EDITORIAL

Makarios!
Blessings from on High

Makarios! Blessings on you! Such is the salutation of the world of light, the benediction of God offered to every individual on the planet. As we enter the new year of 1997, it would do well for us to reflect on the great sermon on the mount found in Matthew 5, preached by the Son of God at the beginning of His ministry. May we all, as we begin a new year, find renewed blessing and deep meaning in these familiar words.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Who are the poor in spirit? No, Jesus is not talking about the mentally deficient or the discouraged. “Poor” or “póchois” means “abject poverty, bankrupt, nothing to offer”. The poor in spirit are those about to be justified by God’s wonderful redeeming grace, those who have realized their condition and their desperate need of a Saviour, those who realize that they can do nothing to achieve salvation in and of themselves. Without that realization, the unfolding of the rest of the beautiful plan of salvation is halted, for “the Lord can do nothing towards the recovery of man until <man is> convinced of his own weakness and stripped of all self-sufficiency.” DA300 How many of us have still not been fully convinced of our destitute state? How many still believe they’re not so bad as some others? To those who see themselves as destitute without Christ, is given the promise: “theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”. Jesus is not talking about losing a loved one. “mourn” or “pentheho” means abject mourning and implies repentance. It is the logical step after “póchois”. “Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin, a spirit of confession in which there is no excuse for sin or attempt at self-justification.” (5T640,1) Have we experienced this cleansing or are we jealously guarding some cherished sins? Have we found out what displeases the Lord and put it away? We cannot freely experience salvation without this step.

TRUTH NUGGET:
“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy.”

Martin Luther King
fruit of true repentance. Meekness prepares for sanctification. Without this humble- ing of ourselves beneath the hand of God, we would be in a constant struggle of our wills against the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. When the Lord chastens and corrects us, our meekness will make it easier to bear. (Heb. 12:5,6)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. 

Here Jesus speaks of an absolute hunger. Jesus cannot fill those who are already full. (Luke 1:53) The only requirement to being filled is hunger. (Isaiah 55:1-3; John 7:37) Are we hungry for God? Are we thirsting for sanctification? Or are we satisfied with a seemingly clear exterior, an upright facade? Does our soul pant after God as does the deer after the water? (Ps. 42:1) We cannot force ourselves to be hungry and thirsty after righteousness. It comes as a result of our God-guided repentance and humility. God can give us a hunger and a thirst, and then, as He promises, He can fill us with Himself.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. 

Jesus calls for mercy on a far bigger scale than most of us see mercy. It is easy to feel mercy for the homeless and poverty-stricken. Even non-Christians feel mercy and compassion for the hungry children of Africa. Why even government officials send aid to impoverished countries. But true Christians are called to go beyond that. "The fruits of sanctification are compassion to one who has no claim to mercy." Peace can only come from keeping God's law. "Give peace unto those who love your law, and nothing causes them to stumble." Ps. 119:165. "If you have headed my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the midday of the sea." Isaiah 48:18. These are they that understand the spirit of the law and the character of God, and carry it out. They are called sons of God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Peace can only come from keeping God's law. Give peace to those who love your law, and nothing causes them to stumble." Ps. 119:165. "If you have heeded my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the midday of the sea." Isaiah 48:18. These are they that understand the spirit of the law and the character of God, and carry it out. They are called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for doing nothing wrong!" These are they who have fully developed the plan of salvation in their lives. They have been brought from filthy worldly creatures to holy and royal persons, selves and kingdom. They have become completely new people, and nothing causes them to stumble from their walk in this world's kingdom.

Through these Beatitudes, God has outlined what He wants to develop in His church. He has shown us what is possible—not in our dreams, but in our real lives—if we are willing to pay the price. "We are to engage in no business, follow no gospel, seek no pleasure that would hinder the outworking of His righteousness in our character and life." Jesus calls us to be lights in a world that others may glorify God when they see our lives. Our light must shine, and our speech must "be "habitual meekness, kindness, mercy, love, trials borne patiently, temptations resisted, and blessings gratefully received." Our mission is to show the world that there is a God on the throne whose character is worthy of praise and imitation.

How can we accomplish our mission if we have not allowed God to work out his character building plan in our lives? If you, like me, find yourself at the onset of 1997, still struggling with the great "I have still not yet resisted to bloodyshed, striving against sin" (Heb 12:4), then perhaps now is a good time for us all to re-assess, re-organize, and re-commit our lives to Him.

"In the road to death the whole race may go with all their worldliness, all their selfishness, pride, dishonesty, moral debauchery, and every man's opinions and doctrines, space to follow his inclinations, to do whatever his self-love may dictate. If you cling to any besetting sin, you will find the way too narrow for you to enter. Your own ways, even your own opinions, will be given up if you would keep the way of the Lord. He who would serve Christ cannot meet the world's standard. Heaven's path is too narrow for riches to ride in state, too narrow for the play of self-centered ambition, too steep, and rugged for lovers of ease to climb."

Makarios!
TREASURER SEEKERS

Three men came seeking God. Here are the tales of their travels...

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

God, the Creator, planted several seeds in Robert Armstrong. Robert has been a Christian for a long time. God was always there, nudging and nurturing Robert along a spiritual path. After a period of backsliding, Robert was baptized in 1992. God was ever-present, performing many miracles. He healed Robert from a hurtful childhood and helped him mend family relationships. Says Robert, "God planted the seed of forgiveness in me. He turned hate to love." God also took away Robert’s desire to drink and stopped his downward spiral into alcoholism.

Then God planted another seed. Robert was hungry for truth, so when he received a brochure advertising the Walter Veth Creation vs. Evolution Seminar in January 1996, he acted on it. He attended the meetings. So a seed was planted. Later, when the Amazing Discoveries group heard of the Leo Schreven Revelation meetings, in January 1997, they sent an invitation to Robert. Again, he followed up and attended the meetings. This time the seed germinated. Robert’s spirit was moved and he joined the Seventh-day Adventist church by profession of faith.

IAN BAIN

The visit of a whole lot more than coffee! A new Christian, just three weeks young, was on fire for God and "determined to take everyone into the Kingdom with her" during her break, she began witnessing to one of her customers who had seemed down. The customer’s friend was well. And that's how at 50 years old, Ian Bain first heard about Jesus, his Saviour.

Ian has a big heart. One of his friends was very depressed and suicidal. He needed a friend to listen. So Ian met him at a coffee shop where a waitress chanced to overhear their conversation. Ian, a pretty staunch agnostic, atheist, left-wing humanist, listened to her speak to his friend. She told Ian she and her roommate would pray for him. He gave him some pamphlets to read. He read the pamphlets and when he read about God on His throne, God, his judge and his Saviour, Ian was convicted and accepted Christ into his heart.

The Holy Spirit has been very close to Ian ever since he began his Christian walk eight years ago. Eager to learn everything he could about his Saviour, Ian quit his job and took a one year Bible course at a college run by the People’s Full Gospel Apostolic Church. He joined the Presbyterian church and immediately became involved in Tuesday and Thursday morning seminars. He also offered Bible study groups that cater to businessmen and executives in the downtown Vancouver area. He continued searching for truth, attending many other churches, including the Anglican church which he was attending when he heard about the Dr. Walter Veth Creation vs. Evolution Seminar. He attended the meetings.

As a follow-up, the Amazing Discoveries Foundation, which had sponsored the Veth series, sent Ian a brochure advertising another series of meetings. He attended.

Amazing Compound Interest

The Amazing Discoveries Committee was extremely busy during the last months of 1996, mailing out invitations to a Revelation Seminar conducted by Dr. Walter Veth in Bumby. Several people responded to the invite and attended. The seminar was held at McPherson Centre in Bumby. Interest was high.

In the World Is Dr. Veth?

Dr. Walter Veth has a busy speaking schedule both in Europe and in Canada in 1997. If you would like to invite him to speak to your group, please contact:

- January 5-11: Deimendorf, GERMANY
- January 20 - February 1: Nurnberg, GERMANY
- February 3-15: Praha, CZECH REPUBLIC
- February 17-28: Kon, GERMANY
- March 3-15: Offenburg, GERMANY

Teen Chooses Christ

Josh Goubej (16) is no stranger to evangelistic crusades. His parents and his family’s friends were founding members of the Amazing Discoveries Organization. It is no surprise then, that he names Dr. Walter Veth as one of the key individuals who helped lead him to the Lord. He was baptized on February 15, 1997, following personal Bible studies with Pastor Don Anderson during the past year. Says Josh, "Baptism was the turning point in my life. It was a new person in Christ. Outward things might seem easy to change, but to actually be a real Christian requires a heart decision.

Josh says that he was impressed by Dr. Walter Veth because he didn’t just present information. His personal testimony and the way he lived his life, influenced Josh a lot. "He was a genuine Christian and he lived up to what he presented!"

NEWS NUGGET

The Amazing Discoveries Organization is now part of ASI, the Adventist Laypersons Services and Industries Organization.
ALERT!

World in Crisis!

Come hear

Dr. Saleem Faraq

April 11 & 12

at Vancouver Central

SDA Church

5350 Baillie St.
Vancouver, BC
(266-6727)

Sponsored by Amazing Discoveries

Treasure Uncovered!

The Queen of Sheba, after seeking out King Solomon who was reputed to have great wisdom, pitted him with many hard questions. So satisfied was she with all his answers that she gave him many gifts of spices and precious woods. Despite her riches, the Queen of Sheba received an even greater treasure from King Solomon. He shared with her the precious truths of God, His law, His love, and His character. In the exchange, the Queen of Sheba came out the richer for having sought out God’s wisdom... Are we sharing what treasure we’ve uncovered?

Dr. Saleem A. Faraq has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a church and government worker. He served for 18 years as a special advisor to Governors Reagan, Brown, and Deukumajian in California. He has served as Health and Temperance Director for the Eastern Africa Division, as well as Director of Health Services for the South Pacific. He’s been a professor at Loma Linda University and served as as consultant to the US State Department in South Korea and Liberia. He is currently VP for the GC International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency. He is also Chairman of the Interdenominational AIDS Prevention Committee in Zimbabwe, Africa. He brings with him a vast knowledge and experience of the world today.

What is it that we have that kings would even inquire about? Is it that we can bring to a world in darkness that will give hope and will make it want to live for God when Christ will return?

Daniel 12:3 says that there will be a people of understanding and wisdom who will lead many to righteousness. What does it mean to have wisdom? Does it mean to be intelligent? Does it mean to have a university degree or to be highly educated? It means none of these things. Wisdom is available to every single child of God just for the asking.

Is God fair? Does God really know what’s going on? Is God in control? These are hard questions.

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The Bible defines wisdom and understanding in Psalm 119:99, 100: "What have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation... Through Your precepts I get understanding." Obedience to God grants us wisdom. Wisdom is not to be equated with knowledge.

Now this wisdom that God has given us, this knowledge about His character and His precepts and how He wants us to live is a wisdom that we have a duty to impart to a dying world. That is why we are here.

There is a passage in the Bible that discusses how to evangelize even the kings of this world. It contains words that if we would do well to study in more detail. In 1 Kings 10, we find Solomon garnered in the faith, full of zest for the Lord. In 1 Kings 10:1: "Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the NAME of the Lord... The name of the Lord stands for His character. His precepts - everything embodied about Him - everything that we understand about the Lord. She came to test him with HARD questions. If we are the people that are to bring a message to the dying world, we can assure you that they will come to test us with HARD questions... very hard questions. Did Solomon understand the name of the Lord? Did he understand why he was here on this planet? Did he know what his duty was to mankind and to those around him? In Ecclesiastes 12:13, he sums it up: "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's end. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." Imagine that! Solomon was a good old-fashioned Seventh-day Adventist!

He says "Fear God". What does it mean to fear God? To be afraid of Him? Absolutely not! It is to revere Him, to understand Him, to see His beautiful character, to love Him. Do Adventists believe that the remnant stand on two pillars, faith in Jesus and the commandments of God? "Fear God and keep His commandments." Do we believe that we are living in the time of judgment? We are Laodiceans - the nation of judgment. We are to bring the standard of judgment to the world, not forgetting
Treasure Uncovered!

The faith of Jesus - the atonement of Jesus - being our only means of salvation. We need to replace our base faith on the consequence of that faith.

Do we understand the character of God? I spend a lot of time with young people. I have a big crowd of young people that gather in the office every Friday night. Many of them are ex-Seventh-day Adventists. Among them is a Satanist, great what Seventh-day Adventist. They all have burning questions on their minds. Is God really there? Does God really know what's going on? Is God in control? These are hard questions. Are we ready to face the world out there when they ask these kind of questions? When little children are dying as if they were the whole world and people are pointing their fingers at God, can you stand in the breach and say God is in control? Can you protect His character?

When the Queen of Sheba came, she didn't come alone. She came with her whole retinue, with much gold and precious stones, with her servants, and when she came, she still spoke with him about all that was in her heart. You have no idea how people look for the truth. They look for fulfillment and just don't get it because the world supplies endless counterfeiters. The queen of Sheba was a high official with all her regiment. We are advised in the Spirit of Prophecy that the Lord can reach the high, the upper echelons, then we will definitely succeed in reaching the lower classes.

As Seventh-day Adventists, are we grounded in our doctrine? Titus 1:9 says: "Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to convict and convince those who contradict; for 2 Tim. 2:28 says: "sound speech cannot be condemned; that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you." I'm so saddened that today we want to make less prominent the differences between us and the world. Even the differences of our doctrines and the world is common, but there are certain distinct differences which are very important. Titus 2:8 in terms of present truth to a dying world. When people come and have hard questions, can we answer them? Do we really know our Bibles so that we can explain to them law and grace.

Solomon was a health-reforming Seventh-day Adventist ... and he understood that his lifestyle had to reflect his relationship with his Lord.

Verse 4 of 1 Kings, we read: "And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, she was more astonished at the palace than at the word that he had said..." Are you going to look at the house we are building? Isaiah 58 calls it: "And the doors of the temple". We are building a spiritual house, and we are the ones who are to repair the broken walls, the spiritually down doctrines of the Bible. People will scrutinize our building. They will look at our house and say: "Do these people have all the truth?" They are so different. They are so peculiar.

We too will be scrutinized. The house we are building will be looked at very carefully in 1 Cor. 13:2: "And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, yet if I have not love, I am nothing." This is not talking about a sickly sentimental love that has no power other than the deceptive counterfeit for which it is being dished out today. It is talking about the kind of love that enabled Mary to ask Jesus to love her for her and the doctrine she stood for, to remain in prison for 38 years rather than turn away from the kind of love the reformers and martyrs had for their Lord and the doctrine. It caused them to choose death rather than to deny their Lord. Wisdom is a culmination of knowledge and this kind of love.

When the queen looked carefully at Solomon and the house he was building, something happened in her heart. Something changed. But it wasn't enough. She was feeling for a way out. She looked further. 1 Kings 10:5 says she looked at "the food on his table". Do you think Solomon understood the principles of health reform? Do you think he had any idea what to be on his table? Was it going to be different from those of other kings? Proverbs 23:1: "When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before your eyes." Do not put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to apprise. Do not press his delicacies for they are deceptive, for Solomon was a health reforming Seventh-day Adventist. He knew the commandments were important. He knew that fasting in God's house was important. And he understood that his lifestyle had to reflect his relationship with his Lord. He knew that his body was the temple of the living God. Do we always know these things? The queen of Sheba was looking at the palace, but she was watching his every move. In the same manner we need to do.

She also looked at "the seating of his servants". Obviously there was something really the seating of his servants to what was in the world at that time. The Bible tells us: "Do not be like the Gentile princes who lord it over their servants." Solomon was a humble king. Jesus Himself, King of kings and Lord of lords, was a servant of servants. How do we react to our fellow man?

She also looked at their apparel. There was something strange, something different about them compared to any other monarch that she had ever visited. Even their clothing was different. Do we have dress reform in our church? It is not just so old-fashioned today, isn't it? "Conclusion: Our dress is an important consideration. We are strangers and pilgrims in this world. We are to wait, watch, pray, and work. The whole body, mind, the whole soul, the whole heart, and the whole strength purchased by the blood of the Son of God. Our hearts are united with Christ's heart, we shall have a more intense desire to be clothed in righteousness. Nothing will be put upon the person to attract attention or to create controversy. We should not be the first to follow fashion, but we should also not be the last." The queen also looked at him at his cupbearer. Do our cups contain the sweet wine of true doctrine? Is our cup running over with the water of life that we are offering, or is our cup half empty?

Do we know the doctrines, essentials for our salvation at this time so that we can explain things and teach people the importance of the very truth for which we stand?

Can we answer the HARD questions?

Do we know how often it is that Adventists are scrutinized, how we are watched secretly? Is our lifestyle showing people what God can do for them? I have heard people often say "There is more to this truth and to this gospel than I ever imagined. I will never be able to comprehend the fullness of God"?

The Queen of Sheba says in vs. 9: "Blessed be the Lord God..." May it be said of us and of our God. The Queen of Sheba was so pleased. She gave him so many gifts, so many spices that there never again came such abundance from afar. Jesus says in Matt. 2:11: "And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy..."
"All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world is for enough good men to do nothing."

E. Burke

**Staking a Claim**

Do you want to be a member of the Amazing Discoveries Organization? Do you want to find out more about us? Amazing Discoveries provides opportunities for anyone to have an active role in evangelism and to reach out to secular society using unique methods. If you want to be involved, just e-mail us or fill out the bottom form and fax it to 599-9949. Or cut out the form and mail it to Amazing Discoveries, PO Box 189, 7101C - 120th St., Delta, BC V4E 2A9.

I would like to be a part of the Amazing Discoveries Charitable Foundation and help others discover more. Please send me a membership application.

Name:

Address:

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