

# Symbolic Code

Fall/Winter 2009



## *The* **Necessity** *for the* **Sealing**

**17** Prove the Lord



**20** My Father  
My Delight



**22** Connecting  
the Dots

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## Symbolic Code

It is the mission of the *Symbolic Code* to declare the Gospel of Jesus for these last days. It will present important truths from different angles and on various topics. We hope that every article will be a blessing to you and help to strengthen your relationship with the Lord Jesus. If you are blessed by any of these articles, please let us know.

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The *Symbolic Code* is a free publication, available to Davidians. That everyone who thirsteth for the truth may find it, this magazine, as a Christian service, is mailed without charge. Send for it. It levies but one exaction, the soul's obligation to itself to prove all things and hold fast that which is good. The only strings attach to this free proffer are the golden strands of Eden and the crimson cords of Calvary—the ties that bind.

Those desiring to support this magazine please send contributions to the address above.

We need your help in order to have the *Symbolic Code* filled with contents that are relevant to you. So if you like writing, why not do so for the *Symbolic Code*.

We are interested in articles on:

- Christian living
- End time events
- News events
- Health
- Relationship (marriage, family, etc.)

All articles must be deeply spiritual, provocative, and unquestionably in accordance with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. For more information visit our website or write to us.

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## Continuing the Journey —By faith

We are sure you have noticed the new look of the *Symbolic Code*. Not only is the format new, but it was printed on the new press! The purchase of the press was made possible by your support and contributions through prayer and/or funds. It is a great manifestation of what can be accomplished when believers rally together to build up God's soon coming Kingdom. In so doing, you have continued your commitment to let Present Truth "fall freely like the leaves of autumn." This new press will help to produce quality publication and improve efficiency in meeting the literature demand.

The dawn of a New Year is just around the corner, and the articles herein are a timely reminder of God's promise of renewal and transformation. Such transformation requires strict obedience to God. We hope you will find encouragement and a renewed sense of duty to follow the directions given through God's servants as obediently as did the armies of Israel at the taking of Jericho. We will be facing a similar situation when the stone will smite the image. We are to be a part of the stone, we cannot lack faith. Faith is the living power that presses through every barrier, overrides all obstacles and plants its banner in the heart of the enemy's camp. God will do marvelous things for those who trust in Him. Let us not trust to our own wisdom. He will help His believing children in every emergency if they will place their entire confidence in Him and implicitly obey Him.

"We have heard many people tell how hard they found it to do right; their Christian life was most unsatisfactory to them, being marked only by failure, and they were tempted to give up in discouragement...if they would only lose confidence in themselves entirely, and would put their whole trust in the one who is mighty to save, they would have a different story to tell. They would then "joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Says the apostle, "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice." Phil. 4:4. The man who doesn't rejoice in God, even though tempted and afflicted, is not fighting the good fight of faith. He is fighting the poor fight of self-confidence and defeat.

All the promises of final happiness are to the overcomer. "To him that overcometh," says Jesus, "will I give to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne." Rev. 3:21. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things," says the Lord. Rev. 21:7. An overcomer is one who gains victories. The inheriting is not the overcoming; that is only the reward for overcoming. The overcoming is now; the victories to be gained are victories over the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life, victories over self and selfish indulgences." *Lessons on Faith*, p. 11

—Editors

**A** high standard should be placed before those who are newly come to the faith. They should be educated to be careful in speech and circumspect in conduct, giving evidence that the truth has accomplished something for them, and thus by their example shedding light upon those who are in darkness.” Life Sketches, p. 298.

“We must have perfect control over our own spirit. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to also bridle the whole body.” Testimonies, Vol. 1:308.

“Remember the gospel of love. ‘By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.’ The more closely we resemble our Saviour in character, the greater will be our love toward those for whom He died. Christians who manifest a spirit of unselfish love for one another are bearing a testimony for Christ which unbelievers can neither gainsay nor resist. It is impossible to estimate the power of such an example. Nothing will so successfully defeat the devices of Satan and his emissaries, nothing will so build up the Redeemer’s kingdom, as will the love of Christ manifested by the members of the church. Peace and prosperity can be enjoyed only as meekness and love are in active exercise.

“... Love not only bears with other’s faults, but cheerfully submits to whatever suffering or inconvenience such forbearance makes necessary.” Testimonies, Vol. 5:167.

### **An Interesting Experience**

In Southern California, two Rod believers attended an exceptionally large Sabbath School class taught by the pastor of the church. The pastor stated that the two witnesses mentioned in Revelation, chapter 11 are symbolic of Moses and Elijah. The Rod believer lovingly and rhetorically asked, “Where is it recorded that Moses and Elijah prophesied on the earth for 1260 years. And according to verses 7 and 8, when did the Lord allow Moses and Elijah to be killed and their bodies to lie in the street?” The Rod believers then cited Great Controversy, p. 267: “The two witnesses represent the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament.

A few days later members of that church informed the two Rod believers that their pastor had been informed that they were Shepherd’s Rod activists. The pastor personally called one of the believers and told him, “If you return to this church, you will endanger your health and you will probably be incarcerated.”

The sound of the pastor’s voice, coupled with the voice of church members calling to warn the two believers not to return, let them know that the pastor’s threat was



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## Believers in the Last Days

very serious. Thus they fasted, prayed and agonized with the Lord as to what they should do. After receiving their answer, they returned to that church.

However, on the Sabbath of their return all the gates were chained and locked, except for the gate at the main entrance. Stationed at the main entrance were a number of guards peering into each car as it entered the church's parking lot. When the guards approached the two Rod believers' car, one guard asked the driver his name and where he and his passengers were from. The driver gave his and his passengers abridged names. They also informed the guard that their headquarters were in New York, but, California is their home. The guard then signaled them on through.

When they entered the pastor's class, the pastor's back was toward them. When he turned to see the two brethren seated in his class, he lost his composure. The guards rushed into the room and they and the pastor approached the two. The pastor threatened to call the police. He insulted the Rod believers while his guards circled their seats in a menacing manner. The pastor and his cohorts did everything possible to intimidate them. They were looking for any type of movement or word to justify a physical confrontation and thus bring in the police. The Rod believers made no such move, nor did they verbally reply to any of the things being said about them. While the pastor and his people were carrying on with their antics, the Rod believers silently prayed to the Lord for strength and wisdom to handle the situation in a Christ-like manner.

At the close of the worship hour, the pastor stood in the doorway shaking the hands of the worshipers leaving the sanctuary. The Rod believers were also in the line, and when their turn came to shake the pastor's hand, one of them requested a meeting with the pastor. That meeting took place on the following Thursday. The pastor was given studies from Zechariah 6 and Ezekiel 9. The two brethren also shared the study of the 144,000 and the Great Multitude. At the conclusion of the meeting, the pastor told the two Rod believers, "I can see you are men of principle, and you are welcome to come to my church anytime you want to."

With the Waco and Columbine incidents in the not so distant past and the Oklahoma bombing fresh in the minds of men, women and children, it behooves every "present truth" believer to maintain a Christ-like deportment at all times "The test is coming and regardless of temptations, we must not fail to demonstrate what we believe and show them that we keep the truth, love the brethren, and are willing to die for them, if it would

awaken them and be saved, for we were no better than they when the truth found us.

### **Without Accusation**

“Therefore we advise all our people to be peaceful, make no disturbance of any kind and stay in the denominational churches. . . . As long as we are true S. D. A’s by keeping the truth they, have no legal right from the King of heaven nor from the governments on earth to cast us out. If they attempt to carry you out, do not resist them. If they set a watch at the doors and bar you out, do not attempt to force yourselves in. If they beat you, do not fight back, but by all means try to get in and if you cannot, stay on the outside and witness for present truth until the services are over except when physically unable to do so.” (1 SC.14:8).

“It is unbecoming to a Christian voluntarily to cause any disturbance during church services; neither is it possible by such methods to present the message to them or convince them that we are speaking ‘the word of life.’ Therefore, by deporting ourselves reverently and circumspectly we will give them provocation for naught save false accusations.” (1 SC. 8:8; 4 Ans:30).

“In Sabbath School, it is perfectly right and permissible to answer questions which arise in connection with the lesson. For this, they cannot justly accuse anyone of causing disturbance, as it is in no wise an infraction of the constituted purpose and rules of the Sabbath School. But if anyone should be specifically requested not to answer questions, then let him [or her] refrain from doing so rather than cause contention and displeasure. It is wrong to create controversy or to argue over any points which may arise. Nothing but harm to the cause of Present Truth can result from such procedure. Let your deportment win the people’s confidence.” (4 Ans:31).

### **The Prophet’s Experience**

“Bro. Houteff was in attendance at a meeting conducted by a field secretary of the General Conference. At the close of the meeting, Bro. Houteff asked the speaker a question on some point discussed from the pulpit in opposition to the teachings of the Rod. Without any warning or conversation of any kind, a man approached Bro. Houteff from the rear, taking him by the neck and shoulders, and thrust him out of the building. The man was not a member of the church, and his mother said he was not even a Christian. What incited this poor man to act like this?

“A short time after this, Bro. Houteff attended a Sabbath service in another church. This time the President of

the Conference spoke in opposition to the Shepherd’s Rod, making it very clear that anyone believing the message of the Rod could not remain a member of the S.D.A. Church. Anyone who accepted the Rod Message was not a Seventh-day Adventist.

“At the close of this service, while standing in front of the building with a number of others, a lady approached Bro. Houteff and spoke to him, and before he had time to reply to her, a young man rushed up to Bro. Houteff, and rolling up his sleeves, demanded that he stop talking to his mother, and threatening to smash the glasses off his face. What put such hatred in the heart of this young man? Was it not what he heard from the pulpit that Sabbath morning?” (1 SC. 11,12:5).

“There are records telling of assaults by unconsecrated people on the persons of “present truth” believers in all ages. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ suffered many such abuses, and he was ultimately hung because of his character. However, there is not one record telling of a spirit of retaliation from any consecrated follower of Christ. We must study the closing scenes of the life of Christ, and we must look closely at how He conducted Himself in all situations. For ‘by beholding we become changed.’

“. . . The wisdom of God is promised to those who feel their need and who ask for it. God can bring the people where they will receive the truth. Let the Lord take possession of the mind and mold it as the clay is molded in the hands of the potter. . . . Look to Jesus, brethren; copy His manners and spirit, . . .” (Testimonies, Vol. 9. p. 181). ●

## Pork byproduct in Swine Flue vaccine

**F**OX 35 has discovered that the H1N1, swine flu vaccine contains an ingredient that raises questions whether its use is permissible under certain religious, dietary laws. The Jewish, Muslim and Seventh-Day Adventist faiths all forbid members from consuming pork. The ban is based on scripture.

FOX 35 found that the swine flu mist and injectable vaccine both contain something called hydrolyzed porcine gelatin. The Centers for Disease Control confirms that the ingredient is a pork by-product used to promote temperature stability... and allow for refrigerated storage.

Rabbi David Kay presides over Orlando's Congregation Ohev Shalom. Rabbi Kay says the gelatin's existence in the swine flu shot is not a problem under Jewish, Kosher laws since it is injected and not swallowed. However, Kay says the issue is a little more complex with the mist. Because the mist is taken through the nasal passages, there is a chance some vaccine could drip into the throat and be consumed. The Rabbi says while it is not technically being eaten, some may have objections due to the presence of the hydrolyzed porcine gelatin. Kay further says that when the preservation of human life is at issue, Kosher laws do not apply anyway and this would seem to be the case with the vaccine.

The Florida Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists tells FOX 35 they do not consider receiving the vaccine in any form to violate restrictions against consuming pork since it is not eaten. The Orlando based conference also believes the possibility that the vaccine could save a life outweighs any possible objections based on religious doctrine.

FOX 35 also contacted the national headquarters of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. A spokesperson told us by phone that they were unaware of the presence of hydrolyzed porcine gelatin in the swine flu vaccine and will need to investigate further before commenting.

Everyone we spoke with believes that despite the fact that the swine flu vaccine does not technically violate dietary laws, some people will still avoid being inoculated with it based on religious objections.

## Health Hints And Reminders

**A** great natural remedy for heartburn is eating a banana. It works as fast as an antacid, but without the risk of getting rebound acidity, a recurrence of the problem when the acid neutralizes too much acid. The body produces more to compensate, so you take more antacid.

"Flesh foods are not the best nourishment for human beings and were not the food of our first parents. They are secondary or second-hand products, since all food comes originally from the vegetable kingdom. There is nothing necessary or desirable for human nutrition to be found in meats or flesh foods which is not found in and derived from vegetable products. A dead cow or sheep lying in a pasture is recognized as carrion. The same sort of carcass dressed and hung up in a butcher's stall passes for food!" –John Harvey Kellogg.

Studies show that people with many social contacts tend to live longer than more isolated individuals. One of the best ways to live a long and happy life is to stay busy. Another study reveals that doing regular volunteer work – more than any other activity–boosted life expectancy. Those who did no volunteer work at all were 21/2 times as likely to die during the study as those who volunteered at least once a week.

Researchers now know that diets high in animal products encourage prostate cancer to spread beyond the organ, whereas diets high in vegetables, fruits and soy products provide some measure of immunity.

A recent review of more than 170 studies from 17 different countries shows people who eat the most fruits and vegetables reduce their cancer risk by about 50 percent compared to those who eat the least amount of these foods. Miraculously, some food-wheat bran in particular—has been shown to shrink pre-cancerous cells. Cruciferous vegetables (e.g., cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, kale, mustard greens and turnips) are among the most vigorous cancer fighters. Citrus fruits are another particularly effective aid in reducing the risk of cancer. All of these foods are important in reducing the risk of developing cancers of all kinds, including skin cancers.

# *The* Taking *of* Jericho

By ELLEN G. WHITE

**A**fter the death of Moses, Joshua was appointed the leader of Israel to conduct them to the Promised Land. He was well qualified for this important office. He had been prime minister to Moses during the greater part of the time the Israelites had wandered in the wilderness. He had seen the wonderful works of God wrought by Moses and well understood the disposition of the people. He was one of the twelve spies who were sent out to search the Promised Land, and one of the two who gave a faithful account of its richness, and who encouraged the people to go up and possess it in the strength of God.

The Lord promised Joshua that He would be with him as He had been with Moses, and He would make Canaan an easy conquest to him, provided he would be faithful to observe all His commandments. Joshua had been anxious concerning the execution of his commission to lead the people into the land of Canaan; but this assurance removed his fears. He commanded the children of Israel to make ready for a three days' journey and all the men of war to prepare for battle. "And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the Lord thy God be with thee, as He was with Moses. Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage."

God willed that the passage of the Israelites over Jordan should be miraculous. Joshua commanded the people to sanctify themselves, for upon the morrow the Lord would do wonders among them. At the appointed time,





he directed the priests to take up the ark containing the law of God and bear it before the people. "And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee."

The priests obeyed the commands of their leader and went before the people, carrying the ark of the covenant. The Hebrew hosts took up the line of march and followed this symbol of the divine presence. The wide column filed down the bank of Jordan, and, as the feet of the priests were dipped in the brim of the river, the water was cut off from above, and the volume below rolled on, leaving the bed of the stream dry. The priests passed on, bearing the ark of God, and Israel followed in the rear. Halfway over Jordan the priests were commanded to stand still in the channel of the river till all the Hebrew



host had crossed over. This was to impress upon their minds more forcibly the fact that the power which stayed the waters of Jordan was the same that enabled their fathers to cross the Red Sea forty years before.

Many who passed through the Red Sea when they were children, now, by a similar miracle, crossed over Jordan, men of war, equipped for battle. After the host of Israel had all passed over, Joshua commanded the priests to come up out of the river. When they, bearing the ark of the covenant, stood safe upon the farther shore, God removed His mighty hand, and the accumulated waters rushed down, a mighty cataract, in the natural channel of the stream. Jordan rolled on, a resistless flood, overflowing all its banks.

But before the priests had come up out of the river, that this wonderful miracle might never be forgotten, the Lord bade Joshua select men of note from each tribe to take up stones from the spot in the river bed where the priests had stood, and bear them upon their shoulders to Gilgal, and there erect a monument in remembrance of the fact that God had caused Israel to pass over Jordan upon dry land. This would be a continual reminder of the miracle that the Lord had wrought for them. As years passed on, their children would inquire concerning the monument, and again and again they would recount to them this wonderful history, till it would be indelibly impressed upon their minds to the latest generation.

When all the kings of the Amorites and the kings of the Canaanites heard that the Lord had stayed the waters of Jordan before the children of Israel, their hearts melted with fear. The Israelites had slain two of the kings of Moab, and their miraculous passage over the swollen and impetuous Jordan filled the people with great terror. Joshua then circumcised all the people that had been born in the wilderness. After this ceremony they kept the Passover in the plains of Jericho. "And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you."

Heathen nations had reproached the Lord and His people because the Hebrews had failed to possess the land of Canaan, which they expected to inherit soon after leaving Egypt. Their enemies had triumphed because Israel had wandered so long in the wilderness, and they proudly lifted themselves up against God, declaring that He was not able to lead them into the land of Canaan. The Lord had now signally manifested His power and favor by leading His people over Jordan on dry land, and their enemies could no longer reproach them. The manna, which had continued up to this time, now ceased; for as the Israelites were about to possess Canaan, and eat of the fruits of that

goodly land, there was no more need of it.

As Joshua withdrew from the armies of Israel to meditate and pray for God's special presence to attend him, he saw a Man of lofty stature, clad in warlike garments, with a drawn sword in His hand. Joshua did not recognize Him as one of the warriors of Israel, and yet He had no appearance of being an enemy. In his zeal he accosted Him, saying: "Art Thou for us, or for our adversaries? And He said, Nay; but as Captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto Him, What saith my Lord unto His servant? And the Captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."

The glory of God hallowed the sanctuary, and for this reason the priests never entered the place sanctified by God's presence with shoes upon their feet. Particles of dust might cleave to them, which would desecrate the holy place; therefore the priests were required to leave their shoes in the court before entering the sanctuary. In the court, beside the door of the tabernacle, stood a brazen laver, wherein the priests washed their hands and their feet before entering the tabernacle, that all impurity might be removed. All who officiated in the sanctuary were required of God to make special preparation before entering the place where His glory was revealed.

It was the Son of God who stood as an armed warrior before the leader of Israel. It was the One who had conducted the Hebrews through the wilderness, enshrouded in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. In order to impress the mind of Joshua that He was no less than Christ, the Exalted One, He said: "Loose thy shoe from off thy foot." He then instructed Joshua what course to pursue in order to take Jericho. All the men of war should be commanded to compass the city once each day for six days, and on the seventh day they should march around Jericho seven times.

Accordingly Joshua gave orders to the priests and the people as the Lord directed him. He marshaled the hosts of Israel in perfect order. First was a select body of armed men, clad in their warlike dress; not now to exercise their skill in arms, but only to believe and obey the directions given them. Next followed seven priests with trumpets. Then came the ark of God, glittering with gold, a halo of glory hovering over it, borne by priests in the rich and peculiar dress denoting their sacred office. The vast army of Israel followed in perfect order, each tribe under its respective standard. Thus they compassed the city with the ark of God. No sound was heard but the tread of that

mighty host, and the solemn voice of the trumpets, echoing among the hills and resounding through the streets of Jericho.

With wonder and alarm the watchmen of the doomed city marked every move and reported to those in authority. They could not imagine what all this display meant. Jericho had defied the armies of Israel and the God of heaven; but when they beheld that mighty host marching around their city once each day in all the pomp and majesty of war, with the added grandeur of the sacred ark and the attendant priests, the impressive mystery of the scene struck terror to the hearts of princes and people. Then, again, they would inspect their strong defenses, feeling certain that they could successfully resist the most powerful attack. Many ridiculed the idea that any harm could come to them through these singular demonstrations on the part of their enemies; but others were awed as they beheld the majesty and splendor of the procession that each day wound grandly about the city. They remembered that forty years before, the Red Sea had parted before this people, and that a passage had just been opened for them through the river Jordan. They knew not what further wonders God might work for them; but they kept their gates carefully closed, and guarded them with mighty warriors.

For six days the host of Israel performed their circuit around the city. The seventh day came, and, with the first dawn of light, Joshua marshaled the armies of the Lord. Now they were directed to march seven times around Jericho, and, at a mighty note of the trumpets, to shout with a loud voice, for God had then given them the city. The imposing army marched solemnly around the devoted walls. The resplendent ark of God lighting the early dusk of morning, the priests with their glittering breastplates and jeweled badges, and the warriors with their flashing armor presented a magnificent pageant. They were silent as the dead, save the measured tread of many feet and the occasional blare of the trumpet, cutting the blank stillness of the early morning. The massive walls of solid stone frowned darkly down, defying the siege of men.

Suddenly the vast army halts. The trumpets break forth in a blast that shakes the very earth. The united voices of all Israel rend the air with a mighty shout. The walls of solid stone, with their massive towers and battlements, totter and heave from their foundations and, with a crash like a thousand thunders, fall in shapeless ruin to the earth. The inhabitants and the army of the enemy, paralyzed with terror and amazement, offer no resistance, and Israel marches in and takes captive the mighty city of Jericho.

How easily the armies of heaven brought down the walls that had seemed so formidable to the spies who brought the false report! The word of God was the only weapon used. The Mighty One of Israel had said: "I have given into thine hand Jericho." If a single warrior had brought his strength to bear against the walls, the glory of God would have been lessened and His will frustrated. But the work was left to the Almighty; and had the foundation of the battlements been laid in the center of the earth, and their summits reached the arch of heaven, the result would have been the same when the Captain of the Lord's host led His legions of angels to the attack.

Long had God designed to give the city of Jericho to His favored people and magnify His name among the nations of the earth. Forty years before, when He led Israel out of bondage, He had proposed to give them the land of Canaan. But by their wicked murmurings and jealousy they had provoked His wrath, and He had caused them to wander for weary years in the wilderness, till all those who had insulted Him with their unbelief were no more. In the capture of Jericho God declared to the Hebrews that their fathers might have possessed the city forty years before had they trusted in Him as did their children.

The history of ancient Israel is written for our benefit. Paul says: "But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted." "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

Many who, like ancient Israel, profess to keep God's commandments have hearts of unbelief while outwardly observing the statutes of God. Although favored with great light and precious privileges, they will nevertheless lose the heavenly Canaan, even as the rebellious Israelites failed to enter the earthly Canaan that God had promised them as the reward of their obedience.

As a people we lack faith. In these days few would follow the directions given through God's chosen servant as obediently as did the armies of Israel at the taking of Jericho. The Captain of the Lord's host did not reveal Himself to all the congregation. He communicated only with Joshua, who related the story of this interview to the Hebrews. It rested with them to believe or to doubt the words of Joshua, to follow the commands given by him in the name of the Captain of the Lord's host, or to rebel against his directions and deny his authority. They could not see the host of angels, marshaled by the Son of God,

who led their van; and they might have reasoned: "What unmeaning movements are these, and how ridiculous the performance of marching daily around the walls of the city, blowing trumpets of ram's horns meanwhile! This can have no effect upon those strong towering fortifications."

But the very plan of continuing this ceremony through so long a time prior to the final overthrow of the walls afforded opportunity for the increase of faith among the Israelites.

They were to become thoroughly impressed with the idea that their strength was not in the wisdom of man, nor in his might, but only in the God of their salvation. They were thus to become accustomed to putting themselves out of the question and relying wholly upon their divine Leader.

Would those who today profess to be God's people conduct themselves thus under similar circumstances? Doubtless many would wish to follow out their own plans and would suggest other ways and means of accomplishing the desired end. They would be loath to submit to so simple an arrangement and one that reflected upon themselves no glory save the merit of obedience. They would also question the possibility of a mighty city being conquered in that manner. But the law of duty is supreme. It should hold sway over human reason. Faith is the living power that presses through every barrier, overrides all obstacles, and plants its banner in the heart of the enemy's camp.

God will do marvelous things for those who trust in Him. It is because His professed people trust so much to their own wisdom, and do not give the Lord an opportunity to reveal His power in their behalf, that they have no more strength. He will help His believing children in every emergency if they will place their entire confidence in Him and implicitly obey Him.

There are deep mysteries in the word of God; there are unexplainable mysteries in His providences; there are mysteries in the plan of salvation that man cannot fathom. But the finite mind, strong in its desire to satisfy its curiosity and solve the problems of infinity, neglects to follow the plain course indicated by the revealed will of God and pries into the secrets hidden since the foundation of the world. Man builds his theories, loses the simplicity of true faith, becomes too self-important to believe the declarations of the Lord, and hedges himself in with his own conceits. ●

This article is excerpted from *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 4, pp.156 – 164.

The subject for this afternoon is a continuation of our study of last Sabbath dealing with Early Writings, pp. 36 and 38.

Rev. 7:1-4 — “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

You notice here that the angels are not told to hold the winds until Ezekiel 9 has all been fulfilled, but until the servants of God are sealed. Therefore, if there is any intervening time between the close of the sealing and the slaughter of Ezekiel 9, there is a possibility that the winds could start blowing during that time. If the nations had everything ready, it would not necessarily take long to bring the trouble that is represented by the four winds. We do know from this scripture that God will restrain the winds until the sealing is finished, for according to verse 3 of this chapter a message was sent to the four angels instructing them to hold the winds until the sealing of the 144,000 is finished. It shows that the Devil is doing all he can to loose the winds as soon as possible, perhaps even in a day.

How serious it is that right now when God’s people should be awake and preparing themselves to receive the seal that they might be protected in that great and dreadful day, the church instead is dead asleep!

If sinners were still among God’s people when the winds start to blow the church would fall, for while sinners are among God’s people the church cannot stand against her enemies. In other words, were trouble to be brought against the church before the abominations are eliminated, before the unrighteous are taken out of her midst, there is a possibility that the whole church would fall, and that God would have to intervene Himself to rescue her. If God’s righteous people were separate it would be different. The ninth chapter of Ezekiel, however, tells us that angels are commissioned to go through the city and mark those who sigh and cry for all the abominations that are done in the midst thereof, showing that the wicked and the righteous are not at that time separate, but instead they are commingled.

You recall how God dealt with Israel just before they

went into the promised land. Because of that one man (Achan) Israel’s army was miserably defeated at Ai. And though sealed ones were in her midst, should the church now meet with trouble while there is, as Sister White says, an Achan in every church and in almost every family (Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 157), the entire church would fall! With this startling possibility confronting us, I ask you how can any true professor of present Truth sit calmly in unconcern about his own spiritual condition and do nothing to warn others to get ready? Such grave possibilities on the contrary should cause each of us to be a light bearer indeed, a watchman who will sound the alarm, and warn Israel to cast away her idols and seek the Lord God now that we may be hid in the day of His fierce anger which is soon coming.

Let us now turn to Isaiah 27 for the remainder of our

## The Necessities

time this afternoon:

Isa. 27:1-13 — “In that day the Lord with His sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and He shall slay the dragon that is in the sea. In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day. Fury is not in Me: who would set the briers and thorns against Me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together. Or let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me. He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.

“Hath he smitten him, as he smote those that smote him? or is he slain according to the slaughter of them that are slain by Him? In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: He stayeth His rough wind in the day of the east wind. By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up. Yet the defenced city shall be desolate, and the habitation forsaken, and left like a



# sity for the Sealing

wilderness: there shall the calf feed, and there shall he lie down, and consume the branches thereof. When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding: therefore He that made them will not have mercy on them, and He that formed them will shew them no favour.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye Children of Israel. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship

the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.”

Isa. 27:1 — “In that day the Lord with His sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and He shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.”

The day this is to happen must be found in the preceding chapter, for this verse is introduced with the words “in that day.” Therefore, to find the time we shall read:

Isa. 26:20, 21 — “Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity:

the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.”

God’s indignation is coming upon the earth, and God’s people are invited to take shelter somewhere. These verses place the fulfillment of this prophecy in the time of the end of the world when God will punish the wicked and raise the righteous.

Isa. 27:1 — “In that day the Lord with His sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.”

From the reading of these verses we clearly see that when God punishes the inhabitants of the earth and the earth discloses her blood, leviathan will be punished and the dragon that is in the “sea” is to be slain. Who is the serpent? — It is Satan. But how is Satan to be punished and slain at the time this chapter applies? For help on this point let us turn to:

Isa. 14:1-14 — “For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the Lord for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors. And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,

“That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! The Lord hath broken the staff of the

wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us. Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? Art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.”

The king of Babylon in this chapter is connected with Lucifer because whatever Babylon aspires and sets out to do is instigated by Satan himself. Likewise we find the same to be true in the following account of Tyrus.

Ezek. 28:1, 2, 13-17 — “The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord God; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: . . . Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every

precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”

You recognize this description as being that of Lucifer; yet the prophecy is addressed to the prince of Tyrus just as Isaiah 14 associated the king of Babylon with Lucifer. By this we are to understand that both “Tyrus” and “Babylon” are instigated by Satan and are set up to do on earth the identical wicked work that Satan did originally in heaven. But we are here told that Satan’s defeat in these endeavors will be complete and shameful.

Isa. 27:1, 2 — “In that day the Lord with His sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and He shall slay the dragon that is in the sea. In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine.”

In the day the dragon is “slain” in

the “sea” someone is to sing “A vineyard of red wine.” There is then to be a vineyard of red wine, and there is to be singing about it because it is a rich vineyard producing good fruit — righteous people. The song for the vineyard is sung when God punishes leviathan. It cannot be sung now because God does not yet have this rich productive vineyard. The rest of this chapter tells how He is to obtain it.

Isa. 27:3 — “I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.”

This obviously is the Lord’s vineyard which He is to have at that day and which He is to keep night and day lest any hurt it. If He must so carefully keep it lest any hurt it, the vineyard must therefore exist in a time of danger.

Isa. 27:4, 5 — “Fury is not in Me: who would set the briars and thorns against Me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together. Or let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.”

The implication here is that there are briars and thorns and that if they should be set against Him in battle they would be destroyed together. The briars and thorns must represent people who fight against God by fighting against His Truth. This scripture says that those who fight against Him will surely perish together, but he who takes hold of God’s strength for peace will receive peace. In other words, the briars and thorns need not remain such in this case. They can be converted if they would. These verses, therefore clearly present a choice. If there is offered to a people the choice to take hold of God and live or battle against Him and perish, that choice must be com-

ing to them in a message, in Truth. If they take His Truth then they would be taking hold of His strength, and those who choose to fight the Truth will not win, but will perish together.

Anciently God was furious with His people and was tempted to cast them away forever root and branch. But here He says that fury is not in Him. He is longsuffering toward His people, and He is anxious that all should take hold of His strength and be at peace with Him. That very choice is found in the message we bear today. As the message makes its way through the ranks of the church we see some take hold of His strength and rejoice in the Truth, and we also painfully see the briars and thorns set in battle against the Lord. Though fury is not in God and though He is not willing that any should perish, yet He declares that those who will not take hold of His strength by accepting His Truth must lose out.

Isa. 27:6 — “He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.”

Those that come of Jacob will take root. It implies that not all are coming, but those that do come will take root. The others will die. Those that take root are of Jacob. We all know that the Scriptures say that the 144,000 are all of Jacob, for they are Israelites. The verse we are now studying says that those that come of Jacob shall take root and “Israel shall blossom and [grow] and fill the face of the world with fruit.” These words are so plain they do not need interpretation. Using the analogy that an apple tree bears apples and not plums or something else, we may draw the lesson that the Israelites that take root, the 144,000, will bring forth converts to Israel. These con-

verts will be Israelites either by birth or by being grafted in as Paul describes in Romans 11.

We have learned so far in our study of this chapter that when the briars and thorns fight against God it is at that time that those of Jacob shall take root. That could not be after the close of probation, for it is after they take root that they “fill the face of the world with fruit.”

Daniel tells us in the second chapter that in the days of the tentoe kings the Lord God would set up a kingdom which he said was represented by the stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that that stone would break in pieces all other kingdoms and grow to be a great mountain that would fill the whole earth. Daniel in reality said the same thing that Isaiah is saying in the 27th chapter we are considering today. It is those of Jacob that take root that make up the stone that Daniel saw. And as the stone is small and the mountain large, it shows that the majority will not take hold of the strength of God, but will perish while the minority will escape and take root and bring in converts that will fill the face of the world with fruit. What Isaiah calls a vineyard Daniel called a kingdom — the Kingdom of God.

Isa. 27:7, 8 — “Hath he smitten him, as he smote those that smote him? or is he slain according to the slaughter of them that are slain by him? In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind.”

There are two winds mentioned here: the rough wind and the east wind. At the time when God delivers a message of choice to His people to separate those who make peace with Him and those who do not, and at the time His vineyard shoots forth,

there are to be two winds. The rough wind we understand to be God's wind which He stops in the day of the east wind.

Isa. 27:9 — "By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up."

The rough wind comes to purify His church. When it blows fruit will fall. In the words of Ezekiel those who do not "sigh" and "cry" for the abominations done in the church will be slain, and only those who take hold of God's strength will remain.

If all the stones of the altar become as chalkstones then the altar will crumble to the ground. The altar is not the entire church, but it is a very important part of the church. It is from the altar that the laity are led. The figure used here shows that there is a false leadership and it is to be brought down. "The groves and images will not stand up," showing that idolatry is among God's people, and it too will be taken away. It is this purging that must come in order to make the vineyard rich and productive as verses 2 and 3 describe it as being. The briars and thorns must be removed. The message comes preceding this separation in order to prepare God's people to escape the purging rough wind and to be safe from the time of trouble represented by the east wind.

Isa. 27:10, 11 — "Yet the defenced city shall be desolate, and the habitation forsaken, and left like a wilderness: there shall the calf feed, and there shall he lie down and consume the branches thereof. When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding; there-

fore He that made them will not have mercy on them, and He that formed them will shew them no favour."

This chapter first describe God's vineyard in its beautiful and excellent condition, representing God's church in its future purified state. The verses we are now reading describe the present condition of His church before it is purified. How vastly different is the picture! John describes it as being "wretched" and about to be "spued out."

When a man prunes his orchard and he finds dead branches on the trees, he breaks them off and stacks them in piles for someone to burn, for they are useless. It is this illustration Isaiah is using to show what God is to do with His people who are represented by the dead branches — people who have no understanding. They are those who are ever learning but never come to the knowledge of the Truth. Yes, they are branches of the tree, but they are void of spiritual life. There is something fundamentally wrong with this class of people, because God is able to make anyone wise; He can make anyone strong. His Truth is so simple that though they be fools they need not err therein (Isa. 35:8). Therefore, all can get understanding. For this reason those men who get no understanding God will destroy without mercy. In this work of separating, God keeps the trunk and destroys the branches.

Isa. 27:12, 13 — "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy

mount at Jerusalem."

The children of Israel are to be gathered first one by one, and in that day the great trumpet will be sounded to signalize the commencement of the ingathering of the people who are going to worship in the holy mountain, Jerusalem. In our studies on Isaiah 19 we found that there are to be five cities in "Egypt" that will speak the language of Canaan, and that there is to be a highway between "Assyria" and "Egypt" and Israel is to be a third with them, even a blessing in the midst of the land. It is the great trumpet of the twenty-seventh chapter that will save them. It may be that there will be many from "Assyria" and "Egypt" that will join the 144,000 and go to worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem. Since Isaiah says they were ready to perish, it may happen just at the making up of the image of the beast, or just in the time of transition when the world emerges from the "Assyrian" period and enters the period when "Babylon the Great" rules.

We ought to be wise and of an understanding heart in the things of God. We ought daily to be living the Truth and making every effort to be at peace with God that we may receive the seal of His protection and approval. Are we getting ready for the great and dreadful days just ahead? We have not a moment to lose if we would be ready on time. All God is waiting for now is for His saints to receive the seal so that His church will not perish from off the earth forever, but will instead "take root" and "fill the face of the world with fruit." ●

BY VICTOR HOUTEFF

Taken from the *The Symbolic Code*, Vol. 11, No. 7.





# Prove the Lord

**B**ring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” *Mal. 3:10*.

Shall we obey God, and bring in all our tithes, that there may be meat to supply the demands of souls hungering for present truth? God tells us that He will open the windows of heaven, and pour us out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. He pledges His word, “I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.” *Mal.3:11*. Thus His word is our assurance that He will so bless us that we shall have still larger tithes and offerings to bestow. “Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. . . .” *Mal. 3:7*

Brethren, God invites you to prove Him now, by being faithful in your tithes, so that the treasuries can be replenished. This work of faithfully bringing in all the tithes, that there may be meat in the house of God, would supply laborers for both home and foreign fields. Although books and publications upon present truth are pouring out their treasures of knowledge to various parts of the world, yet missionary posts must be established at different points. The bible worker must proclaim present truth throughout Laodicea. There are open fields inviting workers to enter. The harvest is ripe, and the earnest Macedonian cry for laborers is heard from every part of the world. Let us therefore prove God by financially supporting the work so that laborers can be sent in the field,

proclaiming present truth throughout Laodicea and thus hasten the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

If you have lost your job because of the economic crisis do not worry, for God is working something out for you. He has promised in His word, “. . . I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” *Heb.13:5*. What may appear to be your greatest disappointment might be your greatest blessing. Always remember that no situation or economic crisis can prevent God from providing for His people. It is in these uncertain times when the heathen is fainting for fear of want, when large co-operations are filing for bankruptcy, when the governments of the lands are operating on huge deficits, that God works mightily for His faithful people. He has already told us, “Therefore take no thought saying, What shall we eat? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” *Matt.6:31-34*.

May God’s rich blessings abide with you, and may the new year bring you health, happiness, prosperity and a closer walk with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ursula Harrison  
—Treasury Department



# Changing World Unchanging God

It is always wonderful when God's people can get together from all over the globe and be on one accord. Indeed, Session was a foretaste of what it will be like in the Kingdom when we will all gather from all nations, kindred, tongue and people worshipping our Lord and savior and fellowshiping with each other. What a day that will be!

Session 2009 was a blessed experience indeed! Our theme, Davidians in a changing world," was an appropriate one. We were reminded throughout the session that we should cling to the one who remains the same yesterday, today and forever—Jesus Christ.

On Sabbath morning we eagerly awaited the start of the Sabbath School where we energetically discussed the issues and problems that we face as Davidians in a changing world. The outgoing Vice-President, Glenroy Matthews, encouraged us to hold fast to Jesus' hand in this chang-

ing world. In his discourse, he stressed the urgent need for us to change into what God intends for us to be.

He pointed out that in order to initiate real change, we need to go back to the basics of religion. This means first and foremost, to allow the Lord to recreate in us a new heart, even on this side of the kingdom.

The Apostle Paul writes: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." With the renewing of the mind comes a deeper and broader understanding of the perfect will of God for your life.

Bro. Matthews also spoke on the shameful break-down of too many marriages in Davidia. There are just

too many failed marriages among us! And the irony is that we espouse a message that is intended to bind the family together. What exactly is going on with us? What has gone wrong? The answer is simple, it means that we are not allowing Jesus through the Eleventh Hour Message to change us. If we give earnest heed to the Elijah message, change is inevitable.

Another area of concern that brother Matthews spoke about was the relationship in the various groups. If we cannot get along now, when will we? One possible cause of group difficulties is a lack of tongue control. Says James: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." **James**

1:26.

Inspiration says:

“It is well to remember too, that our tongues are given to us for the purpose of speaking God’s Truth and His praise, and our energies to proclaim His Truth and to bless His people. Let us be talking of and working for these heaven born principles. If you accidentally happen to see or to hear that someone is doing something that according to your best judgment is not proper for a Christian to do, and if you think you can help him, then do not make of yourself a tale-bearer by telling it to anyone but rather plead with the guilty one.

“Do not make yourself a criterion for any either, and do not force your ideas on anyone but on yourselves. It is no one’s duty to police another. Understand that no one is in debt to bring his life to anyone’s standards and maximums.

“Do not make enemies by your tongues. Make friends. And do not have your feelings on your finger tips. If you do, you yourself will feel the loss of friends, of social joy, and of the opportunity and privilege to win souls to Christ. Do not end the day with no credit to be recorded on your page of Heaven’s ledger. Do not misinterpret other peoples’ motives either. Try to see and interpret everything in the right way, give everyone a chance. See the good in everyone and close your eyes to all evil.

“Tongues are hard to control, and ears always anxious to hear. It will therefore be better if you do less visiting. Much visiting is only a waste of time and a temptation to discuss the motes in the eyes of others and to overlook the beam that is in your own eye.

“Measure your words by the golden rule. If you will do to others what you would have them to do to you, you will have less trouble, greater joy in life, many friends all around you, and fair

sheaves for the Heavenly Garner.” 1 *Timely Greetings*, 4, pp. 24 – 26.

Bro. Matthews also reminded us that while prophecies are important to know, we also need to learn how to show love and care for each other. When we stand before God’s presence in judgment, He will not ask how many bible studies we presented and how well we presented the message. But, how effective did we demonstrate love, care and concern for each other.

On the second Sabbath, the Session was again well-attended and after an energetic Sabbath School, Bro. Joseph Seraphin, our incoming Vice President, gave a passionate message. His sermon was based on Matthew 13:1-13, which outlined the husbandman sowing seeds of the gospel and the seeds falling along the wayside; into stony places; among the thorns and into good ground. Bro. Seraphin encouraged us to identify our individual spiritual relationship to the location of one of the seeds. The lesson brought out the fact that many of us find ourselves in one of the four categories represented by the seeds.

Oftentimes we discover that some of us are only here for a season. We have good intentions, we are very enthusiastic when we first start to learn the message and then we soon get cold and disappear. Some of the reasons for this are discouragement, loss of faith, and spiritual indifference. This he likens to the seeds that fell everywhere except in the good ground. The good news, however, is only those who endure to the end—the good ground hearers—inherit the Kingdom of God. Though we will not all bring forth the same amount—some will bring 30, some 60, some 75, and some 100, we must all bring forth fruit. Bro. Seraphin ended his sermon by encouraging all

of us to make the decision to choose which seed we want to be. We must do all in our power to be good ground hearers!

The bottom line is that there is a genuine need for a revival and reformation of godliness among us. Without such a radical change, we cannot expect to bear fruits of righteousness, without such revival and reformation we cannot expect to see improvements in our family relations and among brethren. In fact, we cannot expect to be sealed and saved.

The Word of God has the power to effectively produce some extraordinary and positive changes in our lives. If it is not effecting a revolutionary change, it is because we are not allowing it to.

If you love the truth you will want to see changes in our world, in our church and in ourselves. The truth is, we are powerless to change ourselves. Lasting change can only be wrought through the indwelling of Jesus in the heart.

Don’t fool yourself, change is not easy, humanly speaking. If it were, we would all be changed already. Instead, the changes we sometimes endeavor to make are a result of our own human efforts. We need to understand that God’s plan for our lives is CHANGE. This God initiated change will be the outworking of His will in our lives and may be accompanied by trials and testings. It may be a challenging marital situation, an impossible friend or coworker. It may be a child that you are having a hard time dealing with. These trying circumstances will help to evaluate who you really are and reveal the points that need Divine help.

God is now searching for a group of people who will consent to eventually become unchanging like He is. Will you be one of them? Only you can decide that, and your decision will determine your destiny. ●

—Editors

# My Father— My Delight



**U**nder the Father on high, a God fearing father in the home on earth is God's exemplification of His love, principles, and a channel of unique blessings. More than a role model, more than a friend to the children and consort to the mother, the father's position is divinely appointed in God's perfect plan for the family. Besides being a cherisher of the mother, he is also a supporter and collaborator with her in expanding and overlapping family duties and responsibilities.

A condensed review of the father's contributions to family life, affords many opportunities to bless and also be blessed as he meets the challenges through Christ. Together we shall now examine some of the main areas of a father's appointment to the family "firm".

**C.E.O.—Chief Executive Officer**  
"The husband and father is head of the household." *Adventist Home,*

p. 211. Under Christ the father is to provide, assist, guide, oversee the entire household and is responsible unto God for its well being. See *1 Cor. 11:3*. Through divine wisdom and undeniable love, his position of trust is maintained as the whole family benefits.

#### **Priest—Legislator**

The father's personal relation with Christ is critical. As the family Priest, he leads out in family worship and lays all the family sins and requests on the altar before the Lord. "He is the lawmaker illustrating in his own manly bearing the sterner virtues: energy, integrity, honesty, patience, courage, diligence and practical usefulness." *Adventist Home*, p. 212. By his own life he makes practical religion credible and his words are respected. **Family** laws are but an implementation of **Bible** principles to safeguard, protect and insure blessings. "Fathers. . . combine affection with authority, kindness and sympathy with firm restraint." *Adventist Home*, p. 222.

#### **Teacher—Instructor**

In the life of an adult, some of the **most** treasured memories are those spent together on a one-to-one basis—father and child. By doing and learning together, teaching becomes an adventure in usefulness thus preparing the child for the future and to appreciate the privilege of work.

Time spent with a child helps develop skills and Godly self confidence and has been known to boost I.Q. Collaboration between father and children teaches them to work together with others. The father also has a golden opportunity to study the character traits of the child and give vital instruction when most needed. See *Deuteronomy 6:6,7* and *Educa-*

*tion*, p. 187. Encouragement from the father helps to develop self worth as seen in Christ and engenders good habits of usefulness and industry. Dad should acknowledge the good a child does, however small it may be.

#### **Technical Consultant**

Fathers are expected to have a well-rounded knowledge and understanding of some technical things. This storehouse of knowledge and experience is often drawn upon in making family and personal decisions. Children will keep dad on his toes as they learn to talk and by asking "How?" and "Why?" The explanation must be simple, plain and Christ-centered.

Dad must stay abreast with the rapid pace of technology and respect his own limitations. Sometimes he will have to consult an authority.

#### **Hands-On Technologist**

Dad needs to be handy around the house. No! not just take out the garbage. Who will assemble the new swing set? On occasion who will help Junior repair his favorite toy? "Oh, by the way, the bathroom faucet leaks, would you look into it dear?"

Even if you have lots of money, that is not the answer. What about changing the baby's diaper from time to time? Even cooking or preparing a meal. What about cleaning the house?

#### **Financial Advisor—Provider**

Traditionally the father worked outside the home as the financial provider while the mother managed finances. In any case, collaboration between the two is most essential especially on major decisions. Fathers will often have to project and estimate expenses that enter into the family budget. Father and mother alike are mandated under Christ to .

. . . study to economize. Too much cannot be said on this point. Living beyond one's means is often a direct result of violating one or more of God's counsels on stewardship. Blessings follow obedience, but continued disobedience, even in ignorance will in some cases result in the mother unnecessarily entering the work force outside the home. In such cases, the whole divine family blueprint is violated and all will suffer, especially the children. Mismanagement of finances can be pointed to as a cause of many other family problems.

#### **Companion—Personal Friend**

As fathers exercise all the other responsibilities of home, he is also to be a consort to the mother and personal friend to the children as well. Because of the closeness that exists between father and family, his presence is sought after. Any home without the father will suffer some noticeable deficit. His presence on the other hand will afford emotional stability and on going blessings.

At home as children grow into adulthood they, like their father in their hearts can say, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." *Psalms 40:8*. Of their earthly father it can then be said, **my father, my delight.** ●

"Nuggets" compiled by Ann Landers



“And there are some who, having secured this worldly education, think that they can introduce it into our schools. . . . This must not be done.”

What does Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Walter Kaspar, Dr. Hans Kung, and Jan Paulsen have in common? “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Amos 3:3. This is the question God proclaimed. There should be a clear line of distinction in education, behavior, and lifestyle between those who are His and those who are not. The servant of the Lord presents two classes of people who do not “walk together” but who are actually standing apart from each other.

“All society is ranging into two great classes, the obedient and the disobedient. Among which class shall we be found? Those who keep God’s commandments, those who live not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, compose the church of the living God. Those who choose to follow Antichrist are subjects of the great apostate. Ranged under the banner of Satan, they break God’s law, and lead others to break it. They endeavor so to frame the laws of nations that men shall show their loyalty to earthly governments by trampling upon the laws of God’s kingdom.” Manuscript Releases Volume One, pp. 295, 296.

Clearly, this statement declares that God’s people should have nothing in common with the “Antichrist” power nor with the “great apostate” systems which are leading people to break God’s law. So what do these men have in common? They all attended the same theological seminary at Tübingen University in Tübingen, Germany—all at the same time—during the late 1960s early 1970s.

Three served as theological professors and one was merely a student in training. Three were the instructors, one was a “nurtured” pupil. Three were “fatherly figures,” one was a

# Con

willing novice seeking instruction.

1. Dr. Hans Kung was Professor of Ecumenical Theology and Director of the Institute from Ecumenical Research at the University of Tübingen. He was a member of the faculty from 1960 until his retirement in 1995. Dr. Hans Kung studied philosophy and theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, a Jesuit University. From 1962-1965, he was also appointed by Pope John XXIII to serve as an official theological consultant to the Second Vatican Council. [Source: <http://www.un.org/Dialogue/Kung.html>].

2. Cardinal Walter Kaspar became a member of the theological faculty of Tübingen in 1958. By 1970, he was still serving as professor of dogmatic theology and became dean of the Theological Faculty at Tübingen the same year. Today, Cardinal Walter Kaspar is the President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. His job is to coordinate all the ecumenical activities

for the Roman Catholic Church. [Source: <http://www.fiu.edu/~mirandas/bios-k.htm>].

3. Pope Benedict XVI [formerly Joseph Ratzinger] was appointed in 1966 as professor of dogmatic theology at the University of Tübingen. His appointment was strongly supported by Professor Hans Kung. [Source: <http://www.catholic-newsagency.com/benedictxvi/biography.htm>].

gen added a Roman Catholic Faculty to the School and this resulted in what Ellen White calls the undoing of Protestantism.

“The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that

Protestant and Roman Catholic seminary professors have had “fruitful cooperation and exchange of ideas” for decades!

### **Cut from the same Cloth?**

This is undoubtedly a very serious situation when the highest leadership of both the Roman Catholic and Seventh-day Adventist Church—the pope and the SDA president—are products of the same theological in-

# Connecting *the* Dots

4. Jan Paulsen, President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1999–Present, enrolled at Tübingen University as a student and became the first Seventh-day Adventist to receive a Doctorate in Theology from Tübingen in June, 1972—even though Jan Paulsen had already earned a theological degree from Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrews University. [Source: [http://www.gcsession.org/media-kit/pdf/jan\\_paulsen\\_bio.pdf](http://www.gcsession.org/media-kit/pdf/jan_paulsen_bio.pdf)].

Tübingen University was founded in 1477 by Duke Eberhard as a Reformation seminary to train Protestant ministers during the Reformation. Phillip Melancthon, the German Reformer who did much to help the cause of the Protestant Reformation, received his M.A. from Tübingen University in 1512. Later he was appointed professor at Wittenberg where he became acquainted with Martin Luther. He is second only to Luther as a champion of the German Reformation.

Unfortunately, by 1817, Tübingen

Protestantism has done.” The Great Controversy, pp. 565, 566.

Consequently, Tübingen University became one of the first religious seminaries to teach Ecumenical Theology. This is part of the university’s mission statement:

“The Protestant and Catholic Theological Faculties of The University [Tübingen] are located in the same building and use the same teaching and research facilities. This symbolizes decades of fruitful cooperation and exchange of ideas between the two Faculties. . . The Protestant Theological Faculty also maintains strong relationships to the World Council of Churches and to the international ecumenical and missionary movements.” [Source: <http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/ev-theologie/>].

Evidently, this once Protestant seminary fell victim to the “counter-Reformation” Theological seminary at Tübingen is a place where ecumenical unity thrives. Where, according to the University’s website,

stitution. To be more frank, the SDA President enrolled in a school to gain knowledge and prepare for church ministry/denominational employment where prominent Roman Catholic theologians, Pope Benedict being one, were teaching Ecumenical Theology.

We must stop and seriously make the following inquires: Could these two leaders think the same way? Do they act the same? Is their outlook and objectives the same? Or might this really be just a coincidence that the pope and the GC President were members of the same educational system, “cut from the same cloth.” Or could this be a subtle conspiracy to shift the denomination or the denomination’s theology towards Protestantism and Roman Catholicism? Might this explain the apparent doctrinal transition of the church—gradually replacing Biblical Theology for New Theology? Should this result in a loss of confidence in the General Conference? Will the outcome end with the final repudiation of the Bib-

lical prophecies that point to the Roman Catholic Church as the Antichrist power, the “man of sin” of 2 Thessalonians, or Babylon and all other “objectionable” historical Seventh-day Adventist doctrine?

Jan Paulsen’s decision to attend this school should have led the “brethren” of the General Conference nominating committee to first determine whether or not it was appropriate for him to become the General Conference President—in light of the severe warning found in Revelation 18: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. . . .” Revelation 18:1-5.

Jan Paulsen should have been critically examined as to whether or not he would uphold the historical Seventh-day Adventist positions. Because during his tenure at Tubingen University, he was trained by professors who repudiate the fundamental principles of historical Adventism. Do we not see the enormous risk we take when we elect church leaders who were trained by the enemies of the present truth? “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” 1 Cor. 15:33.

No cause is ever without an effect; and when SDA leaders willfully go and become intoxicated [indoctrinated] with the wine of Babylon—those decisions have profound effects in the schools, the health work, and on the denomination as a whole. Notice this statement written to those responsible for the spiritual well-being of our people taken from “Counsels to Teachers”:

“And there are some who, having secured this worldly education, think that they can introduce it into our schools. But let me tell you that you must not take what the world calls

the higher education and bring it into our schools and sanitariums and churches. We need to understand these things. I speak to you definitely. This must not be done.” “Counsels to Teachers,” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 535, 536.

What good is accomplished when church leaders are “nurtured” or “trained” by institutions that applaud the Protestant/Evangelical message of “Down with God’s law.” Such religious schools are the daughters of Babylon, for they voice the sentiments of their mother. Modern Protestant teachings today have become consistent with false papal doctrines.

What can a school of theology owned by the fallen daughters of Babylon, which employs Roman Catholic professors, teach God’s people? What messages can we hope to learn from them, if not to leave the patience of the saints, abandon the commandments of God, recant the “distinguishing truths” of the faith, and return with them to Babylon?! This is precisely what we have been seeing during the last fifty years. In reality, it is not “higher education” that our brethren are learning from non-Adventist seminaries; actually, it is a “lower education” which leads to departure from the historic Adventist theology.

“The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world’s history. . . . From that time to this, new light has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding.” *Great controversy*, pp. 148, 149.

“The third angel’s message reveals the great saving truth for this time. Its truths are constantly unfolding, and it is God’s design that even the children and youth shall understand

intelligently what God requires, that they may distinguish between righteousness and sin, between obedience and disobedience.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. Nine, p. 292.

Are we to suppose that when our church leaders attend non-Adventist seminaries that they will acquire a greater love and appreciation for the third angel’s message—the message that helps “distinguish between righteousness and sin, between obedience and disobedience?” On the contrary, the theological schools of Babylon have two primary objectives: (1) to “undo all that Protestantism has done” (*Great Controversy* pp. 565, 566) and to (2) “regain its lost supremacy. . . through the time-serving concessions of the so-called Protestant world.” (2 SM, p. 368).

“Popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and the first fires of persecution will be rekindled through the time-serving concessions of the so-called Protestant world.” *Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 368.

How can we as Seventh-day Adventists ask for special protection when the “fires of persecution are rekindled” if we are spending time, being trained, and educated by the Protestant world? No wonder we see such a terrible, spiritual condition within Adventism.

Modern Protestantism is making concessions and compromises which will one day empower the great “Lawless System” of the last days. Tubingen University is a perfect example on how Protestant and Catholic Theological faculties work together to accomplish this end.

“While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, let us arouse to comprehend the situation and view the contest before us in its true bearings. . . . The Law of God should be loved and honored by His true people now



more than ever before.” Testimonies, Vol. 5, pp. 716, 717.

What should our attitude be when Protestants make concessions with Rome? Ellen White tells us that we must arouse to comprehend the situation and exalt the Law of God.

Rather than contemplating a degree of theology or “higher education” from the system of “confusion” [Babylon], we as Seventh-day Adventists should seek the power of the Holy Spirit who will give us the words to speak so that we can uphold the historic Adventist’s “distinguishing truths.”

“While the contempt placed upon God’s commandments leads many to suppress the truth and show less reverence for it, the faithful ones will with greater earnestness hold aloft its distinguishing truths.” Selected Message, Vol. 2, pp. 368, 369.

The very name “Seventh-day Adventist is a standing rebuke to the Protestant world.” Testimonies, Vol. 1, p. 223.

Why? — “It is because the saints are keeping all ten of the commandments that the dragon makes war upon them. If they will lower the standard and yield the peculiarities of their faith, the dragon will be at peace; but they excite his ire because they have dared to raise the standard and unfurl their banner in opposition to the Protestant world, who are worshipping the institution of papacy.” Ibid., p. 223.

“Babylon is said to be ‘the mother of harlots.’ By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world.” The Great Controversy, pp. 238-239.

The decision made to elect a General Conference President who

obtained a doctorate in theology from “BABYLON” will have profound, far-reaching effects on the denomination as a whole and on the ecumenical movement as well. For the churches of Babylon will see this as a positive move on the part of the SDA church which will help heal the divisions and controversies that have “troubled” the church during the early days of the movement. Unfortunately, many Seventh-day Adventist leaders and brethren will see this as a good thing. Personally, we see this as another example of how the church is being sold down the river without a paddle and is “drifting away to sea, without chart or compass” (R&H July 24, 1888).

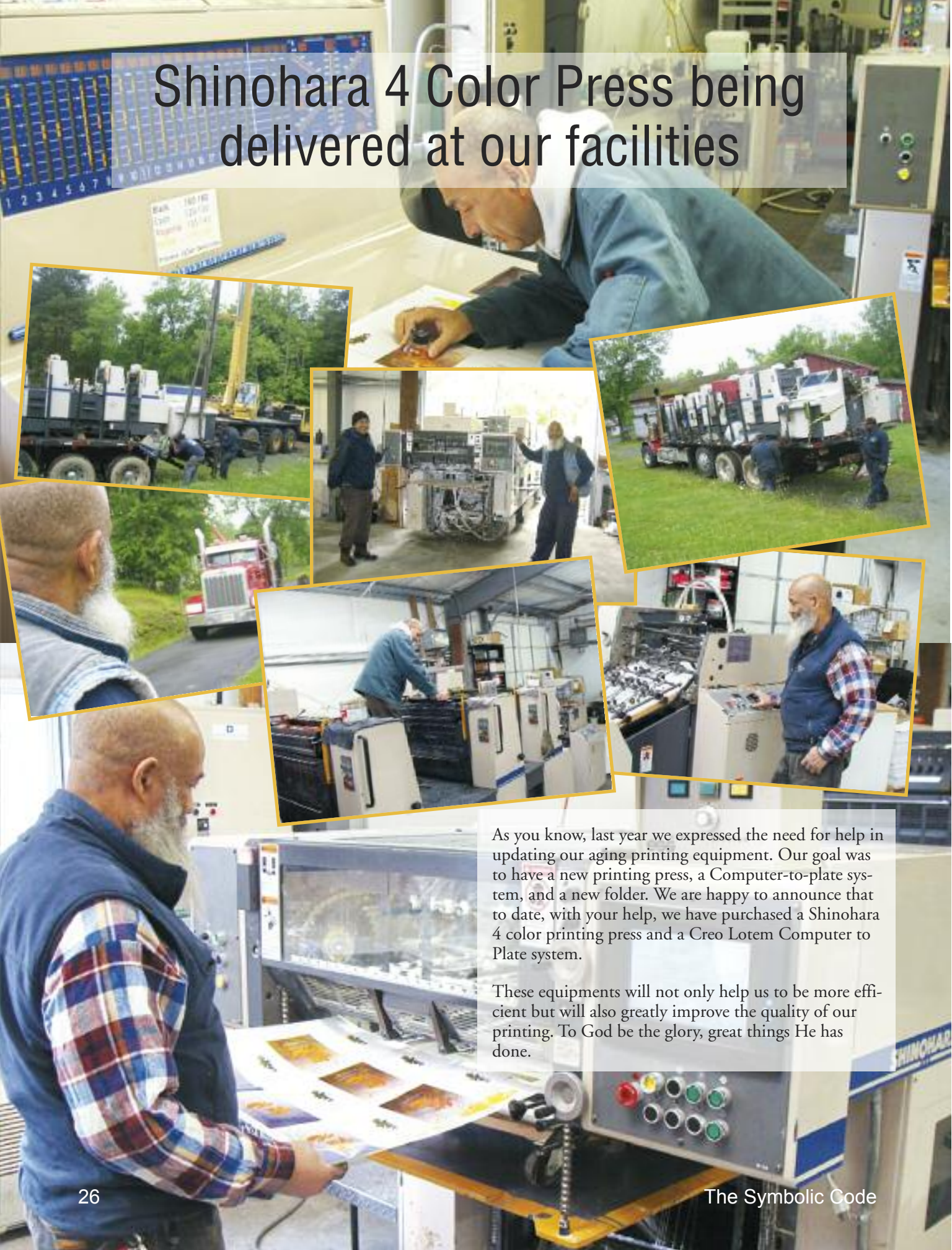
“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Pro. 14:12.

Times have certainly changed. We must help our brethren to better understand the historic Adventist message, especially as it relates to our foundational principles. I trust that God will help each one to understand, to preach, and to live the message that God has called us to live, so that Jesus might soon come and His work might be completed. We love this message that has been embraced by the faithful for so long. And we should not allow the “misguided” to destroy the foundational pillars of the blessed truths that have made us what we are. ●

Source:  
[www.eternalgospelherald.com](http://www.eternalgospelherald.com)

The very name  
“Seventh-day  
Adventist is a  
standing rebuke  
to the Protestant  
world.”

# Shinohara 4 Color Press being delivered at our facilities



As you know, last year we expressed the need for help in updating our aging printing equipment. Our goal was to have a new printing press, a Computer-to-plate system, and a new folder. We are happy to announce that to date, with your help, we have purchased a Shinohara 4 color printing press and a Creo Lotem Computer to Plate system.

These equipments will not only help us to be more efficient but will also greatly improve the quality of our printing. To God be the glory, great things He has done.



# Announcements

## Education Department –

We are delighted to report that we will definitely conduct DLI classes in 2010. The program will be a 3-month program during the months of June, July and August.

### Qualifications:

According to Mt. Carmel Training Center, p. 7  
*“Consistent with this divine design, Mt. Carmel matriculates only such persons as are known to subscribe in full to its beliefs, its purposes, and its principles, and who aspire to a place in the final work of the gospel. . .”*

Please be sure to complete the necessary reading before submitting an application in order to be considered for the DLI program.

The Education Department is working on a magazine geared especially to our youth. This magazine will consist of correspondence courses for our children as well as lesson studies, stories, crossroad puzzles, etc. We are very excited with this project and hope that our young people will not only read but understand present-truth presented on their level. We are looking for volunteers to help with this project. Please call the office and share your talents.

## Independent Department

Mt. Carmel is in the process of reviving the Independent Department. The barn is being renovated to accommodate the Mercantile. We are also working on reviving the Laundry as well as the cafeteria program will be revived as well.

The Independent Department is soliciting recipes for the upcoming “MT CARMEL COOKBOOK” which will be available for purchase some time later this year through the mercantile.

### Congratulations go out to the following families:

Bro. Cauldric & sis. Jillian Michael, on the birth of their baby boy. Let us keep the Michael family in our prayers

as they enjoy their new addition to the family.

Bro. Barthelemy & Sis. Yvonna Alexandre on the birth of their 3<sup>rd</sup> child, a precious daughter. Let us keep the Alexandre family in our prayers as they enjoy their new blessing.

Bro. Phadine & Sis. Marilyn Louis was blessed with a new addition to their family, a darling little girl was born in October. Let us also keep the Louis family in our prayers.

### Wedding Bells

Congratulations are in order for Sis. Natasha St. Jean. Natasha & Antweyne Williamson joined hearts in holy matrimony on December 20<sup>th</sup> 2009. Let us pray for this young couple as they begin their journey of a lifetime together.

### Condolences

Our condolences and heart-felt sorrow go out to Sis. Deborah Matthews whose mother, Sis. Fowler, passed away. We pray that God will keep this dear family close as they mourn the loss of their beloved mother.

## Youth Department

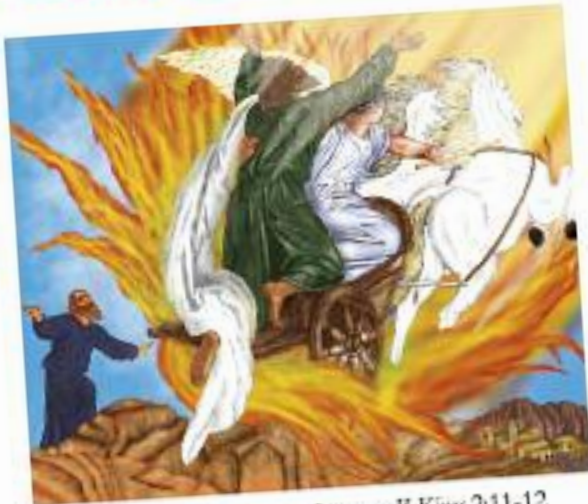
The Youth Department is planning a Retreat in the near future – Stay tuned for upcoming information and send your contact information to the office if you are interested in being involved.

### General Conference

Reminder – The Association will need volunteers to help distribute literature at the upcoming General Conference session of SDA to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, in June 2010. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful work, please contact the office. Room and Board will be provided.

Who is the Elijah for today? Was he Victor Houteff, or some other? This little booklet answers these questions. This booklet will help you understand and identify the real Elijah and help you quickly unmask the imposters. Read it.

**1950**  
**GENERAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL**



Elijah's Ascent Into Heaven. II Kings 2:11-12



"The great and dreadful day of the Lord." Mal. 4:5

Everything that can be done will be done to distort the Truth and thus distract and dishearten believers and draw their attention to something other than the message of Elijah. — page 7

... His work and his interpretation of the prophecies for the great day will identify him as the promised Elijah. — page 7

... one's only safety will be in the teaching of Elijah. — page 8

... Elijah's message and movement will be the only God-sent ones. . . . — page 9

That as the Elijah of Christ's first advent was one person, and also as the Elijah of Mt. Carmel of old was one person, not a multitude of priests . . . . The promise, itself, moreover, is for only one. . . . — page 32