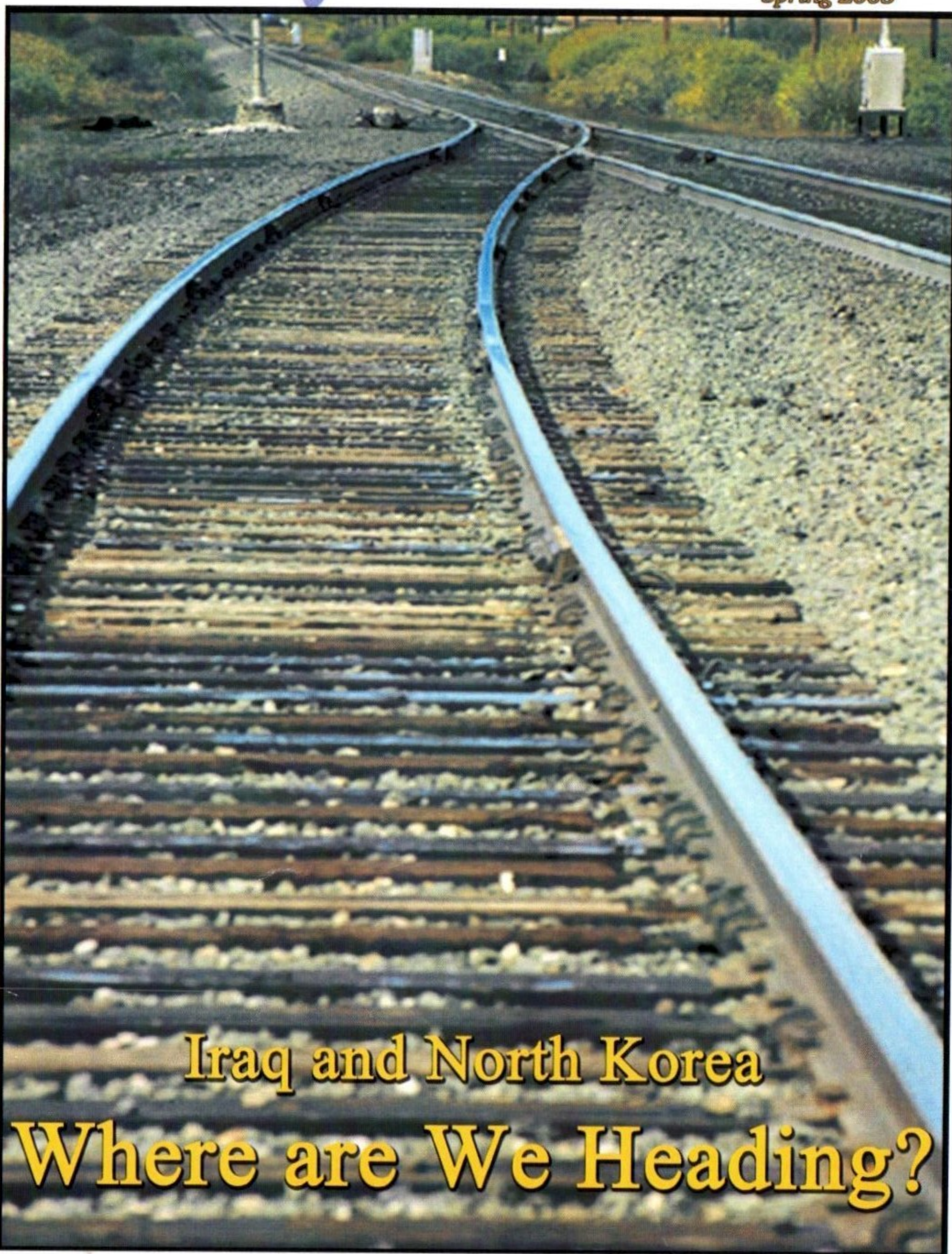


# The Symbolic Code

Spring 2003



Iraq and North Korea

Where are We Heading?



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# CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

## Relation of Education to Redemption

By sin man was shut out from God. Except for the plan of redemption, eternal separation from God, the darkness of unending night, would have been his. Through the Saviour's sacrifice, communion with God is again made possible. We may not in person approach into His presence; in our sin we may not look upon His face; but we can behold Him and commune with Him in Jesus, the Saviour. "The light of the knowledge of the glory of God" is revealed "in the face of Jesus Christ." God is "in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Cor. 4:6; 5:19.

"The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,...full of grace and truth." "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:14, R.V.; 1:4. The life and death of Christ, the price of our redemption, are not only to us the promise and pledge of life, not only the means of opening again to us the treasures of wisdom: they are a broader, higher revelation of His character than even the holy ones of Eden knew.

And while Christ opens heaven to man, the life which He imparts open the heart of man to heaven. Sin not only shuts us away from God, but destroys in the human soul both the desire and the capacity for knowing Him. All this

work of evil it is Christ's mission to undo. **The faculties of the soul, paralyzed by sin, the darkened mind, the perverted will, He has power to invigorate and to restore.** He opens to us the riches of the universe, and by Him the power to discern and to appropriate these treasures is imparted.

Christ is the "Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:9. As through Christ every human being has life, so also through Him every soul receives some ray of divine light. Not only intellectual but spiritual power, a perception of right, a desire for goodness, exists in every heart. But against these principles there is struggling an antagonistic power. The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man's experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist. To withstand this force, to attain that ideal which in his inmost soul he accepts as alone worthy, he can find help in but one power. **That power is Christ.** Cooperation with that power is man's greatest need. In all educational effort should not this cooperation be the highest aim?

The true teacher is not satisfied with second-rate work. He is not satisfied



with directing his students to a standard lower than the highest which it is possible for them to attain. He cannot be content with imparting to them only technical knowledge, with making them merely clever accountants, skillful artisans, successful tradesmen. It is His ambition to inspire them with principles of truth, obedience, honor, integrity, and purity—principles that will make them a positive force for the stability and uplifting of society. He desires them, above all else, to learn life's great lesson of unselfish service.

These principles become a living power to shape the character, through the acquaintance of the soul with Christ, through an acceptance of His wisdom as the guide, His power as the strength, of heart and life. This union formed, the student has found the Source of wisdom. He has within his reach the power to realize in himself his noblest ideals. The opportunities of the highest education for life in this world are his. And in the training here gained, he is entering upon that course which embraces eternity.

In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." "It was the good pleasure of the Father that in Him should all the fullness dwell." 1 Corinthians 3:11; Colossians 1:19, R.V.

Under changed conditions, true education is still conformed to the

Creator's plan, the plan of the Eden school. Adam and Eve received instruction through direct communion with God; we behold the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Christ.

The great principles of education are unchanged. "They stand fast for ever and ever" (Psalm 111:8); for they are the principles of the character of God. To aid the student in comprehending these principles, and in entering into that relation with Christ which will make them a controlling power in the life, should be the teacher's first effort and his constant aim. The teacher who accepts this aim is in truth a co-worker with Christ, a laborer together with God. --Ellen White, "Education," pp. 28-30.

### **The Antidote for Formalism**

"The righteousness which Christ taught is conformity of heart and life to the revealed will of God. Sinful men can become righteous only as they have faith in God, and maintain a vital connection with Him. Then true godliness will elevate the thoughts and ennoble the life. Then the external forms of religion accord with the Christian's internal purity. Then the ceremonies required in the service of God are not meaningless rites, like those of the hypocritical Pharisees." -*The Desire of Ages*, 310.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.



# ***NORTH KOREA***

## *The Other Iraq*

Just over a year ago, President George W. Bush, named three nations as a part of his "axis of evil"—Iran, Iraq, and North Korea.<sup>1</sup>

The president has made it clear that he is determined to tame and oust Sadaam Hussein, the Iraqi dictator who has been able to maintain an iron grip on his oil rich nation, in spite of the devastating 1991 Gulf War and numerous attempts by the CIA to have him assassinated. From the standpoint of the West—particularly the United States and Great Britain, he is too "ambitious," so to speak, in a region vital to United State's interests. That is, the Persian Gulf houses the world's two largest oil reserves—in Saudi Arabia and Hussein's own Iraq.

There may be a number of other reasons why the United States is bent on domesticating Iraq. One may be, as some speculate, that Junior Bush is anxious to settle a score and finish what his father did not do—get rid of the Iraqi dictator. We don't have the time or space to discuss all the reasons for the United States government's haste for an invasion, but suffice it to say that having a nation unfriendly to the West, with the possibility of nuclear capability and/or biological weapons in the Persian Gulf region, is not, from Bush's perspective, in its political, military, or economic best interest.

It is true that Israel has far more nuclear capabilities and a very strong military, but Israel controls the Western region of the

Middle East and is very friendly with the United States. Israel is America's staunchest of allies in the Middle East. So controlling the Gulf is crucial to America's concerns. Some call it imperialism. Other call it good international politics.

Whatever one may term it, there is another booby-trapped challenge for American foreign politics in the nation of North Korea—a situation as potentially volatile as Iraq, but more challenging. Potentially more troubling than Iraq you ask? How could that be? We all know that the Middle East is the world's notorious hot spot. But the war with North Korea could lead to escalation of a world war in the Middle East. How? Before we look at that we have to peruse history.

### **A Brief History.**

North Korea was gestated in the womb of what was one Korea, and birthed after World War II. Like the Middle East after World War I & II, and many Third World countries, Korea underwent a metamorphosis after the cessation of hostilities in 1945, but not for the better.

Its recorded history began in the 12th century B.C. when a Chinese scholar Ki-tze found a colony at Pyongyang.<sup>2</sup> In the 7th century A.D. the Silla Kingdom, aided by China, established rule over all of Korea. The Japanese occupied it during the late 16th century. By the late 17th century it had become a vassal state of China. In 1846 it accepted a commercial treaty with Japan.



Emboldened by its military victories with China, (1894-95) and Russia (1904-05). Japan eventually annexed the once hermit state in 1910.

During World War II, Korea was promised independence by the United States, Great Britain, and China at a conference in Cairo, Egypt, in 1943. After the major disputes between Russia and the United States, Korea was divided into two occupation zones—Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea, or North and South Korea respectively. After occupation troops were withdrawn, on June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. United States troops, led by General Douglas MacArthur stopped the invasion, but the war continued. Through a number of successes, failures, and ineffective truces between Communist forces and the West, North and South Korea remained as it had been before the invasion—divided along the 38th parallel. The Korean War ended in 1953 with the North making agreements with Russia and China for aid, and the South with the United States for mutual defense.

### **More Dangerous Than Iraq.**

Since becoming totalitarian, North Korea has remained a staunch Communist state and built a strong military program to the detriment and suffering of its people. So much so, that it has now taken center stage next to Iraq as the United States' enemy number two, having lethal nuclear potentials. Authorities believe that it could be the next target. In fact, as far as nuclear weapons go, it is arguably more dangerous than Sadaam Hussein's Iraq. It doesn't take much thought to see why. With a stunning February 5 declaration, North Korea

restarted its nuclear weapons program by resuming plutonium productions at its nuclear complex in Yongbyon; a clear violation of international treaties. United Nations nuclear inspector, Mohammed ElBaradei, said "he had no choice except to declare the North Koreans in breach."<sup>3</sup>

The concern is that the North Koreans now have ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States. To date they have not actually tested them, but the dread is that they have the capability. The missile threat is a three stage version Taepo Dong (TD-3) with a 9,300 mile range, able to strike any part of North America. That's right, anywhere in North America. Intelligence sources also say that a two-stage version (TD-2) could easily reach Alaska, Hawaii or California. No wonder Japan, easy reach for a North Korean missile, threatened to launch a military strike against its neighbor at the first signs that the proscribed state is getting ready to launch a nuclear attack.

There are no doubts that compared to Iraq, North Korea's nuclear program is far ahead and ready for its deadly work should God allow them to use it. In fact, officials warn that it has the ability to make several TD-2s and TD-3s in a matter of months. If nuclear spent-fuel rods that have been in storage are reprocessed into plutonium, those rods would provide the raw material for upwards of *half dozen weapons*—about one a month once the reprocessing plant is in full operation....That gives Mr. Bush a window of what one senior official said...was "a few weeks to a few months to decide if he wants to do something about Youngbyon."<sup>4</sup>

It more than likely means war, and a dreadful one.



## The Showdown Has Begun

So why is the U.S. more concerned about Iraq when North Korea is far superior in its nuclear capabilities and potential harm to Americans and its neighbors?

First of all, Kim Jong Il, President of North Korea, has emphatically declared that if the United Nations should decide to impose economic sanctions against it, his nation would consider that an "act of war." Secondly, Russia and China are devoted allies of N. Korea.

Imagine a confrontation between the United States, its treaty nation, South Korea, with North Korea, who has been salivating in hopes of dining on its southern counterpart. North Korea has always wanted the South back since its separation in 1948. It appears unlikely that with such a scenario, China and/or Russia would allow the West to conquer its Communist son without a fight. It COULD be World War II and the Korean War returned to life. The world would call it World War III, we would call it a fulfillment of prophecy. Of course, God alone knows the future and we cannot here predict how events will unfold, but the point is that the present crisis with North Korea is dangerous, has world implications and glimpses of the fulfillment of Scripture. How? We will look at that in just a moment. But for now let us go deeper into this matter of confrontation.

Again, why isn't the Bush Administration eager to attack Iraq and not North Korea? Because Iraq appears to be an easier adversary than North Korea. As just stated, a war with this nation has monstrous repercussions. It would affect Japan, South Korea, China, and possibly the Philippines

and Indonesia. The entire Far East and Indochina could be destabilized, and old, bitter hatreds could be aroused.

A third reason is that a military strike on Yongbyon's nuclear complex could send radioactive pollution around the Korean Peninsula, affecting millions including South Koreans just across the border who are friendly to the West.

No wonder President Bush has repeatedly said: "that the United States has no intention of invading North Korea."<sup>5</sup> However, according to *The New York Times*, Republican national security experts have argued that "Mr. Bush cannot permit North Korea to have a significant nuclear arsenal... 'It's fair to say that there is a broad assumption in the administration now that Kim Jong Il is out to produce his weapons as fast as he can... We hope they can be dissuaded by diplomacy, pressure from us and from China and from Russia. But there are no guarantees any of that will work.' "<sup>6</sup> No guarantees?

What is the administration doing to meet this political quagmire? They are deploying more troops and bombers to the region in hopes of deterring any opportunism while the United States may be involved with a war with Iraq. In other words, a ready force to make the first strike.

## Prophecy Must Be Fulfilled.

Although prophecy does not mention North Korea specifically, but could it be that it is included in the ten horns of the Scarlet Colored Beast, which we know from Inspiration are "Communist or Communist-like powers?"<sup>7</sup> We will have to wait and see, but let us remember that Revelation 17:16 tells us: "And the ten horns



[civil powers] which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall **hate the whore**, [apostate—counterfeit religion] and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire."

"That the woman riding the beast symbolizes the world in this day and age is evident from the fact that the 10 horns, the civil powers that be during the reign of Babylon, hate the woman, the Church. **Communism being the only worldwide ruling power since the world began to hate religion, the Church, is itself solid proof that the 10 horns are symbolical of Communism...**"<sup>8</sup>

"God, therefore, for the sake of His own will puts in the heart [Rev. 17:17] of the **Communists, or Communist-like powers** (the ten horns of the scarlet-colored beast who hate the woman, hate religion, as does Communism) to "give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled." Rev. 17:17."<sup>9</sup> Brackets added.

For further evidence, note carefully what verses 9 and 10 of Revelation 18 tells us: "And the kings of the earth who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning."

What does this mean? Note that the kings who are crying for the woman [apostate religion], cannot be the same crownless kings or horns in Revelation 17:16 who destroy her!

The Lord's servant put it this way: "The lamentation of the 'kings' shows that they are sympathetic toward her, while the horns hate her. 'The kings,' therefore, cannot be those who are symbolized by the beast's crownless horns, **but rather those who are symbolized by**

**the crowned horns of the leopard-like beast.**"<sup>10</sup> Of course, the crowned kings of the leopard-like beast are Democratic. (See 12 TR 54, 55).

The evidence clearly reveals that the 10 horns of the Scarlet-colored beast of Revelation 17 are "Communists or Communists-like powers" because the kings who are crying for the woman must be Capitalist kings or so-called Democratic rulers who lived deliciously with her. That is, they profited from religion. Verse 11 mentions the "merchants" who mourned for her, showing that they are Capitalists. Thus, the kings who destroyed her hated religion, but the ones who mourned for her loved religion!

But you ask, how did the Communists kings gain the political upper hand? Is not America and the other Western nations Capitalists, or Democratic, and don't they now lead the world? Now we come to the heart of the matter. Yes, the United States and her Allies now dominate the world's political seat of power. But a change is coming. How? Inspiration's own answer to this key question: "Just how this is to come about, I do not know; but I do know that **the greatest of all wars is to be fought about the holy land.**"<sup>11</sup>

It is true that Communism will not rule the world as such. It will appear about to "dominate the world's seat of government,"<sup>12</sup> but it will not. It is true that the next world government will be ecclesiastical—a rule where church and state are combined but ruled by religion. Nonetheless, Communism will gain the political upper hand after the fall of the West, enough to become the "kings" of the scarlet-colored beast and surrender their power to the church-state system. (Rev. 17:12, 13, 17).



Will North Korea be included as a part of the 10 horns of the scarlet-colored beast? Only time will tell, but as we did not see it before, we can certainly see how it COULD be now. We also can see just how possible it is for a war in the Middle East and a war in the Far East can become the "greatest of all wars." Then its true, the Cold War never really ended.

### References

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5. *Ibid.*
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## FROM THE GOLDEN BOWL

Victor T. Houteff

### STORM CLOUDS

"The signs round about us unmistakably warn that thick black clouds the globe around are consolidating to pour down upon a shelterless world the most terrific storm since time began. To all who have an ear to hear and an eye to see, the signs of the times reveal that we are fast coming face to face with the "time of trouble such as never was." Daniel 12:1.

"A clear grasp of the terrible potential of the weapons now available, can leave no doubt of the global peril....

"To us (Seventh-day Adventists) in particular, the meaning of what we see around us should be window-clear, making manifest that the time has now come for every church member to engage in proclaiming the Three Angels' Messages. There are, moreover, thousands of pastoral posts now waiting to be filled by both graduates and undergraduates of Seventh-day Adventists ministerial colleges. So let no one with such qualification any longer be found either standing idle or engaging in secular occupation while the Lord's work languishes and waits.

"At this very hour millions without hope are wasting and withering away, perishing in the fields of sin, and on the fields of battle, because no one has won them to Christ with the everlasting gospel. Who will go for them? Who has the vision, the heart, and the will to go out in the rescue of humanity for Christ?...

"All who respond to the spirit's call now at this late hour will acutely realize that they have no time to waste on getting and spending and laying waste their powers; no time to waste on anything. Their only goal will be to finish the task assigned them by Him Who calls them to go to work in His vineyard. They will be fully conscious that there is a city prepared for them, a city whose builder and maker is God, and that ere long, therein, their whole being shall thrill to the triumphant acclaim:

" 'The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him.' " Ps. 50:1-3. -WHR



# *FIELD HIGHLIGHTS*

## **A Southern Journey**

They all said good-bye to sisters Jane and Lori (not their real names) as they headed out the door. Jane was taking Lori to her car which was parked just a few miles from where they had attended the Bible Study. The plan was to take Lori to retrieve her car then Jane would return home after having two Bible studies. It was cold for that time of year, even for Murfreesboro, a southern city not used to extremely cold winters. But this year, the South as well as the north had been hard hit by Old Man Winter.

The little Tennessee flock was happy to know that Jane had come in spite of freezing temperatures, and what had happened the day before in church. What happened the day before? This is a general description of what took place.

"Is that the man who's going to give the study this afternoon?" Jane asked Lori, referring to the visiting Bible Worker, Brother Sam (not his real name).

"Yes," Sr. Lori replied. Jane looked horrified—scared. "I'm not coming if he's teaching," she said. "Why?" Lori asked, puzzled. Jane had not known Sam previously, but for some reason or another she was petrified to attend the Bible study.

The following day, Sunday, she suddenly called and said that she was on her way. Pleasantly surprised, the group happily awaited her arrival. Thank God she did come and listened to two subjects presented by Br. Sam. Everyone was surprised when Sr. Jane not only listened to

the studies, but did so comfortably, and eagerly participated in discussion not only about the Bible but even other subjects as well. It seemed as if whatever caused her fear the day before had not only completely disappeared but reversed.

So it was one of those good-byes when Jane and Lori went through the door. One of those good-byes that leaves you with the conviction that God had worked a miracle for someone else to get the message. You know what that feels like—don't you? Well, that's how that little flock felt.

But then, about twenty minutes later, Sr. Jane pulled up in the driveway, parked, then frantically and somewhat disheveled hurried back to the house.

The brethren became concerned. "Is everything all right?" someone asked. "I just couldn't stay away," Jane said. "I had to come back."

This was one of a number of events that took place along a *six thousand mile* journey through the South by Br. Sam. It started out in New York, but began in earnest in western Florida. He then moved down the coast, crossed over the southeast portion of the state near Miami, then to central Florida and on to Georgia, eastern Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, back to eastern Tennessee, on to Arkansas, western Tennessee, and back to New York, visiting the little flocks of believers and encouraging them as well as presenting the message to those who have never heard it. A recurring theme was, "you came just in



time" or "you came at the right time." This was a clear sign that God had worked everything out. Indeed He had.

Time will not permit much detail, but the following are just some tidbits of the working of the Holy Spirit.

The reason for the trip in the first place was that Sam was invited by a Davidian family to preach (among other things) in a church in western Florida. This couple had such a positive influence upon the pastor of their home church, that he was willing, knowingly to allow a Davidian to preach. Thanks to the Lord, the sermon went well. Other contacts were made and the pastor agreed to study the message.

While spending a few days with a very kind family in Dalton, Georgia, and studying often times from morning into the night, a prominent SDA elder came over with the intention of having a Bible study. He was aware that he would be studying the Shepherd's Rod, but for some reason or another became completely "unglued" when Br. Sam requested that they begin the study.

"Oh no," the elder said trembling. "You're going to brainwash me."

He then jumped to his feet and back-peddled toward the door with hands raised and mumbling as if he were about to be attacked. He was so nervous that he backed into a lit kerosene heater and nearly tumbled over it. He would have surely landed on his back, if not his head had not someone cried out just in time for him to catch his balance. But that did not stop his speedy trek to the door—and was he ever anxious to get outside and into his car.

Stunned, the family proclaimed, "he had never done that before! He's usually calm and composed."

They decided to pray. Two hours later the elder came back. He was a different person. He calmly listened to a Bible study as if nothing had ever happened.

In eastern Tennessee, Br. Sam spent over a week there studying from morning to night with a couple who heard the message from—listen to this—an orthodox Jewish man who could barely speak English and who had recently arrived from Israel. They believe that he was Seventh-day Adventist, but like none other they had ever seen.

He just came to Br. Lon, handed him a tape and a tract, then said, "here take these. This is what you need." And indeed, it was what Lon had been searching for. He ordered more literature and tapes and Sam left him actively studying the message.

Beside sharing with the faithful and long-standing Davidian group in South Carolina...such a joyous experience,...Br. Sam also stayed with a family in North Carolina, where it was his privilege to see about five new people embrace the truth.

In Arkansas, Sam visited another long-standing family of believers, gave a health study in the church to several of the members, and made contact with another family who is now showing interest in the message. Time does not permit us to mention specifics about the other believers or groups and brethren he visited in Miami, Boynton Beach, Clarmont, Orlando, and Ocala, Florida. And of course, our devoted group in Atlanta, Georgia. "*Truly the harvest is great but the laborers are few.*"



# FAMILY MATTERS

## Single Parents:

Often, mothers are single parents, although today men, also find themselves in this most difficult role.

The life of a single parent can be tough at the very best. It was never (and still is not) God's ideal. But because of sin these and like situations exist. This article focuses on the two most difficult aspects of single parenting:

1. Disciplinary measures
2. Managing time

"Mothers, who have so many burdens to bear, you see your children going astray, and you feel your lack of wisdom and strength to lead them the right way. Jesus says to you, 'Come.' Sisters [and brothers] who have your burdens to bear, of care and perplexity, so much so that you often feel that life is a burden, let me say to you, The Burden-bearer, the Majesty of Heaven, has invited you to come unto him. Come, he says, unto me, and lay your burdens upon me. —*Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald*.

## DISCIPLINE

It's true that all parents face a variety of disciplinary challenges. Single parents, however, face many unique challenges when it comes to discipline.

"The paramount objective of discipline, is to train the child for self government. He or she should be taught self reliance and self control." —*Child Guidance*, p. 223.

## Reward or Punishment

Punishment is a measure or method a parent, guardian, or teacher uses to teach discipline to a child, so that the child learns to behave properly by autonomy or self-control. Other effective disciplinary measures in training children are rewards, reinforcement, consistency, example setting, and praise.

## REWARD OR PUNISHMENT, WHICH?

Some parents feel that a reward system is most effective in encouraging good behavior. Other parents reject rewarding a child for doing what she is supposed to do, instead they believe the child should simply be punished for unacceptable behavior.

Actually there is no "either/or" magic formula. Punishments and rewards can work or fail depending on a given situation, the child's temperament and relationship to the one employing the disciplinary action, and the degree of consistency in applying disciplinary methods. Teaching your child to desire to do what they are supposed to do can more readily be achieved by following a natural progression and using elements of each appropriate method of disciplinary training.

- Clearly state your expectation. It's time to prepare for bed. "Stop whatever you're doing, brush your teeth and pick out a story book."
- If your child responds positively to your direction, reward him with acknowledgment and praise (rather than a treat



or prize). "You did a great job of getting ready for bed. Thank you for being such a big boy and making bedtime more enjoyable for both of us!"

- Affectionate "rewards" such as hugs, kisses, increase your child's self-esteem and motivation, encouraging him to want to succeed and please you and himself.
- If your child refuses or ignores your request, then a clear warning should be given immediately. "I'm reminding you just this one time to get ready for bed."

If the warning is not heeded, then quickly enforce your instruction with appropriate punishment. "There will not be time for a bedtime story this evening since you chose not to get ready for bed when I asked you to." Or "there will be no movie before bedtime tomorrow night since you did not listen when I asked you to get ready for bed tonight."

When a child learns that you mean what you say, she will begin to understand that it feels good to both of you when she pleases you by listening and following directions, and not so good when she doesn't. Having your approval and a peaceful loving response will become all the reward your child desires for herself—and that's win-win discipline.

"If you want the blessings of God, parents do as did Abraham. Repress the evil, and encourage the good. Some commanding may be necessary in the place of consulting with your child's pleasures and inclinations." *Child Guidance*, p. 234.

Reward and punishment may be necessary.

**Count to 3 - an Effective Disciplinary Measure**

According to Dianne Phelan, in her book, *Training Your Child To Do What You Want*, you must first rid yourself of an erroneous idea about children known as the "little adult assumption." Kids are not little adults; they are kids. Explanations, persuasions, and logical reasoning usually have little or no effect on children. They simply do not respond to reasons and explanations like adults do.

**Second**, you must determine if you have a *stop-behavior* problem, such as arguing, tantrums, and teasing, or if you have a *start-behavior* problem, such as going to or rising from bed, eating, and doing homework or chores. The 1-2-3 counting system is used to deal with *stop-behavior* problems like whining, arguing, temper tantrums and the like. It is not used to get children to clean their room, rake the leaves, or finish their homework.

**Third**, remember that children often feel small and inferior because they are smaller and inferior to adults. Therefore, if they can arouse an emotion in parents, such as anger, excitement, or some other feeling, they have "scored" with an adult. They often enjoy the temporary power the emotions and attention that "scoring" bring.

When using the 1-2-3 disciplinary measure: You count, just that. You don't interject emotional tirades such as "Look at me when I'm talking to you: or "Just wait until you see what we are going to do about this temper tantrum."

You don't participate in arguments. You merely count to three, then start time-out. When you continue to talk, argue, or show emotions, your child does not realize that continued testing and manipulation is useless. Until he realizes that it is useless,



he will continue to try something that has worked at times in the past.

Try this! Instead of your usual routine, try giving one explanation, if necessary, then start to count. Don't give further reasons, start to argue, get frustrated or mad. Just start to count. If the behavior has not stopped by the count of three, the child gets the appropriate time-out period: about one minute for each year of his life. Then he or she is allowed to return to the family *and no one* brings up what happened unless the behavior is repeated or it is absolutely necessary.

In other words, don't argue or explain when a rule is being enforced; they don't soothe.

"Tell your children exactly what you require of them. Then let them understand that your word is law and must be obeyed. Thus you are training them to respect the commands of God." —*Child Guidance*, p. 225.

## **Managing Time**

### **Push Past Procrastination**

#### **Stress Management: How to break the habit of putting things off.**

Obviously, being a parent means being incredibly busy. Single parents have to handle their stressful, busy lives, singlehandedly. Learning to manage stress is crucial for any single parent who wants to improve upon, or at least maintain, whatever level of sanity they possess. If you procrastinate, you are only adding to your already heavy load, causing yourself (and others!) undue stress. Do you often find yourself complaining like this? TIME! TIME!

TIME! I have too much to do! I hate having to do this! I don't know how to get started! DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

Time and energy restrict how much you can do in a given day. The constant demands of your single parent lifestyle, family, work, and even play can contribute to procrastination. Because your resources are stretched very thin, assessing the areas in your life where you are truly procrastinating can be difficult. It can be hard to discern lack of time from lack of desire. There are many reasons for procrastination. Paying attention to these common causes for delay or avoidance can help you decide how to approach tasks or decisions you need to confront.

There are big and little steps you can take to push through your procrastination. Take action and the benefits will be huge. You spend an amazing amount of energy and emotion feeling guilty over undone chores, shelved projects, or constantly debated decisions. What's even more amazing is that once you get started with doing the task, you feel so relieved of that guilt, that you gain both time and peace of mind. Bonus... your family will be happier too!

### **The Trick of Getting Started**

Some projects get put on hold because you don't know how much time it will take to finish. Maybe you think it will take days to clean the garage, or sew new window treatments, so you delay getting started. Devote an uninterrupted block of time to your endeavor. Set a timer, block out distractions (use answering machine, turn off the TV or computer) and get to work.

**What you'll learn about that project:**



- The job took less time than you thought and you finished with a new reality of how much time it really requires, as in "Wow, that only took 40 minutes to complete!"
- When your time is up, you aren't finished, but you can see that it won't take much longer. You're excited about this progress and can decide if you want to keep going and finish, or arrange your schedule to fit in the time you now know you'll need to complete the project.
- It's a big project and you'll need much more time to finish. What percentage can be done in one hour? This helps you figure out how much time it will realistically take to finish. You've made progress, you got a head start, and now you can plan when to spend the time needed to complete it.
- Forget about doing everything perfectly.
- Make pro and con lists when facing a tough decision.

In fact, making lists is a great way to get started on just about any task, decision or project, just don't let your momentum stop there!

Taking even the smallest steps forward will help you form a new habit of taking action instead of making excuses. You will find your life becoming easier with the completion of each task on your list. You will begin to see the rewards of your work: more energy, ability to FOCUS and function on a higher level, relief from the extra stress, and a feeling of fulfillment.

Parents, come to Jesus with your perplexities. You will find sufficient grace to aid you is the management of your children. The gates are open to every mother who will bring her burdens to the feet of Jesus.

(Except where indicated, information was adapted from various sources including: *Single Parenting*, by Dianne Prater, Web site, Parent World). □

## Free Yourself From Your Mental Roadblocks

Procrastination is a head game and a bad habit. Why burden yourself by carrying around that heavy mental list of things you need to do but just don't want to face doing? You can lighten your load considerably by recognizing and pushing past your procrastination. Decide to act, do something to get started on your task and you will immediately feel the stress and guilt of inactivity ease its grip on you. Here are some first steps you can take.

- Break your task down if it's overwhelming.
- Seek out the information you need for making decisions.
- Ask for help or direction with your project.
- Try to FOCUS on one aspect at a time.

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

"Every family should rear its altar of prayer, realizing that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. If any persons in the world need the strength and encouragement that religion gives, it is those who are responsible for the education and training of children....Fathers, mothers, you need to seek God morning and evening at the family altar, that you may learn how to teach your children wisely, tenderly, lovingly. —*Child Guidance*, 517.



# THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

## Overeating: The New Smoking

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), overeating, like smoking, is directly involved in the incidence of breast, colon, lung, throat, stomach, uterus and possibly prostate cancer.

As a results of these findings this organization has issued new guidelines

- Eat mainly plant foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and sharply limit red meat, sweets, white bread and refined grains.
- Get enough exercise—30 to 45 minutes each day.
- Lose weight and keep it off.

No this may not be easy to do. It can be very hard to resist eating so much when there's a vending machine, snack cart, or super-sized fast-food joint waiting at every turn, not to mention that constant advertising drone urging us to eat, eat, eat. And the results are obvious—2 of every 3 adults in the United States are overweight.

Nevertheless, you can eat less and lose weight says Marion Nestle, Ph.D., cochairperson of the committee that wrote the new guidelines. What we need she notes is a major mind shift. "You need to realize you're living in a world of constant enticement to overeat, something that's never happened in human history before," she laments.

Dr. Nestle, who heads the nutrition department at New York University, says, "In this toxic environment, you've got to learn to start eating defensively." Here are her 3 basic strategies for defensive eating.

- Eat at meals only. No more snacking in between.
- Decide before you go to a restaurant how much you'll eat. These days, that probably means eating about one-third of what you're served. In a recent study, Dr. Nestle found that restaurant servings of French fries, entrees, sodas, and other foods are now 2 to 5 times larger than they were in the 1970s.
- If you do give in to temptation, skip the next meal. Certainly, you'll feel hungry if you do this. Here's what Tim Byers, MD, the other cochairperson of the ACS guidelines says about this: "A little hunger is not a bad thing." (Comment: Drink some water instead. Most of us do not get enough).

Eating less lowers the risk of dying of cancer as much as giving up cigarettes. Even a family history of cancer doesn't come close. Here are the statistics according to the American Cancer Society, 2002:

Percentage of cancer deaths caused by....

- Obesity/bad diet - 30 percent
- Tobacco - 30 percent
- Family history of cancer - 5 percent

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— Adapted from *Prevention*, Aug. 2002.



Overeating is indeed a major problem in our culture. Even Seventh-day Adventists and Davidians have problems here. Consider what the *Spirit of Prophecy* has to say regarding this most important health and spiritual issue:

“When Christ accepted invitations to feasts and gatherings, He did not partake of all the food offered Him, but quietly ate of that which was appropriate for His physical necessities, avoiding the many things that he did not need. His disciples were frequently invited with Him, and His conduct was a lesson to them, teaching them not to indulge appetite by **overeating** or by eating improper food. He showed them that portions of the food provided could be passed by and portions chosen.” 7 *Manuscript Releases*, p. 412.

“Even if you are strict in the quality of your food, do you glorify God in your bodies and spirits which are His, by partaking of such a quantity of food? Those who place so much food upon the stomach and thus load down nature, could not appreciate the truth should they hear it dwelt upon. They could not arouse the benumbed sensibilities of the brain to realize the value of the atonement and the great sacrifice that has been made for fallen men. It is impossible for such to appreciate the great, the precious, and the exceedingly rich reward that is in reserve for the faithful overcomers. The animal part of our nature should never be left to govern the moral and intellectual ” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 47.

“O how many are low in the scale of spirituality, because they will not deny their appetite! The brain nerve energy is benumbed and almost paralyzed by **overeating**. When such go to the house of

God upon the Sabbath, they cannot hold their eyes open. The most earnest appeals fail to arouse their leaden, insensible intellects. The truth may be presented with deep feeling; but it does not awaken the moral sensibilities, or enlighten the understanding. Have such studied to glorify God in all things?” *Ibid.* p. 63.

**Gluttony**...we don't hear that word too much any more, but here is the definition, according to the dictionary: “The habit or act of eating too much.” Here again let us hear what Inspiration offers:

“Nearly all the members of the human family eat more than the system requires. This excess decays and becomes a putrid mass....If more food, even of a simple quality, is placed in the stomach than the living machinery requires, this surplus becomes a burden....

“The word of God places the sin of gluttony in the same catalogue with drunkenness....

“Many who discard flesh meats and other gross and injurious articles think that because their food is simple and wholesome they may indulge appetite without restraint, and they eat to excess, sometimes to gluttony. This is an error. The digestive organs should not be burdened with a quantity or quality of food which it will tax the system to appropriate.”

“As a people, with all our profession of health reform, we eat too much. Indulgence of appetite is the greatest cause of physical and mental debility, and lies at the foundation of a large share of the feebleness which is apparent everywhere.” *CDF*, pp. 131-142. (Please read these pages for more information on this important issue).



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q:** Is it proper for me to pass out Rod literature inside the Church?

**A:** According to Inspiration, it is not wise. For the benefit of the questioner, we have reprinted this reference from the old *Symbolic Codes*.

"To Those Standing in the Light: Complaints have come to us that some of our people, in their zeal for spreading the message, have been passing out present truth literature inside the SDA churches, talking to church members during preaching, etc. and thus distract and disturb.

"Our past experience has taught us not to believe all we hear. Nevertheless, we forewarn the friends of present truth to be very careful, for it is possible to cast reproach on Christ by casting reproach on the message, and also causing others to stumble over your unwise judgment. Therefore we ask all who are interested in spreading present truth to refrain from passing out any literature on the church premises or speaking during preaching. The sidewalks belong to the public; you can meet your friends there." *Symbolic Code, Vol. 1, No. 15, p. 9 [127]*.

**Q:** Is there any way of knowing when or about how long it will be before the slaying of Ezekiel 9 or the actual purification of the SDA church takes place?

**A:** We have no idea how long it will be before the sinners from the midst of us, as a people, are taken away as shown to Ezekiel, but we know that when the message has reached the church as a body, and every one has decided for or against it, *then the*

*slaughter will immediately take place."* *Symbolic Code, vol. 2, No. 1, p. 8,9, [166, 167]*.

"And just as soon as this message reaches every church member, just that soon will the purification take place." 1 TG.12:26.

"I have been asked to give a study on current events, on the Palestine situation, and on the separation caused by the slaughter that is forecast in Ezekiel's vision.

"I wish that I could tell you all that you want to know, but I cannot say how soon the separation, the purification of the church (*Testimonies, Vol. 5:80*), will take place. God alone knows the time. All I know is that it cannot take place before we prepare the way, before our God-given work in connection with Ezekiel 9 is done. Then it will come to pass that the Lord will suddenly come to His temple (the church) and purify the sons of Levi, the ministry, (*Mal. 3:1-3*). But those who receive not the mark will fall under the slaughter weapons of the angels as did the unfaithful 'first born' in the night of the Passover in the land of Egypt.

"I am, however, certain that God will not keep us ignorant of the things we ought to know. If it becomes necessary for us to know ahead of time the day and hour of the purification of the church, the antitypical Passover, we will be told. Yes, we shall know at least as much in advance as Moses knew about the Passover in his day. He did not know months ahead the day and hour of the events that were then to take place, but he was instructed of his and of the people's duties and of what to expect from day to day." 2 TG.41:3.

**Q:** Please explain Matthew 24:21 ("For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not



since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”) and Daniel 12:1 (“And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.”); i.e., if the tribulation of Matthew took place in the period of the 1260 years of papal supremacy, which event is in the past, and the time of trouble, foretold by Daniel, in the future, how could I harmonize Matthew’s record with that of Daniel, for Matthew writes that there will be no grater tribulation than the one from 538 to 1798 A.D., while Daniel claims that the time of trouble is to be greater than any “since there was a nation.”

**A:** “It is true that in the eyes of a surface reader Matthew contradicts Daniel and Daniel contradicts Matthew, but when the student of prophecy is led by the Spirit of God, Who dictated the Scriptures, he sinks the shaft deep into the mine of truth, for he knows that the Scriptures in themselves are in perfect harmony.

“Speaking of the tribulation, says the scripture: ‘Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved,’ i.e., God’s people would have been completely wiped out from the face of the earth had it not been for the never failing promise: ‘But for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened’ (Matt. 24:22), whereas in the time of trouble Michael will stand up to deliver every one that shall be ‘found written in the book.’ In other words, during the time of the tribulation the righteous were killed and the wicked delivered, whereas in the time of trouble the righteous will be delivered and the wicked killed. Therefore, the tribulation and the time of trouble are two outstanding events, each one being the greatest of its kind in the annals of prophetic history—one the greatest against the righteous and the

other the greatest against the wicked. Thus we see that, both Matthew and Daniel are correct—showing that each event is the greatest of its kind.

“As the tribulation is the greatest ‘since the beginning of the world,’ it shows that there has never been as great a tribulation against God’s people as there was during the above stated period; and as Jesus said that there never shall be the like, He assures us that God will not permit the wicked after 1798 A.D., to again ‘wear out the saints,’ whereas the time of trouble, says Daniel, is the greatest ‘since there was a nation,’ showing that the deluge was either greater or equal to it, also that the time of trouble could be followed by a greater one, for He says, ‘even to that same time’ instead, ‘nor ever shall be.’

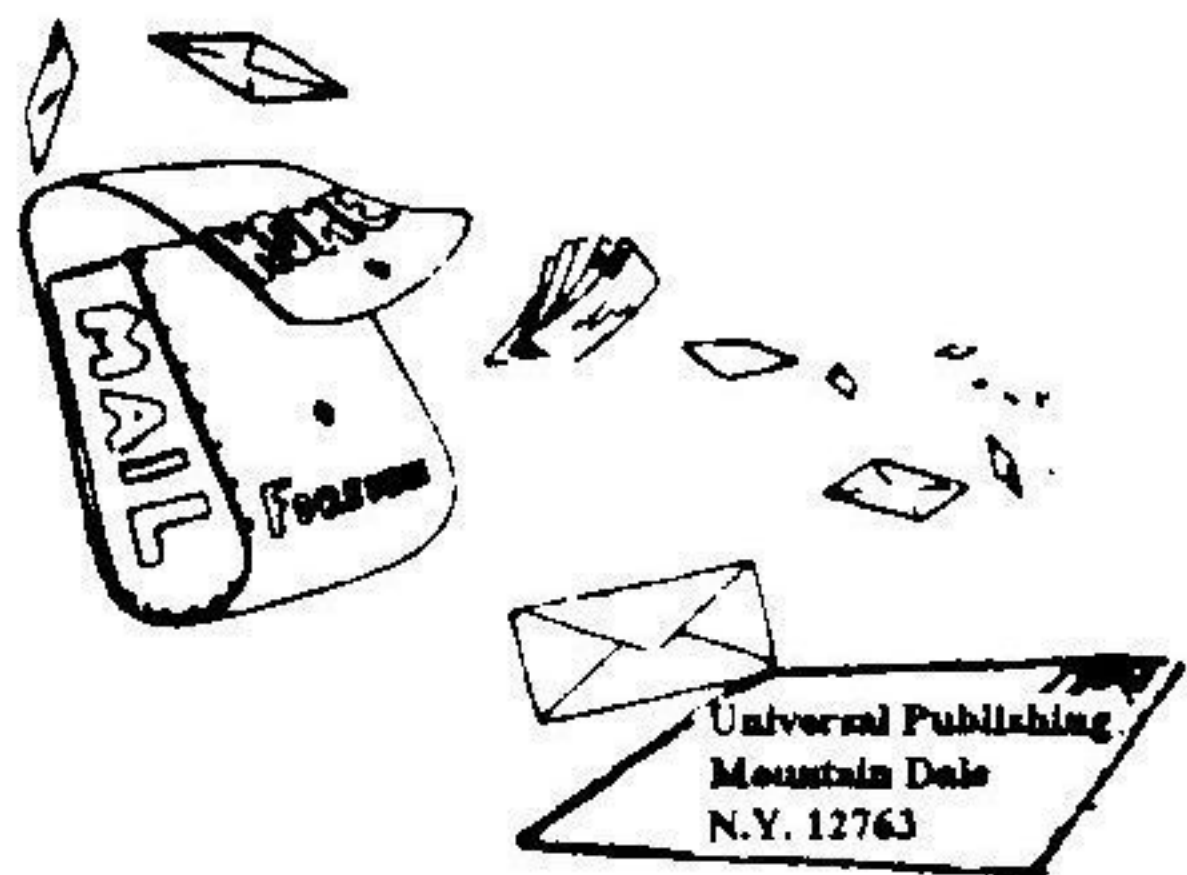
“Thus we see that when we take into consideration the meaning of each word instead of making thoughtless and hasty conclusions, the Scriptures prove to be not only most perfect and wonderful and yet simple, but also inspiring, making wise the humble—and lightening the path of him who as did Christ, delights to do the will of God.

“David by personal experience said: ‘O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy Testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. (Ps. 119:97-100).” *Symbolic Code, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 3,4 [171,172].*

**Note:** Numbers in brackets [ ] following a Symbolic Code reference indicate Blue Symbolic Code top page numbers, for easy locating.



# THE MAIL BAG



Dear Brethren:

This is to inform you that I have received my package and am indeed very thankful. I would also like to have a package of the *Timely Greetings*, and I would like also on the same note, to enroll in the correspondence course you have in circulation. I think it would be beneficial to me if I received the very first series. Thank you in advance and God bless.

**St. Lucia, West Indies**

Dear Brethren:

I am \_\_\_\_\_, a teacher and an Adventist. In our church I am currently serving as Sabbath School teacher and leader of the Prophetic Band or department. I listened to one of your messages on tape from a friend entitled, "*The Great Multitude*." It was really inspiring. I would appreciate it if you would allow me to subscribe and send me messages on prophecy and other lessons. Thank you.

**Zambia, Central Africa**

To the Universal Publishing Association:

I am hereby requesting you as a ministry to send me free Bible lessons or materials such as books, audio tapes, etc. I am looking forward to having these things from you with a purpose of revival and reformation vital to any SDA member. Please if available send me this material very soon. I will be waiting patiently.

**Zambia, Central Africa**

Dear Universal Publishing Association:

I received the information about the ministry of the *DSDA* from one of my friends. He told me that you sent him some cassettes and gospel papers such as the "*Timely Greetings*," "*The Shepherd's Rod*," etc. I read some of them and heard your spiritual cassettes. It pleased me. I spiritually stand with you very, very much...Please send me the cassettes, *Timely Greetings*, and other things that can help me to mature in faith.

**Ethiopia, East Africa**

Dear Publishers:

I am a SDA who lives in Ethiopia. I happened to come across several of your timely publications very recently and I am reading them studiously and insatiably. They found me in a worse than Laodicean state. They have turned my life around. I have read a few of the weeklies called "*Timely Greetings*," "*The Answerers 1 & 2*," and an excerpt of "*The White House Recruiter*." I want to be in



possession of all your publications of Inspiration.

### **Ethiopia, East Africa**

To Whom it May Concern:

I send you my address again to send me all the study lessons you have because I want to have a complete knowledge of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Please don't hold me back that long because I want to be one of those who will preach the third angel's message when it becomes the loud cry. But to do so I've got to have the knowledge....If you can, I would like to have all the study tapes you have, because there is no more time left. You need to hurry to send them to me please.

### **Florida, USA**

Dear Sirs:

Today I received two cassettes from your company. One is entitled "Zechariah 6," the other is "Revelation 7 (part 2)." Thank you for these wonderful tapes. The tape on "The Great Multitude" is most interesting to me. How can I listen to Part 1 of Revelation 7? Do you have it?

### **Missouri, USA**

E-mails Received:

Dear Friends:

Please send me all information on all topics. I am being misled by my fellow leaders, and I am finding out a lot, thanks

to some of my brothers and sisters who believe in the *Shepherd's Rod*. Please tell me where I can send my tithes.

### **Virginia, USA**

Dear Sirs:

I am an SDA and am really interested in your tapes and hope that I can receive them without delay. Thank you very much.

### **Illinois, USA**

To: Brother Tony:

In the time of trouble that comes....I won't be afraid. The Lord will be beside me, both night and day. I will do whatever it costs. Whatever I need to do...cause if I want to be his servant, I need to be good and true. He loves everyone. How do I know? He showed it by dying on the cross, and now I know He loves me so.... In His second coming... In the sky He'll take me. If you want to get closer to Him, prayer is the key. How did I get close to Him? I cannot say. Get close to Him while you can. There is no time to delay.

### **From Amber, age 10, Florida, USA**

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." -*Jude 24,25*



# TESTIMONY GEMS

To tell the story of how I came into this message is a long and difficult one, but I'll cut it down for you a bit. Well it actually starts twenty years ago when I first came in contact with the SDA message. I remember this day clearly. I was about eight years old and my family had just left "the spiritualist church." That's right, you see I was born in that God forsaken church, never having the opportunity to know the true God. But you see God always shows mercy to His dear little ones. My story is truly that of a brand plucked from the fire.

We left "the spiritualist church" due to both my parents having special dreams indicating to them they were not in the true church of God. Our household had suffered from rappings and other demonic demonstrations. It was then that both my parents decided to start praying and fasting for three days and nights.

On the third day of prayer, a dear colporteur knocked at our door selling Bibles. My mother was washing dishes and my oldest brother answered the door. My mom was not interested in buying a Bible, so my brother told the colporteur we were not interested. She then left. Within seconds my mother told us to go after the lady and find her. My brother found her and brought her back. Then my mother proceeded to let the sister know that she must give us Bible studies. The colporteur was much obliged but asked what was the change of heart. My mom explained our situation. When she knocked and was

turned away, my mother heard God ask her audibly why she was turning His messenger away, "I though you wanted to know my true church." With this the colporteur was satisfied.

You see that's how I first came to the truth. Unfortunately, due to my dad having some type of disappointment with the leadership, my family left the church when I was about ten years old.

It wasn't until I was seventeen years old that I started studying the Advent Message again. My mom had already returned and was determined to get me back in the path, but I was a stubborn young person and determined to live my life according to my own rules. So she invited my husband, who at that point was only my boyfriend, to study the SDA message. He immediately accepted while I gave him the list of NOs: the things that SDAs are not allowed to do. I didn't know at that point that my list of NOs actually made him excited. He said he had been empty and aching for something to fill his life and heart. He felt the call and answered it. So we proceeded to study. I started going back to church, got baptized, and decided that if I was going to be in the SDA message it was going to be forever.

But I felt something missing in my SDA experience, you see. My mom got me to go back through the Revelation seminar but I felt that there were too many unanswered questions and pieces of the puzzle that didn't fit.



After a year of being in the church, my boyfriend and I got married. Then those gaps in the message started becoming more noticeable, so I started praying. There were three things I asked for: faith, patience and truth. Let me tell you during that first year of marriage, after all the trials I passed through; I came in contact with this Present Truth message. And, providentially, do you know who brought the *Shepherd's Rod* to me? It was the dear colporteur who first brought us the SDA message. I don't think it was a coincidence. I think it was God's way of letting me know that He had heard my prayer. Sr. Maria C. gave me the SDA message and this beloved *Shepherd's Rod* message. And the most amazing thing is, I had lost complete contact with Sr. Maria until that fateful Sabbath when she came to our church and asked us if we would like prophetic studies. You see, I am a brand plucked from the fire, and am eternally grateful to God for having mercy on my soul. ||

## FROM THE GOLDEN BOWL

Victor T. Houteff

"With your eyes open wide to the word of God, your ears closed tight to hearsay, and your heart emptied clean of prejudice and preconception, take heed for your soul's sake to the trumpet call herein sounding. Settle it with your self once for all that since the old message, the judgment of the dead, is already being eclipsed by the new message, the judgment of the living, there is but one wise choice for one to make for his own sake and for the sake of others, and that is to come out fully in the open as one of the Lord's 11th hour

workers, and thus enable Him soon to disclose you to view before the whole world. Otherwise it will be but a little while, and you will have no message at all. Let your minds not be influenced by reports and hearsay. Heed the counsel:

"O that the Lord might guide you! You should never in a single instance allow hearsay to move you to action."  
—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 299.

"Never, never be influenced by reports."  
—*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 507.

"You may have been told that no good thing can come out of this place. So was Nathaniel told that no good thing came out of Nazareth. It is sensible, though to do as he did—to "come and see," and thus you, too, be "an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile. Refuse to be influenced by evil reports, hearsay, ridicule, and character defamation. Instead, faithfully use your own eyes, ears and mind. Then you will be as glad as was he, and how glad he was!"  
—*White-House Recruiter*, pp. 66,67.

"Wonderful possibilities are open to those who lay hold of the divine assurances of God's word. There are glorious truths to come before the people of God. Privileges and duties which they do not even suspect to be in the Bible will be laid open before them. As they follow on in the path of humble obedience, doing His will, they will know more and more of the oracles of God." Ellen White, —*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 322.

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." —*Jude 21*



# **NEWS IN PERSPECTIVE**

## **THE LAST CRISIS**

“We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

“The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. **Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones....**

“...I am instructed that when the Lord's time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God's appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law and for their selfish ambition....

“**The world is stirred with the spirit of war.** The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place....

“Not all in this world have taken sides with the enemy against God. Not all have become disloyal. There are a faithful few who are true to God; for John writes: ‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ Revelation 14:12. Soon the battle will be waged fiercely between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. Soon everything that can be shaken will be shaken, that those things that cannot be shaken may remain.

“Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth. It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. And Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. God's people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God's tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18. They are to take their stand on the living word: ‘It is written.’ This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely. Those who have broken their covenant with God will in that day be without God and without hope.

“The worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandment, since this is the sign of God's creative power and the witness to His claim upon man's reverence and homage. The wicked will be distinguished by their



efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial and to exalt the institution of Rome. In the issue of the conflict all Christendom will be divided into two great classes, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus and those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark. Although church and state will unite their power to compel all, 'both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,' to receive the mark of the beast, yet the people of God will not receive it. Revelation 13:16. The prophet of Patmos beholds 'them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God,' and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Revelation 15:2.

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming,—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—God's chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them."  
--Ellen White, *Testimonies, Vol. 9:11-17*, (excerpts).

### ***CONDITIONS IN THE CITIES***

"There is coming rapidly and surely an almost universal guilt upon the inhabitants of the cities because of the steady increase of determined wickedness. We are living in the midst of an 'epidemic of crime' at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud; every

day brings its heartsickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering; of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide.

"The cities of today are fast becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah. Holidays are numerous; the whirl of excitement and pleasure attracts thousands from the sober duties of life. The exciting sports—theatergoing, horse racing, gambling, liquor drinking and reveling—stimulate every passion to activity.

"The youth are swept away by the popular current. Those who learn to love amusement for its own sake open the door to a flood of temptations. They give themselves up to social gaiety and thoughtless mirth. They are led on from one form of dissipation to another, until they lose both the desire and the capacity for a life of usefulness. Their religious aspirations are chilled; their spiritual life is darkened. All the nobler faculties of the soul, all that link man with the spiritual world, are debased.

"From age to age the Lord has made known the manner of His working. When a crisis has come, He has revealed Himself and has interposed to hinder the working out of Satan's plans. With nations, with families, and with individuals He has often permitted matters to come to a crisis, that His interference might become marked. Then He has made it manifest that there is a God in Israel who will maintain His law and vindicate His people....

"In this time of prevailing iniquity we may know that the last great crisis is at hand."  
—*Ibid. 89-92, (excerpts).*



# Young World

## Are You The Prodigal?

“The lesson of the prodigal is given for the instruction of youth. In his life of pleasure and sinful indulgence, he expends his portion of the inheritance in riotous living. He is friendless, and in a strange country, clad in rags, hungry, longing even for the refuse fed to the swine. His last hope is to return, penitent and humbled, to his father’s house, where he is welcomed, forgiven, and taken back to a father’s heart. Many youth are doing as he did, living a careless, pleasure-loving, spendthrift life, forsaking the fountain of living waters, the fountain of true pleasure, and hewing out to themselves broken cisterns, which can hold no water.”

—*Messages to Young People*, p. 408.

## Be Careful What Materials You Read

“Young men and young women, read the literature that will give you true knowledge, and that will be a help to the entire family. Say firmly: ‘I will not spend precious moments in reading that which will be of no profit to me, and which only unfits me to be of service to others. I will devote my time and my thoughts to acquiring a fitness for God’s service. I will close my eyes to frivolous and sinful things. My ears are the Lord’s and I will not listen to the subtle reasoning of the enemy. My voice shall not in any way be subject to a will that is not under the influence of the Spirit of God. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and

every power of my being shall be consecrated to worthy pursuits.’ ”

—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7, p. 64.

“Satan knows that to a great degree the mind is affected by that upon which it feeds. He is seeking to lead both the youth and those of mature age to read story books, tales, and other literature. The readers of such literature become unfitted for the duties lying before them. They live an unreal life, and have no desire to search the Scriptures, to feed upon the heavenly manna. The mind that needs strengthening is enfeebled, and loses its power to study the great truths that relate to the mission and work of Christ,—truths that would fortify the mind, awaken the imagination, and kindle a strong, earnest desire to overcome as Christ overcame.” —*Messages to Young People*, pp. 271, 272.

## Consider The Places You Go

“The true Christian will not desire to enter any place of amusement or engage in any diversion upon which he cannot ask the blessing of God. He will not be found at the theater, the billiard hall, or the bowling saloon. He will not unite with the gay waltzers, or indulge in any other bewitching pleasure that will banish Christ from the mind.

“To those who plead for these diversions, we answer, We cannot indulge in them in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. The blessing of God would not be invoked upon the hour spent at the theater or in the dance. No Christian would wish to meet death in such a place. No one would wish to be found there when Christ shall come.” —*Messages to Young People*, p. 398.



## Are You Paying Your Dues?

“Honor the Lord With Thy substance. How much owest thou unto my Lord?” Shall we receive every blessing from the hand of God, and yet make no returns to Him,—not even in giving Him our tithe, the portion which He has reserved unto Himself? It has become customary to turn everything out of the true line of self-sacrifice into the path of self-pleasing. But shall we continually receive His favors with indifference, and make no response to His love?

“Will you not, dear youth, become missionaries for God? Will you, as you have never done before, learn the precious lesson of making gifts to the Lord by putting into the treasury of that which He has freely given you to enjoy? Whatever you have received, let a portion be returned to the Giver as a gratitude offering. A part should also be put into the treasury for the missionary work to be done both at home and abroad.” —*Message To Young People*, p. 306.

## Are You Modestly Dressed?

### True Adornment

“Many deceive themselves in thinking that good looks and a gay attire will gain for them consideration in the world. But the charms that consist only in the outward apparel are shallow and changeable; no dependence can be placed upon them. The adorning which Christ enjoins upon His followers will never fade. He says: ‘Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is

not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.’

“If half the time spent by the youth in making themselves attractive in outward appearances were given to soul-culture, to the inward adorning, what a difference would be seen in their deportment, words, and actions. Those who are truly seeking to follow Christ will have conscientious scruples in regard to the dress they wear; they will strive to meet the requirements of this injunction so plainly given by the Lord. The money now expended in extravagances in dress will be used for the advancement of the cause of God and in storing their minds with useful knowledge, thus qualifying themselves for positions of trust. They will seek to meet the expectations of Jesus, who has bought them at an infinite price.

“Dear children and youth, Jesus has done all in his power to give you a home in the mansions that are prepared for them that love and serve Him here. He left His heavenly home, and came to a world marred by sin,—came to a people who did not appreciate Him, who did not love His purity and holiness, who slighted His teachings, and finally put Him to a most cruel death. ‘God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ ” —*Messages to Young People*, p. 345-346.

Remember now thy Creator  
in the days of thy youth,  
while the evil days come not,  
nor the years draw nigh,  
when thou shalt say,  
I have no pleasure in them.

—Eccl. 12:1



# HOLDING THE FOUR WINDS

HURT NOT  
UNTIL WE HAVE SEALED  
THE SERVANTS OF OUR GOD



THE GREAT MULTITUDE  
REV. 7:9

THE FIRST FRUITS  
REV. 7:1-4

REV. 11:18

THE JUDGMENT OF THE DEAD

THE WRATH OF GOD

THE ANGER OF THE NATIONS

EW. p.36



# KIDS' CORNER

## CHART STUDY:

Read Revelation chapter 7, then, with the help of your parents answer the following questions.

1. Color the chart.
2. Identify who the winds are being held by. (Rev. 7:1)
3. State their number. (Rev. 7:1)
4. Where are they standing? (Rev. 7:1)
5. What do the winds represent? (Rev. 7:1-4)
6. Who gave the command to hold the winds? (Rev. 7:2)
7. Why are the winds being held back? (Rev. 7:2)
8. List the tribes of Israel that the 144,000 are sealed from. Say how many will be sealed from each tribe. (Rev. 7:4-8)
9. What follows the sealing of the 144,000? (Rev. 7:9-12)

UNSCRAMBLE THE FOLLOWING

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TTBLIIRUAON



## Rewrite The Following Sentence:

Each letter represents another letter.

Clues: **B = E**

**P = O**

AOB VPSI SBQZL VBA AOB BUSAO SBCPQTB.

### IT SHALL BE WELL WITH THEE

Be tranquil, O my soul,  
Be quiet every fear!  
Thy Father hath supreme control,  
And He is ever near.

Never of thy lot complain.  
Whatever may befall,  
Sickness or sorrow, care or pain,  
Tis well appointed all.

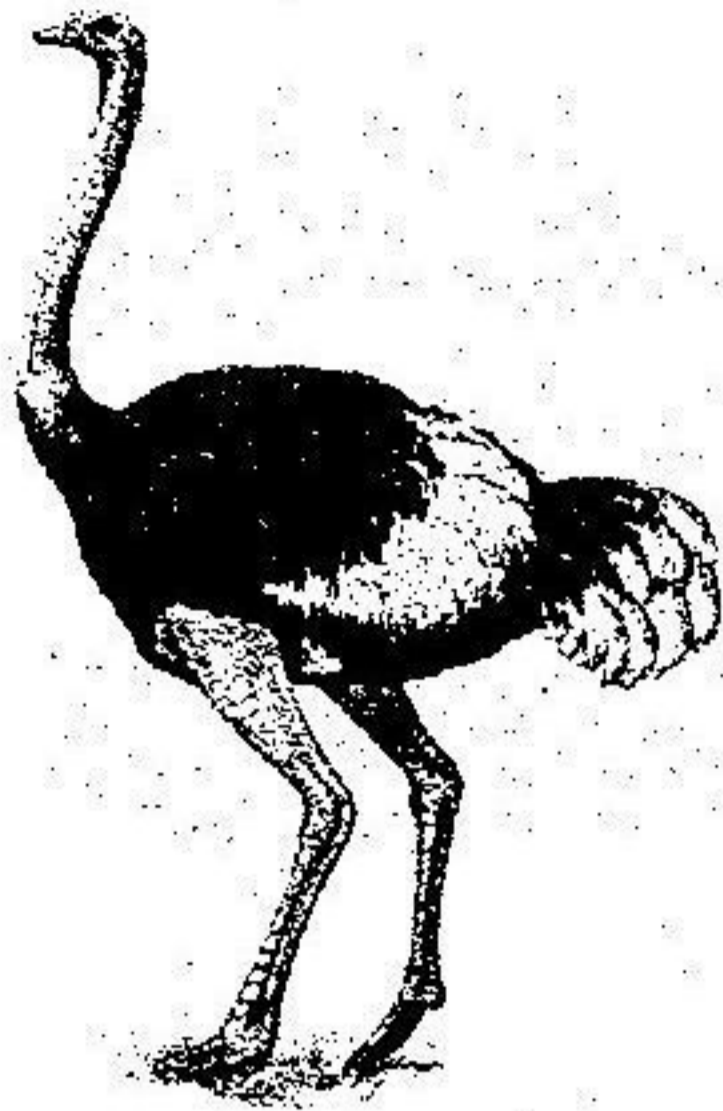
A Father's chastening hand  
Is leading thee along:  
Nor distant is the promised land,  
Where swells the immortal song.

O, then my soul, be still!  
Await heaven's high decree;  
Seek but to do thy Father's will,  
It shall be well with thee.

— *Thomas Hastings*



# NATURE'S PAGE



## THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BIRD

“Gavest thou...wings and feathers unto the ostrich?” What time she lifteth up herself on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider. Job 39:13; Job 39:18.

Yes, it is so big that it cannot fly. But don't let that fool you. It can run faster than a race horse and loves to hang out with zebras and the like. O yes, God made it so well that it can handle itself around the lions, hyenas and other great predators on the dramatic African plains.

- “The world's biggest bird, the ostrich, is the only bird with just two toes on each foot. The toes have sharp claws and a kick from an ostrich can be deadly.
- “With their soft downy plumage and bare necks, ostriches look rather comical and vulnerable as they strut around the savanna grasslands of Africa. But they can sprint at up to 35

mph (60 km/h)—faster than a race horse. Even when they are tired and cannot run any more, their leg muscles are so big and strong that they can turn around and kick like a mule—which is why they rarely fall prey to lions. The idea that ostriches bury their heads in the sand when they are afraid is a myth. It comes from the way that this bird moves its eggs around in the nest so that they stay evenly warm.”

### Lesson:

Let's appreciate His great wisdom and creative power even after 6,000 years of sin. “O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.” Ps. 104:24.

Further, If God can take care of the flightless ostrich on the wild and dangerous African savannahs, amidst leopards, lions, cheetahs and hyenas, can He not take care of us, His dear children.? O ye of little faith! Let us not be unduly afraid of terrorism. Let's therefore “Sanctify the LORD of host Himself” and let Him be our fear and dread. [Let's not sin against him].” Isaiah 8:13.

“**All** things both in heaven and in earth declare that the great law of life is a law of service. The infinite Father ministers to the life of every living thing. Christ came to the earth ‘as He that serveth.’ Luke 22:27. The angels are ‘ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.’ Hebrews 1:14. The same law of service is written upon all things in nature. The **birds** of the air, the beast of the field, the trees of the heavens and the stars of light—all have their ministry. Lake and ocean, river and water spring—each takes to give.” —*Education, 103.*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Convocation**

Yes, this is the year for our summer convocation! Make plans now to attend. We want to see you. You will be spiritually blessed and encouraged. Mark your calendars and come to Mountain Dale July 24<sup>th</sup> through July 27<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend so that we can arrange accommodations.

### **Sympathy**

We would like to remember Sr. Hillis Mitchell from Trinidad whose mother passed away February 3, 2003. Our prayers and sympathy are with her.

Another long standing member, Sr. Isolene Vernon, just lost her son suddenly. We know how difficult a time this must be for her and we extend our deepest sympathy.

### **It's a Girl**

A little bundle of joy in the form of Shiloh, arrived here at headquarters weighing in at 6 lbs, 8 ounces, on January 28, 2003. The mother, Sr. Cathy Johnson, and daughter are doing well and we wish them the best.

### **Reminder**

"A particular time on Firdays is to be set aside for Davidians world wide to pray unitedly at that set time." (August 1934, 1 S.C. 2:1) Article XVII, section 2 (g), page 47, Session 2000,) In harmony with this,

we would like to remind everyone that prayer time is 8:00 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, New York. Please remember to unite with us in prayer, especially in these troublous times.

### **Spanish charts**

Large charts are now available in Spanish. They are very attractive and the cost is the same as the English colored charts. The synthetic paper charts are \$115.00; the tyvek charts are \$221.00. An additional \$5.00 is charged for shipping.

### **Tapes/CD's**

Did you know that we have new Assyrian Confederacy tapes? That's right. Instead of the eight tapes, we now have them in a set of four, entitled "The Fall of Assyria." Also available on cassette are "The World Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow", (the beast studies) and "The Trial of the Millennium" (the Judgment and the Seven Seals).

Several individuals have asked us about the studies on CD and we are currently working on making these available in the near future.

### **Welcome**

A hardy welcome to Br. William Horne and his family who have come from New Mexico. Br. Horne is now on staff in the print shop, helping with our printing needs. He will be working on helping us improve the covers of our Tracts and Timely Greetings.



## Our Prayers

Sr. Bonnie Smith, a long-standing member from Br. Houteff's time, has broken her leg and had to have surgery. She met with an accident at her home in Salem, South Carolina, Feb. 9, 2003, but is recovering well. Let us pray that she continues to progress!

## Attention Branches!

What's new in your area? We would like to know. Why? Because we want to publish it in the *Symbolic Code*. Yes, we would like to relay your news to all the brothers and sisters in the field. We also want to remind you to send us group pictures of the believers, your building projects, board members, etc. Your cooperation is very much desired so the world field can share your blessings, challenges and joy. May the Lord continue to bless each one of you abundantly!

## Building Projects

Update on the **Mexico** building project. Pictures are enclosed on the back of this Code so you can see how they are progressing. They still need our support and would welcome anyone who is able to assist! If interested, please send moneys to Headquarters marked "**Mexico Building Project**" and we will make sure that they receive it. Thanks so much for your continued support. Keep these faithful believers in your prayers.

Also, remember our building projects in other areas, including **Zambia, Vanuatu and Trinidad.**

## FROM THE GOLDEN BOWL

Victor T. Houteff

"We who have studied the message contained in the *Shepherd's Rod* are just as deeply convinced that it is the "message of the true Witness" "to the Laodiceans," which finds God's people in a "sad deception," as we are of the Sabbath or any other truth ever known to the church. And indeed we should be, for it has opened to our understanding chapter after chapter of the Scriptures, the meaning of which we hitherto had not the faintest idea, but which we now understand as plainly as we do any plain Bible truth. Through the message, we now see that the prophecies of these chapters (Isaiah's, Ezekiel's, Hosea's, Joel's, Micah's, Zechariah's, Daniel's, the Revelation's, etc.) focus on this time, and shine out in wondrous beauty. It has multiplied to us the proof that the Seventh-day Adventist denomination is the church of God, thus strengthening more than ever, if possible, our determination to stay in it regardless of its condition. And as a consequence, it has established us more solidly than ever in the *Third Angel's Message*, causing us to have greater love for the brethren. Then, finally, it has driven us to study the Bible and the *Spirit of Prophecy* as never before.

"Without reading for oneself the publications of the *Rod*, one cannot know the wonderful change they make in the lives of all who truly accept them, nor can one appreciate the wonders of the prophecies which they reveal, many of which, heretofore, men have never even attempted to explain...." *Tract 7:68, 69.*



# Mexico's Building Project

The students and the brethren helping at the camp



The office, classroom, and dormitory in progress



# Print Shop and Staff



*Ricardo Rollan Benito Medina*

*William Horne  
(New Staff)*

*James Valbert  
(Print Shop Manager)*



*Benito Medina preparing covers on the computer*



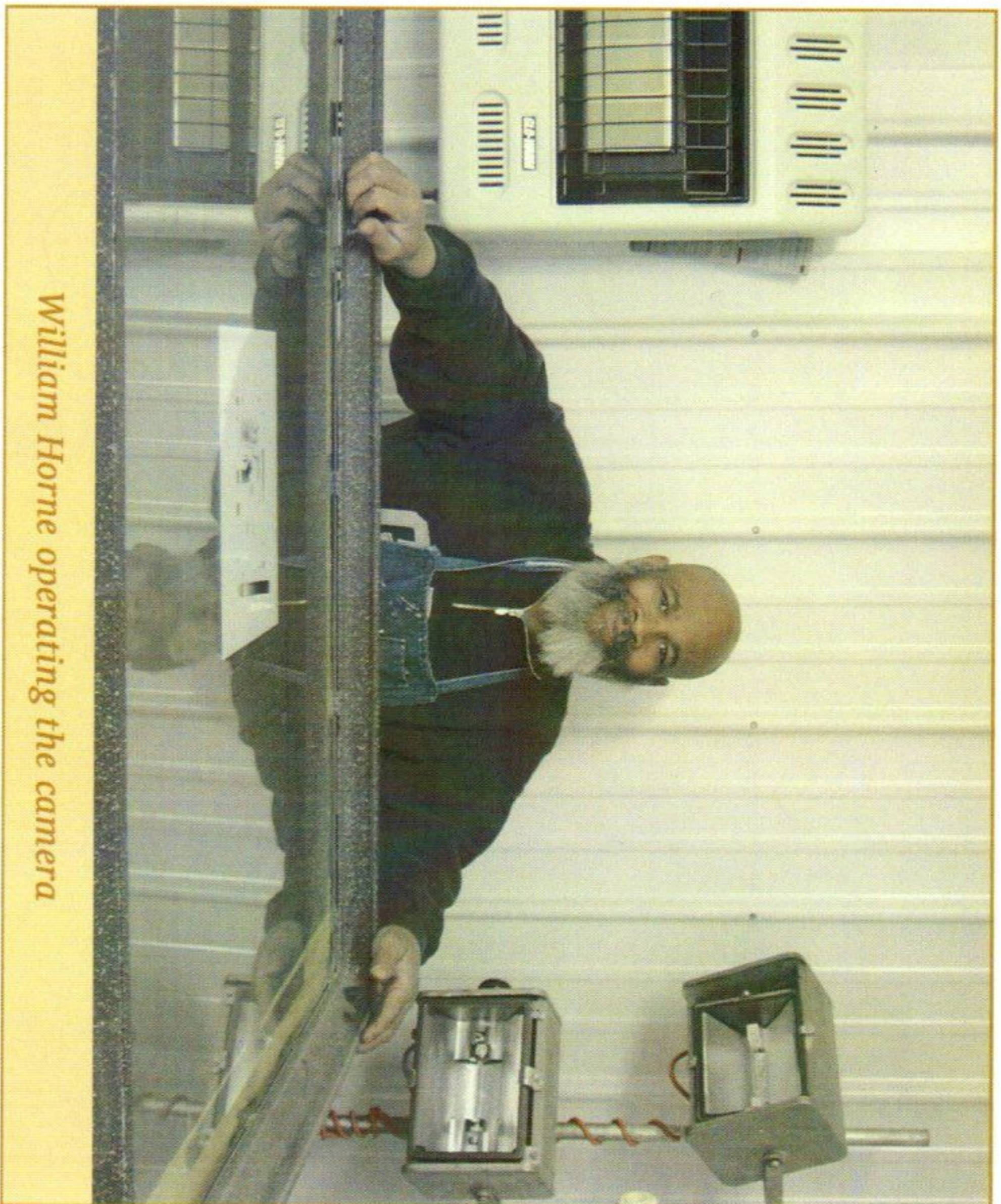


*William Horne running covers on small press*

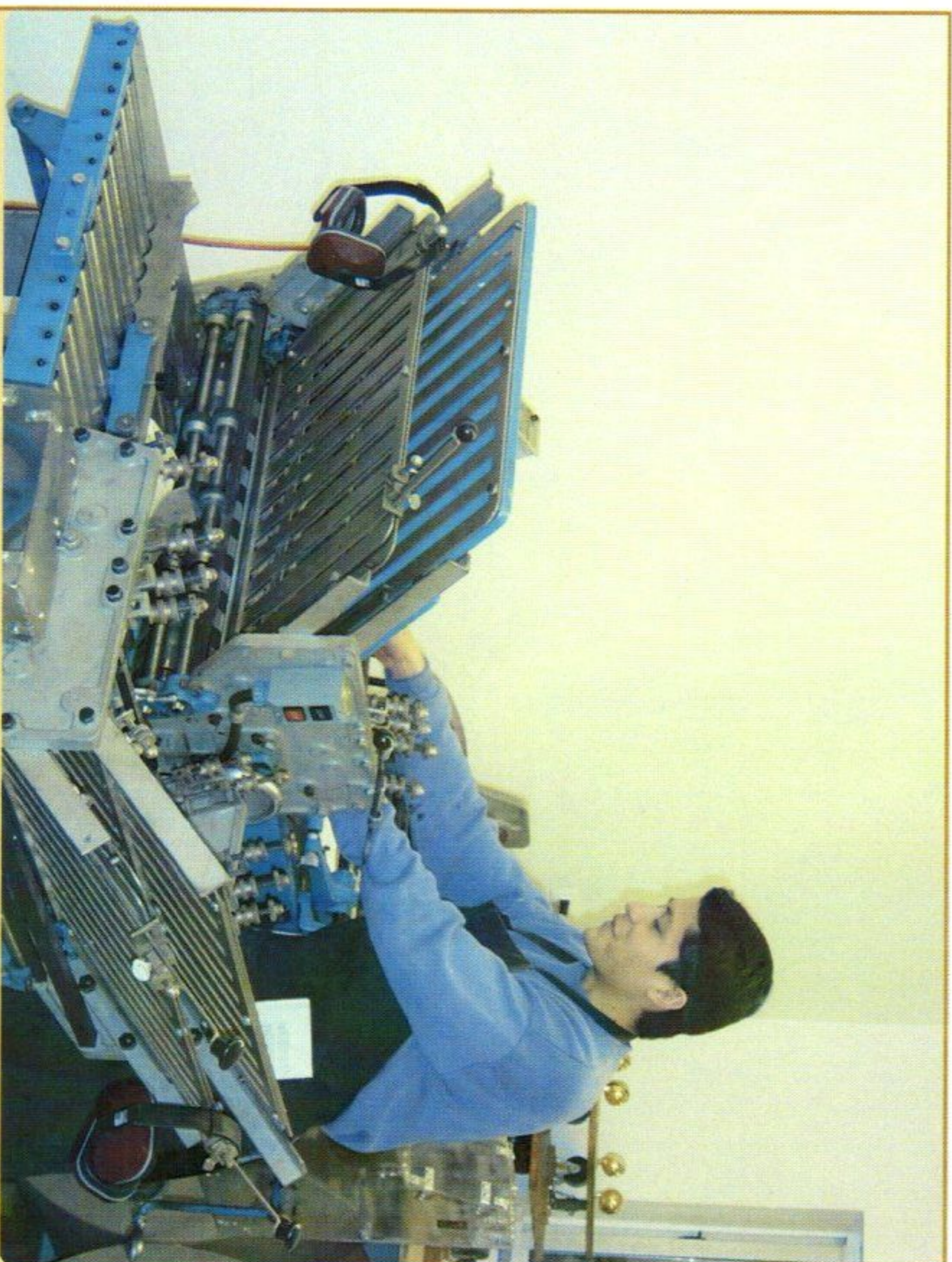


*Ricardo Rollan trimming booklets*





*William Horne operating the camera*



*Benito Medina operating the folder*



*Jamie Valbert collating*



*Ricardo Rollan and James Valbert operating our newly purchased press!*





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