

Soul's in Peril

By Ellen G. White

The angel that stood at my side then instructed me that but few have any conception of the wickedness existing in our world today, and especially the wickedness in the large cities. He declared that the Lord has appointed a time when He will visit transgressors in wrath for persistent disregard of His law. . . .

In harmony with the light given me, I am urging people to come out from the great centers of population. Our cities are increasing in wickedness, and it is becoming more and more evident that those who remain in them unnecessarily do so at the peril of their soul's salvation.

—Country Living, 9.

Future for America

Mission Statement

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now *present truth*. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the **prophetic word** includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the **medical missionary work**. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, **country living** becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute **truth-filled literature**, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a **printing operation** with their own resources.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 SOUL'S IN PERIL
ELLEN G. WHITE
- 3 F. Y. I.
Denise Matlean
- 4 PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
Ellen G. White
- 6 SIN SHALL NOT HAVE DOMINION . . .
Charles Fitch
- 9 CHINA TALES WORTH TELLING
David L. Lin
- 10 TIMELINES
- 12 LETTERS
- 13 AN APPEAL TO PARENTS
Ellen G. White
- 15 COLOMBIAN EARTHQUAKE UPDAYE
Norberto, Jr. (Tico) & Ivonne Restrepo

Future for America

Editor Jeff Pippenger

Associate Editors Denise Matlean
Steven Spencer

Contributors: Stephen Dickie
David L. Lin
Pat Rampy
Tanna Spencer

Circulation Steven Spencer

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E-MAIL:
Jeff Pippenger: JeffPippenger@msn.com
Denise Matlean: MI_ZPEHSELA@aol.com

Future for America

This Newsletter is published monthly by:

Future For America, Inc.

P. O. Box 10

Wildersville, TN 38388

Toll Free Telephone

(888) 278-7744

Spanish

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Future for America has come into existence so that meat in due season may reach the flock at this time. . . . It is present truth that the flock needs now. We look to add our *flavor* to the many ministries available today.

Future For America is a self-supporting 501-C3 nonprofit corporation, and is funded by readers like you. We exist to assist those who are striving to be among the 144,000—through the Prophetic Word and the Health Message—by the power of the Holy Spirit. We hope to help God's people teach our Health Message by using the effective teaching and learning tools which we will provide. We also hope to inspire lay persons to do this by arousing them to the lateness of the hour through the Prophetic messages found in this publication, in seminars, and available in books and on both audio and video tapes.

***F.Y.I....**

****For Your Information**

By Ellen G. White

I have been impressed with the subject of the influence of the church—what this influence should be. By earnest prayer the members are to obtain power that will make their influence a savor of life unto life. What is needed today is practical Christianity, not merely for a day or a year, but for a lifetime. The man who professes to be a Christian, and yet reveals in his life no practical godliness, is denying Christ. Opposite his name in the books of heaven are written the words, Unfaithful steward.

How is the world to be enlightened, save by the lives of Christ's followers? You profess to believe in Christ, to be a follower of His. Do you do His works? Can the world see plainly that you have been with Jesus, and learned of Him? How are unbelievers to know that you belong to Christ if you show no zeal in His service, but instead cherish worldly ambition and follow worldly plans? Christ declares, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Matthew 12:30.

God can not prepare for the day of trial before us those who are careless and indifferent. With those who are neither cold nor hot he has nothing to do. "I would thou wert cold or hot," He says. "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15-16. The half-hearted Christian exerts an influence more harmful than the influence of the avowed infidel.

There are many whose lives are but a pretense of godliness.

They are a law unto themselves, and they always will be, unless the grace of Christ subdues their hearts. They lift up their souls unto vanity, and God has no use for them in His service.

The Will of God Concerning You

Our sanctification is God's object in all His dealings with us. He has chosen us from eternity that we might be holy. Christ gave Himself for our redemption, that through faith in His power to save from sin, we might be made complete in Him. In giving us His Word, He has given us bread from heaven. He declares that if we eat His flesh and drink His blood, we shall receive eternal life.

As Christians we have pledged ourselves to fulfill the responsibilities resting on us, and to show to the world that we have a close connection with God. Thus, through the good words and works of His disciples, Christ is to be represented and honored.

God expects of us perfect obedience to His law. This law is the echo of His voice, saying to us, Holier, yea, holier still. Desire after the fullness of the grace of Christ, yea, long—hunger and thirst—after righteousness. The promise is, "Ye *shall* be filled." See Matthew 5:6. Let your heart be filled with a longing for this righteousness, the work of which God's Word declares to be peace, and its effect quietness and assurance forever.

God has plainly stated that He expects us to be perfect, and because He expects this, He has made provision for us to be par-

takers of the divine nature. Only thus can we gain success in striving for eternal life. The power is given by Christ. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12.

God's people are to reflect to the world the bright rays of His glory. But in order for them to do this, they must stand where these rays can fall on them. They must co-operate with God. The heart must be cleansed of all that leads to wrong. The Word of God must be read and studied with an earnest desire to gain from it spiritual power. The bread of heaven must be eaten and assimilated, becoming part of the life. Thus we gain eternal life. Thus is answered the prayer of Christ, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17.

"This is the will of God, even your sanctification." 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Is it *your* will that your desires and inclinations shall be brought into harmony with the divine mind?

Godliness in the Every-Day Life

Christ declares, "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:37.

The talent of speech was given to be used for the benefit of all. Pleasant, cheery words cost no more than unpleasant, moody words. Sharp words wound and bruise the soul. In this life every one has difficulties with which to wrestle. Every one meets with grievances and disappointments. Shall we not bring sunshine instead of gloom into

the lives of those with whom we come in contact? Shall we not speak words that will help and bless? Such words will be just as verily a blessing to us as to those to whom they are spoken.

Parents, allow no faultfinding in your home. Teach your children to speak pleasant words, words that will bring sunshine and joy. Angels are not attracted to a home where discord reigns. Bring practical godliness into the home. Prepare yourselves and your children for entrance into the city of God. Angels will be your helpers. Satan will tempt you, but do not yield. Do not speak one word of which the enemy can take advantage.

Let the determination of each member of the family be, I will be a Christian: for in the school here below I must form a character that will give me entrance into the higher grade, even the school above. I must do unto others as I desire them to do to me.

Make the home life as nearly as possible like heaven. Let the members of the family forget not, as they gather round the family altar, to pray for the men in positions of responsibility in God's work. The physicians in our sanitariums, the ministers of the gospel, those in charge of our publishing houses and schools, need your prayers. They are tempted and tried. As you plead with God to bless them, your own hearts will be subdued and softened by His grace.

From Grace to Grace

We are living amid the perils of the last days, and we are to cleanse ourselves from all defilement, and put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. The work of God is to be steadily carried forward. We are to bring our-

selves, body, soul, and spirit, into subjection to Christ. Unless we do this, the health of both body and soul will be endangered.

God desires His workers to gain daily a better understanding of how to reason logically from cause to effect, arriving at wise, safe conclusions. He desires them to add to the strength of the memory. We can not afford to make mistakes. As little children we are to sit at the feet of Christ, learning of Him how to work successfully. We are to ask God for sound judgment, and for light to impart to others. There is need of knowledge that is the fruit of experience. We should not allow a day to pass without gaining an increase of knowledge in temporal and spiritual

not be allowed to place the period to our work. The Captain of our salvation says, "Advance. The night cometh, in which no man can work." See John 9:4. Constantly we are to increase in usefulness. Our lives are always to be under the power of Christ. Our lamps are to be kept burning brightly.

Prayer is a heaven-ordained means of success. Appeals, petitions, entreaties, between man and man, move men, and act a part in controlling the affairs of nations. But prayer moves heaven. That power alone that comes in answer to prayer will make men wise in the wisdom of heaven, and enable them to work in the unity of the Spirit, joined together by the bonds of

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things. We are to plant no stakes that we are not willing to take up and plant further on, nearer the heights we hope to ascend. The highest education is to be found in training the mind to advance day by day. The close of each day should find us a day's march nearer the overcomer's reward. Day by day our understanding is to ripen. Day by day we are to work out conclusions that will bring a rich reward in this life and in the life to come. Looking daily to Jesus, instead of to what we ourselves have done, we shall make decided advancement in temporal as well as spiritual knowledge.

The end of all things is at hand. What we have done must

peace. Prayer, faith, confidence in God, bring a divine power that sets human calculations at their real worth—nothingness.

In all ages God has given human beings divine revelations, that thus He may fulfill His purpose of unfolding gradually to the mind the doctrines of grace. His manner of imparting the truth is illustrated by the words, "His going forth is prepared as the morning." Hosea 6:3. He who places himself where God can enlighten him, advances, as it were, from the partial obscurity of dawn to the full radiance of noonday.

—*The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, January 28, 1904.

Sin Shall Not Have Dominion . . .

By Charles Fitch

NOTE: In 1840, the Presbytery of Newark asked Charles Fitch—a Presbyterian minister—to tell them “what this new doctrine is.” Their response to his first letter, laying forth the reasons for his belief in the doctrine of the entire sanctification of God’s people on earth by faith in Christ, was to instruct him to cease preaching what they considered to be “an important and dangerous error.” In his second letter, Brother Fitch gave four reasons why he could not cease preaching this truth. The first reason was given in parts 1 and 2 of this series; reasons 2 through 4 are given in this last section of the 3 part series.

REASON TWO

I cannot desist from preaching the doctrine of sanctification, and from testifying to my own experience of it for the very same reasons that you cannot desist from preaching the doctrine of regeneration, and testifying to your own experience of that. Suppose you were to insist that “except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3), but when asked whether you or anyone else had enjoyed that blessing should say, “By no means. It is an important and dangerous error for any many to think so; it never takes place till death.” How much influence would such preaching exert? How many would be born again through such instrumentality? You feel yourselves under necessity, therefore, on that subject to maintain that regeneration is a matter of experience, and that you and many others do enjoy it. However, while you tell your people that they ought to be free from sin, and are wholly inexcusable for not being so, and while you pray that they may be redeemed from all iniquity, they know perfectly well that you have no expectation

that it will take place while they live, and hence all your exhortations and prayers are wholly lost. Your people know that you expect that they will live along in sin till death, and that while you exhort them to be free from sin, you show them no way by which they may become so, and maintain that it would be an important and dangerous error for them to expect to be so until they die. Hence, all your efforts for the sanctification of God’s professing people are rendered perfectly ineffective. For myself, therefore, I feel bound to tell professing Christians that there is a way whereby we may “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God,” that it may be done through the promises of God which “are yea, and in him Amen.” When, therefore, with the apostle, “I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily,” “warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:29, 28), I feel that I am not urging them to chase a phantom which however earnestly and laboriously sought will elude their grasp till death; but that I am leading them to the enjoyment of a blessed and glorious reality which is treasured up for them in Christ, and which they may every one of them secure and most richly enjoy. Moreover, when I am permitted through the exceeding riches of God’s love in Christ Jesus to say that I have experienced the grace which I present to their acceptance, I have left them stripped of all excuses and palliations for their sins, and may therefore hope that God’s Spirit will attend His truth, and lead them in the way of knowledge and understanding. I can say to Christians, “This is the will of God, even your sanctification.” 1 Thessalonians 4:3. “God

hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness,” while you, by your own principles are obliged to tell them that they are shut up, in some measure at least, to a life of sin. Brethren, I cannot stand on such ground, and therefore I must disregard your admonition.

There seems to be a wonderful and strange inconsistency in urging Christians to holiness of heart and life, and at the same time telling them that they never can be without sin while they live, and that if they think that Christ who was manifested to take away their sins will ever do it till He takes away their breath, they have embraced an important and dangerous error. I feel constrained to say in faithfulness to Christ and His dear people, though some may think it unkind, that those who attempt to maintain such ground seem to me to be, and in a very important sense, “shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.” Matthew 23:13. When the watchmen of Israel cry out in the ears of the people that no man ever did or will abide in Christ and sin not on earth, that God who has sworn to do it, and raised up Christ our horn of salvation to perform the oath never will “grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.” What can we expect, but that many who desire deliverance from sin will despair of attaining it, and submit in despondency to the will of their spiritual foes, and groan away their lives in grievous bondage when they might be enjoying the liberty where-with Christ would make them free and that others, glad to have such an excuse for their sins, will comfort themselves in their worldliness, and their unhallowed indulgences by the

feeling that they are not expected while they live to be free from sin. I will not attempt to conceal it that this looks to me like a subtle and dangerous snare of the great enemy of Christ and His church. Herein it seems to me lies the "important and dangerous error," and not in telling Christians that their Redeemer "sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ," when they will believe in Him for that blessing.

REASON THREE

I cannot regard your admonition because those scriptures on which you rely as testimony that no Christian ever does so "abide in Christ as to sin not," seem to me to have no bearing that way. Take, for example, the single passage quoted in the report of your committee, and adopted by you as ample proof of the correctness of your views:

"There is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." Ecclesiastes 7:20. Let us apply this to the experience of Paul. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7. What arrogant, presumptuous language has Paul here used! He must have been puffed up with spiritual pride! Did he not know that the Bible expressly declares "there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"? How dare he say "I have fought a good fight"? But suppose Paul were allowed to step forth in his own defense, and, taking the ground ascribed to him by those who regard the doctrine of entire sanctification by a faith in Christ as "an important and dangerous error," should begin to say, "I acknowledge that there is much sin in my heart, and that my best actions are defiled with it, but still I think I have had some love to God, some desire to glorify Him by doing His will, some readiness to spend and be spent in His service, and labored for the advancement of His cause." We may come forward still

and say, Paul, you are certainly mistaken; you think of yourself more highly than you ought to think; for it is a positive undeniable declaration of God's own Word, that "there is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not," and therefore, Paul, your assumption that there is any good thing in you is forever silenced.

Your text, therefore, brethren, stands just as entirely and fully opposed to your views of truth as to mine, and in my apprehension has nothing to do either with the one or the other. The truth is this that there is a large class of Scripture texts which are designed to set forth the truth that be nature and by practice until regeneration, all mankind are evil, only evil, and that continually. See Genesis 6:5. However, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old

Christ, their horn of salvation, it shall be granted them, "that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." Those who "abideth in him sinneth not," and "the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." "All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us," and when they believe in Christ for the fulfillment of these promises, they cannot fail. Most clearly, therefore, to my mind, those passages of Scripture which are relied on to prove that God's people never will be "presented every man perfect in Christ Jesus" while they live, are designed to set forth the

Many who desire deliverance from sin will despair of attaining it, and . . . others, glad to have such an excuse for their sins, will comfort themselves in their worldliness . . . by the feeling that they are not expected while they live to be free from sin. I will not attempt to conceal it that this looks to me like a subtle and dangerous snare of the great enemy of Christ and His church. Herein it seems to me lies the "important and dangerous error,"

things are passed away; behold, *all things* are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17. The character of such a one is precisely what it was not before, and those passages of Scripture which described his character before cannot describe it now. Consequently, we find that the Scriptures used to describe the two characters stand in direct opposition to each other. Accordingly, while it is said that "there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not," it is also said that those who were some time "alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works" shall be presented "holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel." Colossians 1:21-23. In fulfillment of the oath of God through

characters of the unrenewed, and not the characters of such as are in Christ Jesus, and who are therefore "A NEW CREATURE," "OLD THINGS" HAVING "PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW." In the nature of the case, what is true of the one class cannot be true of the other for they are designedly set forth in the Bible as perfect opposites.

But again, suppose we admit that among the saints of the Old Testament not a man lived without sin, although it was said of Isaiah after he had made confession of his uncleanness, and his lips had been touched with a live coal from the altar of God, "Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged" (Isaiah 6:7), but admit that the Old Testament saints were at all times defiled with the guilt of actually transgress-

sions, is there no privilege granted to God's people now, that was not affordable to the early saints?

1 Peter 1:8-12: "Whom having not seen; ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet, believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: *receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.* Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, *who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:* searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, *and the glory that should follow.* Unto whom it was revealed, *that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister*

greater prophet than John the Baptist"? Luke 7:28. And what did Zacharias mean when he said, "Blessed bay the Lord God of Israel; for *he hath visited and redeemed his people,* and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us . . . to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he swear"? What is all this but the blessing of the new covenant spoken of by Jeremiah, and repeatedly spoken of by Paul to the Hebrews?:

"This is the covenant [since they brake my old covenant,] that I will make with them . . . I *will* put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write, I will—[and with an oath the mighty God hath said it—that he

Your application of Old Testament declarations of the universal sinfulness of men, therefore, to show the privileges of the New Testament believers is in my view a great mistake, and shows you to be still ministers of the Old Testament, instead of being as you should be "able ministers of the New Testament." For this reason then, I cannot heed your admonition. I wish to be a minister of the New Testament, and not of the Old.

REASON FOUR

I will now state one more reason why I cannot give heed to your admonition, and then I shall be done.

There is a dying bed a little before me, and a judgment seat where I expect to stand and give account for all the actions of my life.

Can I tell the people of God that they have no Savior from sin during their whole lives, that live long as they may, and labor as hard as they may to find out the path of life, and pray as fervently as they may, and trust in their Savior for the fulfillment of the promises as fully as they may, they are doomed hopelessly to sin against the Redeemer they love, more or less, even to their dying hour, that all their cries and struggles for help are in vain, and that they must be to some extent rebels against the heart of infinite love until the grim monster death appears for their deliverance? To me it looks like casting dust in the eyes of such as wish to see a way whereby they may be enabled to love their God and Savior with a perfect heart, and sewing "pillows to all armholes" (Ezekiel 18:13) of those who wish to pass comfortably through life in their remaining corruptions hoping to find a Savior from sin only when all opportunity for sinful enjoyment has passed away.

I feel, brethren, that I could not go in peace to my dying pillow, or appear at the great tribunal expecting the approbation of my Judge, if I did not tell God's people that He has promised to "circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to

Many . . . exceeding great and precious promises, were given for the express purpose that through them they might "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"—that by these promises they might become "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."

What is this end of faith, even the salvation of the soul of which salvation the prophets inquired and searched diligently? What is this grace of which they prophesied, coming unto the saints scattered abroad to whom Peter wrote? What were the things which the prophets ministered, not unto themselves, but those to whom the gospel was afterward preached by the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven? What did Christ mean when He said, "This is my blood of *the new testament*"? Matthew 26:28. What did Paul mean by that new and better covenant of which Christ was the Mediator and Surety? And what did Christ mean when He said, "but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. Among those that are born of women there is not a

would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." This then is the peculiar covenant privilege of New Testament saints—SALVATION FROM THEIR SINS. This explains all the Scriptures which I have quoted, and therefore whatever might have been true of Old Testament saints, it is now the peculiar privilege of God's people to be redeemed from all iniquity, and for this they have only to believe in the Mediator of this new covenant. This is God's covenant with them when He shall take away their sins. It is, therefore, the privilege of the new covenant that I am to hold up before the people of God, and urge to the full enjoyment of it; and thus seek, like the apostles, to obtain "sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us *able ministers of the new testament,* not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth but the spirit that giveth life." 2 Corinthians 3:5-6.

love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul," "then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you." These, with many other exceeding great and precious promises, were given for the express purpose that through them they might "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"—that by these promises they might become "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

I feel it to be a matter of unspeakable importance to the honor of Christ and the good of His cause, and the holiness and peace of His suffering heritage that they be made to know that there has "come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" (Romans 11:26), and that God has said respecting this Deliverer, "This is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." Romans 11:27. It seems to me that God's professing people do not know their Deliverer, and there are vast multitudes who seem altogether unwilling to know Him. Hence the reproach cast upon such as declare that there is a "Deliverer and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. . . . I shall take away their sins." However, I see not how I can lie down in peace on my dying pillow, or meet the Savior in judgment before the universe unless I do what in me lies to make Him known. I feel constrained to cry in the ears of the church, Behold your Deliverer; He has come to turn away ungodliness from you, and to take away your sins. Look to Him; believe on His name, and "thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." Isaiah 6:7.

And now, brethren, I am done. I cannot for the reasons I have named, and in view of my final account, dare not, listen to your admonition for a moment. With my name you must do what you think right before God, and in view of an approaching judgment. I have no further defense to make. If you cannot own me as one of your number while

China Tales Worth Telling **Ministry of Angels**

David L. Lin

Sister Liu has a mentally deranged brother who lived with his mother. One day he walked out and failed to return. Sister Liu's mother told her to go search for him. She knew not where to go, so prayed daily to God to bring him back.

After 28 days, when everyone thought he must be dead, he came back, not to his mother's home, but to his sister's, for she had prayed for him. He had walked across the provincial border into Yunnan, and said two men had brought him back. He heard them talking behind him, but never saw them. When he was hungry, they led him to an orchard to eat the

a woman was digging sweet potatoes. He was told to ask her for some. She gave him an armful, which he ate raw. At night the men taught him to sleep in a hay mow.

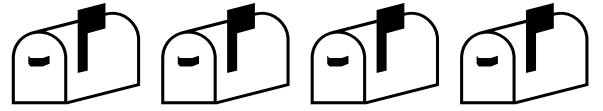
Thus they cared for him three full weeks, and then brought him back. After his encounter with angels, this man now has a clearer mind, attends Bible studies and wants to obey God. He is a living witness to the ministry of angels.

fruit on the ground. As he picked them and almost fell into a ditch, he felt his wrists being pulled back to keep him from falling. He looked to see who was pulling, but saw no man. Then he passed a field where I tell the church of Christ that He manifested to take away their sins, and that they many and ought so to abide in Him that they sin not—that it is my privilege and theirs to abide in Christ, and that many believe that He passed a field where do so abide in Him; if such a confidence in my Redeemer for the fulfillment of God's exceeding great and precious promises must still make me in your estimation an advocate of an important and dangerous error, then just blot me out of your book, and let the transaction be recorded as it will be in the book of God to be reviewed before the universe in the final day. That I hold the doctrine which you call "an important and dangerous error," and believe it to be the brightest glory of my bleeding Savior's gospel is true; and I know that if you knew the blessedness of trusting fully in Christ as your Re-

deemer from all iniquity, there is not a man of you who would not choose that his tongue should perish rather than be used to pronounce such a doctrine importantly and dangerously erroneous. However, if you still adhere to that opinion, I must consider myself as no longer of your number, and you must do to me and with me as you think our Lord and Master requires. "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Yours in the gospel,
Charles Fitch—*Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You*, 50-57.

Letters



We really do appreciate your magazine and especially the article, *Keeping It Simple*, in the February issue.

How refreshing to find some-one writing in regards to simplicity. Even Shakespeare wrote that "simplicity is the height of elegance."

For the rebelling heart I'm reminded of a bumper sticker I once saw that reads:

"What part of '**NO**' do you not understand?"

As a nurse I'm concerned about the health of our people (as related) according to the laws of nature—and nature's God—but many seem blind to the principle of cause and effect. An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure.

Blessings to you and kindest regards, GL-VA

I hope I have the right address to contact you by. I was given a tape "Those Things Which Have Been, Will Be Repeated." Very good!

I would like to be on your mailing list to receive your material. Please send me information I'll need. Until then I have enclosed a check for so I can be listed immediately.

DR-ID

I just want to let you know how much I enjoy your tapes and newsletter. What a rich blessing they are to me.

I thank you and the Lord for your ministry. May God continue to bless all of you richly. I believe Jesus is coming soon.

Would you please pray for my husband who was in the hospital for three weeks is home now. Very weak. Takes awhile to get better. In 2 months he has to have more surgery. I am so thankful for God's healing powers. [He] also needs spiritual healing.

Thank you for your prayers for him. God bless. DM-CA

May the Lord bless you and help you to continue with this work.

EL-IL

It's really a blessing for you and your missionaries to send me tapes and reports of the experiences you're having while preaching and doing missionary work. [We] all share the

tapes and we discuss what we learn from it. Brother, these things are very serious and I give you credit to see you keeping up the good work of preaching and preparing people for Jesus coming. . . I was happy to hear your preaching and it made me miss my country very much because although they know the truth they are still far behind with many things concerning preparation. Brother, I am widow with four children and my hope is to see Jesus. I'm asking you and your team to pray for me and kids to continue strongly in faith and that sometime, very soon, this year that I may go home and share these tapes and literature with my people . . . to go home and make use to do missionary work. That's what I'm longing. . . .

Thank you very much. You have given us a help in what we intend to do.

May God bless you and family. Sincerely, Your sister in Faith,

IH-TX

I will try and help you all I can. . . . I'm not old, I just been here a while. Almost 86 years. I am studying for myself. All my old friends passed away.

I would like to hear the 3 angel's message, sanctuary message, judgment hour and the little time of trouble just before probation closes, etc. All we hear is love & potluck & stories. I never dreamed I'd live this long to see a time like this. . . . Pray for my granddaughter who is a medical student missionary in the Philippines. No telephone, electricity, no bathroom, way out in the boondocks. Very, very primitive. She does not complain. She walks many miles some days waiting to help the sick. . . . Why don't we hear the 3 angels message? We are much worse than ancient Israel.

Yours in the blessed hope of Hebrews 10:37. PK-MO

Christian Greetings!
We really enjoy hearing Jeff's messages and the inspiring ways that God is using him.

God bless you all as He leads in your ministry for Him. J&DT-WI

May God bless and keep you. Receive a loving greeting desiring

that the peace of the Lord is in your heart.

I give thanks to the Lord for your ministry, because I am convinced that the Lord is raising up men so that they will preach the message of the hour. I want to relate that in the churches from here. . . they have prohibited the pastors to preach these messages and this includes saying that is not time to come out of the city. To the brothers and elders of the church that have participated before in preaching in the divine worship no longer are they giving them turns, and in the predictions of the pastors they say that there are dissident groups that we are putting heresies in the church. May God have mercy on them and that they be able to repent in time, although we know that this message will be finished by the laity.

It gave me a great deal of happiness at the end of January to receive correspondence from you. I received the cassette #2 of *Setting Dates*. Thanks . . . I send only a small one contribution of \$__, that is small change . . . I know that is little but I want to assist with even this grain of sand, here in our country our situation has become a little difficult because of the hurricane Mitch.

. . . Please to they do not stop sending me communication, we want to know about the situation with the movement of Sunday.

May God bless you. MR-Honduras

Thank you for your e-mail message we received this week. We are interested in what is going on in other countries, especially those where a disaster has struck.

We are sending a package . . . [for] Colombia. . . .

Most importantly we are praying for you everyday that God will continue to bless you and your ministry and help the people to know Him from knowing you.

Love, J&CJ-WA

Sure hope we can get to see you some day. We appreciate your work so much. Your tapes are excellent as well as all the written material. . . .

God bless each one of you. Love and prayers, R&EE-TN

An Appeal to Parents

By Ellen G. White

Keep the Children From Hotbeds of Iniquity

Let no temporal advantages tempt parents to neglect the training of their children. Whenever possible, it is the duty of parents to make homes in the country for their children. The children and youth should be carefully guarded. They should be kept away from the hotbeds of iniquity that are to be found in our cities. Let them be surrounded by the influences of a true Christian home—a home where Christ abides.—*Letter 268*.1906.

Before the Scourge Shall Overflow

Before the overflowing scourge shall come upon the dwellers of the earth, the Lord calls upon all who are Israelites indeed to prepare for that event. To parents He sends the warning cry, Gather your children into your own houses; gather them away from those who are disregarding the commandments of God, who are teaching and practicing evil. Get out of the large cities as fast as possible. Establish church schools. Give your children the Word of God as the foundation of all their education. *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 195.

Souls of Children Versus Ease and Comfort

Let children no longer be exposed to the temptations of the cities that are ripe for destruction. The Lord has sent us warning and counsel to get out of the cities. Then let us make no more investments in the cities. Fathers and mothers, how do you regard the souls of your children? Are you preparing the members of your families for translation into the heavenly courts? Are you preparing them to become members of the royal family? children of the heavenly King? "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36. How will ease, comfort, convenience, compare with the value of the souls of your children? *Manuscript 76*, 1905.

Christian Qualities Better Gained in Retired Locations

There is not one family in a hundred who will be improved physically, mentally, or spiritually, by residing in the city. Faith, hope, love, happiness, can far better be gained in retired places, where there are fields and hills and trees. Take your children away from the sights and sounds of the city, away from the rattle and din of streetcars and teams, and their minds will become more healthy. It will be found easier to bring home to their hearts the truth of the Word of God. *Manuscript 76*, 1905.

Send the children to schools located in the city, where every phase of temptation is waiting to attract and demoralize them, and the work of character building is tenfold harder for both parents and children. *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 326. (1894)

The Refuge of Country Places

Let parents understand that the training of their children is an important work in the saving of souls. In country places abundant useful exercise will be found in doing those things that need to be done, and which will give physical health by developing nerve and muscle. Out of the cities is my message for the education of our children.

God gave to our first parents the means of true education when He instructed them to till the soil and care for their Garden home. After sin came in, through disobedience to the Lord's requirements, the work to be done in cultivating the ground was greatly multiplied, for the earth, because of the curse, brought forth weeds and thistles. But the employment itself was not given because of sin. The great Master Himself blessed the work of tilling the soil.

"As . . . in the Days of Noah"

It is Satan's purpose to attract men and women to the cities, and to gain his object he invents every

kind of novelty and amusement, every kind of excitement. And the cities of the earth today are becoming as were the cities before the Flood.

We should carry a continual burden as we see the fulfillment of the words of Christ, "As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:37. In the days before the Flood, every kind of amusement was invented to lead men and women to forgetfulness and sin. Today, in 1908, Satan is working with intensity, that the same conditions of evil shall prevail. And the earth is becoming corrupt. Religious liberty will be little respected by professing Christians, for many of them have no understanding of spiritual things.

We cannot fail to see that the end of the world is soon to come. Satan is working upon the minds of men and women, and many seem filled with a desire for amusement and excitement. As it was in the days of Noah, every kind of evil is on the increase. Divorce and marriage is the order of the time. At such a time as this, the people who are seeking to keep the commandments of God should look for retired places away from the cities. . . .

Not a Deprivation

Who will be warned? We say again, Out of the cities. Do not consider it a great deprivation, that you must go into the hills and mountains, but seek for that retirement where you can be alone with God, to learn His will and way. . . .

I urge our people to make it their lifework to seek for spirituality. Christ is at the door. This is why I say to our people, Do not consider it a privation when you are called to leave the cities and move out into the country places. Here there await rich blessings for those who will grasp them. By beholding the scenes of nature, the works of the Creator, by

studying God's handiwork, imperceptibly you will be changed into the same image. *Manuscript 85*, 1908.

To Secure Life's Best Results

An expensive dwelling, elaborate furnishings, display, luxury, and ease, do not furnish the conditions essential to a happy, useful life. Jesus came to this earth to accomplish the greatest work ever accomplished among men. He came as God's ambassador, to show us how to live so as to secure life's best results. What were the conditions chosen by the infinite Father for His Son? A secluded home in the Galilean hills; a household sustained by honest, self-respecting labor; a life of simplicity; daily conflict with difficulty and hardship; self-sacrifice, economy, and patient, gladsome service; the hour of study at His mother's side, with the open scroll of Scripture; the quiet of dawn or twilight in the green valley; the holy ministries of nature; the study of creation and providence; and the soul's communion with God—these were the conditions and opportunities of the early life of Jesus.

Country Heritage of Noble Men

So with the great majority of the best and noblest men of all ages. Read the history of Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph, of Moses, David, and Elisha. Study the lives of men of later times who have most worthily filled positions of trust and responsibility, the men whose influence has been most effective for the world's uplifting.

How many of these were reared in country homes. They knew little of luxury. They did not spend their youth in amusement. Many were forced to struggle with poverty and hardship. They early learned to work, and their active life in the open air gave vigor and elasticity to all their faculties. Forced to depend upon their own resources, they learned to combat difficulties and to surmount obstacles, and they gained courage and perseverance. They learned the lessons of self-reliance and self-control. Sheltered in a great degree from evil associations, they were satisfied with natural pleasures and whole-

some companionships. They were simple in their tastes and temperate in their habits. They were governed by principle, and they grew up pure and strong and true. When called to their life-work, they brought to it physical and mental power, buoyancy of spirit, ability to plan and execute, and steadfastness in resisting evil, that made them a positive power for good in the world.

Better Than Wealth

Better than any other inheritance of wealth you can give to your children will be the gift of a healthy body, a sound mind, and a noble character. Those who understand what constitutes life's true success will be wise betimes. They will keep in view life's best things in their choice of a home.

Instead of dwelling where only the works of men can be seen, where the sights and sounds frequently suggest thoughts of evil, where turmoil and confusion bring weariness and disquietude, go where you can look upon the works of God. Find rest of spirit in the beauty and quietude and peace of nature. Let the eye rest on the green fields, the groves, and the hills. Look up to the blue sky, unobscured by the city's dust and smoke, and breathe the invigorating air of heaven. Go where, apart from the distractions and dissipations of city life, you can give your children your companionship, where you can teach them to learn of God through His works, and train them for lives of integrity and usefulness. *The Ministry of Healing*, 265-267. (1905)

Manifold Benefits of Active Out-of-Door Life

It would be well for you to lay by your perplexing cares, and find a retreat in the country, where there is not so strong an influence to corrupt the morals of the young.

True, you would not be entirely free from annoyances and perplexing cares in the country; but you would there avoid many evils and close the door against a flood of temptations which threaten to overpower the minds of your children. They need employment and variety. The sameness of their home makes

them uneasy and restless, and they have fallen into the habit of mingling with the vicious lads of the town, thus obtaining a street education. . . .

To live in the country would be very beneficial to them; an active out-of-door life would develop health of both mind and body. They should have a garden to cultivate, where they might find both amusement and useful employment. The training of plants and flowers tends to the improvement of taste and judgment, while an acquaintance with God's useful and beautiful creations has a refining and ennobling influence upon the mind, referring it to the Maker and Master of all. *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 136. (1876)

Expect No Miracle to Undo Results of Wrong Course

I look at these flowers, and every time I see them I think of Eden. They are an expression of God's love for us. Thus He gives us in this world a little taste of Eden. He wants us to delight in the beautiful things of His creation, and to see in them an expression of what He will do for us.

He wants us to live where we can have elbow room. His people are not to crowd into the cities. He wants them to take their families out of the cities, that they may better prepare for eternal life. In a little while they will have to leave the cities.

These cities are filled with wickedness of every kind—with strikes and murders and suicides. Satan is in them, controlling men in their work of destruction. Under his influence they kill for the sake of killing, and this they will do more and more. . . .

If we place ourselves under objectionable influences, can we expect God to work a miracle to undo the results of our wrong course?—No, indeed. Get out of the cities as soon as possible, and purchase a little piece of land, where you can have a garden, where your children can watch the flowers growing, and learn from them lessons of simplicity and purity. *General Conference Bulletin*, March 30, 1903.—*Country Living*, 12-17.

Colombian Earthquake Update

February 25, 1999

One month has transpired since the earthquake . . . and even now, while I am writing, I had to interrupt because of a sudden strong aftershock. . . . Now it is rumbling again, the earth. . . . This time the earth didn't shake.

I just turned on the radio to hear information about the shock we just felt and the information is that we are in the area of the epicenter, and the intensity was 4.5 on the Richter scale. We also just learned that a few buildings in downtown Armenia, that were damaged because of the January 25 earthquake, fell down just now with this aftershock.

For most of us living in this area, life will never be the same. I just pray that we can learn positive lessons of faith from this ordeal that will prepare us for the greater trials that are just ahead.

It is not easy to describe with words what we lived through and the consequences left behind. For each individual case it was different, and depending on the spiritual attitude of each person it produced profound character effects. For some positive, for many others negative.

As a ministry, the Lord has opened many doors for us after this disaster. The opportunities for service and missionary effort have multiplied. Currently we are assisting our non-Adventist neighbors, people who lost their homes in Armenia and are sick, and Adventist brethren who lost their homes. We feel the burden of helping all we can, starting with our brethren who lost their homes and don't have the means to rebuild, and assisting the needy ones around us with food, health assistance and the gospel. There are six homes, specifically, that we feel the burden of helping financially to reconstruct. If the Lord provides beyond that, we can help others.

First, we thank the Lord—since it was by His love and His grace alone that we survived the disaster. Here at our ministry, we suffered no loss. The Lord blessed us, and we feel that we should be more committed to His service out of gratitude for His care and protection. We were able to confirm experientially the blessings of living in the country and planting most of our own food. Even those who lost their homes in the country were far better off than those who lost their homes in the city. Food supplies, water, the ability to build a makeshift shelter immedi-

ately, the shelter from the vandalism and social chaos that unleashed itself in the city are just a few of the many blessings received just from having obeyed God's counsel of living in the country.

Also we want to thank the brethren who have been praying for us, and those of you have felt impressed to help financially in helping out our brethren affected by the natural disaster that you showed toward us by sending aids through the Future For America ministry. The Lord knows each moment what the needs are, and He send the aids and provisions. At this time we are assisting and trying to cover the basic needs of the neighbors that live nearby that were affected by the earthquake. As it is rural zone and some places are difficult to access, many damaged homes have not received aid from any part of the government, and it is in these places where we have mainly desired to work.

In the same way we are helping the neighborhoods of Armenia that were brought down in its totality and that even to this hour has become a sea of "carbuchs"—this is what the huts of plastic are called that are housing the people. We have found that many children and adult have problems with vomiting and diarrhea. As you can readily imagine, the sanitary conditions are not the best, and these have not received the medical attention they should have. During all this, we are permitted to work and to enter into these homes sharing the provisions that brothers such as you have sent—and, of course, to share the message of the Lord with those that the Lord has impressed. So in many of the streets in the city there is a great deal of work to be done.

The Adventist brethren that have turned to us for help have let us know that ADRA, Adventist Disaster and Relief Agency, is not committed to help Adventist brethren. This agency is handling its relief programs through the government and therefore the probabilities of an Adventist brother receiving help are very slim. We entreat you to remember us in your prayers.

For those of us here in the epicenter of the earthquake, although it was a very terrible experience that generated a great deal of fear in the first moments, it has become— from many points of view—a blessing.

The center of Armenia has been destroyed in its totality. That was where the galeria or market plaza had been, from which we bought many of the things that are not

grown on the farm. What did this signify? For several days we had to depend uniquely and exclusively of what we had on the farm. Due to the robberies and pillaging that started there, what remained of the commerce in Armenia and neighboring towns was closed for a week.

So in a very small scale we could experience what it was like not to be able to buy, being that we had not expected the earthquake and we had not made provision for some basic things. But, the Lord does not forget His promise, neither does He cease to comply with them. Thus to be in the country is a blessing. This situation has motivated us to work the agriculture in a special way being conscious that the counsel of the Lord counsels us to have our food from our own gardens. The Lord knows what is coming, and He wants to help His people be ready.

The Lord has supported us until this moment and we know that by His mercy, He will continue doing so. Fortunately the buildings of the Foundation have not suffered any damage. We have experienced that the Lord is good, and that He has kept us in the middle of the storm. And now it is time to work for the souls that the Lord is calling.

Well, brethren, we know that this world is not our home. We are also aware that the signs of Christ's second coming are everywhere. Thousands of people are perishing and the time of probation is about to close. This farm remains located in the zone of the epicenter of the earthquake. The three towns that surround us remain almost destroyed. Just here in Armenia and the adjacent towns well over 5,000 people could have perished. It is virtually impossible for the government to gather the exact figures.

I believe that as Christians, we all should be very sure that our priorities are straight. ". . . All who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart." *The Great Controversy*, 490.

May God bless you all. May He complete in each one of us the good work which He has begun.

Your brothers in Christ,
Norberto & Ivonne Restrepo
Fundacion Las Delicias
Armenia, Colombia