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## Heroes Of The Cross

"In all ages the Saviour's chosen have been educated and disciplined in the school of trial. They walked in narrow paths on earth; they were purified in the furnace of affliction. For Jesus' sake they endured opposition, hatred, calumny. They followed Him through conflicts sore; they endured self-denial and experienced bitter disappointments. By their own painful experience they learned the evil of sin, its power, its guilt, its woe; and they look upon it with abhorrence. A sense of the infinite sacrifice made for its cure, humbles them in their own right, and fills their hearts with gratitude and praise which those who have never fallen cannot appreciate. They love much, because they have been forgiven much. Having been partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are fitted to be partakers with Him in His glory.

"The heirs of God have come from garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains, from deserts, from the caves of the earth, from the caverns of the sea. On earth they were 'destitute, afflicted, tormented.' Millions went down to the grave loaded with infamy, because they steadfastly refused to yield to the deceptive claims of Satan. By human tribunals they were adjudged the vilest of criminals. But now 'God is judge Himself.'—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 649, 650.

Since the rise of the Reform Church the Lord has intended not only happiness, but also trials for them. It is more than 30 years ago since the work of reformation developed out of difficulties and persecution of all kinds. Until this day these trials have not ceased but have rather increased, and they will not cease until Christ comes.

The last great storms, which have swept over our church, have demanded many sacrifices of

blood. Until now we are still not in a position to know the exact number of them.

The loss of faithful and beloved brethren and sisters is indeed very painful to the church, for these losses included a number of brethren which were co-workers in the upbuilding of God's cause and whose missing efforts are now keenly felt.

In the midst of cruel persecution, however, there was no lack of wonderful experiences which our brethren and sisters could make here and there. Thanks be to the Lord, and to Him be glory, majesty, praise and honor, now and forever.

"These came out of great tribulation."

"And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise."—Heb. 11:39.

The apostle illustrates in his 11th chapter to the Hebrew-Christians the great battle which faithful believers of all times had to fight. It is a cloud of witnesses.

In this issue of the *Sabbath Watchman* we shall first of all publish two letters which we have on hand, written by our dear Brother Anton Brugger from Austria on the day of his execution on the scaffold to his mother and his bride-to-be.

Written on the 3rd of February, 1943 in the  
Prison of Brandenburg-Gaert

My Beloved, Dear Mother:

I ask you not to be downcast, but strong and of good courage, when you receive these, my last farewell greetings. I have received your last lovely letter and it gave me great consolation. Your well-meaning efforts for a parole will be in vain anyway. Even if it had results, it would

be too late because today is my last day. Yes, it has now really become serious. At 6 o'clock this evening the sentence will be carried out on me. Alas, dear mother, how my heart aches for you, that you have to go through all this terrible grief and terror yet. As much as I desired to have spared you all this, yet I cannot act otherwise than to obey my conscience. Gladly would I have made your faithful motherly heart happy in your old days and beautified and eased your life. But since it has been thus decreed, let us not be downcast but also take this burden patiently out of the hands of God. Because of being in continual need it was not granted us in our lifetime to really be together very much. Therefore, dear mother, comfort yourself in the precious hope that we may some day be joined together forever with the Lord. This certainty and hope is my strong comfort and hold in this hour of severe trial. I know that my gracious and merciful Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the faithful God, who has redeemed me and stood with us till now, shall also give me power and strength for the last hard path. I pray you, do not despair. Trust in the Lord, He will help and comfort, and not forsake you. Do all in your strength to serve Him, so that we may see each other again.

I ask you to make special effort to do away with all hard feelings out of your heart against all those who have done you harm during your life. I think in this especially about the relatives at Saalfelden. Forgive them with all your heart and forget all the evil done. Remember what the Saviour said, if you do not forgive, you shall not be forgiven. God treats us, as we do our neighbor.

Always petition the Lord to give you strength to overcome, and do not get weary in the struggle against sin, for then the Lord shall give you the victory. Always remember that all is at stake, even eternal life, and this we can only obtain if we overcome ourselves and follow the Saviour in meekness and lowliness. My last prayer and supplication to the Lord shall be the petition that you may be saved for time and eternity. I hope you have received my former letters, too.

I am greeting also all dear ones everywhere. The Lord bless you and keep you. With the deep love of a son I greet and kiss you in the hope to see you and all dear ones again by the Lord.

Your Anton.

Brandenburg Gaert, February 3, 1943.

My Deeply Beloved Ester:

Unfortunately it has not been granted us to see each other again. Alas, how I desired to see your loving face once more to speak a few words

to you. Your dear picture I have always kept with me. In the back of my Bible is your picture and the one of dear mother. There I have always seen you in spirit before me. Now take the Bible as a remembrance from me. I hope you have also received my last letter. When you come to my mother she will give you these letters.

We would have never thought that we had seen each other for the last time at Niederroden. Still I had always a certain feeling that a great severe test would yet come, but I would not tell you of it, so as not to frighten you. Now the very thing which I feared so long and which I expected to come to pass, has actually become a reality. Oh, how gladly would I have lived on, to work and to do good unto others. How beautiful I had imagined it to work together with you in doing good. There could have been no more perfect happiness for me than this.

The thought about all the grief of my dear, good mother is especially painful. Oh, please, take good care of her and give her comfort. Alas, dear Ester, I know it will strike you very severely also. But be not dismayed and comfort yourself in the Lord. We also have to take this sad fate patiently from the hand of the Lord. He will know why He has permitted all this. There is no other way to choose, because it is impossible for me, according to the conviction of my faith, that I could partake in war. I could only then be free if I would obligate myself to carry out unreservedly every command of the government, and this I cannot do without coming into conflict with my conscience. I will, therefore, rather suffer the death-penalty, which shall be carried out on me today, on the 3rd of February, 1943, at 6 o'clock in the evening. Although it is hard, the Lord will have mercy upon me and help me to the end. Since our heart's desire to be united together already here on earth is now made impossible by this sad thing, we shall simply comfort ourselves with the precious hope to see us all again by the Lord. I trust in the grace and the mercy of the Saviour, that He will accept me and graciously pardon my sins. Be also faithful to the Lord Jesus and love and serve Him with all your strength. Be not dismayed and be comforted. By the Lord no one shall separate us any more and no suffering and pain can then fall upon us.

Greet all dear ones from me. My heart was always with them. Especially give my best regards to your dear parents and your dear brother.

I would have gladly been buried in the earth, but all those here are burned at the crematory. I have already asked mother that it be requested to entomb the urn with my ashes in Salzburg; there it is best. Now I hope I have not lived in vain.

Now, my beloved, good darling, may the Lord bless you and yours, and all dear ones and pro-

fect and help you graciously so that we may see each other again forever in His wonderful kingdom of peace.

Yours, loving you deeply unto the end,  
Anton.

Farewell, until we see each other again!

Our dear brother Anton Brugger was arrested on a Sabbath in the Spring of 1940 in Italy and delivered up to Germany where he, after 3 years of imprisonment, was sentenced to die on the scaffold. In spite of his youth he carried a great burden for souls and as colporteur showed many a soul the way of truth. He was willing to bring sacrifices for the cause of God which shall once be rewarded him in eternity. In Italy he spent extremely hard days and nights. When we were together there he said to me, "Brother M—now at last I can comprehend the great love of the Saviour."

We hope that on that great day of the Lord we shall see our dear Brother Anton Brugger again as also many other brethren and sisters which suffered the same lot to spend the undimmed joys together in all eternity.

" . . . as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed" . . . —2 Cor. 6:9.

### My Experiences!

"When the Lord turned against the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream."—Ps. 126:1.

To the honor of God and the strengthening of all brethren and sisters, and especially the young people, I shall briefly report my experiences. Never in my life could I understand the above-mentioned Bible text so good as on that day of January, 1938, for it was really the most eventful day of my life, the day when I was freed from the concentration camp at "Sachsenhausen". Now all that suffering was over.

But, really, was it to be true? Should I now, after having been robbed of my freedom for nearly a whole year, see my loved ones again? Thus I was walking alone now, without the SS watching me, on the street leading to the railroad station. Thinking back upon all that I had lived through, it appeared now as merely a dream that I should again be at liberty. How often had I been placed on the wall at the concentration camp to be shot to death. Daily I was in danger of my life. Yes, once they even wanted to bury me alive. Also it had not been so long ago that they locked me up in a cell where it was so dark that one could not see the hand before the eyes. Thus I had to stay in this icy, dark cell with only a little dry bread and some water. How great was

my joy when on the 9th day the bolt was pushed aside and the door opened. But alas, the joy was too soon. Although I came out of this horrible cell and also saw my comrades again, what a spectacle was now to take place. Three hundred prisoners were lined up and 350 armed SS stood at the gate. The Commander, standing in the middle of the roll-call court, called me, and now was to happen that which had up to now never happened in the open. They threw me upon a table, hands and feet were securely tied and the order of the Commander had to be carried out. Two SS men took their horsewhips and struck me upon seat and back until number 15 was completed and I lay half dead. With my indescribable pains they cast me again into the horrible cell. Alone, without human help, I lay there upon the cold stony floor. No one was there who in this hour would speak words of comfort to me. On the contrary, a rope was handed to me by the SS with the words that I should hang myself with it because I would never get out of this dungeon alive. Under these circumstances I had to remain in this dark cell 21 days.

But now all this suffering was over. I was free again. From the distance I beheld the depot. Was it all a dream? I pinched my hand and my face for maybe I was asleep yet. But no, it was no dream, it was a reality. At 2 o'clock in the night I stood before our house. How great the joy of reunion was I need not report here.

Sad enough, the joy was not to last long. The family tie was to be torn apart anew. On the 2nd day of November, 1938, I was requested to carry out a demand of the Government which was against the conviction of my faith. I was not long in doubt as to my future relationship to it. There existed but one thing for me to do, to remain loyal to my God whatever the cost might be.

October 24 approached quickly and this was the day that I had to bid farewell to all that was dear and beloved to me. Oh, how hard it was for me, especially as I held tight the trembling hands of my parents for the last time. I saw the lips move, and although they did not utter a sound, I understood what they were about to say. Once more I waved to the parental home from the distance. When should I see it again?

Dark and uncertain the future lay before me. After a long journey I arrived at the Luxembourg border. Before me lay the river Sauer, which forms its border. It was on a late evening, about 11:30 when I stepped down into the deep of the river. The danger from behind and the fear forced me quickly into the cold water. The rocks were so slippery and the current was so strong that I could hold myself no longer. The baggage and all that I had on me and with me became soaked. Oh how happy I was when I reached the opposite bank of the river. Fervent prayers

of thanks ascended to Him, the heavenly Father who had so fortunately brought me into Luxembourg. The following day I passed, again illegally, the French border. But what a sense of fear came over me as I saw a police officer heading for me. I cried to God for help and what happened? The police officer turned around and started in another direction.

In France I had to actually experience the truth of the Word of God, as it is brought out in Matthew 19:29, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother . . . for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold." Yes, there I was received so cordially by all that I could not thank my heavenly Father enough for it. But the devil did not desire to grant me this joy and peace. Wherever I settled down I was betrayed. But the Lord led it so that I, always a few hours before the police arrived, was at a different place. Finally I saw myself compelled to leave France. Thus I fled in the month of May, 1939, by way of Luxembourg and Belgium to Holland.

On the 29th of December, 1939, all German refugees, including me, had to be interned, because of the war conditions. We lived through terrible hours when the Germans took over this camp with 350 Jews and 25 deserters on the 14th of May, 1940. The ones last mentioned were at once shot to death. I was also condemned to die and on the following day the sentence was to be carried out by bullet. Today, still tears of thankfulness are flowing over my cheeks as I think back upon the miracle that happened and upon the way the Omnipotent God freed me from the hands of the barbarians and helped me on my flight. Time is too short and the paper not sufficient to point out the whole course of events with its difficulties and apparent impossibilities.

After my flight from the camp Hoek van Holland on May 18, 1940, I was in hiding by brethren and sisters, but the devil was not pleased with it. His plan had been frustrated. He desired a complete destruction and therefore the storm broke loose anew, again betrayal. Yes, this time it was an anonymous card which was sent to the police. Again I was chased away as a wild beast. Thus it went on from month to month and often I had to hide out for days and nights in woods and caves in the bitterest cold.

When the English people freed Belgium in September, 1944, the storm was beating most violently here in Holland. Everywhere the SS were running about in the search for victims to butcher. In order not to fall into their hands at the last minute, I stole through the front into Belgium on the 14th of September, 1944. The joy of having fled with the help of God out of the hands of the Germans, was very great, but only of short duration. Now, against my expectation, I was

interned by the English. But the Lord comforted me with the words in John 13:7, "What I do thou knowest not now but thou shalt know hereafter." And although I was made sad at first for having to go through all this yet after all these struggles, I was made happy because here I was permitted to be a witness for the eternal and precious truth. Often I could proclaim before 300 to 400 men the message of grace and the great love of God but also of the serious time we are living in. Yes, once even a large auditorium was filled with over 1,000 men when I spoke on the subject, "What Does the Future Hold?" Many reached me their hands, weeping, and promised God to accept this truth. Three of those people already kept Sabbath with me there. It is my desire and prayer that the great God may bless this seed sown in weakness, that many more may find the narrow path that leads to the eternal home of our Father.

In this internment camp I also met a well-known minister of the large denomination who, as a soldier for Hitler, was found here as a war prisoner. He also had believed in the ultimate victory of the German "Fuehrer" and zealously fought for a cause which had the annihilation of every conviction of faith in view. Now, as he felt deceived in his hopes, he was ashamed when I told him for which cause I had been struggling. He asked my permission to tell my story to his church.

Like Joseph innocently but patiently waited for the day of his freedom, thus also my patience was to be tried for 15 months until finally the day came when I should have a hearing before the Procureur-Fiscaal. However, all our efforts, all our words, yes, even all the evidences of my innocence, all seemed to be in vain; for he, who was able to free me, would not have anything to do with my case. The whole church prayed earnestly to God. The whole night long I wrestled with God and I did not let go of His strong arm. Yes, I was clinging solidly upon all His promises which He has given us in His Word. The following morning came and once again I was called for a hearing. Full of faith I looked up to our heavenly Father and once more I petitioned His help, and what happened? Without a single word spoken, I was freed. Yes, Jesus of Nazareth conquered and His name be praised for all eternity.

Arnold Seelbach,  
Holland.

### My Personal Experiences During the Past Years

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not."—Lam. 3:22. "I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all Thy marvelous

works. I will be glad and rejoice in Thee: I will sing praises to Thy name, O Thou most High."—Psalms 9:1, 2.

On account of the past terrible war and its storms, which swept with destroying force over the nations, we, like many other countries, became isolated, brethren and sisters from brethren and sisters. We were not able, therefore, to receive or send reports during the past years. Our experiences concerning our struggles had to be kept to ourselves. Many children of God were compelled by the past storms and the tests now behind us to live by their faith. (Heb. 10:38). We have, in a special way, experienced during these past years that the promises of God are so great and precious (Ps. 91:1-12) and that He Himself is keeping His promises.

When our country became a battlefield, all our men and women, irrespective of age, were compelled to pass through that, which God had foretold. (Isa. 65:12). All of our dear brethren and sisters were likewise tested in their faith and to many of them the forests and caverns which God created remained a place of shelter. Nevertheless the Lord had destined it for some of us to walk the path of martyrdom for their faith, so that the number of martyrs should be completed. (Rev. 6:11).

We remember especially one of our faithful ministers, Bro. H., who together with another brother became a part of this company. This was a great and heavy loss for his family and for the church, but we took it all out of the hands of God with the conviction that nothing shall be permitted by Him, which does not prove for our best. (Rom. 8:33-39).

The place where I was with my family remained a special war-theatre. Here we experienced how dreadful the results of a war are. Many times we were very close to death when the shells went over our heads, carrying with them death and destruction here and there. We had, so to speak, given up hope to plan any further about our lives. But we were to experience the fulfillment of Psalms 91. The Lord left us a cave in the forest as a shelter and a closet for prayer. Here we could spend some days and nights.

After the noise of the battle, when the dead lay scattered everywhere, I tried immediately to get to the city which, so to speak, had shared the fate of Sodom. (Gen. 19:27, 28). In this city were many of our brethren and sisters in the faith. However, I found to my great joy all of our dear brethren and sisters alive and unharmed. Everyone of them reported about his experiences and of the wonder-working help of God which had kept them amidst the dreadful destruction. We were not able to thank the Lord as much as he deserved it, with our lips.

After we had gone through these experiences, the Lord again had new experiences in store for us. When the events of war and this terrible destruction came to a turning point and the war front came closer and closer again, it brought with it new duties, difficulties and experiences for us. Many of us had now to search for new escapes and possibilities for fleeing, like the disciples of Jesus. (Matt. 10:22, 23).

Often we prayed concerning this matter to the end that the Lord Himself might open possibilities for us and prepare us the way. Every time I received the same answer to my prayer,—that I would have to leave home and fatherland to go into a future of uncertainty for me. This seemed to me a rather hard commission and humanly speaking impossible to leave all and to part from everything. But our good Father, which accompanied us on our ways, was the only one in whom I could trust implicitly. My son, already 3 to 4 months previously, had received the opportunity to escape with a small motorboat. The Lord opened a similar way for me. Even if all those who attempted to choose such a way were threatened by the official magistrate with the death sentence, we know, nevertheless, that we have someone who rules over all human laws and enactments. He can put an end to human planings and help us in the fear of death, as Peter could experience it once on his way. (Acts. 12:1, 11).

During the dark hours of night, a fisherman's motorboat waited on the seashore for us, which had been jammed full to the last place so that one could only move with the greatest effort or try to change his position once taken. But the Lord blessed us with a beautiful night for the crossing. No great storm was on the sea and also no large ice blocks. No guard or guarding vessel saw us, until on the following day we arrived safely in the bordering waters of our brotherly nation (Finland). Here, as refugees, we had a good reception and were later with a larger steamship sent to a quarantine camp. After a few weeks' stay in the camp the Lord helped us wonderfully to get out to our dear believers.

My joy was great when I found my son again whom the Lord, because of answer to prayer, had wonderfully freed from all military service and war work. Even greater was my joy when I, after five long years of separation, could meet again with my brethren and sisters in the faith. This reunion was a surprise since during these years we had not been able to be in contact by correspondence. These brethren and sisters had prayed so much that the Lord might send me once more to them, since vital matters in God's cause needed my attention. Their joy was therefore great when they found out that the Lord had heard their prayers.

By the grace of God we could stay seven months as refugees in this country, during which time we could also hold a precious conference. After this the political conditions compelled us again to leave this country, to start the road to the hospitable and friendly Sweden. The Lord again led us across the sea in the same manner as He had done before. In a larger sailboat approximately 160 to 170 persons had to take such positions that every conceivable place was taken. This journey to Sweden took all the time of 30 hours and was connected with many a hardship. The waves beat across the railing and the people were splashed with water. Added to it came seasickness, etc. Without paying attention to these hardships, however, we were praising the Lord for His great mercy that we so fortunately could be led across the sea with so many people on such a small boat. When we, as refugees, arrived here, we were welcomed with special hospitality and we received good treatment. Great care was given us and so it has been until the present day.

As I have been permitted to stay here as a stranger for over a year, I could help along in the work in this field with the help of the Lord, as far as I am able to do it with a language that is strange to me.

If I meditate today upon the wonders of the grace of God which He has shown me and to all His people during the past year, I have to join in with the words of David, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."—Psalms 103:1, 2.

W. K.

## Reports of Experiences of Loyal Brethren and Sisters in the Faith

"The Lord trieth the righteous."—Ps. 11:5.

As there were faithful souls in all testing times which stood true to the principles of God, thus the Lord still has faithful witnesses among the Advent people, which fought for the truth and even laid down their lives for it. In the following I shall relate some experiences of these loyal fighters for the encouragement of our dear believers.

One dear sister and singer in Israel became seriously ill and with many difficulties they brought her to the hospital in Krakau. The physicians declared her case as hopeless. The believers in Posen set aside a Sabbath of fasting and prayer for this sister as also for the struggling brethren. Other believers were also notified to unite with them in it. We all were willing to do this. The sister concerned was already so weak that she could not write any more. Her relatives

wrote to Posen to inquire as to her condition. The answer from Posen was sent to me in the German language. On the Sabbath when we were fasting and praying a change for the better was noticed in the sister. When the head physician entered the ward on the following day and came to her bed, he was surprised and highly astonished. He asked immediately for the doctor who had attended her the day before and he could not explain the change in this sister. Beginning with that day she recovered until she was completely restored. We all were very glad and praised God for her recovery—but Satan became very angry. Something similar happened as with Bro. White who had been sick but when the believers prayed for him the Lord restored him again. Several brethren died who had prayed for Bro. White's recovery shortly afterwards.

Shortly after this sister was well again, Bro. Victor Pacha was executed. For two years this brother had withstood the powers of darkness and had been led from one prison into another. Finally he arrived at Ohls, Silesia. There Brother and Sister Piets and also Gunther visited him,—it was a providence of God. The Lord led it so, that the officer was absent and this experienced fighter could give many hints and words of counsel to young Gunther and thus strengthen and prepare him for the same struggle which he soon would have to enter. He also related to the brethren and sisters many experiences. Once he dreamed that the believers were gathered, knelt down and prayed and mentioned his name. This strengthened him for the coming struggle. Another time he saw that the prison door opened and a hand held before him a slip with the text Ps. 116:6. It is wonderful how the Lord comforts and strengthens His faithful children. Something similar happened to Bro. Hanselmann. The last night before he was to stand in the final court session he could not go to sleep, he was frightened. Toward the morning he finally went off to sleep, overtired, and he dreamed he had to go through a thick darkness which caused him great fear. Then he heard a voice telling him, "John, fear thou not, I am with thee," and right after this he woke up. All fear had disappeared and he felt very much eased.

Bro. Victor was still alive when Gunther was drafted and the struggle began for him. When his father visited him for the first time, the seventeen year old boy cried bitterly. He was now fighting the hardest battle, the battle of decision, as the Saviour did in Gethsemane. The powers of darkness stormed in upon him but upon his continued prayer and his trust in God, the evil powers had to retreat. When the parents visited him the next time he was quiet and composed. He wrote them that he had great joy and peace

in his heart. When he was sentenced, he wrote the following letter to his parents:

Dear Parents:

**The peace of God be with you.**

I can inform you that I am well in body and soul . . . and now, my dear parents, I know certainly that the thing which I have to report to you now will be a very sad message to you. It is true, on the 6th of August was my summons to appear. The things that were spoken there, you can well imagine. However, I spoke those things which the Lord laid into my mouth. The sentence that was pronounced upon me is the death sentence. And now, dear father and mother, I ask of you not to shed one single tear in my behalf, nor grieve yourself, for this hope and this love and this happiness which I had when I left you, I still possess. If sadness now comes upon me, I think and pray as did the publican, too, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner!" For who can stand before God? Only he who has a pure heart. Therefore I pray you, dear parents, to forgive me all that has not been right in my youth. Regarding the death sentence, I have no thought of it, and make me no thoughts about it, for I know that the Lord will assist me and such a peace and such a quietness I have never had, as I have had in these last days.

From the execution-hall he sent to his parents and his little sister, as well as to all the believers, the last and most heartfelt greetings and kisses. Now there remained to this pious family only a little daughter, which was also taken from them by the officials, because the parents remained firm to the fourth commandment.

Two pious young men were taken as martyrs from the church in Poland. But this did not suffice. The enemy stormed upon other faithful families. After a few weeks the test came to the believers in Posen. When I visited the brethren and sisters in Posen, they told me that Bro. Rohloff devoted the last time of his life to study. Upon the request of the believers I sent to them the book "The Life of Christ." The brother read diligently in this book and studied it nearly all the way through. Lately he spoke frequently about the betrayal of Jesus. During the last week when he was still at home, he asked his wife to cook potatoes in their jackets with sauerkraut and pea soup for him. The Sister declined with the remark that there were enough vegetables to be had, sauerkraut could be cooked when there would be no more vegetables. But the brother kept on asking for his favorite dish. Finally his favorite dish came upon the table on Thursday. When he was through eating, he said, "This was like an execution meal." The remaining soup he asked to have for breakfast the next morning. His wife wanted to give it to him for lunch, but he said,

"Give me the soup for breakfast; for lunch you may cook anything you want." On Friday morning, early at 8:00 o'clock, he ate his soup and at 9:00 o'clock Gestapo officials appeared, searched his home, took all books with them—they did not see my book, "The Life of Christ"—and Bro. Rohloff was arrested right then. His wife was not home. His daughter asked frightened, "Where are you going, Father?" He said, "I go with these gentlemen and then I will be back again." However, he never came home again. It was a fearful blow to this family. Later on another brother was arrested, and then Bro. Slachetka with his son, and about 8 weeks later the son of Bro. Rohloff was also taken, because he would not go into the factory on the Sabbath although he had worked 75 hours that week. He was cruelly beaten and again asked whether he wanted to work on the Sabbath. He answered, No! Now the tyrannizing began anew. When they finally got tired of him they gave him rest. Then this young brother crawled on the ground like a worm, for he was not able to walk any more. He looked up at his father and asked him, "Do you know me?" He answered, "No." The son asked again, "Father, you do not know me?" Then the father looked once again to this disfigured young man and then said with astonishment, "Is it you, Bogdan?" Thus father and son met in the concentration camp. After a few weeks father Rohloff came to Mauthausen and the son went to Lorraine into a camp as a slave. About a quarter year later Sister Rohloff received the message that her husband had died, at just the same time when her daughter was seriously ill in the hospital. Bro. Slachetka was murdered in a similar way as also another brother. Finally the daughter of Brother Slachetka was taken and placed into a slave camp. She was a girl of 20 years. When she returned after the war, she related that she even in this concentration camp was permitted to keep Sabbath. She asked her superiors to let her have this day off. Her petition was granted with the condition to make up the hours of this day. There were also other sisters who followed her example and successfully fought for the Sabbath. Thus the altar of the living God was erected in this concentration camp and the songs of Zion were sung.

In time of one year, after the recovery of Sister M. P., five brethren were forcibly murdered. To them the words of the promise may be applied, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth."

In our country all brethren and sisters have been kept alive. One brother of Bulgaria with the name Stoev made a special experience with his Lord. This brother lives in Prague. When in May, 1945, the revolution broke out in Prague he, without having a knowledge of what was to take

place the following Sabbath, went away on Friday to visit brethren and sisters in another town. He spent the Sabbath with them. On this next day, a Sabbath, the revolution went on in Prague. Eight days later, when quiet was restored in Prague, this brother returned. He found some of his Bulgarian comrades dead. As his custom was, he went into the open nature to pray. It was upon a little hill near the river Moldau that he laid down his briefcase and his hat, knelt down and prayed. There a woman saw him and quickly ran to the next police station to report that a German was burying weapons there. Immediately three soldiers with rifles were dispatched to the place. These approached the spot unnoticed, ready to shoot, and called upon this quiet praying one to stop. Frightened, he grabbed hat and briefcase instead of lifting his hands. But no shot was forthcoming. The soldiers took him to the police station for a hearing. Then the actual circumstances were revealed, whereupon they set him at liberty. One of the soldiers came to him then, asking him, "Please tell me, Sir, what kind of a man are you? I intended to fire, but could not. Up to now my rifle has never failed me. I have no explanation for this."

The ways of the Lord which He has for every human being are indeed wonderful. "Therefore, happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help."—Psalms 146:5.

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Klagenfurt, Feb. 3, 1946.

Dear Brother A.:

The peace and blessing of the Lord as cordial greeting!

Your letter which I received has made me very happy, and I thank you heartily for it. Thanks be to the Lord who has protected me from so many a misfortune. Twice I was called before the Gestapo and by a hair's breadth, I would have gone to the dungeon. During the hearing they gave me the opportunity twice, to think matters over. Then I cried to the Lord under tears to support and help me and He gave me strength to remain loyal to the truth. The Lord aroused a higher official who had mercy upon me and helped me to freedom. The third time I had to go to Salzburg, the Lord alone helped me. To Him be praise and honor.

I believe you do not know that Bro. Ranacher and Sister Maritschnig are dead. Often I have to think about this dear brother when he came to me to bid me farewell, how he was frightened and how he cried. But the Lord is with those that are weak. He wrote from the concentration camp to Sister M— "My dear:—Do not cry about me, but rather thank the Lord that He has given me such strength. With the hymn, "Precious

peace I have since I follow the Lord . . ." shall I go to the scaffold. One cannot cease to marvel, thinking about the great strength and happiness the Lord gave to these dear brethren who fought for the truth. True, old Sister Maritschnig had always been persecuted for the faith . . . Now, after Bro. Ranacher wrote the farewell letter to his mother, she (the mother), went full of fury to the mayor and demanded of him that Sister Maritschnig must go to the concentration camp to make the brother yield his faith. She was to blame that he must suffer such a death. But she (Sister M.) said that he was old enough himself to know what to do. Upon this answer they began to scream at her until she fainted and was taken to the concentration camp with the Gestapo car, from whence she did not get out again . . . We do not know much of Brother Blasi. He was in the concentration camp at Graz and Marburg. In the year 1944 he passed away.

The dear believers in the concentration camps were a light for the truth and a witness to those around them. They all fought bravely for the truth, those that died there, and those who came out again.

You will find work when you come. I am already glad when we can go out to the lake. Mother Brugger is also waiting anxiously for you.

Now, take very cordial greetings from all of us here who were assembled on the day of rest.

Your Sister in the Lord,

M. P.

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## My Trip to Italy

I left Switzerland on November 16, 1945, to look up our dear believers in the south after they sent me a letter with the call of Macedonia. Beyond the border, just when our train set in motion, the sun was about to set. I was deeply moved by this wonderful spectacle of the omnipotence of God and a prayer of thanksgiving ascended toward heaven.

My joy was great when I met with Brother Sett and learned how the Omnipotent has protected His children through all these years as a hen gathered her chicks, in spite of all storms. On Sabbath, November 19, we assembled to praise the great God for the care of His love. The Lord dwelled among us by His Spirit to the end that the dear ones were strengthened again.

On Monday, November 21, Brother Sett and I left Mailand to look up our dear believers at Trieste. We traveled in a cattle car and were nevertheless satisfied that the Lord had led us there, for just here we were privileged to proclaim



the three-fold angels' message. It was very cold, but the love and zeal for the gospel warmed us.

At 7 o'clock in the evening we arrived at Venice. In spite of all the beauty we saw the footmarks of poverty and misery.

On the 22nd of November in the morning we drove on to Secile and again our missionary effort began. We were preaching and handing out literature. When we arrived at Secile we had to get off the train and walk for several kilometers until we reached the main highway. There a large number of unfortunate people were waiting with torn clothing who were returning to their homesteads from captivity to seek their loved ones and their protection, which, sad enough, they did not find, for also in this country nothing was done for those people who were returning. After a long wait there finally came a freight-truck. We had to climb to the top under difficulty and traveled for 73 km. The picture of destruction was terrible: here a tank, there an airplane. However, it was more sad to view a field of white stripes: graves of fallen soldiers, covered with stones. My thoughts were, Poor humans!—Alas, for whom? for what? When we arrived at Udine, the difficulties began about the (passport) visa. For some moments I was alone in a struggle and cried to God in my need, and He heard me and I could praise Him again. Again under great difficulties we came to Trieste in the evening. We traveled in a car without light, without windows, and without toilet. Human beings were laying on the floor like a bundle of misery.

The bora\* and the ocean lay quiet, but other storms were beating above us. The wolf, at this time when no earthly shepherd was with the sheep, was trying to destroy the flock, but the good shepherd took over the lead. We were together for a few weeks and felt the Spirit of God enlightening us, and thus the storm soon abated through His Word. Great was the joy of our being together, but so much harder it was to part again.

On Monday, December 10, we journeyed back to Mailand, again on a freight-truck for 500 km. It was rainy and very cold. We traveled through devastated villages and cities, for here the war had also struck. I remained for several days with the believers at Mailand.

December 11 I undertook a last journey to South-Tyrol. The train was so overcrowded that I had to stand near the window, pressed together. For five hours I traveled without being able to move either one arm or one foot. But all this did not hinder me to proclaim the gospel. Thus some people heard the truth and the dangers of this time. In the evening at 11 o'clock I was in Bozen. It meant a wait until 6 o'clock in the

(\*Strong dry wind on the Adriatic).

morning in order to travel on. There was no place to stay for everything was demolished. Only a room without doors was left for us. Thus everyone found a corner for himself to be protected from the wind. I shall never, I think, forget this picture. Children asleep on suitcases, poor old mothers, sick people shaking with Malaria, young faces which had lost all color, like beautiful flowers look when they have faded in the heat. Early in the morning we moved on. In the midst of such grief, dear self is dying—one does not think about himself but about his neighbor who has gone through so very much. The message sounds. We never had so much freedom in this country to do missionary work as now. There were so many opportunities presented before me that I was reminded of the travels of the Apostle Paul.

It was on December 16, 1945, that I returned to my earthly homestead, full of joy and thankfulness toward God for all that He has done for His children. May the great God give also to all of us, especially here in Switzerland, such a zeal and such a revival as these believers in the south have experienced. May the first love return into our hearts, for the time is at hand. Who will be able to stand? Shall a mere knowledge free us on the final day? No, not the empty lamps shall lead us toward the bridegroom, but the oil.

The dear ones of Italy greet you most cordially.

Sister L. L.

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## MY EXPERIENCES

I shall greet all dear ones in the Lord heartily with Ps. 146 and will write of the great things He has done for me.

The 14th of January, 1941, was a day of decision in my life of faith. I was permitted with the help and grace of God to walk a path for the sake of the Testimony of Jesus which brought me so close to the Lord as ten years of my life of faith were not able to do. On the above date at 8 o'clock in the morning I was arrested. Since I was a (sister) worker in the cause they wanted me to furnish them all names and addresses from within and without the country. There was a thorough house search without the desired result, for the Lord had given me strict instructions two weeks before. First they tried it with good words and then with threatenings. After grilling me for hours several days, they gave it up to get any information from me. I was sentenced to hard prison. After expiration of the term, — a total, which included the trial prison, of 1½ years, I was again brought before the Gestapo. Here I was to sign that I would renounce my faith.

This again I could not do. Now I was summoned to appear every four weeks and asked to place my signature. The Lord heard my cries. He helped me again and again. I was scheduled to go into the concentration camp because of my stubbornness. One first has to have a physical examination to see whether he is fit to go to the concentration camp. I saw only death before me, either by cruel force or by loss of strength. One morning I collapsed. Now the Lord worked the miracle. In time of two hours my release was arranged for, without the signature that I would renounce my faith. I only had to sign a declaration that I was released because of ill health. Thus I could enjoy my freedom again and, which is more precious yet, the Lord made me well again. I could again work as mission worker in the time of Hitler. During bombing attacks and heavy control by the Gestapo, I was traveling about. The brethren and sisters and many upright souls could not grasp it that such could be possible. Naturally it would not have happened with human strength and human effort. But today the Lord is doing a work that His glory might be revealed. How many said to me with emotion, "The Lord has sent you!" Thus it was according to Mark 5:20, and thus it went with me. "I can publish how great things the Lord has done for me in having mercy upon me."

This path has indeed been the one where I fell prostrate at the cross. From then on the Lord had His way with me. How many souls I could see among believers and unbelievers, free, or in prisons, whose acquaintances I made, and last, but not least, among the attendants in the prisons, whose hearts were touched by the witness of the truth. I shall therefore close with Isaiah 43:1, 11.

"But the Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him."—Hab. 2:20.

Sister R. M.

### News From God's Vineyard

"They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."—Ps. 126:5, 6.

By the grace of God we have now received news from our dear believers from nearly every country in Europe. Praise the Lord that He has helped so wonderfully amidst the great storms of the past years.

#### Bulgaria:

The Lord has, according to Brother Lunghoff's report, preserved His cause. There eight brethren are working to build God's cause and 250 souls

are united in the work. In the near future in Phillippi, the city where the Apostle Paul preached at one time, a house of prayer will arise for the local church there. There are also prayer-houses at other places for our believers. During the time of the war more than 30 brethren took up the battle for the truth of the gospel. They were sentenced to 3-4 years of hard labor in prison. Brother L. writes, We cannot be thankful enough for the great love and mercy of God.

#### Denmark:

Bro. E. Stark reports that new life has begun again. Every week he is visiting internment camps and has the permission to hold Bible Readings there. Sometimes the number of visitors amounts to 100 souls. There he also found a brother of the reform, as also such from the Laodicean church which are studying our quarterlies there on the Sabbath.

#### Germany:

The cause, trodden down by the rule of tyrants, has begun to rise again. Our dear brethren Adamczak and O. Lutt are standing on the walls of Zion together with other brethren to erect again what the enemy of souls has torn down. In spite of the terrible storm which beat upon the cause in this country, something marvelous is growing out of it, which will be a help to the entire cause of God in this world. How many miracles from the Lord the dear believers could experience! Today songs of thanksgiving and praise ascend to heaven from the brethren and sisters, from places where during the period of persecution whole churches had to walk into prison, leaving their children behind them. Isaiah 12 has been literally fulfilled.

God willing we shall report more in detail about the work there in the forthcoming issues of the *Sabbath Watchman*, hoping to get into personal touch with the brethren there in a few days.

#### Finland:

Here, too, the storm has roared. Sister Nurmimaeki reports the brethren there have stood loyal and that they, in spite of the war, could work for the Lord and a number of souls took their stand on the side of the Lord. A goodly number of workers and colporteurs are carrying the truth in this land of the thousand lakes.

#### France:

This country saw many stirrups but amidst them all the Lord has preserved His children. The notorious camp of Gurs lodged many of our dear brethren during the course of time under the most horrible conditions. But not one of them lost his life. Today the work of the Gospel

of Jesus Christ is going forward again and a number of souls are standing ready to make a covenant with the Lord.

#### Italy:

There we could organize our first church in the year 1940, but our work closed under heavy difficulties. Nevertheless the dear souls remained faithful in the truth and such a goodly interest developed there that now more than 20 souls are waiting for the day when they will be joined with the Reform Movement. It did not lack in internal and external struggles, but Christ remained as the great Victor.

#### Yugoslavia:

News from there is bringing the glad tidings that the cause of the Lord is making good progress. Twelve workers and 46 colporteurs are spreading the light of the 4th angel. In the past year 140 new souls could be joined with the Lord's church. It did not lack blood-witnesses in this country, either.

#### Netherlands (Holland):

As will be known to us, this country has suffered a great deal. These trials have also come near to our believers, leading many of them through the school of affliction of the concentration camps and a few of them are no longer among the living today. Bro. O. Welp, who was also in the concentration camp, is working together with a number of brethren in the cause of the Lord. Already quite a number of souls were joined to the church. The canvassing work has also made a good start again.

#### Norway:

This country in the north has also its faithful souls who had to pass through the trials of the past years. They, too, were preserved by the grace of the Lord.

#### Austria:

The years proved dangerous and hard for our believers and a number of brethren, which were partly still young in the truth, loved not their lives unto death. A dear sister, also, which was one of the oldest ones in this country died as a blood-witness for the Saviour. The majority of believers have stood faithful in the battle and defense of the truth.

#### Poland:

The first stroke in the storm of war hit this country and thus our believers had to suffer very hard. A great number of martyrs had to pass through the valley of death! Dying they remained victors over the power of darkness. Now our dear Brother Sychala has taken up the work

again and already has led a number of souls to the Lord.

#### Portugal:

By special leadings of the Lord this country could make progress because Bro. Rieck, forced by circumstances, could build the work of the Lord there. Thus on seven different places there are churches with well-organized meeting halls. From P. it is possible later on, to kindle other lights in the dark parts of the earth as well as on different islands of the sea.

#### Rumania:

Bro. Morar writes the following letter: 'Dear Bro. M—:

Peace be unto you from all of us. Now I can write. The Lord has kept us. We, and our brethren are all faithful in the truth and in this true reformation. We had big conferences everywhere. Praise God for everything. We printed many hundreds of thousands of tracts and our brethren and sisters work in the cause of God. The membership has grown to double as much as before the war."

This report gave us great joy, for in this country persecutions have always been hard and severe for over 30 years. The cause is growing in a marvelous way and is blossoming up again. The scattered flock comes from every side to God's church. Our membership amounts to over 5,000 souls.

The fire of tribulation was intensively fanned, and the plan had been to destroy every member of the church, as it was with the Jews in other lands, but the Lord intervened at the right time, so that the tyrants were exterminated.

Another interesting matter lies in the fact that, because of the cession of provinces where we had hundreds of souls, the light may now spread on in the direction of the rising sun.

#### Sweden:

By special grace this country was spared from the storm of war. It became an island of refuge for Bro. Korpmann, who arrived there in time to be of help to the cause of God.

#### Switzerland:

Amidst the noise of the tempest, this little country could sense the mercy of God. Even though the clouds were threatening on the horizon, they disappeared again, for the hand of the Almighty was visibly seen. We had difficulties as brethren which we were able to bear and which served for our best. From this little island of peace the connections in the work of the Lord with the different countries could be maintained with but short interruptions. The believers have

contributed much to support the work in far away lands with their means, thus assuring a good work.

#### Spain:

Reports which we received give evidence that the light of the 4th angel is spreading out, and that we can rely on the help of the Lord. It does not lack in faithful souls in this country who, under greatest difficulties, testify for the truth.

#### Czechoslovakia:

Here the powers of darkness have had apparent victory, but faithful souls have remained to hold aloft the standard of the gospel to the honor of the Lord. From this country, also because of political movements, many of our believers were cut loose, to do their duty now wherever the Lord has placed them.

#### Hungary:

The report of the church from there is: Ministers and workers were in prison and have not all returned. More is not known for the moment. May the Lord have mercy upon the work in this country also, as it has been one of the first countries in the Reform Movement.

#### Africa:

Bro. Ndhlovu reports from the Southern African territory. There the Lord has made the bright light of the angel of Rev. 18 to shine in many places. Twelve colored workers are building the cause of God and are preparing colored stones for the living temple of the Lord. The work is spreading from one country to another in the dark parts of this earth.

#### Australia:

In but a few years the Lord has brought a fine work into being through Bro. Nicolici. There they could establish the "Hebron Missionary College" where young brethren and sisters are getting prepared now for the second year already as workers for the work of the Master. The work is spreading to New Zealand, Queens-

land and Victoria and thus the message of the 4th angel can also prepare the ways of the Lord in those far away territories.

#### South America:

There also the light of reformation has had its progress in a marvelous way. Even among the natives in the mountains of 12,000 ft. altitude the light has reached the hearts. There are thankful souls united in God's church in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Equador and Columbia.

#### North America:

A number of brethren are standing in the work there, and lights of the Reformation have been kindled over this vast territory. The apostasy of Laodicea there is outstanding and very finely spun. But he, who is anointed with the eye-salve of the Spirit of God, recognizes the snares which try to deceive those that are upright. In the periodicals of the S. D. A. Church one may read about those who as heroes have been distinguished in a marked manner during the past years in the service of Jer. 32:35. Their number was 12,000 believers who walked this way according to the teachings of the leading men of Laodicea.

#### Appeal:

We now call upon all dear believers in the whole world to rally and help to build the cause of God in these days. There is very much to do. The world is bleeding out of a thousand wounds, and we will also do our share and help, where help is needed. Everyone of the dear believers is asked to help heal the wounds that have been inflicted. Many of our brethren and sisters have lost all their possessions. They lack clothing and food. We must help them. Whoever can spare something in the line of clothing, shoes or money, let him have it in readiness and in good condition. Let us remember the words in Matt. 25:34-40, and the blessing of the Lord shall reflect back upon us.

## "BECAUSE THOU KNEWEST NOT"

By E. J. STABEL

"If thou hadst known . . . the things which be long unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; . . . *because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*" Luke 19:42-44.

AS JESUS beheld the city of Jerusalem His thoughts strayed back over those many years during which that city had played such a prominent part in God's program. No other city had or has ever equalled it in that sense. But what was Jesus thinking when He said, "If thou hadst known," or what did He mean when He said, "Because thou knewest not?" Was there some event they had forgotten, was there some

message they had not heeded, or perhaps some prophecy they had misinterpreted? Yea, these and many more were the mistakes that had been made by an apostate people, steeped in sin and transgression; a nation hardened in unbelief and rebellion, hastening on to meet the retributive judgments of an offended God. Jesus was well acquainted with the history of Israel. He was not ignorant of the fact that God had done all that a patient, loving Father could do for a wayward people.

Jesus was thinking of the time when they had rebelled against God in the wilderness, of the time when they had demanded a king contrary to God's will. He, too, no doubt was thinking of the following verses of Scripture:

"And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by His messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because He had compassion on His people, and on His dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised His words, and misused His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy." II Chronicles 36:15, 16.

Israel was awaiting the long-hoped for Messiah, the deliverer of Israel. The priests were reading their scrolls each Sabbath to the multitudes; reading of the One who was "despised and rejected," the One who was to ride into Jerusalem "upon a colt the foal of an ass," of the promised One who was now standing in their midst. They exclaimed that this could not be the Messiah for Elijah had not come. This could not be the Anointed One for He would not denounce them, who had for so many years read His Word, as "hypocrites" or "whited sepulchres." They applied the Scriptures referring to His second-coming, to His first-coming, as many today apply the verses pertaining to His first-coming to that of His second-coming. They did not know the time of their visitation until it was too late and Jesus had pronounced their doom with the dreadful words, "Behold your house is left unto you desolate." Even then they continued to pursue the same course and culminated their sinful lives of disobedience by crucifying the One whom they had hoped for. Notwithstanding many continued their form of religion. Of this we read:

"But the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel, although many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 210.

Simply because the Jews did not accept Christ it did not alter the plan. God's program could not fail. Jesus, that great reformer, pronounced the doom of the Jewish nation, chose His own small company, those faithful few, and laid the foundation for the Apostolic church. He then

proceeded with His thorough work of reformation while Jerusalem hastened on to its prophesied destruction.

#### Woe to Modern Israel!

"Jesus, looking down to the last generation, saw the world involved in a deception similar to that which caused the destruction of Jerusalem."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 22.

It is important to note that if Israel would have been obedient to the precepts of Jehovah it would not have been necessary for God to have sent messages of warning and reproof to them. But due to the apostasy it was ultimately important that such warnings be given. God never commits an act except He reveals it through His servants, the prophets.

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants, the prophets." Amos 3:7.

He would not reject them except they be sufficiently warned. In the Spirit of prophecy we read of a work to be done in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 251.

It would be absurd to consider sending an obedient child to a reform school. Likewise would it be very inconsistent for God to call for a reformation in an obedient church. Consequently, according to this message, there must have been an apostasy existing in the church when the message was given. This is substantiated by the following statement:

"As Jesus views the state of His professed followers today, He sees base ingratitude, hollow formalism, hypocritical insincerity, Pharisaical pride and apostasy."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 72.

The reader may ask, "How far-reaching was the apostasy?" This can be answered from the Spirit of prophecy.

"We need a thorough reformation in all our churches."—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 443.

"God's people will not endure the test unless there is a revival and a reformation."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 285.

"There is great necessity for a reformation among the people of God."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 474.

Consequently we are not left in darkness concerning the time, the extent nor the necessity of a thorough reformation in the church. From these statements it is evident that a reformation was called for in every church, just at that time, and should it not take place they would not endure

the test. What is the test to which reference is made? Again we read:

"Men of clear understanding are needed now. God calls upon those who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work of thorough reformation. I see a crisis before us and the Lord calls for his laborers to come in line."—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 514.

This testimony was given in 1913, only one year prior to the outbreak of World War I. There can be no doubt that it has reference to that conflict. The Lord permitted the test to come to prove and try the church. She was to be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary to determine whether She was worthy of the many special blessings that God had bestowed upon her.

You, dear reader, may ask, "Did not this prophesied reformation take place before the war, as was predicted?" As proof that it did not, we refer you to a statement made by a prominent leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the year 1922.

"That during the next quadrennial period a supreme effort be made to bring about a great spiritual reformation in all our churches throughout the world . . . And, brethren, just that reformation must take place or we are doomed with the rest of mankind. We cannot survive without it."—*General Conference Bulletin*, p. 16 (1922).

If you are acquainted with the history of the church, the position and action taken by the church during the War, you will recall the terrible apostasy that occurred and how truth and principle were sacrificed. How honest souls were seduced to break the Sabbath as well as encouraged to take up arms against their fellow brother in the European countries. They had neglected the call for Reformation, literally rejected it; therefore, they were left to choose and follow their own perverted course. A patient God had pleaded for a reformation for many years but, alas, the call was disregarded, the allotted time passed, the final probationary time was slighted; therefore, the pronounced sentence of doom was spoken.

"So then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" Rev. 3:16.

"How is the faithful city become an harlot? My Father's house is made a house of merchandise, a place whence the divine presence and glory have departed! For this cause there is weakness, and strength is lacking."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 250.

Do we not hear the same expressions employed today by the leaders of the denomination as those which the Jewish leaders devised? "Elijah must come!" The same argument, "the Reformation

must come. The Reformation must come!" is presented. But as Christ said, "Elijah is come already," we are forced to say the Reformation has come but the leaders did not see nor accept it. Praise God, the work came about in God's appointed way and in His appointed time. "The time of Reformation." With the prophet Isaiah we must exclaim:

"Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah." Isaiah 1:9.

Those who heeded the call, those who were willing to be led by the Holy Spirit and to lead out in a work of thorough Reformation were despised, mocked and even persecuted by the leadership until there was no other course but complete and final separation. Out, ever out, has been the clarion call and only a small faithful company responded. The majority will continue their former course of apostasy as did the Jews, but God's power and presence will be lacking in their services.

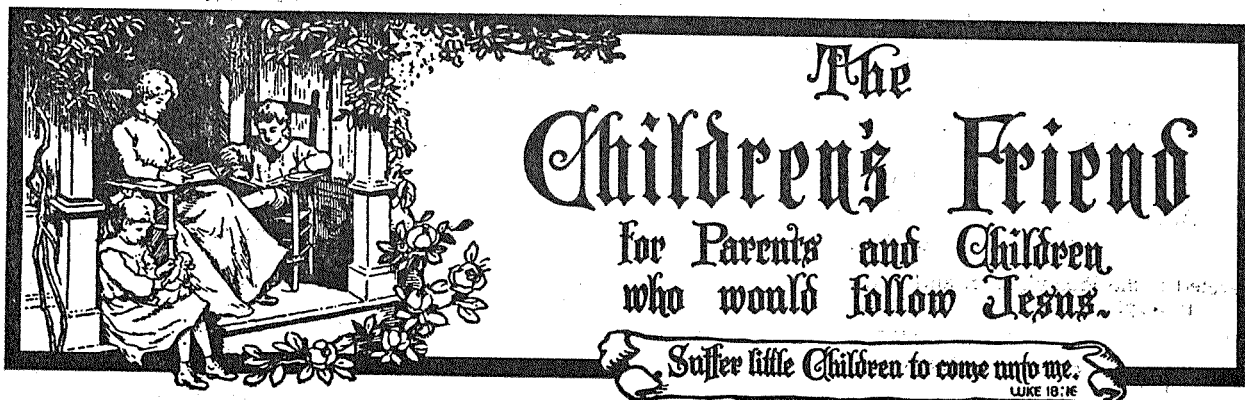
"The divine presence and glory have departed! For this cause there is weakness, and strength is lacking."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 250.

The message to the Laodicean or Adventist church reads, "And knowest not." They are completely ignorant of their appointed time, "the time of Reformation," consequently they have slighted it and are hastening on to their pronounced doom. Dear reader, do you still wish to continue with a doomed and rejected as well as Christless church? Or do you wish to join with those who knew the time, "which belongs unto thy peace!" May God help His faithful children to accept the day of salvation, the allotted time now while it is called today. Will you not obey that call?

## TRUTH

Truth has been crushed so many times,  
Then left to languish and to die.  
So many times has wrong been crowned,  
And faithful souls have given a sigh.  
Truth might be crushed ten thousand times,  
Before earth's final day has come.  
But when the last returns come in,  
Truth will be crowned the winning one.  
God keepeth truth, she cannot die;  
'Tis but a fool who will rejoice  
When truth is beaten to the ground,  
And wrong becomes the people's choice.  
Take heart, then, faithful ones, today,  
Should wrong be placed upon the throne.  
He will not fail to keep His own.  
Truth is the protegee of God,

—FRED L. HARVEY



### "Don't Tell Mother"

No long since we passed two little girls, perhaps eight or nine years old. Their arms were thrown around each other in a simple living, unaffected manner that quite enchanted us. But the first words we heard them utter dispelled the charm and left a very painful impression.

"I'll tell you something that I am going to do, May, if you will promise not to tell mother a word about it."

If at that early age boys or girls begin to have secrets from their parents, especially from the mother, it does not require a prophet's skill to form a tolerably correct judgment of what the character will be, and the results springing from such tendencies when they arrive at mature age.

A disposition to deceive is bad enough, but when a little child arranges to conceal her actions from her mother, the outlook is sad indeed.

Whatever may be taught or believed about natural depravity, it would be very difficult to imagine that a little child naturally inclines to conceal its actions from the mother, who for the few earliest years at least must, almost of necessity, be with it more than any other one. In such cases it is impossible not to feel that the parents must be held, in part, accountable. Over-strictness in governing children too often proves a temptation to deceive and conceal. When a child first understands that it is under surveillance and all its acts are criticised or censured, it becomes uncomfortable, and soon feels frightened, and seeks to escape from the thralldom by prevarication or deceit. To deny, conceal, invent or give an excuse that to a youthful mind appears plausible, if not unanswerable, opens in their childish judgment the readiest way of escape from blame or punishment. Let any one enter on that way, and concealment, deceit and excuses become easy. It will not be long before this course will be taken not merely to avoid punish-

ment or reproof, but to secure some pleasure known to have been forbidden.

Young parents often enter upon their new duties with very high ideas. They have theories which, if strictly followed out, will place their *nonpareil* far above all other babies, and bring it into maturity a bright and shining light, only a little lower than the angels. And in its rare development it is expected that the parent's theory will be glorified. It is vain for parents who have had several experiences and many new theories to try to convince the young matrons that there never was a mode of training children that would be suitable for all dispositions, or that fully realize the bright expectations with which they first tried to bring them into daily practice.

Some begin with the idea that implicit, unquestioning, instantaneous obedience must be insisted on, and any hesitation or deviation must be met at once by severe punishment. Children brought up under such a system are the ones most likely to deceive and conceal. Those parents who are thoroughly good, and act in the most conscientious manner, in their hearts believing that their theory, "though for the present not joyous but grievous," will in the end work out peaceable fruits of righteousness, are the ones who in riper years, taught by that rough school-master, experience, greatly modify if not entirely change their mode of bringing up their younger children. Indeed, finding that strict discipline and rigorous oversight have not entirely perfected their first children, they are in great danger of swinging clear over to the opposite side, and do their last children as much or more harm by being too lenient and indulgent as their first received by needless severity.

Poor children! If parents could only know exactly what spirits they had to deal with, if they had wisdom to guide and govern through love and gentleness, how much less temptation to deceive and conceal—how much more happiness, both for parents and children.

Wholesale license and indulgence do not make the happiest child-life, but with all its evils we

# The Sabbath Watchman

with

## The Children's Friend

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doubt if it is morally as injurious as over-governing and severity. But whatever mode of training children may be adopted, that is best which is so modified as to teach all, particularly the girls, that the mother is the sagest and wisest confidant.

Children will make mistakes, but no great harm will follow if they have no secrets from their mother; and they will not be tempted to hide a blunder if they know she will not rebuke sharply but with loving kindness. A girl will not do anything very wrong who has no secrets from her mother. Every girl stands on slippery, unsafe ground the moment she thinks or says, "Don't tell mother." The fewer secrets girls or boys have, the safer they are. If there should be a few which may seem important and unavoidable, let the child test the real necessity of encumbering herself with them by taking the mother in partnership. No companionship should be tolerated, no letter written, that she may not know of.

Secrets, mysteries, are bad things for any one, boy or girl, man or woman, but much worse for a girl or woman. We wish we could show the young how much of unrest, trouble and wrong has come through those small mysteries and secrets that so many young girls take delight in, but we close with this one item of advice for children of both sexes:—

Hide nothing from your mother. Do nothing that you would be ashamed or unwilling to have your father know. If you have done wrong, don't wait for them to learn it from others. Go to them and own it, trusting that their love will enable you to right it. If you have made a mistake, look into their eyes with loving boldness and tell

them yourself. Prevent others from telling your parents tales of you by taking the whole matter to them, your best friends and advisers, your own self.—Selected.

## The Healthy Christian

A HEALTHY Christian is one who can work as well as eat. If there is a heavy load to carry in Christ's cause, he takes to it at once. If there is a wall to build, he is the man to lift the big stones. If some one has to go out into the storm and endure pelting opposition, who so able to bear it as his broad chest and brawny arms? A man that loves Christ loves work. A dyspeptic Christian dreads work. A lazy Christian shirks it. What a hospital is many a church! Here lies one poor man down with a paralysis of faith. Here is another laid up by a sprain which he got by a sudden fall into temptation. Here is one whom the fever of passion has burned out; he looks hardly worth the medicine to cure him. Alas, for another, he is under pastoral treatment for the blindness of unbelief! and for another, whose gaping wound reveals the spot where Satan's fiery dart went in! A revival commonly clears the church hospital. But a long period of spiritual declension crams it to the door-way. Oh, what need that He Who went through Galilee healing all manner of diseases, should come into some of our hearts.

There is no one point in this world so critical of Christian character as the power to maintain love toward all men—not a love of personal attraction, but a love of benevolence, that begets a willingness to bear with them and work for them. And you will take notice that the only prayer of the Lord on which He made any commentary was this: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." On this official prayer He says, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive your trespasses." He conditions a man's own piety to depend on his capacity to forgive. And I think there is not another point on which men have such a fight as on that.—Selected.

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