The Sabbath Watchman

January-February 1991

Which Adam?
Page 7

A Nation of Destiny
Page 12

Last Gasp of the Family?
Page 16

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1991 AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE

JULY 5-8, 1991

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IN THIS ISSUE...

ARTICLES

"That They All May Be One" 3
A New Year's message from the president of the General Conference urges all of us to pull together.

Which Adam? 6
When we accept Christ as our personal Saviour, we are accepting that we have died to the life we had in the first Adam and now live to the new life that we have in the last Adam. In all cases, salvation is the gift of God through Jesus Christ.

The Great Dragon 8
A review of the devices Satan uses to destroy shows how deceptive and deadly his attacks are.

A Few Thoughts about Islam 10
This first article of a series is an introduction to the basics of Islamic thought. With the Middle East in the forefront of the news and inroads being made by the Islamic religion in Western society, it is well for us to know how to meet Muslims and share the gospel with them. Tools for doing that will be given in upcoming articles.

A Nation of Destiny 12
Although founded on principles of liberty and Christian principles and in the minds of many people around the world still considered the bastion of freedom, the United States has moved a long way from righteousness—in matters of morality and respect for life, especially. Affluence, excess and failure to follow basic Christian principles are moving this nation inexorably down the path of destruction.

The Last Gasp of the Family? 16
The family was established by and is important to God. Amid severe attacks on this institution by Satan, it is still possible to have families such as God intended.

Reaching Out 18
How did Jesus, in His human form, carry His Father's mission to the whole world in just 3½ years? Then the question follows: Can Christ's followers fulfill the Saviour's present commission to the whole world before the close of probationary time—maybe in less than 3½ years?

FEATURES

100 Years Ago 4
The Effect of Daily Living

Current Sphere 21
Battle for the Arab mind. Children: spiritual. "Power shift"—the fast will win. New face for New Age.

Newsnotes 22
Jamaica. New Zealand.

Editorial 23
When Friends Leave.

The Sabbath Watchman

Vol. 66, No. 1
January/February 1991

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.

S.D.A. Church, Reform Movement
International Missionary Society
General Conference Office
Missionshaus "Salem"
Friedrich Ebert Strasse 17
D-6950 Mosbach/Baden, West Germany

American Union Office
2877 Florence Ave.
Huntington Park, California 90255

Yearly Subscription Price
$10.00 U.S.A. and Canada
$15.00 foreign surface rate (U.S. funds only)
$30.00 foreign air mail rate (U.S. funds only)

All contributions, names and addresses and correspondence regarding *The Sabbath Watchman* should be addressed to:
Religious Liberty Publishing Assn.
9999 E. Mississippi Avenue
Denver, CO 80231, U.S.A.

THE SABBATH WATCHMAN (ISSN 0098-9517), published bimonthly with a special issue in December at a yearly subscription rate of $10.00 by Religious Liberty Publishing Association, 9999 E. Mississippi Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80231, U.S.A.

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Second-Class Postage paid at Denver, Colorado. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RLPA, 9999 E. Mississippi Avenue, Denver, CO 80231.

Offset in U.S.A.

"That They All May Be One"

John 17:17-23

A New Year's message from the General Conference President

The best evidence that we are Christ's followers is having the character of Christ and being united in one heart and one spirit.

By S. GUTNKECHT
Mosbach / Baden, Germany

A year overflowing with important events has ended. What no one dared to imagine or believe has happened. Walls and barbed wire have come down in Europe, and the nation of Germany has become a united nation once more, after forty-five years. Just as God once called Cyrus by name, before he even saw the light of day, to fight against idol worship in the Babylonian empire and give God's people freedom to return to their homes after seventy years, so God uses men and world empires today. These men and empires have pulled down the iron curtain and thus given back to man his freedom to live according to his beliefs. The saying once written at the Kremlin—"Religion is the opium of the people"—can be rephrased as, "The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only remedy for mankind's sin sickness."

The countries of Europe, Russia and the U.S., once portrayed as enemies, have broken down many barriers. Furthermore, one no longer hears words about stirring up hatred so the enemy will be annihilated; instead, discussions are held on how one can offer his services to relieve suffering and aid those who have fallen as victims. We can only exclaim, "This is God's work!"

In addition to these political events, we should also mention the contacts made between China and Japan after two thousand years of being mortal enemies, the growth and self-confidence of the African people, as well as the uprisings among Palestinians. The events in Kuwait have demonstrated that the Middle East still is and always will be a magnet. "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Revelation 16:16.

Concerning religious events, we can joyfully report that God has opened doors wide to the proclamation of the gospel, and God's word has been spread to millions of people. In the eastern European countries and the Third World, there is a tremendous longing for God's word, and this is an enormous challenge for His church to feed the hungry and answer the call. To fulfill this responsibility, we need the help of the Holy Spirit. As Jesus bade His disciples farewell, He promised, "If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it.

"If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." John 14:14-16.

After Christ's ascension and the outpouring of the former rain, a work was accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit that had never been done up to that time. This same power is needed for God's people in the final work. We need to implore Him for this heavenly gift so the whole world can again be moved and souls take their stand for or against God.

To search for lost sheep, God needs people who are prepared to sacrifice, to deny self, to renounce temporal comforts and to follow their Redeemer. The time left for spreading the gospel to the world is nearly over. The devil himself knows that he has very little time, so he is mobilizing his forces. One can see this in the activity of the pope and his ever-growing influence, and how he tries to bewitch the political and religious powers of the earth. "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Revelation 18:3-5.

If we as God's church are to be a light to the world and be able to guide people through the darkness to the light, we have to follow Jesus' example by being united in His Spirit and the observance of His teachings. The best evidence that we are Christ's followers is having the character of Christ and being united in one heart and one spirit. With the help of the Lord, all disunity should be put away, the prayer found in John 17 taken to heart, and words become deeds. We cannot receive the refreshing from God's presence if our hearts are filled with criticism, slander, hypocrisy or suspicion, or if, instead of speaking encouraging, motivating words to those with whom we work, we help Christ's enemy by discouraging His messengers. Furthermore, Christ's messengers will carry one another's burdens and be a savor of life unto life.

The Spirit of Prophecy says: "Look at the cross of Calvary. It is a standing pledge of the boundless love, the measureless mercy, of the heavenly Father. O that all might repent and do their first works. When the churches do this, they will love God supremely and their neighbors as themselves. Ephraim will not envy Judah, and Judah will not vex Ephraim. Divisions will then be healed, the harsh sounds of strife will no more be heard in the borders of Israel. Through the grace freely given them of God, all will seek to answer the prayer of Christ, that His disciples should be one, even as He and the Father are one. Peace, love, mercy, and benevolence will be the abiding principle of the soul. The love of Christ will be the theme of every tongue, and it will no more be said by the True Witness, 'I have somewhat

against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.' Revelation 2:4. The people of God will be abiding in Christ, the love of Jesus will be revealed, and one Spirit will animate all hearts, regenerating and renewing all in the image of Christ, fashioning all hearts alike. As living branches of the True Vine, all will be united to Christ, the living head. Christ will abide in every heart, guiding, comforting, sanctifying, and presenting to the world the unity of the followers of Jesus, thus bearing testimony that the heavenly credentials are supplied to the remnant church. In the oneness of Christ's church it will be proved that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world.

"When God's people are one in the unity of the Spirit, all of Phariseeism, all of self-righteousness, which was the sin of the Jewish nation, will be expelled from all hearts. The mold of Christ will be upon each individual member of His body, . . ." —Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages,* vol. 1, p. 386.

Let us look to Golgotha. Let us look upon Jesus, His life, His work, His suffering and His death. Only in this light will we be able to acknowledge how we as a people appear to the Majesty of heaven. Let us consider Jesus' words: "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40, last part.

Along with the staff at the General Conference, I wish every co-worker throughout the whole world, all our brothers and sisters, the youth, the interested souls and especially those who are sick and suffering and the aged God's richest blessings and a healthful, successful New Year. May the Lord grant us joy and unity of spirit as well as a rich harvest of souls whom we can bring to the Saviour.

"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 17-25.

100 YEARS AGO

JANUARY 13, 1891

The Effect of Daily Living

By ELLEN G. WHITE

WITH us all, and especially with the young, great importance attaches to the present. We should consider, moment by moment, that this time which is now the present will soon become the past, and that it will have its influence upon the future. Each day, as it passes, enters into our life history, and goes to make up our record in heaven—that record by which we are to be judged; it also tends to shape our character and future life, and thus exerts a more powerful influence upon our destiny.

The results of each day's work are influenced by the days that have preceded it. Defeat today prepares the way for still greater defeat tomorrow; victory today insures an easier victory tomorrow. And God will hold us accountable, not only for our words and deeds, in themselves, and in their effect upon others, but for their effect upon our own character and life. For all these He will bring us into judgment.

Let the youth remember that all their opportunities and privileges, all the blessings bestowed upon them in innumerable ways, as these have been improved or perverted, are molding the character and forming habits for good or for evil; and in the great day an account must be rendered up for all the advantages received, and for the use made of the gifts of God. All is recorded in heaven. Page after page the history of our life experience is written, with the motives that prompted us to action. All will appear as a real life-picture, showing how much of our life was given to pleasing self, how much to blessing others, how much to honoring God, how much to answering the purpose of God in our creation. The talents intrusted to us must be accounted for, with all the improvement that might have been made on them, if time and influence and means had not been squandered on sinful pleasures.

Would that the curtain might be rolled back, so that we could see the solemn and awful position in which we stand in regard to our responsibility to God and to our fellowmen! We would then understand why God will require the past.

Take one day of your life, and faithfully record its history. Estimate the time trifled away; the tenor of your conversation; your words of vanity; your influence over others, and theirs over you; the evil resulting from carrying out the suggestions of those whose lives were unholy, and whom you might have avoided in your associations, but whom you have confirmed in their wrong course. Is not this day a sample of many days?

O! how sad it is to see young men and women acting as though all they were in the world for was to amuse themselves, to get the greatest amount of pleasure in this life! Not one moment can they give to learning how to form character for the future world: murdering time, abusing the mercies and privileges granted them by God, neglecting opportunities for doing good, wasting health and strength, squandering money on sinful indulgences, gathering about them influences which tend to make them forget their Creator, forget that they are accountable to God for their life and all its possibilities for good, for His grace that they refuse to accept. How will their conduct day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year, appear to them when God shall require the past?

Every man's life will be examined by the great standard of character, the law of Jehovah. There will be a reckoning up of the blessings provided by God at infinite sacrifice to Himself, in the death of His beloved Son; for all this sacrifice was made in order that man might possess the riches of His grace, the abundant righteousness of Christ. But if man has neglected the great salvation, if he has chosen his own way rather than God's way, if the blessings purchased at such immense cost are unimproved, if the things of greatest value are regarded as of no consequence, terrible

100 YEARS AGO

JANUARY 13, 1891

will be the loss, for it will be eternal. If God's plans are set aside for the working out of plans laid by finite beings, if one regulates his conduct by principles opposed to those laid down by God, his destiny will be in accordance with the course he has taken.

When death comes to us, nothing can be done to set right the errors of the past. Not a line of our record can be blotted out, not a sentence corrected. What is written, is written. If the one probation has been misused, if Jesus has been neglected, if darkness has been preferred to light, there stands the record: They did not choose the Lord; they would none of His counsel, and they despised His reproofs. No second probation will be granted; for if the first has not been improved, no better use would be made of a second.

If the Spirit of God is received into the heart, it will mold the character into forms of beauty; it will give a loveliness of disposition that will identify the receiver with Jesus. The young may be fashioned after the similitude of the character of Christ, if, with full purpose of heart, they will put their will on Christ's side. There is nothing that can hinder this full surrender to Christ except one's own choice to accept Satan's rule instead of Christ's.

Our Heavenly Father presents before us no impossibilities. He requires at our hands nothing which we cannot perform. He has not set before His church a standard to which they cannot attain. We give the lie to the truth, and glorify Satan, when we walk in sadness and gloom because we think more is required of us in the Christian life than we can perform. Your Redeemer loves you, and He presents to you eternal joys in a life of obedience. There is no one who has ever tasted the joy of full and willing submission to God, who has not felt peace, happiness, and assurance in His love.

I appeal to you, my young friends. How anxious are you to remove the record of the past, to have your wrongdoings blotted out? What depths of iniquity are open to God's sight, that are hidden from all mortal view! Every secret thing shall be brought into judgment, whether it be good or evil. Past sins, unrepented of and unforgiven, will be brought up then, only to condemn us, and appoint our portion with the lost. But the promises of God are full of encouragement for us. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." "I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

We have the precious promise that every sin, if sincerely repented of, will be forgiven. To turn to God with contrition of soul, claiming the merits of the blood of Christ, will bring to us light, pardon, and peace. But we must turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart, with a decision to be doers of the words of Christ. Our past sins will sometimes come to mind, and cast a shadow over our faith, so that we can see nothing but merited punishment in store for us. But at such times, while we feel sorrow for sin, we should look to Jesus, and believe that He has pardoned our transgressions. "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." To those who, though they have repented, are troubled over their past sins, who are tempted to think that perhaps they are not forgiven, Christ says, "Go, and sin no more." You have found peace with God; through His grace you have entered upon a new life; "by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Then allow no unbelief to come in. Commit the keeping of your souls unto God as to a faithful Creator; He will keep that which is committed to His trust against that day. Instead of looking inward with regret and despair, look outward and upward in faith. Unless you are constantly fighting the fight of faith, the past will press its shadow over the present.

Every Christian will have a hard battle to fight with wrong habits. He must overcome his unbelief, his deformity of character, his inclination to self-indulgence. His long resistance of light, warnings, and appeals has left its mark upon his life; and although God has forgiven him, he feels that he cannot forgive himself. He often thinks of what he might have been in physical and moral strength if it were not for that sinful past. But to him I say, "Look and live." The Lord declares, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways." "As the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him." His promise is, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Learn lessons of patience, of meekness and lowliness, of kindness and forbearance toward those in fault, of forgiveness, of faith which, though tried, is ever triumphant. Say to your soul, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him who is the health of my countenance, and my God." Cherish every ray of light. Search the Bible. Feed on the promises. Draw nearer and still nearer to God, inquiring at every step, "Is this the way of the Lord?" Your lessons, well learned, will be an everlasting possession to you, filling your heart with gladness and love to God because He has forgiven so much.

Then make the very best use of your talents. Use them to the honor and glory of God. Many have such meager ideas of what they may become, that they will ever remain dwarfed and narrowed, when, if they would improve the powers that God has given them, they might develop a noble character, and exert an influence that would win souls to Christ. Do not rest short of a perfect union with Christ. Here is your source of strength.

Whatever your past life may have been, if you seek in humble penitence the forgiveness of Jesus, and live to His glory, your life will be hid with Christ in God, and you will be more than a conqueror through Him who hath loved you. The song will flow from your lips, "Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood, . . . and hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth."

May the Lord help the youth who claim to be Christians, to see that they need the subduing grace of God, which will make them conscientious, modest, God-fearing, unselfish. A life spent in resisting temptation, in self-denial, in diligence in good works, in gaining victories over sin, will shine forth amid the darkness of the world, and will glorify God. "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee."

Which Adam?

By SCOTT WEBB
Denver, Colorado

HAVE you ever stopped to think about humanity as a corporate entity? I mean, have you ever just tried to remove yourself from being part of the human race and look at the human race objectively? It's a bit difficult to do, isn't it—depending on your frame of reference? To complicate the issue even further, the Bible teaches that there are two humanities; and the humanity to which you belong determines your ultimate destination. By the way, both humanities began with an individual named Adam. Or one might say that each individual representing each humanity is described by the term "Adam."

Confused? Well, let's start with an understanding of what "Adam" means.

In 1 Corinthians 15:45, Paul wrote: "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." That clears things up a little. We know who the first Adam was, and we can now deduct that the "last Adam" is Jesus Christ. But what does the name mean, and why did Paul call Jesus the "last Adam"?

In the Bible, names almost always have special meaning; for example "Abram" means "high father," while "Abraham" means "father of a multitude." We all know that the first use of the name Adam is in Genesis in connection with creation. In Hebrew, it literally means "the species, mankind"—that is, all of humanity. That may not seem so very important, and you may even say, "So what?" But as you begin to dig into the implications of this, you could possibly receive the biggest insight into the "mystery of godliness" that you could possibly imagine! One minister stated that understanding this is like unlocking the mystery of the unified field theory that Einstein worked on unsuccessfully the last 25 years of his life. It allowed him the opportunity to read the Scriptures with much greater understanding and brought to life many texts that previously seemed obscure and difficult to comprehend.

I believe that understanding the concepts surrounding the two Adams is critical to a proper understanding of how God saves man and how God can be "just and the justifier" of mankind.

Just how much is revealed in God's word about how He saves man? Quite a bit! Let's search into this.

We have already established that there are two Adams. 1 Corinthians 15:45. 1 Corinthians 15:47 continues: "The first man [Adam] is of the earth, earthy: the second man [Christ, the last Adam] is the Lord from heaven."

We found earlier that, by definition, Adam literally means "mankind." The Bible says God created mankind; but I would like to pose the question, When did God create you? Did He create you when your mother conceived you? Or did He create you when He created the first Adam? How you answer this question is very important, because if you say He created you when your mother conceived you, then you have to say that God created you with a sinful nature—and that makes God the Author of sin. But if you say God created you when He created Adam, that opens up a whole new perspective!

The Bible says: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7. In Hebrew, the word "life" in this text is plural and could have just as readily been translated, "the breath of *lives*." Since "lives" is plural, could this possibly mean that you and I and everyone who has ever been conceived were created perfect in Adam—and that whatever Adam did, you and I did, too? Is there any other Biblical evidence for such a concept? Let's see.

According to Hebrews 7:9, 10, Levi, who was born four generations after Abraham, is accounted as having paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham. In Genesis 25:19-23, the Lord told Rebekah, when she inquired concerning the struggle in her womb, that "Two nations are in thy womb. . . ." We would say that there were two babies in her womb, but God said there were two nations! This concept, called "solidarity," is even clearer when we read Acts 17:26 in any translation other than the *King James Version*: "He has made from one person every nation of men. . . ."

God sees things differently than we

do. We see man as an individual not connected to anyone else, acting alone and not responsible to the whole of humanity. But God sees all men in one man—Adam—and treats them accordingly! In an 1895 General Conference Bulletin, Elder W.W. Prescott said it this way: "When God created Adam He created the whole human family. He created all nations that are upon the earth when He created Adam. That is, in creating Adam and conferring upon him the power to beget in his own image, He saw, as it were, a fountain of life in him; and when He created Adam, He saw in Adam every human being that has been or will be upon the face of the earth and He created every human being upon the face of the earth in Adam."

The Bible says that when Adam sinned, we all sinned and "judgment came upon all men to condemnation." Romans 5:12-21. Because of Adam's sin, the whole human race was suddenly and without choice thrust into sin and its results. The first thought that usually comes to mind when confronted with this thought is, It isn't fair that I have been accounted as having sinned in Adam and thus receive a sinful nature! And of course a sinful nature means that the most natural thing for us to do is sin—and "the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. The Bible says that we "were by nature the children of wrath." Ephesians 2:3. And David wrote, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalm 51:5.

From man's point of view, it seems unfair that we sinned in Adam and today are sinning and dying as a result. The best way to put this in perspective is to look at the other "Adam" and realize that whatever is true of the "first Adam" has to be true of the "last Adam," only in the reverse.

In Romans 5:14, Paul wrote that the first Adam "was a figure [literally, "type," *Revised Standard Version*] of the one to come." So the question comes, How was Adam a type of Christ? In what way were Adam and Christ functionally the same? Was Adam a type of Christ in righteousness? No, Adam transgressed and Christ didn't. Was Adam a type of Christ in sinfulness? No, Christ never sinned, and Adam did. So how were the first Adam and the last Adam (Christ) alike? Here's the answer: They were alike in that what they did affected all of humanity.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:22. So I would respond to the fairness issue by asking, Is it fair that Christ made all men righteous? Remember, Romans 5:18 says all men are declared righteous in Christ. In the *Revised Standard Version*, 1 Corinthians 5:14 says: ". . . We are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died."

So what is the Bible saying? When Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, all of humanity was "in" him, and thus all of humanity sinned "in" Adam, all of humanity is condemned with Adam, and all of humanity received a nature that is at enmity with God, like Adam. Romans 8:7.

Then, when Christ came to this earth and became the last Adam, He took sinful man upon Himself, and "in" Christ all of humanity lived a perfect life, died the second death, and rose up a new man. In Christ, humanity received the wages of sin, which is the second death. You and I and all of humanity came to an end, and a new humanity was born. God can now be "just and the justifier" of all mankind.

The Bible says Christ is the "firstborn among many brethren." Christ left the majesty of heaven behind and became the last Adam to redeem man. Whatever Christ is, we are in Him! Prior to the cross, Christ is referred to as the "only begotten Son of God," and in Revelation 1:5 He is referred to as the "first begotten," implying that now there are many begotten children of God. In 1 John 3:2 it says: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be *like Him;* for we shall see Him as He is." Furthermore, Colossians 3:3, 4 says to those who have accepted their place in Christ, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is *our life,* shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."

When we accept Christ as our personal Saviour, we are accepting that we have died to the life we had in the first Adam and now live to the new life that we have in the last Adam.

I don't know how all of this strikes you, but understand this: God took all of the human race that existed in Adam and put them in Christ. "But of Him [God] are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." 1 Corinthians 1:30. God made Christ, the last Adam, to be our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption. He is everything to us. When we accept Christ as our personal Saviour, we are accepting that we have died to the life we had in the first Adam and now alive to the new life that we have in the last Adam.

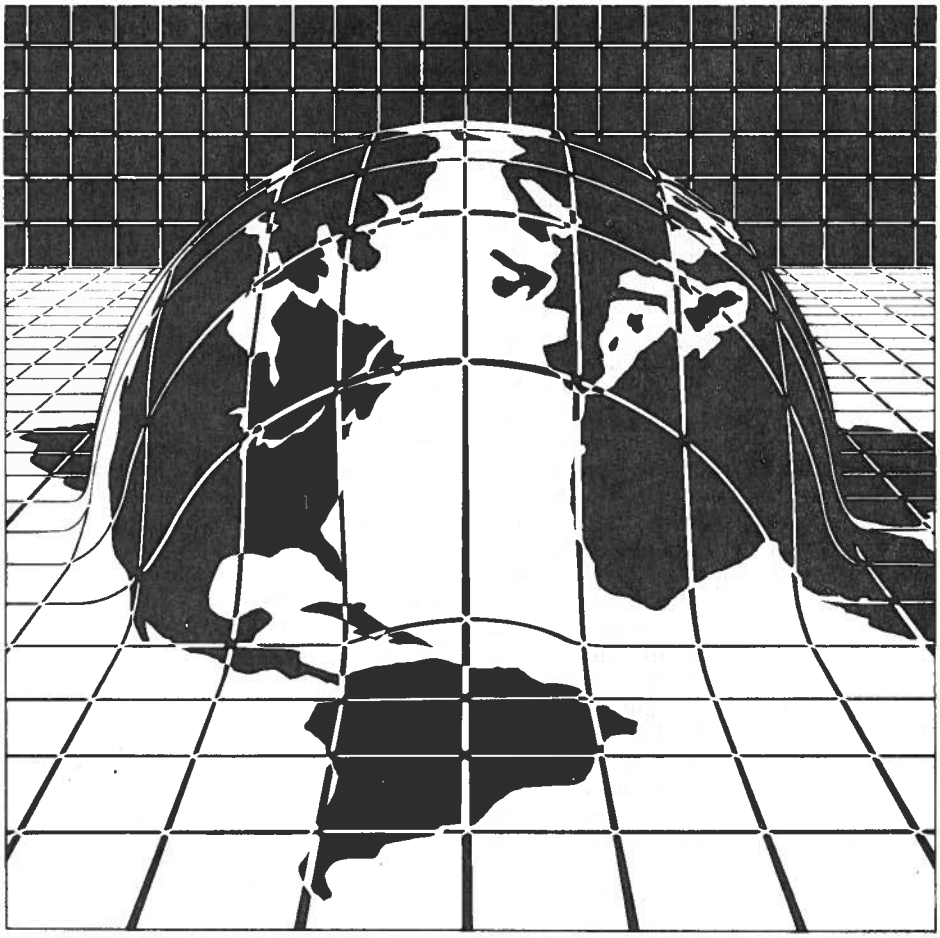
The righteousness that saves us, sanctifies, and glorifies us is always in the "doing and dying" of Christ and is manifested in the believer only as he accepts his position in Christ. . . .

Do you see the utter impossibility of you or me adding to that standing? Paul said in Galatians 2:20, 21: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

The righteousness that saves us, sanctifies, and glorifies us is always in the "doing and dying" of Christ and is manifested in the believer only as he accepts his position in Christ and is the fruit of salvation. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33.

My prayer as you search this beautiful truth is that it will captivate you and fill you, so you can say with Paul: "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:31-39.

The Great Dragon



By HENRY DERING
Mosbach / Baden, Germany

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44.

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:9.

THE great controversy continues to rage. It is a cosmic battle between good and evil, between Christ and his satanic majesty. As the conflict intensifies, with spellbound interest the universe watches the final outcome. Yes, there will be victors and there will be losers. In the end, Christ will win, and Satan will be defeated. But before his defeat, he will wage all-out war against God's people. Revelation 12:17.

Dear reader, Satan's object is for you to be lost for eternity. He wants you to join forces with him and become a member of his dark, mysterious kingdom of slavery and death.

Characteristics of Satan's organization

1. A worldwide kingdom on earth.
2. Located in every town and city (easy to find).
3. Easy to join (requires no formal education, no talents or special abilities, and no money; all ages are welcome).
4. Operates 24 hours per day, seven days a week; the doors are never closed.
5. Well organized for deadly service; all employees have been skillfully trained at deception and destruction.
6. Very popular and rapidly growing, due to continuous advertising campaigns (large billboards along streets and highways depicting people smoking and drinking; TV programs showing violent and immoral scenes; bright lights flashing to attract attention to nightclubs, taverns, discos, rock concerts and theaters; loud, heavy rhythm music; corrupt books and magazines).

Almost the whole world is under Satan's influence and complete control. Is there any way to resist his attacks? Yes, there is, God's word says: "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Corinthians 2:11. We are well advised to become familiar with his methods and plan of attack.

"There is nothing that the great deceiver fears so much as that we shall become acquainted with his devices." —Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 516. We will examine five specific ways Satan operates to ensnare people.

Device No. 1

Satan suggests that he doesn't exist—that he is a figment of people's imaginations.

Two little boys attended church one day. Walking home together afterward, both were unusually quiet. Finally, one of them turned to the other and said, "I sure did get kinda scared when the preacher was talking about the devil, didn't you?"

"Yeah," the other youngster replied, "But I'm not now."

"Really? How come?"

"Well, I've been thinking about it, and I've figured it all out."

"You have? Whatta you mean?"

"Well," the lad replied in a serious, sober voice, "it's just like the Santa Claus story. The devil will turn out to be your daddy."

Is the devil fact or fiction? In everyday publications, Satan is pictured with a red face, two horns, a long tail, feet like a horse, and a pitchfork to torture countless people in hell. Is this really what he looks like? By no means. Satan is a real being, a fallen angel who was cast out of heaven.

Years ago, Ellen G. White was shown in vision what Satan looks like. "He still bears a kingly form. His features are still noble, for he is an angel fallen. But the expression of his countenance is full of anxiety, care, unhappiness, malice, hate, mischief, deceit and every evil. That brow which was once so noble, I particularly noticed. His forehead commenced from his eyes to recede. I saw that he had so long bent himself to evil that every good quality was debased and

every evil trait was developed. His eyes were cunning, sly and showed great penetration. His frame was large, but the flesh hung loosely about his hands and face. As I beheld him, his chin was resting upon his left hand. He appeared to be in deep thought. A smile was upon his countenance, which made me tremble, it was so full of evil and satanic slyness. This smile is the one he wears just before he makes sure of his victim, and as he fastens the victim in his snare, this smile grows horrible." —*Early Writings*, pp. 152, 153.

Have you met him in this form? Most likely you have not. He works in a very extraordinary, undercover manner. He doesn't come to your home and say, "Good morning, ma'am. I am the devil. I've come to tempt you." Or, "Good afternoon, sir. Glad to meet you here in this office. I've come to deceive you. Hope you'll follow my advice and cheat your customers today." On the contrary, Satan comes as a friend or an angel of light. "And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11:14. Coming in this manner, he does not appear repulsive or frightening. He is much more likely to be accepted. To succeed, Satan uses ministers of unrighteousness and even so-called "reformers of the third angel's message." A so-called believer can be a very effective instrument in the enemy's hands. Read carefully the following words: "The worst enemies we have are those who are trying to destroy the influence of the watchmen upon the walls of Zion." —Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 294. This can be done through slander, negative criticism, or gossip.

Device No. 2

Satan does not want us to know and understand the truth for today.

"Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth and to cause them to waver." —*Early Writings*, p. 43. Present truth means the third angel's message as found in Revelation 14. This message encompasses Christ Our Righteousness, justification by faith, obedience and all kindred truths. It is the enemy's plan to keep you ignorant of the plan of salvation. One way is to prevent the gospel from reaching you. What are some examples of how this is done?

1. You are kept from attending church services.

2. When you do come to church, Satan may try to control circumstances so the message is not fully heard. This can happen in many ways. A baby may cry for a minute or two—just enough to distract you and prevent you from hearing some important, saving truth you need. Another distraction is when you are called out of the sanctuary to answer a telephone call. Or while the Sabbath school lesson is proceeding, a friend may speak to you about some matter, thus drawing your mind away from spiritual matters. These are just a few ways you are prevented from hearing God's word.

"Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the . . . Scriptures will be overcome."

Device No. 3

Don't confess your sins.

Satan will try to suggest that you are too unworthy for Jesus to forgive you. Your sins are too many and too great, and therefore Jesus will not listen to your prayers for forgiveness. How can you respond to such negative suggestions? Let me give you an answer through an interesting dream Martin Luther had.

One day the devil came into Martin Luther's room with a long piece of paper. All the sins Luther had committed were listed on it. They were held up to him.

Satan asked, "Did you commit these sins?"

"Yes," was the reply.

Satan further questioned Luther, "Then, what hope is there for you?"

Luther hung his head and felt discouraged. But then he noticed that the devil was keeping his hand over something in the corner of the long sheet of paper.

"What is under your hand? Take your hand away. Let me see what you're hiding."

Written in red ink, he read, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." Yes, the devil will keep his hand over that verse. He doesn't want you to see it and be saved.

My dear fellow pilgrim, through the blood of Jesus Christ we can be forgiven of all our sins. That is wonderful news! Christ will forgive us, but only if we confess our sins. Satan doesn't want you to ask the Saviour for forgiveness. It is a device of his satanic majesty.

Don't wait to come to Jesus and ask Him for pardon. There is hope for you and me.

Device No. 4

Don't pray, and don't study the Bible.

"Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures will be overcome by his attacks." —Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 519.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5:39. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

"But He said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." Luke 11:28.

"O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come." Psalm 65:2.

"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend." —Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 93.

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41.

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

"Continuing instant in prayer." Romans 12:12.

"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." Mark 13:33, 37.

Device No. 5

Don't get ready for the second coming of Jesus. There is plenty of time to prepare.

This is a great deception. Satan knows that Jesus will return to earth very soon. He has studied the Bible and understands that this world cannot continue much longer. Look at the economic crisis in the Third World countries. See the racial tensions, the religious confusion, the explosive conditions in the Middle East, the increase of crime, and the political upheavals. Look how the Balkan countries have opened their doors to receive the gospel.

Today everything seems to be falling apart and about to explode. What a sinful world we live in. Jesus must return soon. There is little time left for Christ to impart His righteous, holy character to us. Luther said, "When the devil comes knocking on the door of my heart and asks, 'Who lives here?' Jesus goes to the door and says, 'Martin Luther used to live here, but he has moved out. Now I live here.' "

Who lives in your heart. Is it self or Jesus Christ? With Jesus living in you, you will be able to resist Satan's devices and be victorious. When we do this, we can be sure that his satanic majesty cannot come into our lives. Only one master can live in us—Christ or Satan. Let it be Jesus Christ, the Victor!

A Few Thoughts about ISLAM

By ANDREW BARASH
Bronx, New York

ON the corner of Fulton and Bedford, in Brooklyn, New York, a large white sign leans against an old brick wall, nudging passersby with its looming black letters: "Read Qur'an, God's last revelation." The door just beside it leads into a mosque (that is, a Muslim house of worship), where one taps into a worldwide religious community called Islam. There are between 350,000,000 and 700,000,000 (according to some authorities) Muslims in the world today, all "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." Ephesians 2:12.

Since our work is international, we cannot ignore the existence of this enormous segment of the human family. And still more, we cannot avoid it, even here in the West. We constantly encounter Muslims. We work beside them; we go to school with them; they are our doctors, mechanics and, frequently, our friends. But while the Muslim is always our neighbor (Luke 10:29-37), rarely does he become our brother in the faith. Perhaps Muslins, as a people, have been too distant from us, from our understanding, from our compassion.

It was hoped that a short series of articles about Islam would provide us with some tools with which we may more effectively reach its people. With this in view, I was committed to learn as much as I could about Islam and report my findings to you, my spiritual family. I began this project with an interview with a Muslim who, I believed, would accurately convey Muslim tenets.

Entering the mosque, I was greeted by a young man donned in a white draping tunic and sitting at a small desk. Looking at me with apparent curiosity, he asked, "What can I do for you, my brother." I wondered if he felt as peculiar about calling me his "brother" as I did. However, I told him who I was and asked to see Abdul Malic.

"Is he expecting you?"

"Yes, I have an appointment with him."

"Have a seat and I'll page him."

Just then, a large, empty white room with well trafficked green carpet caught my attention. Fearing that I might be curious enough to step in, the man—shoulder and neck still squeezing the phone receiver—asked me to remove my shoes first. Preferring to keep my shoes on, I just looked in. The tightly twined carpet came all the way up to the far side of the desk, leaving a very small tiled section for people like me to wait in. Just then a very energetic young man, clad in army fatigues and socks, briskly walked across the green carpet and greeted me. "Are you Andrew Barash?"

"I am," I said, standing up.

He extended his hand, "I'm Abdul Malic." As we shook hands, he said, "Take your shoes off and come to the back."

After placing my wingtips on a wooden rack, alongside several other pairs of shoes, I followed him across the green carpet into another tiled section where there was a row of several small offices. He led me into one, sat behind a desk and motioned courteously for me to take a seat. "Now, what is it that I can do for you?" he asked, leaning back in his swivel chair.

I told him I was engaged in writing an article about Islam and hoped that he could supply me with some basic information about the religion.

Abdul, who was converted to Islam at age 14, was straightforward and very helpful. Having gone to Mecca on a scholarship, he became well versed on the Qur'an and its original tongue, Arabic. Before citing any passage to me in English, he always recited it in Arabic first, thus demonstrating his mastery over the religion he loved.

Noticing that Abdul frequently glanced at his watch, I asked him if he were in a hurry. "Oh, we have about an hour," he said. "At 12:00 p.m. I will have to join my brothers in prayer." It was Friday. At the noon hour the green carpeted shrine would be peopled with worshiping devotees of Allah. Friday is a special day in Islam. On that day Muslims congregate for prayer and a reading from the Qur'an. Though it is not kept in the same way we keep the Sabbath, Friday remains preeminent among the other days of the week.

Realizing that he would have to begin with the very ABCs of Islam, Abdul primed me with two fundamental definitions. "Islam," he said, "means 'submission,' or 'surrender.' It refers to the worldwide community of Muslims."

"What is the difference between the terms 'Islam' and 'Muslim'?" I asked.

"Really they mean the same thing," he said, apparently appreciating the question. "Islam means submission to God, and a Muslim is simply 'one who is submitted to God.' " Abdul hastened to add that there is no difference between their God, Allah, and ours. Allah is simply His Arabic name, signifying "The God." "However," he added, "we Muslims believe in the oneness of God."

When Abdul said, "We Muslims," he meant, "we Muslims in contrast with you Christians." He was conveying that the Muslim expression "oneness of God" conflicts with the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. To emphasize this position, Abdul recited what, I suppose, is the Muslim's most crucial creedal statement: "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is His Prophet." It struck me that Muhammad should share

an equal mention with Allah in this paramount expression of Islamic principle. It made me wonder what status Muhammad held in Islam. So I asked Abdul what he thought of Muhammad.

"He was Allah's last prophet," Abdul said. Then, lest I should get the idea that Muslims worship Muhammad as we do Christ, he quickly interjected, "But he was merely a man, no different than myself." (For this reason, the Muslim objects to being called a Mohammadan, as though Muhammad occupied the same distinction that Christ holds in Christianity. In other words, Muhammad is not the reason for Islam; he was simply its messenger, or prophet. Christians, on the other hand, accept being named after Christ because He is, as the Bible says, "worthy." Revelation 5:9.)

Muhammad's importance in Islam is argued on the grounds of his role as the prophet through whom Allah revealed what would become the Qur'an (Arabic: recitation).

Having expressed his resolute confidence in the flawlessness of the Qur'an as a letter by letter document of God's (Allah's) words to His prophet, Abdul continued to outline some of the Quran's teachings.

He repeated his belief in *one* God, who has "absolutely no associate with Him in His divinity." He mentioned his belief in God's angels. He stated his belief that the Qur'an is God's last book and that Muhammad is his final messenger. Finally, Abdul said that Islam believes in life after death. "These," he said, "make up the bedrock of Islam." I took that to mean that if one would agree with these tenets, he would be accepted into the Muslim community.

Having finished our session together, I was given a Qur'an to study for myself. As we returned across the green carpet, there were already more than a dozen worshippers of Allah, some of whom were prostrate on the carpet. Abdul offered to find my shoes. During a frustrating search among the many shoes that had accumulated since my arrival, Abdul said, turning to me, "May I ask you a question before you go?"

"Of course!" I replied. I noticed that he had a pair of shoes in his hand that were not mine.

With an earnest I had not yet heard, he asked, "If you were to believe that what I am saying is true, would you become a Muslim?"

Touched by his sincerity, I responded, "Abdul, you said that a Muslim is one who has surrendered, or submitted to God. When Jesus told me to take up my cross and follow Him, I submitted to Him, because I loved the truth. . . . Incidentally," I continued, "those are not my shoes."

"Oh, what do yours look like?"

"Black wingtips," I answered. "I have been wearing the exact same style for fifteen years."

"Well," he said, handing me my pavement worn shoes, "I guess you answered my question."

We shook hands and I left—with a green Qur'an under my arm.

Islam has a lot to say to our world. Its history has reshaped the world's geography and values. Islam boldly proclaims a monotheistic religion with an uncompromisingly high morality. On the negative side, Islam has a lot to say about Christ that is not true. His followers are said to be deceived by a Bible whose manuscripts have been altered and a doctrine that violates monotheistic beliefs.

In the next two articles in this series we will explore Islamic tenets that are instructive and others that are destructive. Comparative beliefs between Islam and Christianity will be compared and contrasted. In the final article, we shall have to defend our position against certain arguments that Islam urges that undermine Christian beliefs. I pray for objectivity and fairness.

The Spider

ON A HOT SUMMER DAY, a gentleman sat down to think over a subject on which his mind was greatly troubled. He was wondering how it was that so many of his acquaintances had yielded to temptation and been destroyed. He was wondering how the great tempter could so soon get them entangled in his nets and never let them loose again until they were ruined.

While he was thinking over the subject, he saw a worm moving softly along in the footpath. He moved quietly and without fear. "Now," said the gentleman to himself, "that poor worm can go safely, though it has no reason to guide it. There lies in wait no destroyer to entangle it, while our young men, with reason and conscience, are destroyed by scores!"

Just then he saw a spider cross the path about a foot in front of the worm. She did not appear to be thinking of the worm, nor the worm of her. When she got quite across the path she stopped and stood still. The worm kept on, but soon was brought to a stand by a small cord, too small for our eyes to see, which the spider had spun as she rushed before him. Finding himself stopped, the worm turned to go back. The instant he turned back, back darted the spider, spinning a new cord behind her. The poor worm was now brought up a second time, and twisted and turned every way to escape. He seemed now to suspect some mischief, for he ran this way and that way, and every time he turned the spider darted around him, weaving another rope.

There gradually was no space left for him, except in the direction of the hole of the spider. That was left open, but on all other sides, by darting across or around, the space was gradually growing less. It was noticed, too, that every time the worm turned toward the hole of the spider, he was instantly hemmed in, so that he could not go back quite so far as before. So his very agony continually brought him nearer the place of death.

It took a full hour to do all this, and by that time the worm was brought close to the hole of the destroyer. He now seemed to feel that he was helpless, and if he could have screamed, he doubtless would have done so. And now the spider eyed him a moment, as if enjoying his terror, and laughing at her own skill, and then darted on him, and struck him with her fangs. Instantly the life began to flow out. Again she struck him, and the poor thing rolled over in agony and died.

Mrs. Spider now hitched one of her little ropes to her victim and drew him into her hole, where she feasted at her leisure, perhaps counting over the number of poor victims whom she had destroyed in the same way before.

When I see one disregarding his father and mother, and doing what he knows will grieve them;

When I see one occasionally going to the oyster cellar, and to the drinking saloon, in company;

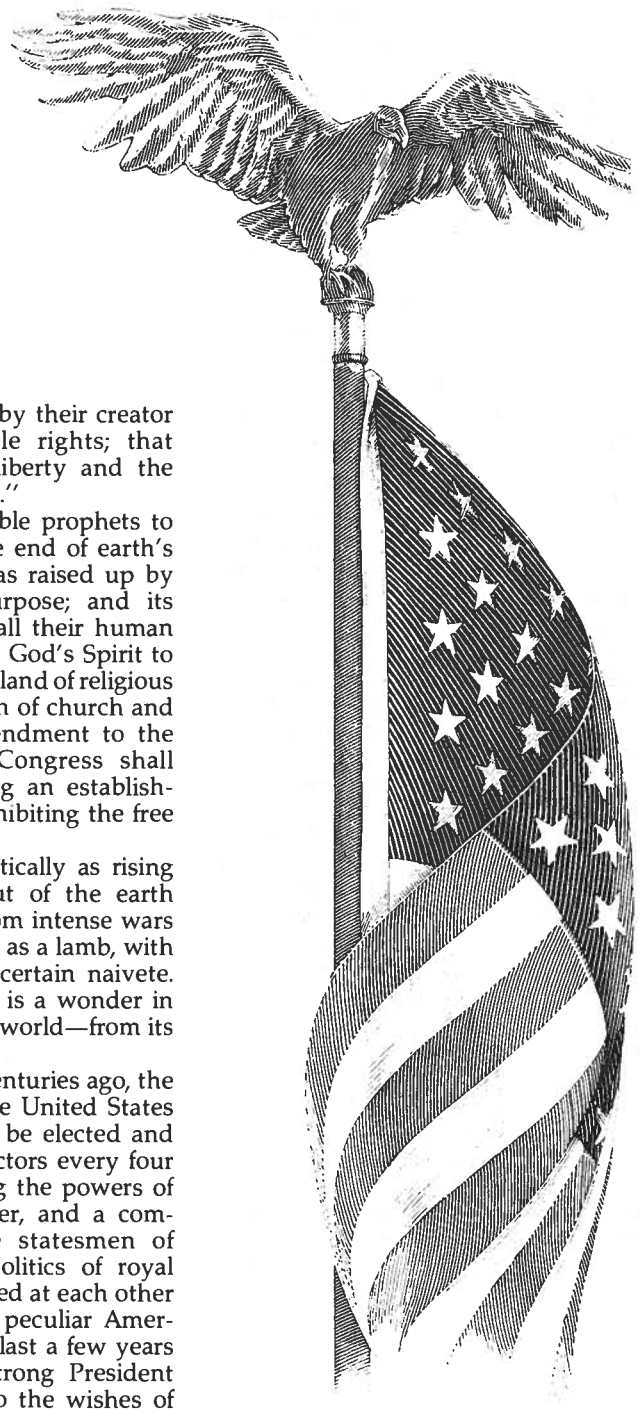
When I see one going to the theater, where nothing good, but all evil, is displayed;

When I have reason to suspect that he takes money from his father or his employer, which is none of his, but which he hopes to replace—

Why, I always think of the spider and her victim, and mourn that the great destroyer is weaving his meshes about every such boy, and is drawing them toward his own awful home!

—Scrapbook Stories from Ellen G. White Scrapbooks, *1949, Pacific Press Publishing Assn.*

A Nation of Destiny



By MONIKA DEMAREST
Sacramento, California

> *"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."* —Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America, September 17, 1787.

WITH these words was started the great experiment known as the United States of America—an experiment quite unlike any tried before. Based on concepts borrowed from previous governments, such as the theory of democracy from ancient Greece and the equitable legal system from Britain, this country started with the intention of being a just government under God, a refuge for persecuted, beleaguered, dispossessed people of all nations. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" These are some of the words of a poem by Emma Lazarus engraved at the base of the Statue of Liberty.

While America's forefathers wanted a country which incorporated all the best principles from previous governments, they were even more determined to avoid the evils of despots and the mistakes made by others. They wanted a land without a king and a church without a pope. The democracy of ancient Greece was too unwieldy, so the United States became a republic, allowing its citizens each an individual voice and thereby avoiding the bottleneck of a true democracy. They were so afraid of tyranny in its manifest forms that in their attempt to free themselves from the ruling tyrannical government, they signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, showing their intentions—"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; . . ."

Prophesied by the Bible prophets to play a major role at the end of earth's history, this country was raised up by God for a specific purpose; and its founding fathers, with all their human failings, were moved by God's Spirit to fulfill this purpose. It is a land of religious freedom, with separation of church and state, as the First Amendment to the Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; . . ."

It is depicted prophetically as rising relatively peacefully out of the earth rather than resulting from intense wars of conquest; as innocent as a lamb, with good intentions and a certain naivete. Its form of government is a wonder in the entire history of the world—from its inception until today.

"When created two centuries ago, the office of President of the United States was unique—a ruler to be elected and to be judged by his electors every four years; a ruler combining the powers of a king, a prime minister, and a commanding general. The statesmen of Europe, wise in the politics of royal courts, knowingly winked at each other and predicted that the peculiar American experiment would last a few years at the most—that a strong President would refuse to bow to the wishes of the electors and would make himself king for life, or that a weak President would be cast out of office by revolution before his four years were up. They were wrong. . . ." —David G. Whitney, *The American Presidents.*

The United States was raised by God to fulfill a specific destiny. In fact, the founding fathers believed they were fulfilling a manifest destiny, and they performed their duty as they saw it, often at personal cost to themselves. Thomas Jefferson referred to the office of President as a "splendid misery." The country has been a bastion of religious and human rights for the past 200 years, and in spite of its own turmoils has continued to be the symbol of freedom to the whole world—a haven for persecuted people of all nations. Its government has proven to be as perfect a government as is possible in an imperfect world.

But people will be people, times change, and so does thinking. Freedom has certain obligations and responsibilities which not all people realize. Even though founded on the basis that all men are created equal, not all people have been treated equally. Prior to 1865, one half of the country owned the other half.

Invitation

American Union Conference

Friday, July 5, to Monday, July 8, 1991
Camp Sugar Pine
Oakhurst, California

TIME is short, and we do not know how many more precious conference seasons there will be on this earth. But now is the time to make plans to attend the special American Union convocation which occurs only once every two years.

Many new faces are seen at present in the territory covered by the American Union—Canada, the U.S., and several islands in the Caribbean. We would like to extend a special invitation to those who have never attended a conference before. You will have a chance to meet and share with brothers and sisters from all walks of life who have made deep personal experiences.

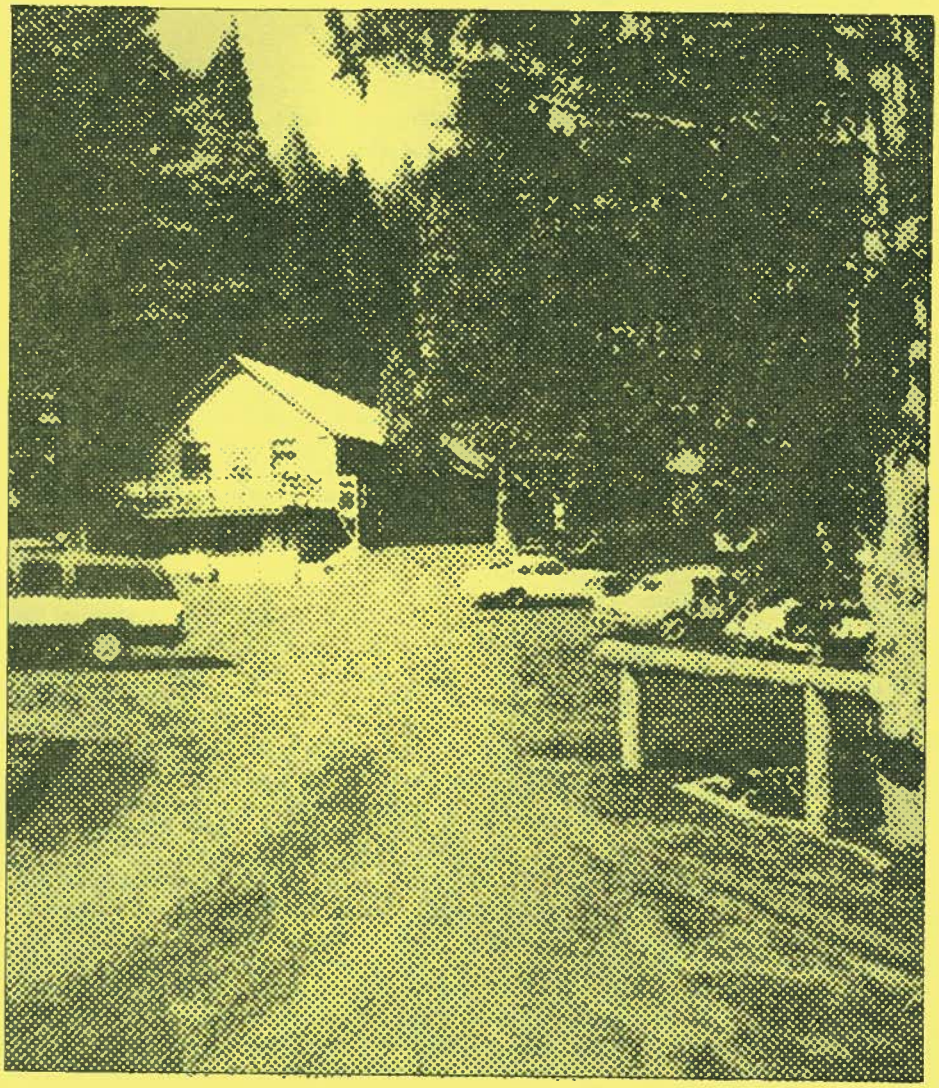
Those of you who know the joy of these conferences no doubt still today have very special memories as you look back to conferences held in past years. There have been sorrows, as well, for some we were very close to no longer walk beside us, for one one reason or another; but our walk with God on this earth is made rich by everything we have passed through, for we know that every experience has been provided by Him for a definite reason.

This coming conference will be very special, for it is being held at a time when changes are occurring rapidly all over the globe. Certainly God wants His people to come into closer unity than has ever been experienced before. Furthermore, it is time for the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit in His fulness. What work does God still need to do to prepare us for what lies ahead? All over the world, an urgency is being felt in the gospel work—and each of us has a part in it. This conference will be a major stepping stone in helping to establish our individual relationship with God as well as our unity with each other.

"The camp meeting is one of the most important agencies in our work. It is one of the most effective methods of arresting the attention of the people and reaching all classes with the gospel invitation. The time in which we live is a time of intense excitement. Ambition and war, pleasure and money-making, absorb the minds of men. Satan sees that his time is short, and he has set all his agencies at work, that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced, until probation shall be ended and the door of mercy be forever shut. . . . In our work we have been perplexed to know how to break through the barriers of worldliness and prejudice, and bring before the people the precious truth which means so much to them. The Lord has instructed us that the camp meeting is one of the most important instrumentalities for the accomplishment of this work. . . .

"They are to promote spiritual life among our own people. The world in its wisdom knows not God. The world cannot see the beauty, the loveliness, the goodness, the holiness of divine truth. And in order that men may understand this, there must be a channel through which it shall come to the world. The church has been constituted that channel. Christ reveals Himself to us that we may reveal Him to others. Through His people are to be manifested the riches and glory of His unspeakable gift. . . .

"It is important that the members of our churches should attend our camp



meetings. The enemies of truth are many; and because our numbers are few, we should present as strong a front as possible. Individually you need the benefits of the meeting, and God calls upon you to number one in the ranks of truth.

"Some will say: 'It is expensive to travel, and it would be better for us to save the money and give it for the advancement of the work where it is so much needed.' Do not reason in this way; God calls upon you to take your place among the rank and file of His people. Strengthen the meeting all you possibly can by being present with your families. Put forth extra exertion to attend the gathering of God's people.

"Brethren and sisters, it would be far better for you to let your business suffer than to neglect the opportunity of hearing the message God has for you. Make no excuse that will keep you from gaining every spiritual advantage possible. You need every ray of light. You need to become qualified to give a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. You cannot afford to lose one such privilege. . . .

"None of us should go to the camp meeting depending on the ministers or the Bible workers to make the meeting a blessing to us. God does not want His people to hang their weight on the minister. He does not want them to be weakened by depending on human beings for help. They are not to lean, like helpless children, upon someone else as a prop. As a steward of the grace of God, every church member should feel personal responsibility to have life and root in himself. Each one should feel that in a measure the success of the meeting depends upon him." —Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 31, 32, 38, 39, 41.

Camp Sugar Pine

The conference location is approximately seven miles from the south entrance of beautiful Yosemite National Park, at an elevation of 4,200 feet. The Mariposa Redwood Grove is about five miles further within the park, containing one of the finest stands of giant sequoias outside Sequoia National Park, some more than 200 feet tall and one with a 34.7-foot base!

Check-in time on Friday, July 5, is 3:00 p.m., and we will need to leave the camp by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 8.

Camp facilities / lodging

The chapel at Camp Sugar Pine accommodates about 250 people. There are also separate meeting rooms.

The following recreational activities are available: Hiking, horseback riding, basketball, volleyball, swimming and horseshoes.

Facilities includes Cedar Lodge Dormitory, which has 8 rooms of 6 bunks and 1 lower bunk, with restrooms and showers; some cabins with 5 bunks per cabin and restrooms; and other cabins with no restrooms. There are separate restrooms containing showers.

Please bring your own linens and blankets, towels and washcloths, soap and personal effects, Bibles, lessons, musical instruments and special music.

Be sure to send your reservation in early, as the best lodging facilities will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis—and some are definitely preferable to others.

Send your reservation form (one per person) to: Ruth Jennings, 6509 Sutter Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608, phone (916) 944-1850, evenings.

For questions, contact: Dorothy Demarest, 13236 Purves Road, Herald, CA 95638, phone (209) 748-5605.

For those not desiring to stay at the camp, there are motels in Oakhurst as follows:

Days Inn, (209) 642-2525
Sky Ranch, (209) 683-4433

These are fairly expensive. Please call them directly and get your reservations in early.

Cost

There is a choice of two rate packages:

2 nights/5 meals
(Friday dinner-Sunday breakfast)

Ages 2-5	$16.13
Ages 6-11	$29.56
Over 12 (Adult)	$53.75

3 nights/8 meals
(Friday dinner-Monday breakfast)

Ages 2-5	$23.55
Ages 6-11	$43.18
Over 12 (Adult)	$78.50

Should you wish meals only, the cost will be prorated. You will be given a colored band to wear on your wrist indicating which plan you have chosen.

Directions

From the south: Take Highway 99 north to Fresno. In Fresno, take State Highway 41 north toward Yosemite National Park and follow it to Oakhurst (approximately 47 miles). Proceed through Oakhurst. Approximately 10 miles beyond Oakhurst, you will come around a wide curve to the right and you will see a green road sign that says, "Sugar Pine." Take the road off to the right just past this sign and follow the signs back into the camp—approximately 2 miles.

From the north: Take Highway 99 north to Merced. From Merced, take State Highway 140 east toward Yosemite National Park until you get to the town of Mariposa (about 66 miles). Just before entering Mariposa, turn right to State Highway 49 and follow it to Oakhurst. In Oakhurst, go north on State Highway 41 approximately 10 miles. You will come around a wide curve to the right and see a green road sign that says, "Sugar Pine." Take the road off to the right just past this sign and follow the signs back into the camp—approximately 2 miles.

If you are flying: Fly into the Fresno Airport—phone (209) 498-4095.

Shuttle service

Arrangements have been made with Yosemite Gray Lines for shuttle service to Oakhurst. Indicate on your reservation form if you desire to take the shuttle. Whichever day you choose to arrive, be sure you are at the airport no later than 12:30 p.m., as the shuttle bus leaves at 2:00 p.m., arriving in Oakhurst at 3:20, where you will be picked up. The shuttle backs up to the baggage area at the airport and announces its service.

To plan for your return flight, the shuttle picks up at 9:30 a.m. in Oakhurst and arrives at the airport at about 11:00 a.m., so your flight should be scheduled for 12:30 p.m. or later.

The shuttle price is $6.00 one way, $12.00 round trip.

Dress guidelines

Women and girls are asked not to wear shorts or bikinis; please wear culottes or modest pants for recreation only. Men are likewise asked not to wear shorts. May our dress and behavior serve the living God with respect and be a blessing to others.

Reservations

Please send in one reservation form for each person attending the conference. Remember, the sooner you mail it in, the better accommodations you will get! The deadline for reservations is June 5, 1991.

Delegates' meetings

The Amerian Union delegates will begin their meetings at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 3, 1991, at the church in Sacramento, California. The secretaries of the Fields are asked to submit certification of the delegates and all proposals from the Fields to the Union to Union Secretary Andrew Barash, 88-27 Ransom Street, Bellerose Manor, NY 11427, by May 15, 1991. Copies of the proposals will then be sent to each delegate for prayerful consideration prior to the meetings.

May God bless you in all your plans for this blessed convocation. We look forward to seeing you!

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH REFORM MOVEMENT

AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE RESERVATION

CAMP SUGAR PINE • OAKHURST, CALIFORNIA • JULY 5-8, 1991

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ ☐ MARRIED ☐ SINGLE

Traveling by: ☐ Car ☐ Bus ☐ Train ☐ Plane AGE: _____

If flying: Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____ Airline: _____ Flight #: _____

Shuttle: Please reserve a shuttle seat ☐ Round trip ($12.00)
☐ From airport to Oakhurst ($6.00) ☐ To airport from Oakhurst ($6.00)

Please reserve the following accommodations/meals for me:

(Check one only)	3 NIGHTS/8 MEALS	2 NIGHTS/5 MEALS
Age 2-5	☐ $23.55	☐ $16.13
Age 6-11	☐ $43.18	☐ $29.56
Adult	☐ $78.50	☐ $53.75
Meals Only	Prorated by age	Prorated by age

MAIL THIS RESERVATION FORM (ONE FOR EACH PERSON) TO:
Ruth Jennings, 6509 Sutter Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608
Phone (916) 944-1850 (evenings)
RESERVATION DEADLINE: June 5, 1991

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As a result, the entire nation was wracked by a bloody Civil War which pitted brother against brother and state against state. Since the Civil War, several wars have been fought, and many political mistakes have been made.

By and large, God has richly blessed this land, not only with freedom, initiative and talent, but also with temporal prosperity. God has had His hand not only in the making of this country but also in its preservation.

Benjamin Franklin, one of the primary movers and shakers in the new republic, is credited with saying: "We give you your republic, if you can keep it." There is the problem. Can the people keep it?

It has been said that those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it. History is replete with examples of prosperous countries whose people, through lack of education, love of ease and pleasure, or sheer arrogance, lost their country. The most notable of these was the great Roman Empire. As long as the people had a vision and were committed, willing to discipline themselves, eager to be educated, hard working, with moral values upheld by the society at large, and were moral and basic in their beliefs, they were able to build a great empire. But by the time Rome was destroyed, a process which took years, the people's primary interest was to eat, drink and be merry. It seems that the citizens of the great United States are repeating that history.

We are in the middle of another civil war. This war also is pitting brother against brother, husband against wife, and state against state. And, in its own way, this war is just as bloody. The victims in this war are the unborn and the women who murder them. This is the new Nazism—promoted by "femi-nazis" (a term coined by popular talk show host Rush Limbaugh to describe the feminist agenda, the ultimate test of which seems to be killing your unborn child) and other special interest groups.

This country is still in the fighting stage, with a great deal of emotion present on both sides of the issue. Some countries have already given up and admitted defeat, and have accepted not only the killing of the unborn but its corollary—killing the elderly (known as mercy killing). If the great United States loses this civil war of right to life versus quality of life, we can expect all kinds of additional legislated murder. If the unborn can continue to be killed simply because they are an inconvenience (as is presently the case), the next step would be to kill useless and terminally ill elderly people (as is now being done routinely in some European countries, supposedly with the victims' consent; even though these elderly folks are not killed without their consent, there is a lot of social pressure on them to give such consent; they become a burden to society and know it, therefore they feel it is their duty to give their consent).

What will then protect children born with birth defects, mental or physical, and those born with terminal illnesses, such as AIDS babies, and drug addicted babies with poor prognosis? From that step, it would be just another small step to kill undesirable people, such as the poor, the homeless, and others who are burdens on society. Then it would not be unreasonable, *a la* Adolf Hitler, to kill those whose thinking is "politically incorrect.". By the way, the term "politically incorrect" thinking is already being used as a protest against companies which contribute to causes not in current vogue with the intelligentsia.

The holocaust in Germany did not reach full force suddenly. It was built step by step. The U.S. is presently following that course. When the concept of "quality of life" wins out over the "right to life," it is just a matter of relativism. And besides, who will judge what "quality" is acceptable in life? Where will the line be drawn?

In addition to fighting this civil war, this nation is also in the middle of a cultural war. The political and secular pendulum has swung from the one extreme of the last century in condoning slavery to the other extreme of giving societal acceptance to all kinds of perverted behavior. Homosexuality, according to some psychologists, is not a perversion but just another aspect of normal sexual behavior. This should not be a surprise to Bible students—after all, the Scriptures say the world before Christ's coming will be just like Sodom and Gomorrah. The ones considered perverted are those who disapprove of homosexuality and condemn its practice; supposedly they have a disease—*homophobia.* The traditional family, which is defined as a group of people living together who are related by marriage or birth, is in the process of being destroyed in favor of forming new families composed of everyone who chooses to live together for whatever period of time.

In the last decade of this century, beliefs, social customs, and institutions which have served mankind well for millennia, are being eliminated one by one. People with strange beliefs and doctrines who have always been on the fringes of society are now attempting to gain acceptance and make their views accepted by the mainstream of society.

Everything that has been designed by God, or has been learned by past experience, is now being systematically destroyed. Marriage, one of the two institutions which remain with us from the time of creation, has been methodically chipped away with the hammer and chisel of the press. The rules God gave to guard the sanctity of marriage, preserve the health of society, insure the proper rearing of children, and protect the human race from its own excesses, have been pretty nearly overthrown.

The rules God gave to guard the sanctity of marriage, . . . and protect the human race from its own excesses, have been pretty nearly overthrown.

At least half of all marriages end in divorce; according to some statistics, 50 percent of both partners in a marriage relationship have been unfaithful to each other at least once; and efforts are being made by the powers that be to have children raised by state-run child care centers. Even the tax structure is slanted against families.

Moral purity and virginity, which were once considered very valuable, are now often ridiculed publicly. Is it any wonder that venereal diseases are rampant; new, incurable diseases such as AIDS arise; and teenage pregnancy and abortion are legion? The words of the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 were never more true than they are today: "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." There is not a more fitting description anywhere of this "Christian" nation in the latter half of the 20th century.

This country was founded by statesmen—great and noble men who were willing to give of their time and wealth so the country could prosper. Today, instead of statesmen, we have politicians—men and women whose entire career is politics and who are rewarded with wealth leeched from the hard-earned income of the citizens of the country, politicians who are feeders at the public trough. Many of these politicians are so out of touch with the common people that they almost live on a different planet! Humorist Will Rogers once joked that whenever Congress was in session, no man's money or property was safe. Unfortunately, this is no joke.

Children of yesterday were taught in schools—including public schools—about heroes of the nation. It is true that such heroes were not perfect; they were sinners like everyone else. But these great men of the past were worthy of respect for the good they did and the way they shaped the country. Today, it seems American children have no real heroes. Revisionist history teaches that the heroes of yesteryear were evil people who did the country a great disservice.

Instead of admiring men and women of principle, today's children have anti-heroes, such as comic book characters, entertainers, sports figures and people who do what they feel like, despite the cost to society. Some of these are decent individuals and worthy of respect, but the majority only send an evil message to our young people. Even criminals are portrayed as heroes, and their wicked deeds are recounted and immortalized in books and made-for-TV movies.

People whose behavior has been such that, if in years past it became public knowledge, their reputations and careers would be ruined are now looked up to as role models. Even as short a time as 30 years ago, there were serious questions as to whether a man who was divorced could be elected President. Actors and actresses whose actions would once make them the scum of the earth are now considered the cream of society, and pages after pages are written about their lifestyles. Even as recently as 10 years ago an actor's seamier side was hidden. Now it is considered quite acceptable for it all to be flaunted in public. The prevailing rage in Hollywood seems to be to live together and have a child without benefit of marriage. Such acceptance of evil is the result of God's law being cast aside by society and replaced by humanism.

"Let the restraint imposed by the divine law be wholly cast aside, and human laws would soon be disregarded. . . . Property would no longer be safe. Men would obtain their neighbor's possessions by violence, and the strongest would become richest. Life itself would not be respected. The marriage vow would no longer stand as a sacred bulwark to protect the family. . . . Children would not shrink from taking the life of their parents if by so doing they could obtain the desire of their corrupt hearts. The civilized world would become a horde of robbers and assassins, and peace, rest, and happiness would be banished from the earth." —Ellen G. White, *Great Controversy*, p. 585.

There must be a conspiracy going on, for the attack on society . . . from all angles appears to be well engineered and orchestrated.

Many people do not believe in conspiracy theories. But it is patently clear that there must be a conspiracy going on, for the attack on society—the U.S. and all others in the world—from all angles appears to be well engineered and orchestrated.

"Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin. The vilest of criminals, when thrown into prison for their offenses, are often made the recipients of gifts and attentions as if they had attained enviable distinctions. Great publicity is given to their character and crimes. The press publishes the revolting details of vice. . . .

"Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain and love of sensual pleasure. . . . Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. . . ." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 585, 586.

According to Revelation 13, the beast representing the United States will speak as a dragon. The country will force the whole world to accept the mark of the beast. We know from the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy that this country will pass laws to compel worship on Sunday, the day which marks the beast's usurpation of power. For that to happen, the devil, who was cast out of heaven, must work to soften the people's minds to desire this.

What would make the people of the United States, who take their freedoms and rights for granted, willing to accept legislation which would restrict their lifestyle? Many factors will no doubt play a role in this, and it could happen as follows.

As more and more people become aware of the surrounding social turmoil, people who claim to be Christians will certainly not stand still but will become increasingly active to fight against humanism and immorality.

"Robert Grant, leader of *Christian Voice*, urged: 'If Christians unite, we can do anything. We can pass any law or any amendment. And that's exactly what we intend to do.' On nationwide TV he declared: 'We can do anything, we can amend the Constitution, we can elect a President. We can change or make any law in the land. . . .' " —A. Jan Marcussen, *National Sunday Law*.

As the family disintegrates, the resultant ills from this destruction are manifold. Children are not being disciplined properly because of the lack of stability in the home; they fail to learn respect for authority from their parents or heroes, and crime is the inevitable result. Criminals are becoming more violent and younger each time statistics are taken, and this is entirely understandable. There is no mystery here. Everywhere children look they see scenes of violence, pornography, drug abuse, and free sex. On one hand, parents are expected to control their children. On

It is a time when every prop that we have ever leaned on will be taken away; and to survive, we must live by faith alone.

the other, if a teenage girl wants to engage in sex or have an abortion, her parents are not allowed, by government mandate, to to do anything about it. These mixed messages are coming through to young people loud and clear.

In addition to society's turmoil, there are also changes in nature. The whole world has been faced with devastating natural disasters—hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, typhoons and floods. The economy is shaky; and as of this printing, the U.S. and close to 30 nations are engaged in a savage Middle East war.

For the last five years, California has been in the midst of a drought. Climatic patterns have changed over the past 10 years all over the globe. Major earthquakes are expected in California, Washington, Alaska, the southern United States, the eastern seaboard, and even the midwest.

At the same time, politicians and people in power are becoming more and more corrupt, and one scandal has followed another. Many savings and loan institutions have closed, banks are failing, and corporations which were once considered rock solid are declaring bankruptcy. The whole society is in turmoil.

Sister White wrote that the Sunday law will happen for two reasons: (1) desire for God to heal the land of its moral corruption, and (2) hope for God to help solve the economic problems.

". . . 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." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 588.

Imagine the possible scenario. The first law to be passed will probably not be too restrictive—just a resolution to advocate going back to church and back to the worship of God. When that doesn't solve the country's problems, the next law could be more restrictive until the final stage when it would be mandatory to honor Sunday and a crime punishable by fine and imprisonment to worship on the seventh-day Sabbath. Then the mark of the beast will be in full force.

The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that the passing of the Sunday law will be a signal for national ruin. —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 977 ("The Law of God Made Void"). She also indicates the possibility of a change of currency. —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 331. What better timing? As the economy, which Sunday legislation was designed to cure, does its final collapse as a result of that very legislation, the Department of the Treasury just might use this opportunity to print new money, theoretically for a good cause. There is already talk about printing new currency in different colors to obtain money stashed away by drug dealers and other big-moneyed criminals. (Donald Regan, member of former President Ronald Reagan's administration, advocates this.) The world will get this new money, but the people of God won't. "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark. . . ." Revelation 13:16.

Of course, this scenario—as all scenarios—is only speculation, since we cannot know the exact way any of these things will happen. The *fact* that this prophecy will happen is not in question—only the *manner* in which it might happen. We are warned repeatedly by God not to lay our treasures up on earth but to lay them up in heaven. ". . . But in the work and cause of God, men are afraid to venture. . . . The very means that is now so sparingly invested in the cause of God, that is selfishly retained, will in a little while be cast with all idols to the moles and to the bats. Money will soon depreciate in value very suddenly when the reality of eternal scenes opens to the senses of man." —Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, p. 63.

This land, which started out so innocently, will roar as a dragon. Many Adventists no longer believe this. But believe it or not, it will happen; and more than likely it will happen in our lifetime. It is also a fearful time to be alive, especially for those who do not have the Lord's shelter. It is a time when every prop that we have ever leaned on will be taken away; and to survive, we must live by faith alone.

"Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fuels the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an *overwhelming surprise*." —Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 28.

What are we doing to prepare for this overwhelming surprise? Are we setting our spiritual house in order? Are we organizing our temporal affairs in such a way that our possessions do not haunt us during the coming time of trouble? More importantly, we have knowledge of what is to come that the world desperately needs. Are we sharing this knowledge, or are we selfishly holding it to ourselves?

"Today, as ye hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Psalm 95:7, 8. This very day we still have religious freedom; we still have peace; we still have grace. We are still in the tarrying time, and we are still on probation. Whatever we are going to do to prepare for the time to come, we can still do today. We still have the opportunity. But will we use this opportunity to advantage? Today becomes tomorrow very quickly. And tomorrow may be too late.

May it please the Lord that we wake up out of our sleep and watch the signs of the times—a road map with which we can check the progress of our arrival at God's kingdom. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Revelation 22:20.

Praying for Trouble

The following prayer was prayed by an Ethiopian at Soddu, Walamo, Ethiopia: *"Almighty God, from the depth of my heart I plead with Thee to send us trouble. When our king was exiled we were in much trouble with the foreign [Italian] rulers. We had to meet in secret and were in constant danger of our lives. That was the time when we worked in harmony with our fellow Christians.*

"Many a night after I had locked my door and gone to bed, tired from a day's long journey of preaching and teaching, there came a persistent knocking. Lord, how I wanted to sleep, and surely but they wouldn't want to be baptized at night and be hunted and chased and put in prison and beaten, but they said they had seen the Christian's joy and they too wanted that religion. Every night there were more and more.

"We read Thy Word and talked about it and prayed through the nights. We shared our joy in the Lord. We worked side by side with only one desire, to preach and teach the Gospel. Then, Lord, our king came back. The foreign rulers were forced to leave our country. . . .

"We have peace in our land. We baptize in the daytime. We are not beaten. We meet and pray, yes, but we are beginning to grow careless in our zeal for Thee. Jealousies creep in and spoil the harmony. Petty troubles take on in large meetings. We are selfish in our ambitions. Dear Lord, send us more trouble, I pray Thee, that we may forget ourselves and be so dependent on Thee that we have no time to become selfish and jealous of our fellow Christians. For Jesus' sake. Amen."

—Grace Robinson

The Last Gasp of the Family ?

By MICHAEL ALFORD
Sacramento, California

GOD has special ways of doing things—ways which are especially suited for His creation, ways which men often follow unwittingly and unknowingly. One of these ways is the seven-day cycle which includes the Sabbath.

Besides the Sabbath, there was one other institution originated by God at creation that was brought out of the garden of Eden after man's fall—marriage.

God has a special plan for the organization of human life, a way to provide continuity and closeness, a way to take care of the most basic and important human needs from one end of this mortal life to the next—and this plan is the family.

The family is so important to the nurture of the human race that God Himself wants us to regard Him as our Father. When Christ taught His disciples how to pray, He instructed them to call upon their Father in heaven. Ephesians 3:15 tells us that it is *this* Father "of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

In Jeremiah 31:1, God Himself declares: "At the same time . . . will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people."

It was God who created and designed the family. It was God who originated the marriage relationship. These two institutions are not just some clever attempts at social engineering devised by man. Without really knowing and understanding, mankind has for centuries accepted these institutions and centered their lives around them. They have enjoyed and benefited from the blessings of the marriage relationship and the family, perhaps without even knowing, or acknowledging, the Source.

God established the family for our benefit, for our nurturing and enjoyment, and for our emotional and spiritual well being. Even though man's sinful nature—his disobedience, his selfishness, his hard-heartedness—result in thwarting God's plan in varying degrees, it has always been God's desire for human life to be family based. Realizing the consequences of man's transgression and the holes it would produce in His purpose, He even promises to breach the gaps Himself. Psalm 68:5 tells us that He is "Father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, . . ."

Fatherhood, motherhood, children, family: These are all important to God. He knows and understands their importance to us—at all stages of our lives. God is the Author of life, of all life. He understands that life is not simply some biochemical phenomenon or physical reality, but it is dynamic, with dimensions far outreaching the mere physical. Thus, He organized human life on a family basis, to answer all the needs inherent in each of us.

This is mirrored in His word. In the plan of redemption, He established the family of faith with Abraham. In Genesis 12:3, He explained to Abraham, the father of faith: ". . . In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." God's spiritual kingdom is a family. He is the Father. Earthly families, besides fulfilling obvious physical, material, and emotional needs, are to show us and teach us about God's family.

As the very cornerstone of human life, our families should be our No. 1 earthly priority, no matter what our age. For a baby and a small child, the family is their entire world, especially if that family is loving and stable. But, as is the case with many other important and basic issues, as people grow older, they grow dumber. Other interests assume more importance as we progress through life—interests such as school, friends, material things, houses, careers, and life's worries. The importance of the family tends to get shunted into the background. Yet, the family relationship remains important at all levels of life. But, like anything worthwhile, we need to work at achieving, and holding onto, that degree of "family" that is best for us. It takes effort, and it takes submission. We must surrender our ego, or personal pride, our stubbornness and our "me-ness."

Ephesians 5:21 tells us to submit "one to another . . ." (out of reverence for Christ). This chapter goes on to explain this in more detail.

There is instruction to wives. Wives are to be subject to husbands as the church is subject to Christ. How is the church subject to Christ? Christ is perfect, deserving of our faithfulness and obedience. He, in turn, desires the best for us.

There is instruction to husbands. Husbands are instructed to love their wives as Christ loved the church. How does Christ love the church? He died for her. Love your wife as your own body.

Ephesians 5:31-33 says that the two partners in a marriage relationship become one, as the church is one with Christ. Married people should ask themselves whether they are "one" with their mate, or whether they are still two separated individuals. Blending together in a marriage takes a lifetime and rarely happens instantaneously.

According to Ephesians, husbands are the priests of the household—the spiritual leaders in the home. They are also the main breadwinners. They are responsible for providing the material necessities. This is a great responsibility in itself, but there is more than this incumbent upon husbands. Husbands are to provide emotional support and

stability, spiritual leadership, and moral training for children. In fact, the role of the husband is so important to the family, and therefore to God, that one of the main criteria for an elder and church leader in the early Christian church was his ability to govern his household according to Christian principles. As husbands, are you doing what you are supposed to be doing? Or are you abrogating your responsibility? Performing your husbandly duties not only benefits your wife and children but also benefits yourself. This is a difficult task at times, but it is a charge and responsibility imposed on you by God and ignored only at your own peril and the loss of your family.

Deuteronomy 6:7 and 11:19 instructed the parents in Israel to continuously teach their children the requirements of the law. The modern counterpart to that today is daily evening and morning

worship with the family, Sabbath observance, and private devotions. There should be home Bible studies, as well as attendance at all public meetings. On what things do you spend your time? What do you talk about with your family? What things are you emphasizing by your speech, your actions, your very life itself? What unspoken messages are your children receiving from you? Is your life consistent with your profession? Are you, as a husband and father, shirking your responsibility to be the priest and spiritual leader in your household? If you are, it will not be without an expensive price tag. Whatever face you might put on in public, your family sees the real you, and your influence will be for good or for bad.

James Baldwin once wrote: "Children have never been good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." Can your children safely imitate you the way you really are?

The advice in Ephesians also applies to mothers. Mothers are not inferior to fathers, nor are they superior. They are an "helpmeet," and both partners should complement each other. God has designed specific roles for both. Just as in the church, each partner in the marriage relationship has a role to play in the smooth functioning of the family for the optimum benefit of the children and, thus, society. One part is not more important than the other. Paul illustrated this concept in the well-known verses describing the interaction of body parts—the hand, the eye, the foot—which all work together in their individual roles.

But, as has ever been the case, when God has instituted something, there is an enemy waiting to tear it down. Satan has never ceased his custom-designed attacks, attacking the individual and marriage and the family. His assaults today are so subtle and encompassing that it is easy to fall into his snare without even being aware that there is a trap. It seems that the family, as God designed it, is being targeted by Satan as never before.

Isaiah asked, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isaiah 49:15. The idea that a woman could forget the infant at her breast was so unthinkable in Isaiah's day that it was considered virtually impossible. Yet, today we hear more and more of this very thing happening. Satan is working every angle to destroy families. He is attempting to isolate people emotionally from one another. By using the "divide and conquer" strategy, he is succeeding in doing away with that base structure which gives support, strength, and purpose from day to day. He has had success beyond his wildest dreams in a two-pronged strategy—emotional distancing and indiscriminate physical intimacy. This has been so successful that nothing is left of relationships but broken crusts of meaninglessness and despair, increasing emotional and mental illness, and physical diseases resistant to medication.

In the wilderness, Moses presented the people of Israel with a choice—a choice which each of us today must make. ". . . I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed [descendants] may live: That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, . . ." Deuteronomy 30:19, 20. There are many decisions in life that have to be made, but this is the only real choice. This choice is not only for ourselves; it affects our whole family—our nuclear family, our extended family, and the whole family of God. The repercussions are even wider. The individual choices of individual family members affect all of society.

By determining who lives and who dies, man is usurping the prerogative which belongs to God alone. . . , putting himself in league with Satan, whose only goal has always been to usurp the power. . . of God.

The whole world faces this choice: Life or death? To a greater and greater extent, we see clearly that, for the most part, the world is choosing death. They are choosing selfishness and isolation, which lead away from life to death. The forces of the world are becoming more and more anti-life. There have been more than 25 million unborn babies killed in this country since 1973, when murder of the unborn was declared legal. Not that the reason for the murder is relevant, for more than 97 percent of these innocent lives have been snuffed out merely because they committed the crime of being "inconvenient" to the mother. She did not like being pregnant at the time, or, as has been the case recently, she did not like the sex of her baby. During the time it takes to read this article, more than 100 babies have been killed, legally (depending on whose law you acknowledge).

Euthanasia, another concept that is gaining in popularity, is further eroding the safety of the family, as is early child care outside the home.

God is the Author of life. Satan is the executioner, the champion of death. God has created life full and rich and beautiful. Satan loves to destroy life. To choose death is to follow Satan. God has structured a framework for life, so that man may realize his highest potential, both in this world and in the world to come. The institution of the family is God's gift to us, a way which sees us through from the womb to the grave. Whatever undermines the sanctity of that holy institution strikes directly at the Creator and glorifies him who hates God. By determining who lives and who dies, man is usurping the prerogative

which belongs to God alone. In doing so, man is putting himself in league with Satan, whose only goal has always been to usurp the power and authority of God.

Theodore Roosevelt, one of the more illustrious U.S. Presidents, made this statement: "There are exceptional women, there are exceptional men, who have other tasks to perform in addition to the task of motherhood and fatherhood, the task of providing the home and of keeping it. But it is the tasks connected with the home that are the fundamental tasks of humanity. . . . If the mother does not do her duty, there will either be no next generation, or a next generation that is worse than none at all. . . ."

This generation, now in its infancy, may be the one that is worse than none at all.

Even though he was not a prophet, nor did he ever propose to be, Mr. Roosevelt made the following prophetic statement in a speech about 80 years ago: "If Christians don't stand, then in the next 80 years we will see things that we would have never believed. Children will be killed by their own mothers—and fathers will pay. Schools will defile the minds of our children instead of building them up and sending them forth in the flower of Christian civilization. The very forces of the press will turn like snarling dogs on the people, and they will destroy us as a nation. [Keep in mind that this was said before the advent of TV.]

"Now to you men, who in your turn have come together to spend and be spent in this endless crusade against wrong—to you who gird yourselves for this great fight with a strong legacy of your hope and the never-ending warfare for the good of mankind and the lives of the innocent, I say in closing: We stand at Armageddon, and we battle for the Lord." It is interesting that in this speech Teddy Roosevelt specifically mentioned the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Planned Parenthood as two of the instruments which he feared would fulfill this prediction.

Armageddon. We understand this to be the last great battle ending the spiritual warfare that has been raging since Satan was banished from heaven. The battle has begun, and there is a place in the ranks for everyone of us who loves the Lord and believes in His plan for life. We must maintain our hold on the home front if we are to resist the onward advances of the enemy. There is a skirmish in your home which only you can win. And God—along with the rest of His family—is counting on you.

May He give you strength for the battle—and wisdom and perseverance. And may you continue to fight until your victory is won.

Reaching Out

How did Jesus, in His human form, carry His Father's mission to the whole world in just 3½ years?

By F.S.K. MWAKHWAWA
Mlangeni, Zambia, Africa

JESUS' mission to this planet, which had been in sin for some 4,000 years, is summarized in Luke 4:18, 19 (all quotations are from the *Revised Standard Version):* "To preach good news to the poor, . . . to proclaim release to the captives, . . . to set at liberty those who are oppressed." Not just the whole world but every individual had to hear this liberating message. What a great task to be fulfilled by only one young man—and at a time when knowledge had not yet increased. Means for extending the message through rapid land, water and air transport on one hand, or mechanical and electronic means such as printing and radio broadcasts on the other, were unknown. Yet the message had to go to all five of the large, separate continents of the earth with their different languages.

Step one in His labor: Prayer

In view of the limited resources and the weak humanity He had taken upon Himself, Jesus knew that without the support of the One who sent Him He could accomplish nothing. John 5:19. Therefore, immediately after His baptism and anointing at the Jordan River, He went into the wilderness to pray for personal protection and wisdom in identifying the best course of action for extending His saving message.

From His Father's word, the Bible, He had seen that His mission had many facets to it. Therefore, for almost six weeks, He pleaded with His dear Father in prayer and fasting so the methods and places He adopted in His work would be in strict accordance with only what His Father through the Bible prophets had marked out for Him. Nothing was to be added or subtracted by the father of lies—Satan.

Step two: Implementing answers to prayer

From His 40-day communion with His Father, Jesus came forth with the assurance that only the methods and places foretold by His forerunners, the prophets, would be adopted. Though Satan immediately presented terrible temptations to Him, Jesus could not turn away from His solemn petitions, and the tempter had to leave. Matthew 4:11; James 4:7. The angels of God immediately descended to assure Jesus that His prayers had been favorably answered. This encouraged Him so much that he began His work right there in the power of the Holy Spirit. Luke 4:14, 15.

Jesus' methods included physical healing, forgiving His enemies, associating with all ranks and ages of people, such as religious leaders, publicans and children; teaching, especially through parables; feeding the hungry; encourag-

ing the hopeless; raising the dead; visiting homes; making individual contacts; and making frequent references to His forerunners, such as Moses, Abraham, Isaiah and John the Baptist. Matthew 5:17.

As outlined in the book of Daniel (9:24), Jesus knew He had only 3½ years for His work. Thus He worked in such an extraordinary way that at times He hardly had time for meals. John 4:32-34. Because of His total dependence on His Father, total commitment to God's word, and total self-sacrifice for fallen humanity, His efforts were wonderfully blessed, "and great crowds followed Him." Matthew 4:25.

The center for His work

During the first step (prayer), it had also been revealed to Jesus through the prophetic word that the best place to center His fateful work for wide evangelism and quick results was in the busiest place or city in His country, where people of all races, colors, creeds, tongues and ranks were working, passing through, or vacationing. Having received the truth, most of these people would greatly help in extending the Messiah's saving hand to all corners of the earth. Therefore, ". . . He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea. . . ." Matthew 4:13. This happened so that which "was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.'. . ." Matthew 4:14-16; Isaiah 9:1, 2.

One Man's work in one city

"In the intervals of His journeys to and fro, Jesus dwelt at Capernaum, which came to be known as 'His own city.' Matthew 9:1. Situated on the highway from Damascus to Jerusalem and Egypt and to the Mediterranean Sea, it was well adapted to be the center of the Saviour's work. People from many lands passed through the city, or tarried for rest. There Jesus met with those of all nations and all ranks, and thus His lessons were carried to other countries and into many households. By this means interest was aroused in the prophecies pointing forward to the Messiah, attention was directed to the Saviour, and His mission was brought before the world." —Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 73 (see also *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 252, 253).

From this testimony, we can see that the Saviour's mission reached all parts of the earth—within less than 3½ years of public ministry.

As Christ's followers, seeing what our Master Worker achieved, we are aroused to ask the following question:

Can Christ's followers fulfill the Saviour's present commission to the whole world before the close of probationary time—maybe in less than 3½ years?

"As Thou didst send Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." John 17:18. This comparative scripture stirs us deeply to awake to the solemn position in which God through His grace has placed His weak followers in His plan of salvation. As soon as one accepts and begins to follow Jesus, he is at that moment ordained and commissioned to carry the message to the whole world. —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 821, 822. Without Christ, no human being could be redeemed. Similarly, without a human messenger working under God's Spirit, no soul in this dark age could understand the value of Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary. For this reason, whoever responds to Heaven's appeal—"Whom shall I send and who will go?" Isaiah 6:8—will be used so wonderfully by the Lord that "The world will see what the Lord can do with a person who completely surrenders himself to Him." —S. Gutknecht, *The Need of Personal Evangelization*, p. 7.

The Holy Spirit assists city workers

Those who are sent into the world's cities in these perilous days, when Satan is working with all power to deceive even the elect if possible (Matthew 24:24), will at once realize, as did their Saviour, that in their weak humanity they can do nothing. Then they will cry for the promised latter rain to aid in finishing the greatest commission ever given to mortals. In answer, the Lord will provide the needed grace, as prophesied in Daniel 12:4, so that right now in the time when drops of the latter rain are falling, knowledge and power to spread the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation will have increased to the full. World conditions are such that people of all tongues, tribes and races from all parts of the earth have migrated to the busy cities and transportation centers of the earth. Institutions of higher learning (schools, colleges, universities and missionary centers) and international organizations manned by international workers are mostly congregated in these city, such that what happened at the opening of the gospel among the Jews during the former rain in Jerusalem is being repeated now at

the close of earth's history among both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 2:1-5) in all the world's cities.

Thus, if one gospel worker plans to fulfill the Lord's commission to all countries on earth and yet has limited means of travel, time and language, he will see that the Lord has provided for alternatives. 1 Corinthians 10:13. He will go to the busiest travel centers and cities in his country and there, by faithful searching, find that the foreign tongues, tribes and nations are already represented in his own country! Some of these people may happily receive the message, just as the Ethiopian minister of finance received the added truth as it is in Jesus in the city of Jerusalem. Acts 8:26-38. Certainly he passed this message to the people in his country. Other hearers, however, may not be interested themselves but still may act as connecting links to their countries by providing addresses of truth seekers as well as nominal Adventists in their countries. Correspondence in the form of spiritual letters, the Know Your Bible Correspondence Course, *The Sabbath Watchman* gifts, physical gifts, etc., can then proceed. These will, with God's blessing, act as guiding stars in the new land, and soon the honest in heart will recognize the teaching of the sin-pardoning Redeemer.

Therefore, those dear brethren and sisters now working or intending to go and work in the cities with the Lord's commission in mind should, as did their Master, pray intensely so they can go to every foreign office in the cities and to every international travel center in their countries to seek for the lost sheep in these opportune and yet spiritually dangerous places. By the many means available to us—book canvassing, house visits, Bible studies, correspondence courses, telephones, personal letters, music, hospital visits, prison visits, market visits, Dorcas work, public lectures, tape/radio ministry, establishing worship houses as witnesses, health centers, frequent reference to our forerunners, etc.—not only may one worker or group of workers supply spiritual bread to the city dwellers but the leftovers will be carried to others far outside these cities and countries to the end of the earth! John 6:12, 13.

Support for city workers

Not all can go to work in cities, but all gospel messengers can center their work in or near centralized places. Whether by one or by several workers, the work today in the expensive, sinful modern cities calls for the support of all believers. For this reason, God has appointed a church (today the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, International Missionary Society) as a depositary into which every believer's talents can be invested. These talents are then distributed by the church, field, conference, Union, division or General Conference according to the needs of the Lord's service in their sphere of work—in this case, city work.

Through the church, individual members living in villages, including those who have moved out of cities because of the predicted troubles (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 364-367), may contribute to the needs of city work by prayer, fasting, tithing, freewill offerings and total self-sacrifice, as shown by the Jewish woman who paid all she had into God's treasury. Christ expressed commendation for her rare sacrifice. Luke 21:1-4. This is a challenge to all, even to those of us in developing countries who tend to think we have little to offer.

How does Heaven bless such self-sacrificing efforts in all places? The testimony answers, "The work of many may appear to be restricted by circumstances; but, wherever it is, if performed with faith and diligence it will be felt to the uttermost parts of the earth. Christ's work when upon earth appeared to be confined to a narrow field, but multitudes from all lands heard His message." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 822.

What is ahead for God's witnesses?

We have seen how Jesus witnessed to the whole world in just 3½ years. Born into a poor earthly family, He could not afford to go far outside His country to proclaim the good news. Instead, He used the opportunity nearest to Him, concentrating His efforts in the closest international city—Capernaum. From this, we can see that only very few messengers will be sent out as foreign missionaries to establish or perfect the new believers in the truth. Ephesians 4:11-13. It is wonderful to note beforehand that by following the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy in our work, even a wider coverage than that achieved by Jesus during His earthly ministry will be attained! John 14:12.

From what God has told us through the prophetic pen, we are 100% certain that very little time is left before it will be too late to copy and implement the methods and places adopted by the "Light of the World" in His labors. As we read the following testimonies, may the Holy Spirit arouse all of us in all the churches to properly utilize the "time and places" allocated for these end-time missionary efforts.

" 'The whole world,' He said, 'is God's great vineyard. The cities and villages constitute a part of that vineyard. These must be worked. . . .'

"We must not hide the truth in the corners of the earth. It must be made known; it must shine in our large cities. Christ in His labors took His position by the lakeside and in the great thoroughfares of travel where He could meet people from all parts of the world. . . .

"Behold the cities, and their need of the gospel. . . .

"Who are carrying a burden for the large cities? A few have felt the burden, but in comparison with the great need and the many opportunities, but little attention has been given to this work. . . .

"Are those who should appreciate the value of souls carrying, with Christ, a burden of heaviness and constant sorrow, mingled with tears, for the wicked cities of the earth? The destruction of these cities, almost wholly given up to idolatry, is impending. In the great day of final reckoning, what answer can be given for neglecting to enter these cities now?" —Ellen G. White, *Testimony Treasures*, vol. 3, pp. 88, 89, 333, 334, 218.

We are filled with gratitude to the Lord for His Spirit, who is influencing the believers in many fields to center their missionary efforts in the large cities. May our gracious God continue providing courage and means for the remaining fields to follow suit. May all aspire to reach all races, tongues and nations in their cities!

"Millionaire" Cities

The United Nations has predicted that by A.D. 2000, 60% of the world will be living in large cities. More people now live in Tokyo than in the whole of Australia.

In *The King Is Coming*, Homer Duncan gives the following statistics:

"In 1800 only 2.4 percent of the people in the world lived in cities of over 20,000 population. By 1950 that number had jumped to 20.9 percent. In 1900 there were only eleven cities in the world with a population of over a million. Now there are at least 125 such cities.

"Cities with a population of over a million are referred to as 'millionare cities.' In 1935 Europe had twice as many millionaire cities as Asia; now Asia has more. Europe (not counting Russia) has over 30 millionaire cities. Russia has 11 millionaire cities. The United States has 23; China, 27; Latin America, 11; India, 7; Indonesia, 3; Africa, 4; Canada, 4; Australia, 3; Korea, 2; and Pakistan, 2."

By BARBARA WATTS
Denver, Colorado

Battle for the Arab mind

As the U.S. and its Western allies battle to reach whatever their goals are in the Middle East, other forces are at work in the region. A group of human rights advocates is matching wits and power strategies with Islamic fundamentalists. Analysts believe that the struggle between these opposing forces will endure and intensify long after the current crisis ends. On one hand, democracy-minded human rights activists have launched a growing campaign to promote individual rights and to protest torture and other abuses of state power that are common throughout the Arab world. On another, a rising tide of fundamentalists are using democratic openings in Egypt, Jordan, Algeria and elsewhere to try to purge the Arab world of Western corruption and install the "Holy Koran" as its highest authority.

Though the visions of the future differ sharply between these groups, liberal reformers and fundamentalists are allied in attacking the status quo. But democracy as the Western world understands it will probably never come to the Middle East. Businessmen particularly fear that giving real power to the people might endanger stability and even bring Islamic fundamentalist governments to power. Certainly a new order is beginning to be seen in the Arab world, but what its shape will be is not predictable. What we do know is that the area will remain volatile and that God will have the final say.

Children: spiritual

Harvard University psychiatrist and professor Robert Coles recently published the eighth book in a series about children, titled *The Spiritual Life of Children*. His pioneering work on the lives of "children of crisis"—oppressed youngsters whose experiences had been virtually ignored by other researchers—shatters myths and stereotypes held for generations. For example, he has shown that, contrary to the commonly held wisdom of child psychiatry, young people are surprisingly deep thinking and are able to ponder complex moral and political issues. Furthermore, children have surprising psychological strength. Coles has documented "the capacity of children to extract from their environment what they need, even under terrible circumstances," according to Yale's Dr. Albert Solnit.

Coles's research methods have centered on individuals, relying on detailing lives as a substitute for tough-minded analysis. This has drawn fire from some critics who argue that his methods are insufficiently scientific. His response is refreshing: "We have such an appetite in America for labeling people. We want fast, inclusive, easily remembered categories. Psychology, psychoanalysis and psychiatry are secular religions, and people want the priests of these religions to just give them the stages, the cycles, the phases. I've spent a lifetime resisting that."

For example, he discovered that children raised in both religious and atheistic households think hard about matters of faith. "During my years in child psychiatry and pediatrics, I grossly underestimated how significant religion is in the lives of children," Coles says. He faults the psychiatric profession for too often turning its back on the important role religion plays. "We talk about sex in the lives of children; we talk about anger, about obedience vs. delinquency. Why don't we talk about religion in their lives?" he asks.

He found that religion offers children a way to try to understand not only what is happening to them but why. "It is a means by which they integrate their psychological life."

As we teach the Bible, genuine faith and love to our children, let us emphasize what an anchor to the soul God has provided and has promised to continue to provide until the end of time!

"Power shift"—the fast will win

Writing in *World Monitor*, November 1990, Alvin Toffler, one of the world's most recognized analysts of trends in history, economics, technology, and cultural change, described what he sees coming in the world—a dramatic "power shift."

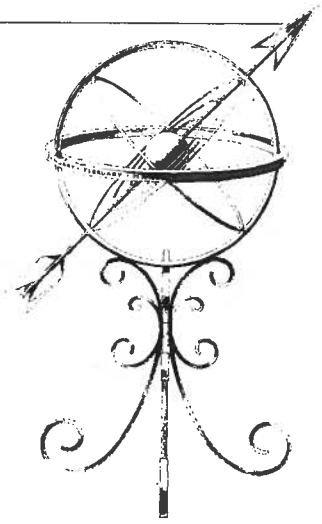
He believes that from now on the world will be split on an economic front between the fast and the slow. Whole economies are either fast or slow, their pace determined "by the speed of transactions, the time needed to make decisions (especially about investment), the speed with which new ideas are created in laboratories, the rate at which they are brought to market, the velocity of capital flows, and above all the speed with which data, information, and knowledge pulse through the economic system. Fast economies generate wealth—and power—faster than slow ones. . . .

"As the world's main system for producing wealth revs up, countries that wish to sell will have to operate at the pace of those in a position to buy. This means that slow economies will have to speed up their neural responses, lose contracts and investments, or drop out of the race entirely. . . .

"In due course, the entire wealth-creation cycle will be monitored *as it happens*. Continual feedback will stream in from sensors built into intelligent technology, from optical scanners in stores, and from transmitters in trucks, planes, and ships that send signals to satellites so managers can track the changing location of every vehicle at every moment. This information will be combined with the results of continuous polling of people, and information from a thousand other sources. . . .

"Looming on the horizon, therefore, is a dangerous decoupling of the fast economies from the slow, an event that would spark enormous power shifts throughout the so-called South—with big impacts on the planet as a whole. . . .

"The United States. Japan. Europe—and in this case the



Soviets, too—are pressing forward with plans to build hypersonic jets capable of moving 250 tons of people and cargo at Mach 5, meaning that cities like New York, Sydney, London, or Los angeles will be two-and-a-half hours from Tokyo."

There is a fear behind these plans, however, for it is possible that the countries which are less developed and which are unable to join in the technology may do what rulers have done since the origins of the state—reach for the most primitive of power—military force.

Thus it becomes necessary for the technologically advanced to work for ways to include the less developed areas of the world in their plans.

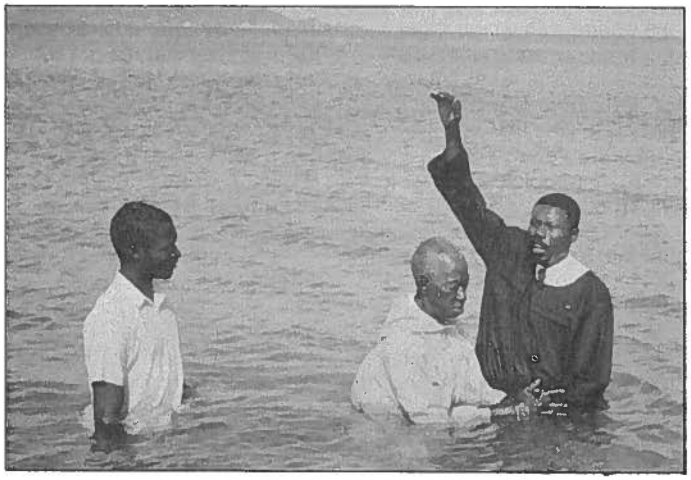
Let the church—both leaders and people—also beware. We must be sure not to glorify technology, but we also must be careful not to let the opportunities God has given in technology pass us by.

New face for New Age

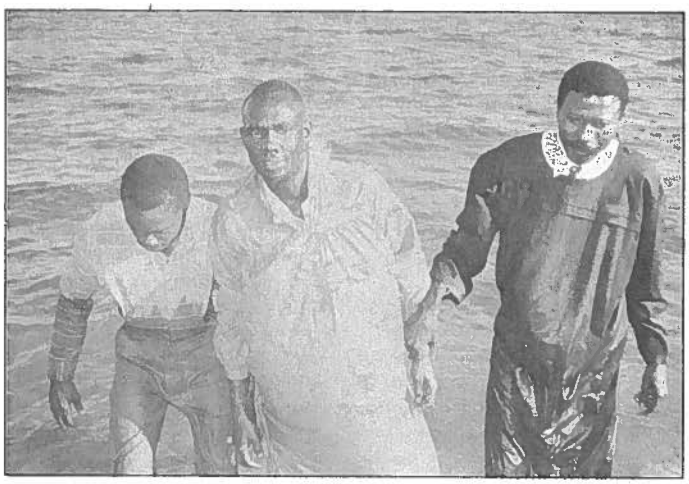
Citing low sales, U.S. publishers are beginning to phase out the New Age category. That doesn't mean publishers will ignore books dealing with the subject, however. They will simply rename the category or fit New Age titles into other niches, such as health or the occult. Robert Hall, president of Humanics New Age, says people have a problem with the term "because it implies crystals, candles, channeling." Indeed. But the shift will also mean more danger because of more subtlety!

Jamaica

The following sisters were baptized November 25, 1990: Eleanor Manning, Veronica Williams and Beverly Watson, from Annatto Bay, and Carlene Dennis and Vivienne Williams from Kingston.



Brother Clarence Gray, from Annatto Bay, was also baptized November 25 by Elder Ian Grant.



On February 10, 1991, Brother Clifford Smith, from Kingston, made his covenant with God in baptism.

New Zealand

A "spiritual feast" was enjoyed by all who attended the first New Zealand Field Conference in Hastings, known as the "fruit bowl of New Zealand." During three wonderful days, 13 believers fellowshipped together, sharing their faith and life experiences.

On the first day, under the shade of a large walnut tree, Elder Henry Andrade and Elder Henry Dering conducted a seminar on "How to Give Bible Studies with Felts." There was great interest and participation in presenting these much needed visual aids.

For the first time, our believers from both the South and North Islands of New Zealand were able to share the Sabbath hours together—a happy, blessed experience. Brother Andrade taught the Sabbath school lesson on Revelation 1, followed by Brother Dering, whose message of warning concerning the "majestic archdeceiver" was greatly appreciated by all.

Our number was increased to 22 at the Sabbath afternoon meeting, as a result of sending out more than 50 invitations to members of three S.D.A. churches in the Hawke's Bay area. "Adventist and Reform Movement History" was presented by Brother Dering, followed by a very lively discussion.

It was a glorious Sunday morning as we all gathered along the daisy covered banks of the lovely Jukituki River to witness the baptism of three couples from Nelson, South Island; Shannon, North Island; and locally from sunny Hawke's Bay.

We praise and thank Jehovah for blessing a new beginning for the International Missionary Society, S.D.A. Church Reform Movement here in New Zealand. After celebrating the Lord's Supper together and before our joyous, fruitful conference closed, church officers were elected. It was confirmed that money, property and free qualified labor were promised by the believers to establish a missionary center in New Zealand. Please pray for the advancement of Reformation here, as we continue to work for the Master.

—HEATHER CHAPLOW

EDITORIAL

When Friends Leave

By IDEL SUAREZ, JR., Tampa, Florida

FRIENDS are different from family. An old Spanish proverb says, "La familia se impone, pero los amigos se escogen"—something like, "Family is imposed on us, but friends are chosen."

We have no say in picking our family, but in choosing our friends we do. We hand pick them. It takes months—even years—to develop a good friendship. What precious nostalgic moments we share together with them! With friends, we play, work, laugh, cry, and—if they're Christians—pray together.

Yet how sad when they move, pass away, leave, or betray us and God's cause! Our heart cries out to them as if clothed in sackcloth and ashes. Oh, the pain when friends leave!

Christian friends are somewhat like soldiers at war. Paul wrote to Timothy: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." 2 Timothy 2:3. When soldiers are at war, they become buddies within their company. How shocked and angry one gets if he sees his comrade die at his side from wounds inflicted by the enemy. Oh, what despair when friends leave!

Soldiers cry when their companions die in combat. Parents grieve if their children leave the spiritual scene of action. Sweethearts groan in agony when the cords of love break. And believers mourn the spiritual departure of long-time friends. Oh, the despondency when friends leave us!

At such times, David's song gains a new depth of meaning. As with the books of Samuel, an old book closes and a new one begins when we hear of the defeat or downfall of our brethren and friends. We can almost feel the anguish of the Psalmist.

"The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!" "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions." "How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished." 2 Samuel 1:19, 23, 25-27.

But unlike soldiers in earthly combat, our battle and armor are spiritual. Ephesians 6. When earthly soldiers are wounded or perish, it may or may not be the result of anything they have done. But if the spiritual soldier is truly in Christ, there is no weapon of the enemy that can pierce his stronghold. Jesus has promised that those who believe on Him "shall never perish," neither shall any *man* pluck them out of His hand. John 10:28. Nothing can separate us from the love of God—except ourselves. Romans 8:35.

And unlike soldiers of earth who have only a grave marker and no earthly hope when they perish, the spiritual soldier who leaves the battle of the church thinking that in the things of the world there is peace will soon find that he is not really retreating but is engaged in war in another direction. When the spiritual armor is let down, the real battle begins. And we who are left may still hope, for where there is life there is hope. It is not church membership that saves, but Christ. And He is leading every soul of the human family with compassion to the fountain of salvation—some within the church, and some without.

"Guard yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." Jude 21-23, margin.

Amid the crisis, one remembers the words of the inspired pen: "Many a star we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness." —Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 188. Meanwhile, a new realization arises. One is tempted to whisper, "Who will be next?" What the apostle Paul wrote is very appropriate—"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians 10:12.

When friends leave, we always continue to hope. We find great comfort in the story of the prodigal son. "When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost. Many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd." —Ellen G. White, *Christian Service*, p. 166.

The eleventh hour is passing. All eyes today are looking to one of the two Jerusalems—the earthly or the heavenly. The news reaching our ears from now on will bring us close to one of those two cities. All armies will soon come to the borders of the two Canaans. And as with ancient Israel, God's people must be able to resist the temptations which Israel faced in the Baalpeor experience. Let us watch and pray, lest we fall. Let us pray, "God, have mercy, extend Your mercy to our friends, and save Your faithful remnant."

What Happened at Baalpeor?

"During the time of their encampment beside Jordan, Moses was preparing for the occupation of Canaan. In this work the great leader was fully employed; but to the people this time of suspense and expectation was most trying, and before many weeks had elapsed their history was marred by the most frightful departures from virtue and integrity.

". . . At Balaam's suggestion, a grand festival in honor of their gods was appointed by the king of Moab, and it was secretly arranged that Balaam should induce the Israelites to attend. He was regarded by them as a prophet of God, and hence had little difficulty in accomplishing his purpose. Great numbers of the people joined him in witnessing the festivities. They ventured upon the forbidden ground, and were entangled in the snare of Satan. Beguiled with music and dancing, and allured by the beauty of heathen vestals, they cast off their fealty to Jehovah. As they united in mirth and feasting, indulgence in wine beclouded their senses and broke down the barriers of self-control. Passion had full sway; and having defiled their consciences by lewdness, they were persuaded to bow down to idols. They offered sacrifice upon heathen altars and participated in the most degrading rites. . . .

"Their iniquitous practices did that for Israel which all the enchantments of Balaam could not do—they separated them from God. By swift-coming judgments the people were awakened to the enormity of their sin." —Patriarchs and Prophets, *pp. 454, 455.*

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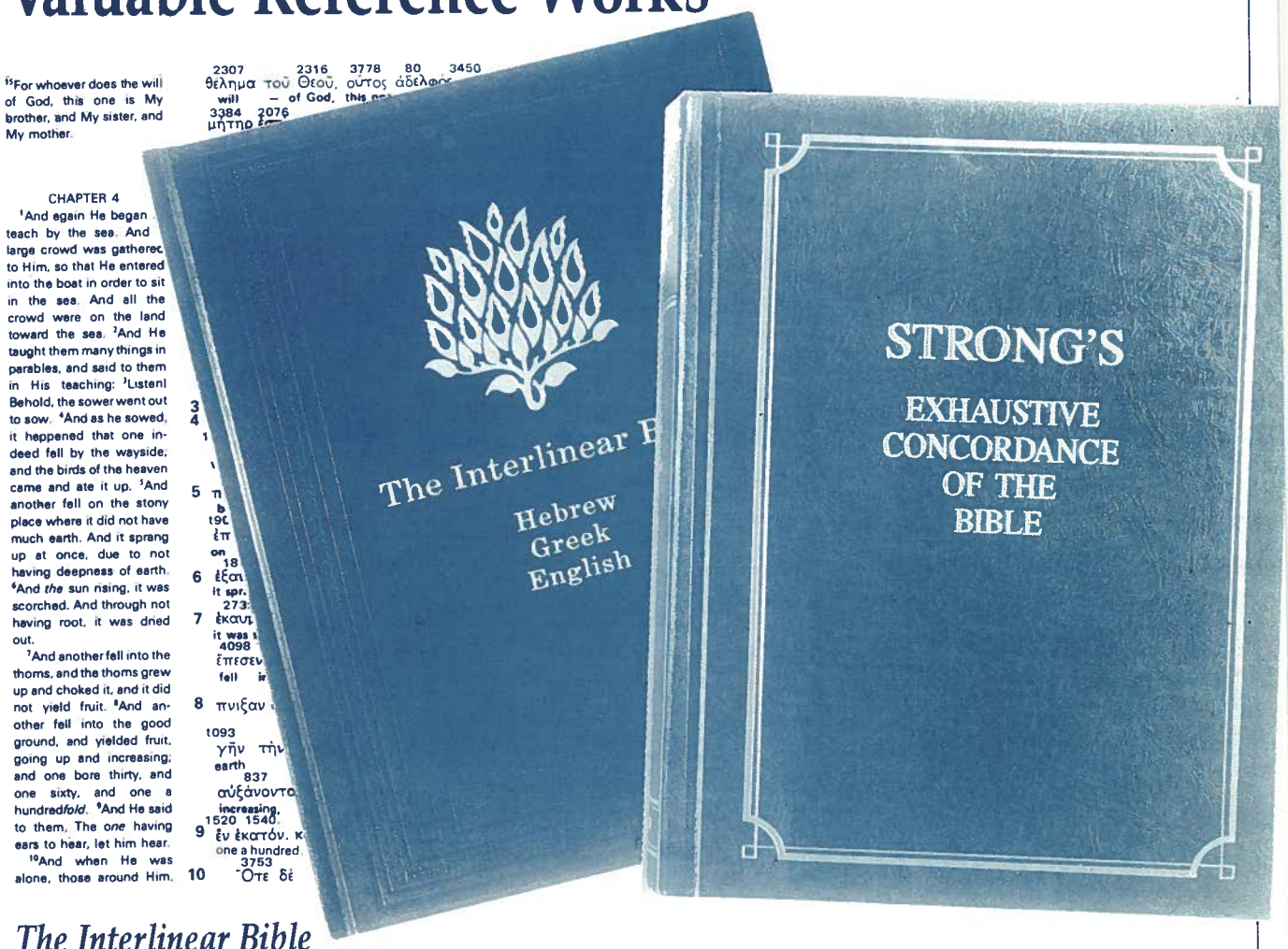

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