February 2011 Signs of the Times Newsletter

The Signs of the Times newsletter is a collection of stories and quotes from past issues of Signs and These Times.

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One evening a lady of New York, while on her way home at a late hour, without an escort, was approached by a lewd fellow, as the boat on which they rode neared its landing.

"Are you alone?" he asked.

"No, sir," was the reply and, without further interruption, when the boat touched, she jumped off.

"I thought you were alone," said the fellow, stepping to her side again.

"I am not," replied the lady.

"Why, I don’t see any one; who is with you?"

"God and the angels, sir; I am never alone!"

This arrow pierced the villain’s heart, and with these parting words, “You keep too good company for me, madam,” he shot out of sight, leaving the heroic lady to enjoy her good company.—Unknown, Signs of the Times, January 4, 1883.

Quote: “We need faith in the unseen, that faith in moral forces, without which all else is vain.”—By Calvin Coolidge, Signs of the Times, March 28, 1922.

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Seven-year-old Harry Stage made sensational news in the Washington Star on February 20, 1961. Why? Twenty-five miles away from his Phoenix, Arizona, home, while his father talked to Mr. Faubion, Harry climbed onto a platform, saw an old piece of plywood at one side, and jumped for it. The plywood covered an irrigation well sixteen inches wide and two hundred fifty feet deep, with water at the bottom of it.

The plywood broke. Harry plunged down, down, with part of the plywood slowing him a little. Hitting, the water, he pushed the sides with his hands to keep from submerging and yelled, "Daddy, daddy, get me out! Daddy, daddy. . .”

“Don’t worry, son, and don’t be scared.” His father thought quickly. “We’ll get you out; just push against the sides so you don’t sink.”

“Okay. Hurry!”

Mr. Faubion drove furiously the seven long miles to a neighbor’s ranch to get some cowboy lariats to tie together to rescue Harry. Meanwhile little frightened, seven-year-old Harry waited. With many bad bruises, two broken legs, tiring arms, he was absolutely helpless! Would Father ever come? How much longer could he hold on? Would he drown? When finally the lariats were lowered, he gladly followed every instruction and obeyed implicitly. Placing the lariats around his body, he held on for dear life as his father and Mr. Faubion pulled him to safety.

Those lariats saved Harry. They brought him back to his father because he remained connected to them. We all have fallen headlong into the pit of sin. Bruised, broken, helpless, we cannot save ourselves. Only those who obey the Father will get to the Father (Matthew 7:21); only Christ let down to us is the way out to the Father, for He said, “I am the way: . . . no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). We must be connected to Him. He alone resurrects us to triumphant living. He alone causes us to obey and enjoy it.

Thank God, “there is a way out through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 7:25, Phillips).—By Norman R. Gulley, These Times, September 1975.

Quote: “In our weakness His strength is ours. In our conflicts His victories are ours. In our bereavements and sorrows His grace is ours. He had not where to lay His weary head, that we might have His bosom on which to lean our fevered brows. He endured the cross and despised the shame, that, instead of weeping and wailing, we might share His immortal blessedness.”—By Richard Fuller, Signs of the Times, January 24, 1950.
NEW from Pacific Press—**The Heartbeat of Adventism** by Herbert E. Douglass. This is not a storybook, and yet, it tells the greatest story ever told. Gleaning from the writings of Ellen G. White spanning 70 years, Herbert Douglass unveils the drama of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. You will gain fresh insight and personal strength for the days ahead, and you will discover the answer to questions like, What are the issues surrounding the great controversy? How do they affect us in our personal lives today? What will God accomplish through His plan of salvation? **On sale during the month of February.**

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A woman tripped and fell from the top of a stone stairway in Boston as she was coming out of the police station. She was hurried to a nearby hospital, but she gradually grew weaker and weaker.

One day she told the nurse her story. She was looking for her son who had run away from his home in Southern California. Through every large city she had traveled, hunting everywhere, especially through the hospitals and police stations. She closed by saying: “Nurse, some day he may come into this hospital; and if he does, tell him there were two who never gave him up.”

It was but a question now of minutes, so the nurse said, “Tell me who the two are, and I will tell him if I see him.”

With trembling lips and eyes overflowing with tears, she replied: “Tell him that the two are God and his mother.”

Jesus will never give up the one for whom He gave His life. You may give Him up, refuse to yield your sins to Him, but He will never give you up. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.—By Sherman A. Nagel, Signs of the Times, December 11, 1923.

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**Quote:** “For my own part, I have never ceased to rejoice that God has appointed me to such an office. People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blessed reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the word in such a view, and with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say, rather, it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering, or danger, now and then, with a forgoing of the common conveniences and charities of this life, may make us pause and cause the spirit to waver and the soul to sink; but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall hereafter be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice.”—By David Livingstone, Signs of the Times, April 7, 1931.

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**Quote:** “Much of the so-called scientific teaching of every decade is the joke of the next. There are scores of dead scientific theories lying around the Word of God like the strangled snakes around the fabled cradle of Hercules, while the old Book that withstood their envenomed attacks is more vital now than ever.”—By Thomas H. Nelson, Signs of the Times, August 5, 1930.

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In the city of Brooklyn there was a man who for years made his home in a room on the top floor of a hotel. He had been deserted by his family when he became converted, yet he had such a happy Christian experience that the hotel people called him “Happy Day.” Each night he read his Bible and sang the song that begins with these words:

“O, happy day! That fixed my choice
On Thee, my Saviour and my God.”

One night, however, there was silence in the little room. The next morning the occupant of the adjoining room said to the proprietor, “I heard no prayer meeting in Happy’s room. He must be sick.”

They went to his room and found he had passed to his rest. A newspaper said concerning him: “Always in the early hours of the night, when his devotions would disturb no one, the pious father of a large family who had forsaken him,
sought consolation in solitude and would let the young men who played billiards downstairs know that the happy hours of life are those of communion with God.”—By John W. Halliday, Our Times, March 1949.

Quote: “Home is the laboratory of character.”—By Sir Thomas Lipton, Signs of the Times, January 6, 1931.

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Christ’s Seven Last Sayings

The Saviour’s last words from that darkened hill of Calvary:

- A word of forgiveness for an ignorant crowd.
- A word of assurance for a dying thief.
- A word of provision for a grieving mother.
- A word of wonderment for a heavenly Father.
- A word of physical need for the tending soldiers.
- A word of victory for both the seen and unseen spectators to Calvary.
- A word of committal for the God whose presence was now nearer than life.—By Don Johnson, These Times, May 1979.

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