

Hold Fast, and Repent

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, November 2, 1886 (Vol. 63, #43)

You to whom are committed the sacred, testing truths for this time, are you faithful to your God-given trust? Every one wields an influence over the destiny of other souls. "Ye are the light of the world."¹ A faithful discharge of duty on your part will have a telling influence on the impenitent; but if you neglect the work which God has given to you, some soul will be lost. Consider this matter, I pray you, in the light of God's word; and may your souls feel the burden of your intrusted responsibility. Oh that there might be a turning to the Lord by every member of the church, that the earnest, fervent piety of each might be a message of warning to the sinner! "Be zealous and repent,"² is the word of God to his professed people. "I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."³

Many of our people are backsliding from God. We need to arouse. Let every soul that has named the name of Christ depart from iniquity. We want a pure Christianity. Great dangers are lurking for us on every side. When they most need the presence of God, many have it least. They are in danger of becoming like the Jewish nation, who knew not the Scriptures nor the power of God. Like the teachers of Israel, you may explain Bible truth to others, and yet not practice it in your daily life. If the Jews had possessed an experimental knowledge of the Scriptures, they would not have been ignorant of the power of God. Like them, we have great light and privileges; but many do not respond to these, and herein lies their peril. When Jesus wept over Jerusalem, his tears were for all who abuse present privileges. He wept that so many who profess his name fail to become what God designed them to be; that they continue in sin and weakness, while he is willing and able to save them if they will but come to him. The Saviour says, "What more could I have done that I have not done in it?"⁴ He has dealt with his people as a loving father with a wayward and rebellious child. But he sees grace resisted, privileges abused, opportunities slighted. Where he had a right to expect earnest, vital piety, he sees insincerity, hollow formalism, and Pharisaic pride. Neglect of light is chargeable on those whom God has intrusted with great and solemn truths. Ingratitude for God's mercies, abuse of blood-bought privileges, stand registered against many in the books of heaven, and are treasuring up for them wrath against the day of wrath. Vengeance will surely be visited on those who have had so great light, yet

are so cold and unimpressible that no light shines from them to the world.

God has loaded us with his benefits. Immortal blessings have been poured upon us in great measure. Messengers have been sent with warnings, reproofs, and entreaties. God's servants have wept and prayed over the lukewarm state of the church. Some may arouse, but only to fall back into unconsciousness of their sin and peril. Passion, worldliness, malice, envy, pride, strife for supremacy, make our churches weak and powerless. Some of Christ's ambassadors are carrying a heavy burden on their souls, because their message is treated by so many as an idle tale. The eye of Jesus, looking down the ages, was fixed upon our time when he said, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong to thy peace!"⁵ It is still thy day, O church of God, whom he has made the depository of his law. But this day of trust and probation is fast drawing to a close. The sun is fast westering. Can it be that it will set, and thou not know the things that belong unto thy peace? Must the irrevocable sentence be passed, "But now they are hid from thine eyes?"⁶ I tell you there is need to be alarmed. It is time to seek God earnestly, saying with Jacob, "I will not let thee go except thou bless me."⁷ It will be of no avail to make a spasmodic effort, only to fall back into spiritual lethargy and lukewarmness. The past, with the slighted mercies, the admonitions unheeded, the earthly passions uncorrected, the privileges unimproved, the soul temple filled with desecrated shrines,—all is recorded in the books of heaven. But most solemn moments are still before you. Because of past neglect, the efforts you make must be the more earnest.

The Saviour speaks to his people, "Be zealous and repent."⁸ It is not ministers whom you have slighted; it is not the warnings of men that you have rejected; it is not my delegated prophets that you have refused to hear, but your Redeemer, your only hope. If ye are destroyed, it is yourselves alone that are responsible. Ye will not come to me that ye might have life.⁹ "O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I have gathered thy children together as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not."¹⁰ I desired to save you, but ye would not be doers of my word. The arm strong to save, is also strong to punish. Jesus is now looking from heaven above with yearning pity upon thee, even thee in this thy day, O thoughtless, careless soul. But unless there is in our churches a general arousing, unless there is an indi-

1. Mat. 5:14

2. Rev. 3:19

3. Rev. 2:5

5. Luke 19:42

6. Luke 19:42

7. Gen. 32:26

8. Rev. 3:19

4. Isa. 5:4

9. John 5:40

10. Luke 13:34

vidual work of confessing and putting away sin, unless all shall give earnest heed to the things that belong to their peace, the words of Christ may at any moment be applicable to them: "Now they are hid from thine eyes."¹¹ I intrusted thee with a solemn, sacred message of truth to be made known to others, but thou hast been unfaithful to thy holy trust. Souls have not been enlightened, warned, and urged to repentance. Their blood will I require at thy hand.

Will our churches humble themselves before the Lord in this day of atonement? Will they put away the sins which defile their garments of character, and separate them from God? The present is our day of visitation. Look not to a future, more convenient season, when the cross to be lifted will be less heavy, when the inclinations of the carnal heart will be subdued with less effort. "Today," saith the Spirit of God, "if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart."¹² Today go about the work, else you may be one day too late. The impression that you have now may not be as strong tomorrow. Satan's snare may close about you. The candlestick may be moved out of its place, and you left in darkness. "See that you refuse not him that speaketh."¹³ Says the true Witness, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."¹⁴ Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the word of God, or through his delegated messengers, is a knock at the door of the heart; it is the voice of Jesus, asking for entrance. With every knock unheeded, your determination to open becomes weaker and weaker. If the voice of Jesus is not heeded at once, it becomes con-

11. Luke 19:42

12. Psa. 95:7, 8
Heb. 3:7, 8, 15;
4:7

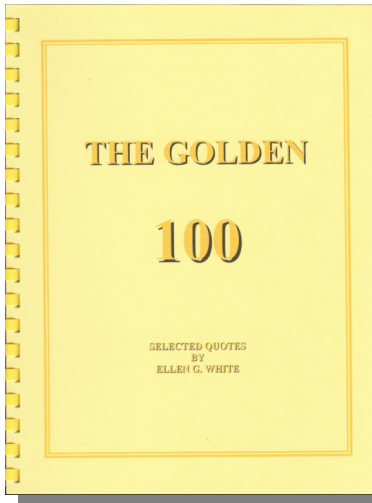
13. Heb. 12:25

14. Rev. 3:20

15. Hos. 4:17

fused in the mind with a multitude of other voices, the world's care and business engross the attention, and conviction dies away. The heart becomes less impressible, and lapses into a perilous unconsciousness of the shortness of time, and of the great eternity beyond. The heavenly Guest is standing at your door, while you are piling up obstructions to bar his entrance. Jesus is knocking through the prosperity he gives you. He loads you with blessings to test your fidelity, that they may flow out from you to others. Will you permit your selfishness to triumph? Will you squander God's talents, and lose your soul through idolatrous love of the blessings he has given?

There are some whose hold on life is weakening. Disease is preying upon them. Soon will come the time for the separation from all earthly things. Will they venture to trifle with God now? Will they rob him by withholding help from his cause? Are there any who will prefer perishable, earthly treasure to the heavenly, immortal substance? Christ is making his last appeal to hearts. How importunate his entreaty, how reluctant he is to give you up to separation from his love and presence forever! Still is heard the step of Him who waiteth at your door; his voice is yet pleading for entrance; but there is a point beyond which his forbearance will not reach. Shall the words be written over the doomed doorway, "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone"?¹⁵ Shall it be spoken concerning you, He is joined to his idol of sensuality: let him alone? (Continued on page 6)

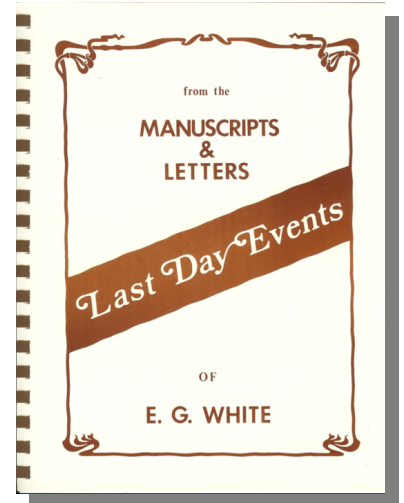


THE GOLDEN 100

The SDRPA has a new book available entitled "The Golden 100." It consists of 100 selected quotes by Ellen G. White. Its focus is on the apostasy in the SDA church and defining our position as the Remnant people of God. It is spiral bound, is about thirty pages, and is formatted with a 16 point font, so it will make a handy reference for mission workers in the field. We are asking a suggested donation of \$7.50 for each copy.

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IN THIS ISSUE

E. G. White—Hold Fast, and Repent.....	1
Are You Covered?—(Continued).....	3
Letters to the Editor.....	6
Editorial.....	7
Recipe—Toasted Sandwich Ideas.....	10
Children's Story—Be Slow to Accuse.....	11
Health Nugget—Stress - part 2.....	12
Mission Reports—Africa.....	13

ARE YOU COVERED?

(Continued)

Now the Godhead has provided all that They can in order for you to be saved. But They cannot save you by Themselves. Since you know this glorious plan of your salvation, and all that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are Personally doing so that you can be saved, what are you now to do? “Repent ye therefore, and be converted,”¹ remembering that you are to “Strive to enter in at the straight gate;”² to “go forth” and “walk in the spirit;”³ to “go in the strength of the Lord God”⁴ and “ascend” up that straight and narrow pathway.⁵

How is all this to be accomplished? By taking one advancing and upward step at a time so you can be saved. This is indeed possible by grace through faith, taking just one step at a time.

You know, the end of any journey all depends upon taking that first step in the right direction. So in order to reach the end of this straight and narrow path, you must take that first step of faith in obeying the will of God. But sometimes taking that first step can be the most hardest to do, especially when to all our sight and senses it seems impossible to walk. Yet, what does God tell us to do? To go forward in faith and do not doubt. Remember, you are to walk by faith, not by sight.

After the children of Israel had wandered 40 years in the wilderness, they finally came to the Jordan River and saw that the promised land was just on the other side. But it was the rainy season at that particular time of year, as well as being the time of harvest, and thus the Jordan River had overflowed its banks and was swift and raging. To all human sight and understanding it was impossible to swim across the Jordan without drowning. So here, just before them, was this terrible imposing obstacle preventing them from advancing any further.

But what did God tell them to do? He told them to go forward and pass over.⁶ So the children of Israel were faced with having to choose either to put faith and trust in their eyesight and understanding and then cease advancing, or they had to put faith and trust in their God who commanded them to walk forward. When the children of Israel decided to allow God’s word to rule in their hearts and to walk by faith while ignoring their sight and understanding, actually putting forth the effort and taking that first step into the water in obedience to God’s command, then the Lord came through with His divine power and parted the Jordan river in half. They were then able to overcome that obstacle which was preventing their advancement, and they walked into the promised land having gained the victory.

The same with us dear ones. During this time of harvest and the falling of the latter rain, we are to walk upward on this straight and narrow pathway one step at a time. And when we find any obstacles preventing our advancement, we are not to just give up

1. Acts 3:19

2. Luke 13:24

3. Gal. 5:16

4. Psa. 71:16

5. Mat. 7:14

7. Psa. 119:133

6. Josh. 3:5-17

8. Rom. 6:1-4, 6-8, 11-14, 16-19, 22-23

9. Psa. 119:11

—even though to all intents and purposes it appears impossible to overcome them. But since God tells us to go forward, then we are to forget and crucify self, put our faith and trust in God, allow God’s word to rule in our hearts and then take that first step in obeying God’s will. Then God’s divine power will work in and through us allowing us to walk right past that obstacle like it was nothing more than a mirage. Thus we will allow God to work in us to accomplish His will, and we will gain the victory through Christ which strengthens us. In doing this, sin will no longer have a stranglehold upon us like it did before we accepted Christ.

“Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.”⁷

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin?... God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life... Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him... Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you... Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?... But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness... But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”⁸

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”⁹

What was the key that prevented sin from having any further “dominion over you”? Having God’s

word “in mine heart” and “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God.” And what was the key that made you “free from sin”? Ordering all of “my steps in thy word” and “as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.” So the key was having God’s word in and the guide of your life, as well as no longer yielding yourself to temptation, no longer yielding yourself to be servants of unrighteousness, but instead to yield yourself to God to become servants of righteousness and holiness! It is this word of God in your heart or mind, and then yielding your will to follow God’s word and commands, that brakes sin’s dominion over you and makes you “free from sin!”

The Greek word for “yield” used here actually means “to exhibit or to stand.”¹⁰ Now how much effort does it take to stand? You have to employ and set your entire body to work in order to stand up. So to yield yourself to obey God unto righteousness is more than just choosing to serve Him, it IS serving Him. It takes decision and determination to force your will to accomplish the task of overcoming, and once your will is set to work, then just like with the child learning to stand, your whole focus will be centered upon accomplishing that task, and you will not give up until you succeed and achieve righteousness.

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”¹¹

To hunger and thirst after something means that your whole focus is centered upon obtaining that object or goal. And what is the promise if we hunger and thirst after righteousness instead of sin? “They shall be filled!”

INTERNAL PEACE IS POSSIBLE

Now what has to occur before you can yield yourself to either commit sin or do righteousness? You must first make the choice. So you actually choose for yourself—either sin or righteousness! Neither Satan nor God can decide or act for you. The choice to walk upward by faith in the Spirit, or to walk downward in the lusts of the flesh, is for you alone to make. The Devil cannot force you to take the easy broad road, nor can God force you to take the straight and narrow path. The choice of whom you are going to yield your will to, and which road you then walk in, is fully left up for you to decide.

If you should choose to follow the will of Satan and yield your will to obey him, then his power works in you to do of his evil pleasure, and you together fulfill the works of unrighteousness. But if you choose to follow the will of God and yield your will to obey Him, then His divine power works in you to do of His good pleasure, and you together fulfill the works of righteousness which gains the victory over the flesh. And believe me dear ones, when you decide to yield your will to obey God, and take that first step forward in obedience, the force of your will directs and focuses your entire body and mind towards accomplishing this task. Then with God’s divine power combining with your human efforts, sweet victory is

12. Isa. 27:5

13. 2 Cor. 12:9

10. Strong’s, #3936

14. Mat. 9:6

11. Mat. 5:6

15. Luke 17:12-14

16. Mat. 12:13

17. John 9:6-7

18. Pro. 24:16

19. Mic. 7:8

assured over any obstacle—no matter how enormous or seemingly impossible it appears to be to overcome!

“...let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.”¹²

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”¹³

So no matter how enormous or seemingly impossible the habits of sin or the obstacles are that prevent you from advancing, yet when you choose to obey God and then put forth your will power and take that first step in obedience to God’s will, His divine strength and grace combines with your weak efforts, the victory will be obtained, and sweet internal peace will be yours.

For instance, how many times did the man with palsy try to stand up from his bed before he met Christ? I imagine hundreds and even thousands of times. Yet each time he tried in his own strength to arise, his body just laid there limp, unresponsive and useless, which only increased his troubled and tortured mind. But when he met Christ, what did Christ tell him to do?

“Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.”¹⁴

So even though the palsied man had probably tried thousands of times to arise before, yet he had to overcome his doubt and then exercise faith in Christ to try it just one more time. And as he put forth his will power and exerted effort to obey the command of Christ through faith, what happened? God’s divine power combined with this man’s efforts to obey, and he was able to gain the victory over that seemingly impossible obstacle that was hindering his advancement, and he became completely healed! Finally, he was able to experience peace!

You can see the same experiences with the lepers;¹⁵ the man with the withered hand;¹⁶ the blindman;¹⁷ etc. Each time it appeared humanly impossible for them to overcome their problems. Yet when they met Christ, and decided to overcome their doubts, obey His commands, and then put forth their will power in taking that first step to obey through faith, then God’s divine power combined with their weak efforts, and they all obtained the victory and sweet peace. The same with us!

WHAT IF WE FALL BACK?

Now in this walk through faith, some will fall into sin which stains their garments once again with blood and filthiness. But does that mean that they are lost? No.

“For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again...”¹⁸

“When I fall, I will arise...”¹⁹

So once you realize that you have fallen into sin, and your garments are no longer pure and spotless, then humbly confess and repent of this sin to God. You know by faith that He will re-justify and recleanse you and make your garments spotless once again. Thus you will be able to have His strength and grace to stand back up and then continue forward in the process of sanctification and righteousness.

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate

with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”²⁰

Then afterwards, what does Jesus tell us, just like He told the woman who had fallen into sin and then was forgiven?

“...go, and sin no more.”²¹

So if you fall back into sin, then confess, repent, and stand back up in Christ and go forward—don’t just remain fallen down! Learn from your mistake, and also learn to avoid repeating it—just like you did when you were first learning how to stand as a child.

What caused you to sink back into sin is the same that caused Peter to sink into the raging sea—you took your eyes off of Christ.²² So this time keep your eyes more firmly focused on Christ who is leading you to the city of God, and keep walking forward through faith, even though you have to step into the raging waters of affliction. You will only fall again if you take your eyes off of Christ and instead fix them upon yourself or upon your circumstances. But, instead, keep your eyes focused upon Christ and, in doing so, you will be beholding Him, and by beholding Him you will become “changed into the same image from glory to glory [or from one stage of growth in character to another stage of growth], even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”²³

But please know and realize this solemn point: we learned that at conversion we have the seed or Christ, as it were, impregnated or living within us, and this stopped our filthy rag menstrual issue of blood from continuing to defile our garments. So after Christ is now living in you, if you should happen to choose to sin, your garments became stained with blood and were no longer pure. But what would cause your garments to now be stained with blood? Has your filthy rag issue started over again? No. Then where did the blood issue from that stained your garments? Well, if a pregnant woman begins to bleed, where does the blood issue from? It issues from her placenta which attaches her baby to her womb. And what does this then mean? This is a signal that her baby is in distress, and quite possibly is in the beginning stages of being aborted out!

So dear ones, after you have accepted Christ as your Saviour, have confessed and repented of your sins, have been justified and clothed with Christ’s righteousness, and are walking on this straight and narrow path, if you should then choose and yield to sin, instead of advancing past that obstacle through faith, then you are guilty of causing Christ distress, pain and suffering beyond what He has already endured for you, and you are also in danger of aborting Him out of your life. Now if you confess and repent of this sin, then this abortion process is stopped. But also realize, that if you continue sinning and refuse to repent, being determined to give up the warfare and no longer advance upward, then this abortion process will continue until Jesus is fully and forever aborted out of your life! Thus you will be guilty of killing Christ afresh, and then there is nothing you can do to remedy this situation—which means that you are eternally lost!

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have

20. 1 John 2:1

21. John 8:11

24. Heb. 6:4-8

22. Mat. 14:29-31

23. 2 Cor. 3:18

25. Heb. 10:26-29, 35-39

26. Eze. 18:24

tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.”²⁴

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?... Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”²⁵

What causes you to be lost is when you have fully understood and embraced the truth of God, have enjoyed living in it and experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and the power of God working in you to overcome your habits of sin and defects of character: if, after all this, you then choose to completely turn your back upon God, to no longer follow the truth, but have gone back into living your life of sin and unrighteousness, then there is no more forgiveness of your sins because you have killed or crucified Christ afresh and done despite unto the Holy Spirit of grace. This means that you are lost without any hope of obtaining a third chance for salvation. This also proves that there is no such Bible truth to the belief of once-saved-always-saved, because you can always throw away the free gift which you once received!

“...when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.”²⁶

So just because after you are converted and are walking on this path, you should happen to fall into sin, doesn’t mean that you have fallen off the path and are now destined for destruction. But recognize that you have caused Christ distress and pain by this sin, confess and repent of it, and then stand back up in the strength and grace of God—not to repeat the same sin this time, but to advance beyond that obstacle that is hindering you from obtaining the promised land. In doing this you will have stopped

the abortion process which your sin started, thus avoiding killing Christ afresh and losing your salvation, but are now once again walking upward towards

the city of God to that promised land and eternal life!
(*To be continued*)

by Bob Sessler

Hold Fast, and Repent — (*Continued from page 2*)

He is joined to his idol of earthly treasure: let him alone? He is joined to his idolatry of self: let him alone? The Sun of righteousness may set this very day for those who have had great light and privileges, and have not improved them. You have no time to loiter, no time to consult your convenience. It is now, even now, that you are to be zealous and repent. Oh, it is peace that you need,—Heaven's forgiveness, peace, and love in the soul. Money cannot buy it, intellect cannot procure it, wisdom cannot attain to it; but Jesus offers it as a gift. It is yours if you will but reach out your hand and grasp it. Many are weary of their halfhearted service. Their souls cry out after the living God. We are so weak, so helpless, yet so desirous for a better state of things, that we turn away from a religion that has no divine manifestation. We cannot be satisfied with a form of godliness. We must have the deep movings of the Spirit of God in the soul.

Let the minister of God in his labors lean upon the arm of infinite power. Let him lay bare his soul in the secret place alone before God. Let him with loathing put away soul defilement. Let the weary, discouraged soul cry as did Jacob, for the Comforter. Never trust in what you yourself can do. Your wisdom is but foolishness. Ever keep in heart the knowledge that we are laborers for God. The Lord is leading his church

in these last days as he led ancient Israel. While he gives them warnings, reproofs, and encouragement through his delegated servant, Christ, the angel of the covenant, who in the pillar of cloud and of fire went before the Hebrew host, is the leader of his people today. Provoke him not with your murmurings, by your selfish withholding from his cause, by cherishing iniquity; for in the face of great light he will not pardon your continual transgressions. The warning to the Sardis church is applicable at this time: "I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."¹⁶ And to us also the promise is extended. "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."¹⁷

16. Rev. 3:1-3

17. Rev. 3:4, 5

by Mrs. E. G. White

Letters to the Editor

ZAMBIA

Very happy that I have found an important site. I know God is giving you a window of opportunity to expose the works of the evil one and to prepare a people for the final crisis. God Bless you. Will also like to receive more printed publications. Please let me know how. Thanks! B. M.

Thank you so much for your timely magazines. Keep it up, God Bless you.
B. S.

VIRGINIA

I was just searching and found this site. I pray it is what I am looking for. Please send me one of your magazines so I can maybe use it to make up my mind. I must leave the SDA church. I must also know if there is room in the group for a King James only Bible believer. If you believe in other bibles don't bother to respond. God either gave us His word in a bible

that will be used to judge me by or He can't judge me at all. B. J.

Dear brother J____, Welcome! Yes, we strictly use the King James Bible only and avoid the other translations. We are also separate from the SDA denomination and believe in the writings of E. G. White. I would be happy to send you a copy of our magazine, but I'll need your mailing address. Thank you for your inquiry! Any other questions are welcome. Looking forward to having you join us! ~Editor

I may try to talk our little church group into using your name if O.K. We are still forming and so I need any info you can send. Thanks! B. J.

Dear brother J____, Happy to receive a return response from you! I have added your contact info to the Voice magazine mailing list and will be sending you a

copy tomorrow. Glad to hear that you are considering using the "Seventh-day Remnant" name for your church. If you are in agreement with our statement of beliefs on our website, feel free to do so. We have quite a bit of material on our websites (www.sdrvoice.org & www.sdrpa.org) to keep you busy for awhile, but if you like reading actual books instead of reading on the computer I can try to send you something. Let me consider what I can send. [Editor's Note: A package of present truth materials was sent.] If you have any questions feel free to contact me anytime. God bless! ~Editor

Rick, I love every bite of info that I have received from you. I have made up my mind, I must leave the main line church (SDA). Thanks again for all your help. [Editor's Note: Praise God brother! You are in our prayers.]

B. J.

Editorial

Gospel Order

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” 1 Corinthians 14:33.

We stated in our last, that to arrive at, and preserve gospel order will be a work of labor, care, and mental suffering to those who are called to labor for the spiritual good of the flock. And that it is of the highest importance that those who go forth to teach the Word should be in union in sentiment and in their course of action. It is evident that the reverse of this would cause unhappy divisions, and confusion among the flock.

We will now briefly notice the calling, qualifications, and the duties of a gospel minister. And first, he must be called to this responsible station by the Great Head of the church. In the morning after Jesus had “continued all night” in the mountain, “in prayer to God,” he “called unto him his disciples, and of them he chose twelve.” Luke 6:13. “And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach.” Mark 3:14. And as their Master sent them to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, he said: “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” Matthew 10:16.

And as our Lord was about to ascend into heaven, “the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them; and when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:16-20.

Thus we see that the first apostles received their commission from no less authority than the Lord Jesus Christ. Says the apostle Paul: “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.” Galatians 1:11, 12. Again he says: “Paul, an apostle, not of men, neither by man; but by Jesus Christ and God the Father.” Paul received his commission also from the Great Head of the church. “And God hath set some in

the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers,” etc. 1 Corinthians 12:28.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie and wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:11-16.

Here is order set forth, its objects, and its happy results. Pastors and teachers are among those given of God to accomplish the glorious work named by the Apostle. It will not do to say that this scripture applied to the first century alone; for these callings and gifts were to continue “till we all come to the unity of the faith,” etc. It is evident that the church has never arrived at the state of unity and perfection here mentioned. She has ever been, and still is, more or less “tossed to and fro.” Therefore these callings and gifts still remain with the church, though in her confusion and pride they have been nearly hid from sight. It will not do for professed teachers and pastors to say that these gifts and callings belonged alone to the first century. Not long since while in conversation with a minister, he took this ground. We then told him that if the gifts and callings such as evangelists, pastors, prophets and teachers, were confined to the first century, then the commission that he had taken upon himself ran out about 1800 years ago! He had no more to say on the point.

But the main point before us is, that God calls men to the work of the ministry. It is the great and dreadful God who singles them out, and sets them in the church to preach the gospel. It is perdition to refuse His call. It is certain ruin to heedlessly run before being sent. In a matter of such in-

finite moment as the work of the gospel ministry, God will not leave the consecrated soul in doubt. Those who stand where they can hear the voice of the Lord, and are willing to obey, will hear distinctly if God calls them. The evidences to such will be of such a character as to remove all doubt. They may be tempted for the moment, as on all points of revealed truth, yet when the evidences of their call to the work of the ministry are called up, temptations will flee.

And not only will the called and chosen one feel on the subject, but the church, if standing right, will also feel the burden of the matter. The church will feel it, if God is selecting one of the number for the gospel ministry. How natural and reasonable that the body should feel deeply, while the Lord may be rolling upon one of its members the weight of the responsible work of laboring for the eternal interests of men. And while the individual may feel utterly incompetent for the work, as he sees his own frailty, and, also, the importance of the work, and may shrink back from his duty, the church will feel to urge him out into the field.

Those who may wish to teach, whom God has not called, usually feel well qualified for the work. They have confidence in themselves, and venture to go forward without the counsel and approbation of the church.

“How ready is the man to go, whom God hath never sent! How tim’rous, diffident and slow, God’s chosen instrument!”

“Go teach all nations,” said Christ to the eleven, “baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Here baptism is closely connected with teaching. Those who go forth to teach should, then, baptize those who repent and believe. Why should repenting, believing souls wait six months, or even one day, to see whether they will backslide or not before being baptized? Rather let them have the benefit of this, and all other gospel ordinances, to keep them from backsliding. This seems to be gospel order.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you.” Acts 2:38. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized.” Verse 41. “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Chapter 8:12.

Read the account of Philip and the eunuch in verses 26-40; also that of Saul in chapter 9. As soon as he received sight, he was baptized. When the Holy Ghost fell on Peter's Gentile hearers, he said, "can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized?" Lydia, who heard Paul preach by a riverside on the Sabbath day, was immediately baptized "and her household." Chapter 16:13-15. The jailer was baptized in the same night he believed. But candidates for baptism should ever have the sacredness of the ordinance set before them, and that in being buried, they profess to be dead to this world, and that the act is a sign of their faith, not only in the death and resurrection of Christ, but also in the resurrection of all the saints, in Christ's likeness, at His second coming.

Who should administer the ordinance of baptism? We have seen that this ordinance is closely connected with teaching. "Teach all nations, baptizing them," said our Lord. Then those, and those only, should administer this ordinance who have been called of God to teach His Word.

Jesus ordained twelve from among His disciples "that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach." Said Paul to Titus, "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee." Titus 1:5. In verse seven, an elder is called a bishop. He is a true shepherd, or one who is to take the watch-care of the flock, and administer the ordinances of the gospel. Christ is called [1 Peter 2:25] the "Shepherd and Bishop" of souls. He is called the "Chief Shepherd."

Said Paul, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." 1 Timothy 4:14-16. "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." 2 Timothy 1:6.

From this we learn that the order of the gospel is that men who are called of God to teach and baptize, should be ordained, or set apart to the work of the ministry by the laying on of hands. Not that the church has power to call men into the ministry, or that ordination makes them ministers of Jesus Christ; but it is the order of the gospel that those who are called to the ministry should be ordained, for important ob-

jects.

1. That those who go out into a cold world to teach the Word of God may know that they have the approbation and sympathy of ministering brethren and of the church.

2. To produce and secure union in the church. The laying on of hands should be done, we think in behalf of the church. A united expression of the church in this thing would certainly have a tendency to unite the people of God. It would also lead them to realize the situation of the ordained preacher, inquire for his wants, and follow him into the Lord's vineyard with their prayers.

Union is strength. And where there is union of action, the union is real and abiding. Each will then take some responsibility, and labor cheerfully in the common cause of truth. But where there is not union of action, there is but little lasting interest, and but very little accomplished. What is everybody's business is nobody's business. The united action of the church relative to those who take the watch-care of the flock, would have a powerful influence to unite the church in love.

3. To shut a door against Satan. In no one thing has the gospel suffered so much as by the influence of false teachers. We can safely say, from the experience of several years, that the cause of present truth has suffered more in consequence of those who have taken upon themselves the work of teaching, whom God never sent, than in any other thing. In sending out these men, Satan has caused reproach to be brought upon the precious cause. "But," says one, "you must leave such with the Lord." Very well. We will, as Paul left the coppersmith with the Lord. Paul was not silent, however, as to his evils. He says to Timothy: "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works; of whom be thou ware also..." 2 Timothy 4:14,15. When we have done our duty, then we can leave such men with the Lord to dispose of, and not before. Paul raised the warning. So will the faithful watchman whenever he sees danger.

Some have taken it upon themselves to baptize who profess no calling to teach. Others have gone out to teach the Word whose lives were not correct at home. Both have injured the cause. We will not stop to dwell upon painful particulars.

To save the flock from imposition of this kind, the gospel plan is sufficient. Let those who are called of God to teach and baptize, be ordained according to the Word, and known abroad as those in whom the body have confidence. By this course the greatest cause of evils that has

existed among us as a people, will be removed. Our preaching brethren West and East now wade through prejudices among the people, caused by men who have traveled quite extensively, yet not called of God; who manifested much zeal for the present truth, but exhibited no sound judgment in the presentation of it. They will testify that much of their labor is to break down the prejudice caused by some of those who ran before they were sent. Brethren, shall we still mourn over these things, and make no effort to prevent them? God forbid. We will rather strive for the order of the gospel, which will heal the breach already made, and prevent these heart-rending evils for the future. Let us shut this door against Satan.

The eyes of many are upon us, brethren, and you know that some are ready to report our faults.— Lies are made against Sabbath-keepers, and some Advent Ministers and others also, love them exceedingly. This they show by their activity in reporting them. Let this work together for our good. It certainly will. We should be glad that we are watched even for our faults. Others, who are convinced that we have the truth, are watching to see what effect the truth is to produce in us. If they see with us, love, meekness and good order, they will take their stand with us. The destiny of many hangs upon the course we pursue. God help us to rally around the standard of gospel order, that we may be in a position to rescue souls from impending ruin.

The necessary qualifications for a minister of the gospel are plainly stated in the Word. And if none were received as spiritual guides but those who come up to the gospel standard, the church would be saved the worst of all evils, a corrupt ministry, and would be saved most of the disorder and confusion now existing. Here is the place to begin to labor for gospel order. Those who lead out the flock of Christ must be men of God, fully qualified for the work.

Said Paul to his son Timothy; "This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (for if a man no not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. —

Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

Many seem to desire the office of a bishop, or elder, who fail in many points named here by the Apostle. He must be "blameless," "vigilant," "sober," "patient," "not a brawler." He must rule well his own house. How is it possible that the Holy Ghost should make a man a overseer of the precious flock, to rule over them, [Hebrews 13:17,] who knows not how, or neglects to govern his children at home? — Here the Apostle appeals to our reason. And it seems the greatest absurdity that such a man should be called to rule the church! God does not call them. He will not trust souls to their care.

"Not a novice," or one newly come to the faith, as the margin reads. The reason is given. "Lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." This is almost always the case with those who with little experience go out to teach, not called of God, neither approbated by the church.—They have no real sense of the importance of the work, what it is to save souls; they do not see their own frailties, they become puffed up by Satan, who rejoices in the victories he gains through such persons.

"He must have a good report of them which are without." There are men who preach the most unpopular truths of the Bible, who are blameless, and unbelievers, or those without, are constrained to give a good report of them. Such men have influence.— An honest, strait-forward course, a holy life, gives them influence, and gives power to their preaching.

There are those who teach the people who, by their careless lives and conversation, have destroyed their own influence. They have laid stumbling-blocks in the way of sinners. They have an evil report of those who are without. The best of men may have evil reports out against them; but they will soon live them down. Says the Saviour: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.— Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." Matthew 5:10, 11.

"If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters." 1 Peter 4:14, 15.

"But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

Chapter 3:14-16.

"Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." Chapter 2:12.

"For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." Verses 19,20.

"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." Tit. 1:7-9.

Let the above qualifications, pointed out by the Holy Ghost, be well considered. If they are necessary, and most certainly they are, then no one should presumptuously try to fill the place of a gospel minister without them. But let men of God go forth with these qualifications, and they will have a holy influence on the flock. Order will be restored, and the church will be "like a city set on a hill." Her light will SO shine before men, that they seeing her good works will glorify God.

The duties of the gospel minister are also plainly stated. Mark well the solemn charge to Timothy, given by the apostle Paul, as the time of his departure was at hand, and he was ready to be offered. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do

the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

To preach the Word, then, is the duty of the gospel minister, instead of preaching "fables." And there never was a time that called for the plain Word of God to be preached as at this day, when fables abound. The Word exposes them. The Word will stand in the coming storm that will sweep away man-made creeds and fables, as with the besom of destruction.

Men will not endure sound doctrine. They love teachers that turn them from the plain truth to fables. How much more pleasing to many, to hear of a temporal millennium, than the Lord's coming. The fable of a first-day Sabbath is pleasing, while to observe the Lord's holy day is by many considered quite a disgrace. It is especially necessary that the servant of God should at this time watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of his ministry.

"Young men likewise exhort to be sober-minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." Titus 2:6-8.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Acts 20:28.

We may also learn something of the awful, responsible duties of those called to speak the Word of the Lord by the following texts, although addressed to the whole church. "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." Hebrews 13:7. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account..." Verse 17.

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lord's over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." 1 Peter 5:1-4. (*To be continued*)

Editorial by James White
R&H, Dec. 20, 1853 (Vol. 4, #24)

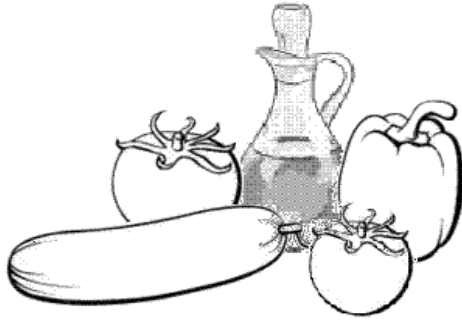
RECIPE— *Toasted Sandwich Ideas*

Here are some quick and tasty toasted sandwich ideas. These all work great on burger buns or rolls, but you can use sliced bread as well.

Ingredients:

Quick Miniature Pizzas

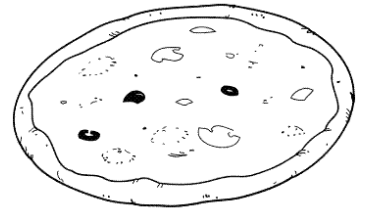
1 C. Tomato puree.
¼ C. Tomato paste.
½ t. Salt.
½ t. Onion powder.
½ t. Garlic powder.
½ t. Sweet basil.
1 T. Honey.
2 T. Lemon juice.
½ C. Chopped olives.
½ C. Chopped green peppers.
½ C. Chopped fresh tomatoes.
½ C. Chopped fresh zucchini.
Burger buns.
Garlic butter (from toasted garlic sandwiches).



Directions:

Quick Miniature Pizzas

- Stir together all ingredients except the burger buns and garlic butter.
- Cut burger buns in half and spread the topping on each half.
- Top with garlic butter and broil in the oven till just starting to brown on the top.
- Watch closely as they burn easily.



Easy Toasted Garlic Sandwiches

1 Tub of tofu (firm).
2-4 Cloves raw garlic.
1 T. Yeast flakes.
1 T. Onion flakes.
2 t. Salt.
½ C. Sesame seeds.
½ t. Marjoram (an herb).
½ t. Dill weed.
Burger buns.

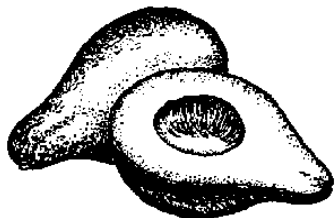


Easy Toasted Garlic Sandwiches

- Blend together first five ingredients with just enough water to allow the blender to work.
- Then add herbs and sesame seeds.
- Blend briefly to mix.
- Cut burger buns in half and spread garlic butter on each half.
- Broil in the oven until just starting to turn brown on top.
- Watch closely as they burn easily.

Easy Broiler Sandwiches

Soy butter (may leave out or use olive oil if you prefer).
1 Avocado—mashed.
Slices of soy cheese (or Garlic spread from the toasted garlic sandwiches).
Whole wheat rolls.



Easy Broiler Sandwiches

- Cut wheat rolls in half.
- Spread soy butter or olive oil on each half.
- Spread mashed avocado on top and top with soy cheese or Garlic spread.
- Put into the oven on the lowest setting for the broiler.
- You have to watch them as they do burn easily.
- Take out and enjoy!

by Virginia Markwell
& Adele Sessler

Children's Story—*Be Slow to Accuse*

James 1:19

"MOTHER, I can't find my money anywhere," said Arthur, coming into his mother's room with an anxious face. "I put it right here in my wallet, and that into my coat pocket. It has been hanging up in the hall all day; and I do believe that new girl has taken it out. She saw me put it away last night."

"Look in your other pockets, Arthur. A little boy who forgets things so often must not be too sure that he put his money in his wallet. And never accuse any person of stealing without a shadow of evidence. That is very sinful as well as very unkind. What if Susan should lose her money and accuse you of stealing it? Would you feel very good about it? Remember the golden rule."

"But, mother, she looked guilty when I said I had lost it, and that I knew some one had taken it out of my pocket."

"Very likely she did look confused on hearing you make such an unkind speech. She knew very well there was no one in the house you could suspect of taking it but herself. You might as well have said so in plain words. An innocent person is more apt to look guilty, when accused of crime, than one who is hardened in wrongdoing. The latter usually has a face

ready made up to suit any occasion. A gentleman once said that the most guilty looking person he ever saw was a man arrested for stealing a horse which afterward proved to be his own."

"But what *has* become of my money, mother? It is gone, that is certain."

"I believe you lost a fine top once, that it was supposed a little neighbor had stolen," said his mother with a smile.

"But I can't have left this down in the grapevine arbor with this winter weather."

"But there are plenty of other losing places about. Did you have on that jacket last evening?"

"No, mother, I believe I had on my gray one, but then I *know* I put it into my wallet."

"Don't say you know, dear; for it may be an untruth. Please bring me your gray jacket."

Arthur walked slowly up to his room; but he walked back slower still, and looked very foolish when he came into his mother's room again. Mother comprehended it all at a glance, and smiled as she said, "I wonder who looks guilty this time!"

"Oh, mother I am sorry, but I did not mean to accuse Susan so wrongly. I re-

member now just as plainly as can be, wrapping up that money in that bit of paper, and putting it into my jacket pocket."

"It is a very serious thing, Arthur, to make such charges as you did a few moments ago against an innocent person. What if you had mentioned it among your school-mates? It would not be long before it would be told at Mr. Reynold's that Susan steals. Then they wouldn't keep her. If she ever wished to get another job it might be a very difficult matter.

"Though you contradicted the story afterward, it would never undo the mischief. Many will repeat an injurious story, who will never take the trouble to correct it. I will pray for you, dear boy, that you may learn to correct this sinful habit; and I hope you will pray with me. You never will improve a bad habit until you pray over it. Run now and tell Susan you have found your money; and try to make some amends for your injustice, by being more than usually thoughtful and obliging."—*The Methodist Protestant*.

Adapted from—The Youth's Instructor
October 15, 1870.

**“Paul set an example against the sentiment,
then gaining influence in the church,
that the gospel could be proclaimed successfully
only by those who were wholly freed from the necessity of physical toil . . .
His course inspired many humble toilers with a desire
to do what they could to advance the cause of God,
while at the same time they supported themselves in daily labor . . .
The Lord employs various instrumentalities
for the accomplishment of His purpose,
and while some with special talents are chosen to devote all their energies
to the work of teaching and preaching the gospel,
many others, upon whom human hands have never been laid in ordination,
are called to act an important part in soulsaving.”**

The Act of the Apostles, p. 355.

Health Nugget—*Stress* part 2

What can be done to help reduce stress?

Now that you know what effect stress can have on you, what can be done? Since ignoring stress only raises the stress level that is not a real option. We can avoid stressful situations by fleeing, but that is neither healthy nor is it always possible. But we can adapt. We can plan and organize.

When we still have too much stress we can implement a 4-point lifestyle change.

1) Pertaining to physical health we can:

- Make sure we have proper nutrition.
- Get regular physical exercise.
- Avoid legal drugs—Nicotine, caffeine, alcohol.

Caffeine and related compounds (theobromine in chocolate) directly raise stress hormones. Alcohol reduces stress relief hormones—GABA, Serotonin, CRH.

- Minimize prescription and OTC (over the counter) drugs.

Stress and anxiety drugs such as Xanax, Klonopin, Valium, Ativan, Paxipam, Librium,—in the Benzodiazepine category—all have side effects none of us want:

drowsiness, fatigue, dependence/addiction, risk of “rebound” symptoms, stomach and intestinal distress, impairment of performance, appetite stimulation, drug interactions, intolerance to alcohol, increased risk of injuries, birth defects, respiratory problems.

MAOIs, SSRIs, and TCAs have even more side effects.

- Get a good massage.
- 2) Pertaining to Social Health these are important:
- Good relations with parents at an early age.
 - Able to make and keep friends. Forgiveness is key to this.
 - Helping others.

Social steps to stress:

- Distrust of others.
- Isolation.
- Feelings of loneliness.
- Weakened immune system.

3) Pertaining to Mental Health the following are helpful:

- Music—Sing or listen to hymns of praise.
 - Breathe deeply—Go for a walk, preferably outdoors, in nature.
 - Sounds of nature.
 - Rest and sleep.
 - Put anxious thoughts out of mind and think of the above.
- 4) Pertaining to Spiritual health:
- “Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself...” Matthew 6:34.

Stress leads to lack of sleep which leads to stress—vicious cycle.

- Be positive.
- Don’t be critical.
- Meditate on God’s Word, particularly His promises of love and care.

Short term stress reducers are herbs, fasting, relaxation and immune response, biofeedback. Calcium is a good reliever of PMS stress.

by Jean Johnson

“God is deferring the bringing of His judgment upon the earth in order that those who are supposed to be His people, but who have been bringing in the very things He has condemned in ancient Israel, working according to methods He will not accept, may get ready to meet Him in peace . . .

God says, ‘I will thoroughly purge My floor of all chaff. I will sift My people as in a sieve.

Those who name My name must be thoroughly cleansed from all false and corrupting principles.

Those whom I claim as My heritage will even now be wondered at as a peculiar people, cleansed from all fraud, all injustice.

Those who enter the city of God will here have worked righteousness revealing to the world the principles of heaven.”

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 12, p. 150.

MISSION REPORTS

Africa

Uganda

March 23, 2012

(Continued)

As the day was coming to its close, about 5:20 pm, we got to W____, where we gave out these very books and tracts and many people accepted them to our delight. As we did our rounds in W____, we got close to the gate of the SDA church—fifth biggest; seating capacity twenty-five hundred.

It came to our knowledge later, that on that day many different churches had gathered there for a special ceremony. The visiting minister who was presiding at the ceremony was professor M____ from B____ SDA university. When we reached the gate of the church many people were outside as they always do in the afternoons and later on they usually go back in the church at 6:30pm to close the Sabbath. As these people in the church compound saw us on the road giving out books and tracts, the children came running to see what these things were. We gave them some books and tracts and they rushed back to their parents to show their gifts. Out of curiosity, many after seeing what the children had gotten, came, both old and young to get a share of these materials. We gave books to as many as came, at least a book and booklet for each one. They went back overjoyed to see and to receive for the first time SOP books, then they all gathered in one place under a tree in the church compound and talked at the top of their voices of their great find. There was excitement in the air, in total amazement some were wild with jubilation—what a delight it was for us to behold such a scene.

Little did we know that in the church, the pastors and elders from the different churches were holding a meeting. When they heard the loud shouting in the church compound they were perturbed. So, they sent two elders to find out what had caused this. When they reached the church members under the tree, the members showed them the SOP books with all their faces radiant, expressing great delight, and their eyes glowing with exceeding joy, expecting the elders to join them in their happy moment. But alas! The scene immediately changed. The elders asked them why they would get anything without their

consent. They got some of the books and showed them to the pastors inside together with Professor M____. On seeing this, the elders came back out saying they had been ambushed by enemies of the church and that all the members outside the church should come in immediately and hand over all these materials. As the trail of believers went back to church, two elders were sent to us outside the gate. They asked us who gave us permission to give out these books, in a fit of anger, with their eyes bugged out. Then again they asked, who is the leader of this band of workers, and elder M____ told them it was me—J____. Then they told me that the pastors wanted to see me immediately and so in humility and with silent prayers, I followed them into the church. We passed through the pews and on to the very front of the platform, where the pastors were seated. Unanimously, they asked me this question: “Are you the one giving out these blasphemous materials? Are you hard-pressed to do your utmost to condemn and trouble the remnant church of God?” Then professor M____ put them in order, and went on to say that we were just offshoots, who to date range to over one-hundred and fifty in number.

Then he quoted Testimonies to Ministers p. 50 and stated that I am only doing the work that was done way back in 1890. He told me he had seen these books and booklets before, namely: W.C.C. & S.D.A church, God’s True Church, and more, which he claimed put a bad shade on the SDA church as being in union and one with the Papacy and the fallen churches. He said all these were fabricated lies manufactured to smear, condemn and trouble the remnant church. How much his words were in likeness to the words of King Ahab to Elijah (see 1 Kings 18:16-18), this leaves us with food for thought... Do you smell a rat, dear friend? It is always so, that those who stand for truth and righteousness will be charged with troubling the established apostatizing churches, like ancient Israel under the reign of Ahab charged Elijah for troubling Israel.

After this, he went on to ask me, “Who is financing this, and where is your church stationed?” He again asked whether it is SDA or not. After a long silence I answered him in the affirmative with meekness of mind. I began by telling him

of God’s work in these last days and how God would take the reigns in his own hands, and I quoted Testimonies to Ministers p. 300. I went on to say how God would raise up many Elijahs in the last days, who would not wait for any man, whatever his position in the church, or even any conference to send them. They would go by God’s bidding. I quoted Early Writings p. 155 to emphasis this. I went on to tell him that Elijah was not sent by the Israel church of his day but by God, given that that church had apostatized. Even so, God in His mercy in these last days has raised such ones as Elijah to finish His work. Then on the issue of His claim that we were condemning, smearing and troubling the church, I had this to say: “I condemn no church, but the Word of God and the SOP have the last Word on this.” I then began by reading to them all, from Testimonies to Ministers p. 265, Testimonies for the Church p. 247—how the church can become Babylon and how God will judge the church by the privileges and the light bestowed on it, which it had failed to fulfill.

Then I told them how old Israel as a church fell, yet priding themselves of being the chosen of God and claiming all the way that they were the only church of God. I emphasized this by reading from the Bible:

(Jer. 7:1-3, 8-12; Matt. 8:11-12; Isa. 5:3-16, 20-21; Jer. 5:1-3, 11-14; Isa. 42:18-20; Rev 3:17; Matt. 13:15; Jer. 5:29-31, 21-23; Rev. 3:14-16, 18-21; Matt. 21:28-32).

After sharing this with him, he told me it was not for me to preach to him, but for him to preach to me, given that he is a professor of theology. Then he said, “you have been bold to give your defense,” but, that I should let him and the other pastors do the work of reviewing and reading these books before they may be given to their flock. Lastly he told me, “It is because it is late and we must close the Sabbath,” otherwise he would have wanted to have much more time with me in order to help me better understand these things. As he bade me farewell, together with the other pastors, he told me to follow protocol next time wherever I go out to work. As I was going out of the church the thought came to me that they may have had a bad motive for retaining these books. All this questioning and my de-

fense lasted for forty-five minutes. I got back to our car and told the team all that had transpired, and how I felt that something ill was going to be done to the books we had left there. We then moved away about one kilometer, and there we closed the Sabbath with prayer, and giving thanks to God for all the good that He had done through us that day.

Nine days later we heard what had happened to those materials. With the pretext that they wanted to review them, they requested all who had received a copy of these SOP books around K____, to hand them to their respective elders and pastors within K____. To start with the W____ church, where we had met professor M____, had already gotten many from their flock on the day we handed them out. But three persons were noted, who had not handed them over because immediately after they had received them, they had left for their homes before the call for the book collection began at the church. Due to this, they called an urgent meeting on Sunday and beckoned these three persons who had taken the books to attend, but only two reported. The other had gone that Saturday evening upcountry to his village.

Of the two who reported, one was a church worker at the W____ church and he was staying at the church quarters. When he tried to reason why he wanted to retain the books, he was threatened with the loss of his job and also that he should either give in the books or vacate the church premises at once. He recanted and handed over the books to save his job. Then the other was a woman and as she left, she took them home to her unbelieving husband, and for the first time the husband was well pleased with her, saying this was very good that her church had done this, in giving out to them booklets and tracts. He immediately started reading Steps to Christ that very night. So, the next morning when she was requested to hand in the books at the meeting, she gave them her side of the story, how the books had been embraced by her husband, and how for the first time he joined her in the morning prayer, and requested her to pray for him. She thought that this should convince them enough to leave her with the books. But to her dismay she was told that those books had error and that they would bring ruin to her husband and to her whole family. She was told to go with two elders back to her home and tell her husband that these books she had taken home by mistake. That the pastor had told her to take them home to his place, but because he had omitted "to his place," she took it for

granted that she was given the books to take to her own home. So together with the elders they carried this manufactured lie to her husband in order to retrieve the books from their home. Now when they got there, they found the husband engrossed in the book Steps to Christ and he requested that at least they leave it with him until he finished reading it. But they convinced him that the pastor was traveling and he needed all the books to use wherever he was going, and that on his way back he would bring it back to him, so he gave the Steps to Christ and the other books to them. But the reality was that never again would he see these books.

Then the third person who had gotten the SOP books and had gone upcountry, they called on the phone to find out whether he would come back on that day. He told them that he wasn't coming back soon and that he would not give back those books even when he did return. He informed them he had left the books in his house and only traveled with one tract entitled, "What must I do to be saved?" On realizing his adamant stance, they conjured a plan of retrieving the books from him in his absence, under the guise of the immediate need of these materials to be used at the church. They got a conference letter-head and brought a claim that he had stolen the church's prized materials in the form of books and had gone on the run to the village, and that the only way they could retrieve them was to get the help of both the police and local council authorities, where they took this letter. Their excuse was that these materials were needed to be used in the ministers' workshop that had commenced that Sunday morning in N____ SDA church. They told the police they had called him and he told them he was not coming back soon and they could not wait any longer. With this lie, the police and the local authorities were well convinced. Then together with these authorities, they went and broke into his house and immediately made a thorough check for these materials. Surprisingly, to the police and the local authorities, they saw these elders only pick out a few SOP books and booklets i.e. Great Controversy, Desire of Ages, WCC and SDA, etc. The police and the local council authorities could not see how only these few items could warrant such a decisive, irreversible demand for an urgent check. Truly, they were all left perplexed! But the elders had a hidden agenda. They wanted to see these books destroyed.

The rest of the churches within the K____ area, they convinced that the General Conference had decided to print out

the correct error-free SOP books to give to all, free of charge. And that the first consideration would be given to those who had gotten these error-filled SOP books who returned them within the period of one week. That all who returned them should be recorded by their pastors to be the first people to get the General Conference printouts, and that they will have helped the church to eradicate the error-filled books. This trick was pulled off! Many, many returned the books within four days, starting from Sunday, in anticipation of getting better error-free SOP books from their beloved church. But all in vain, up till now the promise given them has never come to pass. The reason will be best known as you read on.

Through the week, they gathered these SOP books within the K____ area. On Friday, they invited many of the churches within the K____ areas to worship at N____ church on the Sabbath. Later on we learned that the purpose of this was to tell them the fate of these so called "fake" books. Come Saturday November 19, many flocked to N____ to worship.

Truly this was D-day for those books; it was a moment of truth for the church to show its true colors. On that day all the SOP books and other spiritual materials were taken to N____ and then, after divine service they called all the members to an assembly out in the church compound and there these SOP books were set ablaze by the leading men of the church—pastors. Under Satan's influence, these ministers made the Lord's Day become one of unrest and total darkness, instead making it a day of rest and delight. They were doing what had been done before in Israel, in Jeremiah's time, and in France during the French revolution—the burning of the scroll, and the burning of the true Witnesses. Read Jeremiah 36 and Revelation 11:7-8.

This was no mean feat. As they were tearing and throwing these SOP books into the fire, the teeming congregation shouted at the top of their voices, saying together with their leaders that the enemy Satan and his fake books had been destined to ashes, confirming in no uncertain terms that this was a Day of Destiny (D-day) for these books. In their fury, the leaders went on to say that if any one still held dear any of these books in secret, he or she should know that when discovered, his fate would be excommunication and to be treated even worse than these books. So then, many who had kept these materials secretly also handed them over to be burned. Oh! What a scene!!! Alas, in agony and with deep sorrow all heaven

was watching it with dismay.

The leaders went on to say that they had hatched a master plan on how to deal with all of us who give out these materials and in that plan they said we would meet harsher treatment than had these books. They stated that they knew where every one of the perpetrators of this evil work stayed and that they were watching our every step. In emphasizing this, my name was mostly pronounced as the kingpin in running this work, not only to bring harm, but havoc to the church. In this line, the authorities had been notified, the police and the NCC Uganda chapter. Hence, it is only a matter of time and they will strike a killer blow. We are therefore seated on a time bomb. Dear brothers, we solicit your prayers and by faith we know we are hidden in the Rock of Ages for our safety. (Proverbs 18:10 "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.")

ALL THIS AND MORE WAS HEARD FROM FIRST HAND WITNESSES WHO WERE THERE ON THE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS DESCRIBED.

To cut a long story short, what can one conclude or say of such happenings? Let the word of God and the SOP books speak. Truly history is repeating itself. Let us look at Jeremiah 36:20-26 as our case study.

"This chapter (Jeremiah 36) is a record of historical events that will be repeated, let all who desire to receive warning, read carefully." Manuscript 65, 1912.

"Many now despise the faithful reproof given of God in Testimony. I have been shown that some in these last days have even gone so far as to burn the written word of rebuke and warning, as did the wicked king of Israel. But opposition to God's threatening will not hinder their execution. To defy the words of the Lord, spoken through his chosen instruments, will only provoke His anger and eventually bring certain ruin upon the offender." Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 678.

"The man who rejects the word of the Lord, who endeavors to establish his own way and will, tears to pieces the messenger and message which God sends in order to discover to him his sin. His own inclinations have influenced his conduct, and he has built himself up in a wrong way." Testimonies to Ministers p. 408.

"The cause of Christ will be betrayed. Those who have had the light of truth, and have enjoyed its blessings, but who have turned away from it, will fight down the Spirit of God. Inspired with a spirit from beneath, they will tear down that which they once built up, and show to all reason-

able, God-fearing souls that they can not be trusted." Review & Herald May 24, 1898.

"This chapter (Jeremiah 36) is a record of historical events that will be repeated. Let all who desire to receive warning, read carefully. In the incidents of the closing scenes of the Lord's ministry is embraced much that very many claiming to be Bible Christians do not study... They do not see that in their experience they are passing over the very same ground. They do not seem to care to learn lessons from the history of ancient Israel that have been written for their admonition. As God's church, we cannot tread the same path of unbelief as ancient Israel, refusing to be admonished and discarding the messages the Lord had given, and escape the sure result of our course of action." Sermons and Talks Vol 2, p 331.

"A deadly spiritual malady is upon the church. Its members are wounded by Satan..." Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 202.

"Those who place themselves in Satan's power are unable to see things as God sees them. When the mirror of truth is held up before them, they become indignant at the thought of receiving reproof. Blinded by sin, they refuse to repent; they feel that God's servants have turned against them and are worthy of severest censure... today there is need of a voice of stern rebuke, for grievous sins have separated the people from God. Infidelity is fast becoming fashionable. 'We will not have this man to reign over us...' Luke 19:14" Prophets and Kings p. 140.

"Satan is constantly seeking to deceive men, and lead them to call sin righteousness, and righteousness sin. How successful has been his work! How often are censure and reproach cast upon God's faithful servants because they will stand fearlessly in the defense of the true! Men who are but agents of Satan are praised and flattered... while those who should be respected and sustained for their fidelity to God, are left to stand alone, under suspicion and distrust." Spirit of Prophecy, Vol 4, p. 151.

"Through deceptive means and unseen channels, Satan is working to strengthen his authority and to place obstacles in the way of God's people, that souls may not be freed from his power and gathered under the banner of Christ... and those whom he cannot lead into sin he will persecute, as the Jews did to Christ. Satan's object is to dishonor God, and he works with every element that is unsanctified to accomplish this design. The men whom he makes his instruments in doing this work

are blinded and do not see what they are doing until they are so deeply involved in guilt that they think it would be useless to try to recover themselves, and they risk all and continue in their course of transgression to the bitter end." Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 295.

"Those living in these sins are deceived and blinded by the wiles of Satan. They think that they are in the light when they are groping in darkness. There are murmurers among us now even as there were murmurers among ancient Israel. Those who by unwise sympathy encourage men in rebellion when their self-love is smarting beneath merited reproof are not the friends of God, the great Reprover." Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, p. 180.

"It does not become any one to drop a word of doubt here and there that shall work like poison in other minds, shaking their confidence in the messages which God has given, which have aided in laying the foundation of this work, and have attended it to the present day, in reproofs, warnings, corrections, and encouragements. To all who have stood in the way of the Testimonies, I would say, God has given a message to His people, and His voice will be heard, whether you hear or forbear. Your opposition has not injured me; but you must give an account to the God of heaven, who has sent these warnings and instructions to keep his people in the right way. You will have to answer to Him for your blindness, for being a stumbling-block in the way of sinners." Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 43.

"Satan is working with men in prominent positions to sweep away the foundations of our faith. Shall we allow this to be done, brethren?... I am deeply in earnest as I write this." Review & Herald, November 19, 1903.

"Ministers have stood directly in the way of the work of God in Ohio (N____, Uganda Union and every other place in the world). They should stand out of the way, that God may reach his people. They step in between God and His people, and turn aside His purposes." Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 237.

"The ____ and ____ churches have taken a heavy responsibility. The full result of the work they have done will not be known until the judgment. You need heavenly wisdom, brethren, for sin has many disguises. The want of spiritual vision makes you stumble like blind men... Your unbelief has held the work. You have done comparatively nothing yourselves, and when one would work, you hedged the way so that he could not labor to any advantage." Testimonies for the Church, Vol.

5, p. 296.

“If men resist the warnings God sends them, they become even leaders in evil practices; such men assume to exercise the prerogative of God—they presume to do what God Himself will not do in seeking to control the minds of men. Thus they follow in the track of Romanism. They introduce their own methods and plans, and through their misconceptions of God they weaken the faith of others in the truth and bring in false principles that work like leaven to taint and corrupt institutions and churches.” Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p. 181.

“When you find men questioning the testimonies, finding fault with them, and seeking to draw away the people from their influence, be assured that God is not at work through them.” Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 45.

“Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit... And now, because you have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spoke unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by My name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight...” Jeremiah 7:8, 13-15.

“To the people of God the testimonies of the Spirit have come, and yet many have not taken heed to reproofs, warnings, and counsels. (Jeremiah 5:21-25, 28-29 quoted). Shall the lord be compelled to say, ‘pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee?’” Review & Herald August 1, 1893.

“With these warnings, why is it that the church does not distinguish the false from the genuine?... They have not distinguished the voice of the True Shepherd from that of a stranger. Let all such review this chapter of their experience.

“For more than half a century God has been giving His people light through the testimonies of His Spirit... Those who can ignore all the evidences which God has given them, and change that blessing into a curse, should tremble for the safety of their souls... The Lord has been insulted. The standard of truth, of the first, second, and third angels’ message has been left to trail in the dust. If the watch men are left to mislead the people in this fashion, God will hold some souls responsible for the lack of keen discernment to discover what kind of provender was being given to His

flock.

“Apostasies have occurred and the lord has permitted matters of this nature to develop in the past in order to show how easily his people will be misled when they depend on the words of men instead of searching the scriptures for themselves,... Rebellion and apostasy are in the very air we breathe.” Selected Messages, Book 2, pp. 293-294.

Concerning these events that happened, this is all I could gather of what took place and also what the Word of God says about it in the SOP.

On a good note however, I have this to say, many people whom we met accepted the spiritual books that we gave to them. And on a brighter side we visited a south Sudan homestead in K____, who accepted the message. The families together comprise twenty-six persons and fifteen of them are being prepared for baptism. We solicit your utmost prayers and support in this endeavor. More on this will be given in my next report.

May God bless and keep you all as you do His service. With Christian love.

B. M.

Uganda May 21, 2012

I am so thankful that the message of salvation is brought in such simplicity to us. If we accept this message with the simplicity of little children, believing that this message is His word, imparting everlasting life, we shall receive power to overcome the evil one. Let us now grasp every promise, and cherish them moment by moment. I am also very thankful for the privilege of speaking these words to the world. The requirements of God are set plainly before us; the question to be settled is, will we comply with them? Will we accept the conditions laid down in His word—separation from the world? This is not the work of a moment or of a day. It is a lifelong work. Our consecration to God must be a living principle, interwoven with the life, and leading to self-denial and self-sacrifice. It must underlie all our thoughts, and be the spring of every action. This will elevate us above the world, and separate us from its polluting influence.

However, many who profess to believe the word of God do not seem to understand the deceptive working of the enemy. They little realize that the end of time is near; but Satan knows it; and while men sleep, he works!

But the message (light), which is our privilege to enjoy, is not carefully cherished and carried into practical life in most circumstances. For this reason there is little power among us at the present time and we have so little strength! The firmer hold we have on heaven, the greater will be our power for usefulness while working for Him. We should study the pattern of events so that the spirit which dwelt in Christ may dwell in us. This will help us do many mighty works which will help to reap this world so that we can go to paradise when Christ appears!

It has taken me time to write about my work at home (Uganda) because I have been making different contacts in the neighboring countries of Kenya, Rwanda, DRC, Burundi, Tanzania and now in Southern Sudan; finding co-workers in the Lord’s vineyard. I believe we can now open up missions linked to SDR churches all over the region, having the same faith and doctrine to carry the last message of mercy to the world with the big hope that it will continue to swell into the loud cry. Our challenges are large and I still believe that we should increase our printed leaflets containing the present truth messages to be scattered like the leaves of Autumn in these regions!

I have also embarked on organizing work starting with my own home at B____. I have been working tirelessly to get the brethren united in expanding the work of tract evangelism. I have set aside three hours each day in the afternoon to pass out some tracts to the neighboring villages of B____, L____ and L____, resulting in four people accepting the present truth. I encouraged brother E____ to stand firmly with me, despite his family problem with his wife, who is still a strong believer in the traditional SDA church. G____, who has had problems, has attended three Sabbaths with us so far, for fellowship. The Lord answered him by restoring his health, which was a miracle, as he expected death. I pray that the Lord will bless our efforts so that a thorough reorganization will take place.

I have noticed that every church that has separated needs organization and order for their particular cause. I have received letters from brothers K____ and M____, calling upon me to help with this organization. I believe that we are almost done and headed for heaven with our task accomplished.

We appreciate so much all your support for the gospel commission. God bless you.

B. J.