facts, Vol. 2, The*

In volume 2 you’ll find even more surprising and obscure trivia that you can use to share the gospel in a unique light — whether you’re a seasoned pastor or a beginning Bible worker.

Paperback  
BEBD-BAF2

\$8.99

## Health

### Braunstein, Mark M.

#### *Sprout Garden*

In this “Indoor Grower’s Guide to Gourmet Sprouts” you will learn to grow over 50 kinds of healthful sprouts in your own kitchen. Has all the latest information on sprouts, sources for sprouting equipment and seeds, and a great collection of delicious recipes.

Paperback, 145 pages  
BEBM-SGAR

\$10.99

### Calbom, Cherie / Keane, Maureen

#### *Juicing for Life*

Eating fresh fruits and vegetables can boost your energy level, supercharge your immune system, and maximize your body’s healing power. This book presents a safe, effective, and natural way of achieving better health.

Paperback  
BECC-JFLI

\$10.99

#### *Jugos Para una Vida Saludable*

[The Spanish edition of *Juicing for Life*]

Paperback  
BSCC-JPUV

\$11.99

### Ferrell, Vance / Archbold, Edgar E., M.D. / Cherne, Harold M., M.D.

#### *Natural Remedies Encyclopedia, The*

As disease increases and conventional treatments fail, this book is a welcome assistance to the world’s need of caring for and treating the body according to God’s plan. Take advantage of the tremendous amount of work that has been done to make this beautiful volume that deals with everything from coughs to cancer!

Hardcover, 840 pages, 2004  
BEFV-NREN

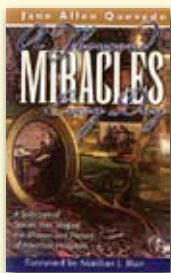
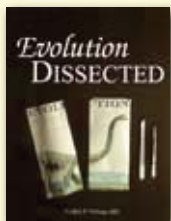
\$64.99

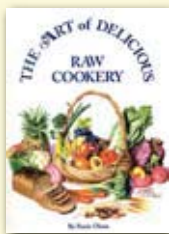
#### *Enciclopedia de los Remedios Naturales*

The popular *Natural Remedies Encyclopedia* is now available in Spanish!

Hardcover  
BSFV-ERNA

\$64.99





## Olson, Roxie

### *Art of Delicious Raw Cookery, The*

This totally raw food recipe book teaches how to prepare foods in the most simple and natural way, using no refined oils, grease, sugar, animal products, or processed super-market foods.

Spiral notebook, 8½ by 11, 194 pages  
BEOR-AODR

**\$12.99**



## Cookbooks

### Pickle, Julianne

#### *100% Vegetarian*

This cookbook is designed to fill real needs of real people. It makes 100% vegetarian food affordable, attainable, delicious, and easy to prepare. All ingredients can be found in your local grocery store!

Spiral Bound, 124 pages, 1990  
BEPJ-1VEG

**\$6.99**



## Herbs & Other Products

### *Activated Charcoal*

Charcoal is God's finest adsorbent because it traps unwanted materials and gas in its many small cavities or chambers. This is something you don't want to be without in any home!

125 Vegicaps

HXNE-ACVC

**\$13.99**

130 tablets

HXNE-ACTA

**\$11.99**



### *Aloe Vera Gel & Juice*

Aloe Vera Gel & Juice blend contains high amounts of aloe nutrients including polysaccharides. The benefit of ingesting Aloe Vera is that it will calm an upset stomach and also act as a natural laxative.

Wild Berry Flavor, 1 liter (33.8 oz), 65% Pure Aloe

HXNW-AVGJ

**\$7.10**



### *Anabol-Loges*

Anabol-loges is particularly beneficial for people who suffer from age-related back pain, damage discs, degenerative and rheumatic complaints, and osteoporosis.

100 capsules

HXDL-ANAB

**\$37.40**



### *Antioxidant Complex*

A combination of several powerful antioxidants into one convenient formula for those who want the best protection against free radical damage.

60 capsules

HXNS-ACOM

**\$24.00**



### *Bilberry*

Bilberry Extract is standardized to 25% anthocyanins to support visual adaptation to light and also help maintain normal nighttime vision.

90 capsules

HXNW-BILB

**\$22.00**



## Subscription, Shipping, and Sales Tax Information

### Subscription Information

**United States:** US \$18.75 per year  
**Canada and Mexico:** US \$23.75 per year  
**Foreign (Surface Mail):** US \$23.75 per year, (shipped quarterly)  
**Foreign (Air Mail):** US \$60.00 per year  
**Large Print Edition:** US \$29.95 per year  
**Audio Edition:** US \$36.00 per year  
**Foreign Audio and Large Print Editions:** Please inquire regarding postage.

### Subscription Assistance

We strive to keep our subscription prices as low as possible. We want this material to be available to all. If your finances cannot meet the requested amount, please send whatever you can.

Those desiring to assist in providing subscriptions for individuals with limited funds should send a gift marked "Subscription Assistance" to Hope International. Your donations are tax deductible.

### Shipping, Sales Tax, Currency

For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted):

- **USA destinations:** Please add 15% shipping plus US \$3.00 handling.
- **To Canada:** Please add 20% shipping plus US \$4.00 handling.
- **To other destinations:** Please add 30% shipping plus US \$5.00 handling.
- If actual shipping charges are greater, you will be billed the difference.

**Sales tax:** Illinois residents, please add 6.5%. Washington state residents, please add 7.8%.

**All money received must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.**





## Letters to the Editor

Thank you for sending me the complimentary copy of *Our Firm Foundation* magazine. I am sending my subscription. The articles from the Spirit of Prophecy are wonderful; I read them thoroughly.

May God bless your ministry. Please include in your prayers my family, for a closer walk with the Lord.

PG, Illinois

I have received the magazine for years. I and my wife love it and agree with the principle contained therein. We want to help you in your endeavors to reach our people.

DK, Indiana

You guys are doing a wonderful job! I love the magazine; it truly inspires me. It draws me closer to the Lord—that's how I know the Lord is in it! Please keep the faith, brothers!

BM, Illinois

Please send me the book *James White* by Virgil Robinson. I have enclosed payment. I love to read the *Our Firm Foundation* you put out!

MW, Kansas

Thank you so very much for sending me the trial *Our Firm Foundation* and your newsletter! Is the newsletter free? If so, may I please have a recent one?

PM, California

May the Lord bless you in the work you are doing for Him. You are in our prayers. Please pray that my business would grow for His glory so that we can give more to the work of spreading the gospel. May each of you be blessed.

TA, Washington

My husband and I have read a complimentary copy of your magazine *Our Firm Foundation* (April 2005) from cover to cover and were very impressed with it.

I called your office a few minutes ago and told the lady we would love to subscribe but could not afford the \$18.75 per year. She accepted our offer of \$10 and told me to put a check in the mail. We shall look forward to your magazine each month.

MW, Texas

We really truly do enjoy and appreciate the *Our Firm Foundation*. We are on a really low budget and cannot afford to order this, but we have appreciated receiving it in the past. If it is possible, I would be grateful to still get the straight SDA message. Thank you.

RR, Pennsylvania

Keep working for the Lord by the grace He gives. Do not let the enemy gain back any won ground. You are in our prayers. As always, *Our Firm Foundation* is a real blessing to us.

Jesus be with us always, and give us His wisdom so we can be heavenly wise unto all things pertaining to our salvation and that of others.

ML, Washington

Intense Bible study was my passion even before conversion into the Seventh-day Adventist church. When convinced that Adventism was Bible truth, I encouraged others to join the SDA church even before my own baptism. That was three decades ago.

Now, as an employee in an Adventist institution and living in an Adventist community, I see and hear the "New Theology" first hand. It is much watered-down, and it lacks true spiritual energy in depth and in its adherents, and it is as disgusting to me as lukewarm water.

This spring, after reading a copy of *Our Firm Foundation*, I rejoiced that the strong, vibrant, distinct Seventh-day Adventist teachings are being proclaimed once again!

Fellow workers, keep the faith; publish the truth!

Anonymous

I love the magazine. I get such a blessing and so much information. When I'm done reading them I pass them along to my friends. I can't wait to get the next issue!

AK, California

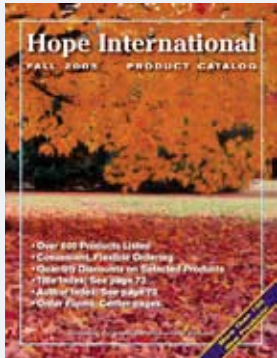
Have you received my check for my subscription renewal? I love the magazine and don't want to miss a single issue!

WJ, Georgia

God bless each one of you as you labor so faithfully for our Saviour, Jesus.

AF, Florida

# Fabulous News!



You can now order Bibles, study helps, books, cassettes, VHS tapes, CDs, DVDs, MP3s, songbooks, cookbooks, herbs, charcoal, clay, ties, magnets, cards, shirts, pictures, bookmarks, and much, much more, online!

Browse our catalog online, at *your* leisure and when it is convenient for *you*! You can even make donations and never have to write a check!

We have *hundreds* of new items—from Ellen G. White Study Bibles to gifts for family, friends, baptismal candidates, and even yourself!

You can order *and* purchase what you want, on Sundays or at midnight, or any other time you choose, and it will be sent directly to you, and you never have to even pick up the phone. It has never been more convenient!

Just go to **[www.hopeint.org](http://www.hopeint.org)** and click on the catalog tab on the left side of the screen and spend all the time you wish. Tell all your friends!



We look forward to serving you!



Change Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
NW Mail Services