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Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.
HE SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE

BY RICHARD O'FILL

I was listening to the news not long ago. They told of a lady who had retired as a dean in a certain university. She lives alone in her home. She received a telephone call from a person who claimed to be, if I remember right, representing Ed McBain from the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes. The person told her that she was the lucky winner of a million dollars, but in order to receive the money she needed to send a bond of ten thousand dollars. This she did. A day or so later the person called again and informed her that she had not won one million but ten million dollars, and that she would need to send more bond money. I don't need to tell you what was going on. In the end she lost sixty thousand dollars to a voice on the telephone that told her to send the money to a post office box number that had since been closed. When they talked with the old lady afterwards about the person who had called, all she could say that she could remember about him was that he was so kind and understanding!

Ladies and gentlemen, as a minister of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, I am here to tell you that there are voices out there...voices that sound kind and understanding, but these voices could well be the voice of someone who is after something much more than sixty thousand dollars. If you do as they will say, as these kind, understanding voices could cause you to give up the true gospel and invest in a hollow, empty gospel: The hollow, empty gospel will be the voice of understanding. The true gospel will be the voice that tells the person who buys into it to nowhere but eternal loss. I really don't understand why so many of us are buying into these gospel scams. Can I interest you in buying the Brooklyn Bridge at a price you cannot possibly afford? We have no one to blame but ourselves for how this will all turn out. The Scriptures say that we have a more sure word of prophecy wherein we do well to take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. But apparently we have preferred the darkness—no, we really don't prefer darkness; it is just that many have lost the ability to tell the difference.

The junk gospel that is being preached in more and more places than we can count all. As a point of reference, the word “gospel” means good news, and the scam gospel that is being preached in more and more places is not even good news. In fact, it is bad news. Maybe I shouldn't say that though, because to some mind-sets, bad news is good news.

The true gospel—the real thing—is the only thing that can save us. The devil knows that, and for this reason he has come up with a gospel that, instead of being good news, is bad news even though it sounds like good news. But it is, nevertheless, bad news, because the person who buys into it will be lost instead of being saved, and though they will finally see that it is bad news, they will have stayed in it until it was too late, because they thought it was good news.

The true gospel is both bad news and good news. The true gospel is bad news to the devil and those who have bought into his lies, and it is good news to sinners who want to be saved.

But here is where the rub comes in. Extensive longitudinal demographic studies done over thousands of years by the Holy Spirit have concluded that the majority of sinners, when they come to see their sin, do not want the peace of mind and good news that the true gospel offers, but try to save themselves by chasing after the false gospel of their choice. They will not want the peace of mind, the security, the assurance, the comfort, the good news that the true gospel offers.

You would think that this being the case, the devil would be satisfied with his winnings over the long haul and just live and let live. But the devil is not a person that you would want for a next-door neighbor. He is not into live and let live, but rather he lives and you die.

At the end of time just before the close of probation, which by the way is now, he makes a super demonic effort to cause the ruin of everyone who happens to be alive at the time, including the good guys. Satan has a dream—we would see it as a nightmare—but he has a dream, and that dream is to completely eliminate the people who insist on following God on this planet. Revelation 12:17, “And the dragon was angry with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Of course, we have come to understand that Jesus isn’t going to let the remnant be wiped out, though there will be many martyrs. Just before the close of probation, God, in His mercy, will put into motion the greatest revelation of the true gospel. He will cause everyone to realize that the move that go by, the devil is right now putting into motion the greatest revelation of a false gospel that has been seen since the Middle Ages.

By now you might be thinking, “Hey, this is going to be some fight. I think I’ll stay and watch.” No, my friend, don’t watch this fight...we are in it. We are sure how it will finally end, but we are not sure who will be on whose side when the fight is over. I say this knowing man. I say this because now, what before looked clear, is becoming very confusing.

There are huge numbers changing sides every day. People who apparently were followers of the true gospel are running up the white flag and surrendering to the false gospel. At the same time, huge numbers are going to be on the side of the false gospel are moving across the lines to the true. This move is not always physical. In fact, at this stage of the battle, it is a change of ideology. This means that people can even be going to the same church and not be the same people. This phenomenon is to be expected. Jesus was betrayed by an insider, and He Himself said there would be false teachers and false prophets and that even family members would betray their true brothers.

All my life I had heard of what was going to happen in the last days. What is happening was clearly told us in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. But I think we were kind of like Jesus’ disciples. He told them over and over again that He would be betrayed and crucified, but they could not believe what he meant. It is easier, if you can say such a thing, for God to do something about our mortal bodies than it is for Him to do something about our contaminated hearts. To do something about something so fundamental as the heart is infinitely more complex. It requires us to want to change. Sinners who are into sin feel good about themselves the way they are; this makes it impossible for God to save them. Though nothing is impossible with God, the one thing He will not do is give you a new heart when you don’t want one. If that was the way that He did things, He would have aborted what happened at the Tree of Knowledge. Do you see where I am coming from?

Ladies and gentlemen, God created us to be holy. We are not holy; therefore, the gospel is a true gospel unless it is having effect in your life and mine and de-installing the works of the flesh and installing the fruit of the Spirit.

I told you that the sham gospel the devil has come up with for those that are into sin uses the same vocabulary as the true gospel with some strategic omissions and some special spin doctoring. For this reason, a person who is looking for a way out of sin can become momentarily confused when he hears the false gospel being preached.

The devil is an evil genius. He knows how to play on words and concepts off against another. A person can be thrown off guard. Now let me give you a few things to look out for. Remember he speaks our language.

A person who is hearing people talking a lot these days about legalism. This word is being used more and more often as a smoke screen to try to play down the doctrine of the Sabbath. A person who is in their theological right mind in the 21st century doesn’t believe that we are saved by keeping the Ten Commandments. But make no mistake, people who are being saved are people who want to keep the Ten Commandments and they are committed by God’s grace to do so.

By the way, the reason you can’t be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments is simply because a person who hasn’t kept the Ten Commandments can’t keep the Ten Commandments. From this point on, if a person is to be saved, no matter how hard they try. The Bible teaches us that the Ten Commandments can tell you what not to do, but they can’t give you the power to do it. Only the Spirit of our crucified and risen Lord can do that. But make no mistake, Jesus died and was resurrected from the death not to get you and me out of obedience, but to get us into obedience.

If you hear someone preaching against legalism who is telling you that people who are being saved don’t have to keep all the commandments, you are hearing a false gospel. Because a person who has the Spirit of Christ in them moves out of disobedience into obedience, and He who has begun this good work in us will finish it. Another time you want to wake up and fine-tune is when you hear people say that Christ did it all and that we don’t have to do anything.
Unfortunately, we are not united. Some have lined up with the truth and others have lined up with error. Back in the old days it would have been easy. Back then we had a lot of strong opinions, but we agreed that the Bible would be the last word. And so we all would go to the Bible, and when it was over we would settle our differences by the truth of God’s Word. God’s Word was the last word! Sorry to say, those days seem to have passed.

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The truth is, the Word says if scarcely shall a righteous man be saved what shall be the end of those who refuse the gospel of Jesus Christ? (Luke 13:28)

And so he did. The Russians set themselves up as farmers in the area around Yule, Virginia. They even built a little church. They put a sign out front that said, “Russian Baptist Church.” One day some of the Serbs came by and there were some of the Russians who were Nigerian, they said, “I don’t think that is what we mean by being saved.”

A Pharisae is someone who professes righteousness and sin, accepting the life-changing power of Jesus Christ into our lives is the most important decision that we will ever make. I wish they wouldn’t say that we don’t have to do anything.

But back in the old days it would have been easy. Back then we had a lot of strong opinions, but we agreed that the Bible would be the last word. And so we all would go to the Bible, and when it was over we would settle our differences by the truth of God’s Word. God’s Word was the last word! Sorry to say, those days seem to have passed.

Archbishop Narsis Arzoumanian, a prominent figure in the Armenian Church, speaks on the importance of faith and commitment to the Gospel. He emphasizes the need for unity and agreement on the truth of God’s Word, which he sees as the ultimate arbiter of faith. Narsis stresses the importance of examining the teachings and practices of others in light of God’s Word, and he cautions against the dangers of sin and unbelief. He also highlights the significance of maintaining a strong commitment to the faith, despite the challenges and trials that may arise. Through his words, he encourages believers to remain steadfast in their faith and to seek guidance from the teachings of the Bible. Narsis’s message is a reminder of the critical role that the Bible plays in the lives of believers, guiding them in their spiritual journey and providing a foundation for faith and understanding. By focusing on the truths found in the Bible, Christians can navigate the complexities of faith and remain true to the principles that are central to their beliefs. Narsis’s insights serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement for those seeking to deepen their understanding of the faith and to live a life that is pleasing to God.
be your signal that something is wrong. Remember what Jesus said. He said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." Unfortunately, the love that is being taught in more and more places is actually a cover for selfishness—and I "will decide what is right and what is wrong for myself" attitude.

We are being told that love is all that matters and that is right. True love is all that matters and true love works like this. Listen...you remember how it goes...I Cor. 13:4-7: "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

I don't need to tell you that the "love" of the 21st century doesn't have much in common with what I have just read. If you could characterize the love of the 21st century in just a few words, you might say that love of the 21st century takes it...It doesn't give, and when it does, it wants something in return. Another word that the devil is using very effectively to keep people from being able to discern between good and evil, right and wrong, truth and error, is the word "judgment." When the devil approaches us with some matter with some and the conversation drifts into matters having to do with faith and morals, it is more and more common for someone to say, "But we shouldn't judge." I would like to ask, why not? When we buy a house, we judge. When we buy a car, we judge. When we buy anything, we judge. When someone backs into your car and dents the bumper, we judge. What is the deal? If someone hurt our child or a family member, we don't mind judging. But a person may say, "But that is different." I judge when I do wrong things. Not me, when it doesn't have to do with me, it is not my business.

On one occasion I was called to jury duty in Seminole County, Florida. The day that I spent there helped me to better understand the significance of the process of judgment here and God. As I sat in the courtroom, I thought of the fact that the Bible says that we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. The judge and the lawyers emphasized over and over again that the accused was innocent or proven guilty.

It occurred to me, and maybe what I am about to say is not a totally good illustration, but when we give our lives to Jesus, we are then declared innocent. We are, as we say, under the blood, Jesus is our Righteousness, yet we continued to live as though we professed to accept Him. The question in the judgment will be to see if we stayed under the blood or if we didn't. Those who accepted Jesus as Savior and then are lost, will be condemned by their own lives. They either did or didn't let Jesus cleanse them in an on-going way from all unrighteousness.

I was talking to someone about the times in which we live. Do you realize, my friends, that very likely we are the generation that is being given the opportunity to be the ones in which Jesus will finish His work? We are very likely the generation that will meet God face to face without seeing death. This is enormous different from any generation before us. This means that Jesus will finish His work in us while we live. This means a cooperation with Him that is, by its very nature, different than any generation before. Not because we are better than the generation that has gone before, but rather because of the work that Jesus must and will complete in us. It must be said of us, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus," and in another place "These are they that follow the lamb wherever he goeth." Revelation 14:4-6: "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb."

Jesus is serious about completing the work in us that He has so graciously begun. This is no time for business as usual. We cannot afford to slack when we are so near the end. We love Jesus and do not want to let Him down just now when His great plan for the cleansing and blotting out of sins is about to occur. The devil has done more to damage the church of God since he joined it than he ever did when he was trying to wipe it out in the persecutions of the past. He now has learned the language of the gospel. He knows all the right words to say at all the right times. But as I have pointed out, he is not using the words to further the plan of salvation, but to try to deceive and finally destroy those who don't seem to know what is going on.

What are we going to do about all of this? What we must do is forget about trying to find a new interpretation to the faith that has come to us from our fathers, and discover how things are different. It will be difficult at first, but it is the only way. We may not have applied it consistently or understood how deep and wide it was, but that was not a problem of truth and error but rather of application of truth.

Let's get into the Word as we never have before. May I suggest the book, Bible Readings for the Home. Its format is question-and-answer and each question is answered with a text of Scripture. Let us settle down to trying that the Holy Spirit will make the gospel real in our lives. We've gotten into trouble because we were often not growing in grace, and even sometimes we were not practising what we were preaching. It is not too late. God will help us.

(This sermon is part of a series entitled Discerning the Times.)

Richard O'Fill

Source: www.revivalsermons.org

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Richard O'Fill in Westminster - Sept 2003

The Westminster Seventh Day Adventist church was grateful for another uplifting weekend seminar with Pastor Richard O'Fill. The two-day event began on September 19th, 2003 with a message on honoring the Sabbath and making it more special. The theme for the weekend was "As For Me And My House" on topics with humility, honesty and purity presented in Pastor O'Fill's delightfully simple manner. Pastor O'Fill is the revivalist for the Florida conference and also speaks worldwide en couraging and inspiring churches. An audio set of the 5 inspiring messages is available by calling Amazing Discoveries at 1-866-572-9457.

VICTOR GILL IN THE UKRAINE 2003

It had been two years since our last trip to the Ukraine. This summer we had a number of contacts from various places in the Ukraine inviting my husband, Vic, to have a series of meetings in their areas. Each place seemed to be needy, and we were struggling with where we should go. For now, I told them the brethren that they should decide where he should go, and we would comply. The answer came: the Crimea - the city of Simferopol. We had never been to the Crimea and were anxious to see what it would be like. We were pleasantly surprised. We were staying in the hotel near the airport on 15th of September and arrived in Kiev on the 16th. Our customs experience was quite unfavorable except for the fact that Karl Malez, a member of our team, was asked to pay a fee of $48 US because of all the things he was bringing into the country. We were made to open two of our suitcases because they couldn't figure out what all the musical instruments and little dinky cars and trucks were all about. But when I explained what they were for, they let me close the suitcases and sent us on our way.

I was surprised that we were not mugged or robbed in our travels. We loaded most of our belongings in the van that we take our things to Simferopol. The Union brethren knew we had a lot of luggage, and they wanted to make sure they had enough room.

...Continued on Page 10
Sometimes we know that there is no way that we can even get up off of our knees to walk out the door without the strengthening power of God’s Spirit. We are glued to the spot, crying, knowing we are utterly inadequate for the job we must do – utterly inadequate to be anything for anybody, having no more to give. Knowing that at any moment, we can fall again, even just by a little word in our mouth. Knowing that we cannot do it of our own selves. And yet there is strength given.

Do we fail all this to have with love anyways? What is love anyways? Is it stinned, measured, calculated? I have been learning that loving brings fullness of life, as well. But loving is not easy. It is easy to give to those that love in return. But to accept the risky, yet rich love of others. To give up an awesome power – the power to hurt? No one in the world has such power to hurt as a husband, wife, or intimate friend. To love is to be vulnerable to that power which lies in the hands of the one loved. To love means to open ourselves to suffering. Shall we shut our doors to love, then, and be safe? Or can our cross be found in loving another even at great risk and often in the face of the reality of pain?

Our cross is not a showpiece of our noble struggle, of our dutiful, lonely, and wonderful suffering. Our cross is utter abandonment of ourselves to death for the benefit of others. This abandonment, in all cases, will mean pain. To be "poured out" as Christ was – without measure – completely – to the end. It is not easy to give to those that we last regard. Can we expect to do any less? The answer is NO. The way of the cross leads to the cross and not to a bank of flowers. We cannot be surprised when the way is rough, and we cannot think it strange, though it was "the way of sorrow, the path of woe". (Peter 4:12; James 1:2) With what misgivings we turn over our lives to God, imagining somehow that we are about to lose everything that matters.

I find that even at times, I lose a great part of our souls. It is our response to them which finally affects us. I find that though I am in a new place of yieldedness before Him who has thus planned my life, little things remain between me and Him – big things in His sight. What do I know of Calvary? love very little. But enough to know what it is. But not enough to know what it is that I want it. Enough to know that what Jesus Christ did for me was more enormous than my finite mind can fathom. Before He got on that cross, He struggled in Gethsemane. Before He struggled in Gethsemane, He was last three. Christ drank the cup of His energy, His rest, and using His thought and every available moment of time to build up a kingdom that would last forever, being misunderstood & hated by many, being criticized by many, being doubted, being alone. But not alone. And after 30 years of carrying His cross, of carrying this great burden, He bore My sins in His own body, and who willingly paid the penalty for my sin.

Amy Carmichael in her book shares some examples of the kind of love that was expressed on Calvary:

"In dealing with someone who does not respond, I weary of the strategy of slipping from the under the burden, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I have not the patience of with souls who grow slowly, if I know little of trust (a sharp and painful thing) till Christ be fully formed in them, then I know nothing of Calvary love.
If I am afraid to speak the truth lest I lose affection, or because I fear to lose my reputation for kindness; if I put my own good name before the other's highest good, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

I if I blot the edge of truth, speaking not right things but smooth things, then I know nothing of Calvary love. If I put my own happiness before the well-being of the work entrusted to me; if, though I have this ministry and have received much mercy, I faint, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I am soft to myself and slide comfortably into the vice of self-pity and self-sympathy; if I do not by the grace of God practice fortitude, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If the moment I am conscious of the shadow of self-crossing my threshold, I do not shut the door, and in the power of Him who works in us to will and to do, keep that door shut, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I am able to discover something which has baffled others, I forget Him who reveals the deep and secret things, and knoweth the end from the beginning. If I put this faith to use; if I forget that He was who granted that ray of light to His most unworthy servant, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I take offense easily; if I am content to continue in a cool unfeignedness though friendship be possible, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I do not give a friend "the benefit of the doubt", but put the worst construction instead of the best on what is said or done, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I feel injured when another lays to my charge things that I know not, forgetting that my Sinless Saviour trod this path to the end, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I say "Yes, I forgave you, but I cannot forget", as though the God, who twice a day washes all the sands on all the shores of all the world, could not wash such memories from my mind, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I feel bitterly towards those who condemn me, as it seems to me, unjustly, forgetting that if they knew me as I know myself, they would condemn me much more, then I know nothing of Calvary love. If one whose help I greatly need appears to be as content to build in wood, hay, stubble, as in gold, silver, precious stones, and I hesitate to obey my light and do without that help... then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If something I am asked to do for another feels burdensome; if, yielding to an inward unwillingness, I avoid doing it, then I know nothing of Calvary love. I have felt these words speaking to me, but it is borne upon me that, in spite of all our hymns and prayers (so many of them for love), it is possible to be content with the shallows of love, if indeed such shallows should be called love at all.... The more we ponder our Lord's words about love, and the burning words the Spirit gave to His followers to write, the more acutely do we feel our deadly lack. The Searchlight of the spirits exposes to ourselves, and such a discovery leaves us appalled... Like Job we abhor ourselves and repent in dust and ashes. But the light is not turned upon us to rob us of our hope. It is a lifting up. If only we desire to be purged from self with its entangling nits, its subterfuges, its disguises (falsehoods truly), if, hating unlove

A.D. UPDATE Continued

THE HEALTH MESSAGE

Magnesium
by Christine Peck

Whatever do I need it for?

"Magnesium is needed for more than 300 biochemical reactions in the body. It helps maintain normal muscle and nerve function, keeps heart rhythms steady, and bones strong. It is also involved in energy metabolism and protein synthesis."

The presence of magnesium is found to have a positive influence on a variety of diseases, such as heart disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

Is There Cause for Alarm?

Every year or so another alarm is raised about the lack of some nutrient in our diet and how this lack is the true underlying cause of large numbers of deaths from some well-known disease, such as heart attacks. This was the case with the scurvy scare in Dead Doctors Don't Lie, as well as the current frenzy over magnesium. A website I visited while researching this article claimed that there is "an inverse relationship between water hardness and mortality from cardiovascular disease. That is, people who drink water that is deficient in magnesium and calcium generally appear more susceptible to this disease. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences has estimated that a nation-wide initiative to add calcium and magnesium to soft water might reduce the annual cardiovascular death rate by 150,000 in the United States." The 150,000 represent only 9% of the 1,600,000 deaths from cardiovascular disease listed in the World Health Organization's statistics for 1998, the latest year for which such statistics are available. While magnesium does play a role in the regulation of heart rhythms, among other metabolic functions, the greater amount of evidence shows that heart disease is generally caused by poor lifestyle practices, such as a high-salt, diet and lack of exercise, not from mineral deficiency.

It's estimated that the average American gets only 300 mg of magnesium a day, compared with the Recommended Dietary Allowance of 420 mg. The RDA for magnesium is actually age and gender specific.

High doses of magnesium can be bad for you, too. It can trigger "undesired affects" such as diarrhea, which is probably why it's used in laxatives. magnesium is more often at risk of magnesium toxicity because kidney function declines with age and they are more likely to consume laxatives and antacids with magnesium in them.

Sigs of excess magnesium can be similar to magnesium deficiency, and may include muscle cramps, tingling, numbness, abnormal heart rhythms, coronary spasms, and seizures.

Too Much of a Good Thing Can Hurt You Too

**If you wish to support this ministry, and would like to see the three angels’ message disseminated around the world in the form of seminars, lectures, radio, and the internet, please consider a donation to Amazing Discoveries so that we are enabled to carry out this important work.**
The Diet Challenge

Is it possible to obtain sufficient quantities of this mineral to maintain good health from our everyday diet? If you eat right, yes. Processed foods have a lot less magnesium in them unprocessed "whole" foods. While bread has only 6 mg of magne-

sium per slice, while whole wheat contains 2 mg in a single

slice. Green leafy vegetables, nuts, seeds and some grains are
good sources of magnesium and provide a variety of taste and texture. A variety of these sources in the diet will ensure that you have enough of this mineral to satisfy your daily needs. Here are some great vegetarian sources of magnesium:

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<th>Food</th>
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<td>Artichoke, boiled</td>
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<td>Quinoa</td>
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<td>Pumpkins &amp; squash seeds</td>
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<td>Soybeans, mature boiled</td>
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<td>Small white beans</td>
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<td>Millet, cooked</td>
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<td>Sesame seeds, toasted</td>
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<td>Sunflower seeds, dried</td>
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The Bottom Line

Even though some sources may be raising a fuss over magnesium, other sources indicate there is not a cause for alarm among healthy adults. "Even though dietary surveys suggest that many Americans do not consume magnesium in recom-

mended amounts, magnesium deficiency is rarely seen in the United States in adults. When magnesium deficiency does oc-

cur, it is usually due to excessive loss of magnesium in urine, gastrointestinal system disorders that cause a loss of magne-

sium or limit magnesium absorption, or a chronically low in-

take of magnesium." 7

"Healthy adults who eat a varied diet do not generally need to take a magnesium supplement. Magnesium supple-

mentation is usually indicated when a specific health problem or condition causes an excessive loss of magnesium or limits magnesium absorption." 8

Christine Peck

---Continued on Page 15

---Continued on Page 18

Faith on the Line

The Language of Music

-Part 2-

by Brian S. Neumann

More Evidence From the World of Scientific Research

For a quarter of a century researchers have been moni-

toring how our brain reacts to certain stimuli and how it pro-

cesses the information received. They have discovered that the brain starts to build up a stubborn wall against an overload of information and stimuli of a sensational nature. They have noticed that the construction of this inner wall is initiated more quickly than any other evolutionary change that has occurred since the existence of man. The necessity of the brain utilizing this defense mechanism is as a direct result of the information overload that people, especially those of the past fifty years, have been exposed to. It would appear that as a result of moder-

n 20th century humanity's exposure to an ever-increasing amount of dra-

matic, violent, and sensational infor-

mation, the brain has had to resort to researching itself.

About 20 years ago, the first signs started to surface that something unique was happening inside the brain. Researchers discovered a strange phe-

nomenon when they were studying the processing of stimuli and emotions of people in Germany.

Four thousand persons took part in a biological experiment that took place over a couple of years. After the experiment it was clearly noted that the human "guinea-pigs" could not smell and taste as before. "In the department of smell and taste there was an extreme change," reported the psychologist, Henner Ertl from Munich. "The brain had developed a stimuli acceptance limit, under which it refused to process any new stimuli." (PM magazine Nov '94 p.14 - 20)

Before, any stimuli were accepted without hesitation, but after these intensive experiments the picture began to change dra-

matically. It was noticed that our sensitivity to stimuli reduces itself yearly by about 1%. The finer stimuli are filtered out of our consciousness with the result that more space is left for the receiving and accepting of the coarser sensations known as the "very strong stimuli". With each genera-

tion we have been losing the ability to process and accept the more sensitive and finer kinds of stimuli.

Guns 'n' Roses, you could be sure that the rebels of the 60's and even the rebels of the fifties would not have known what to do with their music. Today Elvis is, quite literally, kindergarten music. Not to men-

tion the aspect of semi or total porn used in advertising today. If you were driving down the road in the 50's and saw a billboard displaying a naked or half-naked woman selling cell phones or car batteries (obviously, the connection between cell phones and naked woman does not seem to escape the manufacture-

er or advertising agency), there would have been an im-

mediate outcry. Now, in the 'enlightened' 21st Century, it is com-

mon practice and, in most cases, even recommended.

Things that would have shocked people thirty, forty, or fifty years ago, today have no effect on what has become known as "generation X's." That which was right has become wrong and that which was wrong has become right. A total switch in values has occurred. These things have resulted in the break up of the family unit and the disintegration of the 'church family' as well.
What do we do to fix the problem? We often do exactly what we should not do—we follow the standard that the world has set.

Satan has not been asleep in the 20th century. He has, especially in this age of industrialization and modern technology, made use of the devices available to him. If there were one thing that he desires more than anything else, then it would be to deceive people's consciousness to the point where they cannot successfully differentiate between right and wrong. One cannot understand the role of music as a device for the desensitizing and conditioning of modern society. There is nothing new in the concept that music has the power to adjust and channel the collective mind-set of massive groups of people.

How can we expect generations of people, affected by music and media, with minds that have lost the capacity to clearly distinguish right from wrong (and we have all been affected), to make rational, sane decisions about method of outreach and content of music in worship? Humanly speaking, we cannot. Our safe guard will not be our feelings or personal preferences. Our guide must be the light of God which has given us in the principles of His Word and in His prophetic testimony for His end time people. Combined with this, we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit, living and active. "The body temple", individually and collectively. Any other route we take will be on the road to salvation by our own works, a salvation obtained through human wisdom, which is blind to the things of God. Only when we allow God to strike the equilibrium in our lives will we once again be worshiping Him in the Spirit and with the understanding also.

Another field in which music has been used as a symptom of treatment and attempted long-term healing device is in the area of mentally handicapped and schizophrenic patients. The neurologist, Dr. Oliver Sacks, describes a patient of his, suffering from recurrent crisis characterized by intense excitement and uncontrollable movement, under treatment:

By far the best treatment of her crisis was music, the effects of which were almost uncanny. One minute would see Miss D. compressed, clenched and blocked, or jerking, ticking and jabbering, a sort of human bomb; the next, with the sound of music from a wireless or gramophone, the complete disappearance of all these obstructive, explosive phenomena and their replacement by a blissful ease and flow of movement as Miss D. suddenly freed of her automatism, smilingly 'conducted' the music, or rose and danced to it. (Oliver Sacks, Awakenings, revised edition, London Pan 1981)

And if this seems to be the drug induced opinion of some psycholcic rock star, then we would do well to listen to the words of one of music's premier mystics of the new world order:

Since music is the only language with the contradictory attributes of being at once intelligent and untranslatable, the musical creator is being comparable to the gods, and music itself the superior mystery of the science of man.


The spiritual implications of these statements are more than clear. And it is only when one has experienced music, not merely as a casual listener, that you can appreciate the incredible depth of influence that can be accomplished through the use of this powerful yet subtle form. I would stop short of comparing the musician to 'a being comparable to the gods', but I would most definitely stress that anyone who doubts the persuasive influence of music is doing so purely from the point of ignorance, or stubbornness.

If you have ever spent some time in the privacy of your own room and in the not so restrictive confines of your mind, listening intently to your favourite music and letting the atmosphere of the sound take you on a journey of your own imagining, then you will know, first hand, the liquid force of music's subtly transforming power.

In my own experience, as a listener, composer, performer and critical observer, I have personally witnessed how music can take a hold of and literally, transform the mood of those exposed to its influence. I have had the opportunity of experimenting with various modes of music while performing and have witnessed the effect that it produces on its listeners. I have performed in front of various people in different countries and diverse cultures and have seen the same musically induced response manifest in those who are listening to the many varied atmospheres in sound that are being offered to them.

Brian Neumann

Brian Neumann is on a speaking tour in the month of November in the USA, and will be returning to the US/Canada and Barbados in the spring of 2004 for further appointments. (See our website: www.amazingdiscoveries.org for further details.) To book a seminar with Brian Neumann on music, the spirit of prophecy in the new world order, please contact the office. We are accepting bookings for fall 2004 and the rest of 2005, anywhere in the world.

...Continued on Page 16
cost about 50 cents a day to feed one of these children. She also explained that they were constantly running out of funds for electricity and heat. This is devastating in the winter when it is cold. She also said they were in constant need of clothing as when they send a child to another facility, clothing has to go with that child. The director and her helpers were delighted with the clothing we were able to leave with her, as well as the toys. The children were so excited to get a toy of their very own.

The second orphanage had 300 children from birth to 3 years of age. This facility was run like a hospital and was clean with quite a number of staff for each ward. Their little cots were end to end in rows with just enough room in between for someone to walk through. Some of these children had been severely traumatized. One child in particular just screamed when I came near him. The fear in his eyes was pitiful to behold. The director, doctor, and nurse in charge were just delighted with the clothing we presented to them, and especially the flannel diapers that we were able to bring. We left toys for the children in this facility as well.

In both these facilities I noticed that each cot had a warm quilt on the bed. I was so glad for this as I have been to other facilities in other places where there was just a very thin, skimpy blanket or covering on each bed. When I crawl under my warm quilt on my queen-sized bed at night, I think of some of these poor unfortunate children who will never in their life experience the warmth and comfort that we take for granted.

When we visited the Westminster church just before we left for the Ukraine, a lady spoke to me about adopting an orphanage and forming a grandmother’s club where older ladies in the church would work to supply clothing and other necessities. I have since given this idea some thought, and I believe this would be an excellent idea. In fact, the orphanages in Simferopol would be delighted if this would happen.

In closing we would like to thank all of you for your support in our mission. Your prayers and gifts of money are greatly appreciated. We know that some of you have given very sacrificially. One couple sold their goats so that they would have something to give to this work. God bless them! Their reward is in heaven. We saw some of that reward as we were able to help students go to seminary, paid for medical help, the poor who couldn’t afford proper food and clothing, and a vehicle for the pastor so that he would no longer have to walk for miles, ride the transit system, wasting precious time and energy. The look of gratitude on his face was priceless.

We are planning another trip in May and June of 2004. We have already been invited to a number of places and are in the process of deciding which one we will accept. We solicit your prayers and your means to help us in this work because we are not able to do it of ourselves. The Lord has planted us in pleasant places. We enjoy so many things that they can just dream about. God grant that we will be faithful stewards of the means that He has entrusted us with. God bless you all!

Nettie Gill

If you would like to support Pastor Victor Gill’s evangelistic ministry in the Ukraine, Amazing Discoveries can provide a tax-deductible receipt for your donation, and accepts clothing donations as well. Please contact our office for questions or further information.

Have You Counted the Cost!...Continued From Page 10

from the ground of the heart, we cry to be delivered, then our God will be to us a God of deliverances. ... To look at ourselves leads to despair. Thank God, the Blood cleanseth."

Wendy Goubej Penner

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 $17 CDN or $11 US would be appreciated.

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