

# Symbolic Code

Summer 2016



“There Is A Way  
That Seemeth Right...”





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## Symbolic Code

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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 will 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 attached to this free proffer are the golden strands of Eden and the crimson cords of Calvary—the ties that bind.

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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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## Staying the Course

Suppose we are about to start upon a voyage. The owner of the vessel gives us a book of directions, telling us that it contains instructions sufficient for our whole journey, and that if we will heed them, we shall reach in safety our port of destination. Setting sail we open our book to learn its contents.

We find that its author lays down general principles to govern us in our voyage and instructs us as far as practicable, touching the various contingencies that may arise, till the end; but he also tells us that the latter part of our journey will be especially perilous; that the features of the coast are ever changing by reason of quicksands and tempests; “but for this part of the journey,” says he, “I have provided you a pilot, who will meet you, and give you such directions as the surrounding circumstances and dangers may require; and to him you must give heed.”

With these directions we reach the perilous time specified and the pilot, according to promise, appears. But some of the crew, as he offers his services, rise up against him. “We have the original book of directions.”

Say they, “and that is enough for us. We stand upon that, and that alone; we want nothing of you.” Who now heed that original book of directions? Those who reject the pilot, or those who receive him, as the book instructs them? Judge ye.

Who now stand upon the Bible, and Bible alone?

But some, through lack of perception, or lack of principle, or ebullitions of an unconquerable prejudice, one, or all combined, may meet us at this point like this: “Then you would have us take Sister White as our pilot, would you?”

It is to forestall any efforts in this direction, that this sentence is penned. We say no such thing. What we do say is distinctly this: that the gifts of the Spirit are given for our pilot through these perilous times, and wherever and whomsoever we find genuine manifestations of these, we are bound to respect them, nor can we do otherwise without in so far rejecting the Word of God, which directs us to receive them. Who now stand upon the Bible, and Bible alone?

Let none then be frightened at this false alarm. A moment's consideration will show who receive the Bible, and who do not. Whoever receives it fully, will receive the pilot according to its directions.

We do not, then, discard, but obey, the Bible by endorsing the visions; while we should just so far reject and disobey it, as we should refuse to receive the provisions it has made for our comfort, edification, and perfection.

*The Review and Herald*, Jan 13, 1863.





“There is a way th

Since Brother Houteff’s death in 1955, Davidia has been buffeted and most assuredly has faced the onslaught of the Enemy of our souls and God’s Eternal truth. Amidst selfishness, and deception of various kinds, many have claimed the prophetic office and have bidden Present Truth believers to their feet, so to speak. Some have come and gone, and of course, others still remain.

The purpose of this article is to unmask the many false teachings that are prevalent in Davidia. This issue of the Code deals with the teachings of the Bashan Association. In future issues of the Code we will look at other doctrines that are creating confusion to many. The intention is to help believers be grounded in the Present Truth of the Rod.

#### **Why is it important to meet these pseudo-doctrines**

“False teachers may appear to be very zealous for the work of God, and may expend means to bring their theories before the world and the church; but as they mingle error with truth, their message is one of deception, and will lead souls into false paths. They are to be met and opposed, not because they are bad men, but because they are teachers of falsehood, and are endeavoring to put upon falsehood the stamp of truth” TM 55.

“Let the plain, simple statements of the Word of God be food for the mind; this speculating upon ideas that are not clearly presented there is dangerous business.” 1 SM 181.

“All present truth believers should now see the necessity of shunning every wind of doctrine

regardless how plausible or reasonable it might appear to be.... Get your doctrine, brother, sister only from the golden bowl...and be not like the waves of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed—be not carried about by the many winds of doctrine that are blowing wildly from every direction to cause you to lose your way to the everlasting Kingdom.” 11Tr 12.

“Inspiration says: ‘There are those today who will present falsehoods as testing truths,...When those who profess to believe present truth come to their senses, when they accept the Word of God just as it reads, when they do not try to wrest the Scriptures, they will bring from the treasure-house of the heart things new and old, to strengthen themselves and those for whom they labor R & H June 18, 1901. 3 Ans. p. 57, 58.





at seemeth right...”

### Important facts to keep in mind

“The Enemy made Laodiceans believe they have no need of truth,... Now we really are enriched with Truth if we have studied and assimilated what has been given us,... There the Devil is not going to attack us where he attacked Laodiceans, but he will tell us that we are poor in truth.” 1 SC 2:11.

“From these and many other examples, we see that God not only never delegates one agent to alter, to reset, or to countermand the message with which His first making the matter known to both,...” 1 Ans p. 58.

“Remember, too, that the practice of comparing statements stripped of the context is fundamentally disingenuous, and leads today to as many perversions and misapplications of truth as does the deliberate wrest-

ing practiced in Satan’s challenge to Christ.” 1 Ans p. 48

“Those who desire to doubt will have plenty of room. God does not propose to remove all occasion for unbelief. He gives evidence, which must be carefully investigated with a humbly mind and a teachable spirit, and all should decide from the weight of evidence...” 5T 675.

### Bashan theories

In addition to the Basic beliefs of the Davidian SDA’s, Bashan adherents hold:

1. That Carmel (Mic. 7:14, Amos 1:2) withered in 1955 with Brother Houteff’s death. Some say at the time of the “Fiasco”, or false prediction of Ez. 9 by Sister Houteff and others. See keys of the kingdom p. 44 (“Keys

of the Kingdom” is a bashan publication).

2. That we are now feeding in the Bashan pasture.
3. That the Gilead pasture will exist in the time of the Kingdom.
4. That the living Spirit of Prophecy is the living human agent, the prophets or messengers of God.
5. That the church must have a living prophet, the Living Spirit of Prophecy (according to their understanding) at all times to guide and direct the church.
6. That the Porter (the prophet) (1TG 2:19,20) is to inspect the “sheep” or church members and leaders as they enter the fold—the church.
7. That the Porter/Prophet/



President is today Brother Trevor Bingham residing presently at Exeter, Missouri, USA.

8. There must be a president at all times to fulfill the order described in the Leviticus of D.S.D.A.

Note: The above teachings if accepted leads the believer to a host of many other theories taking them further away, out to sea and only a miracle may pull one back to the solid earth of truth.

Let us now examine these eight points to see what the Rod teaches.

#### **Carmel—when does it wither?**

To understand this we need to read 1 SR 243.

"Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitary in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old." "Feed thy people with the rod": The verb "feed" is to be understood as spiritual food, and that food (truth) is found in the 'Rod, therefore we again have the command to give out the book ("Feed thy [God's] people"). Carmel, Bashan, and Gilead are used as symbols of good spiritual pasture."

Carmel, Bashan and Gilead are Spiritual Pastures, not literal. Notice that all three are used to represent a single spiritual pasture.

The feeding began in 1929/30 when the Rod was first presented—Thus the Carmel pasture came into existence in 1929/30. Mt Carmel Center was not established until 1934/35 (1 SC 10:1-3.) Therefore, Mt Carmel Center itself could not be the Carmel pasture.

So when does Carmel wither? Is it in 1955 as Bashan teaches? Let us

find out.

"And he said, The Lord will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither." Amos 1:2.

This passage explains that Carmel will wither when the Lord roars from Zion. When will the Lord "roar from Zion"?

"With a few comments on the above scripture, any bible student will recognize at a glance that it applies at the time of the end, as explained by the gospel prophet: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills...for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.' (Isa. 2:2, 3), which in the language of Amos is, 'Utter his voice from Jerusalem.'" 11 SC 12 p. 30.

Commenting on Amos 1:2 further the prophet says:

"This scripture, you see, reflects the tragedy which took place on the top of Carmel in the days of Elijah. Here we are given the hint that there is to be another show-down between the prophet of God and the prophets of Baal..." 1TG 42, p.7.

We see that the Lord roaring from Zion is the same as the Gospel being proclaimed from Zion—during the time of the Loud Cry, at which time Carmel will wither. We see further that the antitypical "show down" between the the prophet of God and the prophets of Baal, which is Ezekiel 9, must take place before Carmel withers.

Since Ezekiel 9 as well as the Lord roaring from Zion are yet future, it means that Carmel has not withered.

In 11SC12 p. 30, Bro. Houteff

gives a double application to Amos 1:2. He shows that the closing of probation for the church and the world is symbolized by the withering of Carmel. That both of these events are yet future. Therefore, we are still in the Carmel period. Carmel could not have withered when Bro. Houteff died.

#### **Where do we place Bashan and Gilead**

Inspiration is silent on Bashan & Gilead. Any proposed interpretation of Bashan and Gilead is classed as private interpretation—devising of men. We'll have to wait until the scroll unrolls in the Kingdom.

Unfortunately, some have endeavored to interpret Bashan and Gilead by using Isa 33:9: But Brother Houteff himself provides no interpretation of the verse. See 1TG 34:12.

Any other attempt to interpret verses not found in "The Bowl" must be discounted.

"Find your explanations 'in the Bowl,' and you will have no trouble in knowing the truth, or of avoiding the ever ready trap of deception. Thus the difficulty in knowing the difference between truth and error is eliminated." 2SR 289.

#### **The Living Spirit of Prophecy**

Those purporting the Bashan theories generally read statements from the Rod's Message where Brother Houteff stresses the need of the living Spirit of Prophecy in the church, (1TG 10:27) and then proceed to define the living Spirit of Prophecy as the human agent or prophet. Such a definition is inserted in their explanation of the writings but not from the inspired writer (Brother V. Houteff) himself. On



this supposition or assumption rests their ENTIRE MESSAGE.

### What is the Living Spirit of Prophecy?

The false notion promoted by Bashan that the Living Spirit of Prophecy is a man or linked to a human being is contrary to the teachings of the prophet. The following references explain beautifully what the living Spirit Of Prophecy is.

2 TG 45:6—"And what is the Spirit of prophecy?— The same chapter and verse give the answer:

"And I fell at his feet," at the feet of the one who unfolded the prophecy to John, "to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10.

"Here it is seen that as the prophecies were unfolded to John by one of his brethren, thereby was revealed to him the Testimony of Jesus, the Spirit of Prophecy. Plainly, then, an inspired servant of God who bears a message to his brethren, bears the Testimony of Jesus to them. To illustrate: Suppose the Lord Jesus communicated a personal message to you by a messenger, would not His message be His testimony to you? And should God endow the messenger with the gift of His Spirit to unfold to you the prophecies which are in the Scriptures, would he not be coming to you with the Spirit of Prophecy?

"Thus it is clear that the **"Testimony of Jesus"** and **"the Spirit of Prophecy"** are **synonymous terms for a timely message sent from God**—"meat in due season." The Spirit of prophecy, therefore,

is God's means of communicating from Heaven directly to His church on earth, as well as of unfolding the sealed prophecies to her."

2 TG 45:8—"Since it now is clear as sunlight that the ever-unfolding, **Inspired interpretation of the Scriptures is the ever-living Spirit of Prophecy**, the eyes of the church at work (1 Sam. 9:9), then to be without these spiritual eyes is to try to walk, as it were, in dense darkness."

2 TG 20:24—"There is but one thing that consists of three such parts (two sheep and a young cow) that is capable of keeping the world alive, and that is the Bible—unfolded by the Spirit of Prophecy, the Spirit that leads into all Truth. . . . Hence it is none other than the published works of the everliving Spirit of Prophecy—the inspired interpretation of the Scriptures."

2 TG 41:21 - "A "disciple" is one who follows Christ on and on in Divinely-revealed Truth which he accepts not because others do, or do not, but because the Father which is in Heaven has through His Spirit personally convinced him of it (Matt. 16:17)—because independent of what others do or say he is personally persuaded by the Spirit. And the "testimony" is His living Word passed on by His chosen and Spirit-filled messengers—"the Spirit of Prophecy" at work (Rev. 19:10)."

2 TG 14:17—"The testimony of Jesus Christ, Inspiration explains, is "the Spirit of Prophecy." Rev. 19:10. To have the Spirit of Prophecy, is to have the Spirit Who uttered the prophecies and who only can interpret them, for "no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation," nor without the inspiration of the same Spirit."

6 Tr 30 - "The Volumes"

6 Tr 78 - "The Writings"

2 SR - "The Bowl"

3 Ans. 3 2 - "The Bowl"

See Also 2 TG 16:22; 2 TG 34:20; 6 Tr 43,45,46,47.

Note that on Zechariah 4 chart Inspiration places the term "Spirit of Prophecy on the bowl (writings) not the two pipes (the interpreters).

Therefore the living Spirit of Prophecy is the Living Word inspired, sustained, and enervated by the Holy Spirit. The human being, the prophet or messenger is the faucet or vessel through whom this Word is communicated. The human vessel is not ever living. Thus to have the living Spirit of Prophecy is to have a "Timely Message" an up-to-date truth, this we have today in the Shepherd's Rod.

### Prophet in the Church from Ezekiel 9 through the Kingdom Period

"Here is the Bible's own answer, which says that there is to be a people who will have the Testimony of Jesus Christ at the time the earth swallows up the flood, the hypocrites. And since this incident is yet future, it shows that there is to be a prophet in the Church, for the Bible's own interpretation of "the Testimony of Jesus Christ," is "the Spirit of Prophecy" (Rev. 19:10)." 2 TG 24:23.

2 Timely Greetings 24, p. 23 is often used by Bashanites to prove that there must be "a prophet" in the church before Ezekiel nine—when "the earth swallows up the flood."

Though this explains that there is to be a prophet in the church, it does not say before the earth swallows the hypocrites (Ezek. 9) but "at the time," and after. (See paragraph 2.)

We have no doubt that from Ezekiel Nine onward Brother Houteff



and all other faithful S.D.A.'S including the Church's founder E. G. White will come up in a special resurrection which will take place around the time of Ezekiel Nine and complete their work in the Kingdom. See Dan. 11:45; 12:1-3; 2 TG 7:9-11,1,5; 14 Tr 25; WHR 46; 2 TG 42:28,29; 2 TG 33:11; 1 TG 6:31; 12 Tr 37,38,55,56. These references show that Michael standing up (Ezek. 9) and the special resurrection takes place when the "King of the north, or Assyria looses a gigantic war in Palestine.

"All these taking place at this particular time, and the prophecies now unfolded, prove that antitypical Zerubbabel must now be here, and that as he has started the work, he also must finish it. The fact that Inspiration takes the pains to tell who is to finish the work in itself is proof that there must be active usurpers of his office as there were of Moses' office." 1 TG 14:21, 22.

Antitypical Zerubbabel (Brother Houteff) is to start and finish His work. So there will be a prophet in the church throughout the pre-Millennial Kingdom period which is from Ezek. 9 onward to the 2nd Advent.

### Is the Spirit Of Prophecy ever Quiescent?

"Upon the death of Sister White, in 1915, the gift of Inspiration, the active Spirit of Prophecy, became quiescent, no longer manifesting Itself for a time. With the church thus cut off from the very source of its life, as was the Jewish church from the death of the prophet Malachi to the rise of John the Baptist, how could it maintain its vitality and growth? Hence, now as then, there has followed the same inevitable spiritual malnutrition and deformity,

accompanied with a long train of woes." 3 Answerer, p. 60.

Bashan tries to use the above reference to prove that the Spirit of prophecy was inactive or dormant between 1915 (Sister White's death) and 1930 when the Rod was introduced to justify the coming of another prophet now after the death of bro. Houteff. However, a careful study of the reference shows that the "gift of Inspiration" became quiescent, **not** the Spirit of Prophecy.

The words of counsel and admonition found in the writings of the spirit of Prophecy are active and speak to us continually. The Spirit of Prophecy is ever living, it is not a man or woman.

### No Prophet in the Church before the Kingdom

Bro. Houteff does explain that the devil will try to deceive us by telling us that we are "poor in truth." 11 SC 2:11. We see this happening with the many winds of doctrines that are blowing in Davidia. Some teach, including Bashan, that we must have a living prophet now to guide us to the kingdom since Bro. Houteff is dead. Is this so? Well according to the following references, we see clearly that Bro. Houteff was the last prophet before Eze. 9.

GCS, p. 8—"Nevertheless, one's only safety will be in the teaching of Elijah, for **there will be no other voice of timely Truth and authority to whom one may turn.** Any others will lead their victims blind-folded into perdition."

GCS, p. 19—"This surely confirms the conclusion that since Elijah is to herald the great day, he can therefore be **the only one** who will rightly interpret the prophecies of the day, which are still mysteries to

Christendom.... To re-emphasize the fact, let it be said again that **being the last of the prophets** Elijah is, therefore, the only one who can open to our understanding all the prophecies of the Scriptures pertaining to the great and dreadful day of the Lord."

GCS, p. 23—"...Elijah is to be the last prophet to the church today"

GCS, pp. 31,32—"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, then by parity of reasoning the Elijah of today must also be one person, not a multitude of ministers.

"The promise, itself, moreover, is for only one, not for more."

9 Tr 67—"...the last Heaven-sent proclamation..."

13 Tr 11—"Last" prophet to the "World".

1 Ans. 78—"...the words of Malachi make plain that the Messenger of the Covenant is, in the strictest sense Elijah the prophet (Mal. 3:1-5; 4:5), the last messenger who prepares the way of the Lord."

2 TG 10:29 (3)—More light cannot come until the "sealing of the 144,000" has been effected.

See also 1 TG 11:12; 1 TG 14:21; 1 TG 5:12; 2 SR 9, 230, 231 (Bottom)

Whoever claims he has the Spirit of Prophecy has a timely message (2 TG 45:6). Whoever claims that He is a teaching prophet, or seeks to compel us to hear his message or voice, is an authority. This is a "Rank Imposter", and will lead "their victims blind-folded into perdition" (GCS 8). As John the Baptist was last before Christ's first Advent, the Elijah of today is the last before "the Great and Dreadful Day of The Lord". In other words, though we expect to



learn much more of God's word in the Kingdom, we have come to the last of the prophets. Ellen White said another would come (TM 475), but here we see that "one" clearly and emphatically from the Scriptures stated that we have come to the last. Thus the so-called prophets of today are contradicting the former messenger, thereby speaking against God and his truth. We must accept the message as it reads. See 1 Ans. 53; 3 Ans. 58; 1 SM 180,181.

We do not need a living prophet to lead us to the kingdom, the message is to accomplish that.

"Unmistakably, therefore, the clear light shedding forth from type, from testimonies of the prophets, and from history, identify the **message of the Rod as the only one ordained to lead the latter day church**, freed from sin and sinners, into the land of promise..." 3 Ans. p. 23.

### The Porter is a Prophet

Bashan teaches that their leader is the one to inspect the sheep (members) to ensure they are worthy to enter the sheepfold. The idea that a man must inspect you is usurping the position of God.

God alone knows the heart. See 4 Testimonies, 453; DA 194; 4 Testimonies, 583; 5 Testimonies, 246.

In 1 TG 2: pp. 19, 20, bro. Houteff explains that the porter is the "one through whom the Spirit of Prophecy is manifested"—A prophet.

"Only those who gain entrance through the Door and to whom "the porter" (the one through whom the Spirit of Prophecy is manifested) opens are the authorized shepherds whose voices God's sheep hear."

The Porter is to open the door to those complying with the "Requirements". (1 TG 2:20.)

The Porter would be just an average mortal with a message from God.

Brother Houteff was therefore the Porter or prophet who brought the last message to the Church, thus he was the last messenger or Porter. He opened the door by bringing a message of truth. **The key note is the truth, the message is what decides who enters or does not.** The message inspects us, in other words. The Porter was guided by the Spirit to bring a present truth message which we must live up to thereby sealing the saints--opening the door to those who comply with its requirements.

### A President is a Prophet

The Bashan adherents claim that we must have a president at all times to direct the affairs of the message, but this is not what the Rod message teaches. We need to first understand that a president is a prophet, this is according to The Leviticus, page 6.

"The president shall be called and chosen in accordance with the procedure set forth in Exodus, chapter three, verses ten, fifteen, and sixteen; chapter four, verse seventeen; Ezekiel, chapter three, verse seventeen; and Luke, chapter six, verse thirteen."

This reference unquestionably proves that a president is called in the same capacity as Moses, Ezekiel and the Apostles. In other words, he is a prophet. That is the reason why this Association (Mountindale) does not have a president.

Here is another important point to consider. In the absence of the prophet how is the work to be administered?

"The Executive Council shall be patterned after the council described

in Acts, chapter six, verses two to six.

"It shall have full executive and administrative power between sessions of the Association.

"It shall be vested with authority to grant credentials and licenses, and to fill vacancies that may occur in any of the Association's offices, save the office of President." The Leviticus, page 9.

We see clearly that the Executive Council has full authority to administer the affairs of the work of God in the absence of the president.

The only position that cannot be filled by the Executive Council is that of the president. Why? Because a president is called and chosen directly by God.

### Conclusion

We have examined the core beliefs of the Bashan Association and proven from Inspiration that their teachings are unfounded and contrary to the fundamental teaching of the Rod. They have no foundation on which to stand. They are leading their victims blind-folded into perdition. Be aware.

We have presented the truth here so that you can study for yourself and hopefully escape the dreaded path of deception. We encourage you to study the Shepherd's Rod message diligently and become familiar with what it teaches, this is the only way to have your feet planted on the firm foundation of truth and to shun the many winds of false doctrines blowing every where. □

The Editors



# The **D**angers of **I**smms

By V. T. Houteff

Once upon a time six brothers were building a bridge, supposedly to the god of Justice. The purpose of the bridge was to unite the east with the west.

They had no difficulty laying the foundations and setting the pillars. But, lo, when they came to join the east wing with the west one, they found themselves confronted with a phenomenal obstacle: What they had built up during the day was torn down during the night. This miracle continued day after day. Finally the brothers sat down in a council meeting to discuss how they might solve their harrassing problem. Feeling that to quit would be the greatest folly they could ever commit, that it would bring their names into disrepute, they studied and they prayed.

At long last they concluded that the god of Justice was for some reason displeased with them and that a human sacrifice would appease him. So it was that they resolved to sacrifice the best one of their wives. This however, was not to be divulged to the women. In order to make an impartial and acceptable selection, they further resolved that on the morrow each would instruct his wife to prepare the best possible breakfast and dinner, and to take the meals to him at the bridge as early as possible. They were to explain to their wives that they must needs eat and pray at the bridgeside to the glory of the god of Justice, and for the success of their project. The woman to arrive with the meals first was to be the victim.

Five of the men, though, did not stick to their solemn oath. Each of them straightway told their wives what was to be done, and that therefore they should not hurry to the bridge with the meals.

In the morning, at the appointed time, the men were at the bridge site. Shortly afterwards they saw in the distance someone coming to the bridge. For a few moments no one knew for sure who it was, but soon the man who

had kept his part of the agreement recognized it to be his wife. He, of course, immediately burst into tears, and with groans he fell to the ground. Seeing her husband's strange behaviour, the wife dropped her basket of food and ran to the scene to learn what was the trouble. But while she was attempting to comfort her husband, the other five brothers seized her, carried her to a gap in the bridge, and there they cemented her alive. Now, the brothers confidently expected the bridge to stay up, for they felt that they had done all they could to appease the god of Justice.

Thus it was that while the five dishonest men that night returned home in happiness, the honest one returned to his home in grief.

On the following morning, all the men hurried to the bridge, expecting to find it standing intact. But to their surprise and consternation they found the whole bridge lying flat on the ground!

Naturally, the incident was rumored throughout the city, and the judges of that city went to see what the great excitement was about. As they listened to the builders argue and philosophize from cause to effect, they learned that the unfortunate woman was not sacrificed by fair chance, but by fraud! Thus they judged that the whole disaster was due to the fact that unjust men were trying to build a bridge in the honor of a just god! The matter was brought to court and the judges finally decreed that Justice must be satisfied, else not only the bridge, but even their city might fall to the ground. Accordingly, on that very day the five unjust men were executed, and the honest one was made mayor of the city.

Christians have been building a bridge, so to speak, to the God of Justice for many years. But they do not seem to be any more successful than were the six bridge-builders. And for what reason?—For the very same reason the six builders were unsuccessful: Selfish men are engaged in the work, and though they see the



need for a sacrifice, yet they somehow always manage to make others do the sacrificing.

And you remember that though the building of the tower of Babel was counter to God's will and His order, still all the while the builders worked harmoniously among themselves, their project prospered—their tower skyrocketed. But when their language was confused and they could no longer understand one another, then the progress of the tower stopped. And to show them that He was displeased with their project and that He was the One Who had confounded their language, God blasted the tower so that it crumbled to the ground. That which happened to the bridge happened also to the tower.

Christians are working at cross-purposes among themselves. One Christian brother is betraying another. Christian ministers, rather than preaching the Truth, are preaching against one another. One goes ahead to build up, and another trails behind to tear down. They do not see eye to eye; nor do they understand one another even as much as did the confused tower-builders.

Just so long as such selfishness and dishonesty, confusion and animosity, exist among Christians, their bridge and their tower, so to speak, will come to naught as certainly as did the bridge of the six covenant-breakers and as did the tower of the prophet Noah's mockers. There is no way of stopping ism trouble without removing the cause—no, no more than a splinter wound can heal before the splinter has been removed.

You are familiar with the fact that there was no ism trouble in Moses' day as long as Moses alone interpreted the Word of God to the people. But just as soon as Korah, Dathan, Abiram and others aspired to Moses' office ism trouble started. And the only remedy that even God Himself could find was to cause the earth to open her mouth and to swallow the ism-breathing multitude, the self-appointed representatives of God.

In our day there is an even greater flood of private interpreters of the Scriptures (the cause of today's isms) than there was in Moses' day. And according to Revelation 12:15, 16, the Lord warns that He will again use a remedy similar to the ancient remedy against today's ism-breeding flood. Then some may learn to respect the office of the Spirit of Prophecy. Let us now read of the fate of those who chose to continue walking in sparks of their own kindling.

**Rev. 12:16**—“...and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.”

Here we see that a similar remedy which caused isms to cease in Moses' day, is again to be used to cause isms to cease in our day, the only means by which harmony can be restored among fellow-members in the church itself, as well as among Christians in general.

**2 Tim. 3:16, 17**—“All scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

**2 Pet. 1:20, 21**—“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Affirmatively stated, all Scripture, not merely a part of It, is inspired. Negatively stated, none of It is privately interpreted, for the reason that It did not come of men but of God; that is, as the Spirit of God dictated to men the Scriptures, so the Spirit of God must interpret the Scriptures to men, that no man privately (without Inspiration) is capable of disclosing the sealed prophecies or interpreting any part of them or even capable of understanding their importance after they are interpreted except it be by the gift of the Spirit of Truth “None of the wicked,” therefore, “shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” Dan. 12:10.

We should now be convinced that as long as this Divine command and principle of interpreting God's Word is overlooked and abused, and as long as selfishness and bigotry exist among Christians in general and among Bible students in particular, isms will continue to increase, and the strength of the people will continue to be wasted just as was the strength of both the builders of the bridge and the builders of the tower. Yes, just as certainly as night follows day, just that certain will their efforts come to naught, and their shame be uncovered.

Those who do not avail themselves of the golden oil, and those who continue ever to hunt for some kind of oil, or whoever try to extract their own, will, of course, drop into the pit when the earth opens her mouth to swallow up the flood. Then it is that ism-breathers and ism-seekers shall forever pass away. □

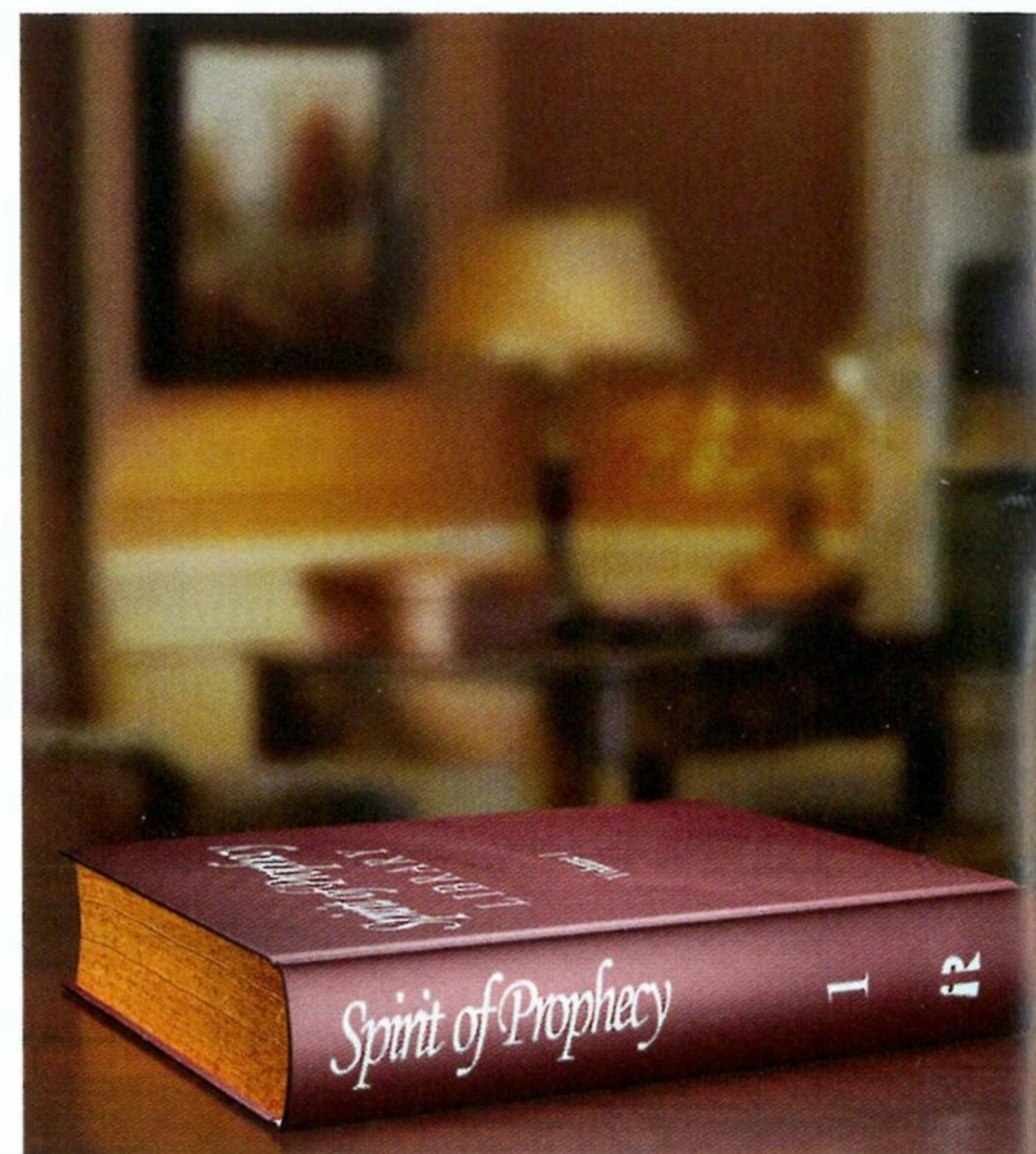
Taken from *1 Timely Greetings*, No. 14, pp. 12-19.



# Our Safeguard

By Ellen G. White

Embracing error may lead away from Christ



Faith in a lie will not have a sanctifying influence upon the life or character. No error is truth, or can be made truth by repetition, or by faith in it. Sincerity will never save a soul from the consequences of believing an error. Without sincerity there is no true religion, but sincerity in a false religion will never save a man. I may be perfectly sincere in following a wrong road, but that will not make it the right road, or bring me to the place I wished to reach. The Lord does not want us to have a blind credulity, and call that the faith that sanctifies. The truth is the principle that sanctifies, and therefore it becomes us to know what is truth. We must compare spiritual things with spiritual. We must prove all things, but hold fast only that which is good, that which bears the divine credentials, which lays before us the true motives and principles which should prompt us to action.

## **An Outward Transformation of Character**

As long as individuals are content with a theory of truth, and are yet

lacking in the daily operation of the Spirit of God upon the heart, which is manifested in outward transformation of character, they are cutting themselves off from the qualification that would fit them for greater efficiency in the Master's work. Those who are devoid of the Holy Spirit cannot be faithful watchmen upon the walls of Zion; for they are blind to the work that ought to be done, and do not give the trumpet a certain sound.

The baptism of the Holy Ghost as on the day of Pentecost will lead to a revival of true religion and to the performance of many wonderful works. Heavenly intelligences will come among us, and men will speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Spirit of God. But should the Lord work upon men as He did on and after the day of Pentecost, many who now claim to believe the truth would know so very little of the operation of the Holy Spirit that they would cry, "Beware of fanaticism." They would say of those who were filled with the Spirit, "These men are full of new wine."

The time is not far off now when

men will want a much closer relation to Christ, a much closer union with His Holy Spirit, than ever they have had, or will have, unless they give up their will and their way, and submit to God's will and God's way. The great sin of those who profess to be Christians is that they do not open the heart to receive the Holy Spirit. When souls long after Christ, and seek to become one with Him, then those who are content with the form of godliness, exclaim "Be careful, do not go to extremes." When the angels of heaven come among us, and work through human agents, there will be solid, substantial conversions, after the order of the conversions after the day of Pentecost.

## **Need for Understanding the Doctrine**

Rebellion and apostasy are in the very air we breathe. We shall be affected by it unless we by faith hang our helpless souls upon Christ. If men are so easily misled, how will they stand when Satan shall personate Christ, and work miracles? Who will be unmoved by his misrepresentations, professing to be Christ when



*Sincerity will never save a soul from the consequences of believing an error.*

it is only Satan assuming the person of Christ, and apparently working the works of Christ? What will hold God's people from giving their allegiance to false christs? "Go ye not after them" (Luke 21:8).

The doctrines must be plainly understood. The men accepted to teach the truth must be anchored; then their vessel will hold against storm and tempest, because the anchor holds them firmly. The deceptions will increase.

Satan is now more earnestly engaged in playing the game of life for souls than at any previous time; and unless we are constantly on our guard, he will establish in our hearts, pride, love of self, love of the world, and many other evil traits. He will also use every possible device to unsettle our faith in God and in the truths of His Word. If we have not a deep experience in the things of God, if we have not a thorough knowledge of His Word, we shall be beguiled to our ruin by the errors and sophistries of the enemy. False doctrines will sap the foundations of many, because they have not learned to discern truth from error. Our only safeguard against the wiles of Satan is to study the Scriptures diligently,

to have an intelligent understanding of the reasons of our faith, and faithfully to perform every known duty. The indulgence of one known sin will cause weakness and darkness, and subject us to fierce temptation.

**Look Constantly to Jesus**

Under the showers of the latter rain the inventions of man, the human machinery, will at times be swept away, the boundary of man's authority will be as broken reeds, and the Holy Spirit will speak through the living, human agent, with convincing power. No one then will watch to see if the sentences are well rounded off, if the grammar is faultless. The living water will flow in God's own channels.

Our only safety is in keeping fast hold of Jesus. Never are we to lose sight of Him. He says, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). We must cultivate an abiding sense of our own inefficiency and helplessness and rely wholly on Jesus. This should keep us individually calm and steadfast in words and deportment. Excitement in the speaker is not power but weakness. Earnestness and energy are essential in presenting Bible truth, the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation.

There are quicksands upon which many are in danger of being swamped. It is always safe to seek for the earnest of the Spirit of God, if we do not mingle with it a force and presumption that is not heaven born. There is need of caution in all our utterances lest some poor souls of ardent temperament shall work themselves up into a zeal not according to knowledge. They will act as though it was their prerogative to use the Holy Spirit instead of letting

the Holy Spirit use them, and mold and fashion them after the pattern of the divine. There is danger of running ahead of Christ. We should honor the Holy Spirit by following where it shall lead. "Lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). This is one danger of those who teach the truth to others. To follow where Christ leads is a safe path for our feet. His work will stand. Whatsoever God saith is truth.

Satan will make use of every extravagant expression to the injury, not only of the speaker, but of those who shall catch the same spirit and infuse others to their harm. Calmness and solemnity should be cultivated; the solemn truths we dwell upon will lead us to manifest deep earnestness. How can we do otherwise when weighted with the most sacred message to bear to perishing souls—weighted by the sense of the nearness of our Saviour's coming.

If we are constantly looking unto Jesus and receiving His Spirit, we shall have clear eyesight. Then we shall discern the perils on every side, and shall guard every word we utter, lest Satan find opportunity to weave in his deceptions. We do not want to have the minds of the people wrought up into an excitement. We should not encourage an expectation to see strange and wonderful things. But teach them to follow Jesus step by step. Preach Jesus Christ, in whom our hope of eternal life is centered. □

Taken from *2 Selected Messages*, pp. 56 - 60.





*The* Truth  
*About* Sugar



Often thought only to exist in desserts, candies and baked goods, sugar is hidden in many foods, is addicting, contributes directly to obesity and is an underlying factor in almost all cases of chronic metabolic diseases.

Sugar is found in foods that lack the ingredient's trademark sweetness. Sugar is a naturally occurring ingredient in many healthy foods but, when sugar is added unnaturally to food, it is refined and loses water, fiber and all other healthy nutrients.

The American Heart Association recommends that women eat no more than six teaspoons (about 25 grams) of added sugar daily and men eat no more than nine teaspoons (about 36 grams) daily.

For those who know the health risks associated with sugar, six to nine teaspoons of sugar a day seems like a reasonable amount. But, according to a study by the Harvard School of Public Health, 70% of Americans consume more than 22 teaspoons of added sugar daily.

Why the disconnect between recommended and average consumption levels? Added sugars are often lurking in everyday breakfast, lunch and dinner foods with scientific names at the end of ingredient lists: sucrose, glucose, fructose, high fructose corn syrup and lactose.

### **Problems Associated with Sugar Intake**

The true purpose of eating—aside from pampering your palate—is to maximize bodily function with nutritional fuel. Sugar may enhance a dish's taste, but it is comprised entirely of empty calories that do not provide the body any redeeming nutrients. According to the Center of

Science in the Public Interest, people who consume too much sugar show lower levels of fiber, vitamins and mineral and other protective nutrients.

With no added benefits, it's important to consider the damaging effects that sugar has on the body. Dr. Robert Lustig, a professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of California, notes that the normal human body can safely metabolize around six teaspoons of fructose sugar per day. However, when fructose consumption exceeds six teaspoons—the case for most Americans—the excess is metabolized into body fat and leads to chronic metabolic diseases.

**Liver Damage**—Like alcohol, sugar gets transferred to the liver, which gets overloaded with sugar; this can lead to liver damage and disease.

**Weight Gain**—Sugar tricks the metabolism by turning off the body's appetite-control system. Additionally, sugar stimulates ghrelin, the "hunger hormone," and causes you to eat more and develop insulin resistance.

**Metabolic Dysfunction**—Sugar causes symptoms of classic metabolic syndrome like weight gain, abdominal obesity, decreased HDL cholesterol, increased LDL cholesterol and elevated blood sugar, triglycerides and blood pressure.

**Increased Uric Acid**—High levels of uric acid have a direct connection to increased risk of heart and kidney disease, as well as gout.

**Risk of Heart Disease**—According to a study by Harvard's School of Public Health, people with high sugar diets have an increased risk of death caused by heart disease. The study cites sugar's connection to

high blood pressure and its dumping of harmful fats into the bloodstream as the main factor in heart disease mortality.

**Increased Cancer Cells**—Sugar practically feeds cancer cells. One study found that sugar increases cancer cell proliferation by promoting cell division and accelerating cell growth, enabling cancer to spread faster.

### **Sugar's Effect on Children**

With their minds and bodies still developing, it is imperative that children consume food that nourishes the body with essential nutrients. Sugar is the basis of many food advertisements geared towards children because sugar is a powerful, and addicting, stimulant that leaves kids wanting more and more sugary cereal, soda, fruit drinks and snacks.

While childhood consumption of sugar is down since 2000, kids are still getting 16% of their daily calories from sugar. A 2010 study by lead author Georgina Coade, PhD student at the University of Bristol, concluded that a high fructose diet:

Leads directly to early maturation visceral and subcutaneous fat.

Contributes to abdominal obesity and obesity below the skin.

High levels of fructose decrease cells' insulin sensitivity, which is necessary to take glucose from the bloodstream into fat and muscles.

In concert with obesity, decreased insulin sensitivity is a characteristic of Type 2 diabetes. With earlier contraction of Type 2 diabetes, children are at risk of developing advanced stage heart disease at a younger age.

Aside from obesity and diabetes, sugar-charged kids easily develop high blood pressure and high cho-



lesterol—both contributors to heart disease. Francine Kaufman, director of Comprehensive Childhood Diabetes Center at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, states it plainly, "...a child with high blood pressure could have a heart attack at 35."

#### **Substitute Natural Foods for a Sweet Tooth**

Sugar doesn't just lurk in sweet treats like soda, fruit juices, candies and ice cream. Sugar is also found in processed foods including bread, meat, pasta sauce, Worcestershire sauce and ketchup. With so many non-sweet foods packed with sugar, it's easy to exceed the daily-recommended consumption of sugar during just one meal.

For example, one and a half cups of pasta, three quarters of a cup of pasta sauce and a salad with two tablespoons of French dress-

ing equates to roughly 24 grams of sugar, or just about a woman's recommended daily amount and two thirds of a man's recommended daily amount.

With sugar seemingly everywhere, it is best to find natural sugars that match your sweet tooth and are loaded with essential nutrients.

**Fruit**—No, not the artificial kind that is packed with added sugar, but the kind that is delicious, nutritious and all natural. Aside from being a natural source of sugar, fruit is low in fat, sodium, calories and cholesterol. Additionally, fruit is full of essential nutrients like potassium, dietary fiber, vitamin C and folate, and has been linked to decreased risk of heart disease, heart attack and stroke.

**Carrots**—Carrots may not directly lead to improved eyesight, but they are excellent sources of natural

sugar. Also, carrots are high in the antioxidant beta-carotene, vitamin A and minerals, vitamins and enzymes that aid in digestion.

**Beets**—Beets are great for satisfying sugar urges, and provide high levels of vitamin C, vitamin B, folate and potassium.

Hallelujah Diet's BeetMax is an all-natural beet juice powder and an excellent way to get all the nutritional benefits of beets in a quick, delicious and easy juice drink. BeetMax contributes to the well being of the liver and gall bladder, stimulates lymph gland activity, flushes the kidneys and bladder, improves immune function, balances moods, improves mental acuity and normalizes brain and reproductive function, bone structure and glucose metabolism. □

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## **Youth Camp 2016**

**SUMMER TIME IS HERE ONCE AGAIN!!!**

Time to get out and explore God's wonders with our Children and Youth.

The Education Department is so excited to inform you of the upcoming 2nd Youth Camp to be held at Mt. Carmel Center, Mountaindale, New York from August 1-4 and August 8-11, 2016.

Parents with children and youth who are interested to join are requested to call the Office.

Registration is FREE but seats are limited. Please call for more details ASAP.



# Session Announcements

Session is approximately six weeks away and will commence on Friday July 29th and will finish August 7th. Please keep this most solemn gathering in your daily prayers. Also, remember the international delegates in your prayers that they will be granted the necessary visas enabling them to attend the Session.

## Theme for the Session - "Create In Me A Clean Heart"

- Let us remember that "the Church is the object of God's tenderest love and care. If the members will allow Him, He will reveal His character through them ... Those who walk and talk with God practice the gentleness of Christ. In their lives, forbearance, meekness, and self-restraint are united with holy earnestness and diligence. As they advance heavenward, the sharp, rough edges of character are worn off, and godliness is seen. The Holy Spirit, full of grace and power, works upon mind and heart." AG:2-6)

With this thought in mind, we are designating Sun-

day, July 24th as a world-wide day of prayer and fasting. We are requesting that each person join with us and pray for a clearer insight as we prepare to make decisions for the Lord's Cause.

## Session Accommodations

Accommodations for Session will be provided for cardholders with preference to delegates. We will, however, make every effort to accommodate everyone based on availability of housing. If you are planning to attend the Session and need housing, please contact the office if you have not already done so.

**NOTE:** The Business Meetings can only be attended by card-holding members, while the religious meetings are open for attendance by all. Please also remind visitors to Mt. Carmel that it is important to adhere to the various standards (dress, health, etc.).

Please submit your items for the Agenda as soon as possible.

## Session Schedule

Date	Time	Event
Friday, July 29th	7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	**Opening Meeting
Sabbath, July 30th	8:45 a.m. - Sunset	** All Day Religious Convocation
Sunday, July 31st	8:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	**Religious Meeting
Monday, August 1st	8:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	*Business Meeting
Tuesday, August 2nd	8:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	*Business Meeting
Wednesday, August 3rd	8:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	*Business Meeting
Thursday, August 4th	All Day	** Social Activities
Friday, August 5th	8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	*Business Meeting **Sabbath Preparation
Friday Evening, Aug. 5th	7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	**Opening Sabbath Svcs.
Sabbath, August 6th	9:45 a.m. - Sunset	**All Day Religious Convocation
Sunday, August 7th	9:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	*Business Meeting
Monday, August 8th	9:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	**Religious Meeting
Tuesday, August 9th	9:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	**Religious Meeting
Wednesday, August 10th	9:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	**Religious Meeting
Thursday, August 11th	9:45 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	** Social Activities
Friday, August 12th	8:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	** Religious Meeting
Friday Evening	7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	**Sabbath Preparations ** Sabbath Services
Sabbath, August 13th	9:45 a.m. - Sunset	** All Day Religious Convocation

\*Cardholders

\*\*Open to all



# God's Promises Never Fail

**T**he Lord always keeps His promises. For me, "The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills by righteousness," was a promise, and He kept it. The journey from Texas had been a long journey with many mishaps, but also many blessings. When we first arrived in Mountain Dale, NY I was more than a little scared. I have had a hard time in recent years making new friends so I was extremely grateful to have Shannon, a close friend, make the journey with my family.

Our original plan was to be finished with the trip by Monday evening. As I mentioned, the journey was filled with many misadventures, including hitting a tree, getting stuck in traffic, and many other things that slowed our progress. We therefore didn't make it to Mount Carmel Center till Thursday afternoon. When we arrived we found that all the young people had departed on a

camping excursion at a campground not to far away. Brother Rick Rollan, met us with a big smile and offered to take us to the campground. He then proceeded to gather food for the camper's dinner, and lead us off for another journey. This one proved to be far more enjoyable than the last.

We went straight to the campground and as we got out of the car, I felt more than a little sick to my stomach. As we approached the picnic table where everyone was seated, we realized they were beginning a prayer to open evening worship. My heart sank as I realized that other than one girl, who appeared to be much younger than Shannon and I, the youth at the table were all boys. Now don't get me wrong I'm passed the age of thinking boys have cooties, but to spend the next two weeks with only boys that appeared much younger than me, was not exactly my idea of an ideal vacation.

One of the main reasons my dad had to decide to brave the more than 24-hour trip was so that Shannon and I could meet some girls who were our age who were in the message. So my first thought was that this was going to be a very long two weeks.

Sister Judith Rollan, and Sis. Fanis, greeted us with a warm smile. They introduced everyone at the table, and though I'm usually good with names, I knew it would be a while before I learned all their names. As we went around the table saying our names we also told our ages. Most of the boys were between 10 and 13 with the exception of Jaquan who was 19. He was also eventually named our youth leader. One of the main connections Shannon and I have is music. She is a very talented musician and I have a love for music almost as devoted as hers. The first thing on our mind was when can we start singing and playing. When Sister Judith





announced that we were going to have another worship I immediately brought out my guitar which brought out the expected “will you play for us?”

After we sang a few songs, we played a game of sorts. In this “game” everyone sat in a circle and would again say their name and age and then do something such as sing a song, tell a story, or anything that would express their God given talent. Of course Shannon and I were sitting next to each other so when it rolled around to us, we asked if we could do ours together. It was in a harmonized rendition of Hallelujah.

As we continued through the evening I began to realize that it didn't matter that the group was made up of mostly boy, or that they were all much younger than me. What mattered was that we were all there for a similar cause. We all believed in the same thing and we all had started on a journey that would

give us memories that would last a lifetime. As weeks progressed I learned no matter the age group, the gender, or even the language there are people out there that share a common mission with me. I finally believed that together we could even finish this mission... “Lo a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.” Rev. 14:1 For the first time I actually thought that this promise was possible. I realized that when God makes a promise He never fails to deliver. Through the fellowship, love and laughter, I became stronger in my walk with God. I know what God has called me to do, and now I know that with His help I'll be able to do even more than I ever imagined for Him. □

By Chandler Bell

*Through the  
fellowship,  
love and  
laughter, I be-  
came stronger  
in my walk  
with God.*



*Can using 15*

# Bibles

*Give Us God's Words?*

**R**ight now, in almost any church you attend, something occurs that has rarely happened anywhere before the late 20th and early 21st century.

## **People use more than one Bible**

Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life* (2002) set the 21st century stage, using 15 different English translations and justifying it in an Appendix. He wrote, "...I have deliberately used paraphrases in order to help you see God's truth in new, fresh ways. English-speaking people should thank God that we have so many different versions to use for devotional reading."

15 different translations help you? You may find two or three synonyms, similar-meaning words, in a language, but 15? You're going to have interpretations -people's private commentaries—not translations. Want an example?

In Deuteronomy 23:18 God said, "Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into

the house of the LORD thy God for any vow..." Sounds simple enough. The word "dog" (keleb) is translated "dog" all through the Old Testament. It means "dog," plain and simple. But in modern versions, you get interpretations like these:

"male prostitute's earnings" (in various forms, Holman Christian Standard, NIV, NRSV, NLT, NET, Common English Bible)

"the money given to one used for sex purposes in the worship of the gods" (Bible in Basic English)

This isn't translating. This is interpreting. They placed their opinion into the text, instead of the words God preserved. A true translator won't let his personal opinions or interpretations stop him from accurately transferring the Bible concept to the target language.

But most of those 15 Bibles don't just have changed translations. They are also translated from a changed text. As it says in "Did the Catholic Church Give Us the Bible?", historically there are two different streams

of manuscripts. The northern, preserved, apostolic stream comes from Antioch, where the disciples were called Christians first (Acts 11:26). But the southern, polluted stream seeps out of Alexandria, Egypt, the home of apostate Jewish and Christian-sounding philosophers.

Scholars from the southern stream took out the words of God they disagreed with and inserted words that fit their opinions. And yet most modern Bibles come from that polluted southern stream.

Bible-believers from the northern stream faithfully passed down and accurately translated the original concepts into other languages, without inserting their own private interpretations. So then, these preserved words aligned with God's standard.

All measuring tapes in the U.S. have to be calibrated against a standard, kept by the National Bureau of Standards. Jesus said His words would not pass away (Matt. 24:35). He left us a standard, so we can test all other "translations" and interpre-



tations.

Remove Acts 8:37, and you take away words that refute infant baptism. Remove “yet” from John 7:8 and Jesus becomes a liar. Remove “without a cause” from Matthew 5:22 and Jesus becomes an angry sinner! See why we need a standard?

An article on Crosswalk.com entitled, “How Do I Find the Right Bible?” ends with the question: “What about you? Which translation of the Bible do you use?” Who cares? Many modern Bible teachers spend so much time talking about using the Bible that they forget the point is to believe the Bible! They can’t all,

as one author claimed, “contain the life-giving words of God.”

### God’s words do not contradict each other

People use other Bibles but they do not believe them. How can they? They are constantly changed and disagree with each other in crucial places!

But thank God, we have His holy and preserved words in English, the King James Bible, straight from the northern stream. We can believe every word of our Bible.

It has never been a matter of which Bible we use. What matters is

which Bible we believe. Whether we use one Bible or 15 from the southern, polluted stream, filled with men’s interpretations, we will only be deceiving ourselves” □

(Taken from “*Battle Cry*”, from Chick Publications).

By David W. Daniels





# Lay Seige Against it

2015 General Conference held in San Antonio Texas

**W**e want to begin with Praises to God for the success of our mission to the 2015 General Conference Session, and thanks to those who through their effort and support helped to make it so. May God richly bless those that gave and those who received.

After much prayer and discussion several months ahead of time, the articles were chosen for the planned magazine to be distributed at the session. Women's ordination was the "Hot Topic" for the session as well as the "Isis Crisis" which was front and center in the news then, the 144,000, the Harvest and the Elijah also were included.

Accommodations were secured and an "army" of workers were assembled to distribute magazines, CD's and DVD's. The Lord helped us to obtain a 15 passenger van to help transport workers and materials to San

Antonio , Texas.

We need not think that Satan will stand idly by and watch the work of God go forward unopposed. The printing press developed one problem after another causing delays, but the Lord helped us to get it all done on time. Also, though we produce our own CD's and DVD's, it is more economical and of better quality to have them produced in large quantities (10,000+) outside. Thanks to someone who contributed to help make



Yvonne Benjamin



Suzanne Litus

a 10,000 piece reproduction of the 144,000 CD.

On the morning of June 29, 2015, two vehicles departed from Mountindale for San Antonio making stops in New Jersey and Philadelphia, to pick up other members of our party. On the way the vehicle which detoured to pick up the New Jersey and Philadelphia team had a tire blowout just one hour into the journey from Philadelphia. The enemy was not finished yet, several hours later, the other vehicle had a tire blowout as well. God kept us from harm. Praise His Name! It was





**Micah Strange**



**Oliver Saintilien**

a long trip and we stopped in by Bro & Sis. Stanford to spend the night and to collect the magazines that we had shipped there.

**Oliver Saintilien**

General Conference is once every 5 years. I had never been to one but I had a vague idea of what it would be like. In the past, I had heard from others their various experiences at previous GCs. The opportunity to go to General Conference 2015 for the purpose of sharing present truth was presented before me and I took it. I was determined to have an experience for myself, how-

ever more importantly to make as big as an impact as I could in my God given capacity. Upon arriving at the Alamodome Stadium, where the conference was held, it became quite clear to me that "The harvest is great but the laborers are few". There were many Adventists, all in glorious array, in different shapes, sizes and colors, the task was daunting. There was about 20 of us, more or less. We were equipped with magazines and CDs to distribute, in various areas of the locality to ensure that no one would escape. Of course being at the forefront of distribution I was faced with plenty of questions. Such as "Are you Adventist?", "Who made this magazine?",





**GC Team 2015**

“Is this Shepherd’s Rod?”, “Is this from the conference?”, etc,etc,etc. In such cases I had to learn how to deal tactfully thus heeding the Master’s command “Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves”.

“Are you Adventist?”

“Yes,

“Who made this magazine?”

“Adventists, look the name of the ministry is on the magazine, Eleventh Hour Prophetic Ministry.”

“Is this Shepherd’s Rod?”

“No the name of this magazine is General Conference Special.”

“Is this from the conference?”

“No, however, The magazine addresses the spiritual divide that is threatening our church, aren’t you interested?”

I can say it was truly a joy in sharing and explaining with those who were interested and even some who had come in contact with the message. I met an individual who had been studying quite some time ago with a spanish group in California but the group dispersed and she was alone, she was very happy to see the work moving forward. I hope that she has made contact with headquarters with the information I provided her to take part in this last movement. There is so much more that

took place at the GC, there were plenty of experiences both good and bad. I made sure to bring my camera along with me to record as much as I could for others to see what it was like on the field. My hope is that we as present truth believers will be encouraged to strive for the mark, to realize that ALL have a part to play in this last grand work no matter how small it may be for Jesus says “whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required”. It was a privilege, honor, and a great blessing to have the opportunity to be sharing present truth in



**Caldric Michael**





**George Isaac**

such a direct way. I have no regrets.

**Glenroy Matthews**

To prepare for the 2015 General Conference Session involves quite a bit of preparation and a whole lot of work. This Session was no different.

To see soo many Seventh-day Adventists converge in one location was exciting because it was an opportunity to share the message with those open enough to accept what we had to offer. They desperately need what we



**Phadine Louis**

have, they just don't know it yet.

After arriving at our hotel and unwinding after the long tiresome journey from New York, I was relaxing outside the door of our hotel room looking over the balcony and saw a young man walking towards my direction. "I wonder if he is a Seventh-day Adventist" I thought to myself. As he got closer I positioned myself to approach him to find out. "Hello! How are you doing?" I asked. "As I saw you coming I started to think that you are here to attend the General Conference Session", I said. "Yes I am." He replied. I introduced myself and before long we were engaged in an interesting conversation on the church and the issues that are affecting it. I took the oportunity to give him a copy of our magazine and shared a brief explanation on the topics covered to

hopefully peak his interest. That was the first magazine given.

Later that same day we all went to scout out the venue to see how many exits lead from the convention center and worked out a plan of attack.

The first Sabbath saw a full attack on the city. The army of soldiers were stationed at every exit point from the convention center, ready for battle. Many thousands of the magazine were ditributed. At times I wished I had more arms to give out the magazine as hands were outstretched to receive the magazine faster than I could give. I walked backward while giving to make sure every outstretched hand received a copy.

The second Sabbath saw about 65,000 - 70,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the convention center, much more than were present at the first. We left the morning service around 11 am to give ourselves time to setup and be ready for the sea of people that will burst through the exits when they break for lunch.

As expected, with thousands exiting the convention center we could not keep up with the crowds even though there were several soldiers stationed at the larger exits. Many took the magazine and many, many, rejected.

We may not see now the results of the work that was done at this GC session, eternity will reveal the impact it had on the lives of those who were brave enough to take the materials and study for themselves.

May we keep this great work constantly before God's throne of grace, pray that He provides all that we need to finish this great work. And while you pray, please help us by being an active worker in sharing the messge in your locality. □

*Here Bro. Terry was shouting "The ISIS Crisis, read all about it", while directing SDA's to the free materials being given further ahead. It worked!*



**Terry Harrison**



# Field Report

## Uganda

Dear Brethren:

Let me first take this great moment to thank God for hearing the prayers of His children and kept them under His consideration until time clocked when I was also present in the message of which it was my prayer and my vow, from my young age that I shall be God's servant all the days of my life.

Those before me had prayed many years ago, asking God to bring the DLI in this country, Uganda, so as to

DLI has taught us a lot. And now Uganda has nine (9) graduates to push the work forward not only in Uganda but also in Rwanda and Congo. May God bless the efforts of the brethren as they moved forward with the help of God.

Uganda has been blessed by the DLI 2015.

## Zambia

Dear Brethren:

“For other foundation can man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wool, hay stubble. Every man's work shall be made manifest for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

Greetings in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

This serves to recommend the great work you did which will ever be in our memories until the kingdom by sending Bro. Ricardo and Sis Judith Rollan to conduct DLI training here in Zambia. We are expressing our gratitude as Zambians that their being here was a great blessing in the midst of this country. We learned and benefited much from our humble, friendly, social and lovely teachers (to mention a few qualities).

Our training went on so well with eighteen (18) students present and graduated. It is our prayer and hope that they will use what they have learned and be effective workers in the field. This DLI was the first ever



**Zambia DLI graduates**

make the work easy with a number of laborers in the vineyard, GOD HAS ANSWERED THEIR PRAYERS!

We thank the HQ for hearing our request and sending us Bro. Ricardo and Sis. Judith Rollan to conduct the DLI in Uganda. On top of that we are so happy to have a Minister and also the Executive Secretary come to our humble country. We also had Bro. Nandopu Brighton and Bro. Stanley Hatuyuni who helped out in the DLI.

The DLI Class was composed of a number of languages in that we have students coming from different countries, like French and the different dialect in Uganda. Everybody as a Team worked together and unitedly for the purpose of learning how to share the message effectively to our fellow brothers and Sisters in the church.

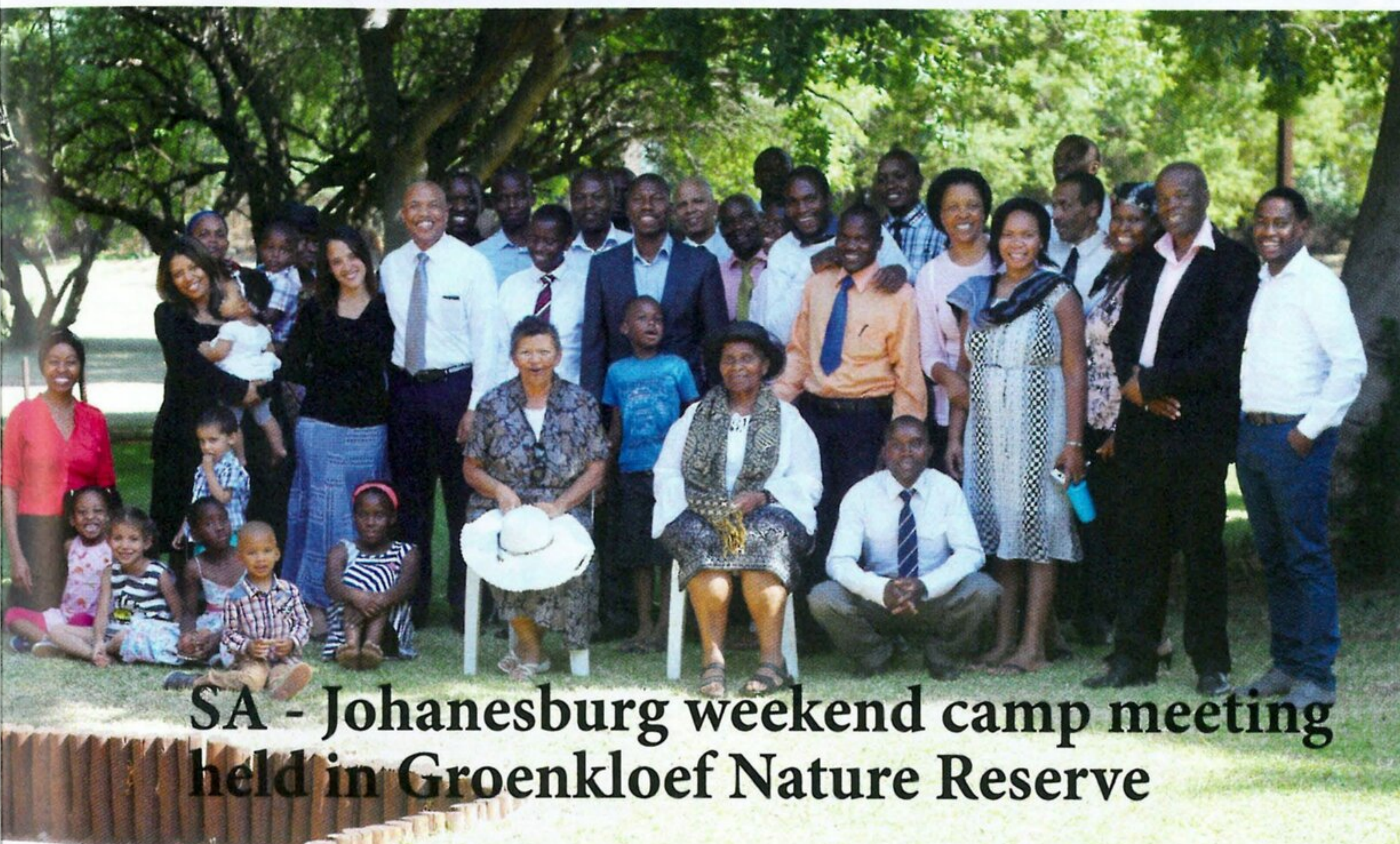


**Uganda DLI graduates**





**SA - Johannesburg combine study session**



**SA - Johannesburg weekend camp meeting held in Groenkloof Nature Reserve**

Bro. Timothy Canham had already made preparation by securing a location and handed personal invitations to his contacts, inviting them to seminar to be held for one week.

Other than brethren already in the message, only two family members of the Canham's attended. We studied nonetheless and had a blessed time. The opportunity was given to the church to attend but they forfeited the opportunity. Their blood is now on their own shoulder.

Bro. Matthews next traveled to Cape Town and stayed with the Gomez family. Bro. Russel and Sis. Teren moved to Cape Town not to long ago. They are now working the area to create new interest in the

to be conducted here in Zambia and it is our prayer that it will not be the last but the beginning of training more workers to be sent out to our dear Mother.

May you at the HQ, always remember us here in Africa, especially Zambia. We are so grateful and happy that you have shown us your brotherly love, by letting us have DLI here in Zambia. Please keep up the good work. We still need to see Bro. Ricardo and Sister Judith once more, they are very instrumental in the work here in Africa. And please keep us in your prayers as we do the same.

May the Good Lord kindly bless you with much wisdom as you continue to serve the whole field.

**South Africa**

The work in South Africa is growing as the brethren there sacrifice there time to share the message. Bro. Matthews' recent visit served to encourage the work there. In addition to the camp meetings held in the . . . Bro. Matthews and Bro. Max Goba worked together to visit brethren in Johannesburg as well as studied with individuals with whom Bro. Max was studying.

The combined meetings with the brethren from different parts of Johannesburg was a blessing. To fellowship with brethren with the same interest is a sweet feeling indeed.

After leaving Johannesburg bro. Matthews went to Durban for a week. He stayed with the Canham family.



**South Africa - Durban camp**

message. Let us keep them and all the other brethren in South Africa in our prayers.

**Zimbabwe**

Visiting Zimbabwe brother Matthews was really encouraged to meet the brethren in Bulawayo holding strong in the message. Meetings were held in brother and sister Nsimba's home. The studying group there is truly vibrant and loves the message. The only Sabbath that Bro. Matthews was there was spent in the Hillside Dam Park where studies were held all day. There was





Zimbabwe - We studied at the Hillside Dam Park in Bulawayo all day Sabbath

sweet fellowship, beautiful singing, studying the Word, simple enjoyable lunch and nature walk. It was such a beautiful Sabbath. May we continue to lift up the brethren and the work in Zimbabwe before the throne of grace.

### The Philippines

After a long extended invitation, it was finally decided to send someone to the Philippines during their National Session in April 2016. Bro. Terry Harrison was selected to travel there with Bro. Ricardo Rollan who is from the Philippines. A month later, the Ministerial Director, Bro. Joseph Seraphin decided to visit also, due to the confusion created among many by the Bashan doctrines being advocated by said group.

We all arrived in Manila within an hour of each other, Bro. John Seraphin having taken a different flight due to another booking. We then traveled together to

Davao on a local flight. After resting for a day we then traveled with the Rollan family by car to Trento where the national Center/Camp was located and the session conducted.

On arrival the Youth were finishing their portion of meetings. There were many youths in attendance and the program was very good. Many adults were already there and more continued to arrive after. There may have been about 200 persons in attendance from different Islands of the Philippines, some having traveled for 3 days to attend. Yet, many were still unable to attend due



Philippines - Brethren at the 2016 national session



to different circumstances.

One of the first thing we addressed was the Bashan heresy. Though Bashan is advocating Unity on one hand, they promote their false doctrines on the other, with enticement to join them. One brother who chose to go even boasted that he took everyone in his study group to Bashan. After presentations were made and heresy exposed, he left by himself. We offered to meet with others of the group, who did not attend the session. A Bashan representative visited them before we traveled away. Unfortunately, they decided to meet only on Sabbath instead of the four days originally planned before, and we had to visit elsewhere.

While we were there, new believers were coming in and the Lord continues to bless in a mighty and wonderful way. God bless the brethren in the Philippines!

### St. Lucia

Bro. Mario Fanis and Glenroy Matthews visited St. Lucia recently where they spend the weekend with the brethren. The Sabbath was jammed pack with activities - Bible studies by Brothers Mario, Glenroy and John



Seraphin. Sis. Yana Popo presented the children's program. We had a blessed time. Let us keep the brethren in St. Lucia in our prayers. The work is great, labourers are indeed few.

### Jamaica

The Island of Jamaica is a very religious country, and unlike most other Caribbean nations, the vast majority of those Christians are Protestant. As a matter of fact, the largest of the protestant denomination is the Seventh-day Adventist Church. One would imagine that with such a high population of Seventh Day Adventists in Jamaica, there would be an equally high number of Davidians. I was indeed pleased when upon my first visit to the Island, my sister-in-law opened her doors to house a Bible study with an Adventist family who willingly accepted an invitation to a Bible Study.

Praise God three years later, the Lord has blessed with several people studying the message, allowing there to be a viable Mountain Dale group in Jamaica. The group consists of approximately four families currently who are firmly rooted in present truth and are striving to be a part of the 144,000. We are happy to learn that one family has donated a house with property to the Association as a permanent meeting place for the group to study.

We have visited several churches in the surrounding area, and, like churches everywhere, the members are told to stay away from us. There is a very strong "Rod" presence in the Island and, the leading brethren are extremely "hostile" to those they suspect to be bearers of "Present Truth." Nonetheless, we forge ahead because we are told to warn our brethren in mother whether they hear or whether they forbear.

We have not even started to scratch the surface of Jamaica as yet in that there are so many churches to visit. My regret is that each time I am ready to return home, it seems that is the time when brethren who have been invited to Studies are ready to attend the meetings, or the time when the false shepherds choose to visit the sheep.

Let us keep these dear brethren in our prayers as we all strive to do God's will. □

By Bro. George Isaac



# Obituary of Lucina Selina Ferdinand-Littrean

**L**ucina Selina Ferdinand closed her eyes for the last time on the morning of January 20, 2016 in Ocala, Florida. She was born on December 19, 1945 in St. John Village, Trinidad to Lucius and Dulcina Ferdinand. She was the last child and the only girl among seven children.

Lucina attended primary school at Maracas SDA, in Maracas, St Joseph and High School at Caribbean Union College. Subsequent to her education at Caribbean Union College, she attended Nursing School in San Fernando and served as a nurse for many years both in Trinidad and in the U.S.A.

Lucina met the late Joseph Francis Littrean in Brooklyn, New York, and they were married on February 28, 1972. To this union three children were born: Karlene, Keisha, and Kevin. In 1977, they moved to South Florida where Lucina continued working as a nurse and taking care of her family. After retirement, Lucina and Joseph moved to O'Brien, Florida where they lived out their dream to live in the country. Joseph, passed away on February 16, 2001.

Lucina was a true missionary. Her desire was to win souls to the kingdom of God. She was a devoted Seventh-day Adventist, and loved inviting others to her home for Sabbath lunch. Lucina loved to read, and often sent her family religious books to add to their library. Her love for God and prayer brought her much comfort. One of her favorite Bible texts was Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

We all mourn the death of Lucina Littrean, and await the great day when Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ shall burst the clouds and return in majesty to claim His



**Sis. Lucina with her three children**

faithful children.

Lucina leaves behind her three children, Karlene, Keisha, Kevin, and two son-in-laws, Peter and Neville, a daughter-in-law, LaShawndra, and nine grandchildren, her five surviving brothers, Ira, Ezra, Grell, Glen and Kenny, an aunt, and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. □



# *A* Faithful Witness

—Sis. Albertina Daniel



I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks and praise to God for sparing my life to see 76 years of age. I love the Lord and my entire life is devoted to His Cause. Throughout the years, I have been doing His work in the Island of Barbados. He has blessed my efforts greatly to such a point where I can now say that the majority of converts currently in the Barbados group are a direct result of God blessing my efforts.

In 2006, the Association recognizing my efforts, hired me as a full-time Bible Worker. I was supported by the Association for a little while and then, unfortunately, because funds were needed to complete building the chapel here, I returned to self-supporting ministry. I do praise God for His wisdom, because the Chapel is now being used regularly.

The brethren here in the group, as well as Barbados in general, fondly refer to me as Dr. Daniel because of the treatments and natural remedies I often give to them, which they find quite helpful and effective. I also consider myself very instrumental to the work here in Barbados in that whenever anyone needs a telephone number or an address, they usually call upon me, knowing that I am more than likely able to furnish them with the necessary information.

I have a deep concern for the work of Present Truth. Recently, with my personal funds, I purchased a printer to help with the work. This printer allows us to print pertinent statements from the Testimonies and the Rod Message. I recently found an envelope that I had previously mislaid for a few years containing about two hundred dollars given me as a stipend when I was an official, active Bible worker years ago.

Two years ago, I, unfortunately, lost my footing and suffered a nasty fall next to my garage. Approximately

two months after the fall, I started experiencing terrible headaches. After one of the headaches, my Sabbath School teacher, while passing my house, saw me and inquired as to my health. She helped me and after I recovered, I then explained my situation, including the constant headaches. She insisted that I go with her and she transported me to the hospital. While at the hospital, the doctors performed necessary tests and soon thereafter discovered that I had a blood clot in my head, which was responsible for the headaches. The surgeons immediately operated on me to remove the blood clot and after a successful surgery, I was discharged the following day. I suffered a set-back at home and had to undergo another operation the following day. Since then, I have been headache and seizure free and I praise the Lord for His miraculous healing in my life. I am very happy to say that during my time of illness and recuperation, I received aid from the Association, both financially and domestically.

I indeed love the Lord and happily endure my share of persecution from our brethren in the church. I know that I have a work to do for the Lord and this work has to be finished. I will not stop until the work is done, or, if, and when, the Lord sees fit to let me rest.

As a matter of fact, I was disfellowshipped from my home church not long ago. I was barred from entering the sanctuary. Imagine that, a woman of 75 years! Incredible, isn't it? But praise the Lord, I continue to greatly rejoice and share my living testimony.

NOTE: (This is my living eulogy. Because we usually wait until someone is dead before giving them a eulogy, I wanted to do my eulogy while I am yet alive.) □



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Zambia brethren at the DLI graduation program



Zambia men DLI graduates