

The Symbolic Code

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What Is God's Name?

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"There are few as yet who are aroused sufficiently to understand how much their habits of diet have to do with their health, their characters, their usefulness in this world, and their eternal destiny. The appetite should ever be in subjection to the moral and intellectual organs. The body should be servant to the mind, and not the mind to the body. All should understand in regard to their own physical frames, that with the psalmist they may be able to exclaim, 'I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.' " *That I May Know Him, p. 86.*

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What is His Name?

Does the King of the Universe, the Father of us all, have a name? Those who belong to the so-termed *Sacred Name Movement* (SNM), are convinced that God's proper name is, "Yahweh" or something similar.

The SNM is a religious movement believed to have begun within the Church of God, Seventh Day, in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Sacred Name (SN) advocates vary in their teachings according to their particular group affiliation. However, in common, they insist on the oral and written use of the name Yahweh (or a close adaptation) for the Father and Yeshua or Yahshua for Jesus. They are convinced that the Bible translators changed or left out the Creator's original Hebrew name(s) and substituted the names of pagan gods such as, Baal, which essentially is translated Lord, God, etc. in our English Bible. Many of this persuasion, are certain that Hebrew was the original language, and if we knowingly do not use the sacred names, we commit sin. Or as some would say, we commit sacrilege or blasphemy and place our souls in peril. Thus for the *Sacred Name Movement*, addressing the Almighty as Yahweh, or avoiding it, could be a matter of salvation.

In Their Words

The *Sacred Name Movement's* position is perhaps best expressed in their own words. Of course, we cannot here quote or even begin to exhaust the subject. But we trust that we can provide enough sources to express a summary of SN positions.

"The truth is right beneath a false facade," wrote a leading author. "Once again, to maintain control, and keep everyone from having to change anything, we have inherited the long-standing custom of only using 'generic' terms and devices to refer to the true Creator. Nonspecific general terms were employed to conceal the personal names of Pagan deities, and only the 'initiated' would know them. . . .The expressions we are 'familiar' with, like 'GOD,' LORD,' 'Almighty,' 'Eternal' even the 'Creator'. . . have all been used in the past to refer to Pagan deities; **NONE** of them, except one, was ever a name. Everyone who defends the use of these expressions uses the excuse that we are speaking 'English,' and these terms we are familiar with are 'translations.' No, these words are not even originally English. The term 'God' was never used to refer to the true creator, until Christianity went into the Norse areas in the 6th century CE

"You may already be familiar with some of the 'Hebrew' forms like Y'shua and Yeshua. Footnotes say it means 'the LORD is our salvation.' If your translation has a preface, it may explain that the translators 'adopted the device' of using the capital letters 'LORD' in place of the Name of [the Sacred Name in Paleo-Hebrew for Yahweh goes here] because it has become the tradition. I'd like you to look up BAAL in a good dictionary; you will discover it means 'LORD.' To appease Pagans, and not use the proper Name, the generic term 'LORD' was adopted." ¹ [Brackets ours]—Note: We did not have the equipment to type out the Hebrew characters used by the author.

The Truth of the Matter

Although it is true that much of our world is immersed in pagan customs, ideas, symbols and terms, it is not always true that everything seemingly pagan is inappropriate. That may sound strange at first, but history, facts, and logic bears this out. It is just a matter of what came first, truth or falsehood? The true religion or Paganism? Or to ask it another way, whom is copying whom?

In order to arrive at the truth of this important topic, we need to understand the roots of the matter. Inspiration put it this way: "We find that when God created mankind, and originated religious worship, He stated to His created beings His titles, *in the language of Eden*. Later, as sin entered, and as the people multiplied and wickedness increased, and as it continued even after the flood, God's anger against them for building the tower of Babel, caused Him to confound 'the language of all the earth,' and to create *out of it* the languages of the nations. **At that time, the original titles of God were given to the people in their respective tongue; because the titles of God, in a tongue foreign to the understanding of the nations, would have had no meaning to them.**

"As their sins caused a still greater widening of the gulf between God and people, they, in protest, to satisfy their hearts' desire for a visible God, *made to themselves Idols, named with the Divine titles*. Rather than give the idols names originated specifically for them, the makers honored them with the Divine titles in order to **make it appear that the idols were the figures of God.**"² This is the reason for "Baal" being synonymous with "Lord." The Canaanite

people tried to convince their pagan counterparts that their god had the attributes of the One-True-Creator and so gave their false god the name/title (in their language) of the Almighty. Whom is copying whom?

It is true that the English or Anglo-Saxon word, "God," is an extract from the Norse (Viking/Norwegian—sometimes termed Teutonic) expression for their supreme deity. In other words, it was adopted and became a part of the English language as numerous other words have been adopted into English. But here again, we must remember that it was just a case of a pagan deity given the *original name/title* of the One-True-Eternal Being (in their respective language). Another example is the Islamic address for their deity, Allah, or Elah, which are extracts of the Hebrew titles of the Eternal-Self-Existent Deity.

There are countless other examples. Otheos in Greek, Bog in the Slavic tongue, Gud to the Scandinavian, Dios to the Spaniard, Gott in German. "Elohim is used in many cases of the gods of the heathen, who included in the same title the God of the Hebrews, and denoted generally the Deity when spoken of (sic) a supernatural being." —*Dictionary of the Bible, Smith, definition "Jehovah."*³ The Devil is not the originator, God is! But as always, the enemy steals and imitates the true.

Thus, "from these evidences, we see clearly," says Inspiration, "**that the names of the idols are, in fact, not the names of idols, themselves, but the titles of God.** Therefore, to restrict our address of Him to one language—the Hebrew—just because His title in other tongues were once used in honor of idols, forces the

conclusion that the idol-gods of the heathen have defeated God the Creator by robbing Him of His titles! What a forbidding thought!"⁴

So it cannot be blasphemy or sacrilegious to use the word "God," "Allah," "Elah" or any other expression for the Eternal One in one's respective tongue. Of course, we are not here speaking about the words or expressions for the other gods of paganism, but only those that specifically addressed the Supreme Deity.

A Brief History of Yahweh

In the earlier books of the Old Testament, several words were used to designate "God." Among them "El" or Elohim. The creation narrative (Genesis 1) used Elohim, a plural form of El.

However, in chapter 2, of Genesis, the word Yahweh was introduced with Elohim. "These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God [Yahweh, Elohim] made the earth and the heavens." (Gen. 2:4). The other 4 books of the Torah, (or first 5 books of the Bible), often used Elohim, as well as, El-elyon ("the Most High God"—Gen. 14:18-22), El Shaddai ("the Almighty God"—Genesis 17:1). Adonai was also used as a name/title for "God."

Perhaps the most striking expression for the Eternal One was used with His encounter with Moses at the Burning Bush: "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." (Exodus 3:14). Although all the other "names" appear in fact to be titles, "all being designative of some aspect or attribute of the Divine nature or

character," *only Yahweh (English transliterated as Jehovah) "appears to be His Proper Name."*⁵ [italics ours]

The name Yahweh appears as the "so-called imperfect tense of the verb 'to be,' and is rendered accordingly, 'I am that I am.' That is to say, God is One Who exists and Who can never cease to exist."⁶

However, the problem is that no one knows just how to spell or even pronounce the Name. Why? The answer to this question is critically important to understand. The best that experts can conclude are the consonants in the tetragrammaton YHWH. In other words, no one is certain that it is really Yahweh. In fact, there is much dispute about the spelling. Some say Yahweh, others Yahve, or even "Jehovah" (which many believe was a misunderstanding of the medieval manuscripts).

Why is it so difficult to spell or pronounce this tetragrammaton? The answer was explained aptly by author Thomas Cahill: "Ancient Hebrew was written without vowels; and by the time vowel subscripts were added to the consonants in the Middle Ages, the Name of God had become so sacred that it was never uttered. Even the classical times, as early as the Second Temple period, only the high priest could pronounce the Name of God—and only once a year in the prayer of the Day of Atonement. Once the Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70, no Jew ever uttered the Name again. From that time to this, the devout have avoided this word in the text of their Bible, reading 'Adonai' ('the Lord') when they come to the word YHWH....So, after such a great passage of time, we have lost the certain knowledge of how to

pronounce the word that is represented by these consonants. And, without the pronunciation, we are less than certain of its meaning, since precise meaning in Hebrew is often dependent on knowing how to pronounce the vowels, especially in the case of verbs—and YHWH is definitely a verb form.”⁷

Inspiration supports this historical note: “This abbreviated form of the name made it hard for the translators to spell out a pronounceable word. They, therefore, chose to supply what they thought were the missing vowels. . . . **Therefore, any improvised letters that go to make up the ineffable Name may not actually be the Hebrew word after all!**”⁸

Now, if we do not know how to spell or pronounce the Name, how can someone insist that we must use it? Would not mispronouncing it be more sacrilegious or disrespectful than not saying it at all? In fact, it is quite obvious, in light of the foregoing evidence, that God does not intend for us to know it; at least not yet! If He did, He would have preserved the precise spelling and pronunciation!

Let's Not Be Disrespectful

“As God-fearing Jews anciently” said God’s servant, “‘regarded the Divine Name as too sacred for utterance,’ so should enlightened Christians.”⁹ None of us would address our parents by their given (first) names, then why would we address the King of the Universe, the Creator, the Eternal One, by His proper name?

In fact, the name was so sacred, so hallowed, that “not only was it never commonly pronounced, but was even

so-spelled, in an abbreviated form, that it could not be pronounced...”¹⁰ Thus, even if SN believers knew the correct pronunciation, their insistence that we speak it and address the Almighty accordingly, would be most disrespectful and therefore a sin. But, again, the truth is neither they or anyone else knows how to spell or speak it. So insisting that we address the Creator while mispronouncing His name, and doing so regularly, is indeed sacrilege and blasphemy!

The Language of Eden

In the final analysis, however, the names given in Scripture, even the Hebrew proper name, “are not absolute names, but rather titles—equivalent to the names Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”¹¹ Thus the only language that could *absolutely* and *expressly* convey the Name of God, is the language of Eden. Could any of us suppose that a post-Babel language could adequately express the absolute character or nature of the Eternal? Besides the language of heaven, only in the language of Eden could God’s veritable Name be articulated.

Thus God’s true name was spoken in Eden. But what was that language? Could it have been Hebrew?

There is no substantial evidence that Hebrew was the tongue of Eden. On the contrary, there is some historical clues that Hebrew, like the other Semitic languages, was a descendant of the ancient Sumerian language. For example, “in the earliest texts,” wrote one historian, “El-Shaddai (Lord of the Mountain) is used 238 times in the Old Testament. El, used biblically as a synonym for Elohim, derives from the ancient Sumerian Enlil or Great Mountain

Lord.”¹² It is also well-known that ancient Hebrew was an adaption of Aramaic, which also had its roots in ancient Sumer. In other words, Hebrew was a language that evolved from ancient Sumerian culture—the believed cradle of civilization, birth place of Abraham, and possibly the realm of the tower of Babel—the birth place of the languages of the nations. In biblical times, this area was known as Chaldea, or Shinar (where the tower of Babel was built--Genesis 11:1,2--it is known as Iraq today).

This gives additional proof that after God confounded the original language of the people at Babel, that “at that time, the original titles of God were given to the people in their respective tongues,” but, “rather than give the idols names originated specifically for them [the idols], the makers honored them with the Divine titles in order to make it appear that the idols were the figures of God . . .”¹³

Thus, again, there is no real evidence that Hebrew was the original language. Instead it appears that it was a derivative of other tongues derived from the original, up to the time of the tower of Babel.

“The Name” in the New Testament

We must note that Yahweh does not appear anywhere in the New Testament. Notice too, that Jesus, our Savior and example, did not use “the Name.” Even upon the cross, when He uttered His dying words, He did not use the Name. Instead, it is reported that He cried out in Aramaic, “My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34). Why did He not use the ineffable Name? Why did He not say: “Yahweh, Yahweh, lama sabachthani”? One

would think that this would have been a most appropriate time to utter it—He had just conquered Satan and sin and secured mankind’s salvation.

Another point to consider is that the New Testament was written in Greek, the universal language of the time, and *there is not a single passage that clearly reveals that the apostles taught and spoke the Name.* If Jesus had wanted it spoken, would He not have given the precise pronunciation to His disciples and had them write it in the New Testament so we could have it today. Yes, there was some controversy concerning a “name,” but the controversy was about the name of Jesus. That is, the leaders then did not want to hear or have the people taught that Jesus was the Christ—the Son of the Eternal One. This is what the Jewish leaders were upset about, not the use of the ineffable Name. (See Acts 7:52-58; 18:13-15). There is just no evidence that the apostles even knew it! If they did, why did they not write it down so that the true followers of the Savior could get it? Why would our Heavenly Father and Savior keep something so important from His children?

Furthermore, we must consider that Paul and *all the gospel writers addressed God in a language other than Hebrew.* Remember, the New Testament was written in Greek. That is to say, that in the Gospels and the letters of the apostles, the Eternal One was addressed not as Yahweh or YHWH, but in the Greek form, “Theos,” or some other Greek word for Deity. Now, *if these inspired writers and apostles were allowed to write and speak the Name in Greek—another language than that of Hebrew, then why is it wrong for us to address the Eternal in our native tongue?*

Is Jesus' Name Pagan?

It is believed by some that the name Jesus is pagan, a derivative from the great Greek god Zeus. The idea varies, but some say Jesus means, "son of Zeus." Others say it means, "healing Zeus." The fact is that there is no substantial evidence to support this.

"The name Jesus is Greek for the Hebrew *Joshua* [savior]"¹⁴ Joshua is our English transliteration of Yeshua, or Yahshua. In other words, savior! Another source explains: "It becomes evident why He was named 'Jesus' (Luke 1:30-33), the Grecianized [Greek] form of the Hebrew name meaning 'God saves.'"¹⁵ So, in spite of the assertion that Jesus' name is derived from Zeus, the evidence does not substantiate it.

But, even if it was true—that the name Jesus was derived somehow from the Greek's supreme god—we must remember that this would be consistent with what we have already seen: That rather than giving their idols their own names, the pagans gave them titles/names (in their language—in this case Greek) of the One, True, Living God! Thus they would have given the Savior the Greek title or word that originally represented the True God. So Christ would have gotten the title that truly and originally belonged to Him!

Let Us Not Run Ahead of God

Obviously, our All-Wise Creator and Redeemer has chosen not to provide us with the knowledge of how to write or pronounce the ineffable Name. And if we did, no doubt we would defame it. It is also clear that what we have thought as names of the Eternal One are in the strictest sense, titles of some of His characteristics.¹⁶

Perhaps we could never now, enunciate the truest and apt Name of the Almighty. So, we should not run ahead of God. We should wait for the kingdom, when He will reveal it to us and our stony hearts have been removed. There in that kingdom of light, neither sin nor sinners will be able to defile its holiness.

We do not claim to fully understand it all, but we know that the 144,000 will have their Father's Name written in their foreheads. (Revelation 14:1). What does that mean? What is that Name? Let us get to the kingdom first, then we'll find out!

References

1. Lew White, *Fossilized Customs*, pp. 15, 17
2. Victor Houteff, *God's Titles Not Restricted to One Language*, p. 3
3. *Ibid.* p. 3, 4
4. *Ibid.* p. 4
5. *Ibid.* p. 2
6. *Harper's Bible Dictionary*
7. Thomas Cahil, *The Gifts of the Jews*, pp. 108-109
8. Victor Houteff, *God's Titles Not Restricted to One Language*, pp. 10, 11
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Ibid.*
11. Victor Houteff, *The Symbolic Code*, Vol. 7, Nos. 1-6, p. 13
12. Jim Marrs, *Rule By Secrecy*, p. 370
13. See note #2
14. *Columbia Viking Desk Encyclopedia*
15. *Harper's Bible Dictionary*
16. See note #11

"In the great closing work we shall meet with perplexities that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the 3 great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel and that God will bring His promises to pass...." *MLT:343*.

FAMILY MATTERS

The Marriage Prep 12-Step Test

Recent studies show that 10 years later fewer than one third of couples asked, say they are happily married. "Marriages that are impulsive and selfishly planned generally do not result well, but often turn out miserable failures. Both parties find themselves deceived, and gladly would they undo that which they did under an infatuation..." *The Adventist Home*, p. 48. The following questions should be addressed as a couple and answers discussed before "I dos" are said.

1. Mutual respect—do you have it?

- I truly value my partner's opinion and pay close attention to what he/she says...
- all of the time;
- some of the time;
- only when interested.

"Fidelity, faithfulness, loyalty, and mutuality—being equal, not using one another, makes for a strong marriage," observes Dr. Krister Stendahl, a professor at Brandeis University. "Any marriage in which one partner treats the other as an inferior will crumble." Victor Parachin, *Signs of the Times* article, February 1994.

2. How do you feel about money?

- I save as much as I can.
- I spend it as fast as I get it, but don't spend more than I have.

- I'm in debt up to my eyeballs.

"Money is a symbol of power in a relationship. Couples who frequently fight about money need to determine whether the argument is really about a purchase or about who is going to control the finances," says Shirley Glass, Ph.D., a marriage and family therapist in Maryland.

3. Household chores—who will do what?

- Make a list and establish a fair division of labor for each partner is the recommendation of many counselors.

"In the performance of these duties careless, neglectful, disorderly habits should be overcome...." *The Adventist Home*, p. 89.

4. How firm is your commitment to marriage?

- I'll stay as long as I'm happy.
- Divorce is always an option.
- Divorce is never an option, and I'm here to stay even if it kills me.

"If one or both partners in a relationship assume that divorce is a ready option when things begin to go wrong, the outlook for that relationship is relatively dim," say Drs. Sue Klavans Simring and Steven S. Simring, authors of *The Compatibility Quotient*. "God's ideal was that a man and a woman would so complement each other that by being together they would complete each other's incompleteness, maximize their strengths, and minimize their weaknesses."

writes Stephen Chavez, in *Adventist Review*, February 13, 2003.

5. Relationship approval?

- My family and friends approve.
- My family and friends don't approve.
- My family and friends are clueless; they have never met him/her.

"If people who know you well and care a great deal about you...are counseling you against this marriage, pause," state Kevin and Marilyn Ryan, authors of *Making a Marriage*. "...At the very least, give yourself plenty of time to make sure that your major doubts are resolved."

6. Personal integrity?

- Do you cheat on your taxes?
- Is he/she honest at all times? Or is a white lie acceptable?
- Does he/she cheat while playing games with friends/family?

"You may reasonably suppose that dishonest habits expressed in other settings will eventually be expressed in your relationship as well," declare authors Dr. Lonnie Barbach and Dr. David L. Geisinger in *Going the Distance: Secrets of Lifelong Love*. "Weigh every sentiment, and watch every development of character in the one with whom you think to link your life destiny. The step you are about to take is one of the most important in your life, and should not be taken hastily. While you may love, do not love blindly." *The Adventist Home*, p. 45.

7. Spirituality or spiritual compatibility?

- Do you share the same beliefs?
- Some of our values are the same.
- Most of our values are the same.
- We debate about everything.
- We agree on major issues.
- I believe my partner will come around to my way of thinking after we are married.

"Can two walk together except they be agreed?" "People have the best chance for marital success if their relationship is built on a strong foundation of shared values, life experiences, and culture," writes Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben in *But How Will You Raise the Children?* "The choice of a life companion should be such as best to secure physical, mental, and spiritual well-being for parents and for their children—such as will enable both parents and children to bless their fellow men and to honor their Creator." *The Adventist Home*, p. 45.

8. Emotional stability/maturity?

- Does he/she abuse alcohol or drugs?
- Is there a gambling addiction, a preoccupation with sexual themes?

"While still dating, it is wise to take a long hard look at a partner's emotional stability and maturity. Beware of marriage to a partner who is already abusing liquor and drugs. Usually, such problems only grow worse after the wedding," says Victor Parachin in *Nine Questions to Ask Before You Say 'I Do.'* A *Signs of the Times* article, February 1994.

9. How long have you known one another?

- It was love at first sight.
- Our relationship grew over the past few—weeks, months, years.
- We have been friends since grade school.
- Our families have been friends forever.

“Every couple anticipating marriage should give their relationship the test of time to be certain the experience is lasting love, not passing infatuation,” states California counselor Rebecca Sydnor. “It is easier, far easier, to make a mistake in this matter than to correct the error after it is made.” *The Adventist Home*, p. 48.

10. Can you imagine waking up every morning for the rest of your life with this person? Be honest. Remember, little annoyances now grow to monstrous proportions later.

11. How important to you is romance?

- Very important.
- Somewhat important.
- Not at all important. Only for the movies.
- I plan to keep up the little attentions throughout my marriage.

“Home is to be the center of the purest and most elevated affection. Peace, harmony, affection, and happiness should be perseveringly cherished every day, until these precious things abide in the hearts of those who compose the family. The plant of love must be carefully nourished, else it will die. Every good principle must be cherished

if we would have it thrive in the soul. That which Satan plants in the heart—envy, jealousy, evil surmising, evil speaking, impatience, prejudice, selfishness, covetousness, and vanity—must be uprooted. If these evil things are allowed to remain in the soul, they will bear fruit by which many shall be defiled. Oh, how many cultivate the poisonous plants that kill out the precious fruits of love and defile the soul!” *The Adventist Home*, p. 195-196.

12. Physical attraction?

- Very important.
- Somewhat important.
- Not at all important.
- That’s the first thing I notice.

Remember, gravity is not your friend. What points north now will eventually go south. Over time, wrinkles and some weight gain will happen. “True love does not alter when alterations come.

“Real love begins and ends with the premise: ‘I love you just the way you are.’... The irony is that when people feel loved and accepted in a relationship, they’re more likely to live so as to please their partners,” Stephen Chavez writes in *Dream On*, an article in the *Adventist Review*, February 13, 2003.

If you can’t offer your partner unconditional agape love, forget marriage.

Sources:

Adapted by Penny Payne from *Nine Questions to Ask Before You Say ‘I Do’*, by Victor Parachin, *Signs of the Times*, February 1994, Pacific Press Pub. Assoc.

The Adventist Home, by Ellen G. White.

Dream On, an article by Stephen Chavez, *Adventist Review*, February 13, 2003.

THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH

The Use of Remedies

Ellen G. White

Disease never comes without a cause. The way is prepared, and disease invited, by disregard of the laws of health. Many suffer in consequence of the transgression of their parents. While they are not responsible for what their parents have done, it is nevertheless their duty to ascertain what are and what are not violations of the laws of health. They should avoid the wrong habits of their parents and, by correct living, place themselves in better conditions.

The greater number, however, suffer because of their own wrong course of action. They disregard the principles of health by their habits of eating, drinking, dressing, and working. Their transgression of nature's laws produces the sure result; and when sickness comes upon them, many do not credit their suffering to the true cause, but murmur against God because of their afflictions. But God is not responsible for the suffering that follows disregard of natural law.

God has endowed us with a certain amount of vital force. He has also formed us with organs suited to maintain the various functions of life, and He designs that these organs shall work together in harmony. If we carefully preserve the life force, and keep the delicate mechanism of the body in order, the result is health; but if the vital force is too rapidly exhausted, the nervous system borrows power for present use from its resources of strength, and when one organ is injured, all are affected. Nature bears much abuse without apparent resistance; she

then arouses and makes a determined effort to remove the effects of the ill-treatment she has suffered. Her effort to correct these conditions is often manifest in fever and various other forms of sickness.

Rational Remedies - When the abuse of health is carried so far that sickness results, the sufferer can often do for himself what no one else can do for him. The first thing to be done is to ascertain the true character of sickness and then go to work intelligently to remove the cause. If the harmonious working of the system has become unbalanced by overwork, overeating, or other irregularities, do not endeavor to adjust the difficulties by adding a burden of poisonous medicines.

Intemperate eating is often the cause of sickness, and what nature most needs is to be relieved of the undue burden that has been placed upon her. In many cases of sickness, the very best remedy is for the patient to fast for a meal or two, that the overworked organs of digestion may have an opportunity to rest. A fruit diet for a few days has often brought great relief to brain workers. Many times a short period of entire abstinence from food, followed by simple, moderate eating, has led to recovery through nature's own recuperative effort. An abstemious diet for a month or two would convince many sufferers that the path of self-denial is the path to health.

Rest as a Remedy - Some make themselves sick by overwork. For these, rest, freedom

from care, and a spare diet, are essential to restoration of health. To those who are brain weary and nervous because of continual labor and close confinement, a visit to the country, where they can live a simple, carefree life, coming in close contact with the things of nature, will be most helpful. Roaming through the fields and the woods, picking the flowers, listening to the songs of the birds, will do far more than any other agency toward their recovery.

In health and in sickness, pure water is one of heaven's choicest blessings. Its proper use promotes health. It is the beverage which God provided to quench the thirst of animals and man. Drunk freely, it helps to supply the necessities of the system and assists nature to resist disease. The external application of water is one of the easiest and most satisfactory ways of regulating the circulation of the blood. A cold or cool bath is an excellent tonic. Warm baths open the pores and thus aid in the elimination of impurities. Both warm and neutral baths soothe the nerves and equalize the circulation.

But many have never learned by experience the beneficial effects of the proper use of water, and they are afraid of it. Water treatments are not appreciated as they should be, and to apply them skillfully requires work that many are unwilling to perform. But none should feel excused for ignorance or indifference on this subject. There are many ways in which water can be applied to relieve pain and check disease. All should become intelligent in its use in simple home treatments. Mothers, especially, should know how to care for their families in both health and sickness.

Action is a law of our being. Every organ of the body has its appointed work, upon the performance of which its development and strength depend. The normal action of all the organs gives strength and vigor, while the tendency of disuse is toward decay and death. Bind up an arm, even for a few weeks, then free it from its bands, and you will see that it is weaker than the one you have been using moderately during the same time. Inactivity produces the same effect upon the whole muscular system.

Inactivity is a fruitful cause of disease. Exercise quickens and equalizes the circulation of the blood, but in idleness the blood does not circulate freely, and the changes in it, so necessary to life and health, do not take place. The skin, too, becomes inactive. Impurities are not expelled as they would be if the circulation had been quickened by vigorous exercise, the skin kept in a healthy condition, and the lungs fed with plenty of pure, fresh air. This state of the system throws a double burden on the excretory organs, and disease is the result.

Invalids should not be encouraged in inactivity. When there has been serious overtaxation in any direction, entire rest for a time will sometimes ward off serious illness; but in the case of confirmed invalids, it is seldom necessary to suspend all activity.

Those who have broken down from mental labor should have rest from wearing thought; but they should not be led to believe that it is dangerous to use their mental powers at all. Many are inclined to regard their condition as worse than it really

is. This state of mind is unfavorable to recovery, and should not be encouraged.

Ministers, teachers, students, and other brain workers often suffer from illness as the result of severe mental taxation, unrelieved by physical exercise. What these persons need is a more active life. Strictly temperate habits, combined with proper exercise, would ensure both mental and physical vigor, and would give power of endurance to all brain workers.

Those who have overtaxed their physical powers should not be encouraged to forgo manual labor entirely. But labor, to be of the greatest advantage, should be systematic and agreeable. Outdoor exercise is the best; it should be so planned as to strengthen by use the organs that have become weakened; and the heart should be in it; the labor of the hands should never degenerate into mere drudgery.

When invalids have nothing to occupy their time and attention, their thoughts become centered upon themselves, and they grow morbid and irritable. Many times they dwell upon their bad feelings until they think themselves much worse than they really are and wholly unable to do anything.

In all these cases well-directed physical exercise would prove an effective remedial agent. In some cases it is indispensable to the recovery of health. The will goes with the labor of the hands; and what these invalids need is to have the will aroused. When the will is dormant, the imagination becomes abnormal, and it is impossible to resist disease.

Inactivity is the greatest curse that could come upon most invalids. Light employment in useful labor, while it does not tax the

mind or body, has a happy influence upon both. It strengthens the muscles, improves the circulation, and gives the invalid the satisfaction of knowing that he is not wholly useless in this busy world. He may be able to do but little at first, but he will soon find his strength increasing, and the amount of work done can be increased accordingly.

Exercise aids the dyspeptic by giving the digestive organs a healthy tone. To engage in severe study or violent physical exercise immediately after eating, hinders the work of digestion; but a short walk after a meal, ... is a great benefit.

Notwithstanding all that is said and written concerning its importance, there are still many who neglect physical exercise. Some grow corpulent because the system is clogged; other become thin and feeble because their vital powers are exhausted in disposing of an excess of food. The liver is burdened in its effort to cleanse the blood of impurities, and illness is the result.

Those whose habits are sedentary should, when the weather will permit, exercise in the open air every day, summer or winter. Walking is preferable to riding or driving, for it brings more of the muscles into exercise. The lungs are forced into healthy action, since it is impossible to walk briskly without inflating them.

Such exercise would in many cases be better for the health than medicine. Physicians often advise their patients to take an ocean voyage, to go to some mineral spring, or to visit different places for change of climate, when in most cases if they would eat temperately, and take cheerful, healthful exercise, they would recover health and would save time and money. *MH:234-240.*

Questions And Answers

Q: I have just finished reading *Tract 9, Behold, I Make All Things New*. Does God in fact create the earth three times, and could you please elaborate?

A: "In the prophetic words, 'Behold, I make all things new' (Rev. 21:5); God warns that 'all things' shall wax old. To understand correctly this prophecy, we must bear in mind the fact that for an old thing to be made new, it must first be **disintegrated, --reduced to the state of it's component elements or parts in which it existed before they were integrated into a composite whole,--then renovated, re-processed, and finally reintegrated.** While such a process, moreover, is in operation, the thing being renewed thereby cannot, of course, until finished, resume its function. During the period of renewal, it is out of commission and out of use.

"In this case, the waxing old of 'all things' is, as all Bible students well understand, the result, not of natural decadence which accompanies age, but of the curse of sin brought in by Satan's deceiving the nations. So when 'all things' earthly are in process of renewal, and thus out of commission and out of use, the earth, having become nothing but mass, must necessarily be veritably a bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-3; during the 1,000 years).

"Accordingly, the scripture, 'Behold, I make all things new,' foreshadows a period of disintegration and renovation of all things." *Tract 9, p. 3, 4.*

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth (Gen. 1:1)." This of course was **the first time God created the heaven and the earth.**

In one short paragraph *Tract 8, p. 108* gives us the sequence of events: "The (first) earth being unfit for saints to dwell on it eternally, Jesus shall therefore 'come again' and receive all the redeemed (both those who are raised from their graves and those who shall be found alive at his coming—*1 Thess. 4:16,17*), and shall take them to the mansions above, which He has gone to prepare (*John 14:3*). Then as the saints ascend and the wicked die, the earth will be left empty and dark (*Jer. 4:23-29*) for a thousand years (*Rev. 20:3*), after which the Lord shall descend with the saints (*Rev. 21:1-3*), **purify the earth with fire** (*2 Peter 3:10-13*), **and fit it anew** for the saints' eternal abode (*Isa. 45:18*)!"

In other words, after Jesus' second coming, the earth will be "left empty and dark," a bottomless pit: "The earth therefore, shall necessarily again be, as in the first day of creation, 'without form and void.' *Gen. 1:2*. And just as there was then 'darkness...upon the face of the deep,' so shall there be again." *Tract 9, p. 8.*

" 'Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.' 'The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word.' 'Because they have transgressed the laws, have changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: **therefore the inhabitants are burned....**' *Isaiah 24:1, 3, 5, 6*. The whole earth appears like a desolate wilderness." G.C. p. 657.

The 1,000 years having commenced at the appearing of Christ, the saints "lived and

reigned with Christ a thousand years..." (Rev. 20:4) in the mansions in Heaven (*John 14:2,3*), leaving the earth like a desolate wilderness.

The events described up to this point are the same as our fellow Adventist brethren believe. However some of the events that follow may be startling and new to many.

At some point after the 1,000 years, prior to the Holy City descending to the earth, the earth will be made new. John the Revelator points out: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away... And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." *Rev. 21:1, 2*.

"As the New Jerusalem, in it's dazzling splendor, comes down out of heaven, it rests upon the **place purified** and made ready to receive it, and Christ, with His people and the angels, enters the Holy City." *G.C. 663*.

After the earth is made new, and the holy city descends upon the Mount of Olives, Jesus will resurrect the wicked. "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations..." *Rev. 20:7,8*.

"It is at the close of the 1,000 years that Jesus stands upon the Mt. of Olives, and the mount parts asunder and becomes a mighty plain. Those who flee at that time are the wicked, who have just been raised. Then the Holy City comes down and settles on the plain. Satan then imbues the wicked with his spirit. He flatters them that the army in the city is small, and that his army is large, and that they can overcome the saints and take the city." *Early Writings, p. 53*.

"Having descended with the saints, who are to reign forever with Him on the earth made new, Christ calls forth the wicked dead from their graves. . ." *Tract 9, p. 36*.

The wicked will be resurrected and will tread and live on the earth made new for 100 years. During that time "Satan succeeds in deceiving them, and all immediately begin to prepare themselves for battle. There are many skillful men in that vast army, and they construct all kinds of implements of war." *Early Writings, p. 293*.

Notice that after the 1,000 years are fulfilled, Satan and his followers are not immediately destroyed. A series of events must transpire before the fire of God consumes the wicked. Satan will deceive the nations once again; he will organize them into armies, then build implements of war, and then he will attempt to attack the Holy City. This period after the 1,000 years is "fulfilled," is called in *Rev 20:3* "a little season," which will be 100 years.

Sis. White wrote that the wicked advanced "over the earth's broken and uneven surface" *G.C. p. 664*. With this statement some try to indicate that the wicked will never tread upon the new earth. This simply cannot be. It is neither Scriptural nor logical. If the wicked were to be resurrected on a wasted, broken and uneven earth, what will the wicked subsist on during that time? Also with what raw materials will they build "implements of war"? But our Father in heaven, "he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." *Matt. 5:45*. God will make provision even for the wicked after the 1,000 years. What Sis. White is describing is the devastation and destruction that the wicked will

bring upon the earth during the 100 years time. The wicked will bring to ruin a beautiful recreated earth. Thus demonstrating to the universe the justice of God. And even if the wicked were to be given another chance, no good would come of it at all but a perpetuation of sin and destruction. We have an example, "in sparing the life of Cain the murderer, God gave the world an example of what would be the result of permitting the sinner to live to continue a course of unbridled iniquity." G.C. p. 543. Thus demonstrating that the wicked must utterly be destroyed, for they would only destroy and defile eternity. Thus God will "destroy them that destroy the earth." *Rev. 11:18*.

The prophet Isaiah also bears witness to this fact. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people; and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old: but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed." *Isaiah 65:17-20*.

Notice that the context is the new heavens and the new earth. This is describing the events after the 1,000 years. It is in this setting that the New Jerusalem will be a place of joy to the righteous. The wicked men and women outside the Holy City, whether an infant, child or an elderly person "being an hundred years old shall be accursed." These people who are "accursed" are the

wicked ("sinner") who come up once again in the earth made new.

The S.D.A. church used to hold to this view as demonstrated in the following sources. (See *Signs of the Times*, April 9, 1896 in the Question Corner, question 299; or the expanded version in the denominational book, *Questions Answered*, compiled by Milton C. Wilcox, p. 232. Published by Pacific Press, copyright 1938.

In summary: The earth was created in the beginning. At Jesus second coming the 1,000 years commence. The saints will live 1,000 years in heaven, after which the Lord re-creates the earth. The wicked will be resurrected, live for 100 years. The consuming fire will reduce to ashes, leaving neither root nor branch (*Mal. 4:1,3*), finally leaving the earth forever purified of sin and sinners by the consuming fire of God, which comes out of heaven. Afterwards, the earth will be restored to its Edenic beauty and thus the saints will inhabit the whole earth.

"That portion of the new earth which the feet of the wicked have trodden and defiled during the 'short season,' (100 years of *Isa. 65:20*) will be purified by the fire's coming 'down from God out of heaven' and burning them and their works, while those who will inhabit the new earth for eternity, will be shielded in and about 'the Holy City.' *Rev. 21:2*." *Tract 9*, p. 38.

"The same fire from God that consumed the wicked purified the...earth." *EW*, p. 54

"Again we see that the Hereafter is to be as real and as natural as was the Garden of Eden in the day it was created. So the message of Elijah shall indeed restore all things—all that was lost through sin." *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 1, No. 44. p. 9.

(For more information regarding the events after the 1,000 years, namely the 100 years see: *Shepherds Rod*, Vol. 2, p. 246-254 and *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 1, No. 44).

Q: How many times does the Mount of Olives part asunder (Zech 14:4)?

A: The Mt. of Olives actually parts asunder twice. Once prior to the millennium. The second time is after the millennium. Most Adventists are familiar with the latter parting asunder of the Mount of Olives as described in the following statement:

"It is at the close of the one thousand years that Jesus stands upon the Mount of Olives, and the mount parts asunder and becomes a mighty plain. Those who flee **at that time** are the wicked, who have just been raised. Then the Holy City comes down and settles on the plain." *Early Writings*, p. 53.

Sis. White makes very clear that those who flee "**at that** (particular) **time** are the wicked."

Now concerning the parting asunder of the Mount prior to the millennium, we simply have to read *Zechariah 14:4,5* and the rest of the chapter for that matter to see that the event Sis. White describes is different from the one described in the above referred Scriptures.

Zech. 14:4,5—"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mt. of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mt. of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. **And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains... yea, ye shall flee, like ye fled from before the**

earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, **and all the saints with thee.**"

"Having thus opened the way for the re-establishment of the house of Judah, His people, who beforehand have been informed of it through present Truth, will flee to the valley, to where the Lord's feet stand, as quickly as if they were fleeing from an earthquake; and all the saints thereafter follow after them. There are several facts in this scripture itself which prove that this event is premillennial: 1) Note that the Lord's feet stand on the mount in the day of the war in which Jerusalem is taken by the wicked nations. 2) Those that flee to the valley do not descend from Heaven. 3) They cannot be the wicked for they do not flee away from the Lord, but flee to Him, to where His feet stand. 4) All the saints follow after them. [Apparently E.W. p. 53 in modern versions], makes a double application of this scripture, a post millennial one." *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 1, No. 19, p. 5.

Another proof that the context of *Zech. 14* is prior to the second coming of Christ is also found in verse 21 of *Zech. 14*, (see).

"...during the time of trouble, when the nations shall gather against her, and the Lord in vengeance shall then smite them. Probation is still lingering while this sequence of events takes place, **"all they that sacrifice"** (an act which is performed before the close of probation) shall therefore be holy, and "there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the Lord." *Tract 8*, p. 31, 32.

For further treatment on *Zech. 14*, see: *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 1, No. 19 and 20; *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 2, No. 31, p. 6, 7.

KIDS' CORNER

To my little friends. Complete the following.

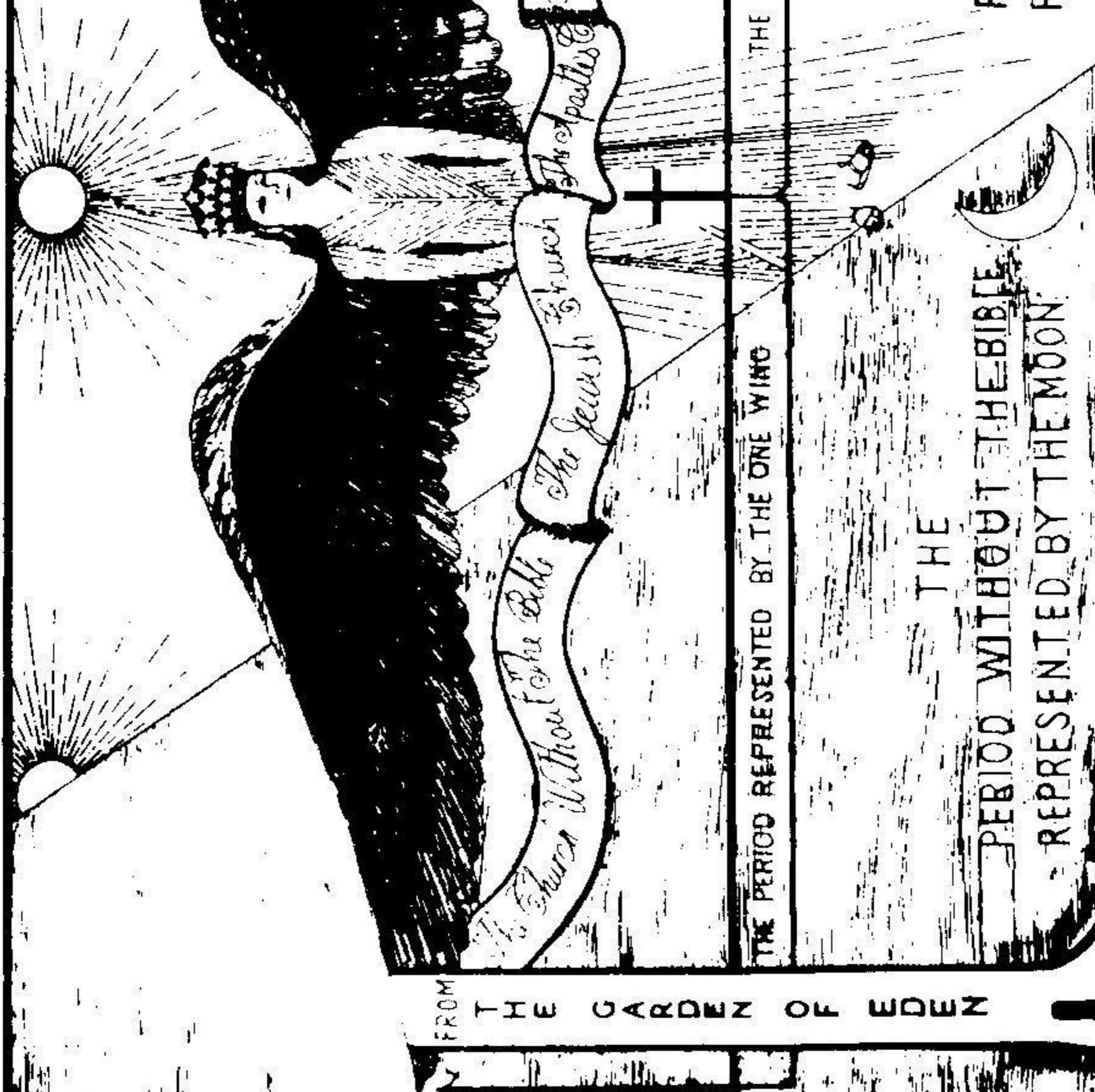
With the help of an adult, read Revelation 12, then answer the following questions:

1. Color the chart as described in the chapter. (Rev. 12)
2. Describe the two wonders that appeared in heaven. (Rev. 12:1)
3. Who does the woman represent? (Rev. 12:1-4)
4. Who does the dragon represent? (Rev. 12:1-4)
5. Verse 7 tells of war in heaven; who was involved in the war? And who prevailed? (Rev. 12:7,8)
6. Who was the man child that the woman brought forth? (Rev. 12:5).

Fill in the blanks:

1. Set your affection on _____ not on things on the earth. (Col. 3:2)
2. O how I love thy law! it is my _____ all the day. (Ps. 119:97)
3. And _____ said, let no man leave of it till the morning. (Ex.16:19)
4. And I saw the _____ angels which stood before God; and to them were given _____. (Rev. 8:2)
5. For David said, the _____ of _____ hath given rest to his people, that they may dwell in _____ forever. (1 Chron. 23:25)

And there appeared a great wonder, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and... a crown of twelve stars.
 "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle."
 Rev. 12: 1, 14.



FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN

TO THE HOLY CITY

THE PERIOD REPRESENTED BY THE ONE WING

THE PERIOD REPRESENTED BY THE OTHER WING

THE

PERIOD WITHOUT THE BIBLE
 REPRESENTED BY THE MOON

THE

PERIOD WITH THE BIBLE
 REPRESENTED BY THE SUN

THE LIVING CHURCH

WORD SEARCH

Find the following words in the sea of letters below.

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

BIBLE

SAMUEL

ESTHER

TRUTH

JESUS

SIN

SLAUGHTER

PRAYED

WEEPING

TRIBES

COMMANDMENT

MOAB

PRIEST

ZION

PHILISTINES

INIQUITY

FIRMAMENT

DESTRUCTION

REMNANT

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the following words, then use the underlined letters to answer the following question.

CCHHRU

BHTRROE

HTTSYIIANISRC

FOHLLPSIEW

DLEERA

TMNIRES

TDCAUNOIE

IILGNERO

IIACBBLL

EEMNSVAILG

IIIESSSARNOM

MNTHYUAI

Question: Jesus asked Peter; Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter answered, yea Lord. What did Jesus instruct Peter to do? (John 21:16).

A Blessing in the Home

"The Lord says to the young,
'My son, give He thine heart.' The
Saviour of the world loves to have children
and youth give their hearts to Him.
There may be a large army of children
who shall be found faithful to God,
because they walk in the light,
as Christ is in the light.
They will love the Lord Jesus,
and it will be their delight
to please Him...."

*Messages to Young People,
p. 333.*

YOUNG WORLD

Are You Christ's Witnesses?

"With such an army as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come, the end of suffering and sorrow and sin. How soon in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever; where the 'inhabitants shall not say, I am sick,' and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard." *Messages to Young People, p. 196.*

"Upon the youth there rest grave responsibilities. God expects much from the young men who live in this generation of increased light and knowledge. He desires to use them in dispelling the error and superstition that cloud the minds of many. They are to discipline themselves by gathering up every jot and tittle of knowledge and experience. God holds them responsible for the opportunities given them. The work before them is waiting for their earnest efforts, that it may be carried forward from point to point as the time demands.

"If the youth will consecrate mind and heart to the Lord's service, they may reach a high standard of efficiency and usefulness. This

is the standard that the Lord expects the youth to attain. To do less than this is to refuse to make the most of God given opportunities. This will be looked upon as treason against God—a failure to work for the good of humanity.

"What are you doing, dear youth, to make known to others how important it is to take the word of God for a guide, to keep the commandments of Jehovah? Are you by precept and example declaring that it is only by obedience to the word of God that men can be saved. If you will do what you can, you will be a blessing to others. As you labor according to the best of your ability, ways and opportunities will open before you to do more." *-MYP:199.*

You may ask? How can I be an effective witness for Christ? Read on:

1. First, you need to **consecrate yourself to God**, and be obedient to his will, and walk humbly in the way of His commandments.
2. **Seek the Lord constantly in prayer.** Unite with others with the same plan and formulate an order of action. Pray to the Lord to give you grace to put forth a united action.
3. **Consult with elders** who love and fear God, and who have experience in this work that under the moving of the Holy Spirit you may form plans and develop methods by which you may work for the salvation of souls. The Lord will help the youth who is willing to use his God-entrusted capabilities to His name's glory. *MYP:197-198.*
4. **Have a knowledge of the truth**, believe it and live it. It will keep your faith alive and your character will be acceptable in the

sight of God, and those to whom you are trying to share the truth.

5. Work in Faith. As you labor for others, the divine power of the Holy Spirit will work upon the souls of those you are reaching out to, for they have been purchased by the blood of the only begotten Son of God. Youths, you can win souls for Christ, but only as you depend on the grace and power of God to do the work of convicting and converting the heart. *Ibid.*

6. Be an example. Youths, it is your duty to encourage sobriety. Your day to day life is one of the best ways you can witness for Christ. Whatever you do exerts an influence on others. Let your aim be to always exert a positive influence, an influence for good.

7. Cultivate a spirit of devotion and piety. Aim to attain to the fullness of the stature of Christ—perfection in Christ Jesus. Let the Christian graces be and abound in you. Be steadfast and do not allow your steadfastness to be moved by the jeers and scoffs of those who give their minds up to vanity. Follow the Saviour all the way. *-Testimonies, Vol. 2, p. 235-237.*

8. Focus your conversations on the plan of salvation. Always mention Christ to your associates. Be enthusiastic about this matter, and let those who do not appreciate Jesus know that you have found him precious to your soul. You may never know how much good you may do by speaking tenderly, sensibly, serious words regarding salvation to those who do not claim to be children of God. *-Messages to Young People, p. 200.*

AN IMPORTANT NOTE - Where should You Begin Witnessing?

"Let those who desire to work for God begin in their own neighborhood, among their

own friends. Here they will find a favorable missionary field. This home missionary work is a test, revealing their ability or inability for service in a wider field." *-Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 428.*

Children and youth who love the Lord have a glorious destiny:

"Those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God will bring from the books of Daniel and Revelation truth that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. They will start into action forces that cannot be repressed. **The lips of children will be opened to proclaim the mysteries that have been hidden from the minds of men....**" *Testimonies to Ministers, p. 116.*

"The lips of children will be opened to proclaim the mysteries that have been hidden from the minds of men. The Lord has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise, and the weak things of the world to confound the mighty." *Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 473.*

"God will move upon men in humble positions to declare the message of present truth. Many such will be seen hastening hither and thither, constrained by the Spirit of God to give the light to those in darkness. The truth is a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to enlighten those who sit in darkness. Many, even among the uneducated, will proclaim the word of the Lord. **Children will be impelled by the Holy Spirit to go forth to declare the message of heaven.** The Spirit will be poured out upon those who yield to His promptings. Casting off man's binding rules and cautious movements, they will join the army of the Lord." *Testimonies, Vol. 7, pp. 26, 27.*

Nature's Page

PLANET X

Proof of Inspiration

"And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me." Genesis 37:9

Another Planet X Found On The Outer Rim of Solar System reads the headlines in Space Daily, Los Angeles, March 15, 2004. The article in this paper says:

"NASA-funded researchers have discovered the most distant object orbiting Earth's sun. The object is a mysterious planet-like body three times farther from Earth than Pluto.

" 'The sun appears so small from that distance that you could completely block it out with the head of a pin.' said Dr. Mike Brown, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California*, associate professor of planetary astronomy and leader of the research team.

"The Object, called 'Sedna' for the Inuit goddess of the ocean, is 13 billion kilometer (8 billion miles) away, in the farthest reaches of the solar system.

"Other notable features of Sedna include its size and reddish color; it is the second reddest object in the solar system, after Mars. At an estimated size of three-fourths the size of Pluto, it is likely the largest

object found in the solar system since Pluto was discovered in 1930.

"Brown, along with Drs. Chad Trujillo of the *Gemini Observatory, Hawaii*, and David Rabinowitz of *Yale University, New Haven, Conn.*, found the planet-like object, or planetoid, on November 14, 2003.

"Sedna is extremely far from the Sun, in the coldest known region of our solar system, where temperatures never rise above minus 240 degrees Celsius (minus 400 degrees Fahrenheit).

"At its most distant, Sedna is 130 billion kilometers (84 billion miles) from the Sun, which is 900 times Earth's solar distance."

This finding of another planet in our solar system reminds us of what the pen of Inspiration told us in 9 Tract, pp. 25, 26 (*Behold I Make All Things New*). "The sun was created on the fourth day of the week of creation, and astronomical science has discovered that in our solar system there are besides the planet Earth, eight other planets depending on the sun for light, heat, and life-giving energy. **(The probability is that three more planets will be discovered, for according to Genesis 37:9 and other facts, there must needs be twelve major planets in our solar system.)** During the week of creation, consequently, God must have created not only the earth, but also the entire solar system. Otherwise, the planets in existence without benefit of the sun's life-sustaining influence, would necessarily have suffered an uninhabited and altogether useless existence. Inspiration, moreover, says also that in the week of creation, God created the earth, sun, moon and 'the stars also.' Gen. 1:16."

NEWS IN PERSPECTIVE

Uncle Sam Wants You!

Have you ever seen the poster of Uncle Sam—an elderly man dressed in the red, white and blue of the American flag—with his index finger pointed right at you? The sign below the portrayal of the U.S. Government usually reads: “I want you!”

This image may soon take on renewed emphasis. There is discussion in Congress of reinstating the draft. If this should take place, and it appears that it will sooner or later, then it will affect all of us, especially our young present-truth believers and their families.

“\$28 million has been added to the 2004 Selective Service System (SSS) budget to prepare for a military draft that could start as early as June 15, 2005,” says Adam Stutz, a writer for *“What’s Hot Off the Press”* of the *Project Censored*, a media research group at Sonoma State University. According to the evidence presented by this group, “SSS must report to Bush on March 31, 2005 that the system, which has been dormant for decades, is ready for activation.

“The Pentagon has quietly begun a public campaign to fill all 10,350 draft board positions and 11,070 appeals board slots nationwide... Though this is an unpopular election year topic, military experts and influential members of Congress are suggesting that if Rumsfeld’s prediction of a ‘long, hard slog’ in Iraq and Afghanistan [and a permanent state of war on ‘terrorism’] proves accurate, the U.S. may have no choice but to draft.

“Congress brought twin bills, S.89 and H.R. 163 forward this year, entitled the Universal National Service Act. . .” The bills which currently sit in the Committee on Armed Services reads: “To provide for the common defense by requiring that all young persons [age 18 - 26] in the United States, including *women*, perform a period of military service or a period of civilian service in furtherance of the national defense and homeland security, and for other purposes.”

It would also appear, too, that avoiding the draft will be more difficult than ever. In the Vietnam era, young people could potentially avoid the draft by going to Canada or going to college. It seems that this will not be the case now.

What We Know About Military Service

To gain a proper understanding of the reasons for our position, let us briefly summarize God’s principles and guidelines concerning this crucial issue: (See *The Military Stand of Davidian Seventh-day Adventists*, pp. 1 - 4).

- 1. We are subject to the higher powers. (Romans 13:1, 5, 7).
- 2. That we are required to use whatever measures to protect our homes. (Lev. 20:10-14; Deut. 22:22-30).
- 3. The example of ancient Israel reveals that we are duty-bound to defend our county from enemies.
- 4. The example of the good Samaritan shows that we should assist the wounded and the sick. Thus we should serve as doctors, nurses, medical missionaries, chaplains, etc. in aiding the physical and spiritually needy.

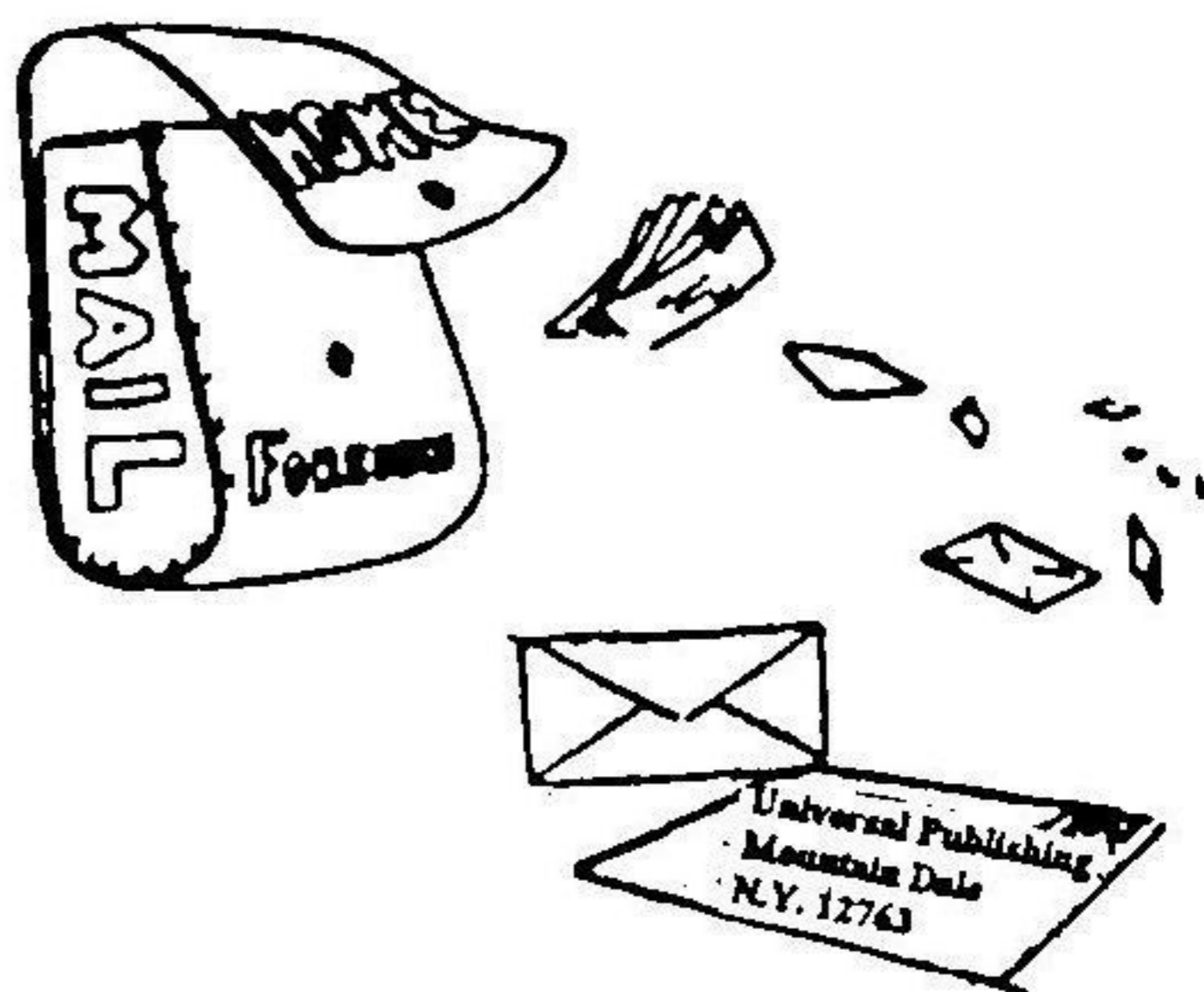
- 5. We can serve in any noncombatant status that does not prevent us from violating "the integrity and principles of our faith, including the maintaining the sacredness of the Sabbath.
- 6. We should comply with all dietary requirements.
- 7. We should hallow the Sabbath.

During World War II, Davidians were *not* granted "noncombatant service with a vegetarian diet and Sabbath privileges" (Military Stand pages 3, 4), and so, in order to not violate the laws of God, Davidians were forced to become conscientious objectors and not participate in military service in any capacity. The same scenario may be repeated in the future, or it could be more stringent. We just cannot say just yet.

What Should We Do?

We cannot do much now since we do not yet know the details of any future military draft. But if and when one should be instituted, what should present-truth believers do? The answer is, that *we should not bear arms and thus we must become either noncombatant or conscientious objectors, or both.* For example, if the Selective Service Authority will agree to allow present-truth believers to serve as noncombatants while upholding all the above principles, then we are morally constrained by love for God, our country, devotion to Christianity and Democracy, to take up military service in one or more noncombatant capacity, such as: doctors, nurses, medical missionaries, attendants, ambulance drivers, chaplains, and so on.

THE MAIL BAG



Dear Sir/Madam:

After reading through your pamphlet entitled *God's Answer to the New World Order*, I have decided to write to you for free tracts and tapes so that it will help me grow spiritually as we approach His coming and also to give to others who haven't heard this message. Your help will be highly appreciated. May our good Lord bless you abundantly.

Zambia, Central Africa

Dear Brethren:

I would like to thank you for the first pack I have ever received from you since I came to meet the Shepherd's Rod publications. Please allow me to say that the *Rod* is indeed making a difference in my Christian life. It is my humble prayer that the good Lord will continue imparting to me the Spirit of the Bereans which saw me from Catholicism to Adventism. I would like to introduce my friend who is also an Adventist...

Zambia, Africa

Dear Beloved:

I am a Zambian male aged 20 and am a member of _____ SDA church in _____. A friend of my uncle lent me tapes on the prophetic messages of Ezekiel 9 and Zechariah 6 and I was greatly evangelized. Since joining the SDA church, never before have I heard of such a message as Ezekiel 9. I began to shiver with fear at the thought of being slain. Truly this message must be taught to others or else they will perish....I am kindly requesting free literature and tapes on more inspiring messages. And if it be possible even some of the books the speakers in the tape were quoting from would greatly help.

Zambia, Africa

Brethren:

I am hereby asking or rather requesting the following book in order for me to grow spiritually and be able to withstand the world forces.... Furthermore, our school is situated in an area where the doctrines of SDAs and prophecy are not well known....Finally, I would like to study with your ministry. I am ready to offer myself for the studies.

Zambia, Africa

Dear Sir:

I am a deacon at the _____ SDA church, aged 41 and Adventist by birth. Some two weeks ago I had a nice time of listening to one of your message tapes. I really enjoyed it. So I asked this friend of

mine who gave me your address...I am praying my letter will reach you because he wasn't sure of your box number. Please Sir, if my letter is going to reach you send some of your message tapes. I will be very grateful if my request is considered.

Zambia, Africa

Dear Sir/Madame:

One time last year in July, we had a visitor in our local church; fortunately he was a member of the Davidian movement who was presenting the message of the time. He said he was from _____ so he tried to persuade us to accept the present truth. He urged the members very much, but some leaders and other members refused the message, mostly elders and deacons. But a few of us were interested to know more about it. We had some studies for two days on topics like, Ezekiel nine, Zechariah six, Daniel 2 and then he gave me some small books entitled *General Conference Special*, *White House Recruiter*, *The Great Paradox of the Ages* and *Pre-Eleventh Hour Extra*.

And from that month up to this date we have not been visited with a teacher in our area....I request you to send me some Bible study lessons and the following books....I am very much excited about this message, but my heart saddens when I think of all the people who have rejected it simply because they have not read it. So please, I beg you to send me some books that I have mentioned above and Bible study lessons so that I can help to spread the message.

Zambia, Africa

Dear Brethren:

I greet you in the precious name of Jesus Christ. I am a SDA from Uganda who came upon the books *The Judgment and the Harvest* and *The Pre-Eleventh Hour Extra*. To my surprise, these books talk about the end times which we are in and yet to many believers, this is no longer an issue. So I really request for these books and if possible I can contribute to further the cause for which these books were published. We need to reach every truth-seeking mind that desires to escape the path that leads to destruction.

Uganda, Africa

Request for Literature:

I have been greatly blessed and brought much closer to the Lord through your presentations on various prophetic themes. I would like to humbly request you to please send me a series of prophetic messages on the following themes on audio cassette and also on DVD's if possible. *The World Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, *The Assyrian Confederacy*, *The Trial of the Millennium*, *The 144,000* and *Matthew 20*. Thank you very much and may the Almighty God continue to bless your ministry mightily as you do His work.

Kenya, East Africa

Dear Brothers:

Thank you for what you are doing for the world in these last days. I have come

across one of your teachings on the 144,000 and the Great Multitude and I'm very interested.. One thing is that I've been hearing of the Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association and I want to know what they believe and why they call themselves Davidians I am interested.

Kenya, East Africa

Dear Sir/Madam:

I was one of the fortunate people to get a set of 10 audio cassettes from my colleague about the Bible prophecy from your company. Its so clear and very amazing to learn more about the truth and about our God.. May I humbly request any material to read or any cassettes, DVD's or videos if possible, especially about prophecy. Not only for me, but for my colleagues also. Please send us more details on how we can get more materials from you. I am a SDA member.

South Africa

Dear Friends:

Thank you for sharing with me the many booklets and cassette tapes. You have a very interesting ministry. A sincere apology for such a long delay in acknowledgment. I have had to relocate and everything went into storage last fall. My whole life was thrown into turmoil. Thank you for teaching me the truth about Ezekiel 2:10; I had been searching for this answer for many, many years! Our Lord used you to answer my prayers.

Michigan, USA

To Whom It May Concern:

I hope this fax reaches your organization with God's blessings. I am having a difficult time reaching you, so I am trying your fax number. Your tapes of *The World Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* was given to me by a friend and I thank you for your hard work. I would like to order *The 144,000, Who Are They?* and the *Assyrian Confederacy* tapes. I will gladly pay for all the programs you send me. Thank you and God bless your work.

California, USA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Session

Session 2004 – Third Notice

July 23, 2004 – August 8, 2004

Theme: *A Chosen Generation, a Royal Priesthood*

We ask that you continue to uplift this Session in prayer before the Lord. As Session is right upon us, and as time is running short, we know that this Session will have an impact on the work in general. For those of you who cannot make it, we sincerely ask for your prayers.

Accommodations

Boarding will be provided for card-holders. For all others, accommodations will be determined as available. Please

contact the office if you are planning to attend or need housing.

Please note that the first week of session is primarily comprised of business meetings and that only card-holders can attend. However, worship services and the religious meetings of the second week are open to all.

Prayer and Fasting

Just a reminder of our proposed period of voluntary prayer and fasting (July 18 - July 22, 2004) prior to Session 2004. We pray that God may once again bless His work and those who promote His cause. We ask that those who cannot attend Session, please send up their petitions on behalf of the meetings so that God will be glorified.

Sympathy

In May, 2004, one of our ministers, Terry Harrison, lost his father, and Wanda Ayala, a DLI graduate now living in Virginia, lost her grandfather. For those of us who have lost a loved one, we know how difficult a time this must be for them. Please remember these two members and their families in your prayers.

Baby Boom!!

Welcome to Bridgette Ellen Sanchez, daughter of Hugo & Carolina Sanchez, who entered this world on the 20th of March, 2004, weighing in at 7 lbs, 4 oz. and 19 inches long. Brother Hugo is a recent graduate of DLI, and we wish

him and his wife the best as they raise their little daughter for the Lord.

Also, Jonathan Salvador Delgado was born to Salvador and Tania Delgado on the 10th of March, 2004, weighing 8 lbs and was 21½ inches long. Elder Noe Milian was born to Noe and Yolanda Milian the 29th of January, 2004, weighing in at 8 lbs 8 oz, and 21 inches long. We wish the best for these new parents and will uplift them in prayer as they take on the mighty task of being parents.

Wedding Bells

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our long-standing worker, Terry Harrison, and Ursula Blasse, who were married on May 28, 2004. Please join us in praying that they will have a happy and fulfilling life together.

Philippine DLI

A DLI was conducted in the Philippines by Sis. Judith Rollan, our Educational Director. We hope to have pictures and more news upon her return on the 15th of June. Please pray for those students who attended DLI, that they will take up the torch of truth and light the Philippines on fire for *present truth*.

Zambia Update

Enclosed are some pictures of the progression of the building project in Zambia, Central Africa. Although the work is not yet complete, your support of this worthy endeavor is helping them to achieve their goals. We ask for your

continued prayers and gifts. They are still in need of electricity, flushing commodes, and other items.

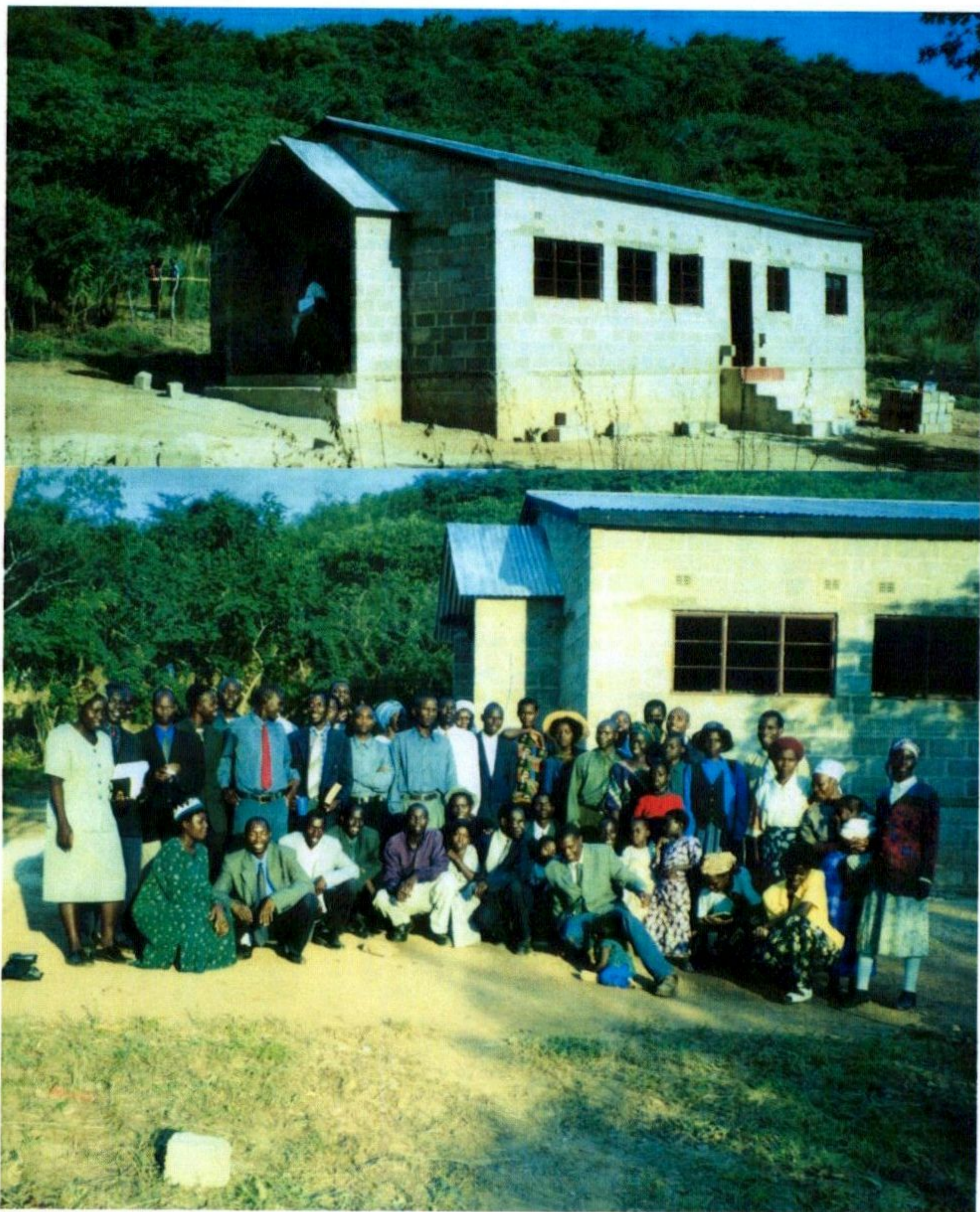
Vanuatu Update

Vanuatu has sent some pictures of their new building. They are requesting some *Spirit Of Prophecy* books for their library from those who can spare a few extra books. If you are interested in helping them to obtain these books please notify the office. They are planning a dedication of the new building this fall along with a proposed DLI class for those who have just recently acquired their fellowship cards. Let us remember them also in our prayers as they continue to faithfully work that part of the Lord's vineyard.

Inspiration Says: "It is foolish to reject Truth merely on someone's say so rather than to go to God in prayer and to act in harmony with your own convictions through the Spirit that leads into all Truth. To do otherwise is to deny any personal connection with Heaven, and to put your trust in man, to make 'flesh your arm.' *Isa. 2:22*. Do not, therefore, let the enemy talk you out of this Truth, especially in the face of the fact that the opposition has nothing substantial, nothing authoritative, or official, nothing to take its place. And how foolish for one to try to ascertain Truth by the mind of the opposition!...There would be some sense in going for help to someone who is unbiased, but never any sense in going to one who is as opposed to this Truth as were the priests, scribes, and Pharisees opposed to Christ's teachings." *2TG.39.21*.



Vanatu's Building Project
Some of the brethren



Zambia's Building Project
Some of the brethren in their 2004 Session

DAVIDIC LEVITICAL

Gradu



D.L.I. Class 2004, Philippines
With Sis. Judith Espinosa-Rollan, Education Director

ICAL INSTITUTE

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D.L.I. Class 2003, Mexico
With Bro. Stanford, Sis. Carmen, & Bro. Rene