

The Assyrian Confederacy

It's Coming!

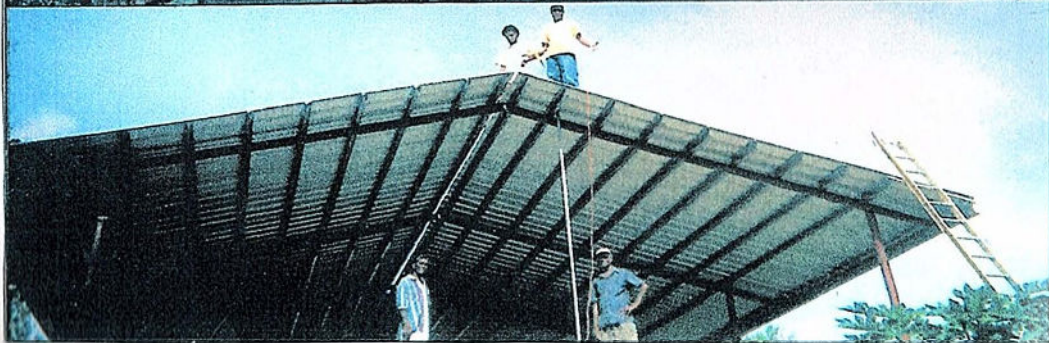
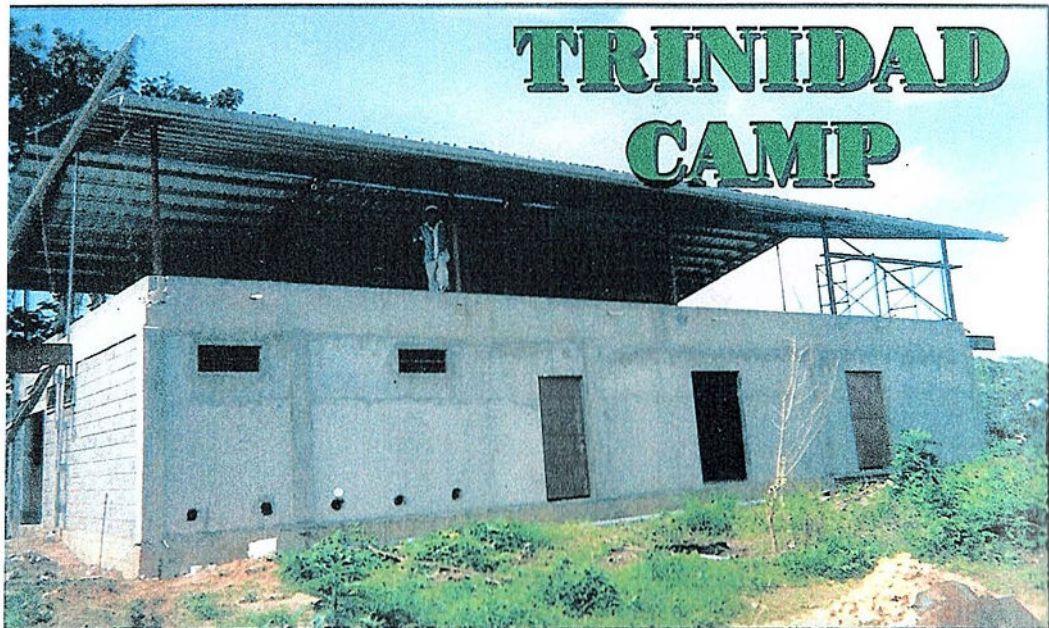


The Symbolic Code

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TRINIDAD CAMP



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Say Ye Not A Confederacy, When?

Have you ever wondered, how, and when we will know to proclaim, "Say ye not a confederacy?" Or, have you ever asked, what is the Assyrian Confederacy? Or, is it possible that the Confederacy is already here?

Perhaps of late these questions have taken center stage in your mind, especially considering the dramatic events now unfolding in the Middle East. Now more than ever, these questions need to be answered if we are to be ready to meet the trying days ahead.

We must hasten to point out, however, that although we have been given some clear markers that will help us to identify the Confederacy and the war, God has not given us the details of all the future events. That is to say, for example, He has told us that the greatest of all wars will be fought in the Holy Land. (Zech. 14: 1,2; 2.TG.41:18), but He has not told us the date or the precise actions and reactions that will mark the beginning of that dreadful war. We don't know what crisis, nation or nations, or the geo-political-military circumstances that will lead to the war. God obviously designed the message that way so that we have to walk by faith and not by sight. We have been told that these "prophecies are made to be understood only when they are being fulfilled or after fulfillment." (2.TG.42:27). This is best

summarized in another reference where Inspiration answers similar questions about Ezekiel 9 and the Palestine situation:

"If it becomes necessary for us to know ahead of time the day and the hour of the purification of the church, the antitypical Passover, we will be told. Yes, we shall know at least as much in advance as Moses knew about the Passover in his day. He did not know months ahead the day and hour of the events that were then to take place, but he was instructed of his and of the people's duties and of what to expect from day to day. Neither did he know beforehand that they were to come up against the Red Sea, but as the cloud led them there, and as the Egyptians followed close behind, he was then told what to do. Moreover, at the time they crossed the Sea he did not know that they were to spend forty years in the desert nor that the grown-ups among them were to perish while on their journey to the Promised Land.

"Thus must it be today, because 'the secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.' Deut. 29:29. God knows how to lead and how to save. I cannot therefore, give you light beyond what Inspiration makes known. I can

only speak of the things that are revealed." 2.TG.41:3,4.

So, although we have not been given all the details, a loving Heavenly Father has given us enough to guide our feet through this upcoming period of distress, and has promised to lead us as He led the children of Israel, day by day, step by step. All we need to do, is walk with God daily, surrendering our all to Him and follow his Word.

There Must Be a Confederacy

"Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us." Isaiah 8:9, 10.

"The confederacy we are studying this afternoon commences before the Loud Cry and before the slaughter of Ezekiel 9. It is not the image of the Beast, for this association precedes the image of the Beast, and the confederacy is formed when the nations are girding themselves for war. Put another way, the confederacy will commence after the sealing and perhaps just before the slaughter of Ezekiel 9." 13.SC.3,4:10.

According to this inspired reference, the Assyrian Confederacy is *before* Ezekiel 9, but *after* the sealing. We will come back to this thought later. But note that it "the confederacy is formed when the nations are girding themselves for war." The war here referred to, of course, could only be the war in the Holy Land.

After all, that is the context of this statement, and the message as a whole. So it means that the West—the United States and her allies, will form a international union in an effort to win the war in the Holy Land.

But what exactly is the Assyrian confederacy? We are not told the precise make-up of it, but we have an example of it in World War II. Nahum, chapters 1 and 2, as you may remember, intertwines WW II with the upcoming war, what the world would term World War III, but what God refers to as the *continuation* of WW II. (14.TR:53-54). Therefore, what happened in WW II was an example or backdrop of what will take place in the future war. Nahum 1:10, states: "***For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.***"

The confederacy here is likened to thorns folded together. Inspiration's comment on this passage is: "In light of these passages, it becomes clear from the outset that though 'Assyria' is armed and *allied with other strong nations* ('folden together as thorns') yet neither her armament nor her alliance will save her." (14.TR:7,8).

Thus this confederacy involves the U.S. being allied with other strong nations, similar to that of WW II when Great Britain, the U.S., France, and other nations, united politically and militarily against Germany. During WW II, Western nations viewed Hitler's regime as a dire threat to democracy, freedom and civilization. So it was necessary, in their way of thinking, to preserve the

civilization by allying together. That was a confederacy. Obviously the future confederacy will be similar, and could be in the form of a treaty, or the establishment of a new organizational alliance like NATO. But regardless of the structure of this confederacy, it will involve a political and military union to defeat the enemy—whoever that will be at the time—and win the war. Even the churches will support it thinking that it's a good thing. (13.SC.3:9,10). Those who do not go along with it, will be ostracized and eventually a decree will be issued against them. (12.SC.2:14).

It can be said that confederacies are formed all the time. True. In fact, Ellen White was shown that confederacies would increase in the last days. (Evangelism, 363). The Iraq-Kuwait war involved a large-scale confederacy. Then practically every major nation of the West was involved. But this was not the Assyrian Confederacy spoken of in the Scriptures. Why? Because the war was not in the Promised Land!

The War Must Be Centered in the Holy Land

Another marker is that this war must be centered in the Holy Land, what is known as modern Palestine and Israel. All evidence from the Scriptures point to the Assyrian Confederacy war being focused on a world war in the land of Israel. Zechariah 14:1,2, mentions all nations fighting in Jerusalem. Inspiration termed this: "*the greatest of all battles.*" (2.TG.41:18). Zephaniah 2:1-9, speaks of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, all being rooted up and dissolved, and Moab and Ammom (modern-day Jordan) will be like Sodom and

Gomorrhah—that is, "*they will go out of existence.*" (1.TG.22:27). Isaiah 14:25-31, says that Palestine will be dissolved and wasted.

There is though, another very important element that must be mentioned, and that is that the United States and her Allies—Assyria, must come into the Holy Land. This is crucial. Of course, the very fact that Zechariah 14 states that "all nations" will be brought into "Jerusalem to battle," would be enough to show that the U.S. and her allies would be there. But God goes beyond this and states emphatically, that Modern Assyria will go into the Promised Land, and in a sense occupy it. Where is this evidence? Well, consider Isaiah 8:7-8:

"Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels and go over all his banks. And he shall pass through Judah; he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel." Obviously, this land is the Holy Land.

The very fact, too, that Assyria is to fall in the land, means that she will have to be in it first. Again, Isaiah 14:25, states: "*That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot....*"

In a nutshell, this means that the United States and her allies, whether under the banner of the United Nations or not, will sooner or later send troops into the land of Israel and occupy it in one form or

another. When this happens, it will be one of the clearest signs that we are on the verge of the fulfillment of prophecy. Troops may come into Palestine under the definition of a peace keeping mission, but, we can be sure, that it will end up as *"the greatest of all wars."* Such an event, along with the alliance of the nations of the West is the ultimate proof of the Assyrian Confederacy. In fact, you may already be aware that, the Palestinian leadership and a number of prominent people, are calling for the United States to send peace keeping forces to quell the web of violence that has now gripped the region. Sending troops in, as with so many other so-called peace keeping missions, places the West in a real quagmire of the most unpredictable of circumstances. Especially considering that this is the most sensitive of regions with the ever present threat of it blowing up into a full-scale war, which is precisely what Inspiration says will happen.

For example, and this is only an example—nothing more. U.S. peace keepers come in. The U.S. which is considered pro-Israeli but anti-Arab, could make a mistake in judgment in trying to keep the peace, such as: some Palestinians could be unintentionally killed by U.S. troops. The Arab world would most likely view it as an attempt to side with Israel. Then they retaliate. That certainly could bring about a confederacy and a Middle East world war.

Or lets try another scenario. Maybe, the U.S. tries to broker a peace treaty between the Palestinians and Israelis but it doesn't work out to the liking of the Palestinians. U.S. troops are attacked

and killed. The U.S. responds. Then the Arabic world supports the Palestinians and fights back. China, North Korea, Russia or all three, support the Arabs, then what would we have? Of course, a world war. In order to ensure winning this war, the U.S. is joined by other Western nations. That is, they form a confederacy. It would be an alliance against Communism, and as they would conclude, and a safeguard for civilization. Such a scenario would leave no doubt that it is time for us to protest.

There is to Be a Wicked Counselor

Someone termed, *"a Wicked Counselor"* makes Assyria drunk with the wine of spurious counsel. (Nahum 1:11). Speaking about Assyria, Inspiration says, *"For having become drunken as a drunkard, and having received wicked counsel of one that has come out of her, she [Assyria] shall 'be devoured as stubble fully dry.' "* (14.TR.8).

We do not now know the identity of this evil counselor. Will it be the United States President, Secretary of State, or some other leader? We just can't say, but we will no doubt recognize him when the time comes.

Our Work Will Be Over

We saw earlier that the Assyrian Confederacy is formed after the sealing but before the slaughter of Ezekiel 9. (13.SC.3:10). This would mean that our work must be completed and the sealing closed by the time the Confederacy is formed. So, first comes the end of the sealing, then the Confederacy, then the war. In other words, when the

Confederacy and the war takes place, then we will know that probation has closed for the church and our work completed in the church. Remember, we have also been told that our work is in two stages—The Elijah and the Jonah phases. (11.SC.8:11). The Elijah phase is our calling for a revival and reformation in the church. The Jonah phase is our opposing the Assyrian Confederacy.

How can we know that our work in the church is finished? God has not given us a clear answer to that question, but we do know that at some point there will be a sudden influx of believers—as if the 144,000 will be born in *"one day."* (Isa. 66:8, 1.TG.49:8). So when this marvelous event comes to pass, we could say that our work is near completion. *"Plainly, then, our efforts to reach the people with a 'second birth' shall not be in vain: Zion shall bring forth all her children, as it were, in one day. And that is why we cannot be driven to despair or to discouragement. We are assured that 'revival and reformation' will take place among all God's people, that His word will not return unto Him void."* 1.TG.49:8.

Perhaps the greatest sign of all is determined by we, ourselves. By how we live our lives and share the truth. When we as God's people, both collectively and individually, give ourselves fully to the Lord, and earnestly take every opportunity to share this great message, then, and only then, can our work be completed, prophecy be fulfilled, and the Kingdom established. □

Inspiration says:

"Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him: you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. 'The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.' James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds. He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. 'He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.' Psalm 147:3. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son....

"If Christians would associate together, speaking to each other of the love of God and of the precious truths of redemption, their own hearts would be refreshed and they would refresh one another. We may be daily learning more of our heavenly Father, gaining a fresh experience of His grace; then we shall desire to speak of His love; and as we do this, our own hearts will be warmed and encouraged. If we thought and talked more of Jesus, and less of self, we should have far more of His presence.... *Steps to Christ, pp. 100, 101, 102.*

CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Entering into the Experience

In considering the phase of entering into the experience of being justified by faith, it is helpful to note the direct question and the positive answer which are on record concerning the experience.

"*What is justification by faith?* It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ." —*Review and Herald, Sept. 16, 1902.*

This experience of being justified, or accounted righteous, is an individual matter between the soul and God. It cannot be received by proxy. There is only one door of entrance into this experience,—

The Door of Faith

"Faith is the condition upon which God has seen fit to promise pardon to sinners; not that there is any virtue in faith whereby salvation is merited, but because faith can lay hold of the merits of Christ, the remedy provided for sin." —*Review and Herald, Nov. 4, 1890.*

"When we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, we shall have no relish for sin; for Christ will be working with us....A door has been opened, and no man can close it, neither the highest power nor the lowest; you alone can close the door of your heart, so that the Lord cannot reach you." —*Review and Herald, March 18, 1890.*

Close beside this *door* of faith, the enemy of all righteousness has placed another door, a broader and more conspicuous entrance, —

The Door of Works

Through this door many pilgrims bound for the heavenly Canaan unconsciously enter upon the path which ends in destruction, and sooner or later find that the beautiful garments of self-righteousness have become "filthy rags," entirely unfit to appear in the presence of the King. Of this class it is said:

"Many are losing the right way, in consequence of thinking that they must climb to heaven, that they must do something to merit the favor of God. They seek to make themselves better by their own unaided efforts. This they can never accomplish. Christ has made

the way by dying our sacrifice, by living our example, by becoming our great High Priest. He declares, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' If by any efforts of our own we could advance one step toward the ladder, the words of Christ would not be true." —*Review and Herald, Nov. 4, 1890.*

There are many who seem to feel that they have a great work to do themselves before they can come to Christ for His salvation. They seem to think that Jesus will come in at the very last of their struggle, and give them help by putting the finishing touch to their life-work. It seems difficult for them to understand that Christ is a complete Saviour, and able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. They lose sight of the fact that Christ Himself is 'the way, the truth, and the life.' "—*Review and Herald, Mar. 5, 1889.*

May the Lord help us all to enter through the right door and be filled with the righteousness of Christ! For each soul there must be performed "the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself."

Realization of Hopeless Condition

But first of all, in entering into this experience, man must be brought to a realization of his hopeless condition;

and this is accomplished "through the impartation of the grace of Christ."

"Without the grace of Christ, the sinner is in a hopeless condition; nothing can be done for him; but through Divine grace, **supernatural power is imparted to the man, and works in mind and heart and character.** It is through the impartation of the grace of Christ that sin is discerned in its hateful nature, and finally driven from the soul-temple. It is through grace that we are brought into fellowship with Christ, to be associated with Him in the work of salvation." —*Review and Herald, Nov. 4, 1890.*

"Without the grace of Christ, the sinner is in a hopeless condition; nothing can be done for him." That is the sinner cannot clear himself. Nor can any other sinner help him. The law which he has transgressed cannot pardon nor pass over his sin; nor can anything in this world be found which will furnish deliverance. But "through Divine grace, supernatural power is imparted to the man, and works in mind and heart and character." How illuminating and assuring is this word to the sinner! Through Divine grace, through the great mercy and compassion of God, provision has been made for imparting "supernatural power" to the hopeless sinner.

But what is "supernatural power"? It is a power far above and beyond anything that resides in man. It is beyond anything that man can lay hold of in this

world. It is that "all power...in heaven and in earth" that Christ declared was given unto Him,—that supernatural power by which all His miracles were wrought during His ministry on earth.

Concerning that "supernatural power," the following statement by Dr. Philip Schaff is worthy of consideration:

All His [Christ's] miracles are but the *natural* manifestations of His person, and hence they were performed with the *same ease with which we perform our ordinary daily works*....The supernatural and miraculous element in Christ, let it be borne in mind, was not a borrowed gift or an occasional manifestation....An inward virtue dwelt in His person, and went forth from Him, so that even the fringe of His garment was healing to the touch through the medium of faith, which is the bond of union between Him and the soul." —*The Person of Christ*, pp. 76, 77.

It is this same supernatural power that Christ imparts to man, and which *works* in the mind, the heart, and the character.

Now mark the wonderful results, as stated in the further quotation from the Spirit of Prophecy: "It is through the impartation of the grace of Christ that sin is discerned in its hateful nature, and finally driven from the soul-temple. It is through grace that we are brought into fellowship with Christ, to be associated

with Him in the work of salvation." Thus we see that the "supernatural power" imparted to man through the grace of Christ, works in his mind and his heart, revealing to him the hateful nature of sin, and leading him to permit that corrupting thing to be driven from the soul-temple.

The Consent and Choice of the Sinner

But this marvelous work wrought in the heart by the supernatural power of Christ is not done without the consent and choice of the sinner. Note the following:

"Faith is the condition upon which God has seen fit to promise pardon to sinners; not that there is any virtue in faith whereby salvation is merited, but because faith can lay hold of the merits of Christ, the remedy provided for sin. Faith can present Christ's perfect obedience instead of the sinner's transgression and defection. When the sinner believes that Christ is his personal Saviour, then, according to His unfailing promises, God pardons His sin, and justifies him freely. The repentant soul realizes that his justification comes because Christ, as his substitute and surety, has died for him, is his atonement and righteousness." —*Review and Herald*, Nov. 4, 1890.

The exercise of faith is our part in the great transaction by which sinners are changed to saints. But we must

remember there is no virtue in the faith we exercise "whereby salvation is merited." That is to say, there is no virtue in faith itself, nor in the act of exercising it. The virtue is all in Christ. He is the remedy provided for sin. Faith is the act by which the ruined, helpless, doomed sinner lays hold of the remedy. "Faith can present Christ's perfect obedience instead of the sinner's transgression and defection." This is truly a sublime thought! It is that marvelous science of redemption in which the saints will rejoice through eternity, yet it is so simple in its operation that the weakest and most unworthy can enter into it in all its meaning and fullness.

Living Faith Accompanied by Action

Entering through the door of faith into the fullness of imputed and imparted righteousness, involves more than a mere mental assent to the provisions laid down. It is the archway of "living faith, that works by love and purifies the soul." In order to pass this portal, there must be compliance with certain requirements:

1) *There must cease to be the practice of all known sin, and no longer neglect of known duty.*

"But while God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's righteousness while practicing known sins or neglecting known duties. God requires

the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul." —*Review and Herald, Nov. 4, 1890.*

2) *Willingness to pay the price—give up all.*

"The righteousness of Christ, as a pure white pearl, has no defect, no stain, no guilt. This righteousness may be ours. Salvation, with its blood-bought, inestimable treasures, is the pearl of great price. It may be searched for and found....In the parable the merchantman is represented as selling all that he had to gain possession of one pearl of great price. This is a beautiful representation of these who appreciate the truth so highly that they *give up all they have* to come into possession of it." —*Review and Herald, Aug. 8, 1899.*

3) *Entire surrender of wrong habits.*

"There are some who are seeking, always seeking, for the goodly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore they do not find the precious pearl." —*Review and Herald, Aug. 8, 1899.*

4) *The will power placed in co-operation with God.*

"The Lord does not design that human power should be paralyzed; but by co-operating with God, the power of man may be efficient for good. God does not design that our will should be destroyed; for it is through this very attribute that we are to accomplish the work He would have us to do both at home and abroad." —*Review and Herald, Nov. 1, 1892.*

How sincerely and earnestly we should follow this clear instruction, and enter fully into the experience of being accounted and made righteous, justified, and sanctified through faith in Christ! How deeply and keenly we should realize our hopeless condition, so far as we can do anything of ourselves! It is only through the grace of God that we can be delivered. How we should cherish this great truth that through divine grace, supernatural power may be imparted to us! We should accept at full value the assurance that sin in all its hatefulness can be driven from the soul-temple. We should realize that our part in this great transaction is to choose and accept it by faith, when we have fully complied with the conditions. And every day that comes and goes we should humbly plead before the throne of grace the merits, the perfect obedience, of Christ in the place of our transgressions and sins. And in doing this, we should believe and realize that our justification comes through Christ as our substitute and surety, that He has died for us, and He is our atonement and righteousness.

If, on our part, this instruction is followed sincerely and whole-heartedly, God will make the results real in our lives; and "therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God." Romans 5:1. We shall experience the joy of salvation, and day by day we shall know the reality of victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

Let us not rest until we have fully entered through the door of faith into that blessed experience of pardon, justification, righteousness, and peace in Christ.

(Note: This is the final chapter in the study of the book *Christ Our Righteousness*,—outlining the principles of Righteousness by Faith as set forth in the Word of God and the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy— pp. 124-132).

"Man cannot possibly meet the demands of the law of God in human strength alone. His offerings, his works, will all be tainted with sin. A remedy has been provided in the Saviour, who can give to man the virtue of His merit, and make him colaborer in the great work of salvation. Christ is righteousness, sanctification, and redemption to those who believe in Him, and who follow in His steps." —*Review and Herald, Feb. 4, 1890.*

Churches Dying "Our churches are dying for the want of teaching on the subject of righteousness by faith in Christ, and on kindred truths." —*Gospel Workers, p. 301.*

The Middle East Crisis

Past, Present and Future

The recent and seemingly insurmountable conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has caused great alarm to the nations at large. And rightly so. The history of the antagonism between the two peoples are deep rooted and knotted in almost every way imaginable. In fact, it is much deeper than most realize. As present truth believers, it is most beneficial for us to know the real history and reasons that form the heart of the conflict. We may know where it will lead. Do we know why? Do we know how? Do we understand the issues that are now facing the two belligerents, and the whole world for that matter? Well, if you don't know, lets find out in a fast and furious history lesson.

A Brief History of Palestine. 500 or so years after Abraham and about the time of the birth of Moses, Palestine was the battle ground of the Hittites and the Egyptians. By 1250 B.C. Egypt became the undisputed master. A hundred years or so later a people known as the Philistines invaded Crete and other Mediterranean islands and managed to establish a stronghold on the coast of Canaan, where they established five city-states: Askelon, Gaza, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gerrar. It is from the Philistines that the name of Palestine originated.

Under the strong rulership of David and Solomon, the Philistines and Canaanites were defeated and Israel mastered the region bringing peace and prosperity. Unfortunately, their spiritual and political heights were not sustained. Israel fell into sin and God

gave them up to the mastery of other nations.

In 721 B.C. the ten-tribes, the house of Israel, was conquered and dispersed by the Assyrians. Later on the Judaites were conquered by the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and Romans. And of course, in 70 A.D. their second temple was destroyed and thousands were killed, and the remainder were literally scattered throughout the Middle East and the world.

For the next 1800 years, Palestine would be ruled by numerous powers—the Romans, the Persians in 614 A.D. and a host of Mohammadans, such as the Abbassids, the Egyptian Fatimids and Seljuk Turks. Then by the so-called Christian Crusaders, than back to Mohammedan rulers—Mamelukes and the powerful Ottoman Turks who ruled from 1516 to 1918, and then the British, up to 1947. By the time of World War I, during the British rule, Palestine's population was ninety percent Arabs, and less than two percent of other groups including Christians and Jews. Now this is important to keep in mind. In 1948 the State of Israel was established irritating and fueling an already convoluted situation.

World War I to the Present. The British had already established control of the Middle East when they seized the Suez Canal in 1875. With the Canal under its control, Britain became the protector of Egypt. On December 9, 1917, the British took Palestine and Syria. In the south, T.E.

Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, as he had become known, a British officer, led a rebellion against the Turks and was successful. These and other events led to the complete downfall of the Turkish or Ottoman Empire in 1918. The victory was partially gained because the British, including Lawrence had promised to give lands to several powerful families in Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Arabia. But unbeknown to Lawrence and the Arabs, the British and French had made a secret agreement dividing up the same land Lawrence had promised to the Arabs. The the Arabs, expecting their chunk of the Middle East, were betrayed.

By 1920, the League of Nations placed Syria under the French, removing King Faisal from his throne in Syria, establishing him as king of Iraq. Prince Abdullah, his brother, was made emir of Jordan. But the British ruled Palestine. All of this just added to the Arab bitterness toward the West. Indeed, the situation continued to deteriorate.

Thousands of Jews subsequently poured into Palestine, dreaming of a homeland unnerving much of the Arab world. More Jews poured into Palestine as the British gave Zionism more support for their efforts. In November 1917, British Foreign Secretary, Lord Balfour declared in a letter that Britain would "view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

But few Arabs viewed the Balfour declaration favorably. They saw it as a threat and more betrayal by the British. Palestinian Arabs fought back. This was the beginning of sorrows. It was clear the West would favor a Jewish state with Jerusalem as

their capital, and all their promises to establish a Palestinian one were all a sham....To the Moslem world, especially the Palestinian Arabs, it was the Isaac-Ishmael scenario all over again. The Jews had become the modern day Isaac to the British, while they would eventually become the exiled Ishmael.

In the years following 1929, Arabs saw mounting British injustices. Hundreds of Arabs were imprisoned or expelled to neighboring Moslem countries, or hanged for their role in riots while few Jews met the same fate. Jews were given rights to the minerals of the Dead Sea and allowed to buy up Arab farmland—all the while large scale Jewish, legal and illegal, immigration was allowed.

In an attempt to tone down the blood baths between Jews and Arabs, the Peel Commission of 1936 proposed a partition of Palestine into 3 areas: A Jewish state, an Arab state united with Trans Jordan (modern day Jordan) and a British area based in Jerusalem. Jews loved the partition plan, but Arabs hated it. To demonstrate their dissatisfaction, they increased the intensity of their revolution which raised the brutality and hostilities to new heights on both sides.

During World War II, most Arabs, worked covertly in support of the Nazis' against the British and their allies. Of course, Germany lost the war and the Allies established the United Nations which later would bring another crippling blow to the Palestinian/Arab cause.

It came in May of 1948. The British, unable to administrate the region, and powerless to halt the carnage, pulled out of Palestine

leaving it in chaos. The problem for the Jews, even after World War II, was that they were still scattered and their homeland populated by their old-time enemy, the Arabs. To try and resolve the problem, the newly installed U. N. declared a partitioned state. The Zionists accepted. Arabs were infuriated and prepared for all out war.

In 1949, 700,000 Palestinians fled their homes going north to Lebanon and Syria, or east to Jordan, or south to Gaza and Egypt. They had no passports and no right to work in these countries. They were homeless and stateless and treated like second class citizens. But what they lacked in rights, they made up in torment to Israel. Over the next fifty years, Palestinians would torture, massacre, and maim countless thousands of innocent and not so innocent Israeli citizens, Christians and Arabs. They hijacked, bombed, sliced and riddled with bullets anyone or people who stood in their way. But Israel, backed by the West, particularly the United States, would beat the Arabs again and again, diminishing their hopes. It was clear that Israel was there to stay, and they would remain as either exiles or refugees.

On July 26, 1956, Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal. The British, who depended on the port, were not amused. England along with the French and Israel attacked. Israel seized Palestine's Gaza and the Canal zones. This was devastating to the Palestinians and Egypt. The ensuing Palestinian revolt eventually led to the return of Gaza. But Israel had demonstrated its might and became stronger and gained more control of the region. Arabs knew this. And so in preparation for the next major confrontation the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed—a

conglomeration of numerous Palestinian guerrilla factions under the reign of the very wily Yasser Arafat. He organized its bloody attacks against Israel from Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, until expelled for harassing and tormenting authorities.

Somehow Arab nations, including the PLO, regrouped and thought themselves ready for a full-scale, united strike against Israel to take back their land. In April 1967, Syria attacked first, then Jordan. It was a disaster. In June Egypt struck, followed again by Syria, Iraq and Jordan. It was no contest. Within six days the tiny Israeli nation had practically wiped out the enemy, tripling the size of their territory with the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, the entire Sinai, the Golan Heights, and 1.1 million more Arabs under their control.

The Palestinians were still exiled with little hope of becoming a real state. But that would not stop them from trying and trying again. While other Arabic nations retreated in utter shame, never to dare to launch another major attack against Israel, the PLO and its people continued to wage its guerrilla war against Israel from within and without the narrow borders of the Gaza strip along the Mediterranean Coast.

In the 1990's the PLO added more diplomatic strategies, but even that has failed to garner in more than promises and an intifada, a term for Palestinian uprisings.

On September, 13, 1995, Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin and Arafat signed the now famous peace accord which subsequently won them both the Nobel Peace prize. But all of that now appears to mean nothing. The Palestinians have continued their killings of Israelis, and the

Israelis continue their counter attacks. In September, 2000, the Palestinians' frustrations boiled over into another intifada, which meant more murders and more anguish for innocent civilians. Finally, in April, 2002, Ariel Sharon, the well known super-hard line Prime Minister of Israel and former military general invaded the West Bank and sieged it, claiming it was all a part of the war against Palestinian terror, and to safeguard Israel. That even drew a lot of political fire when atrocities by the Israeli army were reported, and the Palestinians' camps demolished.

At the Heart of the Matter. The truth is that there are serious faults and terrible wounds on both the Arab's and Israel's sides. Both sides want to be rid of each other, and that seems impossible. Only a miracle of God can effect a change.

To the Arab world being descendants of the oldest son of Abraham, Ishmael, and having ruled Jerusalem and Canaan from the seventh century A.D. to World War I, has convinced them it is their land by inheritance and conquest. They also believe it is theirs by spiritual decree: It was from the very spot of Solomon's temple site, that Mohammed they say rose to heaven. As a result the hundreds of millions of Moslems consider Jerusalem subordinate only to the sacred cities of Medina where the prophet fled in 622 A.D. and Mecca, his birthplace. Furthermore, Arabs, greatly outnumbered Jews living in Palestine before the State of Israel was established. "Why should Israelis have control of the Holy Land when they are in the minority?" they would say.

Arab animosity, (speaking, of course, in general terms) however, does not stop there. Israel is supported by the West in practically

every way, but most especially politically and militarily. This is critically important in order to understand the Middle East dilemma. The reasons for this is actually quite simple. First of all, the West is professedly Christian, and as such, cannot support Arabs who are Moslems. In fact, it was largely from the influence of the Christian world which led to the formation of the State of Israel.¹ Many, if not most Christians believe that the Jews will be converted to Christ, who will establish and reign in the promised Davidic kingdom in Jerusalem for one thousand years. In other words, the Christian world at large believes that God will use Israel to establish the long awaited Kingdom. So these Christians insist that America and the West at large should and must support Israel. Besides, they would say, Israel cannot fail because God has proclaimed it so. Inspiration's comment about this is most informative; "Ironically futile, therefore... is the ever-increasing aim to rebuild Jerusalem, as one movement is endeavoring to do in response to the prophecies of the kingdom, by taking there the non-Christian Jews; and as another movement is endeavoring to do in response to the same prophecies, by taking there the English-speaking world."² This kind of thinking by such believers, is also one reason why so many radical Arabs despise the West and Capitalism.

But there is more...the long history of battles and treachery against the Arabs by the papacy during the Middle Ages. And the betrayals by Great Britain, a so-called Christian nation, after World War I in handling the Middle East, and American (another so-called Christian nation) machinations in foreign policies since World War II and up to this day, has convinced the Arab world that Christianity

and the West are villainous and oppressive. Then to add insult to injury, the West supports their long-standing nemesis, Israel, even when they are clearly wrong—a point which is well known by educators and political figures around the world.

This fact cannot be passed over lightly because this is what many authorities believe has largely contributed to terrorism against the West and the rise of Osama bin Laden. It is this, experts say, along with poverty, that has galvanized Moslem extremism. Of course, no nation can please any one person or group in every respect, but experts agree that America's foreign policies have watered the seeds of terror. We cannot possibly go into detail, but let us just very briefly look at two recent examples, Iraq and Afghanistan. The United States funded the Iraq government and military in the 1980's in a long bitter war against Iran. Why? Because it appears that it suited U.S. interest, oil. Iraq has one of the richest oil fields in the world. It didn't matter that Saddam Hussein and his regime were brutal, and oppressive to even their own people—ie. the Kurds. It didn't matter that Iraqi leadership committed horrific crimes to maintain their power, and were against democracy and Christianity, America supported them. But then, when Iraq annexed Kuwait, the U.S. attacked Iraq claiming that Iraq and Saddam Hussein were antidemocratic, and antihuman rights. You can imagine how Iran viewed this scenario being a very conservative Moslem nation with ties to terrorism.

In the 1980's Russia invaded Afghanistan. The U.S. then backed and trained the rebels who would later bring the Taliban to power. Never mind that the rebel forces were anti-Christian, anti-human rights. When the

Northern Alliance was ousted, and the Taliban ceased control of the embattled country they began to sponsor terrorism against America and her interests, notably through the Al Qaeda network. America attacked, and put back in the Northern Alliance, who had themselves conducted a number of atrocities including raping and abusing women. These are just a sample of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. So it would seem that America's policies have nothing to do with equity or justice—a point attested to even by American authorities.

Ah! But Jews claim the land is theirs—God gave it to them. The promise of God was that Isaac was to be the true heir, and so, they say, the Arabs do not have the legitimate right to control the Holy Land. Furthermore, Arabs, alongside other peoples, have long persecuted Jews not only in Old Testament times, but also during the rise and decline of Moslems. Israel points to the horrific violence and brutal murders by Arabs of their people. Furthermore, they add, Jews have been bounced around from nation to nation for nearly two thousand years—maligned, cheated and hated by much of the world, then today wind up being surrounded by their worst enemies and outnumbered many times over. That is why, they would say, we must be tough.

The Future. It's easy to see that if the Israelis and Arabs do not now wholeheartedly turn to the Lord, there can never be real peace in the Middle East, and why the world has become deeply concerned about the present Palestine situation.

What does God have to say about the end of all this? He will dissolve Palestine

(Isa. 14:30-31) and drive out both Jews and Arabs (Zeph. 2:1, 3-5), including those of Trans Jordan (Moab and Ammon—Zeph. 2:8,9) in a massive, war, indeed, the greatest of all wars, and give the land to those who love Him and are ready for His great Kingdom (Zeph. 2:6,7).

The events of recent months, again remind us that this great Kingdom could be nearer than we realize. The great question always is are we ready?

References

1. The Bible and the Sword, pp. 175-207, Barbara Tuchman
2. Behold I Make All Things new. p. 66, V.T. Houteff.

NEWS IN PERSPECTIVE

Is There A Role For U.S. Forces in Palestine?

There are many who believe that the only way to have and maintain peace between Israel and the Palestinians, is to station U.S. and international troops in the region. Former president, Clinton is one such person who holds this view. Addressing about 2,000 students, faculty members and alumni at Hunter College, Mr. Clinton described his administration's diplomacy in the region and outlined an approach to the crisis.

"If there is going to be anything like a lasting settlement, maybe even a temporary settlement, I do believe it will have to be, if not imposed, at least strongly pushed,"...But he went on to say, "that to be acceptable to the Israelis, any international force would need to include peace keepers from the United States, the only nation Israelis see as truly caring about their fate. So there will have to be a global force of some kind, and

if President Bush says he's going to be a part of it, I will strongly support it.

"There is no alternative to American involvement," Mr. Clinton said. "If we have to put troops in there, there will be no alternative to our putting them in. And you should be for it. We have to do it. We've got to make peace there."

Perhaps Mr. Clinton, like most of the world does not realize that according to prophecy, what he is suggesting will indeed come to pass but not to his liking. God declares that Modern Assyria (the U.S. and her allies) will be involved in the "*greatest of all battles*" (2 TG.41:18) "*in Jerusalem,*" (Zech. 14:1) and will, sad to say, lose that war. But the fall of the West will be the deliverance of all those who love God and His truth. "*That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.*" Isaiah 14:25.

THE GIFTS OF GOD

The gifts are greater than my dreams,
The gifts of God to me.
As countless as the sunset's golden beams.
As boundless as the sea.

I ask a part, He gives the whole,
Himself and all beside.
His loving kindness overflows my soul,
Inrushing as the tide.

Within my heart He shall have a place,
To rule and reign supreme.
My voice will ever praise him for the grace
Of which I ne'er could dream.

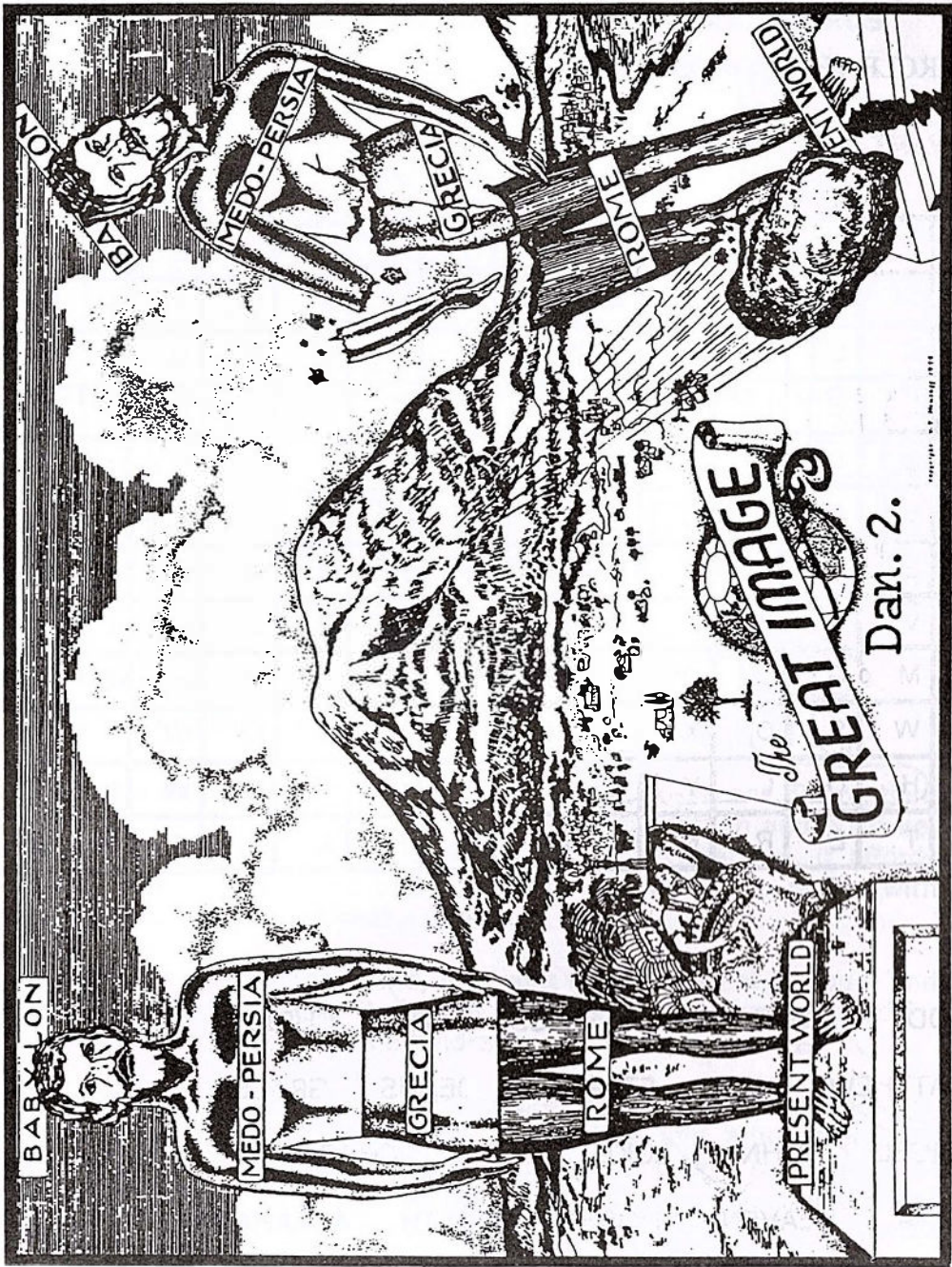
His gifts are greater than my dreams,
The gifts of him who set me free.
And more and more abundant daily seems,
The grace of God to me. J. B. Pound

KIDS CORNER

CHART STUDY

READ DANIEL CHAPTER 2 CAREFULLY, THEN DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Color the image on the chart as it is described in the Bible.
2. Give a brief description of the image, including the meaning of each part of the image.
3. Where did the stone come from that smote the image? Dan. 2:45.
4. In prophecy, what does a mountain symbolize? Dan. 9:16, 20.
5. What was the name of the king who had the dream? Dan. 2:1.
6. Which country did he rule? Dan. 2:14.
7. What was the name of the captain of the king's guards? Dan 2:14.
8. What were the names of Daniel's three friends? Dan. 2:16.



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GRID -

CIRCLE THE WORDS BELOW

A	F	H	J	E	M	I	C	A	H	E	B	C	C
B	I	B	O	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	Y	H	H
R	C	L	E	J	R	J	O	H	N	R	O	R	R
A	L	E	L	U	K	E	Z	R	A	U	O	I	
H	O	S	E	A	K	H	E	A	L	T	H	N	S
A	V	S	D	G	T	P	A	N	Z	H	U	I	T
M	E	I	U	L	B	R	S	G	R	A	R	C	C
B	V	N	R	H	E	A	U	E	N	Z	C	L	H
I	M	G	O	D	Y	Y	Z	L	A	R	H	E	A
B	W	S	D	X	J	E	S	U	S	Q	W	T	P
L	H	O	L	Y	G	R	A	C	E	U	W	L	E
E	T	E	R	N	I	T	Y	F	A	I	T	H	L

- GOD LOVE BLESSINGS FAITH CHRIST
MATTHEW MARK ETERNITY JESUS GRACE
ANGEL JOHN LUKE RUTH CHRONICLES
EZRA HEAVEN HOSEA HEALTH ABRAHAM
MICAH JOEL BIBLE CHAPEL CHURCH ROD

REARRANGE SCRAMBLED WORDS TO FORM PROPER WORDS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. RYEPPOHC
PROPHECY | 6. VIADDINA
DAVIDIAN | 11. HTFIA
FAITH |
| 2. NEIIGROLO
LONG | 7. TEUSOGRHISSEN
RIGHTEOUSNESS | 12. HURHC
CHURCH |
| 3. EMGENJUTD
JUDGEMENT | 8. LATAMNEOITN
LAMENTATION | 13. OEXSDU
EXODUS |
| 4. NDSNIKES
KINDNESS | 9. SNETPRE-UTTRH
PRECEPT | 14. VLEO
LEAVE |
| 5. TINSAHCRI
CHRISTIAN | 10. RETNOIEALV
REVELATION | 15. RTHSCI
CHRIST |

All those who return the correct words will be given a prize.

YOUNG WORLD

RECREATION

How the Christian chooses his recreation

"There is a difference between recreation and amusement. Recreation, when true to its name, re-creation, tends to strengthen and build up. Calling us aside from our ordinary cares and occupations, it affords refreshment for mind and body and thus enables us to return with new vigor to the earnest work of life.

"Amusement on the other hand, is sought for the sake of pleasure and is often carried to excess. It absorbs the energies that are required for useful work and thus proves a hindrance to life's true success.

"Between the associations of the followers of Christ for Christian recreation and worldly gatherings for pleasure and amusement will exist a marked contrast. Instead of prayer and the mentioning of Christ and sacred things will be heard from the lips of worldlings the silly laugh and the trifling conversation. Their amusements commence in folly and end in vanity.

"There is a great need of temperance in amusements, as in every other pursuit. And the character of these amusements should be carefully and thoroughly considered. Every youth should ask himself, What influence will these amusements have on physical, mental, and moral health? Will my mind become so infatuated as to forget God? Shall I cease to have his glory before me?"

THE ADVENTIST HOME, p. 512

THE LOVE OF WORLDLY PLEASURE

"It is an alarming fact that the love of the world predominates in the minds of the young as a class. Many conduct themselves as if the precious hours of probation, while mercy lingers, were placed in the world merely for their own amusement, to be gratified with a continual round of excitement. They find their pleasures in the world, and in the things of the world, and are strangers to the Father and the graces of His Spirit. Many are reckless in their conversation. They choose to forget that by their words they are to be justified or condemned. God is dishonored by their frivolity and the empty, vain talking and laughing that characterize the life of many of the youth.

"Satan makes special efforts to lead them to find happiness in worldly amusements, and to justify themselves by endeavoring to show that these amusements are harmless, innocent, and even important for health. He presents the path of holiness as difficult, while the paths of worldly pleasure are strewn with flowers.

"In false and flattering colors, he arrays the world with its pleasures before the youth. But the pleasures of earth will soon come to an end, and that which is sown must also be reaped. Are personal attractions, ability, or talents too valuable to devote to God...?"

MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE p. 367

DANGEROUS AMUSEMENTS FOR THE YOUNG

"The desire for excitement and pleasing entertainment is a temptation and a snare to God's people, and especially to the young. Satan is constantly preparing inducements to attract minds from the solemn work of preparation for scenes just in the future. Through the agencies of worldlings he keeps up a continual excitement to induce the unwary to join in worldly pleasures. There are shows, lectures, and an endless

variety of entertainments that are calculated to lead to the love of the world; and through this union with the world faith is weakened.

"Satan is a persevering workman, an artful, deadly foe. Whenever an incautious word is spoken, whether in flattery or to cause the youth to look upon some sin with less abhorrence, he takes advantage of it, and nourishes the evil seed, that is may take root and yield a bountiful harvest. He is in every sense of the word a deceiver, a skillful charmer. He has many finely woven nets, which appear innocent, but which are skillfully prepared to entangle the youth and unwary. The natural minds lean towards pleasure and self gratification. It is Satan's policy to fill the mind with a desire for worldly amusement, that there may be no time for the question, How is it with my soul?"

MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, p. 373

ONWARD AND UPWARD

"God has given the youth a ladder to climb, a ladder that reaches from earth to heaven. Above this ladder is God, and on every round fall the bright beams of His glory. He is watching those who are climbing, ready, where the grasp relaxes and the steps falter, to send help. Yes, tell it in words full of cheer, that no one who perseveringly climbs the ladder will fail of gaining an entrance into the heavenly city.

"Satan presents many temptations to the youth. He is playing the game of life for their souls, and he leaves no means untried to allure and ruin them. But God does not leave them to fight unaided against the tempter. They have an all-powerful Helper.

"Stronger far than their foe is He who in this world and in human nature met and conquered Satan, resisting every temptation that comes to the youth today. He is their elder Brother. He feels for them a deep and tender interest. He keeps over them a constant watch-care, and He rejoices when they try to please Him. As they pray, He mingles with their prayers the incense of His righteousness and offers them to God as a fragrant sacrifice. In His strength the youth can endure hardness as good soldiers of the cross. Strengthened with His might they are enabled to reach the high ideals before them. The sacrifice made on Calvary is the pledge of their victory."

MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, pp. 95-96.

NATURE'S PAGE



Job 39:27: Doth the **eagle** mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?

Eagles are noted for their strength and keen vision. Most eagles range from 60 to 90 cm (2 to 3 ft) long and have wingspans of about 180 cm (6 ft.). One of the smallest, however, the Ayres' eagle, *Hieraetus dubius*, is only 40 cm (16 in.) long, and the largest, the harpy eagle, *Harpia harpyja*, reaches 100 cm (39 in.) in length and has a wingspan of up to 2.4 m (8 ft.).

All eagles, have large, heavy, hooked bills and strong, sharp claws called talons. They are usually brown, black, or gray, sometimes with markings on the head, neck, wings, or tail. The bald eagle is not really bald; it was named for its white head.

The rest of its plumage is brown, except for its white tail. Some eagles have a ring of pointed feathers around the head; others, called booted eagles, have feathers on their legs all the way to their talons. One booted eagle, native to the Northern Hemisphere, the golden eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*, is brown with golden tints on the head and back of the neck.

Habits: Eagles prey on such small animals as fish, rodents, birds, snakes, monkeys and rabbits. They have very sharp eyesight and hunt while soaring high in the air or watching from a high perch. The eagles swoop down at great speed to make the kill with their powerful talons. With talons and beak they pull apart a prey that is too heavy to carry. Sometimes they steal the catch of other birds, such as ospreys.

There are many types of eagles world wide, but the greatest and strongest of them all is the Harpy eagle. It is found in the forests of South America. It is powerful enough to kill sheep, goats, pigs and even a cow calf. Do you know where Br. Houteff mentions the Harpy eagle in the Rod? Let this be a little quiz for you.

The eagle's strength and majesty are indeed wonderful reminders of these qualities in our Maker—His protective strength and care for His children. He declares: "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the **Lord** alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him." Deut. 32:11.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

Fatigue Busters

Do you feel exhausted most of the time, even after you've had a good night's sleep? Do you have that burned out, down and out feeling? Perhaps you feel a malaise—like you don't want to do anything but lay in bed. Or, it could be constant tension in the neck and shoulders. The reason could be fatigue. There are myriads of factors that could lead to this common but distressing syndrome. Some are physiologically induced, as by menopause or anemia. Typically, though, fatigue is due to a list of more common challenges and often have their roots in emotional-mental factors. We all know that excessive physical activity, poor diet, and too much mental work, can lead to fatigue, but did you know that excessive fear, worry, boredom, compulsions, depression, bitterness, anger, jealousy, resentment, noise, lack of organization, etc., can also lead to this pervasive problem of modern society?

Well, if you are suffering from fatigue, here are some safe and effective treatments that could be helpful until you locate and eliminate the cause of the problem.

Set aside a regular time each day for prayer, Bible study, and communion with the Creator. This will be a potent stress reliever.

Deep breathing exercises improve the oxygen supply to the brain, and in turn to the entire body. Standing upright, hands on the hips, in a well ventilated room, or

out-or-doors, take deep, slow breaths, as if to fill the lungs from the bottom up. Take as complete a breath as possible, hold for the count of 20, exhale completely and hold for a count of ten. This may be repeated 20-40 times, three times a day.

Ice-cold foot baths are stimulating. Sit on the edge of the tub and run cold water over your feet and ankles. As your tolerance for cold increases, add ice cubes to a tub of water two to four inches deep and place your feet in the ice water for 30 seconds to 3 minutes. Dry the feet well after removing them from the water. The feet should be warm before the foot bath is begun. Rubbing the feet may assist in tolerating the cold.

Alternating hot and cold showers change the distribution of blood throughout the entire body. Blood is pulled from the internal organs to the skin. Showers give a mechanical stimulation that tub baths do not provide.

The salt glow skin rub is often invigorating. Stand in a tub of hot water. Moisten the hands and body with water, dip hands into a container of salt, and rub the skin briskly. Shower to remove salt from the skin.

The cold mitten friction is carried out by wringing a wash cloth or mittens in ice water and briskly rubbing the body, refreshing the cloths as they warm up. Start at the head and progress downward toward the feet. The body should be warm before treatment is begun.

Abdominal cold packs and cold showers have been shown to be more effective in relieving fatigue than rest. Blood pulled from other parts of the body brings glucose, oxygen and other fatigue-relieving substances into the area. Temperatures of the cold packs ranged from 45 to 50 degrees F. Cold packs are left in place for ten minutes. Showers consist of ten minute sprays at 55 to 60 degrees F. to the trunk.

Heating treatments are helpful for those suffering from chronic fatigue, but should not be prolonged. Prolonged heat has a depressing effect, which worsens fatigue. Five to six minutes may be sufficient to start vigorous sweating, then the treatment should be concluded with a cold treatment—a cold shower, cold towel rub, wet sheet rub, or salt glow. The purpose of the treatment is to stimulate circulation and toxin elimination from the skin.

Outdoor life is beneficial to the fatigue sufferer. Breathing devitalized, deoxygenated indoor air deprives the body of oxygen.

Respiratory exercises are often helpful in increasing energy levels. While walking, try to inhale for five steps, then exhale for six steps. Take slow, deep breaths, attempting to fill and empty the lungs as completely as possible.

Another method of exercising the lungs is to take a deep breath and read out loud as long as possible with that single breath. With time the lung capacity will increase.

Drugs are **not** the solution to fatigue. Many physicians automatically give a person complaining of fatigue sedatives or antidepressants, which only compound the problem.

Herbs are helpful: valerian root, scullcap, peppermint, ginkgo, catnip, chamomile and rosemary.

Other supplements can be beneficial, such as vitamins C, E, and the entire B-complex family, and bee pollen.

In general, eat a balanced vegetarian diet of mostly fruits and vegetables and drink large amounts of fresh juiced vegetables, such as carrots, celery and lettuce.

Try it! You'll feel better!

Troubled Waters

A network of 76 drinking water sources across 25 states and Puerto Rico were sampled during the summer of 2001. Samples were collected prior to any water treatment practices at locations such as river intakes or raw-water sampling ports used by the individual utilities. The sampling network consisted of 25 groundwater sources and 51 surface-water sources of drinking water. Most water systems included in the reconnaissance served at least 10,000 people with some groundwater systems serving 1,000 or less. All samples were collected by U.S. Geological Survey personnel using consistent protocols and procedures designed to obtain a sample representative of the targeted raw drinking-water source.

So, what did they find? The compounds found included everything from aspirin to birth control pills, even steroids—a group of hormone-like compounds that can affect the heart, digestion, the lungs and skin. Of course, they are in small amounts. Whatever the drug, these compounds or

chemicals eventually end up in our wells, reservoirs, and our bodies. Could this be one of the causes of apparently healthy people contracting various unexplainable diseases? Think about it, and while you are at it, you may want to get a water filter.

FIELD HIGHLIGHTS

The Philippines At a Glance

Greetings from the Philippines Branch, "Land of the Pines." The Philippines received its name from King Philip of Portugal, and the pines that grow abundantly on its shores.

Stretching 1,839 kilometers north to south, off the southeast coast of Asia, the Philippine Archipelago has a total land area of 3 million kilometers. Its 7,107 islands, comprise one of the largest island groups in the world. The Philippines is the world's third largest English-speaking country, after the U. S. and the U. K., with approximately one million SDAs. Its capital city is Manila, and Filipino, or Tagalog is the national language—English is used for commercial and legal transactions. The literacy rate is a high 94 percent. It is a tropical country with an average temperature of 32 C. (80 F). It is also a land where freedom of religion still exists, evidenced by the numerous Christian faiths. In fact, there are hundreds of various types of SDA denominations or groups.

Our brothers and sisters there are scattered across the three big regions: **Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao**—comprising the 8 areas of our Philippines Branch.

Mauswagon Area is located in the country's largest island, Mindanao, in a

region known as Bukidnon, where the Camp and most of the believers of this region reside. As with all of Mindanao, the primary dialect spoken there is Visayan. Br. Rey Barroa, a newly installed Davidian minister, is National Chairman, and as with most of the believers in Mauswagon, is a long-standing believer.

Bayugan Area is also in Mindanao. Br. Dominador Palma, the third newly installed Davidian minister and long-time believer, heads the group here. They have the daunting task of trying to reach the over 30 churches in this area.

Davao Area is located in the southern portion of Mindanao, and second only to Manila, in population. This is the largest city in the world in land area. Because of easy transportation and communication, the Branch's national office is located in this large, bustling city. As you can imagine it a monumental task to reach the many church members there, with at least 15,000 in Davao City alone, not to mention the 75,000 SDAs in the outlying areas beyond the city limits. Although the task is monumental, Br. Rudy Camarillo, the Bible worker, and his fellow group members strive faithfully to share the truth at every opportunity.

Negros Area is found in one of the islands of Panay, a part of Visayas. The dialect used here is Ilonggo. Beside their own vicinity of over 35,000 SDA members, the brethren here are reaching out to another island called Palawan. Sr. Ivan Gayomale, is a knowledgeable medical missionary and the Bible worker for this region.

Bohol Area is also a part of Visayas. This is a very challenging field for the group there, with about 30 churches to reach.

Their dialect is Bol-anon and the Bible workers there is Br. Pasencio Sajonia.

Cagayan Area is another vastly populated region and a part of Mindanao, with over 8,000 SDAs. Br. Joel Balboa is the Bible worker. He and the brethren there have encountered some obstacles, but they are still pressing on with God's blessings.

Luzon Area is located in the north, and includes metro Manila—the capital region. The people here speak several different dialects, but fortunately most can understand Phiilipino, which is helpful for communicating the message. Nevertheless, to reach the almost 94,000 SDA members in this vast and important area is a daunting task for Br. Cris Agapay, the Bible worker and newly ordained Davidian minister.

Samar Area is located in the mid-land of the Philippines and is part of the region known as Visayas. The group here was formed just over a year ago, when an entire church embraced the truth. The dialect spoken there is Waray. Br. Romualdo Lariosa is the Bible worker and one of the pioneers of the group. (To learn more of the remarkable story of how the entire church accepted the message, see the Testimony Gems).

The Philippines is not blessed with the wealth and conveniences of the United States and other countries. Life is a challenge there, the Branch members will tell you. As present truth missionaries, they cannot afford to stay in hotels nor in comfortable inns. Workers travel a lot by public transportation because no one personally owns a vehicle like a truck, van or car. Because there are so many islands, ships are the primary method of travel from island to island. On land, they use public

vehicles such as jeepneys (large wagon-type trucks), or single motorcycles, with, believe it or not, 5 or 6 persons on them. With this sort of transportation, as well as crowded buses, it is quite uncomfortable carrying books and charts, not to mention luggage for clothing. Because traveling is difficult and the distances long, workers have to be away from their families for long periods of time.

As you can tell, it is not at all like the USA, where one can speed along quickly and smoothly over hundreds of miles. But there are no complaints. The brethren there are happy to be co-laborers with Christ in this part of the vineyard.

The Branch recently held their National Session on March 22-31, 2002, at Samar, Leyte. It was a week of spiritual blessings. The Session was attended by representatives from all eight of the local areas and the United States. The newly installed national branch board officers are: Reynaldo Barroa (Chairman), Evelyn Rollan (Secretary), Julieta Malnegro (Treasurer). The members are: Dominador Palma, Joel Balboa, Romualdo Lariosa, and Cris Agapay.

The Session received a special treat with the presence of the Rollan family from Headquarters in the U.S. Br. Rollan conducted child dedication ceremonies for fifteen children and baptized two new brothers, Br. Danny Sobrevega from the Luzon Area and Br. Januarío "Boyot" Legaspi from Negros. He also dedicated the new officers for the years 2002-2004. Presently the brethren are conducting a Bible seminar in Samar, Leyte, to prepare members for a proposed DLI in 2004.

The National Board and it's members pray that, "The Lord will grant us the privilege and opportunity to be among those who

THE PHILIPPINES

PACIFIC
OCEAN

LUZON PHILIPPINE

SEA

SOUTH
CHINA
SEA

VI S A Y A S

BAR AREA

NEGROS AREA

CEBU CITY

BOHOL AREA

CAGAYAN AREA

SULU SEA

MINDANAO

DAVAO AREA

DAVAO CITY

DAVAO CITY

DAVAO AREA

CELEBES SEA



**National Session
of the
Philippine branch
March 22- 31, 2002
Laging, Catarman
Northern Samar**



The newly installed Philippine National Branch officers for 2002-2004.

The eight bible workers covering the eight areas in the Philippines.



will not taste death, and become a member of that happy and special company who will stand on Mt. Zion with the Lamb." This is our prayer from the Philippines Branch.

Report on the Center in Trinidad, West Indies

"O that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalms 107:8

It is with great delight from headquarters, New York, that we give you our progress report of the international training Center being built in Trinidad. Can we expect good news this year? Yes! by God's grace and to His glory.

First of all we offer sincere thanks to our heavenly Father for his enabling power, his providential and protecting care, day by day, and for opening the way for the building project in its more or less final phase—soon to be ready for use in 2002.

Indeed, we express thanks to God for those of our brethren and friends supporting us not only with their prayers, but with their finances, without which we could not have made the progress that we did. Praise the Lord!

Now beloved, since a picture is worth a thousand words, we ask that you carefully examine the pictures on the front and back covers of this Code.

We herewith offer some specific details: This present project is about one-third

completed. The entire building measures 58 feet by 30 feet, with two levels.

We have completed the first floor, except for plumbing and floor covering, and fixtures in the baths and kitchen. We have started on the second floor, much to our surprise and beyond our expectations at the time. Praise the Lord! We were able to frame and complete the roof. The FICA gutters and leaders or downpipes will be done and the walls on the upper floor will be started by the time you read this report.

We confidently trust in the Lord as we again move forward in our next phase, believing that our brethren will pray for the success of this inter-Caribbean center and that more of us will also remember to send their financial support so we can have our first opening and D.L.I. in November, 2002. Please beloved, brethren, let us be faithful in this privileged ministry of love. May all our words, life and works praise the Lord.

You may communicate with headquarters in New York or to Trinidad directly. See you later this year in bright, sunny, tropical Trinidad as we strive to advance God's work there. May God bless you richly!

Note: All persons (especially in the West Indies) who are serious about attending D.L.I. in Trinidad, this year, are reminded to complete their requirements for fellowship cards—especially their reading of the literature.

FAMILY MATTERS

RAISING BOYS

"The training of children constitutes an important part of God's plan for demonstrating the power of Christianity. A solemn responsibility rests upon parents to so train their children that when they go forth into the world, they do good and not evil to those with whom they associate.

"Parents should not lightly regard the work of training their children, nor neglect it upon any account. They should employ much time in careful study of the laws which regulate our being. They should make it their first object to become intelligent in regard to the proper manner of dealing with their children, that they may secure to them sound minds in sound bodies."

CHILD GUIDANCE, p. 22

DISCIPLINE

"The object of discipline is the training of the children for self government. They should be taught self reliance and self control. Therefore, as soon as the child is capable of understanding, his or her reason should be enlisted on the side of obedience. Let all dealing with him be such as to show obedience to be just and reasonable. Help him to see that all things are under law, and that disobedience leads, in the end to disaster and suffering.

"It is the work of parents to restrain and guide and control. They cannot commit a

worse evil than to permit their children to gratify all their childish wishes and fancies, and leave them to follow their own inclinations; they cannot do them a greater wrong than to leave upon their minds the impression that they are to please and amuse themselves, to choose their own ways and find their own pleasure and society.

"In the present state of things in society, it is no easy task for parents to restrain their children and instruct them according to the Bible rule of right. When they would train their children in harmony with the precepts of the Word of God and, like Abraham of old, command their household after them, the children think their parents overcareful and unnecessarily exacting."

CHILD GUIDANCE, p. 223

Compassion and Judgment: Find a Balance

"Learning to find the intersection between these two forces is especially useful to the understanding of children. There's a time for affirmation, tenderness, and love. They nourish the spirit and seal the bond between generations. But there's also a time for discipline and punishment. Moms and dads who try to be eternally positive, ignoring irresponsibility or defiance in their children, fail to teach them that behavior has consequences.

"But beware! parents who are continually punitive and accusatory can create serious behavioral and emotional problems. The

apostle Paul recognized this danger and cautioned dads not to get carried away with discipline. He said, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4). He mentioned the warning again in Col. 3:21. Remaining in the safety of the middle ground as moms and dads is difficult to achieve. None of us does it perfectly. But the best parents are those who steer a path between permissiveness and authoritarianism. Boys especially will thrive under leadership if extremes are avoided and the relationship is carefully seasoned with love."

BRINGING UP BOYS, pp. 236, 237

Boys and Discipline

"The word discipline connotes not only the shaping of a child's behavior and attributes but also giving him a measure of self-control and the ability to postpone gratification. Teaching a child to work is one of the primary mechanisms by which this self discipline is acquired. But most young boys have a great aversion to work. They can sit and stare at it for hours. It is so difficult to get them to move that some parents give up. Those who know how to work are usually better able to control their impulses, to stay on a task until the assignment is completed, to overcome flightiness and immaturity, to recognize the connection between effort and opportunity, and to learn to manage money. It also serves as a preparation for life in the adult world.

"Because children learn by imitation, hands-on-instruction is helpful. Instead of just telling the child what to do, help him complete the task. Working with an adult is the most enriching form of play for a child,

if it's handled right. Make it fun. Find things to laugh about. If you nag and criticize your child incessantly, he'll begin to develop bad attitudes toward work."

BRINGING UP BOYS, p. 238

Parents to be United in Discipline

"The mother should ever have the cooperation of the father in her efforts to lay the foundation of a good Christian character in her children. A doting father should not close his eyes to the faults of his children because it is not pleasant to administer correction.

"Right principles must be established in the child. If parents are united in this work of discipline, the child will understand what is required of him. But if the father, by word or act shows that he does not approve of the discipline the mother gives, if he feels that she is too strict, and thinks that he should make up for the harshness by petting and indulgence, the child will be ruined. Deception will be practiced by the sympathizing parents, and the child will soon learn that he can do as he pleases. Parents who are committing this sin against their children are accountable for the ruin of their souls."

CHILD GUIDANCE, p. 239

4 Do's When Raising Boys

1. Teach your boys (sons) that they are different from girls. Let them know what their masculinity really means.

There is a new source of confusion emanating from the gay and lesbian agenda. Its propagandists are teaching

a revolutionary view of sexuality called **gender feminism**", which insist that sex assignment is irrelevant. They dissolve the traditional roles of mothers and fathers and in time, eliminate such terms as wife, husband, son, daughter, sister, brother boy, girl, masculine, feminine. These are replaced with **gender-neutral terms, such as significant others, spouse, parent, child, and sibling.**

2. Show love to your boys. Make time, spend time with them.

As a consequence of neglect, your boys may experience serious psychological and neurological impairment. They grow up feeling unloved, which leads to self-loafing that often serves as a prelude to violence, drug abuse, promiscuity, and suicide.

3. Dads, set the right example.

Boys watch their dads intently, noting every minor detail of behavior and values. Boys imitate much of what their fathers do. If fathers blow up and regularly insult their wives, then the boys will treat their mother and other women with disrespect. What fathers are will be seen in the next generation. Fortunately, the converse is also true. If fathers are caring, loving, honest and trustworthy, boys will be influenced by these traits as they age.

4. Keep abreast of your boys' activities.

Boys tend to be more easily distracted, thus they need constant supervision and guidance.

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother...."
Proverbs 1:8

"...The father of boys should come into close contact with his sons, giving them the benefit of his larger experience and talking with them in such simplicity and tenderness that he binds them to his heart. He should let them see that he has their best interest, their happiness, in view all the time.

"He who has a family of boys must understand that, whatever his calling, he is never to neglect the souls placed in his care. He has brought these children into the world and has made himself responsible to God to do everything in his power to keep them from unsanctified associations, from evil companionship. He should not leave his restless boys wholly to the care of the mother. This is too heavy a burden for her. He must arrange matters for the best interests of the mother and the children. It may be very hard for the mother to exercise self-control and to manage wisely in the training of her children. If this is the case, the father should take more of the burden upon his soul. He should be determined to make the most decided efforts to save his children." -Adventist Home, 220, 221.

That Little Boy of Mine

Two eyes that shine so bright,
Two lips that kiss goodnight,
Two arms that hold me tight,
That little boy of mine.

No one can ever know
how much your coming meant,
Because I love you so,
you're something heaven sent.

You're all the world to me
You climb upon my knee.
To me you'll always be,
That little boy of mine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**UPCOMING SESSION:
JULY 26 - AUGUST 11, 2002**

Theme: "For Such A Time As This"

It is with great anticipation that we announce the schedule and agenda for the upcoming Session. Many things have happened since we last met together and the world events are demonstrating to us how close we are to the end of time. The only thing keeping the four winds from blowing is that the 144,000 have not laid down all their idols. May we press toward that goal so that the kingdom can be set up.

We need everyone's prayers and support for this Session, as we deliberate on business/religious matters that will have a serious impact on the work. Below is the agenda and schedule for the 2002 Session.

2002 SESSION AGENDA

Business Items:

Bylaws

Minister/Bible Worker Accountability

Sr. Home and her needs (S. Francis)

Practices in our Health Center (E. Edstrom.

Employee benefits

Mileage

RELIGIOUS ITEMS:

King David - Who is He?

Davidian Stand on Deut. 22:11.

SCHEDULE:

July 26 - Friday

**** Opening Meeting - Testimonies**
7:30 p.m - 9:00 p.m.

July 27 - Sabbath

**** All day Religious Convocation**
10:00 a.m. - 7:45 p.m.

July 28 - Sunday

*** Business Meetings**
8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

July 29 - Monday

*** Business Meetings**
8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

July 30 - Tuesday

*** Business Meetings**
8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

July 31 - Wednesday

*** Business Meetings**
8:45 - 5:00 p.m.

August 1 - Thursday

**** Social Activities: Excursions, hikes, etc.** 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

August 2 - Friday

*** Business Meetings**
8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
**** Friday Evening Services**
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

August 3 - Sabbath

**** All day Religious Convocation**

10:00 a.m. - 7:45 p.m.

August 4 - Sunday

* Business Meetings

8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

August 5 - Monday

* Business Meetings

8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

August 6 - Tuesday

** Religious Meetings

8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

August 7 - Wednesday

** Religious Meetings

8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

August 8 - Thursday

** Health Class

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

** Religious Meetings

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

August 9 - Friday

** Free Day

August 10 - Sabbath

** All day Religious Convocation

10:00 a.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Dedication of Executive Council

* Card Holders only permitted to attend.

** Open to all.

(Note: This is the second announcement of the 2002 Session).

PRAYER FOR SESSION: " 'Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.' This unbelief, that shut them out from deeper sympathy with Christ and the

carelessness with which they regarded the sacred work committed to them, had caused their failure in the conflict with the powers of darkness." DA:430-431.

So that God may once again bless His work and those who promote His cause, we are proposing a period of voluntary prayer and fasting (July 19 - July 25) prior to Session 2002. Those who cannot attend Session may send up their petitions on behalf of the decisions that will be made so that God will be glorified.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Accommodations for Session will be provided for card holders primarily and others only as space is available. The first week of Session is the business aspect and is primarily for card holders only. The second week covers the religious meetings and is opened to all. Please contact the Association if you are planning to come and need housing. Housing goes first to card holders than to others as we can accommodate.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We are still looking for one or two persons to conduct a VBS-like program for our children during the Session period. The ages are 4 through teen. We will provide all the materials upon approval of proposed activities and program plus a stipend of \$75.00 a week. Please notify the office if you are interested in helping us out with this project.

IN LOVING MEMORY:

Sidney Albert Smith, one of our long-time warriors in the faith passed away April 16, 2002. He was 87. Br. Smith had been a

believer in this message since 1939 and was a Davidian minister. His greatest joy was the truth of the Kingdom and his eyes would light up when speaking of it. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. He is survived by his loving wife, Bonnie, and three sons. He rests peacefully in the Lord and awaits that special resurrection mentioned in Daniel 12:2.

Catherine Desir, another long-standing and faithful believer passed away in January 2002. She was 77 years old. She lived and practiced the truth for over 50 years! She is survived by eight children and will be missed by all who knew her.

SYMPATHY: Another sad note as Sr. Judith Rollan's (one of our Bible workers here at Headquarters) father passed away while she was home visiting in the Philippines. Our prayers go up in behalf of her and family in this time of sorrow.

NEW TAPES: We now have the new Assyrian Confederacy tapes ready. They are entitled "Fall of Assyria". The series is a set of 4 tapes as compared to the 8 tapes in our previous series.

I't a Boy! Glenroy Matthews and his wife, Ronetta have welcomed a new baby boy.

WEDDING BELLS: Br. Jerry Cox and Sr. Urania Augustin from St. Lucia were recently united in marriage as were Br. Jacob Wiebe and Sr. Cielo Escondon from North Carolina. Our blessings and prayers go out to both of these couples as they begin their lives together.

WANTED: ARTICLES! Would you like to write an article for the Symbolic Code? We are interested in hearing from you. Do you have a testimony about how you or someone else came in contact with the message? Perhaps you had a special experience while studying with a person or group. Please, share them with us. We would love to hear from you. Really! Chances are your article could be published. Please send your article or testimony to the office, attention Symbolic Code Department.

FIELD REPORTS: We would like to have your field/branch featured in the Symbolic Code. Yes, you can let your fellow believers in other parts of the field know just what is happening in your area. They would love to know. Please send in a report with the following information:

- 1) Size of group.
- 2) Demographics: geography, population, physical description location, etc.
- 3) Plans, projects, missionary efforts, growth, special challenges and needs.
- 4) Group picture of "Present Truth" believers in your area and perhaps a small map of the area if possible. We are anxious to receive this information, so please, don't delay sending them in! Thanks.

Attention: We are looking for someone to care for our beloved Criselda Home, better known as Mama Home, now 81 years of age and a bit feeble.

Requirements: To be loving, sensitive, kind and caring and very patient. Please note that Mama Home is a spiritual and

friendly person and an old veteran of Natural Medicine. Someone with these interests is desired. Please call or contact the General Office at (845) 434-5282, if you are interested.

Wanted: Mt. Carmel is presently searching for a good handyman in the U.S. for our center. A person to take care of the grounds (lawn mowing, etc.), and do repairs and other jobs around the campus. The person need not be young, but it would be helpful if he is able to drive.

Persons available to work only seasonally are also considered. Please call or write to the general office for more details if you are interested.

General Association of DSDA
P.O. Box 119
Mountain Dale, New York 12763 □

Inspiration Says:

Isaiah 31: 1-9. "Because of idolatry, the Assyrian was permitted to take God's ancient people and their pleasant land. And certain it is that the Assyrian will control the land just so long as God's people continue in idolatry. But, just as soon as all idols are cast aside,—yes, as soon as the great revival and reformation takes place in the hearts of the people,—then the Assyrian (the power that now rules them) shall certainly fall, and God's people shall just as certainly return. The Assyrian shall thus fall, not at the sword of a mighty men, and not of a mean man, but 'through the voice of the Lord shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod.'

"...Now even more vividly than before we see that ancient Israel's idolatry forced God to permit them to be ruled by the Assyrians. He is, however, well able to deliver them when His people hear His plea and lay aside their idols; when they turn again unto the Lord, when this great revival and reformation called for in this chapter (Isaiah 32), is finally effected. Thus it is that 'through the voice of the Lord shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod.' Isa 30:31. Henceforth a King shall reign in righteousness. Then the vile persons and hypocrites shall be treated as such. In that day shall there be a great and glorious harvest of souls. Now that we have plainly seen the time, the need, and the deliverance, let us Brother, Sister, bring that day closer by parting with all our idols, and turning our hearts fully and unreservedly unto our God." 1TG.33:4,5,7,8.

Isaiah 52 "...Because God's people are mis-ruled, mislead, and abused, and His name blasphemed, He declares that He will not leave them in ignorance: He promises that regardless how hard the carnal rulers of unsifted Zion and Jerusalem try to keep the people in ignorance of this sifting message, He will, in spite of it, cause His people to hear and to know that it is He speaking, not an enemy as they are told..." 1TG.38:26.

"If we could only realize what God has prepared for them that love to study His Word and to walk in His ever-increasing Light, then we would make God's business our chief interest; then we would no longer waste our energies striving for the material things of life. They will be added unto us while we diligently labor for the upbuilding of His Kingdom,..." 1TG.44:10

TESTIMONY GEM

Anything Can Happen When You Give a Tape

Samar and Leyte are among the most beautiful tourist spots in the Philippines. Connecting the two big islands is the famous Marcos Bridge. The islands are also known for their beautiful waterfalls, and kind and very friendly people. It's interesting that in just a five minute drive across the bridge, you can hear a different dialect.

Sr. Pilar Flores, a native of Samar, by providence immigrated to the United States and started attending the Newburgh, New York, SDA church. She happened to meet our two Filipino workers, Ricardo and Judith Rollan, while attending the services.

"Would you like to have a tape?" Sr. Judith asked.

"Is it free?" Sr. Flores replied.

"Sure."

"I'm going to send this to my daughter in the Philippines," Sr. Flores said, excitedly.

"No," Sr. Judith replied. "Instead, just give me the address of your daughter, and I'll send tapes to her."

"Thank you," Sr. Flores said with a broad smile.

That was the beginning of a marvelous story, and the interesting fate of the tapes after they arrived in Samar.

"Give me those tapes and I will break them into pieces," Romualdo Lariosa, elder of the

Samar Seventh-day Adventist church, said. "Those were my words uttered in anger," he said regrettably, and after looking back on the experience of how he came to accept the *Shepherd's Rod* message.

"The first time I heard about Reformation was from the book of Professor Ruiz," he said. "My family applied it right away in our lives and home and shared it with the church."

"This may sound just ordinary," Br. Lariosa explains, "but in our place it is a big thing for us to become Reformers, because we were used to having meat on our table every meal—and especially when it is church fellowship time. We were the ones butchering goats and cows to be served to the brethren in the church—particularly the ministers. We did that for so many years. That is why they love to have fellowship in our place. So, you can see why they were so angry with us after we became vegetarians. It will be a great loss to them knowing that they will be minus those 'good' meals. Not only that, but after receiving the message, we began doing what we should have been doing; especially those things supposed to be done inside the church and in our lives as Seventh Day Adventists."

"My minister friend," Br. Lariosa said, as he continued to tell the story, "gave me a book about reformation and I read it from cover to cover and applied it to myself and my family. Then, he became very angry with me when I told him that I loved the book and am now a reformer. I asked him if he had read the book, he answered no. I was so

shocked because the book was his. Since then, my minister friend has treated me like his bitterest enemy just because I stood for the truth."

So how did Br. Romualdo receive a copy of those tapes? He explains:

"One day, my wife went to her sister's and told her what had happened with me and my minister friend. My sister-in-law told her. 'Tell your husband not to read so much of those reformed books because they are offshoots. Here, I have some tapes and they came from the SDA Prophetic Ministries in the States. These are not offshoots.' My wife took them and brought them home to me."

" 'Give me those tapes and I will break them into pieces,' I told my wife Rachel. But she said that it might be worth listening to. I took them with apprehension. Then we knelt down and prayed asking the Lord to guide us because we really want to know the real truth. We began playing the tape and tears began falling. And when we reached that portion where an appeal was made. I said, 'Lord, here I am, send me.' I began inviting the brethren to our home and we played the tapes over and over again. The tapes became our speaker at night, especially at mid-week prayer meeting and vespers. The whole church was converted. We were overjoyed by the Truth that we heard. The 144,000 living saints....and the sad fact that there is going to be a separation within the SDA church.... When we played the tapes we could not hold back the tears for we knew that the Lord loved us so much that He gave us the chance to hear the Truth. We knew how blessed we were. Out of the millions of Adventists, we had the privilege to know the Truth—the Present Truth—the timely truth for this time."

"When the Conference in our district heard what was happening in our church they were quite alarmed. They sent my minister friend over to talk with us. A few were swayed but the majority remained steadfast. Praises be to the Lord, because the truth must triumph whatever the cost."

"Br. Richard Rollan visited us last April 2001," Br. Lariosa said. "It proved to be very enlightening to all of us here in Samar. Right now, our Samar area has erected a center where we recently held our National Session. May you continue to pray for us as we are praying for the Davidians everywhere."

So, send out more tapes. You never know!

GEMS NEEDED

Do you have a testimony about how you or someone else came in contact with the message? Perhaps you had a special experience while studying with a person or group. Why not share with us. We want to hear from you. Really! Don't worry that it may not be great in your eyes, it could be of great encouragement to someone else. So send in your testimony or experience today by writing the office, attention Symbolic Code Department.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of host, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him" Malachi 3:16, 17.

The Mail Bag

I came to know your ministry through a friend who introduced the audio tapes concerning prophecy which are being published under your ministry. The message contained therein is very touching. Therefore I request you to send some tapes for learning at home with my friends who have not discovered this truth....I strongly feel it to be in the right track.

ZAMBIA, CENTRAL AFRICA

I would like to receive your tapes on Daniel and the beast of Revelation. I am sending a few dollars to help with the postage.

CALIFORNIA, USA

We thank you for the cassette tapes entitled "The Great Image of Daniel" which came from your office. We hope that this cassette tape will be a great help to us, as we wait for the soon return of our Lord and Saviour.

THE PHILIPPINES

Greetings, in the name of Him who is our only hope. In the past I had an opportunity to study from "Timely Greetings." If possible I would like to purchase these books. I would very much appreciate a book and tract list and prices as soon as possible for the time is short.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, USA

You sent me a tape a long time ago on "The Harvest of Matt. 13." I have played it over and over and enjoy it each time. Jesus is coming soon and we must be ready...Please send me a new tape. Thanks.

From our Web site...all SDAs:

Heard how good your material is, and would like to receive them too; including the lesson study. I am interested in Bible prophecy.

NEW YORK, USA

I am a SDA and have been reading and analyzing your material and so far I have not found any faults. I am interested in knowing more about last day events and how I can prepare. I think this info may help me out.

FLORIDA, USA

Please rush me the following tapes....Thank you very much. I am interested in Bible Prophecy.

ILLINOIS, USA

Would you please send me the tapes and additional tracts and information. I am very interested.

OHIO, USA

I am an SDA and I would like to have a thorough knowledge of the origin, mission and beliefs of this movement. I absolutely would like to know Bible prophecy, so send, especially audio and videos since I am very busy at the moment.

MICHIGAN, USA

I appreciate your site...someone accused me of being part of your group...thought I would check it out. Yes, I am interested in Bible prophecy. Thank you.

WASHINGTON, USA

HAVE A QUESTION?

QUESTION: Does Revelation 11:1,2, regarding the forty-two months, have any relevance for us today?

ANSWER: The question of whether or not the 42 months or 1,260 days of Revelation 11 has application for our time, centers around the fact that we generally understand the 42 months to have application to the Dark Ages, between the years 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D. So, the question is, does the 42 months have a double application—one for the Dark Ages, and the other for our time prior to the judgment of Ezekiel 9.

Although Inspiration is not as explicit as we would have it, yet God has left us several clues as to when this prophecy finds fulfillment.

"The subject of chapter 10 ends with the second verse of chapter 11, the verse which brings us to the time of the measuring (numbering) of the people, which obviously is the numbering of the 144,000 (Rev. 7:3-8), for they are the only numbered company of people in the thread of prophecy. *Thus it is that chapter 10, including verse 1, and 2 from chapter 11, begins at 'the time of the end,' and ends with the numbering of the 144,000.*" 2 TG.14:16.

Thus we see that the 42 months, which is found in verse 2, takes place during the time of the end, which is after the Dark Ages, around the time of the numbering or sealing of the 144,000. This definitely proves that the 42 months must have application to the time just before the slaughter of Ezekiel 9, when the 144,000 are sealed. But let us explore the subject further.

We know that chapter 10 of Revelation describes William Miller's message, the great disappointment of 1844, and the bittersweet experience of the first day Adventists. The following verse (Rev. 10:11) describes the rise of the Seventh-day Adventist church as it continues the commission to preach ("prophecy again") the gospel before "many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."

The first two verses of chapter 11, however, (which includes the 42 months) take us from the beginning of the Judgment of 1844 to the numbering of the living saints—the "worshippers therein"—the 144,000, and the gathering of the Great Multitude, (those who could not be counted/measured in the court, verse 2) then "brings us forward to the end of the world, the time the kingdoms of the world 'become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ.'" 2 TG.14:16,17. This can also be quickly recognized by considering Rev. 11:13, (which is a description of the slaughter of Ezekiel 9) as part of the sixth trumpet, the same event as described in Rev. 9:15. (See Tract 5:79, 86-89, and 112, 113). All this we see as something yet future. Therefore we can safely conclude that Revelation 11:1,2, including the 42 months, must have some significance for us today. This point is further cemented by the following statements.

Speaking about Revelation, verses 1, and 2 and the 42 months, Inspiration tells us: "Seven times seven, forty nine, determined the year of Jubilee, the liberation of the people and of the land, the type of the Kingdom complete. Besides any other significance, the 42 months being only six sevens, it signifies that the holy city, Jerusalem, will not be 'trodden down' all the way up to the time of the antitypical Jubilee—the Gentiles are to be driven out of it before the mystery of God is finished, before the seventh angel begins to sound." 2 TG.15:8,9.

Notice that this paragraph applies the 42 months not to the Dark Ages, but to the treading down of the holy city, Jerusalem, by the Gentiles before the mystery of God is finished—the close of probation.

In Tract 5:111, 112, we are told: "The Gentiles here mentioned are those who tread 'under foot' the 'holy city' (the church), an act which calls our attention to the Master's prediction concerning the fate of the saints during this 42 month period: 'And they (the church) shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away (from the Promised Land) captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled' (Luke 21:24), the time that the Gentiles go out of Jerusalem and the Israelites go in. The occupation of the Promised Land by the Gentiles today was typified by yesterdays Gentile occupation of it. And when ancient Israel returned from Egypt to the land of promise, the times of the Gentiles in those days were fulfilled. Likewise now when antitypical Israel, the 144,000 guileless servants of God, are scaled and taken to Mt. Zion, there to stand

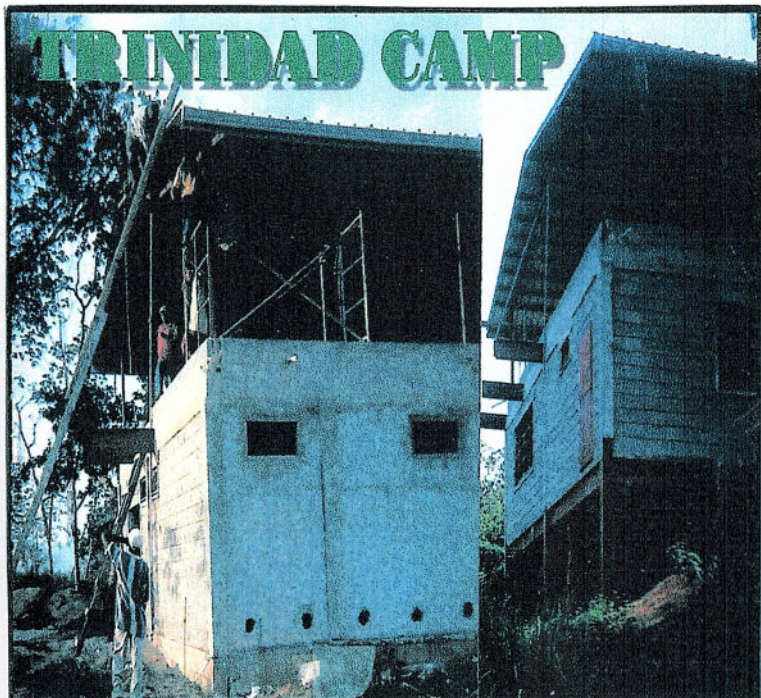
with the Lamb, the 'times of the Gentiles' in these days will be fulfilled."

Although we may not know the exact time when the 42 months will begin, we can see that the 42 months has application to the time when the 144,000 go in to occupy the Promised Land.

In conclusion, these statements appear to indicate that the 42 months is connected to the time of the sealing or numbering of the 144,000 and the time they possess the Kingdom. Let us also keep in mind: "Since these prophecies are meant to be understood only when they are being fulfilled or after fulfillment,...its not as clear as we should like to have it...**only time itself will positively portray the whole truth.**" 2 TG.42:27. □

Inspiration says:

"All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in **their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence.** —*Desire of Ages*, p. 827, Ellen G. White



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