

FUTURE FOR AMERICA

Volume 3, No. 3

March 1999

Look at the Cross

by Ellen G. White

Look at the cross of Calvary. It is a standing pledge of the boundless love, the measureless mercy, of the heavenly Father. O that all might repent and do their first works. When the churches do this, they will love God supremely and their neighbors as themselves. Ephraim will not envy Judah, and Judah will not vex Ephraim. Divisions will then be healed, the harsh sounds of strife will no more be heard in the borders of Israel. Through the grace freely given them of God, all will seek to answer the prayer of Christ, that His disciples should be one, even as He and the Father are one. Peace, love, mercy, and benevolence will be the abiding principles of the soul. The love of Christ will be the theme of every tongue, and it will no more be said by the True Witness, "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Rev. 2:4). The people of God will be abiding in Christ, the love of Jesus will be revealed, and one Spirit will animate all hearts, regenerating and renewing all in the image of Christ, fashioning all hearts alike. As living branches of the True Vine, all will be united to Christ, the living head. Christ will abide in every heart, guiding, comforting, sanctifying, and presenting to the world the unity of the followers of Jesus, thus bearing testimony that the heavenly credentials are supplied to the remnant church. In the oneness of Christ's church it will be proved that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world.

Selected Messages, Book 1, 385-386.

Future for America

Mission Statement

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now *present truth*. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the **prophetic word** includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the **medical missionary work**. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, **country living** becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute **truth-filled literature**, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a **printing operation** with their own resources.

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I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands. I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land.

—Psalm 143:5-6.

Future for America has come into existence so that meat in due season may reach the flock at this time. . . . It is present truth that the flock needs now. We look to add our *flavor* to the many ministries available today.

Future For America is a self-supporting 501-C3 nonprofit corporation, and is funded by readers like you. We exist to assist those who are striving to be among the 144,000—through the Prophetic Word and the Health Message—by the power of the Holy Spirit. We hope to help God's people teach our Health Message by using the effective teaching and learning tools which we will provide. We also hope to inspire lay persons to do this by arousing them to the lateness of the hour through the Prophetic messages found in this publication, in seminars, and available in books and on both audio and video tapes.

*FYI....

Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Psalm 118:28-29.

Brothers and Sisters, let us never cease to give thanks to our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for all the blessings which He has bestowed upon us. Especially for the plan of salvation, and for having a part to play in bringing others to a knowledge of the truth.

Steven Spencer has given us a brief account of the work done in St. Louis, Missouri during the Pope's recent visit. There were so many interesting stories I wish we had the room to give you.

There was one man who had just gotten out of jail (non-payment of child support), and was looking for a job. He was tired of his way of life, and asked God to come into his life and take over. When he came to the place where the headquarters for the literature distribution was to be set up, according to his words, his feet wouldn't go any further. He looked in and saw people moving around, so stuck his head in the door and asked if they needed any help. The Catholic owner asked him to help clean the place because some people were going to be using it. So this man was at the headquarters, and our people had much time to spend with him, showing him the truth. He learned about the Sabbath, about the mark of the beast, and about the 8 laws of health, to mention just a few. He was excited as he saw God answering his prayer, and determined to commit his life to God. His enthusiasm was great, and soon he was out passing out the literature with the others.

This is just one instance of the working of God in St. Louis. But friends, it is so hard to maintain that commitment when we have to go out into the world as a new babe in the Word. Please pray that all those who were touched by the Spirit of Truth will grow in the knowledge of God and in His grace.

The theme for this month is threefold: *Look at the Cross*, and understand the love that Jesus has for us, and the sacrifice He was willing to make—for you, and for me; as you reflect on the Love of God, repent and do the first works because we have been *Losing the*

First Love; invite Christ into our hearts, so that as He abides in us we may understand to the fullest what it means in Romans 6:14-16, 18 when it says:

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to who ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness. . . . Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Friends, this is a precious, precious promise. We have heard these verses many times, and yet it was not until a friend brought me the little booklet called *Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You* that I began to have some real idea of how this could be. The booklet contains two letters written by Charles Fitch—a Presbyterian minister—in 1840, when the Presbytery called his beliefs and teachings to account. These two letters make it very plain that it is both our privilege and our duty to live a sanctified life, today. I have divided the second letter into three parts, and we are printing the first part in this issue, with the other parts to follow. But friend, if you do not have this little work, I sincerely plead with you to get it and prayerfully read it. I believe your life will be changed by it!

Another way that our God is very to us, is by allowing the plans of the enemy of mankind to come to our attention. So there are many things in both *Timelines* and *Y2K Alert!!* to show us that time is very, very short. How I wish I could share all the news items with you which I have received, but it is impossible. I had to condense 110 pages of news items to fit into two pages!! There are some extremely important things happening in the next two months.

Friends, we need to draw closer to the Lord, and learn more of Him. We need to submit our lives totally and completely to His care, and learn to live only for Him who loved us, and died for us, so that we—who are so unworthy—might have life eternal with Him.

And that brings us back to Psalm 118:28-29: *Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

Your sister in His service, and in the Blessed Hope of His *soon* coming!!

Denise Matlean

***For Your Information**

ST. LOUIS REPORT

by Steven S. Spencer

Sunday, January 24, 1999

We departed Sunday afternoon from Western Tennessee to be part of a massive literature campaign during the Pope's historic visit to the U.S. We had 8 people loaded in the "Hotel Dodge" (Stephen Spence's '77 Dodge extended window van) including my two older children, Joshua 10, and Kelsie 9. I had been told that it would be foolish and dangerous to bring my children into a city that was expecting between 500,000 and 700,000 people to see the Pope. We prayed over the situation and decided that the best education they could receive would be that which would give them a burden for winning souls—and I am very glad they went. Not only did they participate in the activities, but their hearts were woven with the rest of the workers in a sincere desire to share the truth with our Catholic friends and the mixture of people who made up the curious crowd.

We arrived safely Sunday evening, and anxiously looked forward to the upcoming events.

Monday, January 25, 1999

We arrived at the headquarters, located in downtown St. Louis—right in the middle of all the papal festivities. Brother Ron Goss gave a stirring talk on Gideon's army. Ron had hoped for 150-200 S.W.A.T. team workers (Swift Witness Action Team) to distribute over 200,000 magazines. It looked like the army would have to depend on the Lord more than ever, because only 50 people responded to the battle cry.

Our commission was simple:

"We should improve every such opportunity as that presented by the St. Louis Fair. At all similar gatherings there should be

present men whom God can use. Leaflets containing the light of present truth should be scattered among the people like the leaves of autumn. To many who attend these gatherings these leaflets would be as the leaves of the tree of life, which are for the healing of the nations."—*Publishing Ministry*, 347.

As Brother Stephen Dickie shared with us the plan, I realized for the first time that we were involved in a military campaign—not one for land or aggression—but one which was a spiritual battle for souls. Revelation 13 was unfolding before our eyes, and we had the privilege of being on the front lines in an effort to give the message of Revelation 14 to thousands of people. What a day it is in which we live—the hour of earth's history about which the prophets spoke.

Brother Dickie laid out the plans, and we were instructed to walk the streets and to "learn the turf." During the parade, when the crowds had gathered, would not be a time to have the soldiers get lost. We needed to prepare for this battle, just as we need to prepare spiritually for the events which we know are coming.

We walked downtown and familiarized ourselves with the streets and the MetroLink rail system. We studied the parade routes and where the people would be gathered. The adrenaline rose in anticipation of what the following day had in store.

We decided to begin witnessing early, so we took some boxes and headed to East St. Louis toward a shopping area. On the way we stopped at a

Shrine of Mary (Our Lady of the Snow) and handed out some literature. We were surprised at the scarcity of people. We went on to mall which had a Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and K-Mart and handed out hundreds of magazines before the managers asked us kindly to leave.

One of the advantages of distributing literature at large religious gatherings is the freedom which we still enjoy to do so. We may only have a short time to continue this type of witnessing, and then we know that our freedoms will be restricted. We will have to finish the work under difficult conditions, because we have grown to be at ease in this world.

Tuesday Morning, January 26

Our day began at 4:00 a.m. as we wanted to catch the MetroLink before the crowds would arrive. It was around 30 degrees and windy. We gathered for worship and prayed in groups of 3 and 4 to gather courage and strength from above.

The "Youth Parade" was to start at 9:30 a.m., and we had to begin our mission. The crowds were smaller than anticipated, but the literature started to stream out. The parade was preceded by the Vatican flag and then the U.S. flag followed by flags representing the rest of the nations in succession. The symbolism involved was hard to ignore. Some of the Youth groups would willingly take the magazines; others were instructed by the Priests and leaders that they were not to accept this anti-Catholic material. It is sad to think that a magazine which upholds "The Lord's Day" would be categorized as anti-Catholic. Rome still exerts the same pressure over the people as in the past. Some were discouraged when they saw the youth

throwing the magazines away under duress, but persecution and force has never stopped the cause of God.

I personally witnessed young people tucking the magazine into their Bibles or carry bags out of sight. One young lady asked me if I was a Seventh-day Adventist? When I responded with a simple yes, she took the magazines and said, "Good. I have a friend back home who is a Seventh-day Adventist and I want to read this material," God has many sheep in other folds that hear His voice!

We later had a city bus driver stop the bus and ask what we were handing out. He wanted his own copy, and asked for extra copies to give to people getting on the bus! (Praise God!)

Tuesday Afternoon, January 26

The Pope was scheduled to arrive and the parade route began to fill with people. Brother Dean Ferrell, from Florida, and I headed out on the MetroLink to distribute literature at the beginning of the procession. We arrived in time to witness the Pope-mobile hurry by in a blur. As the crowds turned to leave, we each got on opposite corners of the street and handed out hundreds of magazines in just a few minutes. It was a thrill to see people leaving the scene with "*America, Superpower of Prophecy*" and "*A Time for Joy*" magazines in their pockets and clasped in their hands with camera, etc. We fought the crowd back to headquarters for a fresh supply of ammunition for the spiritual warfare.

During the day the youth had been worked into a rock-concert type frenzy by bands that were billed as "alternative Christian Rock." The streets were closed off and thousands of people gathered to catch just a glimpse of the man, Pope John Paul II. In the Papal Plaza, the youth chanted, "We love you, John Paul II," and the crowds continued to build. As the Pope's appearance neared, the lead singer worked the

crowd with up-to date reports of the Pope's location—continually using the term "Holy Father." He then led the crowd in an un-nerving rendition of "Hail Mary, full of grace," and thousands of young people chant-prayed the Rosary. It was a sobering site to witness.

Earlier in the day the Pope had an audience with President Clinton. As they are the two primary players of Revelation 13, the thought flashed before me that the wound is nearly—if not completely—healed.

We know that the next step is the combination of churchcraft and statecraft—the Sunday Law.

Wednesday, January 27

The Pope is scheduled for mass at the TWA building at 9:30 a.m. We felt that when this mass would let out, it would probably be our best opportunity to distribute the literature. The troops were in place, and the boxes of magazines were strategically placed. It was encouraging to see other groups distributing literature as well.

The weather had warmed considerably. Some people were giving the credit to the Pope, saying that the weather was "divine." As the crowds dispersed, we gave nearly every individual the opportunity to receive this truth-filled literature. Watching the priests, bishops, cardinals, nuns and Catholic faithful heading home with these materials was a sight to behold. We do not know the outcome of these "seeds" which were planted, but it was a thrill to be even a small part of God's plan to seek and save those who are lost.

On one special occasion, there was a security guard who received the magazine. After glancing at the literature, he ran out the door to catch the individual that had given him the magazine. He shared that he used to be a pastor, but that he had read the 58th chapter of Isaiah, and was convicted

on keeping the seventh day holy. He was thrilled to find others that believed in the Bible Sabbath, and requested boxes of magazines to distribute to his church friends. He gave his heart to the Lord, and is desirous of keeping all of the commandments!

What a thrill it was to see these 11th hour workers being called out of darkness. God is still in the miracle business!

My daughter had a lady request Bible studies, and she was directed to the free offer on the back of the magazine. We really need to pray that the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon the people which have received these materials.

Conclusion

We are all extremely busy with the cares of this life. I had several matters arise that could have discouraged me from attending this campaign. But friend, there is no better remedy for spiritual tiredness—the disease of Laodicea—than to share our faith with others. I did not hear one complaint or murmuring among the workers at St. Louis. Not that we were saints, but we were too busy sharing with others to consider the faults of one another.

I want to encourage you to participate in future events such as this. *Future For America* will let you know of the next large gathering; and if at all possible, I encourage you to get involved. Between 120,000 and 150,000 seeds were planted in St. Louis. The harvest won't be known until the Lord's return.

Won't you join us for the next campaign. We are living in exciting times, let us be faithful to our commission.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.—
Matthew 24:14.

LOSING OUR FIRST LOVE

by Ellen G. White

NEVERTHELESS I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Revelation 2:4-7.

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." Thine is a decay, a declension in holy zeal—not forsaken is the object of it, but lost is the fervor. The first affection of the convert to Christ is deep, full, and ardent. It is not necessary that this love should become less as knowledge increases, as the more and increased light shines upon him. That love should become more fervent as he becomes better acquainted with his Lord. God sees that there is not heart service, a love for Jesus, an earnest zeal in His work.

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." How much need there is for the people of God at this time to consider the words of the Majesty of heaven, and carefully review the ground over which they have traveled, and see and understand where the very first step was taken in the wrong path! Absence of zeal and devotion, of earnest willing service in the cause of God, shows how indolent many professed followers of Christ are, how destitute of earnest, heart felt effort. They might have been going on from strength to strength, from light to still greater light. They might have be-

come strong in faith had they walked on from step to step, thinking more of Christ than of themselves.

The Lord has a right to expect more of His believing children than they give Him. Every individual Christian is indeed the light of the world. Christians connect with Christ. They reflect the character of Christ. They have been intrusted with great treasures of light; the oracles of God have been given to them, and in these they have been thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Every provision has been made, and why have the individual members of the church wearied of their Lord? Why does he who professes to love God refuse to obtain from the Source of light and power the oil of grace that he may be a bright and shining light? The church has had great opportunities, great privileges, and why is the light growing dim? Why does it not shine to the world? His church whose individual members are advancing, growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, is the elected means of the Redeemer's system for enlightening and saving the world. Christ lived and suffered and died to establish a church capable of doing this noble work. He bought her, He cleansed her with His own blood, and clothed her with the garments of His salvation. He laid the cornerstone upon the blood-stained rock of Calvary. He made His church the depository of His precious law, and transferred into her hands in a high and holy sense the work of carrying out His holy designs; that the church should take the work when He left it, and carry it forward to its consummation.

The Lord of righteousness is walking amid the golden candlesticks. And He watches every dim burning lamp of His individual believers, and says, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will re-

move thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. . . . He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Could mortals find language more impressive, more to the point, than these words of Christ—words of Him who says, "I know thy works"? Revelation 2:2. He presents the necessity of obtaining all the zeal and earnestness and energy that has ever glowed in the soul. And those who have cast off responsibility, and are content to have their light flickering and dim, Jesus would arouse to a sense of their obligation to let their light shine. He tells them that if they do not repent of their falling away from their first love, He will come suddenly, and remove their candlestick out of its place. As in the case of the unfruitful tree, the command will be given, "Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground." Luke 13:7.

God will accept nothing less than the whole heart. Happy are they who from the commencement of their religious life have been true to their first love, growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The sure result of their intercourse and fellowship with their beloved Lord, will be to increase their piety, their purity, their fervor. They are receiving a divine education, and this is illustrated in a life of fervor, of diligence and zeal. They have that faith constantly becoming stronger which works by love and purifies the soul. Theirs is a child-like devotion, developing itself into activities of holiness, giving proof by the most expressive outward act of their inward gratitude, the heart-felt joy and devoted attachment to Jesus their Redeemer, the divine Restorer.

Those who have been growing in harmony with the world in custom, in practice, in thoughts, are not growing in grace. Their prayers be-

come less and less fervent and intelligent. They seem lifeless, and cold, and dead. They must repent. They are called upon to be inwardly grieved and ashamed and confused before the Lord for their want of love. They should blame themselves, and humbly confess before God, and condemn themselves. They must come back, retrace their steps, and do the first works; take hold again firmly in faith where they let go, recover their first zeal, their conscientious, tender love for God and His precious truth. They must pray as earnestly, and watch as diligently, as when the light of Christ's forgiving, pardoning love first fell upon their souls. A severe threatening from God follows if this work is not done. "I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place."

If we, like Chorazin and Bethsaida, are exalted to heaven in point of privilege (see Matthew 11: 21-24), and, notwithstanding the abundant mercy and loving, tender compassion of God, indifferently regard His great privileges and are not responding to the light and opportunities bestowed, He will come in judgments for impenitence of His churches, and remove the light, and let darkness take its place. Those who are connected with Christ, bearing the yoke of Christ, and lifting His burdens, will be constantly self-denying partakers with Christ of His sufferings. They will be one with Christ, in deep sympathy with Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, that He might bring us to His side in heaven. This is the religion that is earnest, deep, firm, and far-reaching, and insures rest, and peace, and fullness of joy.

The only way to grow in grace is to be interestedly doing the very work Christ has enjoined upon us to do—interestedly engaged to the very extent of our ability to be helping and blessing those who need the help we can give them. This is the only way we can grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Christians who are constantly growing in earnestness, in zeal, in fervor, in love—such Christians never backslide. They are becoming more closely identified with the Saviour in all His plans. They

are "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4. Their wisdom is increasing, their ability how to work. They seem to comprehend the largest plans. They are ready to engage in the most stirring enterprises, and they have no room for slothfulness; they cannot find a place for stagnation.

Those who are ever pressing a little closer to the world, and becoming more like them in feelings, in plans, in ideas, have left a space between them and the Saviour, and Satan has pressed his way into this space, and low, worldly-tainted, selfish plans become interwoven with their experience. God's voice is addressing this class, which are not few: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." It is of consequence that you hear attentively and obey. Come into close relationship with Christ. Keep your souls in constant contact with the world, and its customs will become your customs, its practices will become your practices, if you place yourselves where you will see and hear and feel and act as they do.

in prayer. And all those who are deeply and interestedly engaged in the salvation of others, are the more surely working out their own souls' salvation with fear and trembling. The piety that does not reveal itself in working interestedly for others, will become a form, strengthened, bigoted, self-conceited. Coming in contact with souls for whom Christ has died, seeking to bring them to repentance, and evidencing a love for their souls, will call them out of themselves, so that they will not be exclusively engaged for their own selfish interests, either in temporal pursuits or in spiritual things. God has shown it to be our duty not to live for ourselves. Christ pleased not Himself.

The times of ignorance God winked at, but now, with the blazing light of truth shining all around us, with warnings, with reproofs, with increasing light if we will but open our eyes to see it, there is no excuse for any, even the weakest child of God, that they should not disperse light to the world. The four angels are holding the four winds that a special work may be accomplished: the saints of God are to be sealed in

Elevate your soul's aspirations to higher spheres of action in Christian activities. Those who do this . . . will speedily attain the highest moral efficiency and the clearest spiritual perceptions.

"Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean." 2 Corinthians 6:17. Turn aside quickly to Jesus Christ. Yield your pride, your self love, your selfish aspirations, your love of the world, which are death to spirituality. Repent quickly. Delay not in deciding, lest you be too late. Elevate your soul's aspirations to higher spheres of action in Christian activities. Those who do this are the only class in our churches that will grow. They will speedily attain the highest moral efficiency and the clearest spiritual perceptions. They will have unusual vigor and steadiness of faith. They will know how to pray and be persevering and earnest

their foreheads. See Revelation 7:1-3. Brethren, how long before you will be ready for the seal of God? Every step you advance upon the path which God forbids, toward your own pleasure and in sin, is a step nearer your destruction. Every act of disobedience to the word of the Lord is exposing you to irreparable loss. Every moment of ease, of self-indulgence, secured by you in neglecting the divine admonitions and call to duty in earnest work for the Master, is placing you under the power and control of the prince of darkness. Your candlestick may at any moment be moved out of its place.

Four mighty angels are still holding the four winds of the earth. Ter-

rible destruction is forbidden to come in full. The accidents by land and by sea; the loss of life, steadily increasing, by storm, by tempest, by railroad disaster, by conflagration; the terrible floods, the earthquakes, and the winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat, while the angels hold the four winds, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. Get ready, get ready, I beseech you, get ready before it shall be forever too late! The ministers of vengeance will pour all the terrible judgments upon a God-forsaken people. The way of obedience is the only path of life. May the Lord help you to see it in time to open your ears, that you may hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

What is my duty? What shall I do to save my children and to save many souls from the coming tempest of wrath unmixed with mercy? God claims every power, every capability of action to be invested in the doing of His work. Talents, possessions, everything that is great and noble in man He calls to be exercised in His work. Duty admits no rival, enters into no compromise with any opposing powers. The most precious friends and relatives must not step in between your duty and your God. The voice of duty is the voice of God in our souls. Obedience to its claims brings us into living personal agreement with the highest law in the universe—brings man into alliance with God.

Let the churches be aroused. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." This message concerns all our churches. You can never employ your faculty of hearing better than in hearkening to hear what the voice of God speaks to you in His word. There is a rich and abundant promise to those who overcome. It is not enough to enter upon this warfare, we must pursue it to the end. We must know nothing of yielding. We must fight the good fight of faith to the very end. To the overcomer is

promised the triumphal victory. "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Whatever was lost in the fall of Adam is more than restored in redemption. He that sitteth on the throne saith, "Behold, I make all things new." Let us look closely and critically to ourselves. Are not the vows we entered into at our baptism violated? Are we dead to the world and alive unto Christ? Are we seeking those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God? Is the cable cut which anchored us to the eternal Rock? Are we drifting with the current to perdition? Shall we make no effort to press and urge our passage up stream? Let us not hesitate longer, but vigorously apply the oars; and let us do our first works ere we make hopeless shipwreck.

It is our work to know our special failings and sins, which cause darkness and spiritual feebleness, and quenched our first love. Is it worldliness? Is it selfishness? Is it the love of self-esteem? Is it striving to be first? Is it the sin of sensuality that is intensely active? Is it the sin of the Nicolaitans, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness? Is it the misuse and abuse of great light and opportunities and privileges, making boasted claims to wisdom and religious knowledge, while the life and character are inconsistent and immoral? Whatever it is that has been petted and cultivated until it has become strong and overmastering, make determined efforts to overcome, else you will be lost. It is these cherished sins, abhorrent to God, that make enfeebled moral courage, and leave you to chafe to walk apart from God, while you retain a miserable, heartless, outward form. Once the soul was all aglow with love for Jesus; but all this is changed. The great Head who moves in the midst of His candlesticks will never be without a church. There will be faithless ones who will go out from us because they were not of us. There will be apostasies. But "nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure,

having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his." 2 Timothy 2:19. There will be those who are evil, who hold the truth in unrighteousness, who are sensual, who are controlled by the master-worker in all evil, who will have to be separated from the church.

"I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars." This labor of purifying the church is a painful work, but one that must not be neglected, if the church would have the commendation of God. But repent, because thou hast left thy first love. Here is plainly presented before us our work as members of the church of Christ. If we are faithless, we shall lose the crown of life and another will take it; for in the dropping out of the faithless the places are supplied by the faithful. If we refuse to let our light shine for the Master, if we do not do the works of God, others will do that very work which we might have done and could have done, but refused to do. When we cease to fulfill our mission, when the candlestick refuses to reflect light, and the great truths committed to us individually in trust for the world, are not given to them, then the candlestick will be removed. "I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place." Another will be placed in his stead and will shine. Let prayer be ascending now without delay to Him who walketh in the midst of the golden candlesticks. Take not Thy Holy Spirit from us. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. . . . Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." Psalm 51:7, 10-13.—*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, June 7, 1887.

Letters



Thank you so much for your newsletter and cassette. My wife has just divorced me. But we have been SDA for more than 20 years. I love her so much. She is slowly lowering her SDA values. But I have sent her your newsletters and she never said to stop your newsletters.

More than ever she has talked about the last days in time events. She has been reading about the Y2K thing, and she told me last night that she would like your newsletter sent to her and my son.

Satan is working so hard to break up all families. Can you pray for my wife and son, and for all SDA families. Pray for me to do what the Lord want me to do. . .

We don't have much time to do His work.

Thank you so much, ES—CA

Happy New Year!

. . . Please continue to send me your newsletter and tapes as available. I enjoyed the last 2 you sent. Thank you very much.

May God bless you in all things as you continue your ministry.

Please send your newsletter to _____.

Your sister in Christ, SM—CA

I think these are timely messages to prepare the people to get ready for Christ's soon return. Please continue to warn the people, and God bless you.

Please put two names on your mailing list and send them your magazines. If you can send each your November '98 issue too.

I praise the Lord for you.
In Christ,

MS—OH

NOTE: These names are all added to our mailing list, and they will receive the free newsletters and tapes. Thank you.

Thank you for the newsletters and tapes that you have sent. Enclosed is a gift to help cover the cost.

I look forward to hearing the remaining 3 tapes of *"Those Things Which Have Been, Will Be Repeated."* God bless your efforts to "shape us up" for the future.

SB—NC

We praise and thank the Lord for your ministry! It was a blessed experience to be associated with your group thru our prayers and financial support. . .

We plan to go back to the Philippines to answer God's call there. We do not have the exact address yet where we plan to stay, but we will keep in touch as the Lord blesses. . . .

Please pray for us as we continue to work for Him in our own country.

Very Sincerely Yours, RR—CA

I thank you very much for the past two newsletters with the audio cassette tapes.

Please keep me on your mailing list. . . . I pray God will continue to abundantly bless you and your ministry.

Sincerely, JH—NC

So glad you got moved. Wish you were closer to us. . . .

Sixteen years ago when I was 60 I got 2 compression fractures of the spine lifting a patient. But I keep going 12-14-16 hours a day. In summer it is raising strawberries, raspberries, grapes, black berries; and in

winter baking a years supply of bread to put in the freezer. . . .

Love and Prayer E/RE—TN

I am eating up the tapes *'Prophetic Pattern.'* They are wonderfully helpful. . . . They absolutely are as always crystal clear and easy to understand.

Enclosing money for another *King of the North.* I talk about it and people want their own. . . . Also including a couple addresses for your paper. They study.

Yours in Christ, ND—NC

We recently received two of your recent newsletters . . . for Nov. and Dec. We really appreciate their up-to-date messages and are so thankful for whoever turned our names in. We also appreciated the two tapes No. one and Two of five tapes in all. God has dedicated people He is using to prepare the laity for future events and to be ready for Jesus' soon coming. We are looking forward to the January Newsletter and tapes. Would you please put the following names on your mailing list? . . . I am sure these individuals will appreciate hearing from you.

I notice in one of the "Letters" there is mention of your book *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*, and your magazine *The Time of the End.* Are these available? . . .

Would appreciate your mailing the last two issues for Nov. and Dec. God bless your ministry. We pray for you.

Sincerely, J/RO—NC

NOTE: The books and tapes mentioned are listed on the ORDER BLANK, and should be enclosed with each newsletter.

T I M E L I N E S

In the stream of time . . . near the end of the line.

COLOMBIAN EARTHQUAKE

Armenia, Colombia (AP)—The death toll surpassed 1,000 today from a powerful earthquake that destroyed nearly two-thirds of all the buildings in this western Colombian city. It was the most damaging earthquake to strike the country in more than a century. But today, citizens cheered in the streets of downtown when the Red Cross rescued three men trapped in the rubble of a wrecked four-story building. The magnitude 6 quake flattened cities and towns across western Colombia. Red Cross officials said some 700 buildings were destroyed and 180,000 people left homeless in Armenia alone.—*Associated Press*, January 26, 1999.

Bogota, Columbia—The earthquake . . . flattened 20 towns and villages in five provinces in western Colombia. . . . The earthquake, measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale, is reportedly the worst natural disaster to hit Colombia since 1985, when an avalanche and mudslide buried approximately 25,000 people.—*SDANews*, January 28, 1999.

RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SRI LANKA

Columbo, Sri Lanka [ANN]—The arrest of Seventh-day Adventist Church member Elkins Thurairajah of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, on October 27, accused of terrorist involvement has highlighted on-going concerns about human rights violations in the country. Manickam Anthony Alexander, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and principal of the Adventist International School in Vavuniya was arrested in March this year. He continues to be held in detention accused of aiding terrorists but still has not been charged or tried.

Thurairajah, 25, and the son of a pastor, was arrested during a dawn raid at his parents' home. . . . Both arrested Adventists come from the minority Tamil group.

Dr. John Graz, writing to the President of Sri Lanka on behalf of the International Religious Liberty Association, also expressed concern, particularly at the detention without charge or trial.—Jonathan Gallagher, *Adventist News Network Bulletin*, November 24, 1998.

ADVENTISTS ATTACKED IN INDIA

Gujarat State, India [ANN]—Seventh-day Adventists were among other Christians attacked in

a wave of violence that spread through Gujarat State, India, after anti-Christian speeches during a Hindu group rally on December 25.

The Adventist church in Limbayat, Surat City, was attacked and church members locked themselves inside during worship services on Saturday, December 25. The attackers then resorted to destroying vehicles and other property on the church property. . . . One Adventist suffered injuries when an attacker swung a cricket bat at him. . . .

"Many of our church members were being called to the police stations to give evidence against attackers, and were subjected to rough treatment," says Jeremiah. "The commissioner of police has advised that none of our members should respond to police demands at this stage. The situation is now more or less under control, largely due to the nation-wide outcry against the violence."—Dittu Abraham and Jonathan Gallagher, *Adventist News Network*, January 5, 1999.

FEMALE PASTORS IN FINLAND

Helsinki, Finland [ANN]—An induction service was held for the first time in Finland for Seventh-day Adventist female pastors with Commissioned Minister Credentials. Anna-Leena Jaakkola in Helsinki and Sibrina Kalliokoski in Tampere were included in a service of induction for pastors with Commissioned Minister Credentials on Sabbath, December 13. In Helsinki the president of the Finnish Conference, Erkki Haapasalo, conducted the service with local pastors, and in Tampere services were conducted by the president of the Finland Union Conference, Pekka Pohjola, with Dr. Bertil Wiklander, president of the Trans-European Division.—*Adventist News Network*, January 5, 1999.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DIALOGUE IN ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Israel [ANN]—Seventh-day Adventist leaders co-sponsored a meeting on December 16, of various faith communities in Israel as part of the Church's recognition of the importance of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Together with the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), Richard Elofer, leader of the

Adventist Church in Israel, invited representatives of the three major religions in the country to speak on religious liberty and human rights from the perspective of their respective faith communities.

Professor Nahum Rakover, Israel's deputy attorney general, spoke on behalf of the Jewish community; Professor Mustafa Abu Sway, lecturer in philosophy at Jerusalem's Al-Quds University spoke for the Islamic community, and Reverend Charles Kopp, chairman of Israel's United Christian Council spoke for the Christian community.

"The remarks of the three representatives highlighted the conceptual gulf between the major religions regarding religious liberty," commented Elofer.

Speaking on behalf of IRLA, Dr. John Graz, secretary general, reported on the organization's work around the world.

"IRLA is the leading non-governmental agency in the world today in the area of providing expert advice to legislators drafting religious liberty legislation," said Graz. "During this period of rapid legislative change in many countries in accordance with the shifting political climate, the international instruments—such as the UN Declaration—must be the constant point of reference."—Richard Elofer, *Adventist News Radio*, Jonathan Gallagher, *SDANews: ANN Bulletin*, January 12, 1999.

INCREASE IN HIV INFECTIONS

According to a recent report from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO), during the past year, a further 5.8 million people were infected with HIV—approximately 11 men, women and children every minute—and the total number of people living with the virus rose by one-tenth, to 33.4 million worldwide. Overall, the report found that half of all new infections are now in 15-25 year-olds; development gains are being wiped out; and sub-Saharan African countries are the hardest-hit. There are fewer deaths in North America, Western Europe, but no progress in prevention. HIV infection rates have remained unchanged for a decade.

The global epicenter of AIDS continues to be sub-Saharan Africa. Since the epidemic began, 34 million Africans have been infected,

and almost 12 million have already died. In 1998, the region experienced four million new infections and rising AIDS death tolls, seen in an estimated 5,500 funerals per day. In the southernmost countries of the continent, where HIV took on epidemic proportions only recently, infection rates continued to rise dramatically during the past year. Four countries now estimate that 20-26 percent of adults are living with HIV, and South Africa alone accounts for one out of every seven new infections on the continent. In contrast, a number of countries in West Africa remain relatively less affected, in part as a result of early and sustained prevention efforts.—SDANEWS: January 14, 1999.

LISTERIA DEATH TOLL

Atlanta, GA (Reuters)—The death toll from contaminated hot dogs and meat products included in a voluntary nationwide recall has risen to 12, federal health experts said Thursday. . . .

At least 60 cases of illness caused by a rare strain of listeria, a bacterium, have been reported from 12 states to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since August 1998, the agency said.

The 12 deaths linked to hot dogs and possibly delicatessen meats produced by one manufacturer include those of three unborn children whose mothers miscarried, the centers said. Nine adults also died, it said. The death toll was up from the eight announced by the agency January 7.—SDANEWS, January 15, 1999

SIERRA LEONE FIGHTING

Freetown, Sierra Leone—After approximately four weeks of fighting, brutality and prolonged insecurity in Sierra Leone, ADRA continues to assist in emergency relief efforts aiding thousands of innocent victims caught in the crossfire.

Despite random attacks, ADRA continues to offer food and medical assistance at several temporary shelters throughout eastern and western Freetown, the capital. . . .

Some of the medicine for these clinics is being provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) or were transferred from ADRA's internally displaced people (IDP) camp in Waterloo. ADRA's Waterloo camp was attacked three times in the last month-and-a-half and its residents were forced to abandon it.—SDANEWS, February 5, 1999.

ADRA SOUTH SUDAN

Nairobi, Kenya—The ADRA compound in Chukudum, south Sudan, was reportedly burnt and looted at the end of last week while two local military factions

spent three days fighting nearby.

The United Nations helped evacuate 14 ex-patriot ADRA staff to Lokichoggio, Kenya, the United Nations/Operation Lifeline Sudan (UN/OLS) headquarters in northern Kenya, after the staff spent three days hiding.

ADRA is a member of the UN/OLS consortium of 40 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

"While bullets from the warring factions flew through Chukudum and the surrounding hills, ADRA staff hid in a roofed bomb shelter, bullets continuing to whiz over their heads," reports Robin Willison, ADRA South Sudan project director and acting country director. "There was no food or water except when someone was brave enough to venture out for a few minutes, at peril to their lives."

. . . several of ADRA's six vehicles may have been removed. . . . Says Willison, ". . . I expect it will be a few more weeks before the UN goes in to check on the situation and give our employees the approval to go back to work. This emergency occurred in a location where there was previously little insecurity."—SDANEWS, January 21, 1999.

ADVENTIST HEBREW LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Jerusalem, Israel—The "First Leadership Training Seminar for Adventist Hebrew Congregations" [was] held 19-24 January, 1999 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The seminar was organized by the World Jewish Fellowship Center . . . part of the Global Mission Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. . . .

The purpose . . . was to train both ordained pastors and lay people around the world for ministry in Adventist Hebrew Congregations. Approximately fifty persons took part, from countries as diverse as Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile, the United States and Israel. There were also representatives from New York and Andrews University.

. . . Reports Pastor Richard Elofer, president of the Israel Field of Seventh-day Adventists, ". . . for the first time in my life I was able to worship God within my Jewish identity. . . . I was thrilled to learn of groups of Adventist Jews in Brazil, Argentina, Australia, Russia, South Africa, Chile, USA, Israel and many other countries who are prepared to live their faith within their Jewish identity by organizing their own synagogues."

The seminar was divided in three principle parts: 1) an introduction to Judaism; 2) the history of Israel and the Church: the biblical view of God's people, the rupture between Israel and

the church emphasizing the role played by Christian anti-Semitism; 3) Adventist mission among Jewish people; the importance of this mission in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy, aiding Jewish people to return to biblical Judaism as it was practiced by Jesus of Nazareth.

At the end of the session a small committee . . . formed a number of proposals for the Global Mission Department at the General Conference.

One important proposal is to unify the liturgy of Adventist Synagogues around the world. Another important proposal is to create a new academic programme, a "yeshivah", for preparing leaders, "rabbis" of Adventist synagogues. . . . Studies would take place at Andrews University and in Jerusalem.—*Pony Express E-mail Ministry International*, February 10, 1999.

PRAYER IN AFGHANISTAN

Male residents of Kabul, Afghanistan, have been ordered to attend five daily prayers or be subject to punishment. Religious police who are part of Afghanistan's Islamic Taliban movement announced the order over loudspeakers at Kabul's mosques this week, *Reuters* said. [They] reportedly threatened to punish those who failed to comply, and said neighbors should inform them of any man not attending prayers. The Taliban has forced businesses to close during prayers or face a fine or closure for several days. Women are barred from working outside the home, except in the medical profession, and are required to cover their bodies from head to toe when they leave their homes. Girls cannot receive an education. Men have been ordered to grow beards and not wear Western clothes. The group controls 90% of the country.

Chechnya President Aslan Maskhadov instituted Islamic Sharia law. The formerly moderate Muslim has been under pressure from more radical groups to step down, *The Los Angeles Times* said. The breakaway Russian republic is mostly Muslim. The new laws will be applied to all spheres of society, including government, education, and the military.

Hindu activists beat two Christian pastors in Kerala state. . . . The mob accused the men of making illegal converts and then stoned them and beat them with metal rods. . . . The pastors were seriously injured and are recovering at a hospital in Pathanamthitta. Christians have suffered increased persecution from radical Hindus in the past year.—*ReligionToday.com*, February 4, 1999.

Sin Shall Not Have Dominion. . .

Part 1 of 3

By Charles Fitch

NOTE: This is the first part of the second letter written by Charles Fitch in 1840, when asked by the Presbytery of Newark to tell them "what this new doctrine is." Brother Fitch begins this letter with a reference to the response they made to the first letter. This article contains part one of the first reason he gives for his faith; part two of reason one, as well as the other three reasons will be given in parts 2 & 3.

Dear Brethren:

After being made acquainted with my views and feelings on the subject of sanctification, you have passed a resolution declaring them to be important and in dangerous error, admonishing me to preach them no more. I must therefore say, brethren, and I hope to do it with all meekness and humility and in lowliness of heart, that I cannot regard your admonition for the following reasons:

REASON ONE

It is now several years since after a season of spiritual gloom and sadness, I came fully to the conclusion that there was something in the religion of Jesus Christ to which I had been a stranger. I had seen myself to be a sinner before God, richly deserving His everlasting indignation. I had seen that God would be holy, just and good, and worthy of universal and eternal adoration, while punishing me with everlasting destruction from His presence and from the glory of His power. I had also seen in Christ, a Savior who, after atoning for all mankind on the cross, was able on the merits of that atonement to save to the uttermost all that come to God by Him, and on that Savior I had cast myself as my only hope, and trusted in Him, and Him only, as my Deliverer from the wrath of God.

Trusting thus in Him—my crucified Savior—for my salvation, I was for a time filled with great joy and peace in believing, and went on my way rejoicing. However, years passed away, and to these lively emotions of joy in the Lord I had been almost an entire stranger, except for a short season immediately succeeding my first conversion to Christ—when I did taste in a good degree the peace which those are sure to find who come with a heart penitent for sin, and trust in the merits of a crucified Savior for pardon and everlasting life. How-

ever, I had come now to the full conviction that my religious state was very far from what it ought to be. This arose partly from what I had learned in the Bible respecting "the riches of the glory of this mystery . . . which is Christ in you, the hope of glory," "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus," "whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" and partly from what I learned about that time of the experience of some Christians to which experience I knew myself to be a stranger. Colossians 1:27; Philippians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:8.

I came then to a settled determination to know, with the help of God, more of spiritual things. Since that time, which is now some years, I have as never before, "criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 2:3-5. I have sought for spiritual bread and for the water of life with an earnestness which I know I have never felt for any of the possessions of this world. I have sought these in the Bible, in the experience of eminent Christians who have gone to their reward, and in the writings of living Christians who seemed to know most of spiritual things. I have sought them in personal conversation with those who seemed to know most of the deep things of God, and I have sought them on my knees with many tears, and with earnest wrestlings in the name of Christ for the teachings of the Holy Ghost. For a long time there was no definite blessing that I had in my mind as the object of pursuit, except that I might have more of the Holy Ghost, and be far better prepared than I had ever been to live to the glory of God. However, I was made acquainted in the providence of God with some of those Christians who believe that it is the privilege of all disciples of Christ to be, through the "great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works," and we "through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work

to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ"—"sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it"—to be cleansed "from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" and thus through the "exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 13:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1:20; 2 Peter 1:4.

When I first knew this class of Christians, and first read their writings, I was greatly opposed to their views of truth, and from what I had learned of the mistakes and excesses of some who had professed to hold this truth, and to enjoy the experience of it, I was led to regard the whole subject with very great aversion. Yet, I have learned that truth is not (to) be held accountable for the excesses into which these mistakes may lead them, nor for the sins of those "who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Romans 1:18.

While I was thus crying after knowledge, and lifting up my voice for understanding, the Lord began to teach me more and more of the love of Christ, so that I was not only restored to my first love, but made to know in my own experience that "the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day," and that "he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." The "peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" "with joy unspeakable and full of glory," of which the Bible speaks, became realities to my mind; and I had learned the blessed truth that "all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" that it is the Christian's privilege by trusting in Christ for the fulfillment of the promises to enjoy the fulfillment of every one of them, just as the awakened sinner has fulfilled to him the promise of pardon, when, and only when, he believes for this on Christ. Proverbs 4:18; John 8:12; Philippians 4:7.

I had then inquired, What has God promised, and what is He willing to do for me, if I believe for it in Christ? I examined the Bible with this principle in view, and found that God has said, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8. This promise I knew to be yea and amen in Christ unto the glory of God by me, and I therefore prayed and trusted in Christ that God would instruct me, and teach me in the way that I should go, and guide me with His eye into all truth respecting the doctrine of sanctification. When I read the promises on this subject, I found them full and explicit: "God *will* circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul." (All emphasis added unless otherwise noted.) "Then *will* I sprinkle clean water upon you, and *ye shall be clean*: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. . . . I *will* take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I *will* give you an heart of flesh, . . . and I *will* put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and *ye shall* keep my judgments, and do them. . . . I *will* also save you from all your uncleanness." "And I *will* make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I *will* put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me." "This is the covenant that I *will* make them after those days, saith the Lord; I *will* put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds *will* I write them; and their sins and iniquities *will* I remember no more." I also found that Christ, our Redeemer, was called Jesus because "he shall save his people from their sins;" that "He was manifested to take away our sins. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not." I also found many other Scriptures equally full and explicit. Deuteronomy 30:6; Ezekiel 36:25, 27; Jeremiah 32:40;

However, after all this, unbelief triumphed in my mind, and I could not see how it should ever be to me reality in this life, that "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7. Yet, as I prayed more and more for the teachings of God's Spirit, and searched after the truth, I found that, "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. *He is as faithful to cleanse as He is to forgive.* I found also that Christ was "raised up an horn of salvation . . . to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath

which he sware to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." Luke 1:69, 72-75. When I inquired, why are not these promises—so rich and full—made good to God's people, I saw that as they were yea and amen only in Christ, they were to be fulfilled like the promises pledging the pardon of sin to those, and only those, who believe in Christ for their fulfillment. This led me to see that if I would be cleansed from all unrighteousness, as well as have my sins forgiven, I must believe for that cleansing in Him of whom it is said, "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." On Him, therefore, I now endeavored oftentimes to cast myself by trusting simply in His faithfulness that He would

will come to make her clean, with as much ado and pomp and bustle, as the Syrian general looked for, when he was wroth, and said, 'Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.' 2 Kings 5:11. Christ frequently goes a much plainer way to work, and by this means disconcerts all our preconceived notions and schemes of deliverance. Learn of me to be meek and lowly in heart, and thou shalt find rest to thy soul (see Matthew 11:29), the sweet rest of Christian perfection, of perfect humility, resignation and meekness. If thou wilt absolutely come to mount Zion in a triumphal chariot, or make thine entrance into the New Jerusalem upon a prancing horse, thou art likely never to come there. Leave then all thy worldly misconceptions behind, and humbly follow thy King, who

If the Lord be pleased to come softly to thy help; if He make an end of thy corruptions by helping thee gently to sink to unknown depths of meekness; if He drown the indwelling man of sin by baptizing, by plunging him into an abyss of humility; do not find fault with the simplicity of His method, the plainness of His appearing and the commonness of His prescription.

cleanse me from all unrighteousness. However, I had yet no evidence on which I could rest a belief that I was thus cleansed. I went on thus continuing to pray, endeavoring to trust in Christ for this cleansing gift of the Holy Spirit, and desiring above all things to be cleansed from all unrighteousness. In this state of mind, I had one day taken my Testament, and a little work on "*Christian Perfection*." By Fletcher, and given myself up to reading, meditation and prayer on this subject. I opened Fletcher at the following passage:

"My hear strings groan with deep complaint—My flesh lies, panting, Lord, for Thee, and every limb, and every joint, stretches for perfect purity. But if the Lord be pleased to come softly to thy help; if He make an end of thy corruptions by helping thee gently to sink to unknown depths of meekness; if He drown the indwelling man of sin by baptizing, by plunging him into an abyss of humility; do not find fault with the simplicity of His method, the plainness of His appearing and the commonness of His prescription. Nature, like Naaman, is full of prejudices. She expects that Christ

makes His entry into the typical Jerusalem, meek and lowly, "riding upon an ass," yea, "upon a colt, the foal of an ass." Zechariah 9:9.

These remarks were particularly blessed to me. It seemed to me, indeed, a most delightful thing to sink into the meek and lowly spirit of the blessed Savior. I had before been laboring to rise above my sins, and thus leave them. However, now I felt willing to sink below them into a depth of humility, where the proud, unhumiliated spirit of sin would not be willing to follow, and it seemed a delightful thing to sink in the arms of my Savior *below* the reach of my spiritual foes, when I had long been seeking in vain to escape them by soaring above. I felt then in my spirit a most sweet and heavenly sinking into the arms of my Redeemer, such as I had not before experienced, and it was followed by a calm, unruffled, blissful peace in Christ—such as I need not attempt to describe to those who have tasted it, and such as I cannot describe to the comprehension of those whose hearts have never felt it. It was attended with such a full and delightful submission in all things to the

will of God; such a joy of heart in the thought of being for life, and for death, and forever, altogether at God's disposal; such a gladness in giving up earth in all its possessions and pleasures for Christ's sake; such an overflow of humble, penitential, grateful love to my Redeemer; such a satisfaction in the thought of having Him as my only everlasting portion; such praise to His name that I might possess Him as the portion of my soul forever; such fullhearted and unshrinking confidence in all His promises, and such a readiness to do and suffer all things, even to the laying down of life for His name's sake, that I felt constrained to say, this is purity of heart. I knew that nothing but the Holy Spirit could ever fill such a heart as mine had been with such feelings as these, and I therefore believed it to be the work of

of the heavens, He seemed to fill the whole firmament, and to shed His mild, sweet, heavenly, life-giving, joy-inspiring radiance upon me from every point. Above and around me all was light and gladness, and praise to the name of my Redeemer seemed the language of every breath. I cannot but feel that in that state of mind sin had no dominion over me. I feel that God at that time gave me the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, I had yet one lesson to learn, and there was probably but one way by which I could learn it—by drinking, like Peter, of the cup of sorrow, that I might in the future beware. I had been accustomed to say that if persons believed that they had reason to regard themselves as fully sanctified, there was no necessity for making it known, and

His Spirit, but I believed it not. I accordingly made the attempt and fell into the snare of the wicked one. I now found the same sins besetting me as before, bringing me into bondage, and my state [became] precisely what it was previous to what I believed the Lord had shown me of the blessedness of a pure heart. I know that by denying that blessed work which the Lord did in me, and by denying it that I might have a reputation for humility with man, I brought leanness and darkness into my own soul.

In this state, however, I was led to desire most earnestly, and to pray most fervently that I might be made like Christ. The burden of my petition was that I might be made as much like Christ as it was possible for a soul to become while in the body, and I felt that I could be satisfied with nothing short of this. After praying thus for a time, I saw most clearly that there was nothing which God was more willing to do than to make me thus like Christ, and I felt a sweetness of assurance in Him that it should be granted me. Now it was that the Lord showed me what must be the consequence of being like Christ, and that I could not possibly have the likeness of Christ without meeting these consequences. I saw that if I would live godly in Christ Jesus, I must suffer persecution, and that I could not be like Christ without being willing to share in His reproach. The Holy Spirit now showed me the sin which I had committed in denying what God had done for my soul, and I now saw that while "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10), from being again led into sin. This I had not done. With my heart I had believed unto righteousness, but instead of making confession with my mouth of the grace which God had shown me, and thereby being saved from the sin of denying it, I had refused to make the confession, and by so doing fell again into the hands of my spiritual foes. I now saw that to continue in the enjoyment of that blessing, I must confess the whole and take the consequences. These I knew would not be small. I knew that almost every friend I had on earth would regard me as almost utterly fallen the moment I should make such a confession, and that my brethren in the ministry, whose confidence I had valued above all earthly goods, would withdraw their confidence at once, and in all probability cast me out from among them.—*Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You, 35-42.*

The burden of my petition was that I might be made as much like Christ as it was possible for a soul to become while in the body, and I felt that I could be satisfied with nothing short of this.

the Holy Spirit, cleansing my heart from the defilement of sin. I know that some persons are ready to say, All this may be the delusion of Satan leading you to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Yet, I do not think that the devil ever attempted to fill the heart of any man with the love of God. Christ said to His disciples, "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." John 14:16-17. The true disciple, therefore, will know the Comforter. I know that the feelings I have now described were a blessed reality; that there was nothing left in my will or affections in opposition to them, and I do therefore believe that the Savior gave me to know at that moment something of the blessedness of being redeemed from all iniquity, and purified unto Himself. For some length of time I continued in that blessed state of mind. The glory of my Redeemer shone upon my soul without a cloud. He had before seemed to shine upon me with a brightness like the noonday sun, but now, instead of shining from a particular part

the enemy of my soul doubtless knew enough of me to commence his attack where I was most likely to be overcome. I was therefore led to say within myself, This need not be mentioned; it never shall be said of me that I go about boasting of my own goodness. To boast of my own goodness I certainly felt no disposition, for I clearly saw that all which had been wrought within me was the work of the Holy Spirit, and that of my own I had nothing of which to boast.

However, I came to the conclusion not to say, even to my dearest friends, that I had ever thought myself to be cleansed from sin even for a moment. I would enjoy it alone with God and let my life bear witness. The consequence was that when brought where I feared another might suspect me of thinking of myself, I was led for the purpose of giving him a better opinion of my humility to say that I entertained no such opinion.

Herein I fell into sin. By denying what I had believed to have been wrought in me by the Spirit of God, I was now made to feel what I had lost. I had been told that I could not remain in the delightful state in which I had found myself without confessing to the honor of Christ what I believed He had done for me by

Y2K Alert!!

By Ken Raggio
[edited for length]

A close friend of mine was conducting a Y2k seminar in mid-November with about 300 people in attendance. At the end of the session, a lady introduced herself as a bank official at the largest bank in her state. My friend asked her if her bank was ready for the Year 2000 computer crisis.

Her reply was very interesting. First of all, she said that every bank employee had been instructed to answer all public inquiries by saying "Yes, our bank is Y2K Compliant." Any employee who answered otherwise would be fired. Then she informed him candidly that their bank had already conducted two Y2k tests on their computer systems. BOTH TESTS failed completely—shut down! So in spite of the public assurances that this huge bank is ready for Y2k, they are plainly LYING to the public.

Secondly, she offered additional information. She said, "We have also been informed that in April, 1999, WE WILL NO LONGER ISSUE CASH!"

What?? Friend, can you tell me why the largest bank in that state has informed it's officers that it will not issue cash in April? I suspect that something big is about to happen, and it's going to happen a whole lot sooner than we think.

I just received a short email from one of my readers with a one-line message; "My daughter works for ____ (one of the largest banks on the East Coast), and they have advised them to set aside enough cash for 3-6 months. They say the bank could be closed for days at a time."

Recently, I went to a bank (not my own) to cash a check that was drawn on that bank. I properly endorsed the check (it was written to me), and presented my driver's license with photo ID. The teller handed me an INK PAD, and asked me to put my THUMB PRINT on the back of the check. I refused to give my thumb print to cash the check. I insisted that she cash the check with-

out my thumb print. She said she could not. I asked to speak to her manager. . . . I told him that I considered the thumb print requirement to be an invasion of my privacy. He told me that it was bank policy, and he could not cash the check without my thumb print.

I asked to speak to the Branch Manager. . . . I told him that I had given the teller adequate endorsement and identification, and I expected them to cash the check without my thumb print.

He instantly grew belligerent and informed me that if I didn't want to give my thumb print that I could just go to another bank. I told him that I didn't believe that it was necessary to have my thumb print to identify me. He explained that it was company policy. I asked him what they were going to do with my thumb print. He said that they were going to put it on computer file.

I said that I didn't WANT my thumb print in their computer files. He suggested I take my check somewhere else. I left immediately.

My point in telling you this is that we are getting closer and closer to a banking system that increasingly invades the privacy and rights of its customers.

This week's headlines included the story of the FDIC pushing Congress to pass new laws requiring banks to report the banking activities of all their customers. The public is outraged, but in the end, the FDIC will probably get what they want. Every time we make a transaction that is a little different than our established "pattern," our bank will be reporting us to "Big Brother." It is an economic Gestapo. Economic sanctions is one of the New World Order's more ingenious control tactics.

Ultimately you will be so outraged, you will wish you could get out of the system. Unfortunately, you will not be able to do business outside the system.

The Gartner Group, a international consulting firm that has been on the cutting edge of Y2K research, recently found that no less than 50% of all businesses world-wide will experience mission-critical computer failures in the Year 2000. Can you imagine the impact on society if HALF of all the world's businesses collapse in the first half of 2000?

Friends, it's time to FAST, PRAY, and BELIEVE GOD for critical direction for our lives in the weeks and months ahead.

Y2K WEATHERMAN COMMENTS

When will the masses wake up? When they do, will it be too late? It was for many of the Jews in pre-World War II Germany. Are we in a similar situation in 1999 USA? There is no doubt we are being desensitized to what constitutes moral values, truth and lies, invasions of our privacy, the infringement of our freedoms, and the dangers of Y2k. . . .

You'll quickly realize that you DO NOT have until the end of the year to prepare for Y2k. . . . The question is, "Are you doing anything about it?"—*The Y2k Weatherman*, Y2kWatch.com

Russia Needs \$3B To Fight Y2K Bug

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia conceded today it needs up to \$3 billion to tackle the Year 2000 computer glitch—six times the original estimate. Russia appealed to the United States to help fix computers that control stockpiles of nuclear weapons. Overwhelmed with debt, the government has long played down the cost and urgency of confronting the "millennium bug," which could destabilize computer systems that control Russia's nuclear arsenal.

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