



2 Cor. 3:18

Open Face

One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up all others. Christ our Righteousness

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Europe Diary

Howard Williams



On July 15, 2008 David and I left for the airport in Kingston, from there we would begin our journey to Frankfurt in Germany, where we would start our European trip. We were scheduled to leave at 3:25 p.m. for Miami in Florida, from where we would fly to Heathrow in London and then on to Frankfurt, however, as often happens on these trips, things did not go as planned. When we arrived and went to check in, we were informed that the flight had been delayed and the end result was that by the time we got to Miami we had missed our connecting flight.

We spoke to a lady from the American Airlines desk who told us that the reason for our missing the flight was due to bad weather, so it was not their fault and we would have to find a place to stay that night because the next flight would not be until the same time the following day. They told us that we would have to pay the cost of our own

hotel bill, although they offered us some slightly discounted options.

There is a promise in the word of God which has come to my mind often as I have considered what has happened in my life since I first set out to preach the gospel. It is found in Mark 10:29-30 and it says:

There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, (30) But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children... (Mark 10:29-30)

God provided one such home for us just a few minutes from the Miami airport. Arthan and Zemrie Wright were delighted to have us come to stay with them for the night. The only problem was that when we contacted them,

Arthan was himself broken down and stranded on the road! Eventually Kerry, Sister Zemrie's nephew, came to pick us up and then we went to rescue Arthan. By the time we all got home it was after 2 a.m.!

After a few hours of restful sleep we were treated to a wonderful Jamaican breakfast from Sister Zemrie's Kitchen. The rest of the day quickly passed and we got prepared for the airport again but not before another hefty meal prepared and combined by Sisters Zemrie and Sharon. It was good preparation for the eight hour flight to London's Heathrow airport.

The flight to London departed at 8:05 p.m. and lasted a little over eight hours. I did not feel the length of the flight as I slept most of the journey through. We got into London on time and made the connection to Frankfurt, Germany without any problems. Thanks be to God we made it to Germany without any further mishap.

ARRIVAL IN GERMANY

Immigrations in Germany went very smoothly. There was not much delay and I was through in a flash. Erwin was waiting for us on the outside with

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Open Face is dedicated to the promotion of the truths committed to the Advent movement, as believed and taught by the early Adventist pioneers. In particular to the restoration of those truths which have been cast down to the ground and trampled underfoot by the papacy, and adopted by her daughters.

Our purpose is to motivate our readers to commit themselves wholly to the task of personal preparation for the coming of the Lord, and to the taking of the final warning message to every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

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Brother Ken Corklin who had arrived a couple of hours earlier from the USA. All three of us had luggage to last for three weeks and we were concerned that we might not be able to fit it all into Erwin's car, but with a little squeezing we got everything to fit, then off we went for another 3 hours drive to Erwin's home. We arrived to a warm welcome from his wife Claudia, who had prepared us a wonderful meal. We stayed up and talked for a while before we went off to bed and got some much needed sleep. We were



Matti and Justyna with Vlad

scheduled to leave the following day for the camp meeting which was two hours away.

THE GERMAN CAMP MEETING

When we arrived at the camp grounds we were greeted and shown around by sister Kerstin Gurtner. After a light supper we had an evening meeting where we welcomed the Sabbath and the speakers were introduced. We then went off to bed and prepared ourselves for the Sabbath which would be the first day of the campmeeting.

Our European schedule this year was so organized that the first day of meetings in each place was a Sabbath. We found out that this was not an ideal situation, but this is the way it was organized and we made the best of it. The Sabbath meetings were always the best attended and were in most cases, the highlight of the meetings. After that, the rest of the meetings seemed like a winding-down process and we made a note to avoid a similar situation in the future.

The program was planned so that Ken, David and I would deliver eight sermons each. This would make a total of twenty-four sermons. It would be hardest of all for Erwin who was the only available translator. There were four sessions for the day with the evening session being used for praise and testimonies or Questions and answers.

On Sunday we had a baptism where six (6) candidates were baptized. The baptisms were done by Ken and Erwin. The water was really cold as the weather for most of our time in Germany was chilly. After the baptism we had a welcoming service for the candidates back at the camp site.

One of the really touch-

ing stories of this camp meeting was that of a couple who lived 500 kilometers away, but could not afford to come to the campmeeting. Their only option was to come by bicycle, so they decided to ride that distance just to be there. The husband is 69 years old and the wife is in her mid-fifties. The journey was very difficult as it took them



Smiles at German baptism

over two days without a proper place to rest. We waited for them on Friday night as it was icy cold and raining, hoping that they had been able to find some shelter. They finally got in on Saturday night having left home from 5:00 a.m. on Thursday morning. They told how they had spent the night huddled together under a tree in the rain. When they came in they were weak and hungry, but a little rest in warm beds and some warm food soon had them back to normal. We blessed and thanked God for his mercies in bringing them safely.

There were two high points of the camp meeting: One of them was a wedding ceremony conducted by Brother Ken Corklin, the other was a communion ceremony. The wedding was really a dedication service since this couple was already married in a civil ceremony, but had never had a religious service. Brother Ken exhorted them to trust Christ with their lives, in the assurance that this was the only way to make their future secure.

The communion service, as it was conducted, was new to me. David had participated in this service here before so was familiar with the procedure and Ken had been an altar boy in the Anglican church, where some aspects of



Children at Hungary meetings

it were similar. But I have never participated in a communion with one cup of wine passed around and everybody drinking from it, yet, as I thought about it, it must have been the way it happened in that first communion service at which our Lord Jesus officiated.

The brethren planned a little thanksgiving service for us the evening before camp broke. It was a touching time for us as they expressed appreciation for the time we spent together sharing in the word of God. We also shared our experiences of how we had gotten involved in what we were doing. We all were blessed by the testimonies of how God had worked in various lives.

I was pleasantly surprised by the spirit that existed at the camp meeting because I had heard that Germans were very unexpressive and that they did not demonstrate their emotions. But I can truly say this group was very different from what we expected. They were so warm and expressive that our only problem was the language barrier.

One very special event which took place here was that David, Ken and I all had our portraits done by two artists, Michael and Margarita, who were



Portraits

present at the camp meeting. I was especially privileged to have mine done by Michael since it was his first portrait done, outside of his studio. Sister Margarita is much more experienced in this kind of work as she often sketches portraits of people on the streets, completing each one in less than an hour. She did the sketches

of David and Ken.

On the final morning, Friday, after one session and breakfast, we broke camp in Germany. This was a difficult moment for us and it was hard to say goodbye. It was with reluctance that we finally pulled ourselves away and started off on the journey to Hungary. I have been to many camp meetings, but this one will not be soon forgotten.

HUNGARY

We left the German camp-site at about 10.00 a.m. for the trip to Hungary with an expected arrival time of about 9.00 p.m. We drove for hours and for me it seemed there was no end to driving. We are not accustomed to such long trips in Jamaica! We stopped a few times to eat and to rest a bit. Finally we got to our destination a little after 1.00 a.m. The journey that should have taken 10 hours ended up taking us 15 hours.

When we arrived, Brother Janos Santos was waiting for us along with brother Elo Zsolt. They showed us to our sleeping quarters, and we went off to bed in no time. We had to be up the next morning by eight to get ready to be at a meeting at 9:30 a.m.

The schedule for the Sabbath and Sunday meetings

were similar. There were three sessions for these two days, These were mainly for Adventists and would consist of presentations with questions and answers afterwards. However, the meetings on the days that followed were more aimed at the general public and these would consist of evening meetings from Monday to Thursday. The mornings were devoted to private meetings with the brethren in Hungary, where we discussed issues of importance to them.

On Wednesday morning the brethren took us on a hike up in the mountains to an old monastery. The area was called by the strange name of, "Holy Spirit." A short distance from there we climbed up a rock where we obtained a breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside.

During the evening meetings we had visitors every night right up to the final



On the trail to "Holy Spirit"

night. These meetings were intended to be an outreach to the community around and they were held in a hotel in the city of Miskolc. Those who attended expressed their appreciation that we had come and shared Jesus with them in a way they had never heard before. One man in particular stands out in my mind. He was a Baptist and he not only attended the evening meetings but also the first meetings on Sabbath and Sunday which were aimed at Adventists. From the first meetings he expressed his excitement at what he was hearing. He repeated several times, "it is what I read in my Bible!" Even when we touched on the state of the dead and the truth about God, he

did not flinch but continued to say, “it is what I read in my Bible.” He first invited his two sons to attend with him



The Zsolt family sang beautifully

and then persuaded his wife also to attend. He never missed a meeting. He was typical of several who came to these meetings.

At the end of the last evening of meetings we were moved by the outpouring of love as the brethren and even visitors expressed their appreciation by sharing gifts and tokens with us. We headed back home for our final good-byes with Janos, Balasz and Zsolt and his family. During the few days that we had spent in Hungary, they had been with us most of the time, as we had all stayed at Janos' grandfather's house. Balasz is a friend of Janos' who came specially for these meetings as did Zsolt and His wife Monica, along with his three girls, Dora, Anna and Esther.

POLAND

This year there would be no meetings in Poland. Originally we had planned to spend three weeks in Europe and then move on from there to Zimbabwe. We got our visas and planned our trip to Europe accordingly. David had made a promise to Erwin last year that he would come to Germany so Germany was on the agenda. When the brethren in Hungary learned that we would be in Germany they asked us to try to fit Hungary into the itinerary as well. This we did and made our plans

accordingly. However, at the last moment, the trip to Zimbabwe had to be called off. For one thing, the cost of the trip escalated beyond expectations and secondly, brother Ephraim, our expected host, thought that in light of the unrest in Zimbabwe, it would be a good thing for us to postpone our trip so we eventually thought it best to call off the trip.

However, by this time we had already obtained the Schengen visa to visit Europe and our times for entering and leaving Europe were already settled. Now Vlad heard that we would no longer be visiting Zimbabwe and asked if we could fit Romania into the schedule. It made things a bit hectic, for the Romanian visa involved our passports going all the way to Washington DC in the USA. Of course as usual, there were difficulties which put our faith to the test, but as always, God worked things out perfectly and we got our passports back in time.

Brother Jacek Poreda in Poland also sent David an email to ask, “will you be coming to Poland this year?” Unfortunately, by that time, it was too late for us to do anything about the itinerary and we had to tell him no. However, it was one of the disappointments of this trip that we never got to visit Poland.

ROMANIA

The last stop was Romania. The journey was estimated at 15 hours so we left at 5.30 a.m. the next morning, Friday August 1. It was another long dreary long day of driving

which lasted for close to 17 hours. Traffic on the roads were the worst I had ever seen. There were frequent lengthy stops and traffic jams for no apparent reason and this made the trip significantly longer than we had anticipated. However, I found the landscape of Romania interesting, and the mountain ranges, the people and culture reminded me so much of Jamaica that my heart immediately started to warm to the country.

We arrived at Criva near midnight, and there, Vlad was waiting for us. After greeting and welcoming us he outlined how the Sabbath's program would run. Then we left for Slatina where we would stay at the home of Florin and Mihaela, for the duration of our stay in Romania. We were met by the host of the home, who greeted and welcomed us, then showed us to our room. After a refreshing shower we went off to bed and got some much needed rest.

The next morning we left for the meeting place where there were over 100 brethren waiting to meet and greet us. In Romania many already knew me even before I got there. Three years ago I had met with Vlad in the USA and during the time that we had spent together I had done a lot of singing. Vlad had recorded these singing sessions and brought them back to Romania. Now I found that here, as elsewhere in Europe, many people knew me and the songs before I arrived. In addition, most of the people have become familiar with Jamaican singing



With Sorin (middle) in Romania

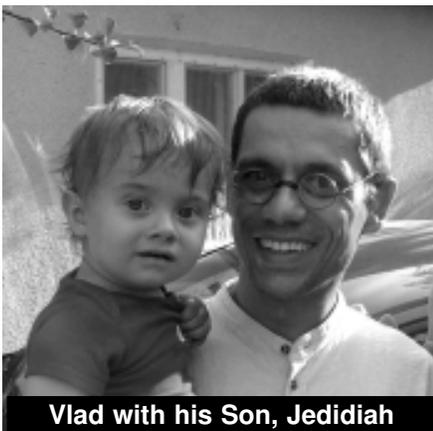


Betty and Lilly (Romania)

from David's previous visits, from tapes and the new year's concert DVD, which Restoration Ministries sent out a few months ago. In fact I was surprised to find that the people had the words of the songs written out, and papers were passed out to help us sing. I found out that I have become famous in these parts for a few songs. The main ones are, "Sweet deliverance," "Building a better society" and "Chances are."

I felt very much at home in Romania because of the friendly spirit of these brethren. It was also much easier to communicate here because a higher percentage of these Romanians spoke English. The language was not as great a barrier as it had been in other places. The people were so warm and friendly, their smiles and faces made me feel like I was among family. Many were so delighted to finally have me in Romania; they just wanted to talk to me or shake my hand or just be near.

The treatment of the people was something I was not accustomed to. They treated us like Kings. David said in his



Vlad with his Son, Jedidiah

tions to find water. Another day Ken sat at the lunch table at the end where the sun was shining and before long some women came with a sheet to protect him from the sun. If any of us ever needed anything it would have been provided many times over.

Meals were served at a long table where there would be about 60-70 people seated at a time. This long table was set outside, under a grape arbor, with grapes growing all around. The setting was a fascinating one and was something which I had never experienced anywhere else in the world.

The program of meetings here, allowed for four sessions per day. There were two in the morning, beginning at 8.00 a.m. and two in the afternoon with the last one beginning at 7.30 p.m. Ken, David and I followed basically the same pattern and presented pretty much the same messages as we had presented in Germany.

On the second day, Sunday we had a baptism. Four precious souls dedicated their lives to the Lord at this ceremony which was performed by Brother David. It was a solemn event with over a hundred people present. By the grace of God it was a warm, sunny day so Brother David had no problems with cold this year.

During the breaks we had opportunity to have discussions with people, sometimes one on one but often in groups. As soon as one person came to ask a

parting testimony that even if the apostle Paul had been in Romania he could not have received better treatment. Just to give an example, David went out looking for some water. Some ladies saw him looking around and asked what he wanted, he could hardly say "water," before about five women went in different direc-

question, inevitably there would be a little crowd gathered in no time. Everybody was anxious to learn as much as possible, and to understand the truths which we had come to share. We were able to discuss points on which there were disagreements or points which needed clarification.

On the last day of the campmeeting David, Ken and I gave our personal testimonies. Each of told a little of how the truth was progressing in our area and in the world in general. We mentioned the truth about God as well as the message of Righteousness in Christ, but we also told a little of our personal circumstances and how God had been working in our lives. It was a moving time and at the end some of the Ro-



Singing at baptism in Romania

manian brethren also stood to their feet and gave their own testimonies. At the end, we had to leave for the journey back to Germany, but it was very hard to leave and there was a delay of nearly an hour as we gave final hugs, received gifts and took pictures. When we finally left it was with the feeling that we were leaving a part of our hearts behind.

REFLECTING ON EUROPE

David who had visited Europe a few times before confessed that the meetings and people in all the places was the best he has ever seen or experienced, so this showed that God truly blessed and we are thankful to have been a part of it.



Antioxidants

Lenworth Frankson

The word “antioxidants” is a familiar word to many, however there are others who do not have a good understanding of what they are.

As the name implies, antioxidants are substances that are capable of counteracting the damaging, but normal, effects of oxidation (the combination of a substance with oxygen) in animal tissue. Antioxidants are nutrients (vitamins and minerals) as well as enzymes (proteins in your body that assist in chemical reactions). They are believed to play a role in preventing the development of such chronic diseases as cancer, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, Rheumatoid arthritis, cataracts and other diseases.

”Antioxidant” is the collective name for the vitamins, minerals, carotenoids, (the yellow and red pigments found in plants, algae and some bacteria) and polyphenols (chemical substances found in plants) that protect the body from harmful “free radicals”. Within the human body, millions of processes are occurring at all times. These processes require oxygen. Unfortunately, that same life giving oxygen can create harmful side effects, or oxidant substances, which cause cell damage and lead to chronic disease.

These oxidants, commonly known as “free radicals,” are also introduced through external sources such as exposure to the sun or pollution. Other mediums include stress, as well as things that people put into their bodies, such as alcoholic beverages, unhealthy foods, and cigarette smoke.

In much the same way as oxidation creates rust, causing a breakdown on the surface of inanimate objects, oxidation inside the body causes a breakdown of cells. Free radicals produced by this breakdown attack healthy cells, usually DNA as well as proteins and fats.

The most well known antioxidants include the vitamins A (found in carrot juice, sweet potato or yams, pumpkin, cantaloupe, spinach and red sweet peppers), C (found in bell peppers and citrus fruits), E (found in oils, fortified ce-

reals, seeds, and nuts), and the mineral selenium (found in Brazil nuts, meats, tuna, and plant foods). The carotenoids beta-carotene, lutein, and lycopene also have high antioxidant activity and are responsible for adding color to many fruits and vegetables. Carrots and pumpkins wouldn’t be orange without beta-carotene, for example. Lutein, also important in eyesight, is abundant in leafy green vegetables. Lycopene is present in red fruits and vegetables, most notably in tomatoes. It is not surprising then that many experts stress the importance of eating a “colorful” diet.

It is suggested however that vitamin and mineral *supplements* are not to be used as *substitutes* for a healthy, well-balanced diet. In fact, due to many conflicting studies on the effects of antioxidant supplements it is not highly recommended by many experts to use antioxidant vitamin supplements. It is also important to note that we can “over-supplement” our bodies, taking much more than the recommended daily value of certain vitamins and minerals. Vitamins A and E are fat soluble, meaning that excess amounts are stored in the liver and fatty tissues, instead of being quickly excreted, creating a risk of toxicity. Your best bet is to eat a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains,

Many studies have shown the link between free radicals and a number of degenerative diseases associated with aging. Thus, it is possible that antioxidants can be beneficial in reducing the incidence of cancer, cardiovascular disease, cognitive impairment, Alzheimer’s disease, immune dysfunction, cataracts, stroke, and macular degeneration.

Antioxidants reduce the effect of dangerous oxidants by binding together with these harmful molecules and decreasing their destructive power. Antioxidants can also help repair damage already sustained by cells.

Choosing raw fruits and vegetables rather than cooked, provides the highest concentration and best absorption of antioxidants. Your diet is the best way

to get the optimal amount of carotenoids, which have disease-fighting antioxidant properties. Chopping, slicing, shredding, or pureeing carotenoid-containing fruits and vegetables will help you get the biggest antioxidant boost from these foods. Also, a tiny bit of dietary fat will aid absorption of carotenoids, so add a dab of olive oil or another item containing unsaturated fat.

It’s best to get your nutrients from food, so feast on spinach salads, sweet potatoes, and stir-fry vegetables sautéed in olive oil. A supplement also can help boost your carotenoid intake when your diet falls short but eating the natural foods is best.

I am reminded of a quotation from E.G White which supports the above idea.

“In order to know what are the best foods, we must study God’s original plan for man’s diet. He who created man and who understands his needs appointed Adam his food. “Behold,” He said, “I have given you every herb yielding seed, . . . and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food.” Genesis 1:29, A.R.V. Upon leaving Eden to gain his livelihood by tilling the earth under the curse of sin, man received permission to eat also “the herb of the field.” Genesis 3:18.

Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator. These foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing. They impart a strength, a power of endurance, and a vigor of intellect that are not afforded by a more complex and stimulating diet.” (MH 295, 296)

God’s ways are always the best and although many times we do not fully understand his instructions, by his grace, we should follow them knowing that they are always in our best interest. So the next time you go grocery shopping keep in mind the word “antioxidants”. Let us eat for health and not just for taste.



Jesus the Door

Marsha Russell

On the surface a door seems to have only one purpose, but there are instances in which a door has been used to represent different things. For some it may be simply an entrance to a building but it may be used to represent an opening to a gift or even a passage to freedom. In John 10:9, Jesus says,

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved ... (John 10:9)

Just as those who are deceived need to see the truth, those who are excluded need to find the door. The Bible tells us that Jesus is both the truth to the deceived and the door to the excluded. He is the door to revival and every other blessing for the Christian, as He is the door to salvation for the lost.

The very fact that Jesus is represented as the door suggests that there is a wall or a barrier which separates us from something, and that Jesus is the means by which we find a way through, or across that barrier. What is it that we are barred from by nature? We are barred from fellowship with God and the barrier which separates us from Him is our sinful state.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (8) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (Rom 8:7-8)

The ways of the carnal man are not the ways of God, but every person who has not found Christ as the door is bound by this carnal nature and is unable of himself to find a way of escape. Only those who have never seriously sought to obey God can imagine that there is no wall, no barrier between natural humanity and Him. If we examine ourselves with honest eyes, all of us who have not entered into Christ will have to confess that we find in ourselves an attitude of self centeredness, and independence from

God.

We often speak with individuals who belong to various denominations and the one thing that remains the same is the fact that as soon as Christians become members of a denomination they most often come to believe that this denomination is the "true church." They feel that in attaining membership in a certain church they have reached "the goal" and feel that they have attained unto salvation. The sad fact is that many have not yet entered the door.

He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber (John 10:1).

When a man begins to discover that sin has separated him from God, he often responds by occupying himself with the question of how to stop committing sin, rather than with the issue of how to find the Door. The ways and the means that self and Satan use to confuse us are varied. Some he occupies with church duties or some other means of self generated good, as a means of deceiving them into believing that they are doing well. He occupies them with a form of godliness as a means of attaining righteousness. But oh, how Jesus would love to see us come to Him as the answer to our problems!

For years many of us held to the view that salvation could not be as simple as coming to Christ, the door, and in Him, finding rest for our souls. We became absorbed in the notion that the real essence of the pilgrim's walk consists of endless rules and requirements and we lost sight of the door to salvation.

When I first became a Christian I was introduced to the following text:

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye

should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1 Pet 2:9)

As the text was explained to me, emphasis was placed on the part that says "you are a peculiar people." It was said that if you look peculiar (natural hair and extremely tall skirts) if you eat peculiar (vegan diet) and if you act peculiar then you would be the chosen generation, the royal priesthood and the 'peculiar people'.

I am not saying that these areas are not of significance, but they are definitely not the door to escape sin and to find harmony with God. The only element which can truly make us a chosen generation and a royal priesthood is Jesus. Once we have Jesus truly abiding in us, then His spirit will direct us into the path of righteousness. The wonderful thing is, His direction will not oppose His revealed word but we will keep these laws and principles perfectly not by attending to the letter of the law but by means of the indwelling spirit of the law (Romans 8:2).

A true believer in God needs only to find the Door and he shall have everlasting life. It is folly to believe that we first need to be like Christ before we can find life, because none of us has that ability in and of ourselves to be like Him. But when we come to Christ and remain steadfastly in Christ we find life in Him and He manifests His life in us. This is our hope of salvation and glory.

Sometimes it seems that true Christianity is an impossible goal. We have revival meetings and feel good and uplifted for a while, then after a few days or weeks we regress to the old life. Roman 7:14-20 states:

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.....Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but

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Letters

Today I watched “Three Gospels” & “In Christ” (Florida). These are great!!

They speak to the ‘feeling’ I had 18 years ago, when I knew that Christianity was a different existence from my past. Somehow I slid into mediocrity, and fairly soon too. But you are quite right, the Bible is extreme. The message is extreme. The world is dead, but Christ is alive. We are in the slough of despond if we are satisfied with a worldly existence. Yes faith comes by hearing the Word of God. We must not allow anything to erode our faith or the strengthening of it.

. . . Adventism is under the law. No wonder Christ was rejected in 1888. The message is extreme. The makeover is radical. J & W must have been scorned beyond measure; amazingly they were not stoned.

I’d heard these two messages before on CD, but the videos mean much more. Thank you for improving your website and making these resources more accessible.

This is Truth. I need it. I will dig to understand it.

Canada

Re: God’s last name

We talked about this a while back. I remember. However the article was more than I could imagine. Oh how long Character Perfection has been a burden instead of a process God puts us through!

We needed to learn all these things. We needed to understand God’s character better to trust Him with this process. All stains in our minds of His character must be removed. This knowledge must be coming because Christ is coming very soon, first as the Latter Rain (the refiner) then to take us home.

. . . . I want this! I want this! I can of

mine own self do nothing. I trust Him, I trust Him. Praise God for the inspiration of His Spirit. What a wonderful article!!!!!!!

Pennsylvania

Christ’s Righteousness! Christ’s Righteousness! Christ’s Righteousness!

I love love it! I want it! It makes me shed tears! I want to experience this righteousness, speak it, sing about it and tell others. I come from a poor background and I cannot afford to purchase anything from you, or even download the articles from the internet. Please, send me these materials about righteousness. Articles are very good for me too. God bless you in the noble work you are doing.

Kenya.

I just finished reading ‘Two False Gospels’ . . . I just finished reading the entire paper again today. Now I know it does need to be read twice. I’m understanding the issues so much more clearly.

Like the two Masters. Wow! I believe most of us believe it is Christ and Satan. (But Christ and) self makes so much more sense. This was the first real clear picture of the whole ‘Righteousness in Christ’ I have had. I did sort of understand it, but this really did impress me.

Thank you again for your influence in my life and my family.

California

I just finished reading Open Face. How wonderful !!! Again the Spirit of God has used you in a mighty way. The article about the Final Atonement, has brought it all into perspective. I had believed it because I could see it in Scripture but never really understood

it. I guess you could say I understood the mechanics the order of things but it was hard to understand if I am forgiven, then I am forgiven, what NEED was there.

I have heard people express the fact that they live in fear of the Final Atonement ie. The Judgement, yet it is something that should be waited for with glad expectation, when my name comes up for judgement, and Jesus makes the final atonement, wiping away even the sin-filled memories and Satan can no longer throw them into my face. HALLELUJAH!

May God continue to bless you. May the hearts and minds of His people be open to truth as it is in Jesus.

Ohio

I finally get it! I am in Christ and His Spirit is in me revealing Christ in me. And as Paul says in Gal. 2:20, “...*the life I now live I live by the faith of the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me...*” for it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me. This is the best news ever.

May God Bless you brethren as you continue to minister and preach this wonderful Good News!

Gratefully In Christ,

Alabama

we just want to thank you for your messages and ministry and to encourage you to keep up the wonderful work that God has given you to do. Recently a friend of ours downloaded a number of sermons onto our computer, one of which was yours on the omega of deadly heresy. Wow!!

We had just finished listening to on the same topic but, even though we enjoyed what he had to say,

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Jesus the Door

Continued from page 7

sin that dwelleth in me.” (Roman 7:14-20)

In these verses, the problem is identified. We can do nothing of ourselves, but only by the grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord (1Cor. 1:4). The price of true revival is not found in long nights of prayer but simply in humbling our pride, turning away from self and allowing Christ to live.

We must not seek to attain the revival we need by the works of the law but by faith (Romans 9:32). We must not avoid coming through the door and seek to climb up in some other way.

We need to also understand that this is a **narrow** door (Matthew 7: 14). The way at first seems straightforward and inviting. The cross beckons all to freely accept of its blessings. But as we accept this gift and move closer to the point of repentance, the door gets narrower. Eventually we see that it is so narrow that there is no place for even two to

walk. In entering the door that is Christ, we must let go of self and all that pertains to it. Christ alone must live.

Our Christian experience has been often bitter and we have constantly fallen short of the mark, because we are striving to enter life by some way other than the door - by the way of self improvement perhaps, by “turning over a new leaf,” by longer prayers, more frequent devotions and even trying to witness more often. But we have not realized that trying to obtain any spiritual benefit by any means other than by coming through the door, is a formula for certain failure and defeat.

Psalms 51:16, 17, states,

For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it; thou delightest not in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” (Psalm 51:16, 17)

I will share a personal testimony to close. At times I had a renewed spiritual experience and the first thing that I would do was to plan new things that I would do, new agendas, new formulas. For example, I would determine to

occupy my time profitably by constantly listening to sermons on CD or Bible tapes. I believed that these things would keep me from straying. Now I know that although these things may be helpful, they are not the answer to victory in the Christian walk.

The victory lies in a relationship with Christ where I am totally submissive to Him. Where my life is submerged in His so that He is my all in all. In this way, He is the door, the door to all that God offers to His people. It is not the particular things which I do which are important in themselves. What is important is that Christ lives and is in full control of my life, whether He directs me to listen to tapes or to wash the dishes, or to visit a friend. When I enter into this submissive relationship with Him, then in Him I find entrance to all that God has to offer. He truly becomes the door to an unshadowed relationship with God.

To pass through the Door is to be truly satisfied, to lose all our burdens and to enter into joy unspeakable.



Available Materials



Our audio CD message to be mailed out in september is entitled, "**The Broken Curse**" This special message explains what Jesus accomplished at the cross and answers questions which have remained obscure for two thousand years! We are sure you will be blessed by this message!

If you would like to have a copy on CD or audio tape, but you are not on our regular

tape-mailing list, then write to us or call and we will be happy to send it to you.

This message is also available on DVD. If you prefer the DVD version, please let us know.

call: (876) 603-0821 (Jamaica)
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| 00 - Clarifying the issues | 07 - No other gods before me | 14- The judgment of Christ |
| 01 - Becoming what you are | 08 - Why did Jesus have to die? | 15- Life after death |
| 02 - The end of the struggle | 09 - A finished work | 16- The three gospels |
| 03 - True repentance | 10- The two covenants | 17- What must I do? |
| 04 - The new creation | 11- Being faithful to the faith | 18- The dominion of the law |
| 05 - In Christ | 12- Amazing grace | |
| 06 - Surrender | 13- Goal of the law | |

Practicing Christians

Wayne Sutherland

The term, "practicing Christian," is one that I have heard a few times in my life. Perhaps the phrase is used more in some places than in others. But what does it really mean? The phrase is an interesting one because of what it may imply. Let me explain what I mean.

Would you say that you are a practising human being? Not likely. We are either human beings or we are not. I had no control over what I would become when I was conceived in my mother's womb. We humans are humans simply because we were born that way and not because we practiced until we became humans.

The real question is this: Are we Christians by birth, or are we Christians because of what we practice? Is true Christianity something we receive by birth, or is it something we develop by practice? Of course, it is true that the phrase may simply imply a Christian who lives what he professes as opposed to one who makes a profession which has no substance. But there are a great many who seem to believe that Christianity is a lifestyle which we develop by practice. This misconception is so widespread that it is worth commenting on.

An occupation may be a practice. Doctors may say that they Practice Medicine. Lawyers may say that they Practice Law and so on. These are behaviours/disciplines which are changeable. They are learnt, they have

no direct bearing on who we are intrinsically. They have nothing to do with our status as human beings.

To become a Christian means to receive the life of Christ, just as being a human means to have received the life of Adam. So just as I cannot be a practicing human, I cannot be a practicing Christian.

However, there are people whose Christian experience is based on what they are able to "practice." These are the ones who have, "a form of godliness," but deny the power thereof: (2Tim. 3:5)

Who then is a Christian?

A true Christian is one who is born again.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

A necessary requirement

For a new birth to occur, the old person (self) must die.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (John 12:24)

He who is born again is a new creation:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are

passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor 5:17)

The true Christian accepts that his survival is in Christ and Christ alone.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (John 15:4)

The truth is that many people want to have eternal life without really giving up the old life. Those who are attempting to practice their way into Christianity want to have both lives. This is why they have no option but to seek to obtain life by "practicing." They cannot obtain the gift while they refuse to let go of self. They refuse to accept what Christ said,

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Mat 6:24)

A person who seeks to obtain the Christian experience by practicing, is a person at work. One who measures his Christian value/commitment on the basis of "good" deeds. One who can boast. But does this kind of Christianity agree with the teaching of the word of God?



Letters

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we felt something important was still missing. Praise be to our God Who loves us so much that He gave us His very own Son. Praise be to God that His very own Son was willing to lay down His eternal life as a ransom for us. Praise be that they now abide in our hearts!!! My mind just cannot fathom that! I am humbled that the eternal Father would want

to abide in my sinsick, dark heart. What condescension. Wonderful God.

Australia

I want you to know how very much I appreciated your messages in Pennsylvania, particularly the one on "The Broken Curse." It made so many AL-

MOST-fitting puzzle pieces slide into place for me. I've watched the DVDs repeatedly and we've shared them for our church services. You made the plan of salvation so clear that it answered all the "but why" questions that have plagued me for as long as I can remember. Thank you!

Florida



Living in Christ – symbol or reality?

Vlad Ardeias

Since I first heard the 1888 message my heart has rejoiced more and more in the Lord and the greater the light became, the more I found God's Gift to be beyond my expectations, far beyond what I ever imagined or even dared to desire.

While Jesus was still on the earth, he gave us a hint that there was more to understand than the apostles understood back in those days. In John 16:12 He stated:

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. (John 16:12)

More than 1800 years later, Ellen White said,

“Great truths that have lain unheeded and unseen since the day of Pentecost, are to shine from God's word in their native purity. To those who truly love God the Holy Spirit will reveal truths that have faded from the mind, and will also reveal truths that are entirely new.” (RH.1897-08-17.020)

As I have studied this one subject that will “swallow up every other, Christ our righteousness,” “entirely new” aspects of the glorious truth “in Christ” have thrilled me and led me to give glory to God for this wonderful way that He provided for humanity to be saved.

But recently I found myself asking, did I really understand what the Bible means by the term, “in Christ”, or was my understanding wrong? If my understanding was wrong, then it is clear that what I believed was a lie.

This caused me to ask the question, how real is the life in Christ? How much of what I read in the Scriptures is symbol and how much is reality? If the Bible says for example that “I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me,” what does it mean by “Christ liveth in me”? Should I take that as a symbol or exactly as it reads?

When I apply this question to my daily life, it comes down to this: Who is taking the decisions in my life? Is it Him really, or is still me? I don't mean only in the difficult times of life, but in every second of every day, when I can choose from two, three or even more good things that I might do, how can I understand His plan, His will, for I know that He has a detailed plan for each and every one of us. Living Christ's life practically means that Christ's will is fulfilled in every tiny aspect of the daily life, in every second of my life, not only on the important days, but also in those days that appear to be monotonous, during the routine of the day.

from the moment I first became a Christian I cherished the following promise:

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. (Isa 30:21)

This verse gave me assurance, for I was afraid of making my own plans and taking my own decisions; I knew I could not rely on my own wisdom!

But again: how shall I hear the word? Should I listen to actually hear a voice speaking? Thinking of that I realized that this would not help me at all for suppose God should tell me: “*I am God; please do this now.*” Then all of a sudden, another voice would probably say: “*But that was not God! I am God and I want you to do this instead of that!*” How could I distinguish between the voices? The fact is, I could not. That is why all the answers that we need should be found in God's Word that we already have, and that is the Bible.

The answer of the Bible is that Christ wants to become united with each and every one of us, He wants to become ONE with me, and That One will be Him! This unity is to be so perfect that

wherever I go, it will not be me walking there, but He Himself!

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me. (John 13:20)

Please read the verse carefully for Christ is not saying that he “receiveth me also” or “receiveth me as well” but “receiveth me,” that is Christ! That is wonderful, for it means that it is no longer I, but Him, I will no longer speak, but Him! We are so blended together that my mind, that is carnal and not subject to the law of God, is dead, and instead of it, I “have the mind of Christ.”

That is to say that “*He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses (DA 668).*” Now I understand how I can know God's will in my daily life. All I have to do is simply trust His promise that He will be the One that lives, and not me anymore! Live in this reality by faith in His Word, and that will come true every second when I believe!

That's why the Lord said,

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:7)

Yes, because it is not my will anymore, or, in other words, my will is His!

“The Holy Spirit leads men to Christ, links the soul to the Saviour, and causes the human agent to identify himself with Christ.” ST.1895-10-03.010

In John 16:23 the Lord said:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. (John 16:23)

What does it mean to ask in His

Name? Most people think that if they say the magic formula “*in Jesus’ Name,*” they will have it! That’s why we sometimes hear people asking strange things in His Name! But no! This is not a magic formula at all!

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 18:18,19)

How can that be possible? He answers:

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Mat 18:20)

When a person in Christ is asking, binding or loosing in Christ’s Name, it is

not him or her that is working, speaking and asking, it is not him or her that decides what to ask for, but Christ’s mind, Christ’s desire, Christ’s prayer, Christ praying and working! That’s why He assured us that “whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.” Before I understood this wonderful truth, I always wondered, was He not afraid to promise such a thing? But no, because Christ has always fulfilled the Father’s plans and He will do the same in everyone that receives Him!

Moreover, He promises,

Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. (John 20:23)

I thought that only God and Christ could remit sins! It is true! But let me tell you that where They are living, where They are reigning, no one else is alive to reign; in other words you are dead and God is working “in you both to will

and to do of his good pleasure.” What the text is here saying is that your mind is perfectly united and so in accord with the mind of Christ that whenever a person is truly sorry for his sin and Heaven sees it, you will see it as well; when you forgive a person, it will be because heaven has forgiven him too.

Oh, what a relief! All I have to do is to believe that He lives and not I anymore, to keep my heart “broken and submissive and humble” and just to let His mind that has become mine, control and decide in my daily life! Now I know that as long as I remain in Him and He in me, I don’t have to be afraid to think and decide, for it is no longer I, but Him!

Praise be to the Lord that He opened my eyes to understand the truth that living in Christ is not a symbol at all, but a real experience, as real as the air that we breathe!



Open Face

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Are you ready for the storm?

David Clayton

People who keep in touch with the news are aware of what is happening in the financial world. I don't know much about economics but I have to admit that the present financial turmoil has really caught my attention.

Some months ago brother Ayon Baxter sent me a link to a website run by economic experts in Europe which predicted on the basis of then present economic trends that there would be the beginning of a collapse of the US economy in September of 2008.

During the ensuing months more and more people began to come to the same conclusion, that the US economy would begin to collapse in September 2008. Some even went so far as to predict that it would happen in the *middle* of September. When somebody gets that specific, it is easy to test the truthfulness of their theory.

On September 15, 2008 Lehman Brothers went bankrupt and I sat up and took notice.

Brothers and sisters, there is something in the air. We have all heard the conspiracy theories and the warnings from all sides over the years, but I think anyone who is observing present trends and events will agree with me that something unprecedented in human history is about to take place. I don't know exactly what it means. The same people who predicted that the US economy would begin to collapse in September have also predicted that there would be a complete collapse by February of next year. After what happened in September I suspect that these people have some idea of what they are talking about.

I have been doing a little layman's research into the background reasons for the present economic meltdown and I have basically come to the conclusion that there is no way that this crisis can be averted. It is evident that the world has come to a crisis point on almost

every level of existence. Socially, politically, economically, religiously, militarily, and even ecologically, it is evident that all aspects of existence on this earth have reached critical mass. We are at the end of time!

What a glorious reality!! Yet at the same time it is frightening. Billions are unaware of the truth or else are too drunk with the cares of this life to be concerned. We who are God's people need to hear the wake-up call. We are not of darkness that that day should overtake us as a thief.

The conclusion has been pressing on me with increasing urgency that we are facing times of terrible deprivation with the real prospect of worldwide hunger and starvation resulting in widespread rioting and anarchy. Unfortunately, over the past 70 years the world has developed in such a way that the masses of people who live on it depend on huge farms and corporations for their food supply. Small farmers have been squeezed out of existence by these huge corporations and man has become dependent on the system for his existence. Very few people can survive without the supermarkets.

Most of us work in offices or other jobs where our contribution results in our getting a piece of paper (a check) at the end of the month. But we cannot eat a piece of paper and we do not plant our own food. We depend on the system for survival. If there is any disruption in the system, billions of us face mass starvation.

How are we to relate to this impending crisis?

Some have been preparing for it by purchasing land and establishing homes in the country. Those who are able have been setting up independent electricity supplies (solar, wind or water generated) and have been securing their own water supplies. Others have been advocating the bulk storage of

canned goods and other non-perishable food items.

In the midst of all this, God has redirected my mind to Psalm 91. I learned this Psalm 30 years ago and it has been a source of comfort to me many times. Now, as I look at what is coming upon the earth, every word of this Psalm seems to have taken on extra significance. What strikes me most about this Psalm is that God emphasizes several times what the real criterion is which prepares His people for this, and any crisis.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the almighty. (Ps. 91:1)

This verse is full of wonderful hope, comfort and assurance. The only person who can *abide* under the shadow of another is one who is constantly joined to that person. To "abide," means to live, to stay, to remain. God promises that those who dwell in His secret place will have this experience. His "shadow will be where they will stay. Surely there can be no safer place in the entire universe, no matter what the circumstances, than under the arms of One who is almighty, who is able to provide for all ones needs who is invulnerable to all assault by the enemy.

But what does it mean to dwell in God's secret place? The secret place is in contrast to the public place. We all worship God at church or during family worship. We spend time with Him regularly in communal worship, but how is it in our personal private intercourse with Him? The secret place is the place of intimacy, the place for those who love one another and enjoy the company of each other. Are we aware that God craves and cherishes this kind of relationship with us? In fact, here, His promise is for those who "dwell," or live constantly in this place.

What a thing to contemplate! What an

experience to enjoy! A relationship with God in which we are constantly in His presence in a secret, private union of love and peace that no one else can enter into or influence. It is to those who know Him in this way that the promise of God is extended. Such a person will abide under His shadow, the safest place in the universe.

This entire Psalm is a wonderful series of promises which one day will mean far more to us than we ever imagined it could.

Again, God emphasizes the critical ingredient:

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. (Psa 91:14)

Why are we assured of being delivered? God says, it is “because he hath set his love upon me.” The central focus of this verse and this entire Psalm, is relationship. The people who have these promises are those whose hearts thrill at the mention of the name of God, those who delight to be in His presence, who are constantly seeking every opportunity of communing with Him. These are not mechanical wor-

shippers, observers or form and ritual. These are people who know God as their best friend and are jealous of anything which might distract them from Him. Such friends of God walk with Him as did Enoch and therefore, they have the assurance,

With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation. (Psa 91:16)

As we enter this trying time brothers and sisters, a time of crisis which I believe will not end until the coming of the Lord, let us make sure that our attention is focused on the right place.

NO SOLUTION

Analysis by those who know
(Notice the dates)

February 16, 2008

“LEAP/E2020 wishes to remind that we are now resolutely stepping into an era with no historical precedent any comparison with the previous crises of our modern economy would be fallacious. It is neither a “remake” of the 1929 crisis nor a repetition of the 1970s oil crises or 1987 stock market crisis. It is truly a global systemic crisis, that is to say a crisis affecting the entire planet and questioning the very foundations of the international system upon which the world was organised in the last decades.

“Concerning stock markets, our team has anticipated since October 2007 that international stocks would plummet by 20 to 60 percent according to the region in the course of the year 2008. Today, we must re-evaluate our anticipations as we estimate that losses will be even greater than that the collapse of the real economy in the US by the end of Summer 2008 will drag down all stock markets

“In this 22nd issue of the Global Europe Anticipation Bulletin, with the alert we sound about a collapse of US real economy from September 2008

onward, we are trying again to warn those concerned that this major event will generate many very severe socio-political troubles in the United States whose economy is truly on a tumbling course, a situation extremely likely to entail very heavy consequences for the financial and monetary markets, and for the world’s economy. We have not yet reached the heart of the crisis. According to LEAP/E2020, we will be there in the second semester of 2008.” (Global Europe Anticipation Bulletin No.22)

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Friday, June 20th, 2008

As rocky as the global markets have been, the worst is yet to come, the Royal Bank of Scotland warns.

RBS analysts have warned clients to brace for a full-blown crash in the global stock-and-bond markets over the next three months as the conflicting realities of slowing growth and rising inflation paralyze the world’s major central banks - causing “all the chickens [to] come home to roost,” Great Britain’s *Daily Telegraph* newspaper reported. (William Patalon III - *Money Morning/The Money Map Report*)

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Tuesday, 16 September 2008

“Having experienced at close quarters the 1987 sharemarket crash, I have to say there is no doubt at all

that current events are much scarier.

You can compare both crises to bomb blasts - but the detonation zone is different. The crash of 87 was like an explosion in the middle of a building - a hell of a lot of glass blown everywhere and heaps of visible, showy damage.

The latest events, brought on by that hideous creation known as subprime, more closely resemble what happens when you put a bomb under the foundations of a building.

(David Hargreaves - *BusinessDay-nz*)

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It’s official. The storm is here. In *How To Survive The Crisis And Prosper In The Process*, I predicted a global financial crisis would happen where real estate prices would fall 40-70%, stock markets would crash and a Great Depression would result.

“This is the end of a system. It is not a cyclical correction. It is not a market pullback and it is not a repricing of risk in an otherwise resilient marketplace. We are witness to the end of an economic system based on credit-based paper money that began 300 years ago in England. All beginnings have endings—and that we didn’t expect it to end doesn’t mean that it wouldn’t.” (<http://news.goldseek.com/GoldSeek/1221655173.php>)