

# FUTURE NEWS

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## What Manner Of Persons Ought Ye To Be

That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 2 Peter 3:2-14.

# IN THIS ISSUE

## 3 Ministry Update

## 15 Victory At Last

By E. G. White

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**Future for America** seeks to supply meat in due season for God's flock. It is present truth that the flock needs now:

"God cannot display the knowledge of His will and the wonders of His grace among the unbelieving world unless He has witnesses scattered all over the earth. It is His plan that those who are partakers of this great salvation through Jesus Christ should be His missionaries, bodies of light throughout the world, to be as signs to the people, living epistles, known and read of all men, their faith and works testifying to the near approach of the coming Saviour and showing that they have not received the grace of God in vain. The people must be warned to prepare for the coming judgment. To those who have been listening only to fables, God will give an opportunity to hear the sure word of prophecy, whereunto they do well that they take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. He will present the sure word of truth to the understanding of all who will take heed; all may contrast truth with the fables presented to them by men who claim to understand the word of God and to be qualified to instruct those in darkness." *Testimonies*, volume 2, 631-632.

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## Future News

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### 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.

## Do The Work Of An Evangelist

By the time you receive this newsletter our evangelistic series in the Philippines may well be under way. It begins April 22 and continues until May 6. Please keep these meetings in your prayers. We will be attempting there to fulfill Paul's admonition to us all:

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

We send our thanks to those of you who have financed this campaign. We thank you for the privilege that we may serve in this fashion through your generosity, and we thank you for the souls whom will be saved in this work. May many stars be added to your crowns.


### Strawberry Meadows

The Lord is using the ministry Strawberry Meadows and Brother Steve Dickie's to open up another printing operation. This time the country is Cuba. Steve Dickie has prepared a very excellent video explaining this work. If you would like to obtain a free copy of this video, please contact Steve or Donna Dickie at 507 374 2743 or write them at Route 1 Box 53 Dodge Center, MN 55927.

### Dr. Mary Ann Mcneilus

On April 28, 29, & 30 Dr. Mary Ann McNeilus, Dr. Lorraine Day, and Dr. Phil Collins will be holding meetings on natural healing and associated subjects in the Loma Linda, California area. The location is not finalized as of this printing. For information you may call Lela Lewis in the Loma Linda area. Her number is 909-796-1987. Or you may call Dr. Mary Ann or her husband Marnelle McNeilus at 507-467-3508.

### AN OLD LETTER—

 Recently, as Pat Rampy was deleting some files off my laptop, (which he is currently using)—he came across an old letter of mine. After he read it, he suggested we include it in our newsletter. There are several issues in the letter, but the issue involved with the book is worth reconsidering.

It was one of my duties at my previous place of employment to be involved in the editorial decisions. The following letter is one of my responses during a time when a book was going to print. I had been out of the country when the discussion of the book began. When I returned several asked that I become involved with examining the book. I very quickly read the book and wrote the following letter. Perhaps more time and thought should have been given to the content. Be that as it may, this letter brought a great response from the powers that be in this institution, even bringing about a long letter of response that was delivered to all the board members of that institution the night before the board meeting where I was released from my services at this institution. The "letter of response" was given to all the board members except myself, the night before, in order to preclude any type of response. The following day I was unemployed.

I praise the Lord that He has taken me to where I am now, so this is not an attempt to reopen old wounds, but it is an attempt to emphasize how the issue addressed in the book—is an issue which still cuts in Adventism today.

 May 22, 1997                      Dear Dr. \*\*\*\*\*,

It is with mixed feelings that I begin this letter. We understand that the struggles which we work through in this life are God's ordained means of character development, yet I still have not achieved the experience where some of the trials between brethren and issues here at \*\*\*\* do not bring me to frustration, sadness, and discouragement. The issues associated with this letter is one of those times.

I disagree with the premise of the title of your book. Health reform is certainly a test for Adventists—but the test is in the realm of faith.

The *greatest emphasis* by the Spirit of Prophecy on medical practices which should be avoided or discarded is in the field of allopathic medicine. Allopathic medicine is the prepared temptation for Seventh-day Adventists. It is on this point where Adventists will choose to exercise simple faith in the eight laws of health or place their trust in a medical tradition which can be historical traced all the way back to ancient Babal. A book titled as you have proposed should

certainly contain the criticisms of the types of spurious medical practices which you have addressed, but to not address allopathic medicine as *the premier danger* to Seventh-day Adventism in the realm of health—is a contradiction of the title. The test for Adventists concerning health practices has to do with faith—not healing.

Certainly Adventist will be deceived by false medical practices and even lose their souls, but the deception is the natural consequence of *not developing* the correct and saving faith associated with true medical practices. The correct faith necessary to resist false medical practices is developed by accepting and practicing the eight laws of health as presented in the Spirit of Prophecy. As you know, one of those rules is trust in Divine power. The availability and emphasis on allopathic medicine in Adventism has closed the door to most of Adventism entering into the experience of trusting in Divine power. By not doing so we therefore have left ourselves open to accept a wide variety of false medical practices. These practices will deceive those of us who lack the proper faith and individual experience in true health reform, but clearly the greatest warning against false medical practices in the Spirit of Prophecy—is allopathic medicine.

Certainly Sister White allows for allopathic medicine in emergency situations, but you take this exception to the primary rule and try to develop a position which establishes allopathic medicine as part of God's health program. God's health plan functions within the domain of natural law—but allopathic medicine does not. This, of course, depends on how we understand and define natural law. If *natural law* is simply defined as "cause and effect," then I stand corrected, and natural law does include allopathic medicine. But then again, the false medical practices you identified also function upon the principle of "cause and effect."

The term *natural law* should identify the positive laws of nature which work to allow the body to heal itself. The health practices which fall under the term *natural law* and which God endorses are the health practices that do not cause negative side effects as they produce their effects and results. Drugs produce negative side effects. The few exceptions where Sister White illustrates procedures which are radical and cause negative side effects are *the exceptions*. Praise God that He allows those exceptions to be recognized in order that we do not fall into the ditch of fanaticism. But when the other side of the road takes these exceptions, making allowance for allopathic medicine to be used in the same light as the eight laws—it is just another ditch.

The following is not a case for fanaticism, but we know that in the theological controversy in Adventism today the liberals decry perfectionism, legalism, and fanaticism when it comes to the conservatives. Yet the truth is that the greater problem and weakness in Adventism is not those who tend towards legalism and perfectionism, but those who take *the other ditch* of liberalism. Both ditches are wrong. In the perspective of theological crisis of our church, there are two ditches on the philosophy of health. Those being the ditch of fanaticism and the ditch of liberal allopathic medicine. The ditch of fanaticism is less traveled than the ditch of liberal allopathic medical. The ditch of allopathic medicine is where the majority of Adventism travels today. (One of the principles you apply in regard to health is the choice that must be made between the lesser of two evils. Using this principle, I would conjecture that the ditch of fanaticism in regard to health reform is safer than the ditch of liberal allopathic medicine.)

I know of many times when you have resisted my position on certain theological understandings because you did not understand the term, phrase, or word in the same fashion, as I understood it. You did not always insist that I was wrong, but you sometimes made the case, that if you were not sure about the meaning of the term, phrase, or word— then others could or would also be confused. You are very jealous for clarity in presentation.

On page 31, and on page 60, of your manuscript you use a passage from 5 *Testimonies*, 199, in order to address the variety of false medical practices which you are exposing, while you avoid a serious detrimental analysis of allopathic medicine. This Spirit of Prophecy passage is identifying those who are deceived by false medical practices as follows: "Those who give themselves up to the sorcery of Satan."

The word "sorcery" is associated with allopathic medicine more than any other medical practice. In fact, some would say it is exclusively identifying allopathic medicine. Sorcery is used in Revelation 9:21, and Revelation 18:23, to identify how the world is deceived. It comes from the Greek word "*pharmakic*." In *Strong's Concordance* it is number 5233, and it derives from number 5232—meaning medication. Pharmaceutical in the *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* means: to practice witchcraft or the use of medicine.

Clearly to use a passage from the Spirit of Prophecy identifying the "sorcery of Satan," as the false medical practices which you address in your manuscript, (while avoiding a serious warning against allopathic medicine and even developing a philosophy which endorses allopathic medicine as part of God's true health plan) is, at minimum, an unacceptable use of the definition and history associated with the word—*sorcery*.

This criticism may seem to be extreme by some, but the testimony of Scripture and history is not silent on this

subject. At the beginning of Nimrod's religion those who were initiated were given intoxicating potions to better prepare themselves for their spiritualistic experiences. This characteristic of Nimrod's religion is well documented and is illustrated symbolically when Semeramus is portrayed in statues, engravings, and pictures as holding a *golden cup in her hand*. This cup of sorcery, (medication!) is used to identify a primary characteristic of Babylon to the very end. Revelation 17 portrays modern Babylon as a whore who holds a golden cup in her hand. This cup symbolizes medication, and or—witchcraft. Where do we see magnet's, acupuncture, chiropractic, or meditation specifically associated with the whore who will deceive the whole world?

Allopathic medicine traces the source of its "coat of arms," back to Pergamos. This is the city where "Satan's seat" was located between the time period when Satan ruled from Babylon and the time period when he ruled from Rome. This city was known as "the temple city" where many pagan gods were worshipped. The most important temple in that city was the temple of Zeus where Aesculapius, "the serpent god," or "the god of healing," or "the man instructing serpent" was worshipped. This is the god who combines truth with error. This is the god who takes the exception and develops the rule. This is *the god of syncretism*.

(Syncretism: the combination of two opposing philosophies, principle, or beliefs. This is a Pippenger paraphrased definition.)

**Example number 1:** You will die—but you won't die. You will know good—You will know evil.

**Example number 2:** "Her example reveals that she recognized that methods of diagnosis and treatment based on obedience to natural law can be part of Heaven's health program when they are needed and **when they are available.**" Page 52, of your book.

**"Drug medication is to be discarded.** On this point the conscience of the physician must ever be kept tender, and true and clean. **The inclination to use poisonous drugs, which kill if they do not cure, needs to be guarded against.**" *The Use of Drugs in the Care of the Sick*, 27.

The city of Pergamos had a famous school of medicine, (sorcery), which had the emblem of the serpent god twined around a pole. The long history of allopathic medicine *does not* agree with your hypothesis that drug medication is part of God's health plan. At minimum a presentation such as yours will place stumbling blocks before many in Adventism who understand the histories and symbols of Scripture as *warnings and admonitions*, which must be considered and acted upon. Your manuscript totally lacks the Biblical historical balance when it comes to the subject of medication.

With the history associated with the word "sorcery," your selection of that passage in the Spirit of Prophecy in describing the false medical practices which you see as the *test* for Adventism is an inaccurate use of the word.

I recently read through the book, *Receiving the Word*, by Samuel Koranteng-Pipim. It is an excellent book. The author very carefully defines the difference between those in Adventism who totally reject the inspiration and miracles of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, and those who reject certain parts of the inspiration of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, and those who accept the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy as totally inspired. (This is a simplistic overview.)

The author carefully identifies these three groups as liberal, semi-liberal, and conservative. (This is my expression of the three groups he addresses.) He then establishes, that although the semi-liberals deny they function with the same philosophical premises as the liberals, that it is impossible to uphold the principle that only part of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy is inspired. If you believe only part of it inspired, as the so-called semi-liberals do, then you have the same philosophy as the liberals whose philosophy is that no part of Inspiration is Inspired.

As he addresses these three groups, their philosophies, and their effect on Adventism today, he addresses some of the approaches which the semi-liberals in Adventism use to propagate their erroneous suppositions. Two themes, (among several) which liberals and semi-liberals use to lessen and destroy a simple "Thus saith the Lord" are science and the majority opinion.

As I read the book, many things which I have witnessed and understood in Adventism became more clearly identified as I recognized the philosophical approaches and premises connected with the different battles in Adventism. One thing which became apparent to me is that those pastors who are leaving the Seminary to present their false theology are not necessary on a battle against conservative Bible truth. They are simply applying the philosophical principles which they have been taught, and which they are unaware are destroying the power of the Word. Many of them do not understand that the principles and philosophy they are professing is an outright denial of God's truth. Yet their motives may very well be pure.

I believe you are an honest man, who in pure conscience operates on principles which you have determined

as true. I worry about your philosophy when it begins to deny the great amount of testimony concerning allopathic medicine, in an apparent attempt to bring your understanding of the science of allopathic medicine together with eight laws of health. I also worry when in the book you identify false medical philosophies which the AMA has wrongly endorsed and yet you still uphold up *the AMA majority opinion* as the safeguard in identifying truth in medical practice. **The “majority” and the “scientific conclusions” of the AMA, or any other group, must be in subjection to Inspiration.**

I believe your foundation on the subject of health practices has been erected from the premise of making the exceptions of emergency treatments identified in the Spirit of Prophecy as the paradigm for establishing Sister White’s position on drug use. Starting from this paradigm, you build a case through science and the majority AMA consensus, in order to include allopathic medicine as part of God’s health program, thus undermining the work of developing faith through the practice of true health reform.

Brother, we both know that we shall all have many things to learn and unlearn. In the field of health I am a less than a novice compared to you. Be that as it may, I see a glaring inconsistency in your philosophy of health. If I am right it may be very difficult for you to recognize this inconsistency after the years of education and practice you have experienced in the field of medicine. I am perplexed by this situation, just as I have been similarly perplexed about how the liberals in Adventism could arrive at and uphold their positions—which ultimately deny the truth of God. I take some solace in the understanding that many liberals in Adventism are simply operating on principles which they hold as correct though their motives are not necessarily wrong. I want to emphasize that I truly believe your motives are true and pure, but somewhere you seem to have developed a philosophy of health which does not address the more relevant issues of health reform. That issue being, the development of faith.

Trust in the eight laws of health and the simple remedies can never and will never be developed by a people who trust “that methods of diagnosis and treatment based on obedience to natural law can be part of Heaven’s health program when they are needed and when they are available” if those treatments do not “guard against” the “inclination to use poisonous drugs.”

I could spend time trying to address certain areas of the manuscript in a more specific fashion but my basic concerns are as follows:

As far as the health test for Adventism, I believe you have not addressed the most crucial part of the test. That being the test of trusting in allopathic medicinal use, as opposed to, trusting in Divine power. I do not see you acknowledging that God’s health plan is an ordained method of not simply maintaining health and responding to sickness, but as a prerequisite of developing faith. “Whatever is not of faith, is sin.”

I believe you have taken the exceptions of emergency medical treatments identified in the Spirit of Prophecy, (which in my understanding teach about God’s concern for life and His willingness to meet each worshipper where they are) and have used these to deny or invalidate the preponderance of the Spirit of Prophecy testimony which leads God’s people upward and away from the use of allopathic medicinal techniques.

I believe, because of the previous concern, that you have wrested, (unintentionally) some principles and truths—out of their correct context.

It is my hope that this critique can ultimately be a positive benefit to you and I. I know of others who are putting together their observations of your book and issues connected with you and your philosophy of health. I know of some who view this book as illustrative of how you relate to many things here at \*\*\*\*. I purposely have not read any of the other letters.

I have tried not to stray to far away from my concern about the book, although I do have some concerns over how you relate to coworkers here at \*\*\*\*. But I am also aware of my own failings and short comings, and no doubt, there is much that I do wrong which I am unaware of. I therefore hesitate to be to critical of what I understand to be your weaknesses in relating to some at \*\*\*\*. I know that I need to deal with my own glass house before I take up the task of throwing stones at yours. Never-the-less, I believe there is room for improvement in how you and I relate to the staff as leaders of this institution, but I am saying this only to preface this final point.

As this situation has developed most have acknowledged that it may reach a point where some of us may have to part ways with others here. I reject this idea! This issue must be addressed from the point of view which allows for growth, reconciliation, and ultimately unification with all parties involved. To not have this mind set from the outset is to prepare an environment for disaster.

You and I do not have the privilege to entertain a fatalist perspective, if we intend to uphold our responsibility as leaders in this institution.

My prayer is that this letter will be received in the best possible light, and I would hope that you overlook any

grammatical, spelling, or other errors as I have chosen not to have this copy edited due to the content. Thank you for your time. Jeff Pippenger

🕒 02/22/00—CHICAGO (AP) Study shows soaring use of psychiatric drugs.

## Woe to those who call evil good

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

“Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance.

“We know Your Word says, ‘Woe to those who call evil good,’ but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it ‘Pluralism.’ We have worshipped other gods and called it ‘multiculturalism;’ We have endorsed perversion and called it ‘alternative lifestyle.’ We have exploited the poor and called it ‘the lottery.’ We have rewarded laziness and called it ‘welfare.’ We have killed our unborn and called it ‘choice.’ We have shot abortionists and called it ‘justifiable.’ We have neglected to discipline our children and called it ‘building self-esteem.’ We have abused power and called it ‘politics.’ We have coveted our neighbor’s possessions and called it ‘ambition.’ We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it ‘freedom of expression.’ We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it ‘enlightenment.’

“Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will, we ask it in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.”

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, (where Wright is pastor), logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa, and Korea. Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on *The Rest of the Story* radio program and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

## Uganda Cult Apocalypse

On March 17 the main meeting house of the cult called the Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God, in the rural highlands of southwest Uganda, burned to the ground with over 530 members inside. What was at first thought to be a mass-suicide became a mass-homicide when 153 more bodies—some strangled, others stabbed—were discovered in a mass grave under a cult-owned house 35 miles away. Another eight men were discovered bludgeoned and poisoned in a pit under the leader’s house near the church.

The cult leader, 68 year old former Catholic schoolteacher, Joseph Kibwetere, required that his followers give all their property to the cult, work 12 hour days in local fields, wear uniforms, segregate men and women, forbid sex, fast two days a week, and take a vow of silence—communicating only by hand-signals.

Kibwetere broke from the Catholic church in the early 1980’s and by 1997, according to a government registration form, had 4,500 members.

He and his female associate, a local prophetess and former prostitute, are still at large. He had prophesied to his flock that the world would end on January 1, 2000, but when it didn’t, and in the face of his waning influence, he decided to take matters into his own hands.

Police are searching for more victims on the cult’s properties scattered across Uganda, and Uganda’s President, Yoweri Museveni, told his countrymen that he may have to go to the area and join in the hunt for Kibweteri himself. *Newsweek*, April 3, 2000.

## Social Unrest

🕒 02/21/00—WASHINGTON (AP) The willingness of young men to use guns spreads like a disease, or even a fashion fad, through urban neighborhoods, often causing youth to view firearms as essential to survival and status, a new study suggests.

🕒 02/22/00—LONDON (Reuters) More than 100 million children are growing up alone, propelled by poverty into sex, slavery and a life on the streets, the United Nations said on Wednesday. They have to fend for themselves because of poverty, war and the loss of their parents from AIDS, says the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

# The State versus the Church in Oregon by Paul M. Weyrich

Enemies of liberty have found a new way to infringe the ability of ordinary people to exercise their first amendment rights. There is a precedent-setting case up in Portland, Oregon which **if allowed to stand**, will end up being used a model for those many in public life who think that people who love and worship God constitute the real threat to the common good.

It seems that Elizabeth Normand, a Portland land use hearing officer (which up in Oregon is the equivalent of a judge) issued a decree last month so restricting the ability of Sunnyside United Methodist Church to operate, that she has absolutely infringed on freedom of religion. Her ruling so alarmed clergy in the Portland area that they have formed a cross-denominational coalition for the appeal process.

It seems that some neighbors around the church complained about the use of the church facilities to serve meals to the homeless. In addition to restricting what the 100-year-old church can do about their program to aid the poor, Miss Normand restricted to 70 the number of people who can attend Sunday services. She also restricted Wednesday night Bible classes and virtually every other use of the church facility. The church has a capacity of nearly 400, by the way.

Rabbi Joseph Wolf of Havurah Shalom, a member of the new coalition, told the *Portland Oregonian* that he believes that the ruling is unconstitutional. "A church or synagogue never confines its worship service to one or two hours. The church or synagogue is open to celebrate all week long. . . especially to dine and come to the table with one another and offer prayer."

Derek Davis, an expert in church-state relations from Baylor University in Texas says he has never heard of a court trying to restrict attendance at church. The judge is not backing down and she has her supporters. They are cheering her on because they don't like activities of churches in their own neighborhoods. This case will be watched nationwide. If her restrictions are upheld, then it won't be long before other judges in other communities will begin to use that kind of zoning to shut down churches.

**It used to be that churches were always given preferential treatment by local authorities. Not anymore.** Anyone serving on a Parish council these days understands that in most urban areas local lawmakers and judges do their best to restrict the activities of the churches. Few are as blatant as Miss Normand and that's why this case is so important. If a church that can hold 400 people can be restricted to 70, and if the use of the church for helping the poor and studying the Scriptures can be restricted, the state then has effective control over the church. This ruling, if upheld, will, for all practical purposes put Sunnyside United Methodist Church out of business.

The judge didn't attack the doctrines or beliefs of Sunnyside Church; **she just regulated how those beliefs can be put into practice to the point where the church can't function.**

**Quote:** "The great object of my fear is the Federal Judiciary. That body, like gravity, ever acting with noiseless foot and unalarming advance, gaining ground step by step and holding what it gains, is engulfing insidiously the special governments into the jaws of that which feeds them." —Thomas Jefferson to Spencer Roane, 1821.

## FAMINES

 **02/23/00—WASHINGTON, DC, (ENS)** By 2010, an estimated 680 million people in the developing world will not have access to sufficient food to maintain health, says Dr. Per Pinstrup-Andersen, director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute.

## **US SPONSORED GLOBAL SYSTEM, OR NUKES?**

Worried about a nuclear conflict, Clinton last week sounded a strong new diplomatic line, calling for "respect for the line of control." The phrase is now a US mantra that may well prod India and Pakistan into an eventual division of Kashmir.

US intelligence indicates that an Indo-Pak war remains a distinct possibility. Still, senior U.S. officials say there's no chance American troops will get involved. In fact, they denied the suggestion that Clinton was offering to mediate the dispute, at least in part to avoid encouraging Pakistan, by far the weaker state, from expecting US help if it starts hostilities. Asked how to define the US role, one senior administration official might as well have been speaking Sanskrit: "You can become a peacemaker without actually being a peacemaker," he said.



Translation: US officials fear stretching resources and risking American lives in the Kosovos and Kashmirs of the world. Already George W. Bush, the GOP presidential candidate, has made an issue out of Clinton's overseas commitments, criticizing what he called the administration's "endless deployments" of the US military. And there's little public enthusiasm for sending US troops abroad. But when one's "national interest" has become sustaining a US-sponsored global system, it gets harder and harder to back away. That's a problem Bush—or Al Gore—may have to confront next year. *Newsweek*, April 3, 2000.

## **Wondering After the Beast: The Pope Visits Israel**

As soon as the pontiff touched down on the sacred soil of Israel and the occupied territories, homeland to Jews and Palestinians alike, the politicking began. **Politicians and religious leaders from each side sought to exploit the pope's presence**, particularly on the most contentious issue of all, the future of Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem is the city of eternity, a city that has been reunified," Israeli President Ezer Weizman pointedly told the pontiff just after his plane landed in Tel Aviv.

"The pope's visit is proof of the Palestinian rights over Jerusalem," declared PLO official Faisal Husseini.

An interfaith meeting organized by the Vatican, including one of Israel's two chief rabbis and the deputy chief justice of the Palestinians' Islamic courts, degenerated into an embarrassing display of rancor. The frail pontiff endured the proceedings with his head in his hands. *Newsweek*, April 3, 2000.

[**Editor's note:** The pope's presence is so eagerly desired that even Muslim Near-Eastern thought-leaders are trying to gain "acceptance by association" with him.]

## **POPE'S VISIT AN EYE-OPENER FOR ISRAELIS**

While the full impact of the Pope's six-day visit to the Holy Land will not be apparent for some time, Jewish and Muslim leaders were, with few exceptions, touched by the Pope's compassion and desire to build bridges among the three monotheistic religions. They also agreed that the Holy Father opened a new chapter in relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said, "I believe the visit of the Pope to Israel [was of] immense historical importance. It became a major step toward reconciliation between the Jewish people and Christians." *National Catholic Register*, April 2–8, 2000.

## **HAND IN HAND?—CONGRESS TO DEFEND VATICAN UN STATUS**

The effort to muzzle the Vatican's voice at the United Nations is meeting a new potential roadblock: Congress. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., introduced a Senate resolution February 24 condemning the efforts of pro-abortion groups that want to remove the Holy See from its status as a permanent observer at the United Nations.

Santorum told the *Register* that keeping the Holy See in the United Nations is "very important" because of its ability "in organizing other countries..."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. introduced a similar resolution into the House on Feb. 16. Both resolutions state that Congress wishes to "comment the Holy See for its unique contributions to a thoughtful and robust dialogue in issues of international concern during its 36 years as a permanent observer at the United Nations." *National Catholic Register*, March 12–16, 2000.

"The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side." *The Great Controversy*, .565.

## **Hand in Hand?—1,015 [including Jews] Stand With Vatican In UN Fight**

Pro-choice UN lobbyist Frances Kissling said at a March 14 news conference that her organization had received the support of some 400 non-governmental organizations to ask the United Nations to review the Holy See's role.

At his own press conference the next day, pro-life UN lobbyist Austin Ruse announced that he had collected 1,015 signatures from non-governmental organizations in 50 states requesting that the Vatican's current status be preserved.

Like Switzerland, the Holy See has the status of permanent observer at the United Nations. This classification enables the Vatican to participate in debates, but gives it no right to vote in the General Assembly.

Rabbi Yehuda Levin of Jews for Morality said, "We must reject this bigotry. A half-century ago we asked: Where were you for the Jews? Today we ask: Where are you for the Catholics?" *National Catholic Register*, March 26–April 1, 2000.

## Pope Apologizes for Sins of Catholicism

Unprecedented in the church's history, the Vatican released a lengthy document entitled *Memory and Reconciliation: the Church and the Faults of the Past*, written by an international panel of theologians at the Vatican's request.

The document lists wars of religion; abuses during the Crusades; the coercion of the Inquisition; disrespect for cultures and faiths in the course of evangelization; affronts to women, races and ethnic groups, with particular mention of the Nazi persecution of the Jews which he said was made easier by the "anti-Jewish prejudice embedded in some Christian minds and hearts"; and abuses of the rights of individuals.

Theologian George Weigel said the penance "is not political correctness... This is an attempt to prepare the church for a springtime of evangelism." *IISA Today*, March 10, 2000.

**Editor's note:** This is a major Public Relations thrust in preparation for a "springtime of evangelism" by the Catholic Church.

## Protestants Now Apologize To Catholics

Following Pope John Paul II's public apology for sins of Catholics, Methodist officials said they "humbly join in confessing our sins of commission and omission," while a Pentecostal scholar asked Catholics to forgive those Pentecostals who have condemned the Church for "spiritual harlotry and idolatry." Catholic bishops involved in ecumenical work praised the apologies as positive, healing steps. *National Catholic Register*, April 2-8, 2000.

## Strong Papacy Here To Stay

Catholics who call for a limited role for the papacy modeled on earlier periods of Church history are being "nostalgic and anachronistic," Jesuit Father Avery Dulles said in a lecture at Fordham University. He said a universal Church needs to speak with a unified voice that only the papacy can provide. *National Catholic Register*, April 2-8, 2000.

## Catholicism Gains New Strength In The United Kingdom

"These are good times for the Catholic Church in England and Wales," said Archbishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster just two days prior to his installation as the primate of England and Wales. "This is a new responsibility for the Church," the primate told a group of journalists, because formerly "we left that to the established Church [of England]. Now the established church, and other free-church Christians as well, tend to look to us for leadership." *National Catholic Register*, April 2-8, 2000.

"The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High. The papacy is just what prophecy declared that she would be, the apostasy of the latter times. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4."

"It is not without reason that the claim has been put forth in Protestant countries that Catholicism differs less widely from Protestantism than in former times. There has been a change; but the change is not in the papacy. Catholicism indeed resembles much of the Protestantism that now exists, because Protestantism has so greatly degenerated since the days of the Reformers." *The Great Controversy*, 571.

## THOSE WHO DESTROY THE EARTH

**02/20/00—After chemical spill in Balkans, concerns over Soviet-era waste SILLAMAE, Estonia (AP)** When they withdrew from this seaside Estonian town that for five decades supplied the Soviet Union with enriched uranium to make nuclear bombs, the Soviet military left behind something to remember them by: 12 million tons of greenish-brown radioactive waste.

**WASHINGTON—**The Earth is destined to dry up, burn up or freeze, scientists studying the planet's ultimate fate say. The Earth is entering the final 10% of its lifespan, according to a US geoscientist.

**02/22/00—BETHEL, Minnesota—**A University of Minnesota ecologist is warning that the agricultural landscape could turn ugly within 50 years if farmers continue to depend heavily on nitrogen fertilizer. David Tilman has been studying the long-term effects of nitrogen fertilizer on plots he and colleagues have tended north

of the Twin Cities near Bethel for nearly two decades.

The dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico knows many rivers, according to a U.S. Geological Survey study. Most of the nitrogen pollution that reaches the Gulf by way of the Mississippi River originates far upstream in the upper Midwest and Ohio Valley states, and stream size is a major factor in sending the nitrogen on its way.

**Cyanide poisoning reaches Ukraine** Ukrainian officials say levels of cyanide along the Ukrainian stretch of the Danube have risen following the spill into the river last month from a Romanian gold mine.

Every satellite image tells a story. In the ones released Monday by NASA, the stories about Earth are not pleasant ones. Overhead views of Atlanta indicate growth there is actually creating heat and thunderstorms. And halfway around the world, in Shenzhen, China, a construction free-for-all has nearly wiped out vegetation in the city.

Cities can become so much hotter than surrounding areas that they generate their own weather, a NASA scientist said on Tuesday.

## PERSECUTION IN THE NAME OF TOLERANCE, INCLUSION, EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE?

Some startling developments this past week in the US Congress deserve thoughtful reflection by Adventists in light of our prophetic expectations.

In the wake of Governor George Bush's campaign stop at Bob Jones University, and Senator McCain's attempt to make a campaign issue out of it, a Democratic Senator, Robert Torricelli, introduced Concurrent Resolution 85 in the U.S. Senate [and a similar resolution was introduced in the House], **condemning Bob Jones University for its racial and religious intolerance**. Specifically, the resolution condemns Bob Jones University for, among other things:

"Whereas officials of Bob Jones University routinely disparage those of other religious faiths with intolerant and derogatory remarks;

"Whereas official of Bob Jones University **have likened the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church to a 'possessed demon' and branded Catholicism as a 'satanic system and religion of the anti-Christ'**

"Resolved, That the Senate- 1) condemns practices, such as those prevalent at Bob Jones University, that seek to discriminate against and divide Americans on the basis of race, ethnicity, and religion; and 2) strongly denounces individuals who seek to subvert the American ideals of inclusion, equality and social justice."

The plot thickens. The Interfaith Alliance held a press conference endorsing and supporting the Resolution. Interfaith Alliance is a liberal Protestant organization, dedicated to the separation of church and state. Their spokesperson is a Baptist and a long time leader in Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He declared at the press conference:

"On behalf of concerned people of faith, I urge members of the Senate and House to denounce any association of bigotry, discrimination, and intolerance with religious faith." Gaddy continued: "For Bob Jones University to foment bigotry in the name of Christianity is the height of hypocrisy, if not heresy."

So here's the picture: **liberal Protestants asking Congress to condemn as heresy the teaching of a Christian school that adheres to the historic Protestant perspective on the papacy**. Please re-read chapters 35 and 36 of *The Great Controversy*! Apparently, judging from this action, in spite of their professed commitment to separation of church and state, liberal Protestants are willing to employ government power to advance their own religious agenda, and to condemn a competing religious agenda. In so doing, Liberal Protestants cast themselves as the voice of tolerance, inclusion, equality, and social justice.

For years we have preached that liberals and conservatives will unite together to crucify Christ afresh, in the person of His people, implementing the coercive measures of the mark of the beast. Now a clearer understanding emerges of how this could come to pass. Liberals will readily accept a compromise, inclusive form of religious legislation, i.e., Sunday as the will of the majority, and will condemn those who oppose it as narrow minded, bigoted, judgmental, self-righteous, intolerant extremists.

So there you have it. Persecution in the name of tolerance, inclusion, equality and social justice. Stay tuned, things will get even more interesting. *Pacific Union Conference Department of Public Affairs & Religious Liberty*, March 8, 2000.

# ROME NEVER CHANGES

“And this is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor, and which will eventually be united with Protestantism. This union will not, however, be effected by a change in Catholicism; for **Rome never changes**. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change. **The adoption of liberal ideas on its part will bring it where it can clasp the hand of Catholicism.** ‘The Bible, the Bible, is the foundation of our faith,’ was the cry of Protestants in Luther’s time, while the Catholics cried, ‘The Fathers, custom, tradition.’ Now many Protestants find it difficult to prove their doctrines from the Bible, and yet they have not the moral courage to accept the truth which involves a cross; therefore they are fast coming to the ground of Catholics, and, using the best arguments they have to evade the truth, cite the testimony of the Fathers, and the customs and precepts of men. Yes, the Protestants of **the nineteenth century** [Editor’s note: What about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?] are fast approaching the Catholics in their infidelity concerning the Scriptures. But there is just as wide a gulf today between Rome and the Protestantism of Luther, Cranmer, Ridley, Hooper, and the noble army of martyrs, as there was when these men made the protest which gave them the name of Protestants.” *Review and Herald*, June 1, 1886.



Dear Brother Jeff, As I listened to number four of *The Overflowing Scourge* series, this very early morning **it dawns on me, very clearly, why the majority of professed believers will not be prepared for the soon coming Sunday law, and will not be able to stand.**

Because **so very few take time to seriously study and read the inspired writings**, from Moses down to Ellen White, and because, as a result **so few take time to really seek God in prayer, with brokenness of heart, in agonizing repentance.** Not many are preparing themselves to stand firmly for God and truth when the big test comes so very tragically! This is why I sigh and cry, for the abominations that be done in Israel, so to speak.

Each early morning I begin my time with the Lord. In these three hours or so I have read, studied, and prayed most earnestly, with many tears, for myself, and for literally hundreds of precious souls, (if not thousands) who walk in darkness. The simple reason that they don’t let God’s searchlight point out their deformities and consequently, do not deeply repent.

Oh how it must break our Savior’s heart, as He beholds the dreadful conditions of His church, who professes to know the truth! (As weak and sinful as I am) I feel so sad to see how asleep we all have been, and still are. I truly wrestle with God in prayer for all of us.

Two of my three living children would hear your messages. I would like for you to send *The Overflowing Scourge* series, to the following two addresses. I will let them know that I am having this requested. Thank you and God bless you, and your work. My daily prayer for you and Kathy. AF—CA

## Converted Overnight



Dear Brother Jeff, Thank you for the beautiful invitation to your meetings at Upper Lake and at Riverside, CA. The invitation itself is a real work of art, and I dearly wish we could be with you on one or the other occasion.

We are constrained to be at home this weekend for a blessing I want to share with you. My friend, who was in jail for over a year on DUI charges, will be giving his testimony (second part) at our church, and I am responsible for his transportation. I picked up B. hitch-hiking on a back road and as he got into the cab he apologized, and said, “I guess you can tell, I have a demon.” I replied, “Oh, are you a Christian too? I want to tell you what Jesus has done for us . . .” (My wife had stopped breathing, and I had turned her over to Jesus, then called 911 and resuscitated her, and she is alive and well.)

B came to see us twice before his jail term began, and I took him four times to court trials, the last time leaving him for his sentence at the jail in CA. We had given him *Steps to Christ*, *The Great Controversy*, then *The Desire of Ages*, and he absorbed them and was converted overnight. During his jail time he taught SDA truth and lifestyle to all that would listen in jail, and emerged with some strong interests which we are following up.

Last Sabbath D. was Sabbath school superintendent, and she asked B. to give his testimony. He held the church spellbound for about fifteen minutes and I had to stop him to leave scant time for the special music, which was provided by LS, whose song was "For I Know Whom I Have Believed, and am Persuaded that He is Able." It fit so beautifully with both the testimony and the subject of the lesson that we were all in tears. HC will be sabbath school Super next week, and asked B. to continue his testimony then. So we have to provide transport (B's drivers license is lifted), and can't come to Upper Lake.

Your messages get stronger and more closely applicable to our lives with every tape. We look forward to them as a major part of our Sabbath blessing. A word of caution (I'm trying to be helpful)—We read Jeremiah 23 as part of our Sabbath devotion, and for the first time I realized in verse 9 that the rest of the chapter speaks directly about modern translations. But the portion I want to call to your attention is verse 33 and onward, regarding the use of the word, burden. As an editor I have become very sensitive to words; I have almost eliminated the words happy, lucky, fortunate from my vocabulary, since they all refer to chance. Instead I use the words bless, blessed, blessing to attribute "chance happenings" to God and His direction in my life. And in the future you and I will have to be careful about the word, burden.

Back to my friend, B. He is an expert agriculturist and plant propagator. He is responsible for the production schedule of a new nursery in the city of \*\*\*, which grows and sells about three million plants per year. He recognizes a mission field right where he works (with Spanish-speaking people), but while studying in jail he gave himself wholly to the Lord, and will be looking for the opportunities to serve more fully, perhaps in foreign settings. He was for a time hired by the Mexican government to improve farm productivity in Pueblo province, and earned far more than his salary in teaching farmers there how to grow better, more nutritious crops. Keep my friend in mind in your travels, for he may be open to a proposition some time in the future. He is \*\*\*. Thanks, and may God's richest blessings follow you and bring many souls to Him. C.

"And as we near the close of this earth's history, we either rapidly advance in Christian growth, or we rapidly retrograde toward the world." *Review and Herald*, December 13, 1892.

## SUPREME COURT TO HEAR HOMOSEXUAL BOY SCOUTS CASE

The New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled that the Boy Scouts of America, a private, non-profit, non-taxpayer-funded, organization cannot exclude homosexuals from its leadership ranks. The US Supreme Court will hear an appeal of the case on April 26 according to Jay Alan Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ).

It's highly unusual to see so many moral issues before the high court in a single term—some are calling this the "culture session" of the Court.

There are more than 100,000 Boy Scouts troops across America, 60 percent of which are sponsored by churches. If this case is lost, churches could be forced to welcome homosexual Scout leaders into their churches—or expel the Boy Scouts.

If the Boy Scouts lose this case, it could be that no private organization in the country will have the right to exclude homosexuals from leadership.

The Scout Oath commits the participant to keep himself "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." *WORLD Magazine* quotes Dallas Scoutmaster Robert Higginbotham as observing that "society is redefining what 'morally straight' is." *American Center For Law and Justice newsletter*, March 23, 2000.

## THE NARCOTIC OF FANTASY

The presence of media culture constantly informs us that our lives are dull and deficient; "TV is easier than life."

We have a generation of parents, and now their children, whose heroes are people they have never met. Their favorite musicians are people they have never met (or have only seen through the lens of a stadium concert). The people on TV and on the radio are funnier than they will ever be, more attractive than they will ever be, richer than they will ever be, braver and smarter (in a hip sort of way) than they will ever be.

What used to be provided to a community by the temple, the tavern and the town square is now

contained in a box. The box provides material that can be glorious or fallen or both. But the **ROLE** it plays is ultimately deadening.

This is just as true of the music industry. I do an exercise in class where I ask students their favorite music, and they name a commercial band. Then I say, "Okay, here is a guitar or a keyboard. Play me some." They never can. They can only watch.

These words are sad, but I can't deny their truth. Entertainment media get bashed a lot for their vulgarity and shallowness, but we seldom consider an underlying problem—the **narcotic effect of fantasy**. When we devote too much time to gazing at lives more fascinating than our own, we grow resentful and angry, and increasingly less competent at dealing with reality.

No matter what forms of entertainment we indulge in; print or electronic, highbrow or low, we need to be alert to the seductive power of fantasy. Caressing imaginary images and then attempting to deal with real flesh-and-blood people is the equivalent of drinking a pint of Scotch before climbing into the driver's seat.

**REALITY** is God's home address; nowhere else can bad things actually be changed for the better and, in the end, be redemptive. *Christianity Today*, July 12, 1999.

#### **BY BEHOLDING WE BECOME CHANGED:**

"The mind of a man or woman does not come down in a moment from purity and holiness to depravity, corruption, and crime. It takes time to transform the human to the divine, or to degrade those formed in the image of God to the brutal or the satanic. **By beholding we become changed.** Though formed in the image of his Maker, man can so educate his mind that sin which he once loathed will become pleasant to him. As he ceases to watch and pray, he ceases to guard the citadel, the heart, and engages in sin and crime. The mind is debased, and it is impossible to elevate it from corruption while it is being educated to enslave the moral and intellectual powers and bring them in subjection to grosser passions. Constant war against the carnal mind must be maintained; and we must be aided by the refining influence of the grace of God, which will attract the mind upward and habituate it to meditate upon pure and holy things." *The Adventist Home*, 330.

### **THE NATIONS ARE ANGRY**

**02/22/00**—TOKYO (Reuters) North Korea said on Wednesday it was suffering its worst ever power shortage and blamed it on the United States for delaying the construction of promised nuclear reactors.

**BERLIN**—China is ready to engage in war and even nuclear conflict with the United States should fighting break out over Taiwan, *Der Spiegel* magazine reports on the basis of a supposedly-secret Chinese file. Beijing warned Taiwan for the first time yesterday that refusal to negotiate on reunification could lead to military invasion.

**02/25/00**—BEIJING—North Korean ships are "heavily involved" in drug trafficking, underscoring the isolated communist nation's role in the illegal trade, a UN official said Wednesday.

### **The Loud Cry**

In the South Kenya Conference of the East Africa Union, in the city of Kisii, Lightbearers Ministry evangelist Herry Mhando baptized 6,421 people into the Seventh-day Adventist church during a five-week campaign. This is the largest harvest of souls that Pastor Mhando has ever witnessed at one of his evangelistic meetings. *Light Bearers Ministry Mission Update*, February 2000.

Amazing Facts has launched a new website called **bibleuniverse.com**. When it is fully in place, anyone in the world who searches the Internet for information on prophecy, Jesus, Bible, Christianity, heaven, truth, eternal life, or a hundred other major spiritual subjects, will be directed to this website. This is extremely important in the countries where Christianity is forbidden.

The site offers streaming audio of the reading of the King James Version (convenient for the visually impaired or illiterate) and a downloadable KJV.

The *Millennium of Prophecy* videos will be available, as well as access to Bible commentaries, charts and dictionaries for research.

Those who log on will also be able to go through the Amazing Facts Bible course at their own pace, shop for Bible literature, locate other helpful ministries, listen to a "sermon of the week," chat online with pastors and evangelists, be led through the simple steps of salvation, and be connected to the nearest church. *Amazing Facts Newsletter*, March 2000.

# Victory at Last

When Gideon stood at the head of thirty thousand men to make war against the Midianites, he felt that unless God should work for Israel, their cause would be hopeless. At the divine command the Hebrew force had been reduced by successive tests, until there remained with him, only three hundred men to oppose that countless multitude. What wonder that his heart sunk within him as he thought of the conflict of the morrow.

But the Lord did not leave his faithful servant to despair. He spoke to Gideon in the night season, and bade him, with Phurah, his trusty attendant, go down to the camp of the Midianites, intimating that he would there hear matter for his encouragement. He went, and waiting there in darkness and silence, he heard one soldier, just awakened, relate a dream to his companion: "Lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it that the tent lay along.

The other answered in words that stirred the heart of that unseen listener, "This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host."

Gideon recognized the voice of God speaking to him through

the words of these Midianitish strangers. His faith and courage were greatly strengthened, and he rejoiced that Israel's God could work through the humblest means to abase the pride of men. With confidence and hope, he returned to the few men under his command, saying, "Arise, for the Lord hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian."

The apparently powerless condition of that little company of Israelites, compared with the vast host of the enemy, was fitly represented by the cake of barley bread. But as that loaf overthrew the tent upon which it fell, so would the handful of Israelites destroy their numerous and powerful enemies. The Lord himself directed Gideon's mind in the adoption of a plan which the latter immediately set out to execute. He divided his three hundred men into three companies. To every man was given a trumpet, and a pitcher containing a lighted lamp. He then stationed his men in such a manner that they surrounded the entire camp of Midian. They had been previously instructed how to proceed, and at midnight, at a signal from Gideon, all the three companies blew their trumpets, uncovered their lamps, and broke the pitchers, at the same time shouting, "The

sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" The light of three hundred lamps, piercing the midnight darkness, and that mighty shout from three hundred voices, suddenly aroused the sleeping army. Believing themselves at the mercy of an overwhelming force, the Midianites were panic-stricken. A terrible scene of confusion ensued. In their fright they fled in all directions, and mistaking their own companions for enemies they slew one another.

As the news of Israel's victory spread, many who had been sent to their homes returned, and joined in the pursuit of their fleeing enemies. Gideon also sent messengers to the Ephraimites, requesting them to seize the fords of the Jordan that the fugitives might not escape eastward.

In this terrible overthrow, not less than one hundred and twenty thousand of the invaders were slain, and so completely were the Midianites subdued that they were never again able to make war upon Israel. A remnant of fifteen thousand who managed to escape across the river, were pursued by Gideon and his faithful three hundred, and utterly defeated, and Zebah and Zalmunna, two Midianite princes, were slain.

Nothing can happen in any part of the universe without the knowledge of Him who is omnipresent. Not a single event of human life is unknown to our Maker. While Satan is constantly devising evil, the Lord our God

overrules all, so that it will not harm his obedient, trusting children. The same power that controls the boisterous waves of the ocean can hold in check all the power of rebellion and of crime. God says to one as to the other, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther."

What lessons of humility and faith may we not learn as we trace the dealings of God with his creatures. The Lord can do but little for the children of men, because they are so full of pride and vain glory. They exalt self, magnifying their own strength, learning, and wisdom. It is necessary for God to disappoint their hopes and frustrate their plans, that they may learn to trust in him alone. All our powers are from God; we can do nothing independent of the strength which he has given us. Where is the man or woman or child that God does not sustain? Where is the desolate place which God does not fill? Where is the want that any but God can supply?

The psalmist represents the presence of the Infinite One as pervading the universe. "If I ascend up into Heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." We can never find a solitude where God is not. The ever watchful eye of Omniscience is upon all our works, and although he can marshal the armies of Heaven to do his will, he condescends to accept the services of frail, erring mortals.

Because of the pride and ambition of the children of men, God has chosen to perform his mighty works by the most simple and humble means. It is not the men whom the world honors as great, talented, or brilliant, that God selects. He chooses those who will work in meekness and simplicity, acknowledging him as their leader and their source of strength. He would have us make him our protector and our guide in all the duties and affairs of life.

His care for the works of his creation is unwearied and incessant. When men go forth to their daily toil, as when they engage in prayer; when they lie down at night, and when they rise in the morning; when the rich man feasts in his palace, when the poor man gathers his children about the scanty board, each is tenderly watched by his Heavenly Father. No tears can be shed that God does not notice. There is no smile that he does not mark. Those to whom he has committed important trusts he regards with vigilance. All their actions and most secret motives must pass his scrutiny. He has bestowed upon them all their talents and abilities, and he will hold them to a strict account for the improvement of these gifts. If they attain success, it is because the God of wisdom has prospered them.

The Majesty of Heaven works by whom he will. His providence sometimes selects the humblest instruments to do the greatest work; for his power

is revealed through the weakness of men. We have our standard of reckoning, and by it we pronounce one thing great, and another small; but God estimates not according to the standard of men; he does not graduate his scale by theirs. We are not to suppose that what is great to us must be great to God, and what is small to us must be small to him.

He who upholds the unnumbered worlds throughout immensity, at the same time cares for the wants of the little brown sparrow that sings its humble song without a fear. He cares for everything and sustains everything throughout the universe that he has created.

If we would but fully believe this, all undue anxieties would be dismissed. With humble prayer and trusting faith, we would seek counsel from God in all our plans and purposes of life. Then all our acts would be governed by discretion, our energies would be rightly directed. Then our lives would not be so filled with disappointment as now; for everything, small or great, would be left in the hands of God, who is not perplexed by the multiplicity of cares, nor overwhelmed by their weight. We should then enjoy a rest of soul to which many have long been strangers. Signs of the Times, July 14, 1881.