

Old Paths

Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.
Jeremiah 6:16

The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.
Psalm 25:14

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Straight and Narrow

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In the beginning, God was revealed in all the works of creation. It was Christ that spread the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. It was His hand that hung the worlds in space, and fashioned the flowers of the field. (The Desire of Ages, p. 20)

The Decisive Battle of the War

Secular history records that in many wars there was a decisive battle the victory of which assured one side the outcome of the war. Some notable battles that history records include:

The Battle of Arbela, 331 BC: The ancient Persian empire, which once subjugated all the nations of the earth, was defeated when Alexander won his victory at Arbela.

The Battle of Hastings, AD 1066: None who appreciates the influence of England and her empire upon the destinies of the world will ever rank the battle of Hastings as one of secondary importance.

Victory of the Americans over the British at Saratoga, AD 1777: This victory set the stage for the rest of the American Revolutionary War.

The Battle of Waterloo, AD 1815: The exertions which the allied powers made at this crisis to grapple promptly with the French emperor have truly been termed gigantic, and never were Napoleon's genius and activity more signally displayed than the skill by which he brought forward all the military resources of France.

Battle of Appomattox Courthouse, AD 1865: Robert Lee's army is finally broken after many victories.

The Normandy Invasion and the **Battle of the Bulge** in the European theater in 1944 and **The Battle of Midway** in 1942 in the Pacific theater would cement the defeat of the German Army and the Japanese Navy.

To this list could be added many more conflicts. However, these were worldly conquests, fought by powers of the world. As Christians we have a different kind of warfare. The Apostle Paul writes:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12, marginal reading)

Sacred history also records spiritual battles where a single victory was important. The first war was not a war of secular forces but of spiritual beings.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:7-9)

Michael (Jesus) fought with his angels against Satan and his angels. We are not told how this combat occurred, but it is certain that this battle was intense. After Satan was cast out of heaven, he carried forward his work in the Garden of Eden, where he won his first great battle, but though he has had marked success, not all the battles have been won by Satan.

The Bible tells of Elijah at Mount Carmel and the victories of Jesus in the wilderness of temptation, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and finally amidst the darkness of Calvary.

History records how one lone monk stood against the assembled leaders of Europe at Worms; and how a young, frail, uneducated girl withstood the personal assault of Satan to write the most important book since the close of the sacred Canon. Today, the last great battle of God's people is being played out right now, but the theater is not a battleground on land but in your mind! Not a battle with what would be considered by the world as high tech weaponry, but high tech it is.

The last five months we have been studying Ezekiel 8 and 9. The importance of these chapters is not fully possible to gauge outside of the context of Adventism and the purpose for Adventism.

The Bible never tells us to have new flesh, for Jesus took our flesh in the great battle with sin (Romans 8:3, 4). God's saints need reinforcements and he has given them exactly what they need: a new heart and a new spirit. They have Christ in them (Colossians 1:27) and, therefore, are fully equipped for every aspect of the battle. The Bible says that it is by God's Spirit we "are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:3)

The book of Revelation speaks about those who will receive the seal of God and clearly denotes that those who receive the seal of God are set in contrast to those who receive the mark of the beast. When the seal of God is discussed, the book of Revelation is almost always at the center of the focus. However, as with so much in the Apocalypse, the imagery of the seal of God is borrowed from the Old Testament, specifically from the 9th chapter of Ezekiel.

He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man

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upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. (Ezekiel 9:1-6)

It is clear that what has happened in chapter 9 is the result of judgment. There are two classes: One class is left for destruction, the other receives a mark on their foreheads. This mark is given to one group, those who receive the seal of God. Ezekiel 9:4 gives the requirement of those who receive “the pure mark of truth” — the seal of God. It says that those who receive the seal of God “sigh and...cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst” of Jerusalem.

In Ezekiel 8, God revealed to Ezekiel abominations that were occurring in Jerusalem. Chapters 8 and 9 of Ezekiel make up part of an acted prophecy. God showed Ezekiel literal events occurring at that time in Jerusalem among God’s people which were prophetic of literal events that would happen among God’s people at the end of time during the final events of the sealing.

In this prophecy, Jerusalem represents the church:

Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those “that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done” in the church. (Ibid., p. 267; all emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted)

When we read anything in inspiration we should pay close attention, but when we read, “Mark this point with care” it should raise a red flag of warning to each of us. There is a special work for God’s church in the end of time and only those who participate in this work will receive the seal of God. If God’s people will only receive his seal if they are sighing and crying for the abominations done in the church, then we had better know what these abominations are and why they are so offensive to God. (For a detailed analysis of these abomination please see the February 2010 – June 2010 issues of *Old Paths*.)

The Decisive Battle:

Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them. (Ezekiel 8:17, 18)

The forces of good and evil have been in a battle, but God is not going to allow the battle to continue forever. He will allow conditions to cause a polarization of the people one way or the other. The prophet has told us:

Their wicked course He will tolerate no longer, and in His wrath He deals with them without mercy. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 212)

A Flashback

Ezekiel 11 serves as a flashback to provide some details of events leading up to the seal of God and to the slaughter of the wicked.

Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD’S house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people. Then said he unto me, Son of man, these are the men that devise mischief, and give wicked counsel in this city: Which say, It is not near; let us build houses: this city is the caldron, and we be the flesh. (Ezekiel 11:1-3)

In verse 1 we see the same twenty–five men from Ezekiel 8 who worshiped the sun. These men are devising wicked counsel. In Ezekiel 11:3 we begin to understand the wicked mischief that the people are devising. They are saying, in effect, “We are as safe in this city as flesh in a boiling pot; the walls of the city shall be to us as walls of brass, and shall receive no more damage from the besiegers about it than the caldron does from the fire under it. Those that think to force us out of our city into captivity shall find it to be as much at their peril as it would be to take the flesh out of a boiling pot with their hands.” But, beloved, God takes their saying and turns it around. In verse 7 we read, “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Your slain whom ye have laid in the midst of it, they are the flesh, and this city is the caldron: but I will bring you forth out of the midst of it.” God is saying that the slain in the city are the flesh and then in verses 8-13 God tells them that destruction is coming.

Ye have feared the sword; and I will bring a sword upon you, saith the Lord GOD. And I will bring you out of the midst thereof, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you. Ye shall fall by the sword; I will judge you in the border of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. This city shall not be your caldron, neither shall ye be the flesh in the midst thereof; but I will judge you in the border of Israel: And ye shall know that I am the LORD: for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done after the manners of the heathen that are round about you. And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel? (Ezekiel 11:8-13)

However, the wicked do not know what is happening in the background. They still feel secure and they begin to cast out (excommunicate) the people of God.

Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, thy brethren, even thy brethren, the men of thy kindred, and all the house of Israel wholly, are they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Get you far from the LORD: unto us is this land given in possession. (Ezekiel 11:14, 15)

Just before the seal of God is finally impressed in the foreheads of the faithful, those who claim to be God’s church will

disfellowship the true people of God. They say to Ezekiel and his faithful brethren to get out of the city (the church) because it is given to them to possess. The wicked have gone fully over to the side of Satan.

This prophecy, coupled with Ezekiel 8, has terrible implications for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The people who are supposed to be standing for God's law, especially his Sabbath, will finally turn their backs on God and exalt Sunday worship. Not only will there be a move to exalt Sunday, but there will be, connected with the mark of the beast issue, a move to oppress the holy Sabbath.

The Church of Satan makes long-range plans, and these plans call for both an exaltation of Sunday and a desecration of the Sabbath:

When the time comes and men realise that the social edifice must be rebuilt according to eternal standards, be it tomorrow, or be it centuries from now, the Catholics will arrange to suit said standards....*They will and for its own good, revoking the permit for free thinkers and Jews to celebrate 'incognito' Monday or Saturday on their own account.* Those whom this may annoy will have to put up with this annoyance. Respect will not be refused to the creator, nor repose to the creature simply for the sake of humouring certain maniacs whose phrenetic condition causes them stupidly and insolently to block the will of the whole people.....in a word, Catholic Society will be Catholic and the dissenters whom it will tolerate will know it's charity but not be allowed to disrupt it's unity. (Louis Veuillot, *The Liberal Illusion*, pp. 63, 64; first published in 1866 and republished by the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington, DC, in 1939)

Now notice the clear warnings of the prophet:

When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin. (*The Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888)

After the truth has been proclaimed as a witness to all nations, every conceivable power of evil will be set in operation, and minds will be confused by many voices crying, "Lo, here is Christ, Lo, he is there. This is the truth, I have the message from God, he has sent me with great light." Then there will be a removing of the landmarks, and an attempt to tear down the pillars of our faith. A more decided effort will be made to exalt the false Sabbath, and to cast contempt upon God himself by supplanting the day he has blessed and sanctified. This false Sabbath is to be enforced by an oppressive law. Satan and his angels are wide-awake, and intensely active, working with energy and perseverance through human instrumentalities to bring about his purpose of obliterating from the minds of men the knowledge of God. But while Satan works with his lying wonders, the time will

be fulfilled foretold in the Revelation, and the mighty angel that shall lighten the earth with his glory, will proclaim the fall of Babylon, and call upon God's people to forsake her. (*Ibid.*, December 13, 1892)

It is interesting that Veuillot says that the Jew [or other Sabbath keepers] will not be allowed to keep the Sabbath "incognito" or in secret. They will be forced to disregard the Sabbath. Interestingly, the servant of the Lord, in 1862, told God's people that this would be the case. The Mark of the Beast will not only include an honoring of Sunday, but the trampling down of the holy Sabbath day.

I saw that God will in a wonderful manner preserve His people through the time of trouble. As Jesus poured out His soul in agony in the garden, they will earnestly cry and agonize day and night for deliverance. *The decree will go forth that they must disregard the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and honor the first day, or lose their lives; but they will not yield, and trample under their feet the Sabbath of the Lord, and honor an institution of papacy.* (*Testimonies for the Church*, pp. 353, 354)

The book of Esther tells a story about the lovely Hebrew who became the Persian queen, but it is really an apocalyptic preview in type of last-day events. In this book we find a decree against God's people, but God fought for his people then and will do no less in the end of time.

The same masterful spirit that plotted against the faithful in ages past is still seeking to rid the earth of those who fear God and obey his law. Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church-members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals, they will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a "thus saith the Scriptures" to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for Sunday laws. Those who fear God can not accept an institution that violates a precept of the decalogue. On this battle-field comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. And we are not left in doubt as to the issue. Now, as in the days of Esther and Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate his truth and his people. (*Ibid.*, January 23, 1908)

As we go back to Ezekiel's prophecy, we find God's care for his people. He will gather those who are left and will place his seal upon them.

Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.

Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. (Ezekiel 11:16-18)

God proclaims that he will give his people a new heart:

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19, 20)

Ezekiel also mentions the new heart and new spirit in Ezekiel 36:26. This is what the people of God need to be sealed! This only can come by having the spirit or mind of Christ. That is why we are admonished to “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). The battle is for the mind! This is why Paul writes:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5)

The Bible never tells us to have new flesh, for Jesus took our flesh in the great battle with sin (Romans 8:3, 4). God’s saints need reinforcements, and he has given them exactly what they need—a new heart and a new spirit. They have Christ in them (Colossians 1:27) and, therefore, are fully equipped for every aspect of the battle. The Bible says that it is by God’s Spirit we “are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Ephesians 4:30). One who is sealed with the Holy Spirit will not be moved from their position, no matter how much the world entices them to move away. God’s seal is “not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved” (Marantha, p. 200).

But this truth that the righteous are settled into is not just a set of doctrines but a person, Jesus Christ:

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:5, 6)

God’s people will know Jesus so well and be so in love with him that they will not betray him under any circumstances.

The sealing of the 144,000 is noted in Revelation 7:1-4. This will be a time of warfare in the world, and everything is ready to break loose. But God has sealed his people step-by-step, and the fruit of this people is ripe.

While God is finishing *his work*, Satan is attempting to finish *his work* by destroying the people of God. In the last days he marshals one last great confederacy to war against God’s people. John, in vision, saw a beast with ten horns and the last great

assault of Satan before Jesus comes (Revelation 17:12, 13). John saw that they “make war with the Lamb,” but “the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).

I was pointed down to the time when the third angel’s message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message.

I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer’s inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the ten commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, “It is done.” (*Early Writings*, p. 279)

Michael (Christ) was involved in the beginning of the war of the controversy over God and his character, and it is Michael who will stand in the end to defend his people. “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1).

Everyone must now search the Bible for himself upon his knees before God, with the humble, teachable heart of a child, if he would know what the Lord requires of him. However high any minister may have stood in the favor of God, if he neglects to follow the light given him of God, if he refuses to be taught as a little child, he will go into darkness and satanic delusions and will lead others in the same path.

Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 214)

Jesus counsels Laodicea: “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see” (Revelation 3:18). If you recognize that you are in a pitiful spiritual state, you do not need to stay there. You may align yourself with Christ, accept counsel of the faithful and true witness, and be a victor in the last great battle.

It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and

spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." We are in a most trying position, waiting, watching for our Lord's appearing. The world is in darkness. "But ye, brethren," says Paul, "are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." It is ever God's purpose to bring light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, and rest out of weariness for the waiting, longing soul.

What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.

Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven. Go forward, my brethren and sisters. (*Ibid.*, vol. 5, pp. 215, 216)

Those who have a zeal for the honor and glory of God will not wish to be involved in anything that is disgusting to God. If you wish to be a part of the 144,000, you will have to put the honor of God first. The greatest battle you will ever fight is about you now. It will soon be over, and you will either be faithful to God or be found a traitor. It is that simple. The choice is yours. Do you love best the approbation of God or the approbation of men? You may align yourself under the blood-stained banner of Jehovah or you may help to pass the "hellish torch of Satan," if you wish. The choice is up to you. *Allen Stump*

Elena Kagan Nominated to Replace Justice Stevens

On May 10, President Obama nominated Solicitor General Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens.

Miss Kagan is 50 years old and, if confirmed, would have a potentially long seat in the High Court. Miss Kagan is from New York and the first woman to ever be the Solicitor General. She was the first woman dean of the Harvard Law School. She also was White House associate counsel in the Clinton administration. Her education includes studies at Princeton University, Oxford University, and Harvard Law School. She was a law clerk for Justice Thurgood Marshall. She has never been a judge at any bench level.

Unlike a sitting judge, she has never been forced to write opinions on issues, such as affirmative action, abortion, and the separation of church and state. Neither has she written about these issues as an academic, and there is no record of her even discussing these issues to express her views.


Kagan's views on homosexuals in the military are very clear, though. She fully supports their right to openly serve and has condemned the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. She attempted to ban military recruiters from Harvard because gays cannot openly acknowledge their sexuality and join the military. Kagan's position on gays in the military is expected to create controversy during her confirmation hearings, but it is felt by most who have weighed in on the issue that, though her record will be carefully examined, she will be confirmed, unless some very negative revelations arise between now and the confirmation hearings.

Interestingly, Kagan was accused of being a lesbian on a CBS news blog written by Ben Domenech, stating that Kagan's "female partner is rather well known in Harvard circles" (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/04/16/elena-kagan-gay-rumor-who_n_540143.html). That blog report was removed

from the Internet. The White House quickly denied that Kagan was gay. It would be hard to imagine the effect upon the weakening moral fabric of the nation were a closeted homosexual chosen for the Supreme Court and then that person come out of the closet after taking the bench.

There have already been rumblings about the need for another black on the court, as well as the need for an Asian American. However, there is another issue about which you may not have heard. If Miss Kagan is confirmed, the United States Supreme Court would, for the first time, lack a Protestant representative. The religious make-up of the court would be six Catholics and three Jews. When this nation was founded, Protestants were in the vast majority and today still claim about 50% of the population. To have a High Court without a single Protestant Justice is a wonder that should cause great concern to any who values religious freedom.

When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 451)

Perhaps we have been looking for a Constitutional amendment to enforce the decrees of the Papacy, but a new amendment is not necessary if the current Constitution and laws can be re-interpreted by the Supreme Court to meet the demands of Rome! 

Youth's Corner – Mary Reed

Mary was born in Lowell, Ohio, in 1854. She grew up with four brothers and three sisters, and when she was sixteen years old, she decided to follow Jesus. After she was baptized, all she wanted to do was become a missionary, and so when Mary became an adult, she applied to the mission board of her church, and they agreed that she could be a missionary! She was so happy and before long she was on a boat traveling to the country of India.

Once there, she spent a few weeks studying the language in the high Himalayan town of Pithoragarh. She observed the missionary activity around her and, among other things, visited a pitiful group of 500 lepers outside of Pithoragarh. She was touched by their miserable living conditions and the total lack of care offered for this most dreaded and hopeless of diseases.

Soon Mary was sent to work with the Hindu and Muslim women and children in the city of Cawnpore. She enjoyed this work very much and stayed in Cawnpore for about four years, but during all this time she often did not feel well and did not understand why. Finally it was decided that Mary should return home to Ohio for medical treatment and possible surgery, but even after the best of treatment, her health did not improve. Her right index finger, for example, had a constant tingling pain that would not go away, no matter what she did. Then an unusual spot developed on her right cheek, and Mary began to put the pieces together of what she was experiencing. She started researching her symptoms in books and thought she knew what was happening, but before she said anything to anyone, she prayed to her heavenly Father, and it was in those sacred moments of prayer that God revealed his plan for her. She says God told her that she had leprosy and that he wanted her to return to the Himalayas where she had visited and help the lepers in their extreme need.

Then Mary visited her family doctor and shared her concerns with him. He diagnosed her with leprosy, but sent her to a specialist, who confirmed his diagnosis. This specialist then sent her to New York for further examination, and, all-in-all, four physicians (three of whom were specialists in their fields) agreed that Mary had the dreaded disease of leprosy.

Now, Mary could have stayed in the comfort of the United States and could have received the best possible care from men and women of skill and understanding, but she had a divine commission! So, without telling her family of her diagnosis (except one sister who promised secrecy), Mary set sail once again for India, this time to help a very needy people who otherwise would have received little, if any, help.

The leper colony was in the Himalayan Mountains at an altitude of a little more than 6000 feet, and when Mary arrived she was met, once again, with the deplorable conditions under which the lepers were forced to exist. The disfigured and the crippled came out to meet her, clad in ragged clothing. Inadequate, old huts and barns provided their only shelter against the cold wind and precipitation, but it was all they had. Despite these problems, Mary described in a letter her new place of repose as “Chandag Heights, the beautiful, in the Himalayan Mountains,” and then

said, “Away to the north, seemingly only two or three days’ journey, are the eternal snows whose grandeur and sublimity are indescribable! They are so pure and bright and peace-suggestive! At sunset and sunrise it is easy to imagine them visible foundations of the Eternal City, they are lighted up with such a halo of glory. But it is the mountains among which I live that I want to tell you about. They enclose a lovely valley called Shor, like a massive and exquisitely beautiful



Mary Reed



A valley like Mary worked in

frame around a magnificent picture. My home is on the crest of the range which forms the western boundary of the valley, or the left side of the picture frame. And the picture! A rich and beautiful valley containing about six square miles, lies more than one thousand feet below my lofty and lovely 'retreat,' and is dotted with numerous villages which are surrounded by clumps of trees and terraced green fields of rice, wheat, and other grains. Through this valley a little river and its tributaries wind in and out, and a ridge of low hills divides it" (*Mary Reed, Missionary to the Lepers*, pp. 27, 28). Mary later said she never felt in better health, more cheerful in spirit, nor happier in service than when helping the lepers in Chandag Heights, and with such beauty around her and with God's Spirit filling her with love and compassion for the misfortunate, we can understand why.

Most of the lepers were Hindu people who knew nothing about a God in heaven who loved them, but when Mary told them how she had been set apart by God to minister to them, tears ran down their faces in appreciation of her sacrifice and of God's love. They welcomed her into their midst, and she taught them about Jesus while she bound up their terrible wounds. She spoke soothing words of comfort to the distressed and was ever so gentle and kind to the many child lepers.

Mary wrote home to her mission board and said, "We need help over here!" And they sent money. Then Mary drew up plans, hired builders, and supervised the construction of new housing for the lepers. She started schools for the children. On a walk around the outside of the colony one day, Mary found a source of good water for the lepers, so she arranged for it to be channeled into the compound. She also held discussions with the Indian government, and they gave her forty-seven more acres! Now the residents had plenty of room to graze their animals and grow their gardens. Then she asked her mission board to mail her flower seeds, and soon beautiful flowers were growing throughout the compound around their little homes and buildings and up and down their paths. A dispensary was built to distribute supplies, and, for the very sick, a little hospital was built. But that's not all. Mary established schools for the village children, too. She did all she could to help the people around her and because of her labors at least one hundred twenty-three lepers accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour.

Mary's leprosy did not progress like it did for the others, so she was able to travel to various places to plead for the cause of

the lepers, and conditions began to improve. Much was done for her leper colony. And Mary lived a long time, in spite of her leprosy! Into her 80s, in fact, and it was only because of failing eyesight that she fell one day and died as a result. Mary devoted most of her life to the lepers of Chandag Heights, doing just what God told her to do, and, as a result, many people learned of our great heavenly Father.

Now, why do you think Mary went back to India? She said it was because God spoke to her, but really it was because God loved the lepers! And he wanted someone to help them and to teach them of heavenly things. And Mary was that person! It was because of God's love for the lepers that he sent her to



Lepers with whom Mary worked

India. Do you think it was also because of God's love that she became ill with leprosy? I think so, love, again, for the lepers and love for her because he knew that in her weakness he would be able to bless her beyond measure to be strong and to fill her with his Spirit. The Bible tells us "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Since Mary's leprosy did not progress like most cases do, she was able to do much good, for many people, over many years.

Now, this story also makes me think of all of us. All of us have a spiritual condition that is just like leprosy, and we have someone who came to help us! Do you know who that is? Jesus! And even though Jesus never sinned, he came with the same

human nature and was tempted in all points as we are tempted and understands just what it is like to live in this sinful world. Mary went to the leper colony, having leprosy herself. Jesus came to our earth and bore the leprosy of our sins to the cross so "that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). There have been many missionary doctors who have helped many lepers, but Mary's case was different because she also experienced the disease of leprosy. She was able to understand and sympathize with the lepers in a way that other people are not able to because they have never experienced the disease.

One day you may have a terrible illness, as happened to Mary, or maybe even now do, and if this should be the case, God still has a wonderful plan for your life, just as he had a plan for Mary's life!

Ornycha Holt

Following the Lamb

“And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God” (Revelation 14:3-5).

Javid always loved bringing the animals to the city. He and his father made the trip only a few times a year, but when they did, it was always a noisy affair with bleating sheep, grouchy goats, and squeaking carts, but he loved it all the same. Soon Javid would be twelve, and then he could participate in the sacred feasts, but for now, he was happy just to be able to see the city of God’s own choosing and to walk its narrow streets. They would take some of the animals to market, and after that sell the chosen ones to the temple merchants. Javid loved being near the temple, and sometimes, after all the doves, goats, and sheep were taken away and things were once again quiet, he would sit on the steps on one of the back porches while his father visited with friends in the open area. While the sun still shone on the marble, voices could be heard floating down from the classrooms above, and he imagined himself sitting in one of those rooms, listening to the rabbis explain Scripture.

And on a day not too far distant in the past, voices had also floated down, this time to the ears of anxious parents, and one voice in particular caught their attention. The parents listened for a moment while the rabbis eagerly spoke of the promised Messiah and the greatness he would bring to the Jewish nation, when a solemn, but sweet, voice responded: “What meaneth then, ‘He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.’?” Mary knew what it meant, and her heart seemed to gasp for breath. She and Joseph hurried to find their son while the rabbis, contemplating what they had just heard, expressed astonishment at his understanding.

During the next eighteen years, both Javid and Jesus grew to manhood, and soon both walked the streets of God’s cherished city. Twenty miles away, John was baptizing in the Jordan River, and following the baptism of Jesus, people began to look with awe and wonder upon the one that John had declared was the Lamb of God. Jesus was obviously poor and humble. There was nothing kingly about his presence, and it seemed impossible that he could be the one to fulfill their lofty hopes for the restoration of Israel.

But two of John’s disciples had heard his proclamation about Jesus, and they followed Jesus, looking for an opportunity to speak with him in order to unravel their perplexity. After a few blessed moments with this unassuming, quiet man, full of grace and truth, both Andrew and John knew that, indeed, they were in the presence of the holy one of God, and they renounced all and followed him.

Soon all eyes followed Jesus as he walked among the throng, especially the eyes of the blind that could now see. With joy

unspeakable, they watched their merciful healer reach out to the next suffering one. No one was overlooked, and everyone was treated with tender regard. Hope was rekindled, burdens were lifted, and peace filled once-troubled hearts.

All hearts, that is, except those of many of the priests and rulers. They had seen the same love and sympathy, the same benevolence bestowed, but no chord of praise was struck in their hearts, and it was no desire for deeper truth that quickened their steps. They, too, followed Jesus, but not in search of the pearl of great price.

His enemies, his disciples, the poor and needy, the learned and unlearned, all followed Jesus, and the same is true today. We who have sat in dense darkness have been blessed with great light (Matthew 4:16). You and I can walk with a sureness of step and with unfailing boldness as we follow the Lamb, for more light shines on our path than has shined on the path of any other people. When Jesus blessed Jerusalem with his presence, it was at a time when Satan had nearly cut off from the people all truth, hope, and faith. Every hand seemed to be a hand of selfishness and every heart a heart lifted in pride.

The Pharisees, the supposed keepers of the law, taught men that they obtained justification before God through observance of the law (both written and oral) and that fastings, alms, ritual washings, and confessions were sufficient to make atonement for sin; but they, above all men, were examples of the foolishness of righteousness by works. Their peculiar mannerisms revealed the hypocrisy and even the superstition of their natures, as seen in the several distinct classes of Pharisees. One class, for example, was known as the “truncated” Pharisees. In order to appear in profound meditation, they scarcely lifted their feet off the ground when they walked. Another class, the “mortar” Pharisees, wore a deep cap in the shape of a mortar which permitted them to look only upon the ground at their feet. This was done so their pious contemplations would not be disturbed by the things about them. The “striking” Pharisee shut his eyes as he walked to avoid the sight of women and often struck his head against the wall. (It is hard to believe the he walked very far without peeking!) Other painful austerities and mortifications were frequently practiced by the Pharisees. “In the estimation of the rabbis it was the sum of religion to be always in a bustle of activity. They depended upon some outward performance to show their superior piety” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 362). They endured severe fasts, covered their features with gloom and solemnity, scrupulously avoided every kind of ritual impurity, wore phylacteries containing sentences of the law on the borders of their garments, gave ostentatiously to

Continued on page 12

The LORD Is



Green Pastures



Beside the Still Waters

The LORD is
want.
2 He maketh me to lie
leadeth me beside the still
3 He restoreth my soul:
righteousness for his name
4 Yea, though I walk
of death, I will fear no evil
and thy staff they comfort
5 Thou preparest a table
mine enemies: thou anoint
runneth over.
6 Surely goodness and m
days of my life: and I will
LORD for ever.



Paths of Righteousness



Valley of the Sh

My Shepherd



Prepare a Table

The LORD is my shepherd: I shall not
 want.
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he
 leadeth me still waters.
 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of
 righteousness for his name's sake.
 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow
 of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy
 rod and thy staff comfort me.
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
 mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my
 cup runneth over.
 And thy goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
 days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the
 LORD for ever.



Psalm 23



Anointest My Head



Shadow of Death



Dwell in the House of the LORD

charity, eagerly proselytized, and recited long and frequent prayers in the synagogues and temples and in the public streets. Because of their perceived devotion to God, they captivated the admiration of the people, but Jesus called them whited sepulchers, full of dead men's bones (Matthew 23:27).

If you weren't a Pharisee during the time of Christ, you might have been a Sadducee. The Sadducees were a sect smaller in number, but some of its members were from illustrious families and from families of wealth. Caiaphas, the high priest, was a Sadducee. Sadducees rejected all laws and traditions not found in the written law. They believed in no resurrection of the dead and that there was no reward or punishment after death. Perhaps it is now easier to understand Caiaphas' words that it is better for one man to die than for the whole nation to perish (John 11:49, 50), for it was not such a serious thing to die or to cause the death of someone since there was no heaven to win and no hell to shun.

Then there were the Scribes. The Scribes were considered to be teachers of the law and representatives of Moses, both in the synagogues and in the streets. They were considered to be the most educated men in the law, the scholars and intellectuals, so to speak, and they were most often Pharisees, but, at times, they were also Sadducees, priests, and even laymen.

The Essenes were different altogether from any of these people, for they secluded themselves from politics, public affairs, and even from the common concerns of private life. They denounced the body, calling it a mass of malignant matter and the prison of the soul, and usually renounced all regard to the outward expression of the law. They did pay high regard to the moral precepts of the law, however, and did observe the Sabbath, but they neglected most of the ceremonial law. But they were a peaceable people and lovers of retirement, and they had a seemingly perfect community. They were sober, abstemious, and commonly lived in a state of celibacy. They adopted the children of others to educate in their own principles and customs. Some of them detached themselves entirely from secular affairs, transferred their property to their relatives and friends, and retired to solitary places, where they devoted themselves to a holy life. A society of this type was formed near Alexandria, where the Essenes lived not far from each others, in separate cottages, each of which had its own sacred apartments to which they retired for the purposes of devotion.

But this is not all. There were also Caraites, Herodians, and Gaulonites who roamed the beloved city and its suburbs, seeking proselytes to their particular understanding of truth. And last, but not least, were the mystical Jews who followed the doctrines of the Kabbalah.

And Jesus walked among them all.

He visited their synagogues: "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read" (Luke 4:16).

He answered their questions: "And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him,

Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:28-31).

He taught the multitudes: "And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 4:25-Matthew 5:12).

He raised their dead: "And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live... While he [Jesus] yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe. And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment" (Mark 5:22, 23, 35-42).

And healed their sick: "And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And he put forth his hand,

and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him” (Luke 5:12, 13).

He told them of things that must come to pass (Matthew 24), he traveled long distances for one person (John 4), he comforted the hopeless (Matthew 9:2), he loved the little children (Mark 10:14), he lifted the downtrodden (John 8 and John 13), he exalted true value (the poor widow with her two mites, Mark 12), he turned no one away (the thief on the cross, Luke 23), he felt the sorrow and anguish of his children (John 11:35), and he fearlessly spoke the truth (Matthew 23).

This is the same Jesus who today stands at the door of our hearts, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20); the same Jesus who desires us to follow him, “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23); and the same Jesus who will heal, comfort, and save, just as he did in days of old. “Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. . . . The distress of every one touches His heart. The cry for aid reaches His ear. He came to draw all men unto Himself. He bids them, ‘Follow Me,’ and His Spirit moves upon their hearts to draw them to come to Him. Many refuse to be drawn. Jesus knows who they are. He also knows who gladly hear His call, and are ready to come under His pastoral care. He says, ‘My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.’ He cares for each one as if there were not another on the face of the earth” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 479). What joy it is to follow such a Master!

“How many there are who feel that it would be a good thing to tread the soil of old Jerusalem, and that their faith would be greatly strengthened by visiting the scenes of the Saviour’s life and death! But old Jerusalem will never be a sacred place until it is cleansed by the refining fire from heaven. . . . *Do we want to walk in the footsteps of Jesus?* We need not seek out the paths in Nazareth, Bethany, and Jerusalem. We shall find the footprints of Jesus by the sick-bed, by the side of suffering humanity, in the hovels of the poverty-stricken and distressed. We may walk in these footsteps, comforting the suffering, speaking words of hope and comfort to the despondent. Doing as Jesus did when he was upon earth, we shall walk in his blessed steps” (*The Review & Herald*, June 9, 1896; all emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted).

“Jesus met the people on their own ground, as one who was acquainted with their perplexities. He made truth beautiful by presenting it in the most direct and simple way. His language was pure, refined, and clear as a running stream. His voice was as music to those who had listened to the monotonous tones of the rabbis. But while His teaching was simple, He spoke as one having authority. This characteristic set His teaching in contrast with that of all others. The rabbis spoke with doubt and hesitancy, as if the Scriptures might be interpreted to mean one thing or exactly the opposite. The hearers were daily involved in greater uncertainty. But Jesus taught the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority. Whatever His subject, it was

presented with power, as if His words could not be controverted” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 253).

An Important Testimony from Arbuckle

When we follow the Lamb, we are protected from walking in the footsteps of Satan and into his snares. God used Ellen White to share with his people this important testimony:

The believers in present truth here [in Arbuckle] are few in number, and some of them are very unfavorably situated, their families not being united in the faith. Those who are thus striving alone to obey God, have trials, temptations, and opposition to encounter, of which others know nothing. . .

Some are struggling with poverty, but this need not prevent them from obtaining the eternal riches. All should seek, so far as possible, *the most favorable position* for perfecting a Christian character. . . . If the love of Christ dwells in the heart, we shall not be content to keep a low level, *and shall not associate with those who will have no influence to increase our aspiration after knowledge or holiness.*

A sore trial has been brought upon the little company here, by the course of their leader. Since he was chosen elder of the church he has repeatedly attended dancing parties with his wife and daughter. This is the first instance of the kind that I have ever met among our churches. I was greatly surprised that one who had a knowledge of our faith could thus unite with the ungodly. Even if he has so little spiritual discernment as to see no wrong in this fascinating pleasure, he can but know that he is placing a stone of stumbling in the way of others. He knows that he is wounding his brethren. What say the Scriptures concerning these things? “If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth.” And again, “Let us not therefore judge one another any more, but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall, in his brother’s way.”

But dancing, as practiced at the present day, is detrimental to the health of soul and body. Theater-going, dancing, card-playing, gambling, inebriety, are all steps in the path of vice and dissipation. He who, having received the light of present truth, will yet persist in venturing into this path, is unworthy of the name of Christian. What attractions can this elder of the church find in the dance-hall? Is he in this godless company fitting himself to exert a proper influence over the flock of God? The so-called little things of life, the little acts of faith or sacrifice, go to make up the sum of Christian character and influence. It is the spirit of Christ manifested at home, in the field, in the workshop, in the church, that makes men living epistles, known and read of all.

The state of the world in the last days is declared by our Saviour to be similar to that which existed before the flood. Men were wholly absorbed in the things of this life. They forgot the claims of their Maker, and thought only of self-gratification. God’s people are not to pursue such a course. Their example and influence should be such as to win men away from selfish aims and sensual indulgence, to higher motives and purer joys. The history of the

antediluvians is recorded as a warning to us. We are living in a most solemn period of earth's history. The divine judgments are again to be poured out upon the world. The prophet declares that God's people are not in darkness, that the day of wrath should overtake them as a thief. They should be men and women of serious thought and earnest prayer.

Those whose hearts are cheered by the presence of an indwelling Saviour, will have *no disposition to resort to places of worldly amusement*. A Christian family is one in which the love of Christ is the spring of action, the precepts of God's word the rule of life. Those who can turn away from the sacred influences of truth to engage in *the frivolous and exciting pleasures of the world*, are regarded by our Saviour as showing contempt for himself. Jesus will not abide in any household, to guide and bless them, unless they first relinquish the sinful customs, practices, and amusements of the world. All who refuse to comply with these conditions are thereby bidding him depart from them. And how dreadful are the words he utters, as in sorrow he turns away,—“Your house is left unto you desolate.” Desolate indeed must be that home from which the presence of Christ is withdrawn! ...

In our religious life we should be in advance of every other people upon earth. We must rise above the standard of public opinion, even in a professedly Christian community, if we would have our character without fault in the day of God. When the final hour shall come, and the shadows of death gather about the soul, shall we regret that we have visited so few places of amusement? that we have joined in so few dances? Shall we regret that religion has debarred us from scenes of revelry, profanity, and mirth? Will not many, rather, bitterly regret that precious time has been squandered, golden opportunities neglected, by following inclination rather than duty? (*The Signs of the Times*, February 23, 1882)

Ours is the great opportunity of following the Lamb wherever he goes for all eternity, but if we wish to follow the Lamb in heaven, we must first follow him on earth. That means we will avoid all places and all activities upon which we cannot ask the blessing of God—the billiard hall, the dance hall, and places of mirth, substance use, lust, and gluttony. Evil angels are in every such place, grabbing minds and bodies ever more tightly in their ugly grasps, and even if we could be sure that we would be protected by God in such places, we should think twice before we take our sweet, self-sacrificing guardian angels to places where they can be taunted by their former companions in ways that we cannot understand. One day “every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps, and covered his head in the day of peril; the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting place, who was the first to greet him in the resurrection morning—what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly co-operation in

every work for humanity” (Education, p. 305)! Our heavenly angels have done (and are doing) so much for us, why not do all we can to make their lives as sweet as possible on this dark and evil planet by avoiding every place where we know Satan's evil angels congregate to destroy souls, such as any place alcohol is consumed and any place God is forgotten? We are told that “angels of God are all around us” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 5, p. 125), we just do not discern them with our human eyes, and that they are “commissioned from heaven to guard the children of men, and yet they [the children of men] draw away from their restraining influences and go where they can have communication with the evil angels; and then the evil angels fasten impressions in their minds that they will never get rid of so long as they live, just as going to the theater, billiard hall, and all such places lead them from the path of God to stand under the black banner of the prince of darkness. Oh, that we might all obey the injunction of the apostle. (Read 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18.)” (*Ibid.*). “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:17, 18).

Brothers and sisters, “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light” (Romans 13:12)!

Onyeha Holt



Prayer Requests:

We thank you for your prayers for camp meeting. God richly blessed us during these precious meetings, and as you receive this newsletter, we will be in Atlanta, Georgia, through July 4, for the 59th General Conference Session. We ask that you keep us in your daily prayers that much good can be accomplished through the power of God's Spirit. We also entreat your prayers for little Renee Ford, Ann Ford's frail 3-year-old granddaughter, who will be receiving a bone marrow transplant in a few weeks.

Step by Miraculous Step

By Daisy Albertson

“For ye were as sheep going astray” (1 Peter 2:25).

My desire in this article is to witness to the miraculous means my Saviour used to help me retrace my steps back to him. The disobedient steps leading me away from my heavenly Father are nothing of which to be proud. The small steps leading back were little “miracle steps” of his divine choosing.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Being raised on a sheep ranch, I see the similarity between people and sheep. There generally is an obstinate leader, a trouble maker, one who leads the flock astray (much as Satan leads astray). Whether others follow or not, this one searches for an opening through the fence. If there is no opening, he seeks another way. It may be under, over, or between the wires. Once free, however, this unsuspecting, helpless sheep is now at the mercy of predators; not realizing his freedom was within the confines of the fold.

Throughout my years of freedom (so-called), the sound of my Shepherd’s voice was never stilled. I am certain there were special people who never stopped praying for me. My conscience was never stilled. If you have experienced a feeling in the pit of your stomach as of impending disaster—much like lightning striking your vitals—you understand what I mean. Each time I thought of losing eternal life, the lightning would strike. The Lord does not hold us against our will. He allows us to choose our own way, but he does not stop loving us, ever pleading with us through his divine Spirit. For us to appreciate the protection of the fold, he allows us to go our own way to find out for ourselves whether the grass really is greener on the other side of the fence. Perhaps our “sheep—alikes” are on a similar quest. I believe the Lord allowed me to find out for myself the results of disobedience, so that when the time came for him to lead me back into the safety of the fold (not only to the fold, but into the fold), I would be his forever and would never stray again.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. (Luke 15:6-7)

While the steps down Satan’s path lead to perdition, Christ’s path leads to eternal freedom. Space will not allow me, short of writing a book, to explore every facet of the years preceding this miraculous journey back to God.

I believe the steps preceding my return to freedom in Christ began the afternoon I bought a beautiful Bible at a local Goodwill store. I had stopped by on the way to my evening shift at a bartending job. Of course, I didn’t immediately give up my job; but now I had a Bible. The following paragraph gives another indication of the Spirit’s leading.

When I gave my notice of resignation at my then current bartending job, I didn’t know it would be my final notice for all time. (I have no doubt the Lord, in his wisdom, knew I needed to be free of this hindrance, if I was to follow the path he was laying out for me.) I moved to a ranch for a short time with my husband-to-be, C _____. One day, while exploring the attic of our little ranch house, I happened upon a box of used Seventh-day Adventists Bible Study Guides. Though there were dead flies and mouse droppings throughout, I had a pleasant feeling knowing Seventh-day Adventists had once lived there.

Opportunity was presented for my C _____ to take a tree-planting job in Texas. We married before taking this journey. The Lord leads us in the path of his choosing, though I believe there are certain responsibilities we must accept for ourselves before the Holy Spirit can touch our hearts. I couldn’t go on this journey unless married. If I had done otherwise, I may not have taken the most important step when the Lord presented the opportunity.

Having said our goodbyes to loved ones, we were on our way to Texas. (As young, barely-teenagers, my sister D _____ and I had run away from home, hoping to reach Texas, but after walking seventeen miles over hilly, dusty roads, we were rudely stopped by the Indian Police, and a good thing, too, for a spring blizzard hit the next day.) Now, finally, I was on my way to Texas, with worldly reading material beside me on the seat of our old International truck and with C _____ driving, pulling our Air Stream trailer. Whenever idle, I always had a book to read; fact or fiction, it didn’t matter. Strangely, I couldn’t concentrate on the words. For the rest of our journey, and while parked in the woods where C _____ was working, I could not concentrate on my reading. Without my realizing it, the Lord had removed another obstacle from my path, preparing the way for a greater miracle yet to come. (I have not read a novel since that time.)

The job in Texas was temporary, and our next destination was Bakersfield, California. I was experiencing severe back pain throughout our stay. Unlike my childhood musings of Texas, I disliked Texas immensely. It was as if a weight was lifted from me, as we crossed the border into New Mexico. I was happy to be going to California.

If I had turned my eyes anywhere but upward for even an instant, I would have missed the greatest miracle step the Lord had prepared for me! High up on a billboard was the picture of a man whose face and name I recognized. Evangelist Stanley Harris was holding a Prophecy Seminar at the Bakersfield Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. In this instant, the Lord was miraculously revealing his great love and wisdom. If it had been any other person holding those meetings, most likely we would have continued on our way. The amazing truth is—this very minister, twenty-nine years earlier, had baptized me, along with my first husband and more than one hundred new converts, in a similar crusade in our hometown during the winter of 1956-1957. The minute I read the sign, I

determined in my heart to attend these meetings. Despite my back pain, C____ and I attended each meeting. I was re-baptized on April 27, 1985, by “officiating minister,” Pastor Joe Mallinson, of the Bakersfield Central Seventh-day Adventists Church. We had the pleasure of meeting H.M.S. Richards and Del Delker from Voice of Prophecy, who were also at the worship service that special Sabbath day.

Pastor Harris was very gracious, and he prayed for me to remain faithful. I prayed fervently for the Lord to not let this be a passing fancy—I longed to be truly converted. I did not want to change my mind—ever! The Lord has kept his promise: “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

Before our departure, Pastor Harris confided that things had changed since the old days. They—the church—had asked him to “tone things down.” There were Easter lilies at the end of each pew. Pastor Harris seemed to disapprove. It was “Ishtar” time, as I have come to call it.

Upon our return, the Lord blessed me with a job driving taxi where I could be off on both Friday and Saturday. As Pastor Harris had remarked and as I found to be true, things had changed in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. If invited to write for a future issue, I’ll be happy to continue—relating how a small group of believers were led of God to give up membership in a church that was no longer teaching the message of historic Adventism. Our small group was again divided as the teaching concerning the Godhead was brought to our attention by a very special lady, now sleeping till her Saviour awakens her. Prior to this, the Lord placed my feet on another path, giving me far more time for the study of his Word.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (John 10:27, 28) ✍

(Yes, we have asked Daisy to write the follow-up! Editors)

Quiz on Job 32-34

1. Who is the main speaker in Job 32?
2. Who is he the son of and from whose kindred?
3. Why was he angry against Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar?
4. Why did this person wait to speak?
5. According to this speaker, who gives understanding?
6. What is the speaker, in effect, saying in Job 32:14?
7. What is the literal translation of the word “within” in Job 32:18? Notice its usage in verse 19.
8. Flattery is condemned in Job 32:21, 22. Please give at least three other verses that also condemn flattery.
9. What does the expression “uprightness of heart” mean in Job 33:3?
10. What is the Hebrew word for “Almighty” in Job 33:4? Note the parallelism of the verse.
11. What forms the foundation of the accusations against Job that this speaker would use?
12. What verse or verses proves that Job 33:9 was not correct?
13. Job 33:12 states that “God is greater than man.” While this is true, why was it a wrong basis for the argument?
14. In Job 33:14-18 what does the speaker claim God will use to bring a person to repentance?
15. What does God use for correction, according to Job 33:19?
16. According to the speaker, what does a man have to do or to say to be saved from going into the pit of death?
17. In effect, what is the speaker saying to Job in Job 33:31-34?

Answers to Quiz on Job 30-31

1. Job is speaking in Job 30-31.
2. In Job 30:1-14, Job compares the outcasts to dogs of the flock.
3. These outcasts ate mallows and juniper roots.
4. These outcasts lived in cliffs of the valleys, in caves of the earth, and in rocks.
5. Job says that he had become these outcasts song and byword.

6. These outcasts show their abhorrence to Job by spitting in his face and they fled from him.
7. The expression “loose the bridle before me” in Job 30:11 means that they no longer have a check on the words they speak to and about Job that they had when he was in his prosperity.
8. The meaning of stating that Job’s terrors pursued him as the wind is that it was as an irresistible force, one that could not be harnessed and stopped, as one cannot harness the wind and stop it from blowing.
9. The “He” in Job 30:19 is God.
10. Job brings a despondent accusation about God in verse 21 by saying that God is cruel.
11. The “thou” in Job 30:23 is God.
12. Job 30:19-24 helps us to understand that Job is under the pressures of tremendous sufferings but these thoughts are not his normal character.
13. Another possible translation that can be used for dragon and owl in verse 29 is jackals and ostriches. Perhaps he is referring to having to live in solitude as do the jackals and ostriches or perhaps he was among people (his friends) that hissed and screeched as jackals and ostriches do.
14. Chapter 29 is most like chapter 31.
15. In Job 31:6, Job asks to be judged fairly.
16. Job’s heart had not been deceived by a woman.
17. When Job says that the poor were “warmed with the fleece of my sheep,” he means that he clothed them with cloth made from his own sheep.
18. The meaning of Job 31:26 is that Job did not involve himself in sun and moon worship.
19. Verse 34 tells us that Job’s convictions did not waver with popular opinion or under threat.
20. Two references where Zophar and Eliphaz accuse Job of doing what is mentioned in Job 31:39 are Job 20:19 and Job 22:6.

Getting the Facts


The Internet has changed the transfer of information in a manner that might have been hard to grasp a generation ago. The available knowledge of mankind is basically at our fingertips. Literally! With this ability to find the facts of the world in a moment, there is also the chance that many false things will be found and you will receive false news in your email.

Two reports I recently received were of interest to me and I think would be of interest to many Seventh-day Adventists. The first stated that the new health care bill would require people to have a microchip planted under their skin. The second report stated that no home owner could sell their house without a license under the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, better known by the term “cap and trade.” To obtain a license the house would have to be retrofitted to meet the newer energy standards.

Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people; neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:16).

After doing some research, we found that the new Health care Bill does not require a micro chip to be placed in any person. There was a previous version of the bill, HR 3200, that made an allowance for a national registry but nobody would be forced to have any chip implanted. For more details see: <http://www.snopes.com/politics/medical/microchip.asp>

Concerning the cap and trade bill, we found out that most all the information that had been circulating on it concerning the need to obtain a license to sell a home was also not true. For more details see: http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/government/a/cap_and_trade.htm and http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/government/a/cap_and_trade_2.htm.

The Internet has helped to spread many conspiracy theories. Some may be true, but many are not. As Christians, we should be careful about the material we forward to others or personally share in any manner. Why? Firstly, the 144,000 will have no guile or lies in their mouths (Revelation 14:5). Sending an email may not be speaking with our mouths, but the principle of communication is there. Secondly, sending forwards without knowing they are true is simply being a talebearer. God’s word says, “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:16). Even if an email contains facts, it is not always the best to share. There are three words in the Hebrew for talebearer. One of these words means a scandal-monger, one means to whisper or murmur, and one means to walk. Putting these together we have someone who is walking up and down among the people, whispering murmuring scandalous reports. Is this the kind of company with which you wish for God to associate you? Not for me friends and I hope not for you. 

A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness: whose end shall be according to their works.” (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

As Christians, followers of Christ, we must each pass through an experience which the book *Steps to Christ* calls “Growing Up Into Christ.” In this chapter, we find these words:

Apart from Him you have no life. You have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness. Abiding in Him, you may flourish. Drawing your life from Him, you will not wither nor be fruitless. You will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail. Jesus says, “Without Me ye can do nothing.” Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness, —all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly, —by abiding in Him, —that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author, but the Finisher of our faith. It is Christ first and last and always. He is to be with us, not only at the beginning and the end of our course, but at every step of the way. David says, “I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.” Psalm 16:8. (*Steps to Christ*, p. 69)

When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence it is Satan’s constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life’s cares and perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections—to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices. (*Ibid.*, p. 71)

By what means, then, shall we determine whose side we are on?

Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ’s, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. (*Ibid.*, p. 58)

The story I have to tell involves much of what is written above. I truly wanted to please God, but, finding myself with no job prospects, I decided for the first time in my life to purchase a computer and try to do a business from home. Being new to

the computer and online business, it soon consumed me, and all my waking hours were devoted to something that never was completed. There was always something more, something new, to be done. I came to call it the blue hole. Into that hole went all my time, thought, and energy, when, in actuality, it produced nothing. This, of course, affected my spiritual life, as well, and I had no church fellowship with which to associate and from which to hear truth. I found only one friend, an ex-Adventist, who had many ideas of his own that seemed very appealing. Online, I was learning much about the government and its wrong dealings, and this friend had found a way to opt out of their system. These ideas I followed, and I eventually signed on with this man's Mormon friend who was to be my guide in living, working under a sole corporation as an "ecclesiastical patriarch." This man, however, was deep into the occult and high in his Mormon temple, and I had just yoked myself with someone who believes that the destiny of each individual is to become a god! I had failed to realize what God meant in passages, such as Deuteronomy 18:9-12, where he calls the arts of spiritualism an abomination and where he says that those who practiced such crafts were to be put to death.

During this time, we were also invited to independent Adventist meetings, and we became closely associated with people who were involved in what appeared to be interesting forms of healing. Due to spending all my time on the computer, I had developed some serious health problems and was very interested in what they had to say. Our children, as well, became friends with their daughter. Now Satan had multiple streams through which to bring about a transformation of our lives, although there seemed no harm, at the time, in what we were doing. To quote *Steps to Christ* again, "And, on the other hand, the judgments of God pronounced against sin, the inevitable retribution, the degradation of our character, and the final destruction, are presented in God's word to warn us against the service of Satan" (*Ibid.*, pp. 21, 22).

How could we now be turned to serve Satan? By the same temptations he used against Christ on the top of the temple in Jerusalem. So artfully had Satan worked that I had not discerned I was signed up under the control of his agents until it was too late. He had not come as a fiend but as "an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). I had found a new way that *seemed good* and would *help* my family and myself get out of trouble, and that new way was our new ex-Adventist teacher of healing. He was teaching some very good things, which we have proven excellent. However, as we became good friends, he also cautiously introduced us to something he and his family were doing secretly at home. They were using a crystal pendulum to "read" good and bad energy and to discern whether there were various diseases affecting us by placing a sample of body fluid on a magnetic board and introducing frequencies in the numbers that a so-called Dr. Royal Rife had identified as the frequencies of various diseases. It all seemed quite scientific, and Rife had claimed to have filmed the destruction of virus and bacteria through the dark field microscope he invented. (Editor's Note: Rife was not a medical doctor. He did claim to have an honorary PhD from the University of Heidelberg, but

the university does not confirm that he ever attended their school or that he ever received an honorary degree from them.)

There should have been ample warning along the way, but my friends were like-believers, and we enjoyed having someone to meet with on the Sabbath. We kept learning more about healing through frequencies from them, but they also mentioned troubling little things, such as the person doing the reading on the frequency board (using a pendulum) should not do it for too long at a time because it drains energy from that person and you couldn't be sure to get accurate readings if too much energy was lost. Also, sick persons and anyone who doesn't believe in using the pendulum shouldn't be in the room, as they knew one person whose presence would stop the pendulum from working.

Then there was the very real possibility of using this "technology" for black magic. Our teachers told us they had to leave where they were to escape some friend to whom they had taught this technology but who began using frequencies to hurt or destroy them so that the competition would be gone and they could make a good business. Then there was his mother who was targeted, he said, by the government perhaps, with frequencies which finally killed her and his brother.

Other things came out in the process of learning this "game." There were other branches of this "science" in which strange things were practiced. Some of these practices involved setting a transmitter in a field to keep crops disease-free. Another technology involved having a machine improve the crops in the fields by broadcasting the frequencies of the minerals that were lacking in the soil. Some people he knew used a different science and could do things from a distance if they had a recent picture of the crop that showed the present color and other features. People could be healed over long distances through the use of their pictures. These other "branches" were not practiced by this family, so what we were learning from them seemed okay.

By now, I had accepted the use of frequencies as a valid science, and the warning bells were unheard, until one morning. Suddenly, as I began to eat my breakfast, I felt an extremely painful, fiery burning on my seat and back. I jumped up from the table in terror and told my family that something terrible was happening to me, and I would have to leave to go to my teacher for help. I tried to gulp down some food, as my wife quickly made a pack for me, and I left to hitchhike to my teacher's place to ask for help. I couldn't get a ride, however, and I finally returned home for the night, after walking miles and realizing that I couldn't escape. Whatever was happening was, as it were, following me. When I finally made it to our friend's house to ask for help, I was told that I knew just as much as he did, and he couldn't help me. He further stated that I should not come around his family, lest they also become targeted.

Now began a reign of terror that lasted for nearly four years, a time during which my mind was so controlled by the evil spirits that were burning me with "energy" and hazing my mind that I found myself unable to concentrate well enough to study because of the pain I was having. I could only plead for God's help and try to relieve the pain by holding plastic or tin foil over the spots affected, depending on what so-called nuclear

radiation frequency was being used on us that day. Yes, it began affecting my wife, then my daughter, and finally my son somewhat. My wife even tried sleeping under a sheet of tinfoil outside on the lawn but heard tapping all over the foil, as if something was hitting it. My wife and children heard knocking on the floor, the couch being kicked when no one was around, and saw demons on people. We still were unsure what was being done to us, and I believed, for a time, that this was all caused by transmissions via military satellite. As our suffering, day and night, became more unbearable and unbelievably cruel, targeting parts of the body that were so painful and humiliating, I began to wonder how this came to be and what could be done to stop it!

After suffering so much for three and one half years, I decided that God was unwilling to help or protect us, despite promises to that effect. Sadly, I had forgotten such promises as:

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. (Isaiah 49:15)

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. (Psalm 28:7)

The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. (Proverbs 18:10)

I felt that we had become the property of the devil by the association we had with the Mormon friend, and I finally became so desperate that I felt I had nothing to lose by going to a spiritualist to get answers. Even this step was masked by Satan to seem harmless, as the spiritualist claimed to believe in God and in the angels for protection. The spiritualist now became my new teacher, and from her I learned that the deal I had signed with the Mormon man, indeed, had given him control over us. She helped me block and negate his control, but with no appreciable difference to us, and, at this point, I decided that perhaps I was asking the wrong side for help. I tried leaving the country for a while, giving myself anew to God; however, I had little relief, for the same pain returned after I went on the Internet to contact my family.

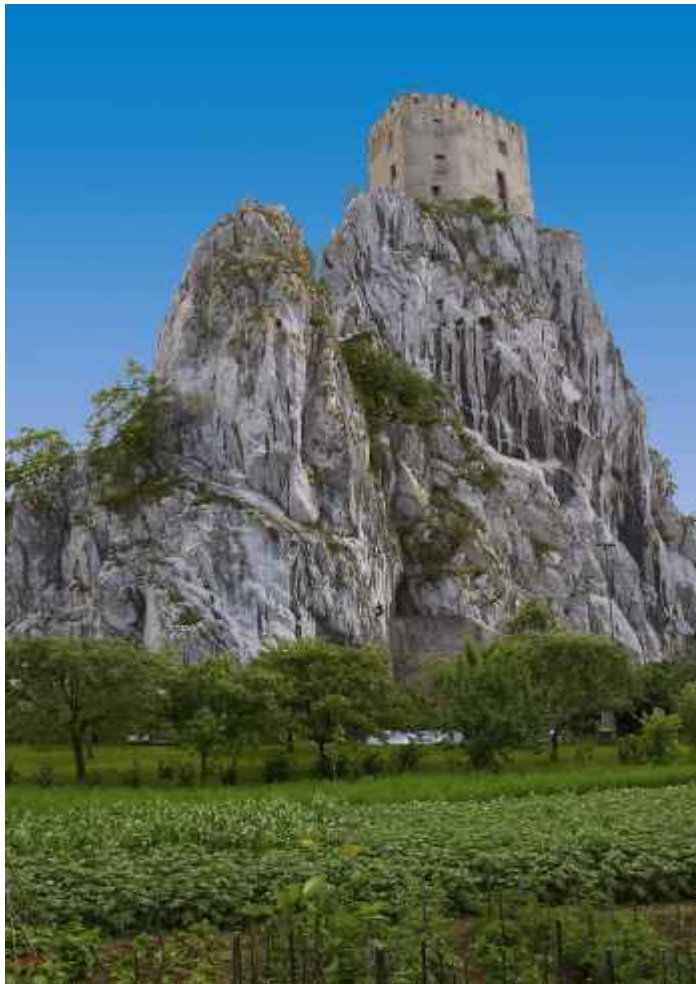
I eventually returned home, and, despairing of salvation while in the control of demons, I finally returned to the spiritualist, reasoning that while I would be lost at least my family would be delivered. I let her call her “archangels” to put a powerful protection over me, and I finally had relief. Now I was sure I had found the way out, and soon I was given a hedge of ten “angels” to accompany me and from whom I could ask help. I began *learning* about energies and how there are dark side demons that do this work of torture and mind control but that there are spirits of “light and love” who will protect against them. I learned when the spiritualist channeled the healing energies that afterward she felt drained and needed to rest. She could do readings with a pendulum, too, and only needed my permission so the spirits could do their work. I could use the pendulum, as well, thanks to my former “Adventist” training. I learned that I must be very careful about giving out my picture anywhere, as it has my “energy aura” just like I have. And I

began to wear a “medicine pouch” around my neck with crystals in it to channel healing energy, with an Atlantis Cross on it for protection. I now had the escape I was seeking, but I was saddened by the fact that I was no longer hoping in the assurance of salvation. I began to go to church sometimes on Sundays where they practiced faith healing, wondering if there was any way for me to come into acceptance with God.

About this time in my life, some brethren held meetings in our area, and though I could not attend, they came to visit me in my home. I still felt bitter and hopeless after battling for years, and I was now involved with spiritualism and was very fearful of losing my protection and again falling prey to torturing demons. These brethren asked me if I wished to be set free, and I struggled to believe this was possible. One dear brother persisted in urging me to trust God and give up these “protections” I had found. I asked if he intended to replace them, and he assured me that that would, indeed, be the case. But I was fearful. As they pressed me to give up my “protections” and as I brought some of them to cast in a pile, I began to feel pain in the center of my forehead, and I felt dazed and numb. I told them what was happening to me, and he told me that Satan didn’t want to let go. The Bible says he is a “roaring lion, [who] walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). The Bible says: “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4). I was told that God is more powerful than Satan and that I must trust in God’s power and surrender in order to find deliverance. Finally, I agreed to give up my last “protection,” thinking that if they couldn’t help me that I could just go back to my doom. However, as I reached out to accept the help and as I began to take the beaded-string amulet over my head, the headache disappeared, and I began to think clearly again. I shared this with the brethren, and we rejoiced in the evidence of God’s power. We then prayed to God to forgive my sins and grant me his acceptance and protection, and I found myself set free, delivered at last from Satan’s control! The promise of 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,” became real to me. I learned that, though I had gone deep into the control of Satan, God had provided a way out for me.

Though I am still rejoicing in deliverance, my temptations have not stopped. I am still harassed at times, but now I know very well what is taking place, and I flee to the Almighty in prayer through the name of Jesus my Savior. At one point, I was being attacked by the demons again, feeling the headache and confusion, and I was unable to gain the victory by my own prayers, so I called one of the ministers who had visited me and asked for him to pray with me. As he prayed, I continued to feel the same pain until toward the end when he said, “We claim the blood of Christ to cleanse and heal,” and as when I had earlier lifted the necklace over my head, the darkness passed, and I was free again!

I have learned some lessons in the terror and cruelty of Satan and that his hatred is extreme against those who oppose him at this time. I have learned that there is one mighty to save and that I can trust in him, if I will but make myself his alone and wrestle



The name of the **LORD** is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. (Proverbs 18:10)

for the victory with the Angel of the Lord. I have also learned of the crafty deceptions of the healing arts of Satan, and to be very careful from whom I take counsel. I have read the ads in an “alternate medicine” magazine given out at a health food store, and I know their deceptions. Now I know just where I’ve been and how I got there.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

I pray that my experience can be the means of deliverance to some other tempted and tried soul, and, as we near the close of probation and the time of trouble, may God help us to be wholly the Lord’s and to not be double minded, as we fight for our life against a foe too powerful for us to ever hope to fight alone. If you have been a captive of Satan, there is forgiveness and help in Jesus. Satan will try to convince you that God does not love you and will not help you, but reject his lies and believe the Word of God, for it is sure and steadfast!

A Delivered Brother

Sunlight Helps MS

According to the April 24, 2010, issue of *Science News*, the ultraviolet radiation from sunlight is an aid in the fight against multiple sclerosis (MS). Researchers have known for a long time that MS is rare in tropical regions and more prevalent at higher latitudes. For example, there are five cases of MS per 100,000 people in Nigeria, yet Sweden’s rate is twenty times higher.

Scientists had formerly attributed this to an increase of Vitamin D, but a direct cause-and-effect relationship had never been established. A team of researchers led by biochemist Hector DeLuca at the University of Wisconsin—Madison recently discovered that simply increasing the amount of Vitamin D did not aid in the fight against MS, yet extra UV light, though not enough to produce significantly more Vitamin D, helped MS patients!

DeLuca noted: “‘We concluded that UV light is doing something beyond’ making Vitamin D” (*Science News*, April 24, 2010, p. 9).

We have been told:

There are but few who realize that, in order to enjoy health and cheerfulness, they must have an abundance of sunlight, pure air, and physical exercise. . . .

No room in the house should be considered furnished and adorned without the cheering, enlivening light and sunshine, which are Heaven’s own free gift to man. (*The Health Reformer*, April 1, 1871)

Physical exercise, and a free use of air and sunlight,—blessings which heaven has abundantly bestowed on all,—would give life and strength to many an emaciated invalid. (*The Youth’s Instructor*, February 27, 1902) ✍



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