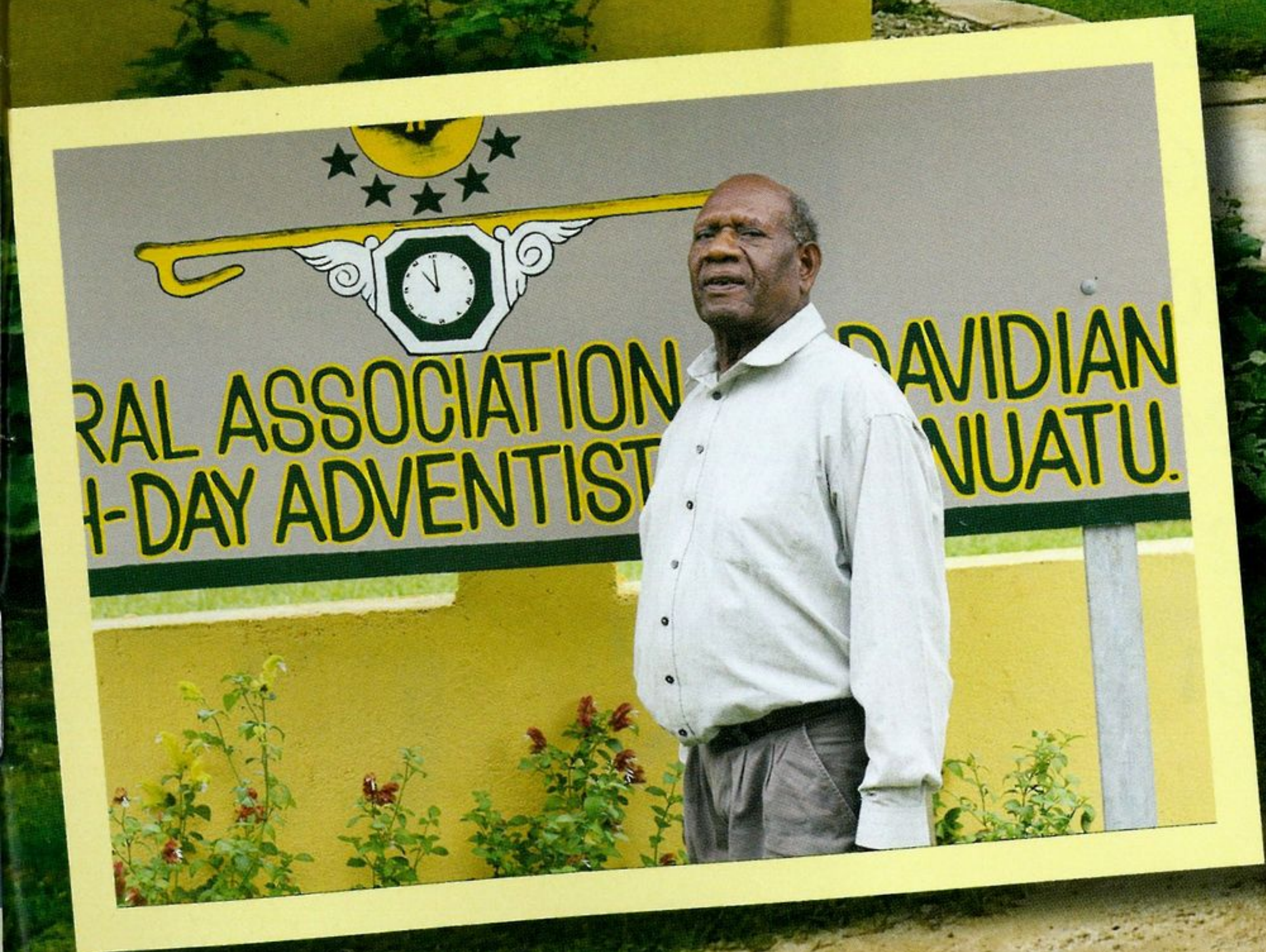


Symbolic Code

Summer 2014



When only one believes



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Symbolic Code

It is the mission of the Symbolic Code to declare the Gospel of Jesus for these last days. It will present important truths from different angles and on various topics. We hope that every article will be a blessing to you and will help to strengthen your relationship with the Lord Jesus. If you are blessed by any of these articles, please let us know.

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The Symbolic Code is a free publication, available to Davidians. That everyone who thirsteth for the truth may find it, this magazine, as a Christian service, is mailed without charge. Send for it. It levies but one exaction, the soul's obligation to itself to prove all things and hold fast that which is good. The only strings attached to this free proffer are the golden strands of Eden and the crimson cords of Calvary—the ties that bind.

Those desiring to support this magazine, please send contributions to the address above.

We need your help in order to have the Symbolic Code filled with contents that are relevant to you. So if you like writing, why not do so for the Symbolic Code.

We are interested in articles on:

- Christian living
- End time events
- News events
- Health
- Relationship (marriage, family, etc.)

All articles must be deeply spiritual, provocative, and unquestionably in accordance with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. For more information visit our website or write to us.

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Being Connected

TTrue sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last. Self-denial, self-sacrifice, benevolence, kindness, love, patience, fortitude, and Christian trust are the daily fruits borne by those who are truly connected with God. Their acts may not be published to the world, but they themselves are daily wrestling with evil, and gaining precious victories over temptation and wrong.

The law of God is the only true standard of moral perfection. That law was practically exemplified in the life of Christ. He says of Himself, 'I have kept my Father's commandments' (John 15:10). Nothing short of this obedience will meet the requirements of God's word. 'He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.' (1 John 2:6). We cannot plead that we are unable to do this, for we have the assurance, 'My grace is sufficient for thee' (2 Cor. 12:9).

Those who have genuine love for God will manifest an earnest desire to know His will and to do it. Says the apostle John, whose epistles treat so fully upon love, 'This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments' (1 John 5:3). The child who loves his parents will show that love by willing obedience; but the selfish, ungrateful child seeks to do as little as possible for his parents, while he at the same time desires to enjoy all the privileges granted to the obedient and faithful. The same difference is seen among those who profess to be children of God. Many who know that they are the objects of His love and care, and who desire to receive His blessing, take no delight in doing His will. They regard God's claims upon them as an unpleasant restraint, His commandments as a grievous yoke. But he who is truly seeking for holiness of heart and life delights in the law of God, and mourns only that he falls so far short of meeting its requirements.

Many shrink from such a life as our Saviour lived. They feel that it requires too great a sacrifice to imitate the Pattern, to bring forth fruit in good works, and then patiently endure the pruning of God that they may bring forth more fruit. But when the Christian regards himself as only a humble instrument in the hands of Christ, and endeavors to faithfully perform every duty, relying upon the help which God has promised, then he will wear the yoke of Christ and find it easy; then he will bear burdens for Christ, and pronounce them light. He can look up with courage and with confidence, and say, 'I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him' (2 Tim. 1:12).

E.G. White – The Sanctified Life, pps. 10, 11, 80-82

The beautiful republic of Vanuatu is an archipelago of 83 islands located in the South Pacific ocean, about 1,090 miles east of Australia. Espiritu Santo, its largest northern island, is 1,527 square miles while Efate Island is 350 square miles. Most of the islands are mountainous, of volcanic origin and have a tropical climate. The nation's largest towns are the capital Port Vila, situated on Efate, and Luganville on Espiritu Santo.

There are over one hundred languages spoken in Vanuatu, with English, French and Bislama as the official ones. Bislama is somewhat like broken English, only more interesting. The country has the highest density of languages per capita in the world.

Early efforts to evangelize the indigenous people began as far back as 1839 and was fraught with much peril and danger. When the first two missionaries arrived in Vanuatu, and set foot on the island of Erromango, they were soon killed



The main office building

and eaten. The church moved cautiously in sending others, it changed strategy and decided to send Polynesian teachers instead.

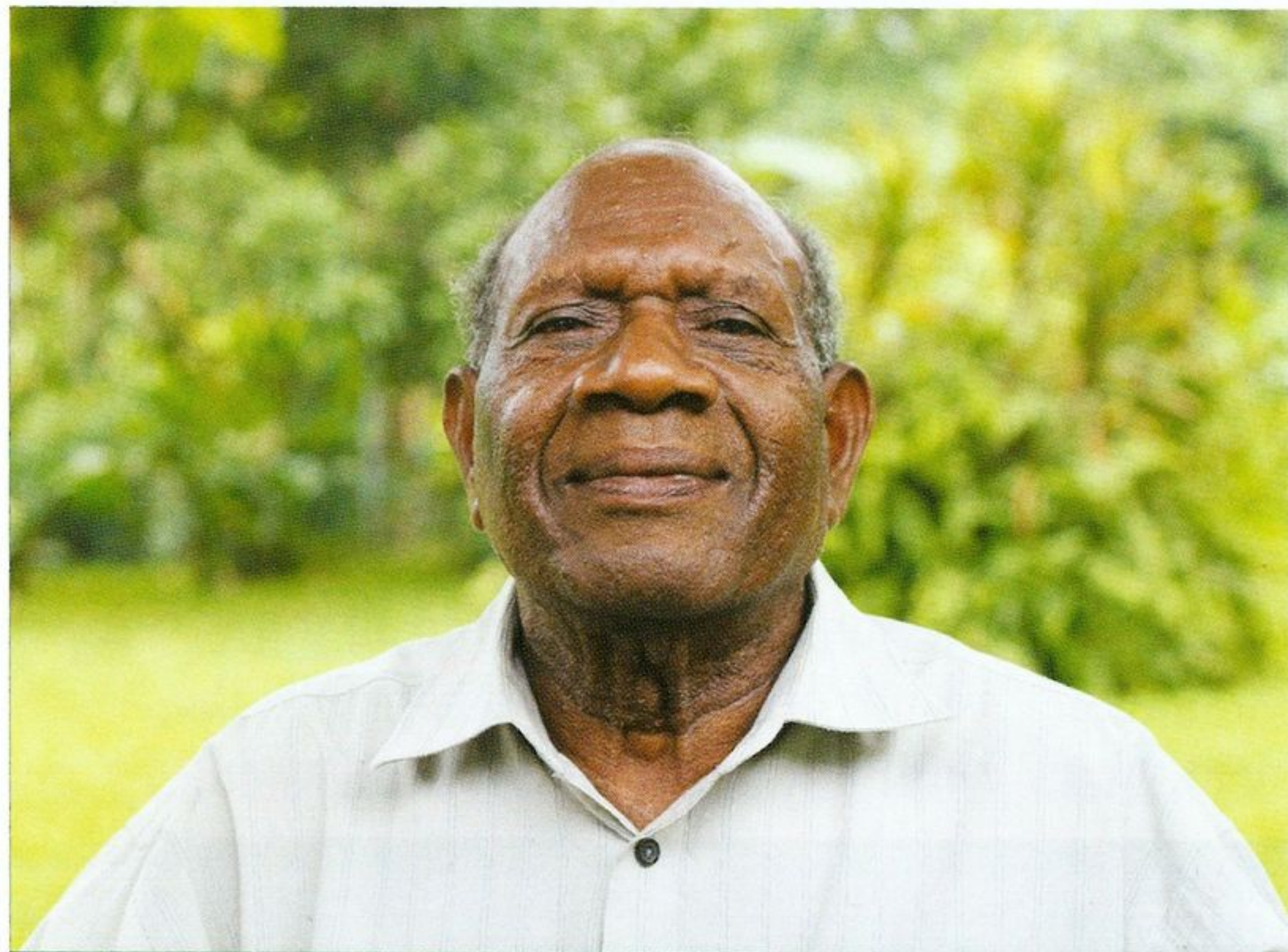
After incessant missionary efforts, Presbyterianism soon became the

dominant Christian religion. After the way was made clear, other churches followed. The Anglicans sent their missionaries in 1860 followed by the Roman Catholics in 1887. Today, of the 247,000 Ni-Van-

When *Only* One BELIEVES



The chapel



Bro. Edson Tabianca

Vanuatu people, 83% are Christian of which 32% are Presbyterian, 13% Roman Catholic, 13% Anglican, and 11% Seventh-Day Adventists.

The Advent message

The first Seventh-day Adventist missionaries arrived in Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides) on June 12, 1912 and began teaching and preaching the Three Angels' messages. They set up their base of operations on the tiny island of Atchin in 1913 and since then, the Advent message has been growing with over 20,000 members presently espousing

the Adventist faith.

The Davidian Message

The Davidian message was first introduced to Vanuatu in the early 1980's. Somehow the Yucaipa Association based in California, got a hold of a directory of SDA leaders from some of the islands in Vanuatu and mailed booklets to everyone on the list. According to an eye witness, the materials were put in the trash. Only one person kept the booklets and studied them. The effort paid off. Only one is needed in order for the message to gain a foothold.

Bro. Edson Tabianca (now 76 yrs) who was born a Catholic on the island of Pentecost, joined the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1948 and was baptized in 1956. A teacher from 1965 until 1987,

he later accepted the Lord's call to the ministry and was employed by the Vanuatu Mission of Seventh-day Adventists as a minister from 1988 until 1993.

Bro. Tabianca was the first person to receive the Present Truth message in Vanuatu. While living on the island of Ambae he received booklets from Yucaipa in 1982 and says that he does not know who sent his name to Yucaipa. He gladly accepted and secretly studied the booklets for ten years without telling anyone that he was feasting on "butter and honey." The church eventually found out that

he was studying the Davidian message and that he had fully embraced its teachings. In April of 1993 he was summoned to the main office in Port Vila before a tribunal to be questioned concerning his new "strange" religious conviction. He refused to deny his conviction, and remained true to himself and to the Lord. As a result, he was stripped of his ministerial position and excommunicated.

Bro. Tabianca knows now by personal experience that the price for accepting Present Truth is sometimes costly. He is not alone. Bro. Houteff did explain that every serious-minded candidate for the 144,000 must pay the price. See 11SC 3 pp. 10 – 12.

Excited about sharing the message, he decided to return to his island (Pentecost) and embarked on sharing the message, but he met a lot of opposition as the president of the Mission had circulated communications throughout the country warning church members to be aware of the Shepherd's Rod. Not only was he bitterly opposed, church members kilim (in Bislama kilim means to beat or hit). Luckily they did not kilim i ded ("kilim i ded" means to kill). Facing rejection and ridicule on his home island, he shook the dust off his feet and in 1994 relocated to the Island of Espiritu Santo, hoping to receive warmer reception. He already had a few friends there, and he made new ones.

Later, in 1994 he wrote to Yucaipa, requesting that literature be mailed to all his friends on the various islands. Some of those who received the booklets rejected, others accepted and are strong believers in the message today.

Bro. Tabianca's first contacts on Espiritu Santo were brothers Alfred and Waren Nico. These brothers got

excited about the message and started to share it with others. They shared with Bro. John Juiliano, Jeffrey Sailas, Ivan Toa, Shem Hivir, Dick Harnambad and others.

The power of One

When one is convinced then God can start to work. The Lord took brother Edson Tabiaca and used him to start a little fire in Vanuatu. There were many challenges and obstacles to surmount to keep the fire from going out, but he kept on stoking the little fire until he got some help stoking.

Brother Terry Harrison (a Bible worker from Mt. Carmel Center, New York) accepted the call to visit the fledgling group there in 1999 to assist with stoking the fire, so that the islands could be ablaze with the light of Truth. For two months brother Harrison worked on the islands of Espiritu Santo, Tanna and Effate to give thrust to the effort that had already started there. Bible studies were held

every day, sometimes twice a day.

The positive response and interest in the message created undue attention and criticism from the clergy at the local church. One Sabbath, while attending the central church in Luganville, the pastor made comments about the “presence of a Judas.” Brother Harrison ignored the sly remarks he suspected were thrown at him. Shortly after the inciteful speech, both he and his companion were kicked out of the church after they had received a beating from a few church members.

Inspite of the beating, criticism and opposition, brother Harrison’s visit proved a tremendous blessing to the movement in Vanuatu. The brethren were encouraged and the fire of Present Truth was definitely ablaze. After brother Harrison left, the brethren, full of zeal, continued stoking the blaze and the work has grown. They were not to receive another visit for several years.

The leaders of the movement there

caught a vision of the work and had great hopes and plans for the continued advancement of the cause in Vanuatu. This vision inspired them to start looking for a location to house a branch for the work. After prayer and fasting, trusting in the Lord, they were directed to a suitable plot of land that would serve their purpose and made the purchase in August of 2002.

With very little finance and trusting the One who is the source of all blessings, the brethren began construction on the new office that was to be the center of the work in Vanuatu in 2003 and completed it in 2004. The main building houses the office, a study hall, a room to accommodate a worker or visitor, library, kitchen and bathroom facilities. A separate edifice—the chapel was also completed in 2004.

This is the place from where Present Truth emanates to all the islands of Vanuatu and hopefully the surrounding regions such as Papua

Brethren from Santo and neighboring islands





Brethren from the capital island of Efate

New Guinea, Solomon islands, Fiji and Neumea.

After several years of working, Vanuatu made another Macedonian call for help. This time they were keen on becoming efficient workers for the Lord and requested to receive DLI training. Brother Glenroy Matthews travelled there to conduct a three-month DLI training in 2008. The training sessions were well attended by the leaders as well as the youths.

After the DLI, brethren were truly motivated and launched out with various efforts to reach their fellow SDA believers on the various islands. Sure, they had to battle opposition, but they kept on sharing until now there are Shepherd's Rod believers on not only Espiritu Santo and Efate, but now there are believers on Tanna, Erromango, Tomman, Malekula, Ambrym, Pentecost, Ambae, Banks, Malo and Atchin. Praise the Lord! Would it not be a blessing to have believers on all 83 islands? With diligent efforts it will become a reality. Let us unite our prayers with the believers there to make this a reality.

In February 2014, brother Matthews made another visit to Vanuatu and was pleasantly surprised to see how the work has grown. Brethren from a few of the neighboring islands converged on Espiritu Santo where the camp is located for two weeks of

spiritual feasting. "It was such a blessing to see the brethren again" he says. To sing, pray, study, eat and laugh together was just a small foretaste of what it will be like in the Kingdom.

After leaving Espiritu Santo, brother Matthews travelled one hour south by plane to the capital island of Efate. Here, he spent the last two weeks of his visit conducting Bible studies, everyday. Lots of visitors attended the sessions. The room they rented was eventually too small to accommodate everyone; they were forced to seek a much larger place to continue the studies. You could see that all were enjoying the studies as they asked many questions. Some of what they heard sounded incredible, but they were given ample evidence.

The Efate efforts concluded with the installation of a new local Board for the first time. Its goal is to help push forward the work not only on Efate but also on neighbouring islands.

The work in Vanuatu has come a long way and there is so much yet to be done. So many islands to reach! The brethren have a challenge ahead of them, and with the help of Omnipotence, they will get it done.

We see that the movement there started with just one person who was willing to study to know the Truth. God was able to use just ONE!

He did not need a multitude. One brought another, and another, until the work is where it is today. If each could do his part, like brother Tabianca, how quickly we can get the message to every one grass in the field. Now, along with bro. Tabianca, the Lord is using others there, like Iven Tao, John Juliano, Joseph Kemuel, Jeffrey Sailas and others to spread the message. Imagine all that has happened in Vanuatu is the result of only one individual having the audacity to believe. Praise the Lord!

Let the Lord use you!

Brothers and sisters, the Lord has not brought you to this message for you to keep it to yourself. The Lord has an appointed work for you to do, and only YOU can accomplish that work. Let me ask you this question, Do you go to church without taking a tract, a CD, or DVD to share with someone? If you do, then something is wrong! You are a worker for the Lord, and you ought to be prepared at any moment to share with someone. Time is short, and we have not a moment to lose.

I feel that not enough is being done to share the message by members of this last pre-Eleventh Hour movement in getting the message out. Some may think it is the duty of the Bible workers and ministers, but this

is a terrible mistake. We are on the verge of a stupendous crisis, and we need to get up and do something to hasten the coming Kingdom. If what is happening around the world cannot wake us up, then I do not think anything ever will. Inspiration makes the following statement:

“The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.” Education 179.

And the following:

“There are many who do not understand the prophecies relating to these days, and they must be enlightened. It is the duty of both watchmen and laymen to give the trumpet a certain sound. Be in earnest, “cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” Evangelism 194.

Note she says that it is the DUTY of BOTH watchmen (ministers, Bible workers, teachers) and laymen, (everyone else) to give the trumpet a certain sound and to cry aloud. Will you come to the help of the Lord and consecrate yourself to His cause? He may not be calling you to be a full-time Bible worker, but He is calling you to accomplish something for Him. Will you answer His call? Will you be that *only one who believes?*

Over two thousand years ago the

Lord declared that: “...*The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*” Luke 10:2.

This declaration is a clarion call for workers who can recognize the great need, consecrate themselves to the Lord and get busy, because time is short. Inspiration explains that:

“Christ brought His desires and wishes into strict abeyance to His mission,—the mission that bore the insignia of Heaven. He made everything subordinate to the work that He came to this world to accomplish. When in His youth His mother found Him in the school of the rabbis, and said to Him, “Son, why hast Thou thus dealt with us? behold, Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing,” He answered,—and His answer is the key-note of His life-work,—“How is it that ye sought Me? wist ye not that I must be about My Father’s business?” *Luke 2:48, 49.*

“The same devotion, the same consecration, the same subjection to the claims of the word of God, that were manifest in Christ, must be seen in His servants. He left His home of security and peace, left the glory that He had with the Father before the world was, left His position upon the throne of the universe, and went forth, a suffering, tempted man; went forth in solitude, to sow in tears, to water with His blood the seed of life for a lost world.

“His servants in like manner must go forth to sow. When called to become a sower of the seed of truth, Abraham was bidden, “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee.” [Genesis 12:1]. “And he went out, not knowing whither he went,”

[Hebrews 11:8.] as God’s lightbearer, to keep His name alive in the earth. He forsook his country, his home, his relatives, and all the pleasant associations connected with his earthly life, to become a pilgrim and a stranger.

“...So those who are called to unite with Christ must leave all in order to follow Him. Old associations must be broken up, plans of life relinquished, earthly hopes surrendered. In toil and tears, in solitude and through sacrifice, must the seed be sown.

“When Christ called His disciples to follow Him, He offered them no flattering prospects in this life. He gave them no promise of gain or worldly honor,....

“Today the Saviour calls us, as He called Matthew and John and Peter, to His work. If our hearts are touched by His love, the question of compensation will not be uppermost in our minds. We shall rejoice to be co-workers with Christ, and we shall not fear to trust His care. If we make God our strength, we shall have clear perceptions of duty, and unselfish aspirations; our life will be actuated by a noble purpose, which will raise us above sordid motives.” *GW 111-114.*

Brothers and sister, the Lord is making a final call for you to become involved in this great work of harvesting the sheaves of the church then the world. Will you consecrate yourself and join us? You are not being asked to leave your present employment, you are being asked to recognize God’s claim on your life and the life of those in the church He wants to save through you.

Will you be one of *the only ones who believe?*

By G. Matthews



The Storehouse of Present TRUTH

By Victor Houteff

To whom should my tithes go?

While still holding membership in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, should one pay tithe to the Davidians?

One can best answer this question by asking himself the following questions:

Do I believe that The Shepherd's Rod contains the message of the hour, the sealing message of the 144,000? Have I received any spiritual help from it? Has it caused me to repent of formerly indulged sins? Am I now a better Seventh-day Adventist than I was before I accepted it? Has it made me love the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the brethren more than ever before?

If one's answer to each of these questions is "No," then he should pay his tithe to the church of which he is still a member. If his answer to them is "Yes," and if he is still in doubt as to where he should pay his tithe, then he should further question himself:

Had I continued in the Laodicean course in which the Rod found me, could I be saved and ready to meet the Lord at His coming? Can my Seventh-day Adventist brethren be saved by remaining in their present condition? If to these questions one's answer is "No," then his answers to the following questions will instruct him where to pay this tithe.

Since I am responsible for the light which is now shining upon my pathway, and since I must help give it to my brethren, should I pay my tithe to the Denomination so that the ministry may have more money with which to fight both the message and my personal endeavors to reach the people with it, and thereby, working at cross-purposes, only help to keep them in darkness? Or, should I pay it to the Davidians, the "storehouse" of Present Truth, where

it naturally should go to promote the advancement of a heart-searching reformation and to rescue my Seventh-day Adventist brethren from eternal ruin? And as they themselves are not prepared to meet the Lord (Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 371), then how can they adequately prepare the heathen? In view of all these facts, shall my tithe go to the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in behalf of the heathen or to the sealing message in behalf of the brethren? If I dare not place my tithe to the support of what I believe to be Present Truth, then how will it be supported, and where else can I conscientiously place my tithe?

Furthermore, if I place it in the Denomination to be used largely for the evangelizing of worldlings, rather than in the storehouse of Present Truth to be used for the benefit of my brethren, then am I not doing so to the neglect of my own brethren, and thus denying that I am my brother's keeper? And ought I, moreover, obey the ministers' order to go in search of sheep in the house of Baal, instead of heeding the Lord's express command to take the heaven-sent remedy to the sin-sick sheep in the house of Israel (Matt. 10:6)? Which of these two endeavors would be the more sure to gain for me the commendation, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord"? Matt. 25:21.

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing." Matt. 24:45, 46.

Now if after having answered these questions to your satisfaction, you are still undecided as to what you should do with your tithe, then read Tract No. 4, The Latest News for Mother, 1943 Edition, pp. 63-70. Then

Continue on page 30

Loving Big

Love one another was the Theme of the 2014 National Session in the Philippine Division, held at the Center located at Santa Maria Trento, Agusan del Sur, April 11- 19, 2014.

As the brethren arrived at the Center, peace overwhelmed each one. It was like coming home after a year of wandering in the world, seeking to walk to and fro.

Most of us came two days earlier before the official start of the meeting to help develop and beautify the area. The physical progress of the place since last year was remarkable. With more earnest efforts and material blessings, the Center would be more convenient to stay in and more efficient in pushing the cause of God.

One thing that stands out among anything else is the unselfish efforts done by the brethren from Bislig, Surigao del Sur, in helping with the physical preparation and with the program, and (after the session) in touring us around to admire the beauty of nature in Mindanao.

April 13 - 17, 2014

Everything was set and everyone was eager to meet the rest of their spiritual family. Area by area, the brethren arrived, and as the session continues, more visitors came and joined with our Sabbath worship. Love was in the air.

Bible workers and DLI graduates did presentations on various subjects: Prophecies, Health, Practical Godliness and The Gospel. After every presentation was an open discussion where the audience asked questions relating to the topic. It seemed that a whole day is not enough to tackle every issue and answer every question. People were tireless and earnest in knowing the perfect will of God.

April 18, 2014, Friday

That Friday morning, while the card holding delegates were seeking God for wisdom for the appointment of the new board officers, some young people counselled together and prayed for divine intervention and clear providence.

Consequently, we also gathered the youth and had the first Youth Department election of officers, with the full knowledge and blessing from the board. We learned that order is indispensable, and to organize every aspect of the work is the key to success. It was a time of enlightenment, and everyone, especially the youth were crying out for change, both for themselves individually and corporately as an association.

With eyes single for the glory of the Lord, leaders were chosen, and the whole atmosphere had a solemnity that only denotes approbation from the Divine. It seemed that everyone was satisfied and if there were some who had inhibitions, they preferred to be quiet about it, trusting God that He is taking the reins in His hands. Indeed He is! No iota of doubt about it.

April 19, 2014 Sabbath

We had a wonderful Sabbath school discussion about 'love' - between husband and wife, filial love and Agape love. Everyone has something to say, but time would not suffice for even a quarter of the congregation to speak. It only goes to show that everyone was awake and interested, there was an air of earnestness and jealousy for Truth. Brother Ric Rollan broke the bread of manna from heaven during the divine worship. It was brief and concise, sending greetings from the brethren in the Headquarter and 'bringeth good tidings and publisheth peace and salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!'

There is indeed unity in diversity. A line from the Spirit of Prophecy reminds us thus: "The secret of unity is found in the equality of believers in Christ. The reason of all division, discord, and difference is found in separation from Christ. Christ is the center to which all should be attracted; for the nearer we approach the center, the closer we shall come together in feeling, in sympathy, in love, growing into the character and image of Jesus." (RH, December 22, 1891 par. 8)

Everyone was thrilled to see the change that we have been praying for becoming materialized little by little. Pride, indifference, legalism, and bigotry, replaced, by the grace of God, with humility, sense of duty, love and tolerance. "A solemn responsibility rests upon those who know the truth, that all their works shall correspond with their faith, and that their lives shall be refined and sanctified, and they be prepared for the work that must rapidly be done in these closing days of the message." (9T 154)

These words struck the core of our being: These compelling words from Answerer Book 4 page 68: "If Christians never accuse one another, never communicate one another's mistakes, shortcomings, failures, and troubles, they will find themselves so united that nothing can break their common Christian bond. But such a spirit

of oneness can be maintained only by a people who keep a tireless vigil over themselves, always to see eye to eye and to speak the same things by forsaking their own ways and thoughts in exchange for the Lord's."

Much has been said, much has yet to be said. We, however, are not just hearers of the Word but doers also. Let us hope for a brighter future and praise the Lord for patiently leading us thus in our past experiences and for the manifold blessings He has wrought to us today.

Let every heart sing, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven."

April 20, 2014 Sunday

The Brethren parted with these words in every one's heart:

John 13: 34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YE HAVE LOVE ONE TO ANOTHER.

May the Lord God of Israel be with us all as we part to serve Him and Pray that He will again give us the chance to see each other next year in our Convocation, if not then in the Kingdom that He has promised. □



Is this just a human tradition or is it a New Testament scripture requirement? Is this for the women in Paul's time, or is it for Christian women of all time? Is not a woman's hair the covering spoken of here in the Bible? Has not the modern church discarded this as unnecessary for these modern times? What is the real truth objectively speaking, laying aside all pride and prejudice?

Would you really like to know the truth? Are you sure? Would you have the courage to follow your convictions "though the heavens fall?" Do you have the moral courage to go against popular trends and fashions for Jesus' sake? Are you not afraid to look like "those people?" Are you sure?

Is it your primary purpose to please Jesus; to do the will of your Father which is in heaven? If the answer is positive, then there is good news for you in these words of Jesus:

"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself [human tradition]. John 7:17. So happily for you, those who really want to do his will" will understand the truth, with the Holy Spirit's help, while others who really don't want to do his will but their own, will likely not understand and may even stumble over God's word.

Now with the Spirit's help and a prayerful, noble spirit like the Bereans, (Acts 17:11) let's go directly into the Word, trusting Him to guide us into all truth.

Question: Is any portion of the Bible human tradition?

Answer:

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righ-



Covering

Should christian women cover their heads for worship?

teousness:”

Thank God for His answer. Let us now study the Scripture in question for “for correction, for instruction in righteousness;” —even the righteousness of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The main scripture text is found here in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16, written by the great, Spirit-guided Apostle Paul.

1) Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

2) Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

3) But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4) Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

5) But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6) For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7) For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8) For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

9) Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10) For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

11) Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12) For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the

woman; but all things of God.

13) Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14) Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15) But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16) But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Question: Is the Bible of sufficient authority to establish this matter, or do we need other books?

Answer:

Since the Bible is the greater light (like the sun) and other inspired or religious books, the lesser light (like the moon), it is self-evident that the Bible is fully sufficient to establish this and any other truth, upon its own scriptural authority.

The moon derives light and power from the sun, and cannot have or reflect light independent of it, likewise all other religious books must derive light and authority from the Bible, but the Bible, like its Author, the Sun of righteousness, is independent of, and superior to all earthly authority. Therefore, in this study, deliberately, no attempt will be made to use other books to address the questions but the Bible only.

Now let us look at the CONTEXT very carefully proceeding verse by verse.

Paul so closely and indisputably follows Christ, that he challenges the Christians to be his followers even as he follows Christ. He then praises them for faithfully keeping the God-given ordinances already delivered to them, before he gives and explains to them another such ordinance. Then in verse three, he be-

gins the subject and carefully lays the biblical foundation upon which this other ordinance (head covering for women) is based. Let's follow closely.

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. 1 Cor. 11:3.

What is the foundation here?

Answer:

It is the way in which divinity and humanity are linked up for the plan of redemption —God, Christ, the man and then the woman.

Contextually, therefore, we see that the following ordinance is based upon and honors this solid biblical principle. How is God the head of Christ? Christ made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:7.

In this way, He became the Son of God and God became his head. Christ then stands at the head of humanity and thus became the head of every man. And of course, the Lord established man in this chapter and other portions of the Bible as the head of the family: of the woman and children.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Ephesians 5:23

An understanding of this rock-solid bible principle gives light that automatically answers many related questions. For instance:

Question: Is this head-covering ordinance only for the Christians in Paul's time?

Answer:

This question calls to mind another in the same verse. Is Christ the head of every man only for the Christians in Paul's time? If the

answer is yes, then this ordinance is only for Christians in Paul's time. But inasmuch as Christ, the Son of man, and Son of God, is still the head of every man today, then obviously this Biblical and redemption-based principle is equally valid today, where Christ is still recognized and honored as the head of every man the head of humanity. Thus, the head-covering principle reflects honor to Christ as the head of humanity.

Will you be among those who gladly honor the Son, even at the sacrifice of convenience or personal pride? And is it the Father's will that He be thus honored?

That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. John 5:23

Question: Does this head-covering ordinance have anything to do with culture or human tradition?

Answer:

Does the plan of salvation have anything to do with human tradition? Is the great mystery of the incarnation, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" "which things the angels desire to look into." (1 Peter 1:12) and reflected here, nothing but a human tradition? Shall we insult the Almighty by saying that this ordinance and its foundation Truth is just culture or human tradition? Shall we not rather give thanks to God, for its profound "instruction in righteousness?"

Question. Would this head-covering principle or ordinance be of local or universal application?

Answer:

Since Christ is the head of humanity without regards to time or locality, therefore this headship ordinance is unrestricted by time or locality. Con-

sequently, it is valid in any place and at all times.

Now that we understand its biblical foundation, lets proceed to the ordinance itself.

Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

This is clear. In worship or religious services, Christian men are to take off their hats or head-coverings.

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

When it comes to the woman, is not this where the problem is? Is it really because the word is not clear, or is it because it is a too humbling experience for some proud hearts who pay a lot of money to style their hairs and would not want it covered? Notice the Bible makes a distinction between the man and the woman, does it not? Is this distinction being made in our churches between men and women today? And what is Paul saying here?

He makes it clear that while the man should take off his hat, the woman should keep hers on, otherwise she is in violation of this bible ordinance and is dishonoring her "head" (the man) and also indirectly dishonoring Christ, the "head" of her "head" [the man].

Verse 15, that a woman's hair is given her as a natural covering will be explained later. But verse 6 makes it clear, that if the woman does not want to cover her head, to make the distinction with the man, she should be shaven. Without debate and playing word games, does not to shave mean to cut off the hair? And if

she is too ashamed to cut off her hair what does the Bible say? "Let her be covered."

If the Bible means, that the woman's hair is sufficient as the requirement, why does the Scripture say it is required when praying or prophesying [engaging in worship or teaching the scriptures]? Can a woman take off her hair (unless it is a wig) and put in on for "praying and prophesying?" Since the answer is no, something besides the hair is needed for women to obey the scriptures here.

The Apostle Paul continues.

7) "For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8) For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

9) Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10) For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels."

What of the angels of God here? Even they are dishonored when the woman refuses to obey this scripture. Not only is the man dishonored, but the angels and Christ himself, the head of the man. Do Christian women want this type of liberation today; a freedom to dishonor Christ? Would they have the moral courage like queen Ester, to stand for the right even in the face of death?

Lets read on.

11) Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12) For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

13) Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God

uncovered?

14) Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

These verses above are also very clear. Verse 13, calls upon even humans to judge the impropriety of women brazenly entering the presence of God to worship with heads uncovered. We trust that the “wise virgins” will not sleep on in happy lukewarmness without the extra oil. Verse 14 shows that even in nature, God still wants the clear distinction between men and women.

15) “But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16) But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

The two last verses on the subject need to be carefully considered, for many misunderstand them.

The Bible explains here that a woman’s hair is given her for her glory (beauty) and as a natural covering, even as the skin is, for example, a natural covering.

Question: Is this natural covering, the one required for the head-covering ordinance to show the way humanity and divinity are linked?

Answer:

While the skin is a natural covering, which one of us would dare to appear in public in nothing but the natural body covering? We judge it proper to put on clothes before appearing before others, right? Likewise, correctly understood, verse 15 is in perfect harmony with verse 6. Two coverings are actually being referred to in these scriptures. One that is given the woman naturally, her hair for beauty and glory, which she cannot put on and take off at will, and

another, like the clothes we put on, which she must put on when praying or prophesying.” This is the only interpretation that harmonizes perfectly the entire passage. The Apostle Paul, an extremely learned man, and specially taught of God with visions and revelations and even “caught up to the third heavens where he learned of things, not lawful to reveal to others, would not be self-contradictory. Any other interpretation of this verse makes it contradict other verses in this same chapter, and thus cannot be correct.

What of verse 16, the last verse in this passage?

16) “But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Question: What is Paul saying here? Is he saying that it is not our custom to obey the ordinances of God?

Answer: No.

What Paul is saying is that it is not our custom as the churches of God, to be contentious and quarrelsome over the requirements of God. When God speaks in other words, it is not our custom to debate, argue and raise arguments in favor of disobedience and contention. Rather when God speaks we obey and that is the end of the matter. This is our custom; this is the custom for the churches of God.

Would it not be nice if we can say the same for the churches of God today? That when the requirements of God are given, there are no debates and strife and disobedience but just loving obedience?

Question: Okay, the word of God here, is much clearer now, but is not head-covering a small matter that has nothing to do with our salvation?

Answer:

Let’s listen to the words of the

Master himself:

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” Luke 16:10

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Luke 6:46

He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 1 John 2:4

John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Question: Are modern Christian women still required to dress modestly?

Answer:

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. 1 Timothy 2:9,10.

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:20

Romans 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15

Do you love Jesus? Are you willing to stand up for him in the face of opposition and ridicule, or are you anxious to be popular and modern? Would you confess him in your daily life, dress and example?

If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15. □

The Spiritual Nature of Pharmaceutical Drugs

By Jim Lynn

The purpose of this report is not to condemn Christians who may still use pharmaceutical drugs, but to point them to a more excellent way to physical and spiritual health. Our hope is that you receive this report in the spirit of love and grace in which it was written. In this report you will learn that:

1. God condemns the use of drugs as witchcraft
2. Drugs affect us spiritually
3. God provides us in all things

Introduction

To introduce our subject, let's consider the following scenario. The year is 100 A.O. You are not feeling well. You go to the local sorcerer, a person known to have mystical powers over good and evil. After telling him your problem, the sorcerer chants a prayer while shaking a magic necklace over your head. The sorcerer then hands you a potion of powdered drugs. He tells you to mix the potion with water; to swallow two cups of the mixture each day until it is gone. Now let's move ahead to present time...

You are not feeling well, so you go to your family physician. After relating your problem and being examined, the physician prescribes a pharmaceutical drug for you to take. You are to swallow two capsules a day until they are gone.

Now the question before us is

this...What do the drug potion of the ancient sorcerer and the pharmaceutical drug of the present day physician both have in common? Answer: They are both fake and condemned by God.

Do You Regularly Consume Pharmaceutical Drugs?

As you read, remember that Satan knows he is defeated. But if he can confuse you by counterfeiting the will of God in your life, he can create havoc. This is what is happening with drugs, and are for many, a form of spiritual bondage - a false reality created in the name of healing.

It's time Christians receive knowledge...To learn God's truth about drugs, to know the spiritual, unloving force behind them and the spiritual consequences for using them. No, we are not talking about illegal drugs. We are talking about legally prescribed pharmaceutical drugs.

Drugs are Lethal, Toxic Failures

In our publications, you have heard me say, "Pharmaceutical dispensed drugs are toxic failures not fit for human consumption." The reason is their own record. Prescribed drug-caused deaths are ranked as the 4th

leading cause of all deaths listed on U.S. mortality table lists. USA Today, Apr 24, 1998, listed the 10 top

killers of man in America. Ranked first to last, the top 10 killers are:

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Strokes
4. Adverse Drug Reactions
5. Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease
6. Accidents (all kinds)
7. Pneumonia and Influenza
8. Diabetes
9. AIDS
10. Suicide

To give you some sense of the numbers, 2 1/2 times as many people die from adverse drug reactions as they do from AIDS. Deaths caused from illegal drugs did not make the top 10 list.

According to JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association), 106,000 people died in 1994 from unintended drug side effects while using LEGALLY prescribed drugs. Two million more people had to be hospitalized from suffering adverse reactions to these same drugs. With such a record, the pharmaceutical industry would be considered criminal by any other civilized standard. However, it is condoned by law, medicine and the CHURCH here in the United States of America.

And for what? In spite of heavy promotion, there has never been a chemical, pharmaceutical drug that has cured a single disease. No drug



ever will. Do you know why?

Drugs Condemned by God

Here is an even more compelling reason why Christians should avoid the continual consumption of drugs ...They are an abomination unto the Lord. Listen to the Word of God:

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and WITCHCRAFT; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. - Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)

What Does Witchcraft Have To Do With Legal Drugs?

Due to translation, the scriptural teaching about drug use is easily overlooked without benefit of a word study. The reason? The Greek word used in the original text that condemns the use of drugs is obscured. The usual translation comes out as "Witchcraft" or "sorceries".

Most Christians recognize witchcraft and sorceries as being the evil it is, and that's good. Used in Acts 13:6, the word "sorcerer" means one who

uses magic. Paul rightfully calls such "a child of the devil" and "full of all kinds of deceit and trickery" (Acts 13:10). But what many of us do not know is the particular meaning of the word "witchcraft" as Paul used it in Galatians 5:19. It has a primary different meaning.

Greek Word Study

The word the Apostle Paul used to denounce drug usage in Galatians 5:19 is "pharmakeia," pronounced far-mak-i'-ah.

Vine's Dictionary of New Testament Words defines pharmakeia as: "PRIMARILY SIGNIFYING THE USE OF MEDICINE, drugs, spells; then poisoning, then sorcery, witchcraft".

Strong's Concordance of the Bible lists pharmakeia, #5331, as: "Medication, by extension magic, literally or figuratively, sorcery, witchcraft."

The root word (source) of pharmakeia is "pharmakeus," Strong's #5332, and means: "a drug, spell-giving potion, druggist, poisoner, by extension a magician or sorcerer."

Witchcraft then, literally means "medication from a pharmacy." In

fact, it is from "pharmakeia" that we get our words pharmacy, pharmacist and pharmacology. God condemns "pharmakeia" because it is of "the works of the flesh," in opposition to "the fruits of the Spirit".

Does This Mean Christians are Condemned For Taking "Medication From a Pharmacy?"

In a word, no!

God's grace is greater than our sin. Read a little further down in Galatians 5: 21 "...those who LIVE like this will not inherit the kingdom of heaven." That word, "live," means to perform routinely or habitually. So, the Lord is referring here of continual, regular drug use.

God never intended that we should spend half our income on drugs to maintain our lives. Drugs, by their very nature, only mask and cover-up health problems. They cannot heal.

Does This Make Short-Term Use Of Drugs Okay?

Drugs are not a black and white issue. Drugs can be useful to kill pain, and stop infection. There are circum-

Finding Truth in the New Codes

Can the New Codes published after 1955 be validated?

The attack on God's word never ceases and never will as long as Satan reigns. But praise God his word is more enduring than the eternal hills. For heaven and earth shall pass away but His word endures forever.

There are a few persons today who are questioning the authenticity of the sermon Codes published after Bro. Houteff's death in 1955. (From 10 Symbolic Code # 7 to 13 Symbolic Codes, # 11, 12). They claim that they may not be genuine because they were published after his death and there are apparent contradictions between the earlier published works by the prophet himself and those of his sermons/writings published afterwards. Can the New Codes be substantiated? It is the purpose of this article to address these important questions and issues.

Now since there are apparent contradictions in both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy also, we would do well not to jump to hasty conclusions but to be what the SOP calls diligent,

"thoughtful, reverent student[s]" who are able to discern the underlying harmony, though on the surface there seem to be contradictions.(GC, V). This point would be discussed more fully with examples later.

Now let us look at an important statement from Inspiration concerning "teaching only that which is published."

"The Symbolic Code" says: "Teach only that which is published." Will you please explain whether this restriction is Intended to include Bible, Spirit of Prophecy, and "The Shepherd's Rod" literature, all together, or just the writings of the "Rod"? Answer:

"The Bible and the books of the Spirit of Prophecy being the sole source of The Shepherd's Rod message, therefore when the Rod is taught, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are taught. And since none but the Spirit of Truth who transmitted the mysteries of Inspiration can interpret them, then those who attempt to teach them without this

Inspired interpretational authority inevitably fall into the forbidden practice of private interpretation (2 Pet. 1 :20)--the great evil which has brought Christendom into its present almost-boundless state of schism and consequent confusion, strife, and impotency.

"As we dare not follow in such a path, we must therefore, as teachers of The Shepherd's Rod (the official publications of the Davidian Seventh-day Association), teach only in the light of the Rod those passages which in one way or another need to be interpreted. Thus only will all Present-truth believers ever become of the same mind, seeing eye to eye and speaking the same things (1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 3:8; Isa. 52:8). And such as do choose to engage in private interpretation are respectfully asked to desist from teaching in the name of the Rod and at its expense. Let them like honest men, teach in their own names and at their own expense." 5 Ans. 55-56.

Now what does the word "publish" mean? For maximum objectivity

we shall consult an official English dictionary. Let us take the Miriam Webster dictionary, for example. Here the word is defined.

- To make generally known
- To disseminate to the public
- To make public announcement
- To produce or release for distribution, print
- To issue the work of an author.

From the above official dictionary definition we see that the word “publish” is NOT limited to the printing press. Consequently, when the prophet preaches a sermon before a congregation or group of persons, it harmonizes perfectly with the dictionary meaning of “publish” –making known/ announcing, etc.

At this point we want to present several solid reasons/evidences why the sermon Codes are trustworthy, scriptural and genuine sermons of Bro. Houteff and then we will address the apparent contradictions and show the underlying harmony. Here are solid facts to consider:

The sermons constituting the so called “New Codes” were presented (published) by Bro. Houteff on the specific dates given before many believers as witnesses. And now we have seen the English dictionary has validated sermons as being included in the word “published”.

Bro. Houteff’s sermons were usually reproduced verbatim (word for word) by designated persons, or written by himself for presentation, and found in his card files.

Thus to question the reliability of memories to reproduce the sermons is not valid; there was no question of depending on persons’ memories. You only had to consult the card files.

These sermons were published

shortly after Bro. Houteff’s death while many of the members and witnesses who heard the sermons were alive and could readily identify with what was preached by the prophet.

There is not a single record of any of the numerous brethren on Mt. Carmel and elsewhere, making the slightest protest concerning the genuineness of these sermons or even insinuating that they were changed, when they were published.

They were not printed 10, 20, 30 or 40 years after his death. Praise God! They were published very shortly after his death, some even the very next year. To repeat, most of those who heard these specific sermons were alive and able to verify. But best of all the sermons had been written, and not just presented orally.

Some of the sermons like “The latter-day confederacy” were presented more than once by bro. Houteff. See 13 SC # 2,3. Thus there were double records in his card files.

The bible says: “.... In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established” 2 Corinthians 13:1-3

Now since the Bible tells us, “in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.” Shall we not follow this biblical principle? Yes, the Bible is always right. Some of these witnesses like Bro. Don Adair, are still alive. Besides we have had several older Caucasian brethren who were part of Waco and heard Bro. Houteff’s sermons, etc, brethren who have been in Mt. Carmel New York, HQ for many years, and there never was the slightest doubt about the genuineness of these sermons. Shall we now more than 50 years later allow a non-witness to rob us of these priceless treasures because he cannot harmonize them to his satisfaction, or

be one who may actually have another agenda?

“But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.” Isaiah 42:21-23.

What the enemy did to Seventh Day Adventist through infiltrators, as reflected in this scripture, (see 1 Answerer p. 70), don’t you think that he will try to do to Davidians (rob and spoil us of our precious truth through sophistry or other means)? Shall we not be on guard?

The prophet warns us: “Teach the message as it is—add nothing to it, neither take anything from it. ...”

Please let us be aware that there are several ways of taking away from God’s word. One of the most subtle and hence, more dangerous, is to take away the effect of his Word by casting doubt on its authenticity. Let us be wise like the Bereans and know that some of the most dangerous enemies of the Message are it’s pretended friends.

Apparent Contradictions in Old and New Codes

First of all, let it be well understood that there are apparent contradictions even in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and this is quite normal. The Spirit of Prophecy explains it thus:

“Written in different ages, by men who differed widely in rank and occupation, and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible present a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. Different forms of expression are employed by different writers; often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than by

another. And as several writers present a subject under varied aspects and relations, there may appear, to the superficial, careless, or prejudiced reader, to be discrepancy or contradiction, where the thoughtful, reverent student, with clearer insight, discerns the underlying harmony". – {GC vi.1}.

There are also unfair comparisons by designing men. Is the opposer of the sermon Codes prejudiced?

Now let us seek for "the underlying harmony" in the apparent contradictions.

Time of Jacob's trouble

There are references showing that Jacob's time of trouble is after Ezekiel 9, the purification of the church. There are also evidences and types to show that there will be a time of trouble for Jacob with his brother Esau before the purification. So is there really a problem? In reality no. Jacob will have trouble "before and behind", before the purification and after the purification. Now let us examine these harmonious positions.

The following references establish that on his way home to Palestine, Jacob will have trouble: 2TG #10, 29-31; FB 12,13; 2SC #9:6; 2SC #1:9-10; 10SC#8:4; 11SC #1:13; 13SC #1,2:10." Since no one questions these--(trouble for Jacob after Ezekiel 9), we need not elaborate on this aspect.

But here are other points to consider, which though on the surface contradictory, are in reality evidence of good underlying accord. Let us look at 1Tr. p. 38,39; and 11 SC 7:8-9. We will also compare the two statements one from the Old Code or literature and the other from the so-called "New Codes"

"After the sighing and crying ones

were marked (which is not to be understood as being consummated in its entirety worldwide before the slaying follows anywhere), the slaughter completed, and the matter reported, the Lord "spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. Ezek. 10:2.

Notice the point of focus in this paragraph: "which is not to be understood as being consummated in its entirety worldwide before the slaying follows anywhere". This is in perfect harmony with the statement expressed in 11SC 7: 8-9. (Blue Book 591).

"You notice here that the angels are not told to hold the winds until Ezekiel 9 has all been fulfilled, but until the servants of God are sealed."

The one statement is saying that the hurting by the angels could start before sealing is fully completed, and the other statement is saying there could be some trouble by the winds before Ezekiel 9. Now the problem only comes if we mark out an EXACT time line for each event as though there could be no blending or overlapping. Bro. Houteff, in the following quote cautions against this in addressing a questioner who had fallen into the error of an exact and narrow time line for some prophetic events. (Blue Book 280):

"The trouble lies in the fact that the questioner draws for these events a prescribed line that is altogether too narrowly confined to time, that is, taking for granted that because the time of trouble is to be in the time of the plagues, it could not commence before. Then too, a large proportion of what we read in the publications in question must not be taken as an

absolute time prophecy of the events mentioned, but simply as an interpretation of Scriptures as they were understood at that time, which interpretation was based, of course, upon the limited light then shining on the Scriptures. Hence as this light must increase and the Scriptures must shine brighter and brighter as the rays reach farther and farther each passing day, we must expect to see more now than they saw then." (emphasis ours).

Another point to consider: The fear factor

Why would Jacob be exceedingly afraid as projected in Jeremiah 30:5-8? "Every man with his hands on his loins as a woman in travail", if Ezekiel 9 has already passed and he consequently knows that he is alive and therefore sealed and cannot die? Why would he be afraid if he is already sealed to be part of the 144,000 who cannot die, for nothing can take his life? In short, why would the sealed and protected (144,000) be terribly afraid? It would only make sense if this takes place BEFORE Ezekiel 9, when they are not sure who is sealed. Why should they be frightened, knowing that they are sealed and cannot die?

We QUOTE from 1 TG 47:14-15 Jer. 30:7 -- "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."

"The people that have come to this antitypical time of trouble are returning to the homeland, are comforted. Apparently it is bad enough to frighten all, but God's encouraging counsel is, "Fear not."

Plainly, the burden of this chapter is concerning the antitypical returning to the homeland. Though terrible the trouble may seem, yet the outcome

of it is to be the same as in the type. Right now we may not appreciate this study as we ought to, but the time is soon coming in which we will dig as fast and as hard for it as we would to get out from under an avalanche. Those who have but little faith in the Word of God though, the study will not do them much good. Now is the time to start cultivating the faith we need to have then.

Some questions on this same point:

“Would there be any persons of the 144,000 (the escaped ones), with “little faith in the Word of God” after the sealing and Ezekiel 9? Would not this have to be before?

Also, after Ezekiel 9, why would the 144,000 who are sealed, safe, delivered from the slaughter and protected, need to be fearfully digging “as fast and as hard for it [this study] as we would to get out from under an avalanche.” This would only make sense in their trouble BEFORE Ezekiel 9, does it not? Consider also in the following quote, the emphasis and significance of the word “before”.

Speaking of Esau and Jacob, Inspiration explains: 1 SR 53-54:

“The children struggled before they were delivered. In this, too, must be a lesson. It is intended to point out the time when the application is made. It has been defined by the father’s age that the lesson is for a later period. The children’s struggle was before they were delivered; the lesson, then, is for God’s people just before they are delivered.

The Time And Church

The lesson can not be in two churches. Why? Because they are born from one mother. They must come under the same message. Why? Because they are begotten by the

same father. If this is the generation that will witness the end, and the church that shall be delivered and be translated without tasting death, then this must be the time to which this lesson applies. Now the question is, In which church shall it find its fulfillment? It can only find its fulfillment in God’s true church. If the Protestant churches have fallen and are termed Babylon, then they have neither part nor lot in this lesson. If the Seventh-day Adventist church is the true Israel, and has a message which no other organization teaches; and if the message we bear is, the advent of Christ and the end of the world in this generation, then this is the church.” Shepherd’s Rod book, Vol. 1 54

Two Classes Of People

The Bible says the twins represent two classes of people. If this is true, then we have two classes of people in the church. One class is represented by Esau, the other by Jacob. Referring to Testimonies to Ministers, page 46, we read: “There are two opposing influences continually exerted on the members of the church. One influence is working for the purification of the church, and the other for the corrupting of the people of God.” One of the twins was red and hairy, and the other smooth and white. Both people are sinful. Why? Because Esau was red, which is scarlet, the sign of sin. Jacob was white, but the name betrays the man, for the name “Jacob” means “deceiver.”

Symbol Of Birthright

Esau was the one born first. Whatever was to be inherited by the birthright was to be Esau’s. The law of the Bible is that the first-born had the right to the priesthood. For this

reason, Jacob coveted Esau’s birthright. Esau, then, represents a class of priesthood.” 1 SR 53,54.

Thus Inspiration makes it ABSOLUTELY CLEAR the time in which this struggle and deliverance must take place. Jacob and Esau are from the same womb, same church with one father. And as Esau cannot attempt to take the life of Jacob with the help of gentile soldiers, after Ezekiel 9, he must attempt this killing of his brother (Jacob’s time of trouble), before Ezekiel 9.

This is an irrefutable point: how can Esau persecute Jacob after he is dead in Ezekiel 9? Can the dead Esau come back and persecute his brother (unless we believe in spiritualism, and reject Eccl. 9:5,6, that the dead know not anything)? Now according to the Bible and Inspiration, Esau and Jacob were from the same womb (the same church in our case), (See also 1 TG 45:12-16, 23; 1TG 49:7) in which they struggled even before birth (Hos. 12:3; Gen. 25:22-23). Moreover, Esau did nothing less than attempt to kill his brother along with 400 gentile soldiers. So could our brothers in the Laodicean church (from the same womb), do this to us in the antitype after they are dead in the purification of the church? Did not the prophet explain that “where there is no type there is no truth.”? (1 TG 47:14,15). 1 Obviously they cannot persecute the 144,000 in any form after they are dead, therefore this antitypical persecution of Jacob by his brother in the SDA church, must take place BEFORE Ezekiel 9. Jacob consequently will have trouble before and after Ezekiel 9, but will be delivered. □

(To be continued)

The Ministerial Department

Coconut

The Tree of Life



The scientific name for coconut is *Cocos nucifera*. Early Spanish explorers called it coco, which means “monkey face” because the three indentations (eyes) on the hairy nut resembles the head and face of a monkey. *Nucifera* means “nut-bearing.”

The coconut provides a nutritious source of meat, juice, milk, and oil that has fed and nourished populations around the world for generations. On many islands coconut is a staple in the diet and provides the majority of the food eaten. Nearly one third of the world’s population depends on coconut to some degree for their food and their economy. Among these cultures the coconut has a long and respected history.

Coconut is highly nutritious and rich in fiber, vitamins, and minerals. It is classified as a “functional food” because it provides many health benefits beyond its nutritional content. Coconut oil is of special interest because it possesses healing properties far beyond that of any other dietary oil and is extensively used in traditional medicine among Asian and Pacific populations. Pacific Islanders consider coconut oil to be the cure for all illness. The coconut palm is so highly valued by them as both a source of food and medicine that it is called “The Tree of Life.” Only recently has modern medical science unlocked the secrets to coconut’s amazing healing powers.

Coconut In Traditional Medicine

People from many diverse cultures, languages, religions, and races scattered around the globe have revered the coconut as a valuable source of both food and medicine. Wherever the coconut palm grows the people

have learned of its importance as a effective medicine. For thousands of years coconut products have held a respected and valuable place in local folk medicine.

In traditional medicine around the world coconut is used to treat a wide variety of health problems including the following: abscesses, asthma, baldness, bronchitis, bruises, burns, colds, constipation, cough, dropsy, dysentery, earache, fever, flu, gingivitis, gonorrhea, irregular or painful menstruation, jaundice, kidney stones, lice, malnutrition, nausea, rash, scabies, scurvy, skin infections, sore throat, swelling, syphilis, toothache, tuberculosis, tumors, typhoid, ulcers, upset stomach, weakness, and wounds.

Coconut In Modern Medicine

Modern medical science is now confirming the use of coconut in treating many of the above conditions. Published studies in medical journals show that coconut, in one form or another, may provide a wide range of health benefits. Some of these are summarized below:

- Kills viruses that cause influenza, herpes, measles, hepatitis C, SARS, AIDS, and other illnesses.
- Kills bacteria that cause ulcers, throat infections, urinary tract infections, gum disease and cavities, pneumonia, and gonorrhea, and other diseases.
- Kills fungi and yeasts that cause candidiasis, ringworm, athlete's foot, thrush, diaper rash, and other infections.
- Expels or kills tapeworms, lice, giardia, and other parasites.
- Provides a nutritional source of quick energy.

- Boosts energy and endurance, enhancing physical and athletic performance.
- Improves digestion and absorption of other nutrients including vitamins, minerals, and amino acids.
- Improves insulin secretion and utilization of blood glucose.
- Relieves stress on pancreas and enzyme systems of the body.
- Reduces symptoms associated with pancreatitis.
- Helps relieve symptoms and reduce health risks associated with diabetes.
- Reduces problems associated with malabsorption syndrome and cystic fibrosis.
- Improves calcium and magnesium absorption and supports the development of strong bones and teeth.
- Helps protect against osteoporosis.
- Helps relieve symptoms associated with gallbladder disease.
- Relieves symptoms associated with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and stomach ulcers.
- Improves digestion and bowel function.
- Relieves pain and irritation caused by hemorrhoids.
- Reduces inflammation.
- Supports tissue healing and repair.
- Supports and aids immune system function.
- Helps protect the body from breast, colon, and other cancers.
- Is heart healthy; improves cholesterol ratio reducing risk of heart disease.
- Protects arteries from injury that causes atherosclerosis and thus protects against heart disease.
- Helps prevent periodontal disease and tooth decay.
- Functions as a protective antioxidant.
- Helps to protect the body from harmful free radicals that promote premature aging and degenerative disease.
- Does not deplete the body's antioxidant reserves like other oils do.
- Improves utilization of essential fatty acids and protects them from oxidation.
- Helps relieve symptoms associated with chronic fatigue syndrome.
- Relieves symptoms associated with benign prostatic hyperplasia (prostate enlargement).
- Reduces epileptic seizures.
- Helps protect against kidney disease and bladder infections.
- Dissolves kidney stones.
- Helps prevent liver disease.
- Is lower in calories than all other fats.
- Supports thyroid function.
- Promotes loss of excess weight by increasing metabolic rate.
- Is utilized by the body to produce energy in preference to being stored as body fat like other dietary fats.
- Helps prevent obesity and overweight problems.
- Applied topically helps to form a chemical barrier on the skin to ward off infection.
- Reduces symptoms associated with psoriasis, eczema, and dermatitis.
- Supports the natural chemical

balance of the skin.

- Softens skin and helps relieve dryness and flaking.
- Prevents wrinkles, sagging skin, and age spots.
- Promotes healthy looking hair and complexion.
- Provides protection from damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation from the sun.
- Helps control dandruff.
- Does not form harmful by-products when heated to normal cooking temperature like other vegetable oils do.
- Has no harmful or discomforting side effects.
- Is completely non-toxic to humans.
- See Research to read some of the published studies regarding the above mentioned uses of coconut products.

Coconut Oil

While coconut possesses many health benefits due to its fiber and

nutritional content, it's the oil that makes it a truly remarkable food and medicine. Once mistakenly believed to be unhealthy because of its high saturated fat content, it is now known that the fat in coconut oil is a unique and different from most all other fats and possesses many health giving properties. It is now gaining long overdue recognition as a nutritious health food.

Coconut oil has been described as "the healthiest oil on earth." That's quite a remarkable statement. What makes coconut oil so good? What makes it different from all other oils, especially other saturated fats?

The difference is in the fat molecule. All fats and oils are composed of molecules called fatty acids. There are two methods of classifying fatty acids. The first you are probably familiar with, is based on saturation. You have saturated fats, monounsaturated fats, and polyunsaturated fats. Another system of classification is based on molecular size or length of the carbon chain within each fatty acid. Fatty

acids consist of long chains of carbon atoms with hydrogen atoms attached. In this

system you have short-chain fatty acids (SCFA), medium-chain fatty acids (MCFA), and long-chain fatty acids (LCFA).

Coconut oil is composed predominately of medium-chain fatty acids (MCFA), also known as medium-chain triglycerides (MCT).

The vast majority

of fats and oils in our diets, whether they are saturated or unsaturated or come from animals or plants, are composed of long-chain fatty acids (LCFA). Some 98 to 100% of all the fatty acids you consume are LCFA.

The size of the fatty acid is extremely important. Why? Because our bodies respond to and metabolize each fatty acid differently depending on its size. So the physiological effects of MCFA in coconut oil are distinctly different from those of LCFA more commonly found in our foods. The saturated fatty acids in coconut oil are predominately medium-chain fatty acids. Both the saturated and unsaturated fat found in meat, milk, eggs, and plants (including most all vegetable oils) are composed of LCFA.

MCFA are very different from LCFA. They do not have a negative effect on cholesterol and help to protect against heart disease. MCFA help to lower the risk of both atherosclerosis and heart disease. It is primarily due to the MCFA in coconut oil that makes it so special and so beneficial.

There are only a very few good dietary sources of MCFA. By far the best sources are from coconut and palm kernel oils.

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Forty Years in the Wilderness

Part 2

By Taylor G. Bunch



Just as Israel “murmured in their tents” and criticized God’s chosen leader who was endeavoring to lead them into the promised land, so modern Israel reenacted those scenes at Minneapolis in 1888.

“God has raised up His messengers to do His work for this time. Some have turned from the message of the righteousness of Christ to criticize the men and their imperfections . . . Christ has registered all the hard, proud, sneering speeches spoken against His servants as against Himself.” *Review and Herald* May 27, 1890.

“I shall never again, I think, be called to stand under the direction of the Holy Spirit as I stood at Minneapolis. The presence of Jesus was with me. All assembled in that meeting had an opportunity to place themselves on the side of truth by receiving the Holy Spirit which was sent by God in such a rich current of love and mercy. But in the rooms occupied by some of our people were heard ridicule, criticism, jeering, laughter. The manifestations of the Holy Spirit were attributed to fanaticism . . . The scenes which took place at that meeting made the God of heaven ashamed to call those who took part in them His brethren. All this the heavenly Watcher noticed, and it was written in the book of God’s remembrance.” *Special Testimony to Review and Herald Office*, pp. 16, 17, written in 1896.

That the Lord fully intended to take modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan over forty years ago is evident from the following statements from the Spirit of Prophecy: “If these had done their work the world would have been warned ere this.” *Review and Herald*, October 6, 1896.

“Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God.” Vol. 6:450 (written about the year 1900).

“Had the people of God preserved a living connection from the beginning of the Advent movement they would today be in the heavenly Canaan.” *Stewardship Series*, No. 1, pp. 3, 4. Because of their unbelief manifested in the rejection of the message sent to prepare them for the heavenly Canaan, the Lord had to alter His purpose and turn the Advent people back into the wilderness of sin till they learn the lesson of faith.

“His people have been far behind. Human agencies, under the divine planning, may recover something of what is lost because the people who have had great light did not have corresponding piety, sanctification, and zeal, in working out God’s specified plans . . . Man cannot possibly

“The history of ancient Israel is a striking illustration of the past experience of the Adventist body.”

stretch over the gulf that has been made by the workers who have not been following the divine Leader. We may have to remain here in this world, because of insubordination, many more years, as did the children of Israel, but for Christ's sake, His people should not add sin to sin.” Unpublished Testimony, December 7, 1901.

“The history of ancient Israel is a striking illustration of the past experience of the Adventist body. God led the children of Israel from Egypt.... If all who had labored unitedly in the work in 1844 had received the third angel's message and proclaimed it in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts. A flood of light would have been shed upon the world. Years ago the inhabitants of the earth would have been warned, and the closing work completed, and Christ would have come for the redemption of His people. It was not the will of God that Israel should wander forty years in the wilderness. He desired to lead them directly to the land of Canaan, and establish them there a holy, happy people. But they could not enter in because of unbelief. Because of their backsliding and apostasy, they perished in the desert, and others were raised up to enter the promised land. In like manner, it was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be so long delayed and His people should remain so many years in this world of sin and sorrow. But unbelief separated them from God.” G.C., 457, 458.

Thus the coming of Christ had to be delayed and the church entered into the “tarrying time.” This also explains the parable of the ten virgins. All went forth to meet the bridegroom, but because He tarried they all slumbered and slept. Scores of statements in the Spirit of Prophecy declare that God's people are asleep, ministers and lay members. To the ten virgins there came an awakening cry, “Behold the bridegroom cometh: go ye out to meet him.” All heard the message, but only five, or half of them, made the necessary preparation to enter into the marriage. At the close of the tarrying time there will be given an awakening message to the Advent people. How sad that many will not heed its warning and make the necessary preparation to enter the kingdom and partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb. The preparation necessary is to accept as a gift and put on the robe of Christ's righteousness.

(See Rev. 19:7-9.)

It is very evident that the rejection of God's special message in 1888, which resulted in the altering of His purpose to take His people directly into the promised land marked the beginning of a spiritual retreat toward the world or Egypt. In fact, this retreat had already begun and was the reason for the special message to prepare them to enter the heavenly Canaan. “Many have for years made no advancement in knowledge and true holiness. They are spiritual dwarfs. Instead of going forward to perfection, they are going back to the darkness and bondage of Egypt.” Vol. 2:124.

“As a people, we are not advancing in spirituality as we near the end.” Vol. 5:11. “My heart aches day after day and night after night for our churches. Many are progressing, but in the back track.” Id. 93.

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing, and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders. The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God is leavening our churches everywhere.” Vol. 5:217.

“The influence that grew out of the resistance of light and truth at Minneapolis, tended to make of no effect the light that God had given to His people through the “Testimonies.” General Conference Bulletin, Feb. 28, 1893.

“Since the time of the Minneapolis meeting I have seen the state of the Laodicean church as never before. I have heard the rebuke of God spoken to those who feel so well satisfied, who know not their spiritual destitution . . . Like the Jews, many have closed their eyes lest they should see; but there is a great peril now, in closing the eyes to light and in walking apart from Christ, feeling need of nothing, as there was when He was upon earth.” Review and Herald, August 26, 1890.

Like Ancient Israel after being turned back from Kadesh-barnea, the Advent movement did not go all the way back to Egypt or the world. But they have gone a long way and there have remained in the Laodicean condition, neither going back into the world nor progressing towards the heavenly Canaan, but wandering about in the wilderness, and camping around the mount of the law. "Sinning and repenting and sinning and repenting," there has been no material change unless for the worse. No person can read Revelation 3:14-17 and the scores of statements in the Spirit of Prophecy regarding our spiritual condition and deny that we have been retreating towards the world spiritually and wandering about in the wilderness of sin. Like ancient Israel, the Advent people "in their hearts turned back again into Egypt." At the same time we have been boasting of progress and cheering.

"In many hearts there seems to be scarcely a breath of spiritual life . . . Shall we cheer on, by a half-dead Christianity, the selfish, covetous spirit of the world, sharing its ungodliness and smiling on its falsehoods? Nay . . . God brings against ministers and people the heavy charge of spiritual feebleness, saying "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot . . . God calls for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation." Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1902.

"There are many, many professed Christians who are waiting unconcernedly for the coming of the Lord. They have not on the garment of His righteousness. They may profess to be children of God, but they are not cleansed from sin. They are selfish and self-sufficient. Their experience is Christless. They neither love God supremely nor their neighbor as themselves. They have no true idea of what constitutes holiness. They do not see the defects in themselves. So blinded are they that they are not able to detect the subtle working of pride and iniquity. They are clad in the rags of blindness. Satan has cast his shadow between them and Christ, and they have no wish to study the pure and holy character of the Saviour." Review and Herald, Feb. 26, 1901. "Daily the church is becoming converted to the world." Vol. 8:119.

The church in its present condition is declared to be in the Laodicean state and "like a vast hospital filled with the sick and dying." Every person who has been connected with this message for twenty years or more knows that while material prosperity has attended our work we have, as a people, been retreating toward the world spiritually. Spiritual progress and prosperity is the only kind God recognizes. "If numbers were evidence of success, Satan

might claim the pre-eminence.

It is the degree of moral power pervading the college, that is the test of its prosperity. It is the virtue, intelligence, and piety of the people composing our churches, not their numbers, that should be a source of joy and thankfulness." Vol. 5:31, 32.

While Israel rejected God at Kadesh-barnea and He had to lead them back into the wilderness, He did not forsake them or cast them off, nor start a new movement. Even though the records of their wilderness life reveal little else except rebellions against the Lord, yet He loved them above all people on the earth and patiently led them in a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. "He knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing." Deut. 2:7.

"Thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness; the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way neither the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way wherein they should go." Neh. 9:19.

"He found him in a desert land, and in the waste, howling wilderness; He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye." "In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old." Deut. 32:10, Isa. 63:9.

In like manner, notwithstanding modern Israel's wilderness wandering in the awful Laodicean condition, the Lord loves the remnant of the church above all the people, for they are His chosen people, and He will not forsake them nor start a new movement. He will finally purge out the rebels and take the movement through to the heavenly Canaan.

"Enfeebled and defective, needing constantly to be warned and counseled, the church is nevertheless the object of Christ's supreme regard." Vol. 7:16.

"Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His church. Nothing is guarded by Him with such jealous care. Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service." Vol. 6:42.

"God has a people in which all heaven is interested, and they are the one object on earth dear to the heart of God." Testimonies to Ministers p. 41. This entire chapter is a warning against those who would call the remnant of the church Babylon because of her spiritual condition. □

Taken from: 40 Years in the wilderness

Continued from page 9

“remember Lot’s wife,” and do as the Lord bids you.”
Answerer Booklet, Vol. 4, p. 41-44.

Cannot my home be His “Storehouse”?

Is it Scriptural for one to retain and personally use his tithe and offerings in order to carry on the gospel work in his own community, according to his own plans?

“Nowhere in the Scriptures do we find permission to use the Lord’s money at our own discretion. The only justification for so doing would be sheer inability, for some reason to send it to the Lord’s “storehouse.” Should one voluntarily, though, engage in such a practice then he would set the wrong example before others. And if following in his lead, others assume the same right, their course must inevitably result in seriously handicapping the Lord’s work, bleeding and subverting His treasury, and thus disorganizing His work and reducing the church to a mere shell, while her members are hiring themselves as laborers in the Lord’s vineyard, helping themselves to the Lord’s money, and running without having been sent! What a Babylon that would be!

Though the Lord commands, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse” (Mal. 3: 10), He does not say to bring all the offerings. Thus, He shows that if we would engage in some personal charity or missionary activity, we should sustain it from offerings, not from the tithe.

“Angels keep a faithful record of every man’s work, and as judgment passes upon the house of God, the sentence of each is recorded by his name, and the angel is commissioned to spare not the unfaithful servants, but to cut them down at the time of slaughter....And the crowns they might have worn, had they been faithful, are put upon the heads of those saved by the faithful servants....” *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p. 198. *Answerer Booklet*, Vol. 4, p. 45

Is it my duty to set right the Lord’s treasury?

Should we pay our tithe to the “storehouse” if we know that it is not used rightly?

“Knowing that our tithe belongs to God’s storehouse, our greatest burden should be to see that it is faithfully paid there. Nowhere in the Bible do we find that the Lord has laid upon any tithe payer the policing of the channels through which these funds pass.

The Lord’s treasury is under His control, and if He Himself should not see fit to correct an abuse in the handling of His money, certainly we could not correct it however hard we might try. If we guard carefully that part of His work which He entrusts to us, our only concern

will be to find out where His “storehouse” is, and then faithfully to deposit His money there. He has not made us responsible for its use; that, He will personally take over--even as He is now “taking the reins in His own hands.”

When the Promised Land was divided among the twelve tribes of Israel, the tribe of Levi received no land for an inheritance, as did the eleven tribes. Instead, the Lord decreed that the tithes of the other tribes were to go to the Levites. This was their inheritance. It was actually their own. And just as they, as the tithe receivers, had no right to dictate to the others, the tithe payers, what to do with their own increase after it had been tithed, so the tithe payers had no right to dictate to the tithe receivers what to do with the tithe. Each tribe was itself to be accountable to the Lord for that which He had entrusted to it. Thus it must be today.” *Answerer Booklet*, Vol. 4, p. 46.

What is subject to tithing?

Deuteronomy 14:22 says: “Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.” How shall I tithe my crop?

To facilitate answering this question, let us consider for example the case of a potato grower. Say that he is without expense for hired labor, irrigation, rent, etc. If free from such overhead and if his gross returns are \$50 an acre, then the whole amount would be subject to tithe, which of course would be \$5 an acre. If, however, he must operate with an overhead expense to produce his crop, then obviously such expense should be deducted from the gross value of the produce, and only the remainder tithed. For instance, if the gross value of the crop be \$50 an acre, and the overhead expense \$10 an acre, then the net increase, the amount subject to tithe, would be \$40 an acre, and the tithe only \$4 instead of \$5 an acre.

If, on the other hand, one is a wage earner, sustaining the expense of social security, transportation to and from work, etc., then he deducts the amount of such expenses from his wages before tithing them. For example, if he receives \$100 a month wages, and if he must spend 10 cents a day, or about \$2.60 a month, for transportation, he then deducts \$2.60 from \$100, which leaves \$97.40 to tithe.

If one’s income is from rentals, then he deducts the amount spent on upkeep of the property from his untithed gross income. Thus figuring one’s income, one tithes all his increase.” *Answerer Booklet*, Vol. 4, p. 47. □

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Session Reminder

Session this year is being held for two weeks from July 25th through August 9th.

Accommodations

Accommodations for Session will be provided for cardholders primarily. Accommodations for all other attendees will be determined by availability. We will, however, make every effort to accommodate everyone. If you are planning to attend the Session and need housing, please contact the office.

Also, please be reminded that the business meetings can only be attended by card-holding members, while the religious meetings are open for attendance by all. It is also necessary to remind all visitors to Mt. Carmel that it is important to adhere to the various standards (dress, health, etc.)

Each branch/individual is encouraged to submit items

for the Session Agenda as soon as possible, and don't forget – REACQUAINT YOURSELVES WITH THE BY-LAWS! Thus far, the items submitted for the agenda are:

Business:

- Finances
- Mass Distribution of Literature
- Mt. Carmel Cemetery
- Mt. Carmel's Responsibility re: the aged
- Publishing/Printing Books
- Life/burial Insurance
- Land Development

Religious

- Book of Life
- Davidian Marriages/children
- Feast Laws
- New Moon Sabbaths
- 144,000
- Who is the Joshua of today?

Session Schedule

Date	Time	Event
Friday, July 25	7:30-9:00 pm	**Opening Meetings
Sabbath, July 26th	9:45 am - Sunset	*All Day Religious Convocation
Sunday, July 27th	8:45 am - 6:00 pm	**Religious Meetings
Monday, July 28th	2:30 pm - 6 pm	*Business Meetings
Tuesday, July 29th	8:45 am - 6 pm	*Business Meetings
Wednesday, July 30th	8:45 am - 6 pm	*Business Meetings
Thursday, July 31st	All day	**Social Activities
Friday, August 1st	8:45 am - Noon	*Business Meetings/**Sabbath Prep.
Friday, August 1st	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	**Evening Services
Sabbath, August 2nd	9:45 am - Sunset	*All Day Religious Convocation
Sunday, August 3rd	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	**Religious Meetings
Monday, August 4th	8:45 am - 6 pm	**Religious Meetings
Tuesday, August 5th	8:45 am - 6 pm	**Religious Meetings
Wednesday, August 6th	8:45 am - 6 pm	*Business Meetings
Thursday, August 7th	All day	**Social Activities
Friday, August 8th	9:00 am - Noon	*Business Meetings/**Sabbath Prep.
Friday, August 8th	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	**Evening Services
Sabbath, August 9th	9:45 am - Sunset	**All Day Religious Convocation

**All Day Religious Convocation

*Cardholders

**Open to All

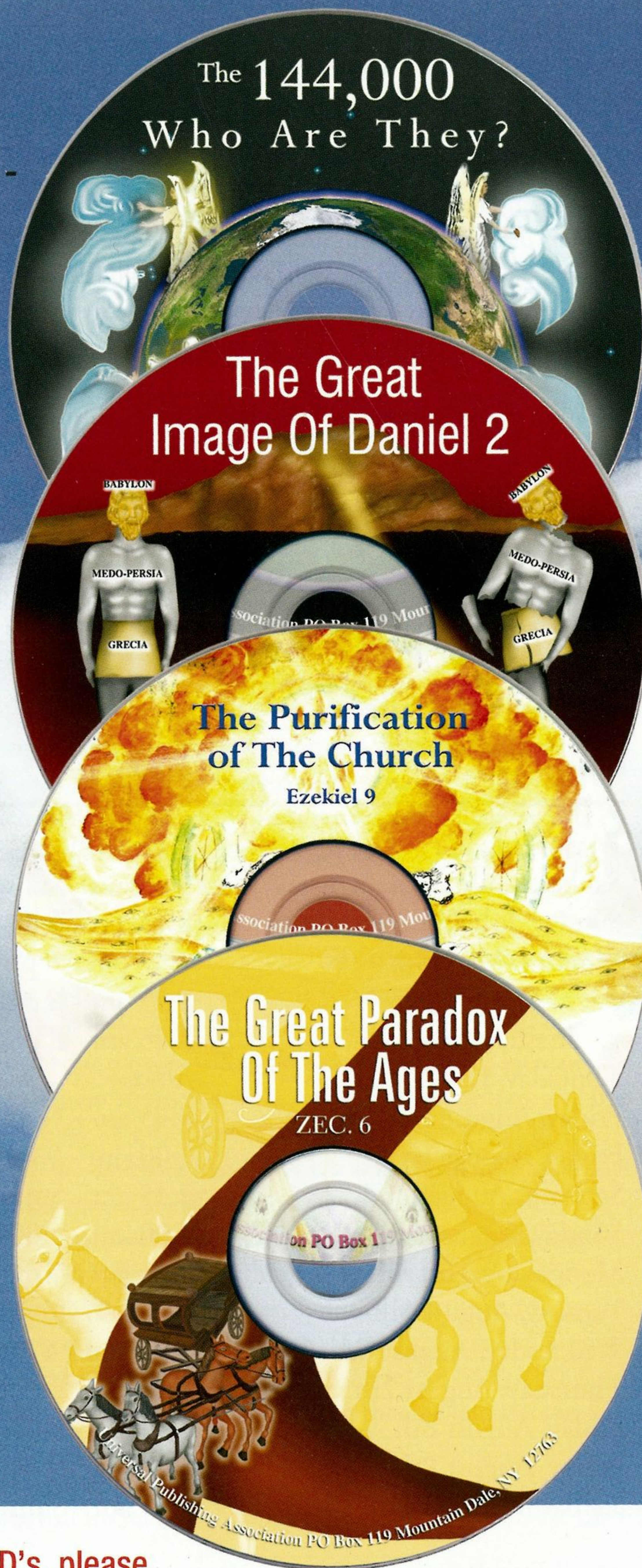
Free Audio Studies

Learn about this most crucial topic of the 144,000 - Who are they? And can you be a part of this special group of people? Learn what will happen to those who are not a part of this group.

We are very familiar with the ancient prophecy of Daniel 2, but is the stone really a picture of Jesus? And where did the stone come from? And why does the stone grow into a mountain? This CD will answer these important questions.

Did you know that the Lord is about to cleanse the SDA church by removing the unfaithful from its midst? And that this purification takes place before Jesus comes the second time? Request this invaluable CD to learn how.

This audio study of Zechariah 6 will show you the struggle that is waging within the SDA church that will culminate in a change of leadership just before the "Loud Cry"



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