"The garden of the heart must be cultivated. The soil must be broken up by deep repentance for sin. Poisonous, satanic plants must be uprooted. The soil once overgrown by thorns can be reclaimed only by diligent labor. So the evil tendencies of the natural heart can be overcome only by earnest effort in the name and strength of Jesus. The Lord bids us by His prophet, 'Break up your fallow ground...' Jer 4:3. This work He desires to accomplish for us, and He asks us to cooperate with Him." (COL p. 56)
From the Editor...

NEIGHBOURS IN HEAVEN

Guest Editorial by Pastor Don Anderson

What type of music will you play on your stereo in heaven? Jazz, Country/Western, Rock, Heavy Metal, Classical, Easy-listening, Gospel, or a little of each? You say, “we won’t have stereos in heaven.” OK, then, what type of music will you play on your harp?

Now, more importantly, if I am your neighbour and want to take an afternoon nap, will you crank up the volume and shake the whole neighbourhood? Which leads to another question: would we want to live next to each other in heaven? Could we get along? Maybe we might rub each other the wrong way. You might wake me up with your singing in the shower each morning.

From the Mailbox...

Dear Wendy:

It was a thrilling experience to listen to Dr. Walter Veith at the Azure Hills SDA Church while I was in Loma Linda for a weekend. A friend invited me and I caught only the last half of Sunday night’s lectures. But the Holy Spirit must have arranged for me to be there because my friend got the last copy of the Amazing Discoveries Summer Newsletter which had an excellent article on Bible translations. It’s a topic that was brought to my attention two years ago... God bless and keep in touch.

R.R.
Lompoc, CA

Dear Amazing Discoveries:

God bless you and yours in your service. We continue to pray for the Amazing Discoveries ministry and for all who are behind it. It is a timely work and thank God for those who have the courage to stand up for the Lord and His saving truth.

L.K.
N. Vancouver, BC

He is Able

Erwin R. Gane
Retired Editor
Adult Sabbath School Quarterly

A university student discovers how to make the victory promises work.

“Claim God’s power,” the pastor urged. “Praise Him for the victory. Faith is praise; praise is faith.”

I was a student at the University of Sydney, Australia. There were sins in my life that I could not overcome. In sheer desperation, I approached a pastor who served as a chaplain for the university students.

“What is the problem?” He asked.

“I am a Seventh-day Adventist and the son of an Adventist minister,” I said.

“But there are sins in my life that I cannot overcome. I pray and pray, and pray some more, but I never gain the victory.”

“You know,” he replied, “you much praying may be a clue to your problem.”

At that my heart sank. I began to think I had come to the wrong person.

“But doesn’t the Bible say we should pray constantly?” I asked.

“Yes, of course,” he answered. “But what do you do when you’re tempted to commit your besetting sin?”

“Well, I pray for the victory.”

“And what do you do next?”

“I pray the same prayer again. I ask the Lord to help me overcome the temptation.”

“What’s next?”

“I go on praying the same prayer.”

“Yes,” he said, and then you commit the sin?”

“Yes, I do,” I admitted.

“Don’t you see what you’re doing?” He replied. “You are asking over and over again but never claiming the victory. God is waiting and eager to give you the victory. He wants you to claim it by faith. Thank Him for the victory. Praise Him for it. It’s yours for the asking.”

Then we knelt and he prayed a beautiful prayer. I don’t remember the words, just the impression. Then he said, “Now you pray.”

So I began, “Lord forgive me for the sins of the past and give me the power not to commit the same sins again.”

Then I prayed the same prayer in different words and was about to repeat it a third time, when he placed his hand on mine and said, “Hush a moment. Don’t you see what you’re doing? You are making the same request over and over again. Claim the victory. It’s yours for the asking. Praise God for hearing your prayer. Faith is praise; praise is faith.”

“All right, I’ll try again,” I responded. Then I prayed, “Lord, I praise You for Your forgiveness. I praise You for the victory. Lord I believe; help my unbelieving heart.”

From that experience in my university days I learned to pray three prayers when I’m tempted: first, “Lord, I’m helpless; I like this thing” (I wouldn’t be tempted if I didn’t like it); second, “Lord, I know this is an `app; please give me the victory over it”; third, “Thank You, Jesus; I believe You have given me the victory. I praise You for Your strength not to commit this sin. Thank You, thank You, thank You!” It’s possible to pray those three prayers mentally in a few seconds. And the third prayer is the most important. Then God gives the victory, because we have exercised faith in His enduring might.

To overcome weakness is important; to ask for power to overcome is vital; but to claim by faith Christ’s overcoming strength is absolutely essential.

The Bible Promises Victory Over Sin. Jude 24 says, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”

Continued on Page... 10

Faith on the Line

YOUNG FOLKS’ HISTORY OF THE SABBATH
By Jim Arrabito & children
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3 Spring 1998
Who Is My Neighbour?
By Walter J. Velth

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
Proverbs 14:12

IN THE NEWS

Antarctic Ice Sheet
Breaking Up From Global Warming

British scientists are warning that the 20,700 sq. km. Larsen B ice sheet in Antarctica is “critically unstable” and could collapse within the next two years. (Earthrise - A diary of the planet. Vancouver Sun, Feb. 7, 1998) Should this happen, the weather could be affected as far away as northern Europe. ‘Temperatures around the ice cap are rising five times faster than the global average, and grass has been seen growing along the edges of the icy continent’, the article claims.

Vatican Plans to Mark New Millennium

According to a February 27, 1998 front page article in The Vancouver Sun, Pope John Paul II “...has his heart set on capping his papal reign with a breakthrough in faith relations.” What he has in mind, according to the report, is convening a meeting in the year 2000, on Mount Sinai, of the leaders of Christians, Jews, and Muslims - all of which revere the mountain as the place where God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses.

The article says that the Pope would like to visit places significant in Biblical history - places such as those associated with Moses, Abraham, and Paul. Several countries, including Egypt, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq, are apparently considering inviting the Pope to visit them, in response to initiatives from the pope and the Vatican's council for interreligious dialogue.

The Vatican is also making plans for millennium celebrations.

Others work at obedience. They strive for perfection in commandment keeping, health reform, and righteous living, which they believe are the fruits of a right connection with God. There are numerous combinations between these two poles, yet the trouble with all these recipes is that they concentrate on self and one’s own salvation.

Salvation is not found in what I can do for Christ. It is found in what Christ can do for me. Only He can change my selfish nature into a selfless nature. Every vestige of self-sufficiency will be removed when we behold Christ. The outpouring of an act of love enabling us to love and serve others. It is never selfish.

Our good works cannot stem from a desire to earn salvation or favour. Any good works we perform must be from a selfless heart. Therefore, we must not ask: “What can I do to become right with God?” But rather, we should ask: “What can God do in me to make me right with God?” Am I permitting Him to create a clean heart within me or is pride and selfishness becoming an obstacle?”

It is in this sense only, that we can say: “I am crucified with Christ: Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

Not I, but Christ. It is only God that can create a clean heart within us. We do noth things; it is He who makes things. If we claim to have faith, yet unbelieving fear will be swept away before living faith. We shall contemplate the character of Him who first loved us.” (TM 220)

“...In His divine arrangement, through His unmerited favour, the Lord has ordained that good works shall be rewarded. We are accepted through Christ's merit alone; and the acts of mercy, the deeds of charity, which we perform, are the fruits of faith; and they become a blessing to us: for men are to be rewarded according to their works. It is the fragrance of the merit of Christ that makes our good works acceptable to God, and it is grace that enables us to do good works and thereby “renders us.” Our works in and of themselves have no merit. We deserve not thanks from God. We have only done what it was our duty to do, and our works could not have been performed in the strength of our own sinful natures.” (AG 224 Emphasis supplied)

Salvation is not found in what I can do for Christ. It is found in what Christ can do for me.

Faith on the Line 5

Follow these verses, the psalmist says, “Then, I will teach transgressors your way.” He also says, “My tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness”, realizing that “the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart.” The psalmist continues, “Do in good thy pleasant unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.” In summary, there is:

1. conversion experience
2. praise unto God
3. good deeds unto Zion
4. building the walls of Jerusalem

The conversion experience is a draft of living water. Works springing from the well of self are as worthless as water from our own cisterns. Faith with self in mind is equally worthless. We need to drink living water. Water that will never let us thirst again.

“We should cherish love and gratitude, we should look unto Jesus and become transformed into His image. The result of this will be increased confidence, hope, patience, and courage. We shall be drinking of the water of life of which Christ spoke to the woman of Samaria...This water represents the life of Christ, and every soul must have it by coming into a living connection with God. Then, blessed, happy, grateful confidence will be an abiding principle in the soul. Unbelieving fear will be swept away before living faith. We shall contemplate the character of Him who first loved us.” (TM 220)

Continued on Page 10
Who is My Neighbour?

"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. I am the Lord." Lev 19:18 (Emphasis supplied)

"But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." Lev 19:34 (Emphasis supplied)

In the above verses, and in the time-honored story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), the Bible tells us who our neighbour is — it is anyone who is in need of help.

"What is pure religion? Christ has told us that pure religion is the exerise of pity, sympathy and love, in the home, in the church, and in the world. This is the kind of religion to teach to the children, and is the genuine article; instead of being brought to bear on the thoughts upon themselves, but that wherever there is human need and suffering, there is a field for missionary work.

"There are many unprincipled subjects about us, who are sacrificing the powers of their God-given manhood to pernicious habits. Shall we despise them? No, the Lord Jesus has purchased their souls at an infinite price, even by the shedding of his heart's blood.

"Are you who profess to be the children of God, Christ in the full acceptance of the term, or in your life-practice, are you only counterfeit, pretend? Do you ask, as did Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Will the Lord say to any of us as he said to Cain, "What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground? Shall we fail to do our God-given work, and not to seek to save that which was lost?"

"There are many who ask, as did the lawyer, "Who is my neighbour?" The answer comes down to us in the circumstances that happened near Jericho, when the priests and the Levite passed by on the other side, and left the poor bruised and wounded stranger to be taken care of by the good Samaritan. Every one who is in suffering need is our neighbour. Every straying son and daughter of Adam, who has been ensnared by the enemy of souls, and bound in the slavery of wrong habits, is our neighbour. The God-given broth of another is our neighbour, is my neighbour." (RH 11-12-95 Emphasis supplied)

"The churches need to have their eyes anointed with the heavenly eyesight, that they may see the many opportunities all about them to minister for God. Repeatedly God has called upon His people to go out into the highways and hedges, and compel men to come in, that His house may be full, yet even within the shadow of our own doors, are families in which we have not shown sufficient interest to lead them to think that we cared for their souls. It is this work lying nearest us that the Lord calls upon us to do. We are not to stand, saying, "Who is my neighbour?" We are to remember that our neighbour is the one who needs our sympathy and help. Our neighbour is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbour is every person who is the property of God. In Christ, the distinctions made by the Jews as to who was their neighbour are swept away. There are no territorial lines, no artificial distinctions, no caste, no aristocracy." (CHS 29 Emphasis supplied)

"Thus the question, "Who is my neighbour?" is forever answered. Christ has shown that our neighbour does not mean merely one of the church or faith to which we belong. It has no reference to race, color, or class distinction. Our neighbour is every person who needs our help. Our neighbour is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbour is everyone who is the property of God." (DA 503)

The question of neighbour is so clearly defined that it needs no further elaboration. Everyone who needs our help is our neighbour.

Who is My Brother?

A brother is next of kin, clearly then, a brother is closer than a neighbour. Jesus unambiguously defines who are my brethren.

"Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said "Behold, my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father, which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Matt 12:47-50

Closely, a brother is one who is obedient to God and thus, a member of the body of Christ. "Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press. And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God and do it." Luke 8:19-21 (Emphasis supplied).

"It is not those that hear the word of God that are righteous, but those that put it into practice. Brethren have taken a stand for the truth as it is in Jesus.

Who Takes Precedence?

Once again, the Scriptures supply the answer.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

What is Our Duty?

We have to be kind and generous to all men — both neighbours and brothers. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2

Our main task, however, is within the church where we are admonished: "Let love be without dissimulation (hypocrisy). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another: ... rejoice with those that do rejoice, and weep with those that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." Romans 12:9,10,15,16

The Lord calls people out of the world and places them within His workshop (the church), where the fullness of the gospel can be brought to bear upon them. The broken-hearted, the widows, the orphans, the psychologically miasmatheic, those that have been in bondage to evil desire are placed in the arms of the church to be nurtured, encouraged and assisted in both physical and spiritual needs. Only if the church does its duty in this regard can it fulfill its commission and God will place the children of the faith within its care. As long as there is a selfish motive to our salvation in our hearts, we will not be capable of taking care of even the least of these, the little ones.

"And all shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Matthew 10:42 (Emphasis supplied)

"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me, I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Matthew 25:35-36

Everyone who is thrown into the arms of the church is one of these little ones. The Lord will equip His people to be able to nurture and assist all who come into the church. In this process of equipping, they themselves will be changed so that they may reflect Christ. In order to comfort others, we too need to have experienced comfort.

"Who comforted us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." II Corinthians 1:4,5

"And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." 2 Corinthians 12:15

Here is ultimate selflessness. How are we to go about working with our brethren? "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love... And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:2,3

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humility of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." Colossians 3:12-14

"Finally, be ye all one in mind, having compass-ion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:" 1 Peter 3:8

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8

"And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity." 2 Peter 1:7
“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we love the children of God, whom he hath sent. 1 John 4:10-11. 720

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.” 1 John 5:2

Our duty within the church is plain, and as long as we are only concerned with our right understanding of our own salvation, we may not find time to assist others in their spiritual growth. We have to permit Christ to change our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. We have to open our doors to those who are most needful of assistance. Christ did not come to heal those who are well, but to heal those who are sick. In the same way, we should not be ashamed to work with those who might be considered unworthy of such assistance.

The following quotes are from the Spirit of Prophecy in Testimonies for the Church vol. 2 in the chapter “Doing for Christ”, p. 24-37. Everyone should read these quotes.

“To my sisters I would say: Be daughters of beneficence. The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”

“Our work is to think of those who might be in need, and then to do the best we can.”

“Some plead the poor health; they would love to do it if they had strength. Such have so long shut themselves up to themselves and thought so much of their own poor feelings, and talked so much of their sufferings, trials, and afflictions, that it is their present truth. They can think of no one but self; however much others may be in need of sympathy and assistance. You who are suffering with poor health, there is a remedy for you. If thou clothe the naked, and bring the poor who are cast out to thy house, when the Lord shall have brought to the hungry, then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.”

“Do good is an excellent remedy for disease. Those who engage in the work are invited to call upon God, and He has pledged Himself to answer them. Their soul shall be satisfied in drought, and they shall be like a watered garden, whose waters fail not.” (2 p. 29 Emphasis supplied)

“Wake up, brethren and sisters. Do not be afraid of good works. Let us not weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Do not wait to be told by God,‘Come into the vineyard,’ and He is around you; make yourselves acquainted with the helpless, afflicted, and needy. Hide not yourselves from them, and seek not to shut out their needs. Who gives you these opportunities? Who are your followers? Who have you on your side, in possessing pure religion, united with selflessness or corruption? Who are anxious to do all in their power to aid the great plan of salvation?” (2 p. 29 Emphasis supplied)

“Fatherless and motherless children are thrown into the arms of the church, and Christ says to His followers: Take these destitute children, bring them up for Me, and ye shall receive your wages. Mark how much of real goodness is exhibited in these things. Unless there is some special evidence that they themselves are to be benefited by adopting into their family those who need homes, some turn away and answer: No. They do not seem to know or care whether such are saved or lost. That is the way in which you lose in Christ.”

“With Cain they say: ‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’ They are not willing to be put to inconvenience or to make any sacrifice for the orphans, and they indifferent- ly take as far as they can, and make fat their own. And make fat thy bones; and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” (2 p. 35 Emphasis supplied)

“Read Isaiah 58, ye who claim to be children of light. Especially do you read it again and again who have felt so reluctant to inconvenience yourselves by favouring the needy. You whose hearts and houses are too narrow to make a home of the homeless, read it; you who can see orphans and widows oppressed by the iron hand of poverty and bowed down by hard-hearted sorrows, read it.”

“Are you afraid that an influence will be introduced into your family that will cost you more labour? Read it. Your fears may be groundless, and a blessing may come, known and realized by you every day. But if otherwise, if extra labour is your lot, you can draw upon One who has promised: ‘Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.’”

“The reason why God’s people are not more spiritually minded and have not more faith, I have been shown, is because they are narrowing up with selfishness. The prophet is addressing Sabbatiankeepers, not sinners, not unbelievers, but those who make great pretensions to godliness. It is not the abundance of your meetings that God accepts. It is not the numerous prayers, but the right doing, doing the right thing and at the right time. It is to be less self-caring, and more benevolent. Our souls must enlarge: ‘Then God will make them like a watered garden, whose waters fail not.’” (2 p. 35,36 Emphasis supplied)

Oh, that we would develop open hearts and a willingness to pour out all that we were Christ was poured out for us. What a blessing we would receive as a church if the fervour to labour for our brethren were within our hearts. The Lord would flood us with converts, knowing that they will be safe in the arms of His people.

“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth elothiel or elothiel, and dwelleth in holy and high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart or the contrite ones.” Isaiah 57:15
Jesus is able to keep you from falling! The implications of that statement are enormous. He is able to give you victory over pride, bigotry, selfishness, impurity, bitterness, hypocrisy. He is able to free your spirit and soul and give that soul freedom from the crippling power of evil. He is able to give you the passion, love in place of hatred, trust in place of fear.

The Scriptures abound with assurance of just how much you are loved. He is so close to you that you can ask; He is so passionate about you. He is so close that He wants to keep you from falling, Jesus said, "My Father ... is greater than all, and no one can be able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." John 10:29 REV (which I will explain in the following). "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will provide a way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." 1 Cor 10:13

If God won't allow us to be tempted beyond our strength, and if He will provide a means of escape from any temptation, then we don't have to sin. Through Christ's power, we can have victory over all sin. To the Ephesians Paul wrote, "Now to him who is able to do far more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us," (Eph 3:20) I ask for victory over sin, and Jesus says, "I can do much more than you can imagine," (John 14:12) I will make you a reflector of My character. My love will be the motivating force in your life, because you trust Me.

I believe there is a promise in the Bible that we can be freed from the bondage of sin and that Jesus said, "I will make you a reflector of My character. My love will be the motivating force in your life, because you trust Me."

If we accept the simple logic of the statement, "He is able to keep you from falling" (Luke 21:28), you accept by faith the fact that you are saved, Jesus is Lord, you are born-again, you have been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted. (Heb 2:18) Jesus never sinned, and He is able to help us to overcome every temptation.

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The Three Trees

Once upon a time, three small trees stood together on a hill and dreamed of what they would be when they were big. The first tree stood at the stars and said: "One day I would like to contain a treasure. I would like to be filled with gold and priceless jewels. I would like to be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second tree observed the brook that gurgled past him and hurried its way to the sea. "One day I would like to sail the wide seas and carry powerful rulers on my decks. I would like to be the strongest boat in the world!" The third little tree looked into the valley where business men and women worked in noisy cities. "I would like to never leave this hill. I would like to grow big and strong, so that when people look at me, they will have to lift their eyes to heaven and think of God!"

Years of rain and sunshine went by and the three trees had grown high up into the sky. One day, three woodcutters climbed the hill. The first contemplated the first tree and said: "This tree is wonderful! It must have been made for me." The tree fell beneath the blows of his axe. "Now I will surely become a beautiful treasure chest to store up precious treasures", thought the first tree. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said: "This tree is strong, just like I need it." With a blow of his sharp axe, the second tree fell. "Now I will be a strong boat carrying mighty rulers on the wide seas" thought the second tree. The last tree felt his heart sink as the third woodcutter looked in his direction. He stood up straight and high, stretching himself bravely against the sky, yet the woodcutter didn’t even look at him. "Any tree will suit my purpose", he mumbled and with a swing of his axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced as the woodcutter brought him to the carpenter, yet he only fashioned a manger out of his wood. The once beautiful tree was not filled with gold and jewels, but with sawdust and hay for hungry animals. The second tree laughed as the woodcutter brought him to the harbour, but instead of a big sailboat, a simple fisherman’s boat was made out of him. He was too small and weak to sail wide seas, so he was brought to a nearby lake. The third tree was used for a stair way in the timber yard. "What happened?" the tall tree asked himself. "I wanted to stand on the hill and point to God!"

Countless days and nights passed. The three trees had already almost forgotten their dreams. But one night, golden light surrounded the first tree as a virgin lay her newly born Child in the manger. And then the first tree knew that he held the world’s greatest treasure.

One evening, a tired Traveller and his companions climbed into the fisherman’s boat. The Traveller slept as the second tree slid quietly out onto the lake. Suddenly a raging storm arose. The tree shook. He knew he did not have the strength to carry so many people safely through the wind and rain. The sleeping Man awoke, stood up, stretched out His hands, and said: "Peace, be still!" And the storm went away as quickly as it had come. Then the second tree knew that he carried the Son of God.

On a Friday morning, the third tree was started as his beams were pulled out of the forgotten piece in the lumber yard. He twitched as he was carried by a Man through a scolding and reviling crowd. He winced as a soldier nailed the Man’s hands and feet to his beams. He felt guilty and rejected. But the following Sunday, as the sun came up and the earth quaked with joy beneath him, the third tree knew that God’s love had made everything right. It had raised the third tree up on that hill. And every time people looked at that tree, they would think of God. He knew that was much bigger and better than merely being the tallest tree.

- Author Unknown
The Road of Prayer

Suggested way to make your prayer life more effective:

Make time for prayer (Psalm 5:3)

Find a quiet place for prayer (Matthew 6:6)

Recognize God for what He is (Matthew 6:9-13; Psalms 100:4)

Thank God for what He has done (Psalms 103 and 150)

Confess your failures (Psalms 66:18; 1 John 1:9)

Pray with God's Word (Jeremiah 23:29)

Don't give up (Genesis 32:26; Psalms 57:7)

Meditate in God's presence (Psalms 1:1-2; Joshua 8:1)

Sing a new song (Acts 16:25)

Pray much for others (John 17:20-26)

Pray for world evangelism (Matthew 9:37,38)

Focus your prayers (Psalms 59:5)

Plan your prayer time (Mark 1:35)

Learn to fast and pray (Mark 9:28,29)

Find a prayer partner (Matthew 18:19)

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......IN THE NEWS......Continued

will join with St. Paul's in May, when the Diocese of New Westminster holds its annual meeting, in trying to convince Bishop Micael Ingham to allow the blessing of same-sex relationships.

Indonesian Environment Minister
Says International Help Needed

to Put Out Jungle Fires

Indonesian environment minister Yeo Cheow Toong told parliament that without international help, his country cannot put out the jungle fires which are burning out of control in Borneo, spreading a pall of smoke over Singapore and Southern Malaysia (The Province, March 12, 1998). Battling its worst economic crisis in thirty years, Indonesia must deal with a smoggy haze which will be thicker and last longer than last year, and admits that without heavy rain, which is not expected until October, the changes of getting the fires under control are almost nil. Satellite photos over the last several weeks have shown a "dramatic increase in the number of fires in Kalimantan" (the Indonesian portion of Borneo), according to Yeo, resulting in a thick cloud of smoke, many times longer than Singapore, building up over Kalimantan.

Compiled by Ken Anderson.
Faith On the Line is the official quarterly publication of Amazing Discoveries Charitable Foundation, a Seventh-day Adventist based non-profit organization, addressing theological, political, economic, and scientific issues from a Biblical perspective.

Copies are sent to all who request them. Requests should be sent to the address below. A suggested minimum donation of $12 CDN or $10 US would be appreciated.

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