

The Return of the Exiles—No. 7, “Words of Encouragement”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, December 19, 1907

“Z

echariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet,” began to prophesy “in the eighth month, in the second year of Darius”¹--only a few days after the Lord had assured the

1. Zech 1:1

Israelites through Haggai that the glory of the house they were building would be greater than the glory of the former temple built by Solomon. Zechariah’s first message was an assurance that God’s word never fails, and a promise of blessing to those who harken unto the sure word of prophecy.

6. Hag. 1:13

“The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers,”² the God of Israel declared unto Zechariah: “therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts: Turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts: Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor harken unto me, saith the Lord. Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live forever? But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the Lord of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.”³

7. Amos 5:21,22

2. Zech 1:2

8. Hosea 6:6

The Israelites had resumed the work of the Lord in faith. The difficulties under which they began to labor were of a most discouraging nature. Adversity had attended their efforts to attain temporal prosperity. Their fields were lying waste; their scant store of provisions was rapidly failing. Yet in the face of famine, and surrounded by unfriendly peoples, they moved forward in response to the call of God’s messengers, and began anew to restore the ruined temple. Such a work required great faith, and the Lord gave them special assurances through Haggai and Zechariah that their faith would be richly rewarded, and that his word would not fail. The builders were not left to struggle on alone; “with them were the prophets of God helping them;”⁴ and the Lord of hosts himself had declared, “Be strong, . . . and work: for I am with you.”⁵

9. Acts 7:48,49

3. Zech. 1:3-6

10. Is. 57:15

The Lord, in mercy, warned his people against the danger of falling back into their old ways of negligence and selfish indifference. He revealed to them the necessity of worshiping him in the beauty of

4. Ezra 5:2

11. Hag. 2:10-12

5. Hag. 2:4

12. Hag 2:13

holiness. In former years some whose hearts were polluted with sin had sought to please him with the splendor of many rites and ceremonies in the beautiful temple built by Solomon; but their worship was not pleasing to the God of whom it is written: “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity.”⁶

In the dark days of apostasy before the captivity, God had declared to his impenitent people: “I hate, I despise your feast days. . . . Though ye offer me burnt-offerings and your meat-offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace-offerings of your fat beasts.”⁷ “For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt-offerings.”⁸

The Israelites who were so diligently engaged in rebuilding the Lord’s house, needed to realize constantly that “the Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?”⁹ “Thus saith the high and holy One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”¹⁰

In order that the builders of the second temple might make no mistakes, the Lord plainly instructed them, in the form of a parable, regarding the nature of service acceptable in his sight. About a month after Zechariah began to prophesy, and just three months after the people had resumed work on the temple, “in the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts: Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No”¹¹ “Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.”¹²

A soul corrupted by sin is represented by the figure of a dead body in a state of putrefaction. All the washings and sprinklings enjoined in the ceremonial law were lessons in parables, teaching the

necessity of a work of regeneration in the inward heart for the purification of the soul dead in trespasses and sins, and also the necessity of the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.

“Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the Lord; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean.”

A mere participation in religious services and ordinances does not make a sinner a Christian. A wicked man does not become righteous merely by associating with those who fear God. A man is made holy, and acceptable with God, only when his unclean heart is made clean by the grace of Christ, through faith, and by obedience to words of truth and righteousness. A work of reformation and restoration must take place in every heart. Those who have had great light and many privileges may perform some good works, notwithstanding their impenitence and their refusal to be saved in God’s appointed way. But these good works do not cleanse the soul from corruption. Only those who accept the light of God’s truth, choosing to obey him, will be cleansed from the defilement of sin.

Having admonished the builders not to fall into the same error that had brought their forefathers into trial and captivity, and had resulted in the destruction of the first temple, Haggai continued:--

“And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the Lord: since those days

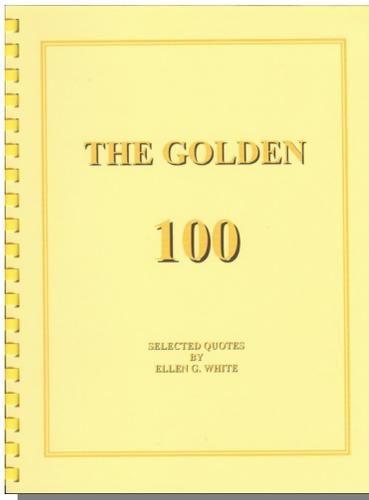
were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the press-fat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty. I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labors of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the Lord. Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the Lord’s temple was laid, consider it. Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig-tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive-tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you.”¹³

13. Hag 2:13-19

Wonderful promise! Wonderful assurance of divine favor! Never, never, by their own efforts, could the Israelites have become pure and holy. But when, sinful and polluted as they were, the sport of their enemies, and suffering because of a terrible drought, they turned to the Lord in humility of heart, confessed their sins, and chose to obey the testimonies of his messengers, God recognized their effort to carry out his instruction, and he accepted them as his obedient children. He accepted them not because of their zeal and good works, but because of their faith in the power of the coming Saviour to cleanse from sin.

On the day when rich blessings were promised the Israelites because of their faith and their willing obedience, a message was given to Zerubbabel, their “The word of the Lord came unto Haggai, . . .

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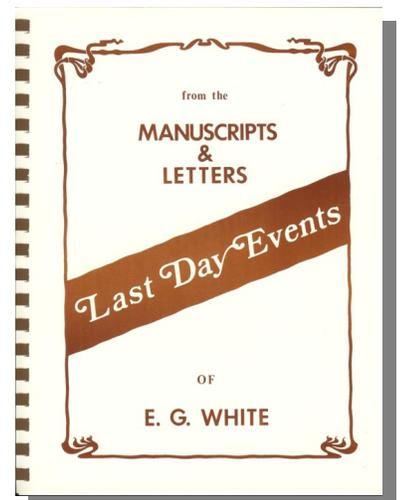


THE GOLDEN 100

The SDRPA has a 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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saying, Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth; and I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the Lord, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts.”¹⁴

14. Hag. 2:20-23

This personal testimony to Zerubbabel has been left on record for our special encouragement in time of trial. Zerubbabel had been sorely tried through all the years since he had led the Israelites forth from Babylon. God has a purpose in sending trial to his children. He never leads them otherwise than they would choose to be led if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling. He subjects them to discipline to humble them,--to lead them, through trial and affliction, to see their weakness and to draw near unto him. As they cry to him for help, he responds, saying, “Here am I.”

Christians are Christ’s jewels. They are to shine brightly for him, shedding forth the light of his loveliness. Their luster depends on the polishing they receive. They may choose to be polished or to remain unpolished. But every one who is pronounced worthy of a place in the Lord’s temple must submit to the polishing process. Without the polishing that the Lord gives they can reflect no more light than a common pebble.

15. Hag 2:23

Christ says to man, You are mine. I have bought you. You are now only a rough stone, but if you will place yourself in my hands, I will polish you, and the luster with which you shall shine will bring honor to my name. No man shall pluck you out of my hand. I will make you my peculiar treasure. On my coronation day, you will be a jewel in my crown of rejoicing.

The divine Worker spends little time on worthless material. Only the precious jewels does he polish after the similitude of a palace, cutting away all the rough edges. This process is severe and trying; it hurts human pride. Christ cuts deep into the experience that man in his self-sufficiency has regarded as complete, and takes away self- uplifting from the character. He cuts away the surplus surface, and putting the stone to the polishing, wheel, presses it close, that all roughness may be worn away. Then, holding the jewel up to the light, the Master sees in it a reflection of himself, and he pronounces it worthy of a place in his casket.

“In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, will I take thee, . . . and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts.”¹⁵ Blessed be the experience, however severe, that gives new value to the stone, and causes it to shine with living brightness.

{RH, December 19, 1907 par. 20}

We will not have a **murmuring thought** because we have trials.
God’s dear children always had them,
and every trial well endured here, will only make us rich in glory.
I crave the suffering part.

I would not go to heaven without suffering if I could,
and see Jesus who suffered so much for us to purchase for us so rich an
inheritance; and to see the martyrs
who laid down their lives for the truth, and the sake of Jesus.

No, no. Let me [be] perfected through sufferings.
I long to be a partaker with Christ of His sufferings,
for if I am, I know I shall be a partaker with Him of His glory.
Jesus is our pattern.

Let us study to have our lives as near like Christ’s as possible.
Reflecting Christ 350.4

Editorial—A Talk With My Best Friend

Some of you may remember the picture from Uncle Arthur's Bible Stories where it shows the two disciples walking with Christ and He is telling them about Himself and answering their questions. They invite him to have supper with them, and then when He raises his hands in prayer and disappears, they recognize who they have been walking with. That picture has stayed with me for many years.

Sometimes before I fall asleep at night I think about walking with Jesus down that path with those disciples, and I am telling Jesus what has happened that day or what is on my mind. But unlike those two disciples, I know who I am talking with.

Sometimes it is easier to pray when you picture yourself in a conversation with Christ. Can you imagine going on a walk or a hike with your friends without ever speaking with them? How about when you are traveling in a car, or on a train, or bus, or on any type of conveyance, do you ever picture Christ

standing or sitting with you? Would it make a difference in what you say or how you think?

"If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. **Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend.** He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet joyful sense of the presence of Jesus."—(Christ's Object Lessons, 129.)

Look at how some of the men in the Bible talked with God. Enoch talked with God until God took him home to heaven. David had quite a few things to say to his Friend. He told God just how he felt about his friends, his enemies, yet there is no where that I can find that God reprimanded David for saying what he was feeling. We're told about Jeremiah, Noah, Isaiah, Solomon, and others how they prayed. Each had their own way of expressing the things they were feeling in

prayer.

There are times when you tell an earthly friend something you don't want anyone else to know and then you find out that they have told others. But with prayer there is no need to hold back, God already knows your heart, He already knows what you are thinking, so telling Him is not news to Him. It is good to talk about your feelings with someone who understands and can be trusted.

Challenge yourself to find more ways to talk with our Brother, Our Jesus, Our Saviour. He is never too busy or impatient to listen to our deepest thoughts. He will give us council and come closer to us, helping our feeble attempts at letting Him into our lives. We can have the sense of the presence of Jesus with us every day and every moment. What a wonderful way to prepare for heaven!

NOTE—Remember to keep your letters coming in we look forward to hearing from you.

What Have You Done ?

"SIR," said a lad coming down on a wharf in Boston and addressing a well-known merchant

"Sir, have you any berth for me on your ship? I want to earn something."

"What can you do?" asked the gentleman.

"I can try my best to do whatever I am put to," answered the boy.

"What have you done?"

"I have sawed and split all mother's wood for nigh two years."

"What have you not done?" asked the gentleman, which was a strange sort of question.

"Well, sir," answered the boy, after a moment's pause,

"I have not whispered once in school for a whole year."

"That's enough," said the gentleman, "you may ship aboard this vessel, and I hope to see you master of her some day. A boy who can master a wood-pile and bridle his tongue must be made of good stuff." --Selected

Youth's Instructor Feb. 1, 1871

Children's Story

Ragged Tom and His Surety

ONE Sabbath afternoon, a big boy stood at the door of a Sabbath School. He was so bad that he had been turned out of school the Sabbath before. His father and mother had brought him, and begged that he might be received again.

The Superintendent said, "We should be glad to do him good, but we are afraid he will ruin all the other children. It is very bad for a school when a big boy sets a wicked example."

"We know he is a bad boy at school, sir," said the parents, "but he is ten times worse at home; he will be lost if you do not take him back."

"We would take him back if we could secure his good behavior. I will see," said the Superintendent.

So he stepped back into the school, and rang the bell for silence. All listened while he said, "That boy wants to come into the school again, but we cannot take him back without making sure of his good behavior."

Will any one be surety for him?" A pause followed, the elder boys shook their heads. They said they knew him so well. The others did not care for him.

But one little boy pitied the big bad boy, and was very sorry that no one would be surety. The little boy went by the name of "Ragged Tom." It was not his fault that he was ragged, for his mother was very poor.

The Superintendent soon heard his little voice saying, "If you please, sir, I will, sir." "You, Tom! a little boy like you! Do you know what it means to be surety, Tom?"

"Yes, sir, if you please; it means that when he is bad again, I'm to be punished for him." "And are you willing to be punished for that big boy?" "Yes, sir, if he's bad again."

"Then come in," said the Superintendent, looking to the door; and the big boy, with downcast face, walked across the room. He was thinking as he walked, "I know I'm a bad boy, but I'm not so bad as that. I'll never let that little fellow be punished for me never!"

I think God had put that thought into the big boy's mind. He was graciously helping Tom's work as the surety. As the children were leaving the school, the Superintendent saw this big boy and little Tom walking and talking together.

He said to himself, "I am afraid that boy will do Tom harm. I must go and look after them."

When he reached the cottage where Tom lived, he said to the mother, "Where is your son Tom?" "O, he is just gone up stairs with a great boy that he brought with him. I don't know what they are doing." "May I go up?" "O yes, sir."

The Superintendent went slowly and gently up the stairs; and as he reached the top he could see through the door that Tom and the big boy were kneeling together. He soon heard Tom's voice saying, "O Lord, make this boy, that has been the worst boy in school, O Lord, make him the best boy."

The Superintendent kneeled by Tom's side, and they all prayed together. God heard them. The big bad boy became one of the best boys in the school.

God raised up friends for "Ragged Tom," who put him to school, and after that sent him to a missionary college. He is now a missionary, and is preaching to the Africans about Jesus, who became the surety for sinners. *Sel.*

The Youth's Instructor Sept 1, 1870

RECIPE—*Blueberry Cardamom Chia Seed Pudding*

By Gena Hamshaw as found on Food 52 web site

Ingredients:

1/2 cup Chia seeds
2 1/2 cups Almond milk
(or rice, soy, or light coconut milk)
1 cup Fresh blueberries
1 1/2 teaspoon Ground cardamom spice
1 teaspoon Cinnamon
1/4 cup Maple syrup or agave syrup
1 teaspoon Good vanilla extract

Serves 4-6

Blend milk, blueberries, cardamom, cinnamon, vanilla and syrup together in a blender on high till smooth.

Pour blueberry mixture over chia seeds and stir thoroughly with a whisk or a fork. Let rest for five minutes, and stir again. Ten minutes later, stir again. Refrigerate and let sit overnight.

In the morning, give it a stir and check texture. If it's too thick, simply add more almond milk; the texture should be similar to that of tapioca pudding (just imagine tiny tapioca pearls!). Serve.

Author Notes: Ready to make your first chia pudding? This easy, portable, and nutritious breakfast gets an unconventional treatment with fresh blueberries and cardamom - Gena Hamshaw

Health Nugget—10 Toxic-Ingredients to Avoid

Preservatives and synthetic food agents found in foods inhibit oxygen and delay the development of fungus and mold, creating a longer shelf-life for products. But after being consumed, these toxins **deprive human cells of oxygen** and rob them of nutrients, thus leading to cell mutation and the perfect breeding ground for cancer.

Just like humans, cells need oxygen to survive and thrive. “Fungus fighting” preservatives and man-made food agents choke out your body’s nutrients at the DNA level by depriving **mitochondrial cells** of oxygen, sometimes completely shutting them down. And if the body does not have enough essential nutrients, it becomes more susceptible to disease.

Longer shelf life, shorter human life

If you’re not a label-reader already, you better become one soon. You don’t have to be a chemist or a linguist either, just be able to **sight read and spot the poisons** so you can live cancer-free. Most food toxins are followed by a phrase, often in parenthesis, to make them sound “safe” and *in your best interest*, like “as a preservative,” or “for added freshness,” or “to preserve flavor.” These catchy little phrases really mean **for the added choking of your cells to aid with cancer development**.

The top 10 cell stranglers revealed

The United States has several major regulatory agencies and

“cancer prevention” organizations which have not only been suppressing natural cancer cures for 70 years, but have been approving, supporting, endorsing and profiting from cancer-causing agents in food, beverages and cosmetics since World War II.

1. Sodium Benzoate: This stealthy killer flies under most people’s radar, and is *found in just about everything in jars and bottles*, like salad dressing, pickles, sauces, mayonnaise, almost all soda and juice drinks, and even in foods labeled as “all natural.”

2. Canola Oil: This artificial, Canadian-exported GMO is super popular and is found in over 30% of all products. It chokes out your mitochondrial cells. Canola oil is really rapeseed oil and can cause emphysema and respiratory distress, eventually leading to cancer.

3. Monosodium Glutamate (MSG): The FDA allows 20 “pseudo” names for it including autolyzed yeast extract, free glutamate, glutamic acid, soy lecithin, calcium caseinate, hydrolyzed corn, hydrolyzed soy protein, and maltodextrin to name a few. Just because a product says “No MSG” doesn’t mean it’s not in there!

4. Sodium Nitrates (nitrosamines): Used for fertilizers and explosives, and as a solvent in the dry cleaning industry. This ingredient keeps hemoglobin molecules in your blood from carrying oxygen to

your body tissues. It’s considered a “super salt” (like MSG) added to things like hot dogs, cold cuts and bacon for added shelf-life, color and flavor. Problems compound when microwaved.

5. Margarine: The body cannot incorporate trans-fatty acids into membranes, thus causing deformed cellular structures. Vegetable shortening and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils accelerate aging and degenerative changes in tissues.

6. Anti-foaming agents: (Dimethylpolysiloxane) An industrial chemical used in caulks and sealants. This component is mostly used in fast food chicken nuggets and eggs. Also watch for TBHQ, a petroleum derivative, used as a stabilizer in perfumes, resins, varnishes and oil field chemicals, and linked to stomach tumors and DNA damage.

7. Anti-caking agents: Chemicals that absorb moisture and prevent other compounds from sticking together. These are added to table salt and powdered food products. They are often composed of phosphate, carbonate, silicate and oxide compounds which contain aluminum. Watch for sodium alumino-silicate, alumino-calcium silicate and aluminium silicate. Aluminum is linked to Alzheimer’s and is also used in flu shots and vaccines.

8. Artificial colorings: Synthetic petrochemicals made from petroleum, antifreeze and ammonia. Blue #1 causes kidney tumors in mice. Red #2 and Blue

#2 cause brain and bladder tumors in rats. Red #3 causes thyroid cancer in animals, and is banned in cosmetics, but still allowed in food. Red #40 debilitates the immune-system. Green #3 causes bladder and testes tumors. Yellow #5 and #6 cause adrenal tumors in animals.

9. **Emulsifiers:** Carrageenan, polysorbate 80 and brominated vegetable oil (BVO). These are stabilizing, smoothing and thickening agents. They are typically found in chocolate milk, cottage cheese, ice cream, infant formula and jelly. BVO remains in body fat for years. Polysorbate 80 is also found in most vaccines.

10. **Artificial Sweeteners:** Aspartame, Acesulfame K, Sucralose, Sorbitol, Truvia, and of course, Saccharin. Because they taste sweet, these chemical

sweeteners trick the body into ingesting them and holding on to them for extended periods of time, turning rancid in the body fat. Fake sugars are the “Trojan horses” of the cell-choking and mutating, food agent industry. Sorbitol is also found in many vaccines.

America has been breeding and treating cancer with chemicals for 70 years

How does a politician running for office or for a position with a United States Government regulatory agency guarantee winning that election or appointment? He or she simply supports the **insidious toxic food** and medicine industry by meeting with lobbyists, promising the approval of chemical food agents that strangulate human DNA cells, and **furthering legislation** which supports cancer treatments to do more of the same.

Besides the wars in the Middle East, there’s a **Domestic War** going on right now in our country, so pay very close attention to everything you eat, and every “medicine” your doctor recommends. Also, do some research of your own if you want to **protect your cells and keep them oxygenated**, preventing cancer and other disease.

Sources for this article include:

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Those who have trained the mind to delight in spiritual exercises
are the ones who can be translated and not be overwhelmed
with the purity and transcendent glory of heaven.

**You may have a good knowledge of the arts,
you may have an acquaintance with the sciences,
you may excel in music and in penmanship,
your manners may please your associates,**

but what have these things to do with a preparation for heaven?

**What have they to do to prepare you to stand before the tribunal of
God? {2T 267.1}**

The Use Of The Tithe

The use of the tithe is a question that arises in conversations from time to time. What to use it for.

What not to use it for. As I have been reading in Spirit of Prophecy, I have found in a number of places that it is my responsibility to keep this subject before God's people.

“That there may be funds in the treasury for the support of the ministry, and to meet the calls for assistance in missionary enterprises, it is necessary that the people of God give cheerfully and liberally. A solemn responsibility rests upon ministers to keep before the churches the needs of the cause of God and to educate them to be liberal. When this is neglected, and the churches fail to give for the necessities of others, not only does the work of the Lord suffer, but the blessing that should come to believers is withheld.” AA 341.

It would be a large book written if I copied all that is written about tithe and the responsibility of God's people to support His work and workers, monthly and on special projects. But now I am going to share a section I was reading the other day. I was impressed that I should share this with you. You may find this in 9T 247-252. May it be a blessing to you as it was to me. For I cannot say it any better than what God has written. For those of you who read Spanish you may also find it starting on 9T 199 (not in JT).

“God has given special direction as to the use of the tithe. He does not design that His work shall be crippled for want of means. That there may be no haphazard work and no error, He

has made our duty on these points very plain. The portion that God has reserved for Himself is not to be diverted to any other purpose than that which He has specified. Let none feel at liberty to retain their tithe, to use according to their own judgment. They are not to use it for themselves in an emergency, nor to apply it as they see fit, even in what they may regard as the Lord's work.

The minister should, by precept and example, teach the people to regard the tithe as sacred. He should not feel that he can retain and apply it according to his own judgment because he is a minister. It is not his. He is not at liberty to devote to himself whatever he thinks is his due. He should not give his influence to any plans for diverting from their legitimate use the tithes and offerings dedicated to God. They are to be placed in His treasury and held sacred for His service as He has appointed.

God desires all His stewards to be exact in following divine arrangements. They are not to offset the Lord's plans by performing some deed of charity or giving some gift or some offering when or how they, the human agents, shall see fit. It is a very poor policy for men to seek to improve on God's plan, and invent a makeshift, averaging up their good impulses on this and that occasion, and offsetting them against God's requirements. God calls upon all to give their influence to His own arrangement. He has made His plan known, and all who would co-operate with Him must carry out this plan instead of daring to attempt an improvement on it.

The Lord instructed Moses, for Israel: ‘Thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.’ Exodus 27:20. This was to be a continual offering, that the house of God might be properly supplied with that which was necessary for His service. His people today are to remember that the house of worship is the Lord's property and that it is to be scrupulously cared for. But the funds for this work are not to come from the tithe.

A very plain, definite message has been given to me for our people. I am bidden to tell them that they are making a mistake in applying the tithe to various objects which, though good in themselves, are not the object to which the Lord has said that the tithe should be applied. Those who make this use of the tithe are departing from the Lord's arrangement. God will judge for these things.

One reason that the tithe may be applied to school purposes. Still others reason that canvassers and colporteurs should be supported from the tithe. But a great mistake is made when the tithe is drawn from the object for which it is to be used--the support of the ministers. There should be today in the field one hundred well qualified laborers where now there is but one.

The tithe is sacred, reserved by God for Himself. It is to be brought into His treasury to be used to sustain the gospel laborers in their work. For a long time the Lord has been robbed because there are those who do not realize that the tithe is God's reserved portion.

Some have been dissatisfied and have said: 'I will no longer pay my tithe; for I have no confidence in the way things are managed at the heart of the work.' But will you rob God because you think the management of the work is not right? Make your complaint, plainly and openly, in the right spirit, to the proper ones. Send in your petitions for things to be adjusted and set in order; but do not withdraw from the work of God, and prove unfaithful, because others are not doing right.

Read carefully the third chapter of Malachi and see what God says about the tithe. If our churches will take their stand upon the Lord's word and be faithful in paying their tithe into His treasury, more laborers will be encouraged to take up ministerial work. More men would give themselves to the ministry were they not told of the depleted treasury. There should be an abundant supply in the Lord's treasury, and there would be if selfish hearts and hands had not withheld the tithes or made use of them to support other lines of work.

God's reserved resources are to be used in no such haphazard way. The tithe is the Lord's, and those who meddle with it will be punished with the loss of their heavenly treasure unless they repent. Let the work no longer be hedged up because the tithe has been diverted into various channels other than the one to which the Lord has said it should go. Provision is to be made for these other lines of work. They are to be sustained, but not from the tithe. God has not changed; the tithe is still to be used for the support of the ministry. The opening of new fields requires more ministerial efficiency than we now have, and there must be means in the

treasury.

Those who go forth as ministers have a solemn responsibility devolving upon them which is strangely neglected. Some enjoy preaching, but they do not give personal labor to the churches. There is great need of instruction concerning the obligations and duties to God, especially in regard to paying an honest tithe. Our ministers would feel sadly aggrieved if they were not promptly paid for their labor; but will they consider that there must be meat in the treasure house of God wherewith to sustain the laborers? If they fail to do their whole duty in educating the people to be faithful in paying to God His own, there will be a shortage of means in the treasury to carry forward the Lord's work.

The overseer of the flock of God should faithfully discharge his duty. If he takes the position that because this is not pleasant to him, he will leave it for someone else to do, he is not a faithful worker. Let him read in Malachi the words of the Lord charging the people with robbery toward God in withholding the tithes. The mighty God declares: 'Ye are cursed with a curse.' Malachi 3:9. When the one who ministers in word and doctrine sees the people pursuing a course that will bring this curse upon them, how can he neglect his duty to give them instruction and warning? Every church member should be taught to be faithful in paying an honest tithe.

'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now here with, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.' Verse 10.

I pray that my brethren may realize that the third angel's message means much to us and that the observance of the true Sabbath is to be the sign that distinguishes those who serve God from those who serve Him not. Let those who have become sleepy and indifferent, awake. We are called to be holy, and we should carefully avoid giving the impression that it is of little consequence whether or not we retain the peculiar features of our faith. Upon us rests the golden obligation of taking a more decided stand for truth and righteousness than we have taken in the past. The line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God and those who do not is to be revealed with unmistakable clearness. We are conscientiously to honor God, diligently using every means of keeping in covenant relation with Him, that we may receive His blessings--the blessings so essential for a people who are to be so severely tried. To give the impression that our faith, our religion, is not a dominating power in our lives is greatly to dishonor God. Thus we turn from His commandments, which are our life, denying that He is our God and we His people.

'The Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations; and repayeth them that hate Him to their face, to destroy them: He will not be slack to him that hateth Him, He will repay him to his face.' Deuteronomy 7:9, 10.

Where shall we be before the thousand generations mentioned in this scripture are ended? Our fate will have been decided for eternity. Either we shall have been pronounced worthy of a home in

the everlasting kingdom of God or we shall have received sentence of eternal death. Those who have been true and faithful to their covenant with God; those who, remembering Calvary, have stood

firmly on the side of truth, ever striving to honor God, will hear the commendation: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” But those who have given God only halfhearted service, allowing their

lives to be conformed to the ways and practices of the world, will hear the sad words: ‘Depart from Me; I know you not.’”

– Gary Cain

Letter From-Kenya

Heb. 6:10-11.

Praise God for leading people in a blessed hope intended to teach them learn of His righteousness among Remnant families that the whole earth may be enlightened with his glory. It is a privilege of all to search with prayerful, eager interest for the truth knowing that we are living in the very last days of the solemnities of God’s judgment. Indeed our souls should be filled with awe, for we are daily in God’s presence continually consecrating our lives to receive His imputed righteousness.

During the month of April 2014, I had a number of tasks to finish which included first reporting to my doctor at Mayanja Memorial Hospital in Mbarara western Uganda where I was nursed from as they treated my broken and fractured arm; mobilising K__ and J__ for the Kiisi – Kenya Camp meeting.

Dr. Deo told me that my bone would take 18 month to heal and in the very last month I would report to him for final review. It was on 5th Nov. 2012 that I was involved in an awful bus accident at Tanga near Mbarara at night around 2:30 am and the merciful Lord took care of my dear life! And after only six days I was discharged from hospital and continued to get treatment from my home. Therefore, April 2014 was the 18th month and that I had to report to him. It was cheaper to travel to him in Mbarara than transporting him to Mulago– Kampala a second station where he works from! His examination was that the bonded joint slightly moved out of position and needed some extra alignment to enable it heal properly in it’s final position! I believe that the caring and

merciful mighty Lord will first impart His healing balm to help me feel even much better than now and impress anyone to help me to pay bills for management of the bone when I report to him from K__. From Mbarara, I continued to Tororo and tip on K__ for the Kiisi– Kenya trip. Even if I had sent E-mails K__ & J__, I wanted reach K__ to plan together when to set off our journey. Earlier on, I had contracted stubborn malaria and my voice was not clear to speak! When I reached Tororo, K__ gave me a mixture of a *bitter herb* with *tamarind* and in about 30 minutes I felt some relief. Shortly, we planned and agreed to start on the Kiisi journey 14/04/2014 and go to share God’s message of mercy with counterparts in Kenya. I told K__ to contact J__ on phone for the same. I thank the online church for their prayers that the good Lord quickly healed me after their prayers to enable me travel to Kiisi.

I left my home in the morning and reached K__’s place by mid day and the Lord could signal His blessings with shower of heavy rains as planned to start the journey and shortly after raining we set off to Busia. We reached Busia boarder line at 3:30 pm local time anticipating reaching at night!

We therefore cleared our documents and hurried to Easy Coach bus service booking outlet. Unfortunately, we were told that these days buses don’t travel at night due the Al-Shabab activities in Kenya! We hurried booked a taxi to Kisumu reaching there at 8:30 pm when the very last taxi had just left. We had to book a rest room for the night and very early in the morning we hurried to the taxi park to book the first taxi to Kiisi. Praise

God that we reached safely! J__ from Kampala had arrived on the 14/04/2014 and the programme run as prepared. I was one of the main speakers of the week and I took over the Sanctuary Message and I felt a special light for now sending rays to the Remnant church at Itare – Kiisi. I told them that each of us is a living Temple where God wants to dwell and restore His glory in the fallen human race. I encouraged them to memorise a thought that at one time the voice will be heard announcing loudly that *‘Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them.* We need to accept all His precepts so that we are transformed into His dwelling place by doing and eating what our human body structures were made to receive to reflect His glory in us.

The presentation of this message made a special call to our own souls in the meeting making a difference in our doctrine inspired by Rose’s drawings which I struggled to draw using my necked handle! I further told them that the Sanctuary message is the centre of the whole gospel plan of redemption and we need to comprehend it to implore the Sanctuary in our own bodies. In it is embedded the health reform principles because our bodies contain what we eat! As we continued with the Camp, I also made efforts to contact bro. I__.

I believe that a united front would be built to finish the Lord’s Gospel Commission within our region for independent home churches and none can claim single personal effort to achieve what we so far have. On the Sabbath I summarised my Sanctuary lesson in the very first

teachings which sounded on the Sabbath day. I taught the brethren the Sanctity and Righteousness of the Sabbath in relationship with the sanctuary message. In the evening, we all passed on our farewell to the people of O__-I__-K__ county and on Sunday everybody had to travel back to their respective destinations. We thank you for every other extra support extended to us. Our meeting was blessed with 2 souls being baptised by bro. K__ of T__ on Friday 18/04/2014. However, I left K__ and J__ behind with a thought to meet I__k in K__ but I failed and decided to continue home. I once again thank you for your help and support which helped me to accomplish what I couldn't have managed. God bless you all.

J N

Psalms 66:18-20
If I regard iniquity
in my heart, the
Lord will not
hear [me]:
[But] verily God
hath heard [me];
he hath attended
to the voice
of my prayer.
Blessed [be] God,
which hath not
turned away my
prayer, nor his
mercy from me.

Christian Service Ellen G White

Chapter One Continued--

The followers of Christ are to be the light of the world; but God does not bid them make an effort to shine. He does not approve of any self-satisfied endeavor to display superior goodness. He desires that their souls shall be imbued with the principles of heaven; then, as they come in contact with the world, they will reveal the light that is in them. Their steadfast fidelity in every act of life will be a means of illumination.--The Ministry of Healing, p. 36. {ChS 19.5}

When, in the midst of his blind error and prejudice, Saul was given a revelation of the Christ whom he was persecuting, he was placed in direct communication with the church, which is the light of the world. In this case, Ananias represents Christ, and also represents Christ's ministers upon the earth, who are appointed to act in His stead. In Christ's stead, Ananias touches the eyes of Saul, that they may receive sight. In Christ's stead, he places his hands upon him, and as he prays in Christ's name, Saul receives the Holy Ghost. All is done in the name and by the authority of Christ. Christ is the foundation; the church is the channel of communication.--The Acts of the Apostles, p. 122. {ChS 20.1}

Error is prevailing everywhere. The great adversary of souls is mustering his forces. He is setting every device in operation in order to confuse the minds of men with specious errors, and thus destroy souls. Those with whom God has intrusted the treasures of His truth are to let the light shine amid the moral darkness.--Historical Sketches, p. 290. {ChS 20.2}

God requires His people to shine as lights in the world. It is not merely the ministers who are required to do this, but every disciple of Christ. Their conversation should be heavenly. And while they enjoy communion with God, they will wish to have intercourse with their fellow men, in order to express by their words and acts the love of God which animates their hearts. In this way they will be lights in the world, and the light transmitted through them will not go out or be taken away.--Testimonies, vol. 2, pp. 122, 123. {ChS 20.3}

Christ's followers should be instruments of righteousness, workmen, living stones, emitting light, that they may encourage the presence of heavenly angels. They are required to be channels, as it were, through which the spirit of truth and righteousness shall flow.--Testimonies, vol. 2, pp. 126, 127. {ChS 20.4}

The Lord has made His church the repository of divine influence. The heavenly universe is waiting for the members to become channels through which the current of life shall flow to the world, that many may be converted, and in their turn become channels through which the grace of Christ shall flow to the desert portions of the Lord's vineyard.-- Bible Echo, Aug. 12, 1901. {ChS 21.1}

Every one who is connected with God will impart light to others. If there are any who have no light to give, it is because they have no connection with the Source of light.--Historical Sketches, p. 291. {ChS 21.2}

God has appointed His children to give light to others, and if they fail to do it, and souls are left in the darkness of error because of their failure to do that which they might have done, had they been vitalized by the Holy Spirit, they will be accountable to God. We have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light, in order that we may show forth the praises of Christ.--Review and Herald, Dec. 12, 1893. {ChS 21.3}

All who are consecrated to God will be channels of light. God makes them His agents to communicate to others the riches of His grace. . . . Our influence upon others depends not so much upon what we say, as upon what we are. Men may combat and defy our logic, they may resist our appeals; but a life of disinterested love is an argument they cannot gainsay. A consistent life, characterized by the meekness of Christ, is a power in the world.--The Desire of Ages, pp. 141, 142. {ChS 21.4}

Those who should have been the light of the world have shed forth but feeble and sickly beams. What is light? It is piety, goodness, truth, mercy, love; it is the revealing of the truth in the character and life. The gospel is dependent on the personal piety of its believers for its aggressive power, and God has made provision through the death of His beloved Son, that every soul may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Every soul is to be a bright and shining light, showing forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. "We are laborers

together with God." Yes, laborers; that means doing earnest service in the vineyard of the Lord. There are souls to be saved,--souls in our churches, in our Sabbath schools, and in our neighborhoods.--Review and Herald, March 24, 1891. {ChS 21.5}

It is in working for others that they will keep their own souls alive. If they will become colaborers with Jesus, we shall see the light in our churches steadily burning brighter and brighter, sending forth its rays to penetrate the darkness beyond their own borders.--Historical Sketches, p. 291. {ChS 22.1}

"Ye are the light of the world." The Jews thought to confine the benefits of salvation to their own nation; but Christ showed them that salvation is like the sunshine. It belongs to the whole world.--The Desire of Ages, p. 306. {ChS 22.2}

Hearts that respond to the influence of the Holy Spirit are the channels through which God's blessing flows. Were those who served God removed from the earth, and His Spirit withdrawn from among men, this world would be left to desolation and destruction, the fruit of Satan's dominion. Though the wicked know it not, they owe even the blessings of this life to the presence, in the world, of God's people whom they despise and oppress. But if Christians are such in name only, they are like the salt that has lost its savor. They have no influence for good in the world. Through their

misrepresentation of God they are worse than unbelievers.--The Desire of Ages, p. 306. {ChS 22.3}

The Divine Commission

The work which the disciples did, we also are to do. Every Christian is to be a missionary. In sympathy and compassion we are to minister to those in need of help, seeking with unselfish earnestness to lighten the woes of suffering humanity.--The Ministry of Healing, p. 104. {ChS 22.4}

Before ascending to heaven, Christ gave His disciples their commission. He told them that they were to be the executors of the will in which He bequeathed to the world the treasures of eternal life.--The Acts of the Apostles, p. 27. {ChS 22.5}

In the trust given to the first disciples, believers in every age have shared. Every one who has received the gospel has been given sacred truth to impart to the world. God's faithful people have always been aggressive missionaries, consecrating their resources to the honor of His name, and wisely using their talents in His service.--The Acts of the Apostles, p. 109. {ChS 22.6}

The gospel commission is the great missionary charter of Christ's kingdom. The disciples were to work earnestly for souls, giving to all the invitation of mercy. They were not to wait

for the people to come to them; they were to go to the people with their message.--The Acts of the Apostles, p. 28. {ChS 23.1}

God's messengers are commissioned to take up the very work that Christ did while on this earth. They are to give themselves to every line of ministry that He carried on. With earnestness and sincerity, they are to tell men of the unsearchable riches and the immortal treasure of heaven.-- Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 130. {ChS 23.2}

The commission given to the disciples is given also to us. Today, as then, a crucified and risen Saviour is to be uplifted before those who are without God and without hope in the world. The Lord calls for pastors, teachers, and evangelists. From door to door His servants are to proclaim the message of salvation. To every nation, kindred, tongue, and people the tidings of pardon through Christ are to be carried. Not with tame, lifeless utterances is the message to be given, but with clear, decided, stirring utterances. Hundreds are waiting for the warning to escape for their lives. The world needs to see in Christians an evidence of the power of Christianity. Not merely in a few places, but throughout the world, messages of mercy are needed.-- Gospel Workers, p. 29. {ChS 23.3}

— to be continued

Announcement

*We would like to invite our brethern
to a World Wide online
meeting on July 13, 2014,
Please RSVP to*

SDREDITOR@SDRPA.ORG

*for the time and place,
Or call 877-737-7244
and leave a message with your phone number
or your e-mail address.
Dead line for RSVP is July1, 2014.*