

The Sabbath Watchman

January/February 1984 • Volume 59, Number 1

A QUALIFIED RELIGION

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I

THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS
BEFORE ME

II

THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY
GRAVEN IMAGE, OR ANY LIKENESS OF
ANY THING THAT IS IN HEAVEN ABOVE
OR THAT IS IN THE WATER UNDER THE
EARTH

THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF
TO THEM, NOR SERVE THEM: FOR I THE
LORD THY GOD AM A JEALOUS GOD,
VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS
UPON THE CHILDREN UNTO THE THIRD
AND FOURTH GENERATION OF THEM THAT
HATE ME; AND SHEWING MERCY UNTO
THOUSANDS OF THEM THAT LOVE ME AND
KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.

III

THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE
LORD THY GOD IN VAIN; FOR THE LORD
WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTYLESS THAT
TAKETH HIS NAME IN VAIN.

IV

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT
HOLY. SIX DAYS SHALT THOU LABOUR, AND
DO ALL THY WORK: BUT THE SEVENTH DAY
IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD THY GOD: IN
IT THOU SHALT NOT DO ANY WORK.
THOU, NOR THY SON, NOR THY DAUGHTER,
THY MANSERVANT, NOR THY MAID-
SERVANT, NOR THY CATTLE, NOR THY
STRANGER THAT IS WITHIN THY GATES:
FOR IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE
HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL
THAT IN THEM IS, AND RESTED THE
SEVENTH DAY: WHEREFORE THE LORD
BLESSED THE SABBATH DAY, AND
HALLOWED IT.

V

HONOUR THYFATHER AND THY MOTHER,
THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE
LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH
THEE.

VI

THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

VII

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

VIII

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.

IX

THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS
AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR.

X

THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGH-
BOUR'S HOUSE, THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY
NEIGHBOUR'S WIFE, NOR HIS MANSERVANT,
NOR HIS MAIDSERVANT, NOR HIS OX, NOR HIS
ASS, NOR ANY THING THAT IS THY NEIGH-
BOUR'S.

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The Sabbath Watchman



Beacon of hope, faith, truth in a confused world.

We believe:

The Bible to be infallible truth.

God the Father to be the one Creator and upholder of heaven and earth through His Word.

Jesus Christ to be God's Word made manifest and the world's only Saviour, who taught love revealed by obedience.

His coming to be imminent, visible, victorious over His enemies and rewarding to His children of faith.

The Holy Spirit to be His representative on earth, through whom we overcome a literal devil, Satan, the untiring instigator of evil.

The Ten Commandments to be the foundation of all enduring reform and obedience to be the result of genuine faith in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

THE SABBATH WATCHMAN is published by Religious Liberty Publishing Association, a subsidiary of the International Missionary Society of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement, American Union. World War I saw responsible men of the Seventh-day Adventist Church publicly declaring it to be the duty of all Adventist men to defend their respective countries with weapons in hand, even on the Sabbath. Hundreds of staunch believers protested this stand; but their protest was not heeded, and they were disfellowshipped against their wishes. All attempts to reunite on the old platform of truth failed. This was the birth of the Reform Movement, which today is represented in all major countries.

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An open letter

A NEW YEAR'S GREETING

“ANOTHER year of life is now in the past. A new year is opening before us. What will be its record? What will we each inscribe upon its spotless pages? The manner in which we spend each passing day will decide this question.” —Ellen G. White, *Our High Calling*, p. 7.

Time is quickly passing into eternity, and our Saviour will soon appear in the clouds of heaven. As we enter into 1984, I think all of us need a fresh conviction of the truth and of our responsibility toward a world that has forgotten its Maker. The Lord Jesus—Creator and Redeemer—is the only answer to the desperate need of both individuals and nations in these critical days. Jesus Himself says: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” John 14:6. The man Jesus Christ and His unfathomable love need to be shared with those living in utter darkness. We cannot afford to delay this any longer. Many are longing for the “Bread of Life” and are eagerly looking for a way of escape. The urgency of the times compels us to hasten our Lord’s coming by laboring earnestly for souls.

Prophecy is fast being fulfilled in the social, political, economic, and religious world.

Are we aware of the major developments in the religious realm? The book of Revelation speaks like clear thunderbolts about the end of earth’s history. Today, Revelation chapter 13, is becoming a focal point of study among Bible scholars and students. With great eagerness and motivation the students of prophecy are exploring the meaning of this unique chapter. Much of its contents deals with the Catholic Church and its affairs among mankind. What was written by the prophets of old is coming to complete fulfillment in our day. The Bible predicts the unity of all the churches. Already the world is moving toward a reconciliation of faiths. Before me lies a clipping from the *Sacramento Bee* of November 6, 1983, indicating the direction of the papal power: “In a bold move for Christian unity, Pope John Paul II has agreed to preach in a Lutheran Church in Rome, Vatican sources and Lutheran officials said Saturday. The Pope has spoken in Protestant churches before, including a historic meeting with Episcopalian leaders in Canterbury Cathedral during his visit to Britain late last year. However, this will be the first time a pope has ever participated in a Protestant service in his own diocese and is considered by some Vatican observers as one of the most significant and symbolic steps towards reconciliation in modern times. The pontiff also praised a U.S. team of Roman Catholic and Lutheran theologians who in September delivered a historic declaration of convergence on basic doctrines that led Luther to break with the Roman Catholic Church.”

How amazing it is to read from the pen of inspiration that Catholicism will reach its hand to the Protestant world, and unite upon common doctrines. The remarkable revival of Roman Catholicism should awaken us as Adventists and stir us to greater consecration. These actions by Protestants and Catholics are stepping stones for the ushering in of the Sunday Law. They should urge us to prepare for the final test so that we may be found faithful. Time cannot last much longer before the whole world will be tested upon the commandments of God. Let us rejoice as pilgrims that we are nearing our heavenly home. Yet, before our journey ends, the Saviour has emphasized the importance of continuing on the narrow path and not

looking back. "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62. He declared that success in the Christian life comes only to those who turn their backs on the world and its sinful practices. On one occasion Christ warned our generation to "Remember Lot's wife!" Luke 17:32. Her disobedience in looking back, when the Lord said to look forward, resulted in her destruction. God did everything possible for her rescue, but her heart clung to her beloved city with its wealth and magnificence. She was more absorbed by the material things of this life than by the spiritual treasures of eternity. The obligation to obey God's commandments has not changed since the annihilation of Sodom. He still wants everyone to look forward and to look to His Son Jesus, the Author and Finisher of man's faith. We can have the assurance that in 1984 Christ will be by our side to help us go in the right direction. Do we look back or forward? The choice is ours.

The untried new year will bring many temptations, obstacles, as well as challenges and opportunities for witnessing. The possibility exists that some will be called by the Lord to enter His service as gospel workers. Today there is a great need for more colporteurs, Bible instructors, ministers, and medical missionaries. Who will respond in a positive way to the Master's call? Will it be you in your early 20's, or perhaps you in your mid-50's? Do you feel a deep conviction to tell others about the love of Jesus? "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." Matthew 9:37.

Laboring for the Creator of the Universe is a great

privilege. Won't the youth who are full of energy and enthusiasm think about entering *the Lord's work*? Although not everyone will necessarily be employed in a full-time capacity, there is still work for all to do. They can "pray to the owner of the harvest that He will send out workers to gather in His harvest." Matthew 9:38, *Good News for Modern Man*.

The Lord is waiting patiently for an awakening and a revival among His people. He is ready to pour out His Spirit so the work on earth can be finished. Besides praying for more laborers, we can faithfully support the work with our tithes and offerings. I trust and hope that every believer, out of a loving heart, will help as much as possible. Incidentally, at this very time, our publishing house is appealing for your generous support. Let us remember this very important branch of our work. Because of the literature being printed in Englewood, Colorado, our workers can take the truth to the world. Beginning in January 1984, Brother Chris Teske will be employed in the Publishing Association. Let us pray for him that he may prove a rich blessing in his new position, as he has been to the Sacramento church.

Time is running out and our need is for everyone to support this last work of Reformation that it may prosper and come to a glorious finish. May the beginning of this year be a time when Christ shall unify us and prepare us for eternity. May we all be saved in His kingdom is my prayer.

Wishing you all a happy new year in the Lord,

Henry Dering

"BE STRONG AND OF A GOOD COURAGE!"

By S. GUTKNECHT,

General Conference President, Germany

AS with every year, we are again standing on the threshold of a new year. Only 16 years separate us from the year 2000 A.D. Churches and nations are lining up for this day and making plans. In the NWZ (German paper), we read: "Visible from a far distance, with a total height of more than 200 meters, a monument for world peace, and at the same time a token of remembrance of the birth of Christ 2000 years ago, is to be erected south of the Eternal City. A group of architects and artisans has for some time been planning the construction of this unique super monument in Rome. In the giant temple structure there will be individual places of worship for every religion of the world. Our picture shows a model of this monument for world peace. The temple building and the statue of Christ are each to reach approximately 100 meters in height. The cross is to be molded of plexiglass and to be lighted by neon light."

The last few decades have furnished proof that we have very little time left. The United States and the papacy



have stepped upon the stage of world politics to play their final roles. Things not imagined and beyond conception have happened in the last decades, yet even greater events lie just ahead. The prophet Isaiah saw the conditions of the world in the last days and said, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1, 2. It is become increasingly darker in our world. Atheism, superstition, and spiritualism are spreading in a fearful manner. And those who once carried the gospel message have indeed the form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof; and these are the dangers of our days.

In the new year we should not overlook the point that "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son."

The prophet Micah and the apostle Paul, in prophetic vision, beheld our days and wrote the following: "Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit. The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

"That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up. The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of Thy watchmen and Thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

"Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me." Micah 7:1-7.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Timothy 3:1-7.

As people believing in the Bible, we must admit that these predictions find their literal fulfillment today.

Looking back only a short distance upon the year 1983, it is not hard to establish the fact that the year was one of

political terror, revolution and wars. Think only of South Africa, Angola, Chad, Libya, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Granada. Added to this is the atomic threat of the world powers and the hysterical arms race. Since World War II, the world has not seen one day of peace. The words of Jesus are being fulfilled, when He said, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: . . ." Matthew 24:6.

If we think next about the many diseases, accidents and natural catastrophes, the picture turns even darker. But the Lord calls to us in His word, "Be strong and of good courage." And we read in Psalm 46:7, "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." (This psalm is said to have been inspired when the Assyrians under Sennacherib besieged Jerusalem.) This is our assurance. He is our refuge. Believing men and women always know they are protected in God's refuge, and they pray for it daily, for they are dependent upon it.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1.

God gave man the earth, which in all its beauty and perfection came forth from the hand of the Creator. But in the course of the millenniums, sinful man has polluted the earth. "... There is . . . a time to every purpose." The time allotted to the earth is coming to an end. But the prophet Isaiah and the beloved disciple of Jesus were shown a new heaven and earth, where the transient things will be forgotten. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying." Isaiah 65:17-19.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:1-4.

God is always present. He is King, Father, and Friend, all in one. But also in the new year we should not overlook the important point that "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son." Revelation 21:7. May the Lord help us to be overcomers through the blood of the Lamb and to enter into His eternal kingdom.

To all dear brethren and sisters at home and abroad I wish a richly blessed, healthy, and happy year in 1984. And to my co-workers, may God bless you with special protection, help, and much success in the saving of lost souls. "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Deuteronomy 31:6.



A QUALIFIED RELIGION

By **BRANKO
CHOLICH,**
Canada



ABOUT thirty years ago, I visited a local church of our Reform Movement in the Balkan countries and was prepared to give a sermon to the members. But a few minutes before the meeting started, the leader of the church informed me that there were people of different religions in the congregation. He had called them all to hear the message of present truth. They were from the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, several Protestant churches, including the Seventh-day Adventists and different Sabbath keeping churches, the Mohammedans, the Jews, and also the Communists. I immediately realized that my prepared sermon was of no value. But the meeting had already started. The opening hymn was being sung, and I was sure of just one thing: I had to speak on something that would be appropriate for all who were present. As we prayed, the thought came to mind that I should reveal to that assembly which was the right church of God.

Since that meeting, I have presented this sermon five times in different places over the last thirty years. The last time I used this same theme was in Montreal, Canada, when the young people participated in missionary work for that city in March of 1983. Many of our believers suggested that I put the sermon in written form, and thus the following article is derived from it.

In our practical life we use instruments of all kinds to measure everything that affects our existence. We use measures for length, weight, volume, temperature, speed, hardness, and so on. By logical inference, we must have a measure for our religious convictions. The Ten Commandments of God were acknowledged by all those present 30 years ago to be the perfect measure of faith for all religious bodies.

The first commandment states, in short: "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Exodus 20:3.

Analyzing this commandment, we come to the conclusion that all religious organizations which profess that there is more than one God; whose religion is philosophical and does not believe in the existence of one living God, the Creator of all things in the universe; or whose teaching is that there is no God at all, are false, because the first commandment explicitly demands that we acknowledge God and have no other gods before Him. Therefore, Communists (who have their origin in the Scriptures), all polytheistic religions, all the religions whose belief is based on philosophy, such as Buddhists, Brahmanists, Hindus, and atheists, and other religions of that kind are disqualified as the right religious bodies.

The second commandment prohibits idolatry and its methods of worshiping God or worshiping anything else in the universe. Exodus 20:4-6.

By this commandment all idolaters, all Christian churches which use idolatry in their worship, such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, and any similar religion that may fall into this category are disqualified as the right religion, even though they may not be disqualified by the first commandment.

The third commandment forbids using God's name in vain, not only in our everyday conversation but also in our religious worship. Exodus 20:7.

Christ said: "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:7-9. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no

man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." John 14:6.

Therefore, Jews and Mohammedans, who are not disqualified by the first two commandments of God, are found to believe a false religion, because they do not recognize Christ as Mediator between them and God. Consequently, their worship is in vain, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

By the fourth commandment, most Protestant churches are found to be wrong, because they do not observe the seventh day of the week. Exodus 20:8-11. In addition to these Protestants, there are a few churches newly established in the nineteenth century. They are the Mormons, 1830; Spiritualists, 1848; Christian Scientists, 1866; and Jehovah's Witnesses, 1872. All these religious bodies are thus disqualified as churches of God.

From this point on, we deal only with Sabbath keepers.

The fifth commandment instructs all humanity that children must honor their parents. Exodus 20:12. "It also enjoins respect for ministers and rulers and for all others to whom God has delegated authority." —Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 308. 2 Kings 5:13; 13:14. Above all is our heavenly Father. Isaiah 64:8; Matthew 6:9; 1 Peter 1:17.

Here we have three stages of fatherhood: our natural parents, worldly rulers, and our Father in heaven. Because we are dealing now with Seventh-day Adventists, we rightfully go to the Spirit of Prophecy for help.

"David's power had been given him by God, but to be exercised only in harmony with the divine law. When he commanded that which was contrary to God's law, it became sin to obey. 'The powers that be are ordained of God' (Romans 13:1), but we are not to obey them contrary to God's law. The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, sets forth the principle by which we should be governed. He says, 'Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.' 1 Corinthians 11:1." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 719.

This statement sheds light upon the problem that Seventh-day Adventists create when they try to excuse themselves for obeying the authorities of Romans 13:1, because such are ordained of God.

"Thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20:13.

By taking part in war, Seventh-day Adventists give sufficient proof that they obey men more than God. They are not happy in going to war, but they submit themselves to men contrary to God's law in order to escape persecution. In denying the legality of the Seventh-day Adventist, Reform Movement, the Seventh-day Adventist Church declares: "Most of the individual 'Reformers' returned to the SDA Church, though some did not, objecting to the fact that the SDA Church had never made its stand concerning military service a test of fellowship, but had granted to each church member the liberty to serve his country at all times and in all places in accord with the dictates of his personal conscientious conviction." —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 10, p. 1333.

By this statement, that they grant the above mentioned liberty to their members, the Seventh-day Adventist Church gives proof that nobody before them had made such a grant. Their words, "at all times," imply every day, the Sabbath day, and the time of Armageddon. The words, "in all places," include all spots on this earth, the

area of battle at Armageddon, and the area of battle around "the beloved city" after the millennium. The Seventh-day Adventist Church did not make any restriction concerning time and place when they granted such liberty.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14.

From the gospel of Matthew we understand that if a man puts away his wife for any reason other than fornication he creates problems. And if that man marries another woman, he has committed adultery. Such a man is already an adulterer. But whoever marries her who is put away (not for fornication—consequently an innocent person) commits adultery.

We therefore conclude that in these statements in the gospel of Matthew there is only one reason for divorce; namely, fornication.

In all four of the statements given, two in Matthew, one in Mark, and one in Luke, no permission is given us for marriage after divorce.

Matthew 5:32: "... And whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

Matthew 19:9: "Whosoever shall put away his wife ... and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

Mark 10:11, 12: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

Luke 16:18: "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."

Refer to Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:10, 11.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church permits remarriage after divorce.

"Thou shalt not steal." Exodus 10:15.

"Both public and private sins are included in this prohibition. The eighth commandment condemns man-stealing and slave dealing, and forbids wars of conquest." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 309.

Since the early 1900's, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been responsible for transgression of this commandment by taking part in all wars.

Up to this point we have found that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is disqualified as the right religious body for openly transgressing the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth commandments of God.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Exodus 20:16.

From now on, we will deal with Sabbath keepers who are not included in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We believe in the present truth and in the message of the third angel of Revelation 14:9-12. The Sabbath truth and the doctrines of the sanctuary, the investigation judgment, the Spirit of Prophecy, and health reform were all given to God's church in the time of Laodicea.

We read the following statements from the Spirit of Prophecy: "But such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, are perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show what our present position is, establish the faith of the doubting,

and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell." —Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, p. 63.

"We must follow the directions given through the Spirit of Prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His Word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church, and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy." —Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 298 (1904).

"The principles of health reform are found in the word of God. The gospel of health is to be firmly linked with the ministry of the word. It is the Lord's design that the restoring influence of health reform shall be a part of the last great effort to proclaim the gospel message." —Ellen G. White, *Medical Ministry*, p. 259.

Therefore, all those religious bodies which claim that they acknowledge the Sabbath as God's holy day, but do not accept the above mentioned truths, or reject the Reform Movement of 1914, which came into existence at the right time and according to the Biblical prophecy, are transgressors of the ninth commandment. These include the Seventh-day Baptists, the World Wide Church of God, or any other faction of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Refer to 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12.

The tenth commandment forbids covetousness.

"The tenth commandment strikes at the very root of all sins, prohibiting the selfish desire, from which springs the sinful act. He who in obedience to God's law refrains from indulging even a sinful desire for that which belongs to another will not be guilty of an act of wrong toward his fellow creatures." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 309.

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain; ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." James 4:1-3.

The words stated above reveal that among the early Christians there were fightings and wars. But we cannot find in these verses any evidence that they were arguing over doctrinal questions, but over something they desired. They violated the tenth commandment of God. Coveting power is the greatest sin of this kind. The fall of Satan involved this wickedness. He sought to war for a better position in heaven. He fought over administration. And the so-called "Reform Movement of 1951" did the same. All who have been involved in this concede that in 1951 the separation did not come over doctrinal questions but over administration, the desire for supremacy. Warriors of this kind always have some "reasons" for such action. But they transgressed the order of the church and justified their evil work by the supposed imperfections of other brethren. Their covetousness turned into rebellion. Such an organization cannot be the church of God.

"Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10.



25 Songs of Praise

A 1-hour cassette of 25 songs by Sonja Baumung is now available. Most of the lyrics are from poems which appeared over the years in *The Sabbath Watchman*, and the melodies are mostly Sonja's. The cassette was recorded in a Sydney, Australia, studio.

The message of salvation is brought to people in different ways, and music is one way. You can now purchase these cassettes for yourself or your friends for \$10.00 each plus \$2.00 air mail postage and handling.

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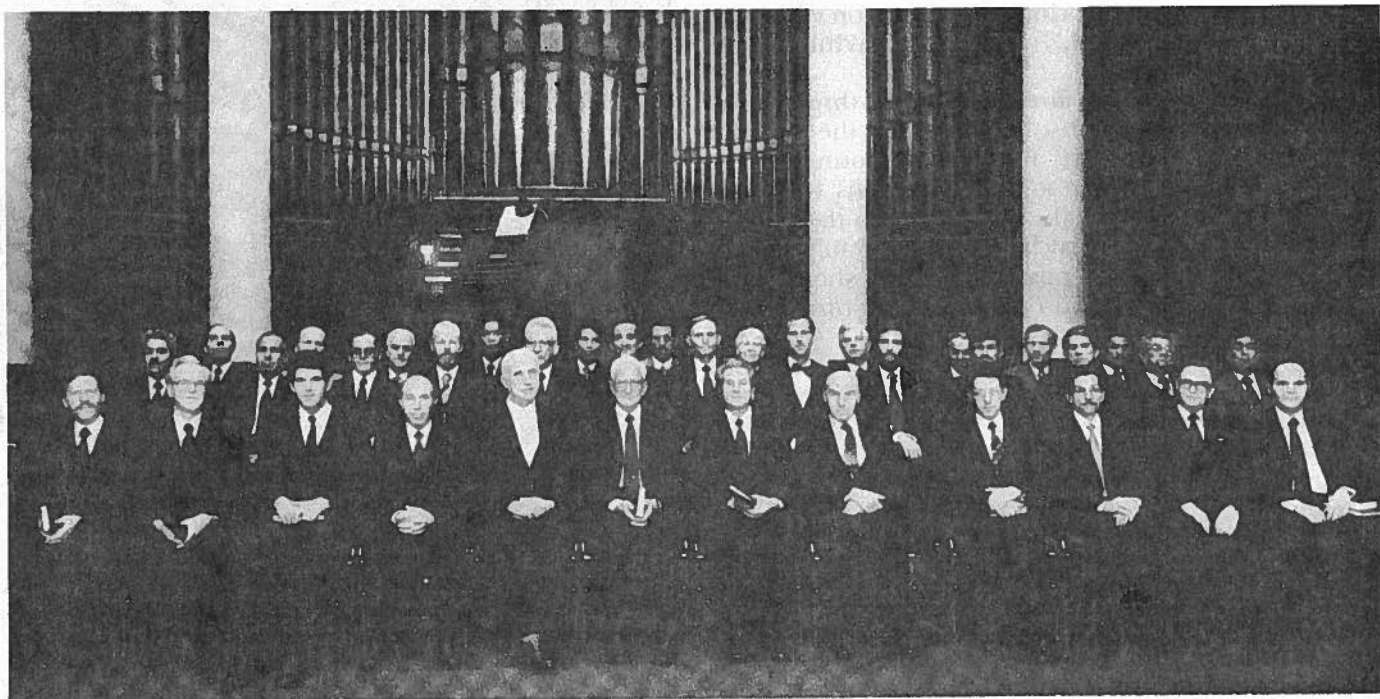
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Report

PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS of the General Conference Delegates in Session

July 21-August 21, 1983
Nonnweiler and Mannheim,
West Germany

International Missionary Society
of the S.D.A. Reform Movement
General Conference
Friedrich Ebert Strasse 17
D-6950 Mosbach/Baden
West Germany

Dear Brethren and Sisters in the Lord!

According to the decision and the wish presented to the General Conference, that the decisions of the Delegates' Meetings of 1983, held at Nonnweiler, should be published, we present here-with those decisions most important and necessary for the work.

May the Lord Jesus, the Head of the Church of God, richly bless the work accomplished, is our sincere wish.

United in the love of Jesus and the truth which we hold, I remain with brotherly greetings,

Your Brother in the Lord,
S. GUTKNECHT

Proposals and Decisions of the General Conference of 1983

July 26, 1983. With the prayer of Brother Craviotto, we began the work of a new day. Brother Gutknecht spoke about 1 Corinthians 12:13-27. We have here a wonderful explanation of the work done in the church of God. We are compared to the many parts of the body. It is the same in the church. We are all members of the body of Christ and should work wherever the Lord has placed us. The law of love is to lead us in doing so.

The decision was made that the proposals in question should be discussed under the old leadership.

Brother Gutknecht acquainted us with many proposals which will be of value in the advancement of the work.

Proposal: Establishment of Departments:

- a) Evangelization Department
- b) Training and Education Department
- c) Sabbath School Department
- d) Youth Department
- e) Medical Department
- f) Department for Literature and Information
- g) Financial Department

Decision: Departments shall be established and become a part of the General Conference. Finances of the departments: All departments are under the president. The treasurer and the committee determine which sums can be assigned to the departments.

Brother G. Cabrera and Brother N. Gutknecht were named to the Treasury Department.

The Medical Department, under the leadership of Brother Drofenik, was confirmed by the show of hands. The brethren Reutelshofer, Blum, N. Gutknecht, and Jeltsch are members.

Brother Klos will lead the Youth Department. Votes: 12 in favor, 2 not in favor, 3 abstaining.

The Department for Literature, consisting of the brethren L. Welker, S. Schmidt, A. Di Franca, W. Egerter, and Steinar Myhre, was confirmed by show of hands.

Brother Gutknecht presented some additional proposals. In harmony with the Testimonies, the decision was made that more should be done to further the medical missionary work. Seminars will be conducted in Peru and Mexico. The canvassing work will be furthered in the

whole world. Brother Raul Escobar will assume this responsibility. The departments for Evangelization, Youth, and Canvassing will work together and advise each other in the work. The brethren Andrew Barash, USA, and Joel Barnedo, Philippines, will assist them.

Departments: The limitations of the work must be fixed by the committee. The departments present rough copies of their work. Every six months they are to send in a report concerning the results of their labor, and their financial needs. The following agreement was accepted from the department heads: As a member of the General Conference and leader of said department, I declare my willingness to live and operate in whatever place God and the work would want me to be. The leaders of the three departments, Evangelization, Youth, and Canvassing, will be joined together in a committee with the brethren H. Hietkamp, Jr., and A. Barash.

Proposal: Report of Affairs

Decision: Standardized reports will be produced and sent to the fields.

Proposal: Transfer of workers

The next higher level of organization has the right and the obligation to initiate transfers in the interest of the work.

Decision: As to transfers, the decision of August 8, 1972, stands: "The Field Conference may take workers out of the church. Every higher level may decide on transfers—Field Conferences, Unions, Divisions, and the General Conference—in all their regions. The subordinated authorities shall be informed about this point and consent to it. Only serious cases of sickness and difficult family situations may be reasons to refuse such a transfer. It should take place with good understanding between the parties involved, to avoid misgivings. Self-transfers are not permissible. A possible exception is a flight out of Communist countries. This regulation was accepted by voting." The decision is made that the committee of a Field Conference, by permission of the Union, can perform transfers within the Field Conference, and also that the committee of a Union can transfer from one Field Conference to another Field Conference. The General Conference is responsible for transfers from Union to Union.

Proposal: Does a Union or Division have the right to hinder a planned visit, or to disregard the orders of the General Conference? To what danger does the leadership of a Union or Division which does this expose itself?

Decision: All delegates agreed that

no Division, Union, or Mission Field can disregard the orders of the General Conference, or hinder a necessary directive, as well as a visit of an authorized brother.

Proposal: Extension of the Spiritual Committee

- Committee for Economy
- Committee for the Youth
- Committee for Literature
- The establishment of a Medical Committee

The president summons the committees whenever needed.

Decision: Committees. The following question has been presented: Shall these proposals be considered during elections? Agreement without a dissenting voice.

Proposal: Establishment of a Mission School in Latin America. A property is already owned in Argentina.

Decision: The delegates decided that such a Mission School is not to be the sole responsibility of the General Conference. The education of our youth for the preaching of the eternal gospel is to be entrusted to the existing unions all over the world. In order to raise means, a fund has to be established within the General Conference, in which the whole work shall participate. The Department for Education will prepare rules for it. Agreement without a dissenting voice.

Mission School. A general decision was already made. The unions will train youth who hope to be gospel workers. The unions will also appoint the teachers. If there are none available, a petition for help may be presented to the General Conference. The current seminar in Germany will be finished by the General Conference.

Proposal: Establishment of a school to prepare students to become doctors of naturopathy. The representative is the church.

Decision: This concern will be forwarded to the Medical Department for consideration. Brother Drogenik's view is that any interested person should attend a private school for becoming a naturopathic doctor and then work for a while in our sanatorium. The transfer of this proposal to the Medical Department was accepted.

Proposal: Planning of conferences. The next higher organizational level is to be invited and informed promptly. Elections in which a representative of the next higher level is not present are invalid.

Decision: The proposal is that the

conferences, to which representatives are sent by the General Conference, are also planned with them, and that the unions will be promptly informed about the dates. Agreement without a dissenting voice.

Proposal: Field conferences and Divisions cannot change or alter the Principles.

Decision: Changes or additions to the Principles cannot be made by any level below the General Conference. The General Conference makes decisions concerning doctrine.

Proposal: At certain intervals the treasurer of the General Conference shall institute an audit in the unions, shall check them for faithfulness, and examine all financial resources.

Decision: The proposal shall be done.

Proposal: The General Conference shall issue an information paper at least twice a year, including instructions to leaders and church officers, such as, for instance, a missionary report and instructions for workers and church officers,

- about evangelization and missionary work,
- about health reform,
- about organization and executive functions,
- about tithes and offerings,
- about ordination of ministers and elders,
- about doctrinal points,
- about lessons for interested souls.

Decision: This matter will be transferred to the Latin-American Division. It should work together with the responsible department.

Proposal: Lessons for children and youth for centralized education and preparation for baptism.

Decision: Lessons for children shall be sent to the unions by the General Conference.

Proposal: Prayer and blessings for children.

Decision: Decision of 1960: We do not acknowledge any ceremony which shall serve as a replacement for the baptism of children or communion service. But if parents come with their children to a minister, he should implore for them the blessing of heaven.

"Then were there brought unto Him little children, that He should put His hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the

kingdom of heaven. And He laid His hands on them, and departed thence." Matthew 19:13-15.

Proposal: Salaries from the General Conference for workers in developing countries.

Decision: The General Conference will support a "young" mission work, but this cannot be done forever. If after a time enough means of their own begin to come in, the salaries are to be paid by them. The Finance Department will regulate such matters. Agreement.

Proposal: New organizations in the Caribbean region.

Decision: The Greater Colombian Union will continue to take care of the island of Curacao. Agreement.

Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo are under the leadership of Brother Pizarro. The language of Jamaica is English, therefore it is united with the North American Union. Brother B. Cholic informed us about the situation there and its one worker. The work there is to be organized.

Brother Cholic presented a plan to call the church of that place together so they could elect the leader. A treasurer would manage the offerings, so that the worker is free from this.

The General Conference will inform the Jamaican church that the delegates have decided that the North American Union is responsible for supervising the organization there. The Committee of the Union will make the decisions, and the North American Union will pay the salaries. If they need help, the North American Union will supply the means and maintain the authority. Agreement.

The General Conference advises that this new area be part of the Eastern Field of the North American Union.

The language in Haiti is French. Brother Pizarro will visit this island and begin the work there with a brother who speaks this language.

A written vote was taken concerning undertaking the work on the island of Trinidad. 19 votes fell to the Colombian Union, 7 to the American Union and 2 votes abstained.

The North American Union will place English literature at the disposal of the Colombian Union.

Proposal: The General Conference shall maintain an Archives and a Library. These archives will be accessible to all believers.

Decision: An archives and a library will be set up at the General Conference. Brethren and sisters can make documents available for this.

Proposal: Publication of our own song book.

Decision: The decision was made that the Department for Literature of the General Conference should issue and edit a song book with notes for the work of Reformation in the whole world. Songs in the different languages shall have, if possible, the same numbers. They shall be produced on good paper and provided with a long-wearing cover. Approximately 500 songs shall be selected. The title "Songs of the Advent Faith" was accepted. Agreement.

Proposal: Leaders and ministers should dedicate themselves unre-servedly to their spiritual profession.

They should not be entrusted with financial and other duties.

Decision: We propose to seek and train men for the financial branch, in order to unburden the ministers. Agreement.

Proposal: Every Union, Field Conference, and Mission Field is to have a Headquarters Office, in order to do away with any private and uncalled-for conditions. Whoever is chosen as an officer or leader is to move to that place.

Decision: We want order to exist in these matters. Agreement.

Proposal: Newly elected officers in churches, Fields, Unions, and the General Conference are to be promptly installed. The duties are to be clearly explained by the outgoing officer to the incoming officer. When handing over all books and records, they are to be in good order, and both the transferee and the receiver are to sign them.

Decision: The decision is made as proposed. All inventory shall be included. When handing them over, all books are to be signed by the receiver as well as the transferee. Agreement.

Proposal: A faithful worker who speaks Spanish shall be employed in the United States for the Spanish-speaking population.

Decision: Such a worker shall be sought for in their own union. The decision is left to the North American Union.

Proposal: Publication for Harvest Ingathering

Decision: The decision was made that the Missionary Department of the General Conference shall publish an issue for Harvest Ingathering with suitable illustrations from all parts of the world. It shall include many pictures, and not so much text. The incoming means are used for the promulgation of the

gospel. Agreement without dissenting voice.

Proposal: Sisters as Co-workers

Decision: The Testimonies agree that sisters can also work in a committee. (*Evangelism*, p. 473.) But the divine order shall be considered that the man is the head.

Proposal: Tithes

Decision: Discussions concerning the Lord's property, tithes, began. The results were as follows: Members who have made a covenant with God, and have promised faithfulness to God's requirements, but become unfaithful in tithes, shall, after a certain time, . . .

1. be asked for the reason,
2. be reminded of the promise they made at baptism, and be admonished in love to be faithful,
3. be pointed to God's word in the Bible and Testimonies, and possible reasons be corrected,
4. if all efforts are in vain, and enough time for a change has been given, their cases shall be referred to the church, and it shall be made an object of church discipline.

Churches, Field Conferences, Unions, and Mission Fields also have to try to pay attention to this rule. Treasurers who do not comply with their duty in an orderly fashion shall be called to an account.

Conditions

Brother Gutknecht read the following conditions, which were accepted:

a) Every member of the G.C. Committee commits himself to live faithfully to the Principles, to carry out the instructions of the president, and not to institute a rebellion.

b) . . . To live as officers of the Executive Committee in or near the headquarters.

c) The Executive Committee meets in case of need; the General Conference Committee meets every third year or, if necessary, at the request of the president.

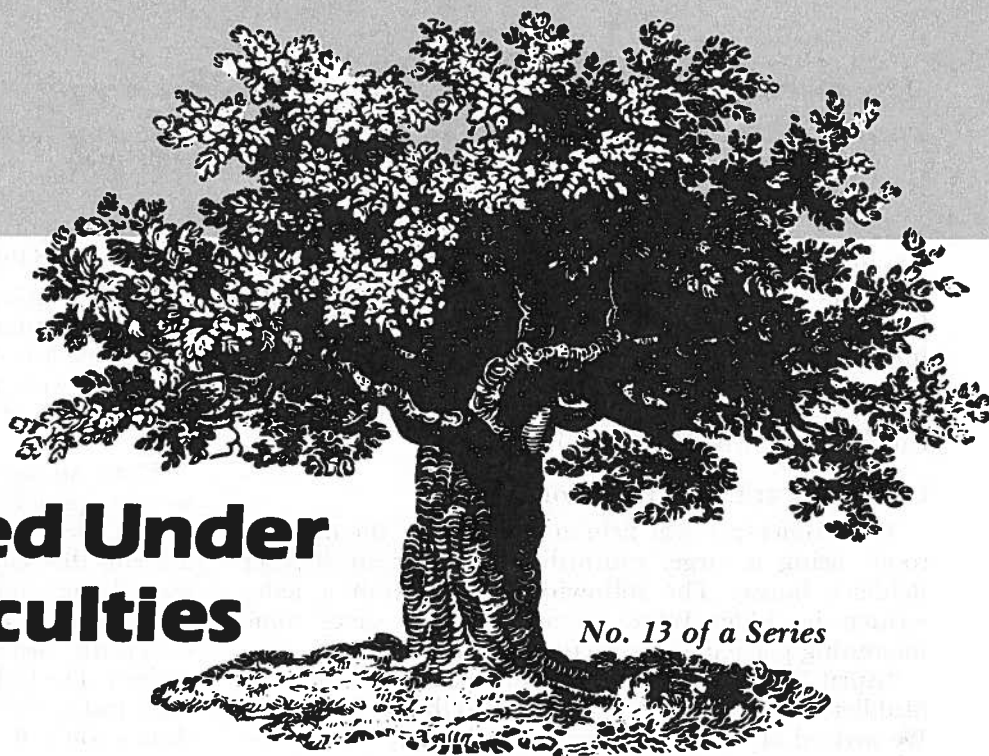
d) The delegates of the G.C. empower the president and his committee to transfer the headquarters of the G.C. in case of any unexpected crisis or danger.

e) In case an officer drops out, the committee of the G.C. is authorized to appoint a faithful brother in his place, or, as the occasion demands, to extend or to reduce the committee.

f) Travels abroad and remittances to the leaders of the departments require the agreement of the president and the committee. In cases of necessity, such as catastrophe, the president and the treasurer may help at once.



The Truth Advanced Under Difficulties



“**A**s a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out My sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.”¹

Those who up to this time (1847) had accepted the third angel's message, were poor in this world's goods, and consequently could do but little financially for the spread of the message. Elder White and his wife and Elder Bates saw the importance of personal labor among the scattered brethren, and also the necessity of preparing reading matter to place in the hands of the people, as an aid in leading them to the knowledge of the truth. Elder Bates was aided much in presenting the Sabbath question by his tract on that subject as he went to different localities, and by the circulation of the same through the mail. He labored with the utmost perseverance.

A Young Sister's Sacrifice for the Truth

At one time, having no money to pay his fare, he was about to start on foot to go from Massachusetts to New Hampshire. Just then he received a letter from a young sister who had engaged to do housework at \$1 per week that she might have something with which to help the cause. After working one week, she was so impressed with the thought that Elder Bates needed money that she went to her employer and obtained advanced pay so as to enable her to send him at once \$5. With this he paid his fare to New Hampshire, by public conveyance. At every place he had good meetings, and many souls accepted the truth.

Housekeeping with Borrowed Furniture

In order to show the spirit of sacrifice which actuated the early pioneers in this message, we note the following

from Mrs. White's statement of their situation in the winter of 1857-58, when they occupied rooms in the spacious home of S. Howland, Topsham, Maine, where with borrowed furniture they set up housekeeping:

“We were poor, and saw close times. My husband worked at hauling stone on the railroad, which wore the skin on his fingers through, and the blood started in many places. We had resolved not to be dependent, but to support ourselves, and have wherewith to help others. But we were not prospered. My husband worked very hard, but could not get what was due him for his labor.

Elder White Cutting Cordwood

“My husband left the railroad, and with his ax went into the woods to chop cordwood. With a continual pain in his side he worked from early morning till dark to earn about fifty cents a day. He was prevented from sleeping nights by severe pain. We soon received letters from brethren in different States inviting us to come and visit them; but as we had no means to take us out of the State, our reply was that the way was not open before us.

“We received a letter from Brother Chamberlain, of Connecticut, urging us to attend a conference in that State. We decided to go if we could obtain the means. Husband settled with his employer, and found that there was ten dollars due him. With half of this I purchased articles of clothing which were much needed, and then patched my husband's overcoat, even piecing the patches, making it difficult to tell the original cloth in the sleeves. We had five dollars left to take us to Dorchester, Mass. Our trunk contained nearly everything we possessed on earth. But we enjoyed peace of mind and a clear conscience, and this we prized above earthly comforts.

“We called at the house of Brother Nichols, and before we left, Sister Nichols handed my husband five dollars,

The meeting ended gloriously. Those who held strange diversities of opinion confessed their errors, united upon present truth, and God greatly blessed them.

which paid our fare to Middletown, Conn. We were strangers in that city, and had never seen one of the brethren in the State. We had but fifty cents left. My husband did not dare to use that to hire a carriage, so he threw the trunk upon a pile of boards, and we walked on in search of someone of like faith. We soon found Brother Chamberlain, who took us to his house."

Conference at Rocky Hill, Conn.

This conference was held at Rocky Hill, the meeting room being a large, unfinished chamber in Brother Belden's house. The following extract from a letter written by Elder White to S. Howland, gives some interesting particulars respecting the meeting:

"April 20 [1848], Brother Belden sent his wagon to Middletown for us and the scattered brethren in that city. We arrived at his place [Rocky Hill] about four in the afternoon, and in a few minutes in came Brethren Bates and Gurney. We had a meeting that evening of about fifteen. Friday morning the brethren came in until we numbered about fifty. These were not all fully in the truth. Our meeting that day was very interesting, Brother Bates presented the commandments in a clear light, and their importance was urged home by powerful testimonies. The word had effect to establish those already in the truth, and to awaken those not fully decided."²

Invited to Oswego County, N.Y.

As the result of the circulation of Elder Bates's tract among the Adventists, persons in other States began the observance of the Sabbath. Hiram Edson, of Port Gibson, N.Y., wrote inviting Elder and Mrs. White and others to attend a conference of Sabbath-keepers in Volney, Oswego County, in August, 1848. He said that the brethren were generally poor, and he could not promise that they would do much toward defraying expenses. Elder White had received \$40 as the result of labor performed in the hay field. A part of this was spent in purchasing clothing which was greatly needed, and the remainder paid their way to Volney and return.

This conference in western New York was held in Mr. Arnold's carriage house. There were about thirty-five persons present, all that could be collected in that part of the State, but hardly two of these were agreed. Each was strenuous for his own views, declaring that they were according to the Bible. All were anxious to advance their sentiments and to preach them. They were told that Elder White and his wife had not come so great a distance to hear them, but had come to teach them the truth. Mr. Arnold held that the one thousand years of Revelation 20 were in the past, and that the one hundred and forty-four thousand mentioned in Revelation were those raised at Christ's resurrection.

Mr. Arnold Objects to Ordinances

As the emblems of our dying Lord were before this company, and as they were about to commemorate His sufferings, Mr. Arnold arose and said he had not faith in what they were about to do—that the Lord's supper was a continuation of the passover, to be observed but once a year.

These strange differences of opinion rolled a heavy weight upon Mrs. White. She well knew that Mr. Arnold was in error, and great grief pressed upon her spirits, for it seems that God was dishonored. Some feared that she was dying; but Elders Bates, White, Chamberlain, Burney, and Edson prayed for her, and the Lord mercifully heard the prayers of His servants, and she revived. The light of heaven rested upon her, and she was soon lost to earthly things. While in this state, she was shown some of the errors of those present, and also truth in contrast with these errors, showing that these discordant views, which they claimed were according to the Bible, were only according to their opinions of the Bible, and that they must yield their errors, and unite upon the third angel's message. The meeting ended gloriously; truth gained the victory. Those who held these strange diversities of opinion confessed their errors, and united upon the present truth of the third angel's message, and God greatly blessed them.

A Vision with Wonderful Use of the Bible

The following account of this meeting was given by Mr. Alexander Ross, Jan. 4, 1884, who was one of the thirty-five composing the little gathering. He said:

"Sister White, while in vision, arose to her feet and took the family Bible upon her left hand; the book was one of ordinary size. While holding it open, high up, without looking toward it, with her right hand she would turn from text to text, and placing her finger on the scripture, would repeat the same. I looked at many of the texts to see if she was repeating the one to which she pointed. Myself or some of the company looked at them all. In every case she not only repeated the text to which she pointed, but she did so while her eyes were looking upward and in an opposite direction from the Bible. It was these scriptures which she repeated that overthrew the false theories of Sabbath-keepers assembled at Volney, in August, 1848, and caused us to unite upon the truth."

Indeed, one must have been hard to convince who did not renounce error of doctrine corrected under such circumstances, by plain texts quoted from the Bible, and in this remarkable manner. This company of Sabbath-keepers in Oswego County, after their errors had thus been corrected, and they had become united upon the truth, went forth from that meeting to spread the light to others. The results surely bore the evidence of being the

*They had become united upon the truth, and went forth to spread the light to others.
The results bore the evidence of being the work of God.*

work of God. Satan is ever ready to divide, distract, and scatter, by whatever means he can employ. "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."³

Miraculous Cases of Healing

After the conference before mentioned, meetings were held in Madison County, Port Gibson, Port Byron, and in New York City. Following these was a general meeting in Connecticut. At some of these places the Lord came very near to His servants, and the healing power of the Great Physician came upon the sick in answer to the earnest prayers of His people as they followed the rule laid down in the Epistle of James.⁴ Even persons pronounced hopeless by physicians were healed of their diseases. Incidents of such a character have often been experienced at various times since 1845.

Pioneers Endure Hardness

Elder White, in the *Review and Herald* of Feb. 5, 1880, when speaking of those pioneer days, said:

"In our early labors we have suffered hunger for want of proper food, and cold for want of proper clothing. We deprived ourselves of even the necessities of life to save money for the cause of God. While *at the same time* we were wearing ourselves fearfully in order to accomplish the great amount of work that seemed necessary to be done in writing, editing, traveling, and preaching from State to State."

The year 1848 was memorable, not only in the advent history; but politically. The truths of the third angel's message were very well defined, and the way was opening in different directions for the advancement of the work. At this time events in the moral and political world were assuming a shape calculated to arouse anew the attention of the students of prophecy. Not only was there great confusion among the nations of the Old World, but at Hydesville, Wayne Co., N.Y., began the manifestations of modern Spiritualism, which Bible students said must be the "spirits of devils, which are to gather the nations of the earth to the battle of the day of the Lord."

Confusion of Nations in 1848

On the 21st day of February, 1848, when the courtiers of Louis Phillippe, of France, were gathered around him, he said: "I was never more firmly seated on the throne of empire than I am tonight." In the twilight of the next evening, wearing a "pea jacket," disguised as a hackney coachman, he fled outside the walls of the city of Paris seeking a refuge for his personal safety. The cause of this great and sudden change is said to have been the result of some movement on his part favoring the papal usurpation, which offended his subjects and his soldiers. He had on that day completed, in the city of Paris, a grand

military review of the French army; and when their arms were stacked, he retired to the palace, when suddenly a small boy jumped upon a cannon, waving a tri-colored flag, crying, "DOWN WITH THE POPE! DOWN WITH THE POPE!!" The soldiers taking up the cry, it passed swiftly up and down the lines, gaining strength as it went, until connected with it was the cry, "AND DOWN WITH THE KING!" In a few hours all Paris was a scene of wild confusion. The soldiers, with guns in hand, accompanied by a mob, were rushing for the king's palace. He, on being informed of the turmoil, hastened to escape under disguise.

Nations That Were Involved in the Struggle

The commotion and unrest of France spread rapidly to other countries. Prussia, Hanover, Sardinia, Sicily, Naples, Venice, Lombardy, Tuscany, and Rome caught the same mob spirit. Within three months all Europe was astir, and over thirty empires and kingdoms were in the greatest disorder. Thrones were burned in the streets, kings and emperors were fleeing and hiding for fear of losing their lives. Politicians predicted that there would be a general revolution of the governments of the world.

Many of the Adventist ministers who had not as yet heard of the third angel's message, saw this confusion, and supposed it must be the rallying of the nations for "the battle of the great day of God Almighty."⁵

Sealing Message Discovered

Just at this time the Seventh-day Adventists were learning from the Scriptures that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment was the *sign*, or *seal*, of the living God, and that the time had arrived for the proclamation of the *sealing message* of Revelation 7:1-4, and they were devising ways and means of getting this message before the people. While the seventh-day people were preparing for this work, the First-day Adventists were saying, "You are *too late* with your *sealing message*, for the battle of the great day and the Lord's actual coming are right upon us."

Turmoil Suddenly Quieted Down

Some three months later, the outburst among the nations quieted down; not, however, by a settlement of their grievances, but in a manner that journalists themselves could not explain. Of this trouble, Horace Greeley, in the *New York Tribune*, said: "It was a great wonder to us all what started so suddenly that confusion among the nations; but it is a greater wonder still what stopped it."

Senator Choate on the Situation in the Old World

We come down to 1851, and find Senator Choate, in a speech before the United States Congress, referring to the

Elder White began publishing a small tract in Middletown, Conn., by walking 8 miles to Rocky Hill Post Office with each issue.

state of affairs in the Old World, and saying: "What that state and aspect exactly is, that shadows, clouds, and darkness appear to rest upon, you entirely appreciate; how wholly unsettled. It has seemed to me as if the prerogatives of crowns, and the rights of men, and the hoarded up resentments of a thousand years were about to unsheath the sword for a conflict in which blood shall flow, as in apocalyptic vision, 'to the bridles of the horse,' and in which a whole race of men shall pass away; in which the great bell of time shall sound out another hour; in which society itself will be tried by fire and steel, whether it be of nature and of nature's God or not."

"Testimony" of Nov. 18, 1848

While those claiming that this stir among the nations in 1848 was to usher in the coming of the Lord, met with a sad disappointment, how was it with Seventh-day Adventists who claimed that the time had now come for the "seal of the living God" to be presented to the people? In reply we quote from a tract published by Elder Joseph Bates in the month of January, 1849. In speaking of a circumstance that occurred Nov. 18, 1848, he says:

"A small company of brethren and sisters were assembled in a meeting in Dorchester, near Boston, Mass. Before the meeting commenced, some of us were examining some of the points in the sealing message; some difference of opinion existed about the correctness of the view of the word 'ascending,' etc. and whereas we had made the publishing of the message a subject of prayer at the Topsham [Maine] conference a little previous, and the way to publish appeared not sufficiently clear, we therefore resolved unitedly to refer it all to God. After some time spent in earnest prayer for light and instruction, God gave Sister White the following in vision." We quote the words as they were spoken by her while in vision:

Words Spoken in the Vision

"Where did the light break out? Let Thine angel teach us where the light broke out. It commenced from a little, when Thou didst give one light after another. The testimony and commandments are linked together, they cannot be separated; that comes first the ten commandments, by God. He was well pleased when His law began to come up in strength, and the waste places began to be built up. Out of weakness it has become strong from searching His word. The test upon it has been but a short time. It's the seal! It's coming up! It arises, commencing from the rising of the sun. Like the sun, first cold, grows warmer and sends its rays. When that truth arose, there was but little light in it, but it has been increasing. O the power of these rays! It grows in strength. The greatest weight and light is on that truth, for it lasts forever, when

the Bible is not needed. It arose there in the east; it began with a small light, but its beams are healing. O how mighty is that truth; it's the highest after they enter the goodly land, but it will increase till they are made immortal. It commenced from the rising of the sun, keeps on its course like the sun, but it never sets.

"The angels are holding the four winds. It is God that restrains the powers. The angels have *not* let go, for the saints are not all sealed. When Michael stands up, this trouble will be all over the earth. Why, they are just ready to blow. There's a check put on because the saints are not sealed. Yea, publish the things thou hast seen and heard, and the blessing of God will attend. Look ye! That *rising* is in *strength*, and grows brighter and brighter."⁶

After coming out of this vision Mrs. White said to her husband, "I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world."

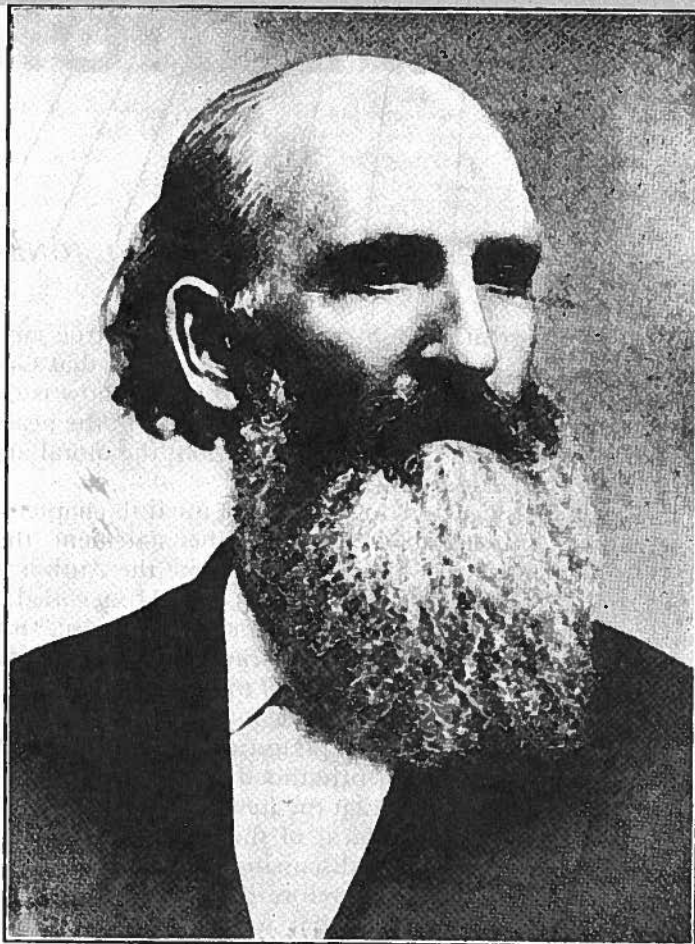
Doubtful from a Human Standpoint

These predictions were made in 1848 concerning the *rise* and *spread* of the Sabbath truth. To look at the situation from a human standpoint at that time, *reason* would say, "That prediction can never be fulfilled." One man remarked to one of our laborers soon after the prediction was made, "It will take you 144,000 years to do what you propose." "What!" they would say, "three preachers—Elder White and wife, and Elder Bates—all penniless, with less than one hundred adherents, all of whom are destitute of money, going forth with a few hundred copies of an eighty-page tract on the Sabbath question, to give a warning message to all the world! *Preposterous assumption!*" While those thus reasoning said, "*Impossible!*" faith in the message and the testimony of assured success said, "In the name of Israel's God it *will* be done! and trusting in His strength it *must* be done!"

How the First Seventh-day Adventist Paper Was Printed

From the time the testimony was borne concerning the publishing work, many prayers were offered by those observing the seventh day, that the Lord would open the way for the printing of a "little paper." The great lack was money with which to secure the publication of the first number. In the month of June, 1849, Elder White had the opportunity of mowing forty acres of timothy grass, with a hand scythe, at seventy-five cents per acre; and thus he was enabled to produce the first number of the

"Always before preparing them for the post office they were spread before the Lord, and earnest prayers, mingled with tears, were offered. . . ."



Elder James White

little journal. It may not be out of place to insert at this point a facsimile of the first page of the little sheet. The reader will observe in the first column the words of Elder White, where he says, "The way has not been opened to commence the work until now." And you can also see that it was his self-sacrificing that "opened the way."

Mrs. White's Account of the First Papers

Mrs. White says of the beginning of the publishing work:

"My husband began to publish a small sheet at Middletown, eight miles from Rocky Hill, Conn., and often walked this distance and back again, although he was then lame. When he brought the first number from the printing office, we all bowed around it, asking the Lord, with humble hearts and many tears, to let His blessing rest upon the feeble efforts of His servant. He then directed the paper to all those who he thought would read it, and carried it to the post-office in a carpetbag. Every number was taken from Middletown to

Rocky Hill, and always before preparing them for the post-office they were spread before the Lord, and earnest prayers, mingled with tears, were offered to God that His blessing would attend the silent messengers. Very soon letters came bringing means to publish the paper, and the good news of many souls embracing the truth."⁷

Prediction of Support of Paper Fulfilled

It is with feelings deeper than mere interest that we present this the first page of the first paper published by Seventh-day Adventists. The whole volume of *The Present Truth* consisted of eleven numbers of eight pages, two columns each. The reading matter on the page measured four and five-eighths by eight inches. Numbers 1 and 4 were printed in July, August, and September, at Middletown, Conn. Numbers 5 to 9 were printed at Oswego, N.Y., and are dated December, 1849, March, April, and May, 1850. Number 11 is dated November, 1850, and was printed at Paris, Maine. In Number 6 Elder White said, "While publishing the first four numbers more than enough money came in to pay for the papers. It has been used in paying our expenses to the meetings we have attended." During the year 1849, under the influence of these papers, and the pioneer labors of Elder Bates, many accepted the message in Vermont, Michigan, and other States.

In contrast with the unpromising situation of the work in 1848, we will consider a few facts as they exist in 1905, and thus be enabled better to judge respecting the final outcome of this cause, whether those were right who opposed the humble beginning of the message, or the God of heaven who spake through His handmaid of the "increasing" strength of the "sealing" work.

Progress of the Publishing Work

This truth is now [1905] being proclaimed and printed in about forty of the leading languages of the world. Instead of three ministers, there are, counting those that are ordained and the licentiates, over 600, besides hundreds of others working as physicians, Bible workers, teachers, and medical missionaries. The literature of the denomination is represented in over half a hundred different periodicals, which are printed in nearly a score of publishing houses located in Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, the islands of the Pacific, and Australia. In these publishing houses there are printed over eleven hundred different books, pamphlets, and tracts. To obtain a copy of each, with the periodicals for one year, would require about \$340. Instead of simply one hundred adherents, there are not far from 100,000 who are rejoicing in this truth. Truly this message, like the sun, is "arising," and we may say, in the language of the testimony of 1848, "O the power of these rays!"

There has never been a time when so much wealth was squandered in preparation for war.

The Condition of the Nations

While the message has been thus advancing, what has been the condition of the nations? From that time down, in the public journals, we have often been treated to statements concerning the general war that is soon to be in Europe. While there has been strife here, and an outbreak there, the general "whirlwind" is held back—the "four winds" are not permitted to blow all at once, "until the servants of God are sealed." That the elements of strife and war are there, but do not break out because they are held in check, is evident to all.

Henry Ward Beecher, not long before his death, called the maintaining of such large armies in Europe, "drawing the life-blood beforehand, for fear it would be spilt." The situation among the nations, with their grudges and animosities, and their threatening attitudes toward one another, he compared to a "dead lock," caused by a group of men pointing daggers at each other's breasts, not one of whom dared to strike, for fear of being struck. "But," said he, "some one of them will soon see the favorable time to strike, and then the general melee will come."


Comparison of War Implements

Since 1848 implements of war have been constructed compared with which the *best* of that time would now be counted as mere toys. The "Peace Association" of America, in making its call for peace services on Peace Sunday—Dec. 15, 1895—said: "Now while there is a decided advancement in civilization, on the other hand there are greater preparations for war among the nations than ever before."

General Miles on War Preparations

General Nelson A. Miles, in a speech at a mass meeting in Washington, D.C., Jan. 12, 1904, said:

"In this enlightened age of progress and intelligent, refined civilization we would be glad to believe that the burdens and dangers of war have been lessened; yet strange as it may seem, there never has been a time in the world's history when so much wealth was squandered in preparation for war, nor when so many millions of trained, skilled, and disciplined men, armed with the most destructive weapons, were taken from the avenues of peaceful industry, as at the present time."

But the whirlwind of war still delays, while the *sealing work* goes on. 

¹Ezekiel 34:12.

²"Life Sketches," p. 245.

³1 Corinthians 14:32.

⁴Jeremiah 5:14, 15.

⁵Revelation 16:13-15.

⁶"A Seal of the Living God," pp. 24-26.

⁷"Life Sketches," p. 260.

PERFECTION

PERFECTION

By ALONZO T. JONES

Perfection

THE great thought and purpose of the true sanctuary, its priesthood, and ministry, is that God shall dwell in the hearts of the people. What now is the great thought and purpose of His dwelling in the hearts of the people? The answer is, Perfection; the moral and spiritual perfection of the worshiper.

Let us consider this: At the close of the fifth chapter of Hebrews, immediately following the statement that Christ, "being made perfect, He became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him; called of God an High Priest after the order of Melchisedec," it is written: "Therefore," that is, *because of this*, for *this reason*, "leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection." Hebrews 6:1.

Next it is shown that perfection is attained only through the Melchisedec priesthood. And it is shown that this was always so, and that the Levitical priesthood was only temporary, and typical of the Melchisedec priesthood. Following this, in discussing the Levitical priesthood, it is written: "If therefore *perfection* were by the Levitical priesthood, . . . what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?" Hebrews 7:11. And again, in the same connection, "For the law made *nothing perfect*, but the bringing in of a better hope *did* [or "but it was the bringing in of a better hope," margin]; by the which we draw nigh unto God." Verse 19.

By these scriptures it is perfectly plain that the perfection of the worshiper is that which is offered and which is attained in the priesthood and ministry of Christ.

Nor yet are these all the words on this thought. For, as already quoted in the description of the sanctuary and its service, it is said that it "was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that *could not make him* that did the service *perfect*, as pertaining to the conscience." That none of this could make him that did the service *perfect* is its great lack. Therefore that the priesthood and ministry of Christ in the true sanctuary, *can* and *does* make *perfect* him who enters by faith into the service, is the great thought and the goal of all.

In 1888, Elders Waggoner and Jones presented the message of Christ Our Righteousness in a way that few Adventists understood or had heard at that time. Sister White wrote shortly afterward, "The Lord in His mercy sent a most precious message to His people [in Minneapolis] through Elders Waggoner and Jones."

To help keep this message prominently before us, *The Sabbath Watchman* again carries a reprint from Elder Jones' book of 1905, *The Consecrated Way to Christian Perfection*. This unabridged chapter comes to the heart of the matter. Is faith in Jesus Christ and His righteousness able to make us perfect? Unlike most who claim Christ as their Saviour, even nominal Adventists, we believe that it is!

"Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." Ephesians 5:25-27, *New International Version*.

That earthly service "could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience." "But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having *obtained eternal redemption* for us." Hebrews 9:11, 12. This sanctuary, priesthood, sacrifice, and ministry of Christ's does *make perfect* in *eternal redemption* every one who by faith enters into the service, and so receives that which that service is established to give.

Further, "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: *how much more* shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, *purge your conscience* from dead works to serve the living God?" The blood of bulls and of goats and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean in the Levitical service and the worldly sanctuary *did* to the purifying of the flesh: for so the word concerning it continually declares. And that being so, "*how much more* shall the *blood of Christ*, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God," sanctify to the purifying of the spirit and "purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

What are dead works? Death itself is the consequence of sin. Dead works therefore are works that have sin in them. Then the purging of the conscience from dead works is the so entirely cleansing of the soul from sin, by the blood of Christ, through the eternal Spirit, that in the life and works of the believer in Jesus sin shall have no place; the works shall be only works of faith, and the life shall be only the life of faith, and so be only the true and pure "service of the living God."

Again it is written: "The law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, *can never* with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually *make the comers* thereunto *perfect*. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshipers once purged should have had *no more conscience of sins*. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is *not*

possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should *take away sins*." Hebrews 10:1-4.

This again shows that though *perfection* was the aim in all the ministry that was performed under the law, yet perfection was not attained by any of those performances. They were all simply figures for the time then present of the ministry and priesthood by which perfection is attained; that is the ministry and priesthood of Christ. Those sacrifices could not make the comers thereunto perfect. The true sacrifice and the true ministry in "the sanctuary and the true tabernacle" do make the comers thereunto *perfect*: and this perfection consists in the worshipers having no more conscience of sins.

"Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but a body hast Thou prepared Me: in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou has had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come . . . to do Thy will, O God. Above when He said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin Thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; then said He, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God. *He taketh away the first*, that, *He may establish the second*." Hebrews 10:5-9.

Here are mentioned two things: "the first," and "the second." What are these two things? Which is "the first," and which "the second"? The two things mentioned are sacrifice, offering, burnt offerings, and offering for sin—all as one; and the will of God. Sacrifice, offering, burnt offerings, and offering for sin—all as one—are "the first:" and "the first that He may establish the second." That is, He taketh away sacrifice, offering, burnt offerings, and offering for sin, that He may establish *the will of God*. And the will of God is: "even your sanctification" and your perfection. 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 4:8, 12, 13; Hebrews 13:20, 21. But His could never be accomplished by those sacrifices, offerings, burnt offerings, and offering for sin which were offered by the Levitical priesthood—they could not make the comers thereunto perfect. They could not so purge the worshipers that they should have no more conscience of sin. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sin.

Therefore, since the will of God is the sanctification and the perfection of the worshipers; since the will of God is that His worshipers shall be so cleansed that they shall have no more conscience of sin; and since the service and the offerings in that earthly sanctuary could not do this; He took it all away that He may establish the will of God. "*By the which* will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

The will of God is "even your sanctification." Sanctification is the true keeping of all the commandments of God. In other words, this is to say that the

***What is the great thought and purpose
of God dwelling in the hearts of
His people?***

will of God concerning man is that His will shall be perfectly fulfilled in man. His will is expressed in His law of ten commandments, which is "the whole duty of man." This law is perfect, and perfection of character is the perfect expression of this law in the life of the worshiper of God. By this law is the knowledge of sin. And all have sinned and have come short of the glory of God; have come short of this perfection of character.

The sacrifices and the service in the earthly sanctuary could not take away the sins of men, and so could not bring them to this perfection. But the sacrifice and the ministry of the true High Priest in the sanctuary and the true tabernacle *do accomplish this*. This does take away utterly every sin. And the worshiper is so truly purged that he has no more conscience of sins. By the sacrifice, the offering, and the service of Himself, Christ took away the sacrifices and the offerings and the service which could never take away sins; and by His perfect doing of the perfect will of God He established the will of God. "By the which will *we are* sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Hebrews 10:10.

In that former earthly sanctuary and service, "every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which *can never take away sins*." But in the service in the sanctuary and the true tabernacle, "this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool. For by *one offering* He *hath perfected forever* them that are sanctified." Hebrews 10:11-14.

Thus perfection in every respect is attained through the priesthood, the sacrifice, and the service of this our great High Priest at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens in His ministry in the sanctuary and the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. "Whereof *the Holy Ghost* also is a witness to us: for after that He had said before, this is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." Hebrews 10:15-18.

And this is the "new and living way" which Christ, through the flesh, "hath consecrated for us"—for all mankind; and by which every soul may enter into the holiest of all—the holiest of all places, the holiest of all experiences, the holiest of all relationships, the holiest of all living. This new and living way He "hath consecrated for us through the flesh;" that is, He, coming in the flesh, identifying Himself with mankind in the flesh, has, for us who are in this flesh, consecrated a way from where we are to where He now is, at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens in the holiest of all.

In His coming in the flesh—having been made in all things like unto us, and having been tempted in all points like as we are—He has identified Himself with every human soul just where that soul is. And from the place where every human soul is, He has consecrated for that soul a new and living way through all the vicissitudes and experiences of a whole lifetime, and even through death and the tomb, into the holiest of all, at the right hand of God for evermore.

O that consecrated way! consecrated by His temptations and sufferings, by His prayers and tears, by His holy living and sacrificial dying, by His triumphant resurrection and glorious ascension, and by His triumphal entry into the holiest of all, at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens!

And this "way" He has consecrated for *us*. He, having become one of us, has made this way *our way*; it belongs to us. He has endowed every soul with divine *right* to walk in this consecrated way; and by His having done it Himself in the flesh—in our flesh—He has made it possible, yea, He has given actual assurance, that every human soul *can* walk in that way, in all that that way is; and by it enter fully and freely into the holiest of all.


He, as one of us, in our human nature, weak as we, laden with the sins of the world, in our sinful flesh, in this world, a whole lifetime, lived a life "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners," and "was made" and ascended "higher than the heavens." And by this He has made and consecrated a way by which, *in Him*, every believer can in this world, and for a whole lifetime, live a life holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and as a consequence be made with Him higher than the heavens.

Perfection, perfection of character, is the Christian goal—perfection attained in human flesh in this world. Christ attained it in human flesh in this world, and thus made and consecrated a way by which *in Him*, every believer can attain it. He, having attained it, has become our great High Priest, by His priestly ministry in the true sanctuary to enable us to attain it.

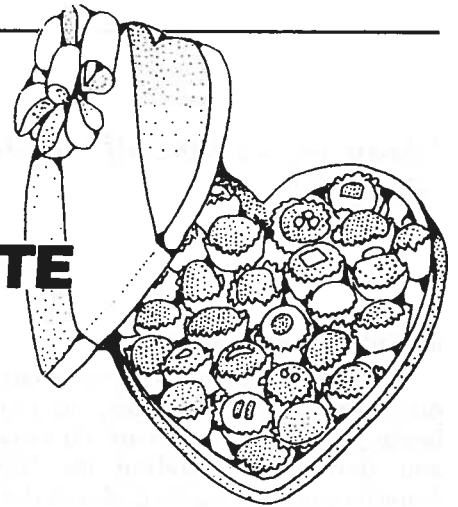
Perfection is the Christian's goal; and the High Priesthood and ministry of Christ in the true sanctuary is the only way by which any soul can attain this true goal in this world. "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary." Psalm 77:13.

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having an High Priest over the house of God; *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith*, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." And "let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised."

"For ye are *not come* unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more . . . But ye *are come* unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the *first-born*, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to *Jesus* the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the *blood of sprinkling*, that *speaketh better things* than that of Abel."

O, then, "see that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven." Hebrews 12:18-25. 

THE SWEET TRUTH ABOUT CHOCOLATE



By IDEL SUAREZ, JR., Tampa, Florida

The Origin

MEXICAN mythology tells of how Quetzalcoatl, the gardener of Eden, where the Sun's first children lived, brought to earth the seeds of quacahualt (cacao) with the intention of proportioning to man a delicacy that up until then had only been reserved for the gods.¹ This might be the reason for which Linnaeus, in his classical work of 1720, gave the quacahualt tree the dignified name of "Theobroma cacao," theobroma meaning "food of the gods."^{1, 2}

Moreover, DeCandolle, in his book of the "Origin of Cultivated Plants," asserts that the cacao tree has been in cultivation in America for 3,000 to 4,000 years.² It was the custom of the original cultivators, the Mayans, before planting the seed, to hold a festival. This special ceremony involved the shedding of the blood of man, beast, and fowl. The blood of the slain was then sprinkled over the land to be sown.²

After the cultivation and harvest, the beans of the cacao tree were prepared into a beverage which they called "chocolatl" (choco=cacao=fruit of the tree, latl=water). However, this was not their only use; the cacao beans were also used as currency. It was the "blessed money, which exempted its possessors from avarice, since it could not be long hoarded, nor hidden underground."²

It was not until the year 1528, when Hernando Cortez, the conqueror of Mexico, returned to Spain, taking with him a large collection of resources from the New World, that the cacao and chocolate entered Europe. And for some years, the Spaniards kept the secret truth about chocolate preparation to themselves.²

In 1606, the secret was no more, for through the agency of Antonio Carletti, who understood the method for the preparation of cacao, chocolate made its appearance throughout Europe.²

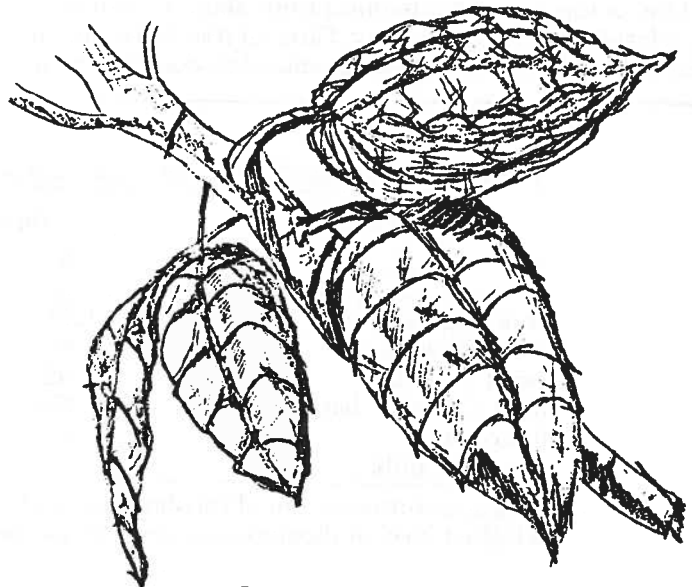
From that time onward, some held the consumption of chocolate responsible for the commitment of many excesses. Such was the belief of Franciscus Rauch, in 1624, who recommended that its use be forbidden among the monks.² Others, like the Dutch, continued to hurl overboard shipments of cacao captured from the Spaniards, calling it "Cagarula" in Spanish, or "sheep's manure" in good English.²

By 1690, chocolate was classified with beer, ale, cider, coffee, and tea, all of which were forbidden for sale without a license.²

The understanding that chocolate inflamed the passions prevailed through many years. In 1712, the Spectator stated: "I shall also advise my fair readers to be in a particular manner careful how they meddle with romances, chocolate, novels and the like inflamers, which I look upon as very dangerous to be made use of during the great carnival."² And so, the recommendations of the 17th, 18th, and 19th century with respect to chocolate can be summed up in the words of J.R. Jackson (*Nature*, ii, pp. 497, 1970): "The head of every household might make himself analyst to his own family, and so see that he does not get cheated either in pocket or health."²

Botany

The cacao tree belongs to the genus *Theobroma* and order Sterculiaceae. There are about 20 different species of cacao known in the tropical regions from Mexico to Brazil. Some of these are: *T. cacao*, *T. bicolor* (or tiger cacao), *T. pentagona* (or alligator cacao), *T. sylvestris*, and *T. ovatifolia*, etc. The cultivated tree, *T. cacao*, grows to a height averaging from fifteen to forty feet. The fruit, or pod, when ripe, is kind of a golden-red color. It is within this thick outer-shell pod that twenty to forty almond-shaped seeds are found which, after processing, appear in a multitude of shapes all known as chocolate.²



Cacao leaves and pod

"Man shows himself too slow to recognize his errors, above all if these proportion him delight."
—Dr. Peggi

Methods of Processing

There are several ways of removing the outer shell and processing the cacao beans, the most common method being fermentation, giving chocolate the finest aroma and flavor, commanding the highest market price. Another process, roasting, shows the well-known properties of unfermented cacao: inferior odor and astringent taste. Yet, another method is that of immersing the cacao in 96% alcohol. The bitter taste is then removed, but there is no pleasant aroma.²

After the kernel has been obtained from the cacao bean, it is ground to give a solid or semi-plastic food called chocolate liquor, the base substance from which all chocolate products are produced. Cocoa powder, a commercial chocolate product, can be made by pulverizing the material remaining after part of the fat (cocoa butter) has been removed from chocolate liquor. On the other hand, sweet chocolate is produced if more cocoa butter and sugar are added to the chocolate liquor. Moreover, milk chocolate, the component of chocolate bars, is obtained if milk solids are added to the sweet chocolate.³

The Revelation

The genesis of chocolate foreshadowed the revelation of modern-day medical research on the human physiological effects of chocolate consumption. Furthermore, the methods of processing mentioned are of great dietary importance, as shall be noted.

Tooth Decay

One of the popular misconceptions about chocolate is its relationship to tooth decay. Clinical tests have shown that the normal consumption of chocolate does not cause

an increase in cavities.^{4, 5} In one study done in Scotland involving 3,000 thirteen-year-old children, classified on the basis of their stated chocolate consumption, the group consuming the largest amount of chocolate did not have more cavities than the group consuming the smallest amount.⁴

Vitamins and Minerals

In an investigation conducted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, carotene, Vitamin A, Vitamin B₁, riboflavin, and nicotinic acid were estimated by chemical methods in chocolate. They concluded that the contribution of vitamins to the diet from chocolate would be of little importance.⁶ However, the iron content has been found to be significant, averaging from .91 mg./3.5 oz. of milk chocolate, and 4.29 mg./3.5 oz. of baking chocolate to 6.71 mg./3.5 oz. of cocoa.⁷

Drugs

There is an overwhelming amount of evidence that chocolate contains a substantial amount of two methylxanthine drugs (see Table 1): theobromine and caffeine.^{1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11} Furthermore, depending on the degree of roasting or fermentation of the cacao bean, both the theobromine and caffeine content increase.^{2, 3}

The presence of theobromine and caffeine in chocolate products is of great importance since these exhilarate and stimulate the central nervous system, the production of diuresis, the gastro-intestinal tract, the cardiovascular system, and the production of uric acid.^{1, 2, 4, 10, 11} Dr. Bryce, in his handbook on Dietetics, comments: "For tea, coffee, and cocoa all owe their undoubtedly stimulating effects to their contained active principle, caffeine, or one of its allies. . . ." Some people because of their "decided idiosyncrasy" for these foods, "exhibit a condition of

TABLE 1. Average theobromine and caffeine contents of different chocolate products

products	theobromine		caffeine	
	%	mg./ser.	%	mg./ser.
chocolate liquor	1.22	—	.21	—
cocoa powder ¹	1.89	—	.21	—
sweet chocolate ²	.463	130 mg./1 oz.	.069	20 mg./1 oz.
milk chocolate bar	.153	44 mg./1 oz.	.022	6 mg./1 oz.
hot cocoa	—	65 mg./5 oz.	—	4 mg./5 oz.
chocolate milk	—	58 mg./8 oz.	—	5 mg./8 oz.

¹Highest concentration of theobromine and caffeine of any commercial chocolate product.

²Highest level of theobromine and caffeine per serving of any type of eating chocolate.

"Take it, and eat it up; it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey, but it shall make thy belly bitter."

—Revelation 10:9

chronic intoxication manifested by palpitation, breathlessness, nervousness, headache, indigestion and, in particular, neuralgia."²

How do these xanthines stimulate? Upon ingestion, "the nerves of the stomach are excited; these convey irritation to the brain, and this in turn is aroused to impart increased action to the heart, and short-lived energy to the entire system. Fatigue is forgotten; the strength seems to be increased. The intellect is aroused, the imagination becomes more vivid. Their effect is produced before there has been time for digestion and assimilation, and what seems to be strength is only nervous excitement. When the influence of the stimulant is gone, the unnatural force abates, and the result is a corresponding degree of languor and debility."^{11, 12}

The ancient Mexicans noticed the stimulating properties of chocolate. On festivals, they would spend the whole day and half the night dancing, subsisting solely on cacao for food.²

At as low as 30 mg. of theobromine and caffeine combined, they act directly on the renal tubule, increasing the sodium and chloride excretion rate to the effect of diuresis.¹³

Moreover, after immediate chocolate ingestion, there is an immediate and sustained decrease in lower esophageal sphincter (LES) pressure.^{10, 14} Wright and Castell noted how, after ingestion of 120 ml. of chocolate syrup in normal subjects, the mean basal LES pressure of 14.6±1.1 mmHg. decreased significantly to 7.9±1.3 mmHg.¹⁴ Therefore, patients with gastroesophageal reflux relate initiation of their symptoms to the intake of chocolate.¹⁴

At intakes approaching or exceeding 100 mg. of theobromine and caffeine combined (e.g. two 2 oz. milk chocolate bars), the xanthenes may augment gastric secretions and provoke gastric irritation.¹³ In an experiment involving 40-, 30-, and 42-day-old male rats given free access to plain chocolate or milk with nuts, as well as their normal stock diet, abnormalities in the intestinal tract appeared in the rats given plain chocolate but were hardly present in those given milk and nuts.¹⁵

Because of the exhilarating nature of theobromine and caffeine, at levels of 140 mg., they may stimulate the myocardium directly, leading to an increase in cardiac force, rate, and output.¹³ Furthermore, both xanthine drugs have been shown to cause marked vasoconstriction of the cerebral blood vessels.¹³ In a study regarding the effect of caffeine on hemodynamic measures in patients⁴ with heart disease, "there was a significant rise in the cardiac index, stroke index, oxygen consumption, and minute ventilation."¹³

In this country, as the chocolate consumption has increased, the frequency of heart disease has risen. In 1880 the import of cacao beans to the United States was about

60 tons/million population, whereas the average from 1930-1960 escalated to 1,750 tons/million population.¹⁶ A retrospective study was done among male office patients fifty years and older. All were asked their chocolate eating habits during childhood and young adulthood. Those that had been heavy chocolate eaters had 2.7 times more coronary disease than abstainers.¹⁶

Besides the fact that caffeine has a hyperglycemic effect,¹³ theobromine and caffeine also elevate the readings for serum uric acid.^{1, 2, 11, 15} According to Dr. Shireman, professor of Biochemistry at the University of Florida, high serum uric acid levels would favor the formation of kidney stones. Moreover, excessive serum uric acid readings could lead to rheumatism.¹⁷

Chocolate consumption by lactating mothers can produce harmful effects on breast fed sensitive infants. All of the xanthines in chocolate pass freely into human milk following ingestion of chocolate.¹⁰ Theobromine and caffeine in adults have half-lives of 7.1±2.1 hours and 4±1 hours respectively.¹⁰ It is probable that the half-life of theobromine is also increased in newborn infants. So, if a mother frequently ate chocolate, the breast fed infant could accumulate significant amounts of theobromine and caffeine.¹⁰

At any level, a degree of tolerance and physical and/or psychological dependence can occur with theobromine and caffeine intake.¹³

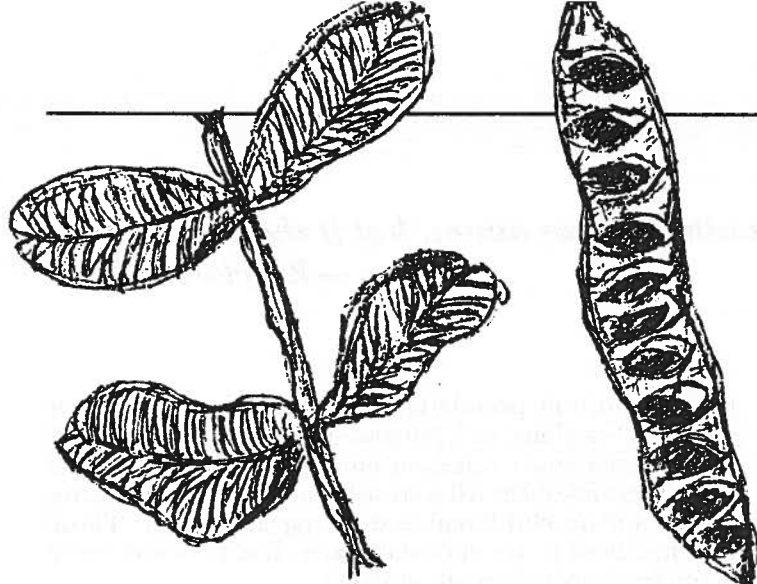
Biogenic Amines

The recent advent of the High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) has allowed the detection and qualification of four biogenic amines in chocolate (see Table 2).^{18, 19} They are tyramine, 2-phenylethylamine, tryptamine, and serotonin. All four biogenic amines have been documented to cause a rise in blood pressure.¹⁸

As early as 1919, Pognic implicated chocolate and the amines found in chocolate as causing migraines.¹⁸ Subsequent clinical tests have shown that tyramine and 2-phenylethylamine, mood altering chemicals, precipitate migraine attacks in dietary migraine sufferers.¹⁹ It appears their presence in two 4 oz. chocolate bars is sufficient to initiate such an attack.^{18, 19}

Conclusion

All in all, the truth about chocolate consumption is that it leaves the bitter consequence of malnutrition. However, the philosophy behind all enduring health reform is not merely the elimination of harmful foods but their substitution with healthful foods. Hippocrates, the father of medicine, stressed this same fundamental principle: "Let your food be your medicine."¹ Like all harmful delights, chocolate has a healthful substitute: carob!



Carob leaves, opened pod, and beans.

The next issue will contain some delicious recipes made with carob and information on ways to substitute carob for chocolate.

The Salutary Substitute

The Bible asserts that John the Baptist "did eat locust and wild honey." Mark 1:6. And so, carob is commonly known as St. John's bread, locust, and honey locust.²⁰ It was taken by the Arabs from the Middle East to Spain, and by the Spaniards to Mexico and South America.

Botany

The carob tree belongs to the legume family and is the only species of the genus *Ceratonia* (Greek meaning horn, in reference to the pod). Although carob trees grow throughout the Mediterranean coast, the great carob-producing regions are Sicily, Cyprus, Malta, and southern Italy. It is a beautiful evergreen that grows to a height of forty to fifty feet. The pods are red-brown in color, and contain a sweet pulp surrounding the hard, flattened seeds.²⁰

Indications

Unlike chocolate, carob contains no theobromine or caffeine.⁹

An extensive investigation was done on the effect of carob flour in infants and children with gastro-enteritis, typhoid fever, and bacillary dysentery. Good results were obtained. There was an increase in body weight and well-formed stools resulted.²¹ Furthermore, studies made on 144 nurslings with dyspepsia showed that the intestinal flora reverted to normal physiological states.²¹ These investigations suggest that carob just might be the "new antidiuretic."²¹



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TABLE 2. Average biogenic amine contents in chocolate liquor and milk chocolate.

products	tyramine	tryptamine	2-phenylethylamine	serotonin
			amine content/ug. g. ⁻¹	
chocolate liquor	8.43	2.45	4.56	10.33
milk chocolate	12.03	N.D. ¹	.44	27.20

¹N.D.=not detected.



TUCSON OUTREACH

When I heard that I was invited to participate in the missionary outreach in Tucson, AZ, I became very happy. To be able to present the message of truth in Tucson has been quite an experience. All who attended have felt an emptiness filled by the Lord. I look forward to another outreach because Jesus Christ is only moments away in coming. May God's literature touch those who have received it and may many more go out in rapidity to a longing and perishing world.

—OSCAR VALLES

The wonderful promise spoken by the Prince of Peace in John 14:1-4 has become words of hope and encouragement to His people in these last days. As young knights for our Prince, we were blessed with the opportunity to visit the city of Tucson and bring glad tidings of His soon return.

With rays of bright sunshine to lighten our paths and the promises of God to strengthen us, we canvassed four hours daily for one week. It was very obvious to me that unseen angels walked beside me each step of the way. I praise and thank the Lord for His leadings and for the blessings gained from the morning and evening worship, afternoon discussions and new-found friendships.

May the blessings of the Lord continue to rest upon the city of Tucson and upon the kind people who made our short stay a very happy one.

—KIM BRILEY

The few words that I have to say about the missionary outreach here in Tucson, Arizona, is that the presence of God and the influence of the Holy Spirit were obviously there.

The blessings I received and am sure others received is that the fears or little problems I had with canvassing have disappeared, or by the power of the Holy Spirit I am able to keep under control.

At first I wasn't going to come here to Arizona, but I'm so glad I did. Being in fellowship with you brethren for the purpose of spreading the gospel is wonderful.

I hope that at the next missionary outreach you will be there!

Yours in Christ,
DANNA SAUNDERS

The Christian fellowship and encouragement at the outreach in Tucson, Arizona, uplifted me greatly. It is always a blessing to be with other young people. God richly blessed us all.

—LISA WATTS

The missionary outreach in Tucson was very good. God blessed us abundantly with a few contacts. We had meetings in the morning and then went canvassing for four hours in the evening. With God's blessings everyone did well.

I learned how to relate to people I don't know and I also learned a lot from the meetings.

May God bless us in future outreaches.

—ERICK VALLES

Doing missionary work here in Tucson was a blessing to all of us. It was here in Tucson where I really learned the true meaning of God's work on this earth.

When I first arrived here I was quite afraid of the area and its people; but with a lot of prayer, some classes and some time, I was able to present the Word of God with such smoothness that it gave me confidence in doing it more often. I hope that in the future we will have more seminars so that many more young people could learn to do missionary work better.

—OSCAR VALLES, JR.

The missionary outreach here in Arizona was a real blessing to me. It helped me spiritually as well as improving my ability to communicate with others. Many times we put off Christ's coming to the distant future. However, this seminar helped me realize actually how soon Christ will be coming. I pray that all of us will be prepared when He comes to take us home with him to those glorious mansions in heaven. God bless you!

—SHARON JENNINGS

I am very thankful to the Lord for the beautiful experience that I have had in participating in the missionary outreach which took place in Tucson, Arizona. When it was mentioned by Brother Andrew in Los Angeles that there would be a missionary outreach in Tucson, I prayed to God to make it possible for me to be able to participate in reaching out for souls.

The opportunity that the Lord gave me helped my spiritual life. During this week we had studies concerning different matters. After the studies we went out canvassing. It was a time in which I had to rely thoroughly upon God, for He is the only one who touches hearts.

I have learned to be more patient and how to deal with people. Even though sometimes we were rejected, I found many who thirst for the truth and I was richly blessed.

Also I met some of the young sisters from Denver, Colorado, and Sacramento, and also Brother Peter from Canada.

May the Lord touch the hearts of those who were visited that they may understand that He (God) loves us and His second coming is soon.

—REYNALDO CHAVEZ

CHRIST the Sure Foundation



Elder O. Welker at the podium of the new church—translation from German to English by Brother O. Kramer.

At 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 30, 1983, a series of meetings began in Sacramento which proved to be the greatest blessing to those attending. After many months of preparation and hard work, the new sanctuary was ready for this anticipated moment—the beginning of the dedication services. After the singing of "Come We That Love the Lord," and prayer by Elder Henry Dering, all were given a hearty welcome under the banner bearing the theme of the conference, "CHRIST, the Sure Foundation." The congregation again lifted up their voices in a joyful song of praise to God with the hymn "Dying with Jesus," and came to rest awaiting the remarks of Brother Oscar Valles of Downey, California.

There have been many books written about life styles, but there is only one book that gives a true measure of the value of our life style; that book is the Bible. Here is laid out before mankind two roads. One leads to Christ; the other, to Satan. Christ's road is sometimes rocky, while Satan's road is made to feel smooth and fast; but the latter leads to destruction. Malachi shows us that Christ is the branch of all who are saved. Malachi 4:1, 2. On the other side, we see that Satan is the root of all who will be burned up both root and branch. This is seen in the two men who went to the temple to pray. Today there are still two kinds of Christians. One may do things outwardly, and the other has Christ in the heart and needs nothing else. We must be like Jesus, who came to do nothing

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA DEDICATION

else but the Father's will. The man of the Spirit becomes the instrument of God because he is building his life on the true cornerstone. He is looking away from sinful self to the worthy Saviour. Those who are building on any other foundation are building on sand.

We are not to trust in the arm of flesh, but in the arms of Christ. He will lift us up if we come to Him confessing our need. He offers us far more than anything this world can offer. We are not redeemed with green blood but with the red blood of Christ on Calvary. The thought that God so loved ME that He gave His Son should affect body, soul and spirit and imbed the love of God within us. We need to be molded in Him, not try to measure up in our own strength. It is growing up in Christ by faith that makes us His children. With the thought that God would bless us during this dedication, Brother Valles closed the meeting with prayer after the singing of another hymn.

Following the opening meeting, two workshops were held, one on the Righteousness of Christ, conducted by Brother Henry Holmstroem of Hayward, California, and the other on Health Reform, led by Brother Chris Teske of Sacramento.

Righteousness by faith is what Abel and Noah had, and our life depends on whether or not we understand the real meaning of Christ Our Righteousness. Justification by faith is the third angel's message in verity. This is a faith that is seen in our actions—the power of God seen working in our personal experiences. If it is seen, it will give power to the message wherever it is preached. Christ told us that if our righteousness did not exceed that of the scribes and pharisees, we had no part in His kingdom. Their righteousness consisted in what they did for God and others. Christ's Righteousness consists in (1) acknowledging that one is a sinner worthy of death, and then (2) accepting the fact that Jesus died to save me!

Christ has the power to wash and cleanse. If we are converted and become as little children, we will trust Him for all our needs. There is no one else in the world who can save us. He is the

cornerstone and the foundation of our human temple.

The seminar on Health, conducted simultaneously in the multipurpose room, opened with the words of the Lord found in Matthew 7:16, 20: "Ye shall know them by their fruits. . . ." These fruits were represented by drawing seven apples on a display board. The fruits of good health are found in sunshine, Fresh Air, Exercise, Rest, Water, Food, and in saying "NO" to those things that would harm us, such as: alcohol, tobacco, drugs, caffeine, flesh foods and other things.

We know that a balance of all the good things the Lord has given us is necessary if we are to make an investment in the future for our well-being. He ordained in the beginning, when man was in a perfect state, a diet consisting of things which make up what we know today as vegetarian in source. Science is beginning to agree with the Bible that this diet is better for man's health than that which is currently used by the wealthier countries. A diet high in fats, flesh meat, sugar, and highly processed products has contributed to a number of diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, liver and bowel disorders and mental illness.

We also learned that it takes more than food to keep us well. We also need a balance in the use of sunshine, fresh air, exercise, rest, and water, as well as in knowing how to avoid those things which will break down our systems. We were thankful for the Bible's guidance in matters of health. There was active participation in this seminar, especially by the children, which made the meeting not only instructive but interesting, as well as a rich blessing.

We then separated for lunch and took time to prepare for the Sabbath day.

Sabbath Beginning

Elder O. Welker from the General Conference opened the Sabbath with Psalm 111:4: "He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered, the Lord is gracious and full of compassion." We learn from this the importance of memorials. The Lord desired that we keep Him, the Creator, in memory. His memorials are instituted to help us remember Him

and not forget His miracles. His work in the creation of this world out of nothing is beyond our comprehension but, at the same time, is proof that there is a Creator, because something cannot create itself. Faith, then, is the acceptance of God's word that He made the worlds out of nothing. It should lead all creation to exclaim: "How great Thou art!" In Psalm 33:6, 9, we read: "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made." "He spake and it was done." The first words of the Bible: "In the beginning God made . . ." stand as granite in comparison to the many human theories today. From nature, science and modern computers, men today should be led to proclaim: "O God, how great Thou art." In Isaiah 40:18 we read: "To whom will ye liken God, to whom will ye compare Him?" and verse 28 states: ". . . There is no searching of His understanding." This small world is the concern of God. Our prayers are heard on high. The heavens declare His glory and preach a sermon, but the artificial lights of this world often obscure this message.

A poet once wrote: "Above the stars there must be a faithful Father." What is the memorial of His creation? Exodus 20:8-11 tells us: ". . . For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, . . ." The Sabbath is the memorial of His miracles. Is the Sabbath made only for physical rest? We should be reminded of the deeds of the Lord and in worship bow down before Him.

We can use the Sabbath as a day to examine ourselves. We know that human nature has a tendency toward evil, but in

Christ we can become a new creation. Through His power we can gain victories over sin. We can examine ourselves to see if the image of Jesus is emanating out from us. This is the meaning of a memorial. May God give us grace to become conscious that we have entered upon sacred time, and may it be a blessing to us.

We then went to the multipurpose room for dinner.

Friday evening

The Friday evening service was opened by Brother Andrew Barash, from Los Angeles, with greetings and welcome to everyone. His opening text was 1 Timothy 4:6-11, written by Paul, who knew he was about to die. After reading this text, Brother Barash prayed for God's help and blessing in the service for the truth and His people. Paul stated he was ready to be offered, or be a supplement to the true offering, which is Christ. Earlier Paul had encouraged Timothy to fight the good fight of faith and to flee many things. But there's a time when we must stop running and start fighting. We have a faith that works by love and one that casts out fear. Paul had come to a place where he had to stop running, and we must come to this place also. There's a crown for us at the end of our course. But between here and the crown, we, like Paul, may experience loneliness and deep needs. It is at this time that we need to draw close and help one another in a true way.

Sometimes, as believers, we enjoy fellowship with our families and friends

but tend to leave visitors out of our discussions. We should come close to them also and make them feel at home with us.

Paul then went on to write that Demas had forsaken him and that only the physician Luke was with him. Luke stayed very close to Paul, which wasn't a very popular thing to do at that time. Jesus has placed us at our post of commission to stand faithful until we either die or are translated. In continuing, Paul said that Mark should be brought to him, for he was profitable to him. Mark's experience with Paul wasn't always thus. Early in his Christian experience, Mark had left God's work when things became difficult, but now he had been converted and could be used by the Lord for an important work.

Our love is always going to be tested. There was once a young man and lady who were making plans to be married. As the days drew near, the man was called into military service. He went and regularly wrote beautiful love letters to his bride to be. Suddenly the letters stopped, and she didn't receive a letter for months. Then one day, one arrived. The handwriting was different, but it read: "There has been another battle and I have lost both my arms. I asked a comrade to write this for me and tell you that I release you from our engagement. Now I will not be of any use to you and I will not be able to support you!" She never answered the letter. The very next train going south had this lady as a passenger. When she arrived at the hospital, she sought the location of the





(Left) Practicing at the piano purchased through the sale of bread baked by the Sacramento young people. (Right) Brother A. Domland receives three koala bears as gifts from the young people for hosting the Tucson Missionary Outreach, and Brother Chris Teske is given a fond farewell by the Sacramento church as he is about to leave to begin work at the Publishing Assn. in Denver.

man's cot. She quietly approached, flung herself to the floor by his side and said: "I will never give you up. These hands of mine will work for you. We will live our life together. I will never give you up."

There are many who want to give up. If you don't give up, God is going to have a very strong and pertinent use for your life. God will be with you if you make a commitment to Him. He promised He will never leave you alone nor forsake you. We need encouragement in our long, weary walk to heaven. Let's reach out our arms and help one another along the way. Right now we can commit or re-commit our lives to God. The trials of the future will require a deep commitment to God. Can we resist the invitation to come and receive a crown of life? Our Lord will never leave us. May God bless you. . . . The meeting was closed with prayer.

We were then favored with a special song sung by Brother Bobby Bell, "If It Never Rains, Then We'll Never Grow."

Sabbath Morning

Prior to the Sabbath school, a teacher's meeting was conducted by Brother Jim Demarest of Sacramento.

Brother Arthur Schendel of Sacramento opened the Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m. Inspiring thoughts were contained in the mission reading, which Sister Gretchen Schendel had taken from *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, pp. 67-73. "We should live in this world to win souls to the Saviour. If we injure others, we injure ourselves also. If we bless others, we also bless ourselves; for the influence of every good deed is reflected upon our own hearts. . . . Remembering that 'none of us liveth to himself.' Co-workers with Christ! What an exalted position!" The Sabbath school lessons, describing the compassionate Saviour and His methods of rebuking the self-righteous while drawing the repen-

tant sinners to Himself for forgiveness and overcoming power, were participated in with great interest.

The Sabbath service was delivered by Elder Welker. His opening text was Romans 10:13-17. He stated that this is a joyful occasion in which we can praise the Lord. This church has been built with much time and love. It was started with much zeal, and it was a shock to hear that it had burned down. All of the dedication and work seemed to be for nothing. He said that he was astonished at how the believers began anew and in a short time it was finished. Now is the time to turn it over to the Lord. But what is its purpose? The darkness of the world is very great, and the church is like a searchlight that shines out to show the people the dangers and where they are. Evolutionists are trying to push God way from His creation; but the Bible, the letter of God to humanity, is to be spread abroad. The Lord tells us that we are to be His witnesses and that we as rays of light are to shine. Because sin has come into the world, destruction has also come. We look to Jesus, the Son of God, who has pointed us to His Law, which is like a mirror showing us that we have all sinned and come short of God's glory. God cannot depart from His justice, but He is also a God of love and His love has found a way.

There was once a king, known for his justice, who discovered that in his court there were thieves. He declared that when the thief was found he would receive 25 strokes on his bare back. Finally the thief was found—the king's own aged mother. What could he do? He couldn't close his eyes and still be just. In his love, he bared his own back and took the strokes for his mother. Love gained the victory. It is the same for us, as written in John 3:16. We all know this verse by memory, but we need to know it in our hearts. We need to know that God

gave His Son for me. He took our sins and put them on His Son. Our commission is to show the people their lost condition and the love of God who gave His Son for us.

Brother Welker told of an experience when he was riding on a train that was using a poor grade of coal for fuel. When he got off, he noticed that people were looking at him very strangely, and one man called him a "black bear." He didn't understand until at last he found a mirror and saw that the coal had made his face all black. Could the mirror cleanse him of the coal dust? No. What he needed was water, and then he could be clean. It is the same with the Law of God. The Law is like a mirror that shows us our uncleanness. We need the water, or blood of Jesus, to wash us clean. That Christ had to die shows us the unchangeableness of God's Law. The blood of Christ is the remedy. He wants to make us His people by His grace, but we must be careful not to fall back into sin. Jesus is coming soon, for the signs of the times show it; and this message must be sounded. We are to go out and tell the people that Jesus is the solution to their problems and that Christians are a people with a future and invite them to come also.

Brother Welker read from 1 Kings 8:23, 24, 27-30, 54-61, in dedicating this house of the Lord. He said that these words which were written were his words also to us.

We were then favored with a special song by Brothers Bobby Bell and Jimmy Schendel and Sisters Sharon Jennings and Judy Schendel, entitled "The Third Day He Shall Rise Again."

We closed our meeting with prayer and the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26.

After this we gathered in the multipurpose room for fellowship and lunch, which was enjoyed by all, including the many visitors.

Sabbath afternoon dedication service

On Sabbath afternoon, Elder Henry Dering welcomed everyone, commenting on the happy, joyous faces he saw in the church. After inviting the Lord to bless us in the hour to come, he opened his service, entitled "The Rock of Ages," with Matthew 16:18, "... Upon this rock I will build My church. . . ." God has always had a church, whether large or small—a people having the same hope and consecration, united by Jesus. The church will be attacked, but "... the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." It may be weak and enfeebled, but God loves His people. Through Jesus Christ we have hope. Though Satan directs his attacks against the church, it is the object of God's supreme regard. The outcome will be a glorious church, a victorious church. It will not be overcome, because Jesus, the Rock of Ages, is its Saviour.

What is the mission of the church? We are to be the light of the world. Let your light shine. We must fulfill the gospel commission, for we are living in the end times. Our challenge today is to rescue the perishing millions and point them to Jesus, who died for them. It is an urgent message, and time is short. There are many who have never heard of a Seventh-day Adventist. How, then, can this gospel be completed? Only by the Spirit of God.

Heaven is interested in the things happening on this earth. We are to go out and teach the truth.

There was once an accident in which someone was buried under a pile of dirt. Many were standing around watching, and one man stood by, seeming unconcerned, until someone came running up, crying, "Bill, Bill, it's your brother buried down there!" Suddenly the man changed. He grabbed a shovel and began to dig. Why? Because it was *his brother* who was buried. Shouldn't we today seek with great earnestness our perishing brothers and sisters in the world? Christ had a concern for the lost—shouldn't we? They may not realize that they are lost. God is reaching out for us because we are valuable in His sight, and we too should reach out to others.

It is necessary to point the people to God's Law as well as to His grace. We cannot be saved by the works of the Law, but we cannot be saved without obedience to it. The Law will measure our character.

The church is to contain both strength and beauty. We now have a beautiful new building here, and God has helped us. We are thankful for His help. It wasn't

easy building it. Rain, wind and hot and cold weather hindered the progress. But many worked hard to make it a success, and all are to be thanked. There was some concern as to whether the church would be finished in time for these meetings, but the Lord worked in behalf of His people and all was completed. Even the weather cooperated with warm sunshine.

We had a setback last year. A fire! But we built again, because we have a work to do for Jesus. We have the truth, and the truth will make you free. It won't be much longer and Jesus will come. We see the beauty of the church, but we need to see Jesus' beauty, His righteousness. We are to be like Him, pure and without spot. We need to build upon Him. He is our Rock. When the rains come down and the floods rise, we will stand. All else will fall.

Many are reaching out for love and mercy. Will we help them? Will we accept our Lord's plan of salvation? Have you submitted yourself to Him? When He comes in, He removes the chill and brings warmth to our hearts. Our life changes.

The call was then given for those to come forward who would like to make a commitment of their lives to Jesus in baptism. After this, we prayed a prayer of dedication and the meeting was closed.

Then followed a musical program as the Young People brought a rich blessing in verse and song. "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever" was the theme, and the selections included: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "If My People Will Pray," "Cleanse Me," "The Way That He Loves," "Jesus Paid It All," "The Blood of Jesus Will Never Lose Its Power," "Sheltered Safe within The Arms of God," "Above The Hills of Time," "Because He Lives," and "He Was There All the Time."

The juniors also had a program which included the cantata entitled, "Noah's Ark."

Sabbath Closing

At the beginning of this service, another special song was sung by Brothers Bobby Bell, Danny Schendel, and Jimmy Schendel, all of whom were to be baptized the next day.

Brother Andrew Barash's opening text was Malachi 3:1-3, which pointed us to Jesus, who is sitting before a cauldron as a refiner of precious ore. He is sitting because He is faithful and it is His work to purify a people for His glory. Jesus is looking down upon us, and He is close beside us. It was noted that He is

persistent and thorough. It is His work to purify the sons of Levi, which we are if we have accepted Jesus as our Saviour. We are to be a special example of Him to the world, and He will continue to work on us, skimming the dross from the crucible until He can see His own reflection perfectly revealed. Then He will be finished. The result will be His people, whom He has made a perfect offering in righteousness, an offering not polluted with bad motives.

We were told the story of a shepherd who had a sheep that always seemed to wander away and get into trouble. One day a friend came by and saw a sheep that seemed to have a broken leg. Questioned about it, the shepherd said that he himself had broken the sheep's leg because the sheep would not stay close and was always getting itself into serious trouble. It seemed cruel. But, though this sheep was hurting now, he would soon be well; and he would be the most loving and faithful of the flock, never straying again.

At this point we were favored with another special song by the young people—"We Won't Be Strangers Anymore."

Brother Andy Barash then closed his service with a Chinese fable telling the story of a bamboo farmer who worked for a long time, first cutting down and then preparing a bamboo plant until it was ready to be a channel of blessing to all around it. He closed his service by reading 1 Peter 1:6, 7, and with prayers.

We separated then for dinner.

Sabbath evening

As we assembled again after dinner in the new chapel, Brother Larry Watts, from Denver, Colorado, spoke of the new house of God established in this place. Now that this building is dedicated and we have re-dedicated ourselves to God, where do we go from here? It was through much effort and confidence in the work that this building came to be. In spite of serious difficulties and setbacks, God raised up an edifice to His glory. Now we still need confidence that He will do a greater work through us for the salvation of souls. Like the Psalmist we can entrust ourselves to the Lord. He will work things out.

We were referred to Psalm 37:3-5. To have confidence means that we don't give up when the going gets tough. Now is not the time for us to grow weary in well doing. We need to re-channel the resources of time, talent, energy, means and influence which have raised up this building to the upbuilding of God's

cause, for we shall reap if we don't give up. Confidence means making bold plans. It was a bold plan to build this church, but now bold plans must be made to bring in souls to fill it. We should make plans that will bring people the message of Jesus, and then leave the results with God. After we have done all that we can do, we trust the harvest to Him. Confidence in God means that we don't look back, because we have faith that all things will work together for good. We can press forward to the great promise of reward if we cast not away our confidence. Hebrews 10:35-39. This confidence will lead to the will of God being worked out in us, even our sanctification. To be sanctified means to be holy, set apart for God, body, soul, and spirit. Then God can work in and through us to do His good pleasure. With confidence we can belong only to God, for Christ never misuses His tools, and He will do the work if we will yield Him the instruments. May this dedication be only the beginning of a work which will hasten the soon coming of our Saviour. May we soon be ready!

New Year's Day

It was a chilly New Year's morning—and a special one which we will never forget—as we gathered early in the morning at a motel which had a small meeting hall and an outdoor, heated jacuzzi pool for the baptism of four souls: Bobby Bell, Sharon Jennings, Danny Schendel, and Jimmy Schendel. We

were asked to sing quietly so as not to disturb the motel guests, but in spite of that we joyfully welcomed these members into the family of God, even as some of the guests watched with us.

On returning to the church, Elder Dering officially welcomed each new member into the church. We were then favored with another special, "Nearer Still Nearer," which was signed for the deaf by Sisters Judy Schendel and Kim Briley as the music was sung.

Brother O. Kramer then led out in the New Year's service by relating the history of the Sacramento local church since 1937, when he and his family first came to Sacramento and began to work. The message of reformation soon spread, and meetings were held first in Galt and then later in Sacramento, when the property on San Francisco Blvd. was purchased and a church building established. It continued to be our house of worship until this present time.

He also spoke on Law and Liberty. All of God's creation is under natural laws which need to be obeyed if we wish to avoid problems. The world promises liberty but only brings bondage. Many young people desire to cut loose from the restraints of the Law. They want to try everything. But we can't live without laws. We are free only when we obey them.

The appeal was made for us to seriously consider the results of not following the Lord and to accept Jesus now. There are many rewards, even in

this life, for following Jesus. Although the battle is not easy, we have Immanuel on our side.

Let us pray for one another and especially for our leaders. The Lord has been very good to us. May this church be a place where the rays of light shine out, and may it soon be filled to overflowing.

We closed with prayer and the special song, "We Are More Than Conquerors," sung by a men's quartet.

There was also a report given of the recent seminar in Tucson, Arizona.

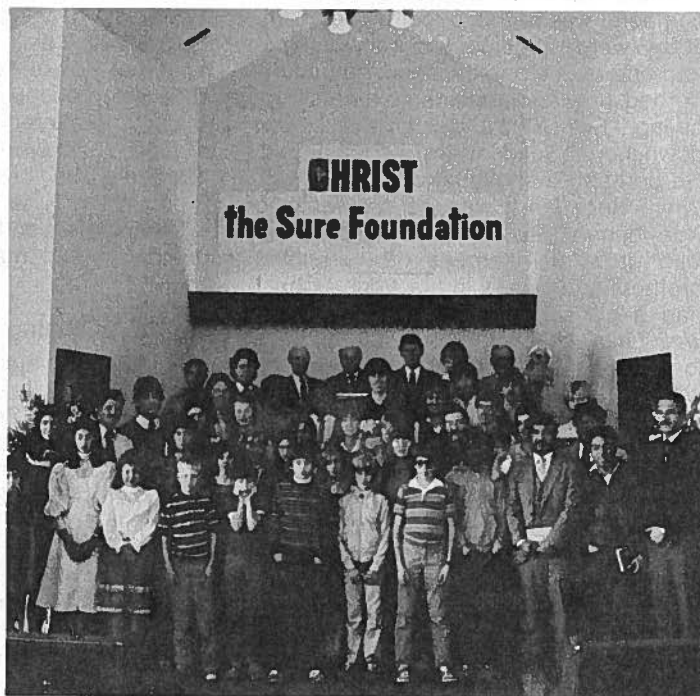
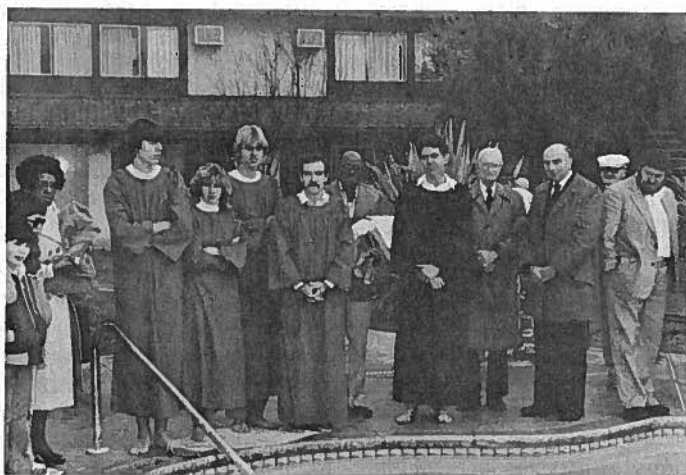
We went directly into a farewell meeting which was richly blessed in many ways. Many responded to the Lord's call to be thankful and make His house a house of praise.

After singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," we closed with prayer, and all were dismissed to enjoy lunch and fellowship, thus ending the dedication meetings.

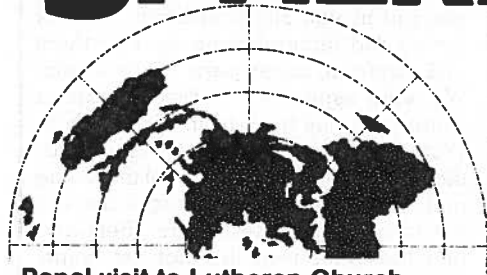
We thank the Lord for His rich and abundant presence in the meetings and for the love and joy that could be shared by all. Of special delight were the numerous musical specials provided by the young people, who seemed to enjoy presenting the music as much as we did listening to it. Our thanks also goes out to the members of the Sacramento church for their rich hospitality in housing the visitors and providing delicious, nutritious lunches and dinners. God be with you until we meet again!

—LARRY WATTS, CHRIS TESKE

(Left) Before the mist of a new day and a new year could clear, these four young people made public their commitment to Christ. (Right) The young people pose before the banner carrying the conference theme, "CHRIST, the Sure Foundation."



CURRENT SPHERE



Papal visit to Lutheran Church

When Pope John Paul II visited a Lutheran Church just off Rome's fashionable Via Veneto last December, it was the first time a pope had ever prayed in a Lutheran Church. Some of his words show how close the Lutherans and Catholics have moved toward each other. "Despite all the obvious separations in doctrine and faith that still exist, we feel profoundly united in this time of Advent in the solidarity of all Christians. . . . We desire unity. We are working for unity without letting ourselves be discouraged by the difficulties we find along the way.

"And in this 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther, we seem to discern far away the dawn of the advent of a recomposition of our unity and community."

Lutheran Pastor Christoph Meyer also spoke at the ecumenical prayer service. "The vision of Isaiah points out one path traveled in common, not two parallel streets. . . . When this congregation was established in 1817, who would have believed that the churches could one day work together? How many ruts there were. . . . They are the past."

The importance of the pope's visit was viewed as mostly symbolic, but the Catholic head has been working for some time to come closer to the Lutherans. One of the ways he is doing this is by praising Martin Luther for his "profound religiousness." Aloys Klein, a Roman Catholic priest who is an expert on Protestantism and serves on the Vatican's Secretariat for the Union of Christians, said, "Nearly half of the 95 theses [of Martin Luther] are Catholic doctrine today. In fact, the very first thesis, the obligation on doing penance, was reaffirmed by the Second Vatican Council (1962-65)." The Vatican Council also adopted a number of reforms of Protestantism, including worship in the peoples' languages, an affirmation of religious liberty, greater emphasis on the Bible and more voice for laity in church affairs. A joint U.S. Commission of

By BARBARA WATTS

Lutheran and Roman Catholic theologians issued a historic document in 1983 agreeing that salvation comes only through faith in God's mercy, and not by human good works.

Our faith in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy is strengthened when we read such things, for Sister White wrote the following in *The Great Controversy*, pp. 563, 571, 573, 581, first published in 1888: "Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. In those countries where Catholicism is not in the ascendancy, and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. . . .

"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. . . .

"In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following in the steps of papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World. . . .

"And let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes. The principles of Gregory VII and Innocent III are still the principles of the Roman Catholic Church. And had she but the power, she would put them in practice with as much vigor now as in past centuries. . . . Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured."

Let us watch and beware, realizing how short time is and preparing for the Lord's soon return.

U.S.-Vatican ambassador appointed

The "courageousness of Pope John Paul II" and his presence as a force for freedom and human rights were cited by Senator Richard Lugar early in 1983 when introducing the bill which passed the U.S. Senate to lift an 1867 ban on funding a diplomatic mission to the Vatican. On January 10, 1984, the Vatican and the United States State Department issued identical statements: "The Holy See and the United States of America, desiring to develop the mutual friendly relations already existing, have decided by common accord to establish diplomatic relations at the level of apostolic nunciature on the side of the Holy See and of the embassy on the side of the United States beginning today, Jan. 10, 1984."

Thus full diplomatic relations were established, and President Reagan appointed 69-year-old William Wilson, a Catholic convert, as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

Protest has arisen over this move, and some Protestants vow to fight it in court. Television evangelist Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority, said it "will establish a precedent which we will regret later. . . . While I personally feel it is a bad precedent and am on record as opposing such formal ties with the Vatican, it is obvious that the Congress and most Americans favor this move and it will be done." Jimmy Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the move "violates every rule of reason as it relates to church and state. The Vatican controls no country, so there is absolutely no reason for such a formal tie." White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the administration recognized that "the Holy See is an international personality distinct from the Roman Catholic Church. . . . The Holy See is an international focal point of diplomatic contact. We join these nations in establishing relations with the Holy See."

Another quotation from *The Great Controversy*, p. 588, underscores the importance of this event: "The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience." There is no time to lose in humbling ourselves before God, having our hearts cleansed from all sin, and trusting fully in Him, so that we can stand on His side in the tests just ahead.



Letters from our readers

The Publishing Assn. has received many requests for *The Sabbath Watchman* from foreign lands. At the present time, *The Sabbath Watchman* is being sent to more than 25 countries worldwide, many of them third world countries, through the support of the General Conference. If you would like to be a part of this worldwide work of sending *The Sabbath Watchman* to needy countries, consider the letters and requests which follow and send your tax deductible contributions to Religious Liberty Publishing Assn., Foreign Sabbath Watchman, 5650 S. Syracuse Circle, Suite 118, Englewood, CO 80111. The brethren of the General Conference would also appreciate your support of this work.

—L. WATTS

From JOHANNESBURG,
SOUTH AFRICA

... My husband has been away for 4 weeks to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi to visit the conferences and for personal contact with the brethren there, and everything went fine. These countries are so poor. ... You nearly can't buy anything in the shops and because of the drought it's just hopeless. My husband says he lived only in dust, but the native brothers and sisters were so thankful and they enjoyed nice conferences all over. ... They are dear souls who love their Lord and Saviour with their whole heart. ...

"My husband is lying in bed, for after some days at home he started to feel miserable, and we had to call the doctor. Diagnosis: Malaria! The worst days are behind us, and we thank God that he is recovering already a bit. ... With the help of the great Physician everything will turn out right.

The correspondence with all the countries is sometimes more than hopeless. I sent my husband a letter to Monze in Zambia, and it arrived after 3 weeks, after he had left the place long before. Even sending a telegram is a risk every time. Only those who have lived here can understand what's going on here. ...

We hope to get a new copy machine soon, and then we wouldn't need so many Sabbath School Lessons any more from you and could even send English ones to Zimbabwe and other countries. That would deliver you from much work and expense. You have no idea how poor the brothers and sisters are in the bush. My husband took the whole car full of clothing and literature,

and he came through the border wonderfully. In Zimbabwe they have to pay 18% tax on food and 25% tax on all other things.

Please pass our very best greetings to your dear family and all the dear believers in the church. May the Lord bless you and keep you in good health.

—B.H., South Africa

P.S. We received the S.S. Lessons and the Week of prayer readings. Thank you for all we received! We had wonderful rains. Peaches and apricots are ripe, and we have plenty of vegetables and fruits in the shops to buy. Thank the Lord. But in some other areas they still didn't get rain.

From ETAGO, KENYA

Dear brethren:

May the peace of God be with you. By the grace of God we are well and we hope the same of you all.

I would like to thank you all for helping me receive *The Sabbath Watchman*. *The Sabbath Watchman* I have received all the time I was helped as a special gift from there by an anonymous person. I don't know the name of the person. I would like to ask him once more to continue to send me *The Sabbath Watchman*. *The Sabbath Watchman* has done much in my spiritual life. Let me continue to receive *The Sabbath Watchman*. Thank you.

Your brother in Christ,
S.O., East Africa

From KISII, KENYA

Dear brethren in the Lord,

May the peace of God be with you!

We are very happy that the Word of God has also reached us through your great effort. For a long time we have been receiving some *Sabbath Watchman* copies free of charge from you; even now we don't know who is paying for us, perhaps the General Conference. For sure, we are very interested in them, but we often find ourselves not able to afford; that is why we often request our dear believers and friends to help us get them.

N.E., E. Africa

From MALAWI, AFRICA

Dear Brother,

May the peace of the Lord be with you in these troublesome days of Noah. Greetings with 3 John 2. By the grace of our heavenly Father we are all well here, hoping the same with you there in America.

We were happy to receive the 5 *Sabbath Watchman* and the 5 quarter-

lies that you recently sent to us. We are very thankful to the Lord of hosts, who has put in you His wonderful Spirit of loving and remembering your brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. We were especially blessed to extract some precious truth from *The Sabbath Watchman*, such as (a) "respect for those who die in the Lord," (b) that some milk products such as cheese are not yet forbidden in Reformers' diets and that the latter rain has not yet come. Other pieces of information were obtained as regards the movement of the Sunday law, how the Lord's work is proceeding in other countries, and the blessed result of the General Conference. We were encouraged to hear about the brethren who are in prison for the Lord's work (20) and in work camps (300). This is another proof that this church is the body of Christ. If Christ the head suffered, then the body must also suffer, otherwise it is not Christ's body. Some of us will suffer in one way and others in another way.

This suffering will be felt by all the true children of the Most High, either physically, morally or spiritually, or all of these. We know, brother, that we cannot see all your trials and sufferings, but we know that by every time you send the truth-filled literature to us you are sacrificing a lot. Only the Lord Himself knows what you are doing to make His vineyard fertile. May His grace through His Holy Spirit continue to give you power, means and joy in His field!

By God's grace the work of the Lord is slowly taking root here in Malawi. But the Lord has begun choosing the poorer class of the people who strive hard even for their daily livelihood. He would like these to give light to this part of the world. Therefore, brother, with this local work here in Malawi it is becoming a bit difficult to find some extra means for ordering the precious literature. At the time being we must depend on God wholly. But the Lord cannot work miracles to help us. It is by your sacrificing love that we can ever grow to maturity in adding more knowledge to our spiritual life. This is our only hope, dear brethren!

Satan is also working hard to sow his disastrous seeds here. But thanks to the Lord that we are fighting a conquered enemy!! Once again extend our warm greetings to our brothers and sisters in America. May the Lord be your rule of life always! (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Your loving brother, F.M.

From KENYA, E. AFRICA

My dear brethren,

May the Lord bless you richly. I hope that through the care of our almighty Father in heaven you are all in good health. The same of us here in Kenya. Greetings with 1 Corinthians 15:57, 58.

In consideration of the shortness of time, we are living in the time of the end. We thank our merciful Father for lengthening the time of probation for every individual to reach the appointed goal.

In this time of fog and great darkness, we are to ask for direction from God, because no one knows what will come next, but God knows. We are living in a dangerous time, as well as in a lying world which is nearing its final destruction.

It is the time when the old serpent is working with terrific and deceiving doctrines, which divert man from the solemn work of preparation for the great event. We are very thankful for the wonderful gift of the three angels' messages and Christ our Righteousness, which is the center of the message being portrayed by the true prophesied Reformation, which is a remnant church in the whole world.

We thank the Most High God for His special grace and mercy, for if it were not for His mercy we could have been in a similar condition of blindness. Teachers arise who declare that Christ abolished the law on the cross and that each may live as he likes. Let us thank our Father for this glorious and wonderful message of the prophesied Reformation, the remnant church which took their stand on the firm foundation of the everlasting law of God. Since the year 1914, I believe that it is the church of God. This divinely predicted Reform Movement has been commissioned to prepare a people for the latter rain.

One soul is of more value than the whole world. But there might be tens or thousands and hundreds surrounding the great white throne of God. When we read this, we are both fearful and happy, but we encounter a small problem, brothers. By that I mean we don't have tools which are mighty workers in God's hand, which point us to Christ our Saviour and Redeemer, which one and all will use as precious gems of truth among our friends and neighbors, which will witness and lighten the earth with the glory of God.

Because many of our brethren are still in the fallen churches and the call will have to be made to come out, we

request you brethren to send us *The Sabbath Watchman*, because *The Sabbath Watchman* is the mainstay of this Reform Movement. Through it we have known this wonderful truth. We are a group of student church members. They want you to send them *The Sabbath Watchmans*, and they will pay. Starting early January they will send money to you for the total amount of the whole year. Pray for us, brothers, here in Kenya so that the work may go forward. Pamphlets like Reformation Series 1 to 7, which are a free donation, please send us. Even though the mail is very expensive, brothers, try to help the poor servants of God. The Most High God will exalt through the wonderful gift that you will send us, and many souls will be won to the church of God from the perishing world.

J.O.

From BASEL, SWITZERLAND—

Translated from the German language
Dear Brethren:

I can inform you that I received the literature with great joy and thank you very much for it. Yes, they are very nice pieces of literature and mission pamphlets. I believe that the results of these have already been experienced in America. Their contents are treasured truths. Anyone who earnestly reads these cannot remain in darkness, but in honesty will be convinced that what he reads is the truth. I wish them and all colporteurs in America much results in working for the Lord. Yes, soon the old year runs out and we stand before the new year. The people ask themselves the fearful question, What will come? How will things continue? Fear fills their hearts. Regarding this question, there is only one book that gives us the exact future—the Holy Bible. I thank the Lord that He has enlightened me with regard to this question. For us Adventists, this is no fearful question. We know that the Day of Judgment comes quickly to those people. Black thunderclouds cover the political heaven, bringing us no good news. Peace is hindered, insecurity and fears surround the people. They make unsure and false predictions regarding the future and lay their trust in the hands of sinful man; and they themselves hold on to their opinions about peace and security. They should be alerted that their trust is put in knowledge and weapons. It is terrible how Satan fools man in all aspects and promises man false hope about a better future.

But we know that everything that occurs on earth points toward the coming end. We cannot sleep; now is the time to awaken, that we see how near the end is. We also have a frightening question. Who will stand in the final battle? We must think about this question. But when we repent, then our future will not fill our hearts with fear and anxiety. In contrast, our hearts will be filled with joy because the hour of our redemption is near. We should direct our efforts to those without hope and show them the way that can lead them out of this hopeless situation, to a way that glows brighter than spiritual darkness. It is the way of truth and obedience to the Ten Commandments of God. What a wonderful privilege mortal man has to partake of such a wonderful and joyous message and to bring this last message to the dying world. Everyone who partakes in the rescue of souls in America, I wish them much happiness and God's blessing in the coming year. . . .

I wish the publishing work God's rich blessing for the New Year, that you may have much printing to do. Also, that the work in America may grow and prosper and that many more souls may be saved. To this may the Lord give us His blessing and success is my wish and prayer. Amen!

Sincere greetings from Switzerland from your brother in Christ.

—J.B.

A great surprise out of Rome: For the first time in all religious churches and mankind, Pope Paul II, in a Protestant church for the first time since the Reformation, held a message of unity (Lutheran church in Rome). That should make us reflect on these things.

THANKS FOR THE CORRECTION!

Helmut Haug writes from Germany:

"*The Sabbath Watchman* [September-October 1983] was the center of attraction in our last youth meeting. The cover picture met with approval. Only I found three mistakes. On page 23 in the picture with Henk [Hietkamp] is a woman. She is a sister from North Germany, but not married to Brother Klos."

"On page 28 [of *The Sabbath Watchman*, September-October 1983], is the singing group, not an octet, but 10 people who belong to the youth-group of Solingen, of which I am the leader. The last picture on page 24, the names of the baptized girls are Christiana Droege and Eva Haas.



IN THIS ISSUE

A NEW YEAR'S GREETING page 2

An open letter from the American Union president. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." Matthew 9:37.

"BE STRONG AND OF A GOOD COURAGE" page 3

In the new year we should not overlook the point that "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son."

A QUALIFIED RELIGION page 5

The Ten Commandments of God are the perfect measure of faith for all religious bodies.

REPORT—PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE page 8

Results of the delegates' meetings held July 21-August 21, 1983, applying to the worldwide work.

THE TRUTH ADVANCED UNDER DIFFICULTIES page 11

No. 13 in the series from *The Great Second Advent Movement*, by J.N. Loughborough. The spirit of sacrifice actuated the early pioneers; and though often without means, they devised means of getting the message before the people.

PERFECTION page 17

What is the great thought and purpose of God dwelling in the hearts of His people.

THE SWEET TRUTH ABOUT CHOCOLATE page 19

This straightforward article should clarify many questions regarding this dark subject.

NEWSNOTES

TUCSON OUTREACH page 23

Comments from some of the students attending the missionary outreach in Tucson, Arizona, December 19-25, 1983.

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, DEDICATION 24

A new church is dedicated with a series of spiritual meetings—a full report is in this issue.

CURRENT SPHERE page 29

Papal visit to Lutheran Church. U.S.-Vatican ambassador appointed.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS page 30

A broader view of the work is seen in letters from faraway places.

DATES TO REMEMBER . . .

July 5-7 — Western Regional Conference, Sacramento, California

July 11-August 21 — American Union Seminar, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

August 23-25 — Canadian and Eastern Field Conferences, Hamilton, Ontario

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

Remember the new workers:

Roberto Ramirez, Florida

Ian Grant, Jamaica

Kim Briley, California

Chris Teske, Colorado

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