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# *faith* on the line

*A Journal for Those Who Dare*



"Blessed are they  
which do hunger and thirst after righteousness  
for they shall be filled....

If any man thirst,  
let him come unto Me, and drink.

He that believeth on Me,  
as the Scripture hath said,  
out of his belly shall flow  
rivers of living water."

Matthew 5:6; John 7:37,38

Monte Johannes  
267-7480



## From the Mailbox...



We welcome your comments and opinions. If something in our newsletter or material has impacted you, we'd like to hear from you. We can be contacted by fax, mail or email. Please see the last page for this information.

Dear Amazing Discoveries staff!

We really enjoy the newsletter. It is very interesting, spiritual, and informative, and well done. God bless you all.

Love and prayers from

V.R. & L.R.  
Kelowna, BC

Hi there:

I find your site very informative and am a keen reader of Dr. Veith's work... Kind regards,

Dr. L. de K.  
Capetown, R.S.A.

Dear Wendy & staff:

Congratulations for your wonderful web site. It looks professional and very informative. Hope you can reach a lot of people.... Thank you for your newest magazine. Take care and may God be with you all...

T.W. & M.W.  
Westbank, BC

Hello and Greetings from North Dakota. I would like to congratulate you for the work well done in putting the home page for Amazing Discoveries. Excellent job and keep up the good work! God bless you all.

J.S.  
N. Dakota, U.S.A.

From the Editor: In case you haven't looked us up yet, we're at [www.amazingdiscoveries.bc.ca](http://www.amazingdiscoveries.bc.ca). We're expanding and changing our website continually, so keep checking back.

Dear Amazing Discoveries:

...I wish to thank you for your efforts in providing in-depth and inspiring messages for the public. The tapes I have shared with people have been well accepted. God bless you and Professor Veith in your labours!

L.N.  
Northwest Territories

Hello

...Thank you for the videos. They are wonderful. May the Lord bless you in your work.

E.C.  
Aldergrove, BC

Hello

...I live on Salt Spring Island here in BC. I recently had the privilege of listening to all of Walter Veith's tapes on creation and the series on antichrist. They truly changed my life. I would very much like to be put on your mailing list. Living on this small island, we are more or less cut off from the rest of the world.... Thank you very much. God bless.

A.P.  
Salt Spring Island, BC

Saw your video and enjoyed it very much. You sure did expose the Sun Day worship of the Catholic and Protestant churches!! I will contact your web site when you get it updated.

R.S.  
Email

Dear Wendy:

Thank you for putting me on your mailing list for your newsletters. I appreciate the issue on Bible versions and have shared it with a few people. It's given them food for thought. ....

R.R.  
Lompoc, CA



## From the Editor...



As the world prepares for the new millennium coming in 18 months, against the backdrop of the rapid changes the world is experiencing with respect to the environment, globalization in trade, the European union, and the increasing influence and power of the Vatican, it is crucial to ask ourselves as Christians where we are in prophetic time and whether we are prepared to meet our Creator and King. While the Bible clearly tells us that the day and hour of Christ's return are known only to God (Matt 24:36; Mark 13:32), it also tells us that when we see the end-time events Christ outlined, we can rightly conclude that His coming is "even at the doors" (Matt 24:33; Mark 13:29).

The Spirit of Prophecy also fills in many details of what will be happening, and warns us that the last events will be rapid ones (79, p. 11), and will come as an overwhelming surprise. (*Maranatha*, p. 138). Not surprisingly, the Spirit of Prophecy has something to say about the temporal millennium:

"The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them. And Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles

as a certain sign of the true church will be readily deceived by this wonderworking power, and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth will also be deluded.

"Papist, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium." (*GCp*, 588,589 emphasis supplied)

"I saw our people in great distress, weeping and praying, pleading the sure promises of God, while the wicked were all around us, mocking us and threatening to destroy us. They ridiculed our feebleness, they mocked at the smallness of our numbers, and taunted us with words calculated to cut deep.

"They charged us with taking an independent position from all the rest of the world. They had cut off our resources so that we could not buy nor sell, and referred to our abject poverty and stricken condition. They could not see how we could live without the world, and we must concede to the customs, practices and laws of the world, or go out of it. If we were the only people in the world whom the Lord favoured, the appearances were awfully against us.

"They declared that they had the truth, that miracles were among them, that angels from heaven talked with them, and walked with them, that great power, and signs and wonders were performed among them, and this was the temporal millennium, which they had been expecting so long. The whole world was converted and in harmony with the Sunday law, and this little feeble people stood out in defiance of the laws of the land, and the laws of God, and claimed to be the only ones right on the earth." (*Maranatha*, p. 209 emphasis supplied.)

From the choice of words in the last quoted passage and from the tense of the verbs, it appears that the temporal millennium has only recently come when the wicked are saying all these things to the remnant believers. The wicked say of the millennium that they have been expecting it for a

long time. People do not use words like that to talk about something that has been around for any length of time. It takes only a few weeks into a new year before we stop wishing people a happy new year in March or perhaps even in February. Similarly, people would not be talking about the new millennium long after its start. Its newness would wear off quickly. That's human nature.

What is most significant in all this is that very close to the start of the temporal millennium, the mark of the beast has already been imposed. The *Maranatha* quote above makes this clear where it says that the remnant have been cut off from buying and selling. We cannot set a date for Jesus' return, but the Spirit of Prophecy clearly links the Sunday law and the newly-arrived temporal millennium. Do we dare to ignore the significance of that link? We know that the ten virgins in the parable were all asleep when the bridegroom came. Could it be that we are asleep even now, and that we will soon be jarred from that sleep by the loud cry?

Before continuing to read further, please look at the language in the second quote above which talks about the wicked claiming to walk and talk with angels. The wicked use this experience with angels as proof that they are God's people and that they have the truth. Then notice the following advertisement (with the details edited out as to where and when the meetings would be held) which appeared in a recent community newspaper.

### The Healing Power of Angels

Come and learn to talk with angels. They are your friends and they can make a profound difference in your life.

They bring you comfort, inspiration, guidance, healing, and protection - if you will only ASK THEM!  
IT'S TIME YOU INVITED THE ANGELS INTO YOUR LIFE!

Surely, we are seeing prophecy fulfilled before our eyes. Surely, we must be in the toes of the image in Daniel, chapter 2. Marvin Moore, editor of *Signs of the Times*,

...Continued on Page 16





## THE STOREHOUSE OF HEAVEN

By Walter J. Veith

Financing the work costs money and it is the privilege of all who believe to contribute to this end in accordance to the measure in which God has prospered them. Paradoxically, some of the richest blessings and promises in the Scriptures are applicable to those who willingly contribute of their means to finance the ministry. Everything we possess, we possess by the grace of God. It is He that grants us our abilities and capabilities including the capacity to make money.

"And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." *Deuteronomy 8:18*

Everything belongs to God, but He has granted us the privilege of managing the earth.

"The God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" *Genesis 1:28*

This privilege does not jeopardize God's ownership.

"The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." *Psalms 24:1*

"The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine," says the Lord of hosts." *Haggai 2:8*

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. *Psalms 50:10*

The methods of financing the gospel have been spelt out by God. They are divided into two categories, namely tithes and offerings.

"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings." *Malachi 3:8*

A tithe is a tenth and the tithing system was introduced by God for the financing of the ministry. The tithe was to be used to pay the priests. The first instruction written in regard to tithing is recorded in the book of Leviticus.

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord." *Leviticus 27:30*

## IN THE NEWS



**Eastern Orthodox Church Leader Visits Vancouver** - The leader of the 300-million member Eastern Orthodox Church, Bartholomew I, visited Vancouver May 27th as part of an eight-day visit to Canada. According to the *Vancouver Sun*, Bartholomew is regarded by his followers as "similar to what the pope is to Catholics. 'He is truth. He is in the place of Christ,' said Burnaby's Greek Orthodox priest Peter Paviakos.

Although Bartholomew is the leader of 14 separate ethnic Orthodox churches, he does not exert the direct administrative control of them as the pope does over the Catholic Church. The Orthodox Church, which is growing rapidly since the collapse of the U.S.S.R., is "known for its incense, gold decor, veneration of icons and mystical traditions", according to the *Sun*.

**Evangelist Warns Tolerance of Homosexuality Will Bring Disasters** - Evangelist Pat Robertson, on his religious talk show, *The 700 Club*, has warned Orlando, Florida that it will be subjected to terrorist bombs, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes and possibly a meteor if it persists in tolerating and promoting homosexuality and gay pride activities. In a *Reuters* news service article (*Vancouver Sun*, June 11, 1998), Robertson said, referring to flags raised in the city to celebrate Gay Pride Month, "I would warn Orlando that you're right in the way of some serious hurricanes and I don't think I'd be waving those flags in God's face if I were you."

**First Five Months of 1998 Set World Record For Warmth** - Information gathered by the U.S. National Climatic Data Centre demonstrates that the first five months of this year have been the warmest the world has experienced since reliable data began to be gathered in 1880. When plotted on graphs, the data show there has been a worldwide warming trend since about 1980. Canada has undergone a 3° temperature increase for the months of March, April, and May, including what has been called an "amazing" 8° increase occurring in the northern Yukon and the northwestern corner of the Northwest Territories. (*Vancouver Sun*, June 10, 1998)

-Ken Anderson



The use to which the tithe was to be put is recorded in the book of *Numbers*:

"Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting." *Numbers 18:21*

Some might argue that the tithing system was only applicable in the Old Testament times and that it was meant for the Jews. However, the system of tithing was in operation before the nation of Israel was called by God, and Paul in his letter to the Corinthians applies the system of tithing to the ministers of the gospel.

"Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel." *1 Corinthians 9:13,14*

Indeed it is a command of God that the minister be paid "in the same way" as those who ministered in the temple, and that was through the system of tithing. In no way does the New Testament negate the system of tithing. On the contrary it places it on a higher plain. We should not pay tithe out of a forced feeling of duty. It should come from the heart. "...[F]or God loveth a cheerful giver." *2 Corinthians 9:7*

The Pharisees did everything according to the law, but they neglected the matters of the heart. Jesus rebuked them:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone." *Matthew 23:23*

They should have practised the former without neglecting the latter. It is a change of heart that God requires.

God knows our natures and so He has promised rich blessings to those who will heed His command. God does not need our money, but He wants us to be co-workers together with Him so that we may become co-sharers in the blessings of the gospel.

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in

this," says the Lord of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.' *Malachi 3:10*

God challenges us to put Him to the test: "...shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" *Genesis 18:25*

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the Lord of hosts." *Malachi 3:11*

The promise to rebuke the devourer, Satan, on our behalf will restore much more than we presume to lose by paying our tithes. God will not let His children suffer want, poverty, pain and emotional hurt for the sake of the gospel, but never because we pay tithe. We should never allow ourselves to confuse the two issues. Paul describes his trials in his letter to the Corinthians particularly with regard to the Jews who relentlessly persecuted him.

Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? - I speak as a fool - I am more: in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness - besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the

Everything belongs to God, but He has granted us the privilege of managing the earth.



city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands." *2 Corinthians 11:22-33*

The trials were part of the cross he bore for the sake of

the gospel. God, however, promises to meet our temporal needs and we must learn to take God at His word.

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" Numbers 23:19

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all

these things shall be added to you." *Matthew 6:31-33*

"I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread." *Psalms 37:25 (NIV)*

The tenth of our increase goes to finance the ministry. We cannot choose the purpose for which our tithe is to be used. The choice has already been made by God. Once the tithe is paid, the responsibility for its correct application lies with the church administration. Offerings, on the other hand, are freewill offerings, and the choice as to their application lies with each individual. We should not neglect offerings because we feel that we pay tithe. The blessings promised by God cover tithes and offerings. We are told in the letter to the Corinthians:

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." *2 Corinthians 9:6,7*

The blessings of God carry with them eternal consequences and should be sought diligently.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and

where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." *Matthew 6:19-21*

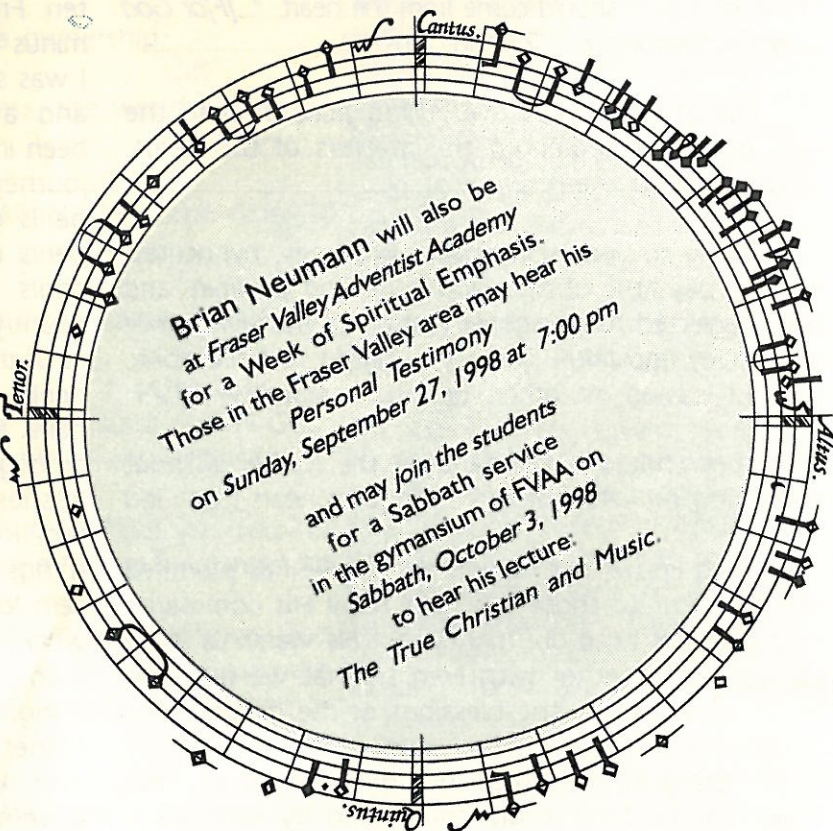
God promises reward for our diligence.

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." *Luke 6:38 (NIV)*

Our blessings come from God and we should acknowledge this. We should also make sure that we do not fall into the same trap as the rich farmer in Luke chapter 12 who had a great crop but then decided:

"...I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." *Luke 12:18-21*

...Continued On Page 9



## UPCOMING EVENTS



Brian Neumann presents  
A New and Exciting Series  
at  
Vancouver Central SDA Church

5350 Baillie Street

Vancouver, BC

Starts

Sabbath, September 26, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

with

A Personal Testimony

Continues Monday to Friday

7:00 pm

featuring:

The Language of Music  
History of the Modern Music Industry  
The Music Industry Today  
The Christian Music Industry  
The Bible and Music

Sabbath, October 3, 1998 at 7:00 pm

with

The True Christian and Music

## From Rock 'n' Roll to Rock of Ages

Testing the Spirits Behind  
the Atmospheres of Sound

## ALL WELCOME !!!!

Music - we love it, we hate it,  
we're surrounded by it

---

how does it affect us?

what does God say about it?

Learn the answers to these questions  
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Get ready

for a captivating series of meetings as Brian takes you on an intimate journey through his life to encounter the sometimes dark influences that steer young people in the wrong direction.

Share

in the experience of the devastating results of passionate young love.

Encounter

the dangerous adventure of climbing the ladder of fame in the world of Rock 'n' Roll.

Experience

the exciting journey as Brian finds himself back in the arms of God.

You will learn the importance of never giving up on our children, no matter how bad we think they have become, and of praying for your children as you see a mother's prayers for her child answered. You will have a new appreciation for our wonderful God as you witness the experience of someone being born again.

Join Brian as he shares his deep personal experience in the realm of Rock music as he travelled to its inner recesses, captivated by its charm. It took more than mere human effort to break the chains that bound him. Millions of young people throughout the world are similarly bound. Learn to find the pitfalls before they find you!!

Video Tapes and Brian's new book will be available to order from Amazing Discoveries during & after the series!!

To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsakes us, to fight the battles of the Lord

gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, & loyalty from their treason." 5T 100





## Amazing Discoveries Evangelism 1999

**Dr. Walter J. Veith**  
is coming to  
California!!

From  
January 8 to 24, 1999  
Dr. Veith  
will be in  
Azure Hills SDA Church,  
Loma Linda, California

presenting his  
evolution/creation, Bible,  
and health lectures.

Won't you please help sponsor  
this exciting new series  
coming to the California area?

Your donations are  
greatly appreciated  
and urgently needed!

Also  
look for Dr. Veith's new lecture:  
*Tongues & the  
Charismatic Movement*  
to be presented at the  
California series and  
available on video  
in the Spring of '99 !!!



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*Thank you so much!*

## THE STOREHOUSE OF HEAVEN

...Continued From Page 6

For:

God promises to  
meet our temporal  
needs and we must  
learn to take God at  
His Word.

"...If anyone desires  
to come after Me, let  
him deny himself, and  
take up his cross, and  
follow Me. For whoever  
desires to save his life  
will lose it; but whoever  
loses his life for My sake  
will find it. For what

profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his  
own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his  
soul?" *Matthew 16:24-26*

True repentance brings faithfulness in all things, including  
the paying of tithes and offerings.

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is cer-  
tain we can carry nothing out. And having food and cloth-  
ing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to  
be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many fool-  
ish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and  
perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil,  
for which some have strayed from the faith in their greed-  
iness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.  
But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue right-  
eousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight  
the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you  
were also called and have confessed the good confession in  
the presence of many witnesses." *1 Timothy 6:7-12*

Money is not so much the problem. We all need money.  
It is the love of money that is the problem. When the heart  
overflows with gratitude towards God, then tithe paying will  
be deemed a privilege not a duty. When Abraham rescued  
Lot from the Elamites, he could have gained great temporal  
riches (*Genesis 16:21-24*), but he refused them. His faithful-  
ness in tithe paying is also recorded in this chapter and stands  
as a lesson to all subsequent generations who belong to the  
seed of Abraham, those who are in Christ. In the same man-  
ner, when Jacob was given the promise that:

"All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and  
your offspring." *Genesis 28:14*

He knew that he was accepted by God in spite of his  
sin. His encounter with the Lord filled him with gratitude. The  
rich promises of God encouraged him:

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go,  
and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you  
until I have done what I have spoken to you." *Genesis 28:15*

And once again the Bible records his faithfulness in  
tithe paying for the sake of posterity.

"And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be  
God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a  
tenth to You." *Genesis 28:22*

There can be no doubt that God honours all His prom-  
ises to His faithful followers.

"And my God shall supply all your need according to  
His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:1*

## MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH GOD

When I embraced the gospel truths, I was filled with  
enthusiasm and zeal for God. When I learned about the tith-  
ing system, however, my enthusiasm was considerably damp-  
ened. I was skeptical as to the motive behind the tithing sys-  
tem and thought it a scam to make money for the system. I  
determined in my heart not to give in to these pressures, after  
all money did not grow on trees and I would need every bit  
of the money I earned. My bills had always exceeded my  
income and tithe paying would only add to my burden.

A detailed study of Scripture convinced me that tithe  
paying was Biblical, but I found numerous excuses not to  
implement the system. My conscience, however, kept nag-  
ging me, like a dripping tap, until one day, I started toying  
with the idea that I should at least work out what my tithe  
should be, after all working out the tithe with today's salary  
structures is not a simple thing - or so I reasoned. What  
with large portions being deducted for future salaries (pen-  
sions) and to benefit those who are left behind once you're  
dead (insurances) and to benefit the institution where one  
works (levies) and to benefit the government (taxes) and the  
poor (special taxes), etc.; what was a tenth of one's increase?

Taking all the above points into consideration, I ar-  
rived at two possible figures, one considerably higher than  
the other, but both too high for my liking. So I convinced  
myself that the exercise had been merely academic, and  
that I need not put it into practice. After all, how much was  
I to pay? I remember saying to my wife: "If God wants me  
to pay tithe, He will have to show me, and not only that, He

...Continued on Page 16





## THE FAITH OF JESUS

by Brian Neumann  
Freelance Evangelist

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." *Revelation 14:12*

This well-known verse is a wonderful description of those who are waiting for our Lord's return - God's last day faithful people. There are, however, some conflicting opinions as to the exact meaning of this verse, in particular in regards to "the faith of Jesus". Some say it means faith *in* and some say it means faith *of* Jesus.

The original Greek of this portion of Scripture can be read both ways - faith *in* or faith *of*. For you and I as Christians, both aspects of faith *in* and faith *of* are of vital importance. I, myself, prefer to read this as "the faith *of* Jesus". This ties in with other portions of Scripture that literally read the faith *of* God or faith *of* Jesus. For example, in Mark 11:22, Jesus says in the KJV: "Have faith *in* God." But the footnote states that the original meaning is: "Have the faith *of* God."

But what does it mean to exercise or to have the faith of God or Jesus? Many feel uncomfortable with verses such as Revelation 14:12 where we read "keeping the commandments of God" and having "the faith of Jesus" or when we read quotes such as the following:

"God requires at this time just what He required of the holy pair in Eden. - perfect obedience to His requirements." (*Faith and Works* p. 52)

When we read such quotes we often wonder if perhaps we are even interpreting these verses and quotations aright. After all, isn't it asking a little too much? How can we ever be as holy as the pair in Eden were, perfectly created in all purity fresh from the hand of God?

Actually, the faith *of* Jesus and the faith *in* Jesus are inseparable. In fact, I believe, that when we exercise faith *in* Jesus, we will then live out in our lives the faith *of* Jesus. We need not have any fear when we read verses that speak of being without spot or blemish before the throne of God, as long as we have a constant working experience with Christ. This is the faith of Jesus.

How do we put all this into real life?

To understand this whole question of the faith *in* and *of* Jesus, we need to realize what it really means.

While on the boat tossed on the sea of Galilee, Jesus rested in perfect peace and tranquillity.

"When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He was in perfect peace. There was no trace of fear in word or look, for there was no fear in His heart. But He rested not in the possession of almighty power. And it was not as the "Master of earth and sea and sky" that He reposed in quiet. That power He had laid down, and He says: "I can of mine own self do nothing." (John 5:30) He trusted in the Father's might. It was in faith - faith in God's love and care - that Jesus rested, and the power of the Word which stilled the storm was the power of God." (DA p. 336)

Jesus was exercising faith. Not the power of the Master of the universe, but faith in what the Spirit and what God could do.

As we study the life of Christ and the communion He had with His Father, we get a deeper understanding as to what the faith of Jesus is and the kind of faith we need. Jesus is our ultimate example. And in everything that we endeavour from day to day, it behooves us to follow the example of Christ. The power that was available to Jesus in His humanity is exactly the same power that is available to you and me today. This is the power that enables us to fulfil the commission of the saints in Revelation 14:12. This is the power that enables us to become overcomers and obey God's requirements. And this is the power that will enable us to continue growing in that process of sanctification.

Consider this example: If you wanted to cleanse your body of impurities, you would go on a cleansing diet, eating only certain cleansing foods and drinking plenty of water. You are not instantly cleansed of all impurities the very day you go on that cleansing diet. But if you persevere and stay on that cleansing diet, slowly the impurities will be eliminated out of your system. In a spiritual sense, we are also to be on a cleansing diet - a diet of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In John 4:14 we read about the woman at the well and how Jesus offered her the water of life, the water that He was. As we daily partake of that water of life, we are practising a cleansing diet, and that water of life cleanses the blood, as it were, of all impurities.

In Romans 5:9, we are justified by the blood of Jesus Christ. - by the *pure* blood of Jesus. The day that I truly accept Jesus into my life, I become justified by His blood. I am covered by the righteousness of Christ, and while I am being cleansed through the water of life in that process of sanctification, I need to be continuously covered by the blood of Jesus, by His righteousness.

The spiritual cleansing diet is a continuous growth process. It cleanses the body, the mind, and the spirit. I firmly believe that the spiritual and physical aspects of our wholistic Christian experience are closely tied together. That

is why Paul, in 1 Corinthians 6, speaks about the body temple - because we are not just to take care of that which is spiritual, but ought also to take care of the physical aspects of our life. The self-control practiced in the physical diet is the same self-control that is to be exercised in our spiritual diet and vice versa.

The faith of Jesus quite literally means this: that Jesus living in you, the temple or sanctuary, through the Holy Spirit, is ministering in your life. This truth is actually so profound and yet so simple that even a child can understand it. Maybe that is why Jesus spoke about having the faith of a little child.

It is easy to talk about having faith or belief in Jesus. James writes that even the demons believe yet they tremble. Sometimes we believe, and we don't even tremble.

Having faith in Jesus will mean that we will exercise the kind of faith which Jesus came down to this world and exercised. We read about Jesus' desire in the letter to the Laodicean church in Revelation 3. In verse 20, 21, Christ tells us exactly what he wants us to do.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with Me." (vs. 20) When Jesus comes in and sups with you and gives you the kind of food He wants to give you, He will have put you on that cleansing diet. Jesus present in us through His Spirit causes us to exercise the faith of Jesus.

As Christ overcame in the faith He was exercising, so we are to overcome in the faith which He helps us exercise in our lives. In verse 21 of Revelation 3, we read of our reward: "to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in his throne."

It is only in this condition, while on the cleansing diet, that we can stand faultless before God at any time. Even though we, in the human flesh, have a hereditary desire to sin, Christ and the Holy Spirit will live in us and there will be a Supernatural Power working in us, enabling us to overcome that natural human propensity to sin. But we need to *continue* in that experience with perseverance.

Justification is not just a once-in-a-lifetime happening, but it is continuous in the process of sanctification. Being in that process means continual sacrificing, continual submission to Jesus every moment of your life. In this condition, when the Father looks at you, He doesn't see your imperfect human condition that is in that process, but instead He sees Christ, His Son, ministering and working in your life - in

Having faith in Jesus will mean that we will exercise the kind of faith which Jesus exercised.

the body temple. The Father sees the perfect life of His son, and the sacrifice which His Son made, and the Father cannot reject the Son. You are covered by the righteousness of Christ.

And this is why those who claim to have the Holy Spirit, will not continue in sin. When on a cleansing diet you realize that something you are partaking of is bad for you, what do you do? You stop partaking of it, because you know that it is an impurity to your body. The problem is some of us who are on the cleansing diet keep going back to the things that are bad for us. If we continue to cheat while on our cleansing diet, slowly but surely we will become unhealthy once again.

In light of this, I will not wilfully continue in known sin, when I have Christ living in me. If I am on the cleansing diet, I will be involved in the process of sanctification. The definition of sanctification is purification. In 1 Peter 1:22, we read: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...." The result of the process of purification is obedience to the truth, and purification or sanctification is a process which is facilitated by obedience to the word of God. The source of power to continue in this process of sanctification is the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God reveals to me that which needs to be changed in my life. The Spirit speaks to me through what I learn in the Word of God. When the Spirit is living in me I have the power to stay in the sanctification process and the power to obey the truth. The key root of the text, is that purification is obtained through obedience to the truth.

In *Faith and Works* we read, "Obedience to the law of God is sanctification." (p. 85) What does this mean to us?

The meaning of this statement lies at the root of our Christian experience, and it deals with love, a true kind of love that the Bible speaks of - a *spiritual* love.

Christ spoke about that love in Matthew 22:37-40: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind... and thy neighbour as thyself." The result of this love is the demonstration of its power in our life by our works towards our fellow man and our obedience to God. (2 John 6)

This is what the whole struggle between Christ and Satan has been about since it began. Satan accused God saying that God's laws were unjust and could not be obeyed. And there are many today who agree, saying "It's impossible to obey the law of God. It's expecting too much to ask us to meet that perfect standard. We can't be perfect!" Of course, this is nothing new. They are just repeating what Satan said from the very beginning. But we make the whole life of Christ null and void if we hold to this opinion. Christ came to this world as a man to prove that the requirements of God were indeed just and that by exercising faith as a



human being it was possible to obey the requirements of God. He came to prove that the commandments are indeed given in love for our own good, and we, in turn, obey in love. Not a love that we can generate out of our own self, because the whole sanctification process actually depends on the power of God in our lives. Even the love for God and faith, is given to us by God.

With Jesus living in us we can exercise the faith of Jesus. The real problem today is that we don't want to surrender everything that we are to Christ. This is why He is not accomplishing this sanctifying work in our lives. The challenge to us is to go on that cleansing diet. Drink copious amounts of the water of life. Respond to the revelation of truth by allowing it to change what you are.

In Revelation 14:5, we find a verse that often fills us with consternation: "In their mouth was found no guile, for they are without fault before the throne of God." How can I as a sinner be without fault before the throne of God?

The answer is: by allowing the process to take place in my life. In 1 Timothy 6:14 we read: "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." In 2 Peter 3:14 we also read: "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless."

We do not have to fear anything from these statements either from the Word of God or the Spirit of Prophecy if we are covered by the righteousness of Christ. And the only way to be covered is to be continuously, from day to day, on that cleansing diet in that process of sanctification.

How often do we stray from that diet? Are we constantly willing to give our lives to Jesus every day, saying, "Lord, I want to be what you want me to be?"

This is a vital step in our Christian experience, for without growth, we have no experience! The power that was available to Christ is the same power that is available to every single person today. The Bible tells us this, and we must believe what it says. All those who are genuinely seeking can receive this power and exercise the faith of Jesus, through the power of God in their lives.

May the Lord bless each of us as we continue to seek His Spirit, allowing Jesus to come into our lives after we have opened that door, to sup with us, and to sup with Him, that we may be the receivers of that reward which He has promised us.

- Brian Neumann



## Is a 'little wine' good?

by  
Dr. Rick Westermeyer, M.D.

Many of you have heard or read that moderate alcohol may be beneficial to your health. Here is an example of a *New York Times* press release printed on December 11, 1997, "STUDY FINDS DRINK A DAY KEEPS THE GRIM REAPER AWAY." It stated that "researchers report that modest drinking is, on balance, healthful and alcohol's ill effects are offset by alcohol's benefit to the heart."

After reading this reporter's article, you might begin to wonder if we didn't need to reconsider the long held Adventist position on alcohol to be more consistent with the scientific facts or perhaps even start selling wine in the health food section of the conference store. As a physician it was important to me to go to the scientific literature myself to examine the evidence before I would start advising patients, as some doctors have, that alcohol be used for medicinal purposes.

First, I obtained the original research paper printed in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, December 1997 and then I did a literature search of all the articles that have been published on alcohol in the last three years. What I found was quite surprising considering all the popular press coverage of the beneficial and medicinal properties of alcohol. The largest and longest study to date was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in December 1997 and was entitled "Alcohol Consumption and Mortality among Middle-aged and Elderly US. Adults." (Thun et al., *NEJM* 1997; 337: 1705-14)

It followed nearly 500,000 individuals for nine years and reported a 20% decrease in mortality for those aged 35 to 70 during the study period for those who consumed at least one alcoholic beverage per day as compared to non drinkers. They attributed nearly all of the lower death rates to medicinal effects of alcohol in protections against cardiovascular disease. From a purely medical point of view should physicians start recommending alcohol consumption to protect against heart disease and to promote good health? Many people have interpreted these findings to suggest moderate drinking of alcoholic beverages should be part of a healthy lifestyle.

After carefully studying the original research paper from the *New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)* plus reviewing over fifty other alcohol related articles published in the medical literature in the last three years the following seven points should be considered before using alcohol for medicinal purposes.

1) Alcohol is a well established risk factor for numerous cancers. The *NEJM* study showed a 30% increase in breast cancer in women consuming as little as 1 drink per day. This added to the already known increased incidence of mouth, throat, esophageal, stomach, pancreatic and liver cancer associated with

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## The Power of Extravagant Love

Mary was born into a respectable home in a good suburb of Jerusalem—Bethany.

Her sister was Martha—the capable hostess. Her brother was the highly esteemed Lazarus. But something dreadful happened.

Either she was seduced or she was raped by a church leader. With no support from a psychologist, no pastoral counsellor to be heard by, she felt polluted, she felt disgraced, took a dive, and lost all sense of self-control and self-respect. She became possessed by seven devils and seemed to epitomize a hopeless case.

Then Mary met a Man—no ordinary man. A Man with unconditional love, a Man she might have thought never could exist. Jesus prayed for Mary Magdalene, and when He prayed something happened. She felt delivered. Little flowers began to pop up and bloom in her soul.

Could she again become a woman of purpose, principle, and power? Amazing!

Not in one setting, but seven times Mary heard Christ clean the devils out of her tormented heart. You can almost see the disciples expressing their impatience, "She's had it Lord, she's finished, You can't save everybody!" A sixth time she blew it, finally a seventh time Christ prayed for Mary Magdalene—Freedom At Last!

Now what was that seventh devil? Knowing my own heart, I firmly believe that the last devil that Christ cast out was Mary's bitter resentment and hatred against the man who had ruined her life. Mary finally grasped the fact that if it were not for God's alluring love capturing her heart she would do the same if not worse. She put herself in the place of the man she had learned to hate. At last she was free!

Happiness flooded her heart. Christ had saved her soul! Love liberated her! Now she wanted to respond, she wanted to show her appreciation. But how? She was a woman, she couldn't speak in public. She had a nasty, slimy reputation. How could she say "thank you?"

Mary Magdalene caught what the dense disciples wouldn't or couldn't. Christ had been speaking of His approaching death. The disciples wouldn't hear of any such death, only kingly glory and military might over Rome. But Mary listened!

She thought, "Well if He is going to die, at least I can anoint His dead body." She goes to the apothecary to get some Nard. Doubtless, the shopkeeper directed her to his ordinary variety. "No, I want something better." "Well, I have something here for rich people, princes, or governors. It will cost you a bunch of money." "Well, do you have anything better than this?"

have one alabaster flask of very precious ointment, it will cost you 300 denari" (one year of wages) "You don't want this Mary, I'm saving it for maybe the Caesar across the waters or maybe for my governor—Pilate" "No," says Mary "I want the best." Paying 300 silver coins she goes home, puts it on a shelf, and waits for the sad day to come.

Finding her golden opportunity, with alabaster flask in hand, Mary crashes a local party. There is Jesus reclining at the table. Not opening the flask properly, she breaks the flask and pours the nard on His head and feet. The fragrance floods the room. The buzz of conversation ceases. Everyone halts to gawk.

Something Mary Magdalene had not dreamed of, erupts. A tidal wave of emotion, a soul fountain burst open and she began to cry. Her hot tears of gratitude drip off her cheeks on to Christ's feet! She hadn't thought to bring a towel. Mary dries the Creator's feet with her flowing hair. For a woman to let down her hair in public, was a disgrace.

No matter—she doesn't heed the disgrace. The extravagant love of Christ has set her free. Totally thankful, Mary anoints Christ for His burial. He understood her pure motive, her lavish expression. *She helped confirm Christ's resolve to save you and me.*

He went to the cross six days later knowing that at least one person loved Him. "Yes Judas betrayed Me, Peter denied me with cursing and swearing, not one has given Me water, but there is one human soul that appreciates what I am doing." Once in heaven we can say, thank you to Mary for encouraging our Savior in His darkest hour."

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## IS A LITTLE WINE GOOD?

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alcohol consumption. (Rosenber L. "Alcohol consumption and the risk of breast cancer." *Epidemiology Review* 1993; 15:133-44). The only reason that an overall decreased mortality rate was shown in the alcohol drinking population was because many more people die from heart disease than cancer. How could any physician face a patient dying a slow, painful death from a cancer clearly linked to the alcohol that had previously been recommended as a way to decrease the chance of a heart attack by only 30% when other less risky preventative measures are available without causing cancer as a side effect?

2) By analysing only those aged 35 to 70, the study did not accurately reflect the lifetime risk of alcohol consumption. Alcohol related injury is the number one cause of death in the 15 to 30 years old age group. (McGinnis, J.M. "Actual causes of death in the United States", *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1993; 279:2207-12)

3) The mechanism by which alcohol gives cardiac protection may be harmful to other body systems. Alcohol appears to protect against heart attack in two ways. First by raising the level of HDL cholesterol which reduces the build up of atherogenic plaque in the blood vessels and secondly by acting as a "blood thinner" which reduced of clots form forming in the already narrowed coronary arteries which is the initial event in most heart attacks. (Kannel, WB. "Serum cholesterol, lipoproteins, and the risk of coronary heart disease", *The Framingham study*, *Ann Int Medicine* 1971; 38: 1224-32) Interfering with the delicate balance in the blood clotting mechanism may be a dangerous thing. A few years ago, it was noted that aspirin had blood thinning properties that prevented heart attacks. The initial reports were so impressive that thousands of physicians voluntarily started taking aspirin daily as part of a study to look at the long term benefits. The research project was stopped prematurely when it was noted that the aspirin group was experiencing an unexpectedly high incidence of hemorrhagic stroke. While trying to prevent a heart attack by thinning the blood some of these doctors died or were permanently disabled by bleeding into their brains. Now most doctors only recommend aspirin to patients who have already had one heart attack. The reasoning being that the risk of a second heart attack is greater than the aspirin induced stroke and the potential benefit outweighs the risks. It clearly points out the danger of interring as alcohol does with the delicate balance of the body in such areas of blood clotting. In addition, while preventing certain types of heart disease, alcohol has been clearly linked to cardiac arrhythmias and cardiomyopathy leading to congestive heart failure. (Cowie, M.R. "Alcohol and the heart." *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*, 1997; 57: 548-51)

4) The 30% decrease in the death rate from heart disease attributed to alcohol may be achieved and surpassed by other much less risky methods. Numerous studies have shown that simple lifestyle measures can reduce cardiac risk by 50 to 70% without any of the many harmful side effects documented with alcohol usage. (Miller, G.J. "Alcohol consumption: protection against coronary disease and risk to health." *Int. Journal Epidemiology*, 1990; 19:923-30)

5) The study methodology and analysis bring into question the validity of the conclusions. It must be understood that all studies relating health risk and alcohol consumption rely on voluntary questionnaires being accurately completed. No one actually follows the patients around to document their consumption or verify their claims. One of the editors of the *NEJM* who wrote an editorial response pointed out that the study group reported their yearly alcohol consumption to be only half of US government per capita estimates based on industry production and sales. (Potter, J.D. "Hazards and benefits of alcohol". *NEJM* 1997; 337: 1763-64) He pointed out that either this study group did not reflect average American drinking habits, or they did not accurately complete their questionnaires. (A third possibility which he did not mention would be that one half the alcohol produced in this country gets poured down the drain or is used to kill slugs). Any one who has ever worked with alcoholics knows they are often in denial regarding their drinking patterns and some may have inaccurately placed themselves in the nondrinking groups statistics which would affect the validity of the conclusions. Additionally, the *NEJM* study excluded from their statistics without explanation 32,000 individuals who had cancer or cirrhosis at the start of the study. These diseases are known to be closely linked to alcohol consumption and their exclusion could markedly effect mortality rates.

6) Apart from the heart, alcohol has physiologic negatives on virtually every major body system. When reading in the lay press one could easily conclude that most medical research in recent years has focused on the positive medicinal value of alcohol on the heart. In reality, a totally different picture emerges. A computer search of all English language research papers in the scientific literature in the last three years revealed 355 published articles of which 48 were review articles. Review article summarize and condense research findings on a related topic. After carefully reading the abstracts of the 48 review articles, 44 were clearly dealing with the toxic affects of alcohol and of the remaining 4 which death with the cardiac benefits each clearly included the negative side effect. Here is only a sampling of statements taken from these abstracts.

"Alcohol is a neurotoxin associated with significant morbidity and mortality... it may raise blood pressure, damage the myocardium, precipitate arrhythmias and damage the developing fetal heart." (Sceepers, B.D. "Alcohol and the Brain." *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*. 1997; 57: 543-51)

"It is well recognized that alcohol increases the risk of injury." (Guohua, L. "Alcohol and injury severity." *Journal of Trauma* 1997; 42:562-69)

"Alcohol can lead to potentially hazardous hypoglycemia..." (Meeking, D.R. "Alcohol ingestions and glycemic control." *Diabetic Medicine* 1997; 14:279-83)

"...alcohol related problems include liver disease, dementia, confusion, peripheral neuropathy, insomnia, seizure disorders, poor nutrition, incontinence, diarrhea, myopathy, inadequate self care, macrocytosis, depression, fractures, and adverse reactions to medications." (Fink, A. "Alcohol related problems in older persons." *Archives of Internal Medicine* 1997; 157:242-3)

"Alcohol has consistently been related to risks of squamous cell cancer..." (Thomas, D.B. "Alcohol as a cause of cancer." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 1995; 103:153-60)

"The influence of alcohol on sexual behavior is part of popular knowledge." (Donovan, C. "A review of the literature examining the relationship between alcohol use and HIV related sexual risk-taking in young people." *Addiction* 1997; 90:319-28)

Other studies showed the relationship between alcohol and osteoporosis, chronic gastritis, peptic ulcers, decreased immune response, aggressive behaviour, fetal malformation, spontaneous abortion and this is only a sampling! It is difficult to see how anyone could review the data and conclude that the beneficial properties of alcohol outweigh the toxicology even when taken in moderate amounts.

7) One must consider the addictive potential of alcohol with its resultant social and economic implications. It is recognized that approximately 10% of the individuals who begin drinking will become sufficiently addicted to be considered problem drinkers or alcoholics. In a Gallup poll, 1 out of 4 Americans report their families being negatively impacted by alcohol abuse. The economic loss of worker productivity is measured in the billions of dollars. A medical pharmacology textbook states: "Alcohol is discussed here separately because its wide and use and abuse leads to more behavioural and organic toxicity than any other agent. The social and therapeutic problems thus generated are an unavoidable concern of every practitioner... Ethyl alcohol is an addictive drug and it would no doubt immediately be placed under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration if it were first discovered today." (Meyers, F.H. *Review of Medical Pharmacology*. Lange 1980; 242-46)

In conclusion, let's suppose you went to your physician and were offered a medication with the following informed consent: "This is a drug which can reduce your chance of heart attack by 30%, but I must warn you that this drug is a direct brain and liver toxin. It will increase your chance of contracting cancer, contribute to osteoporosis, ulcers and hypertension. There's also a 5 to 10% chance that you will become hopelessly addicted to this drug which could easily lead to losing your job and destroy your marriage. I must also inform you that there are some essentially risk free alternatives that are even more effective in preventing heart disease, but I think you'll really like the euphoric feeling you get when you

take this drug." First, the Federal Drug Administration would never allow a drug with this degree of risk to benefit profile to ever be marketed. Second, if they did, what patient in their right mind would accept such a prescription and ever trust the judgment of that physician again. It is probably fair to say that many people who claim to be using alcohol for medicinal purposes were already recreational drinkers who were happy to find science supporting their lifestyle. From a purely medical perspective, it is hard to justify it. The medical journal *Cardiology Clinics* summarizes this as follows: "Given the complex nature of alcohol disease relationships, alcohol consumption should not be considered a primary preventive strategy." (Gaziano, J. "Diet and heart disease: the role of fat, alcohol and antioxidance." *Cardiology Clinics* 1996; 14: 69-83)

As Christians, our decision to drink alcoholic beverages should not be based solely on scientific data, but also on the moral and spiritual implications. With my world view as a Christian I do not consider my life to be merely a series of chemical reactions which can be tested in lab experiments and reported in the medical literature. Aside from the physiology of my body, I believe my existence has spiritual and mental dimensions which are intricately linked together. Medical science increasingly recognizes that the patient should be treated as a complex being with body, mind and spirit. Recently I attended a Harvard medical school conference entitled "Spirituality and Healing" which dramatically documented this holistic view of man. It becomes clear that decisions I make about my body have a major influence on my mental and spiritual dimensions.

Watch for an article discussing the moral and spiritual implications of alcohol consumption in a future Faith On the Line issue.

- Dr. Rick Westermeyer



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## EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

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It was Mary who sat at His feet and soaked it all up, who poured the precious anointing oil, who bathed His feet with her tears, who stood beside the cross, who followed His body to the tomb, who came to the tomb on resurrection morning after the Sabbath, who wept over His missing body, it was Mary who first spoke, and it was Mary to first proclaim a risen Saviour to the fearful disciples.

Mary exemplifies the power of Christ's amazing love to change you and me!



-Don Anderson

*Don Anderson is thankful for God's extravagant love and pastors the Maple Ridge and Mission Seventh-day Adventist Churches!*

## FROM THE EDITOR

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in his book, *The Coming Great Calamity*, stresses that a paradigm shift - a change in values and thinking of an individual or society - can occur very rapidly in time of crisis. Using the Bible (Luke 21:25,26 for example) and the Spirit of Prophecy as authority, he strongly suggests that the crisis described in Revelation 13 could be precipitated by an asteroid or comet striking the earth, causing widespread death and destruction and threatening life on earth.

Should life on earth be threatened by forces beyond the ability of man to deal with, a dramatic and sudden change would occur as the world would finally acknowledge its need of God's help. Revelation tells us that at the end religious forces will be in control using civil power to enforce their decisions. Our society is secular now, but an environmental catastrophe which put the whole world at risk could change that overnight. There would be no time to get ready for such a catastrophe when it happens. We have to start preparing now.

- Ken Anderson



## STOREHOUSE OF HEAVEN

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will have to show me which of these two amounts I would have to pay!" It was early in my religious experience and I reasoned that my money was safe because God would never be able to accede to such a challenge.

Surprise, surprise! Within ten minutes of issuing the challenge to God, a letter arrived by mail which contained a note from an attorney who had discovered an error pertaining to the finances of issues that had transpired a number of years previously. Enclosed in the letter was a refund cheque for precisely the higher amount that I had calculated.

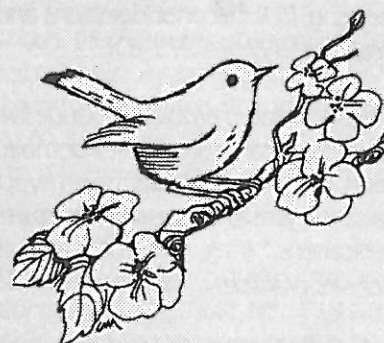
Being an odd number I was stunned and concluded that God, knowing my stubborn heart, had decided to pay my first tithe Himself, and so I started paying tithe. Moreover I realized that God had a sense of humour - for He could have chosen the lesser amount.

Have I suffered because I have had to pay tithe? No, never. God has never let me down. There were times when we had no money, when we were taken to the brink, but God has always provided. I have learnt that if I want to survive I need to pay my tithe. Indeed, when the going gets tough, I pay my tithe quick, or else I know I will not make it.

God has taught us wonderful lessons of trust, not only in terms of tithes, but also in terms of offerings. Sometimes He has required of us to sell something which we felt we could ill afford to lose, or to take steps in faith and spend money that we did not have, on furthering His work, but every time, God poured out a blessing in accordance with His promises.

*"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" Numbers 23:19*

- Walter J. Veith



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