

FALL 2007

Volume 11

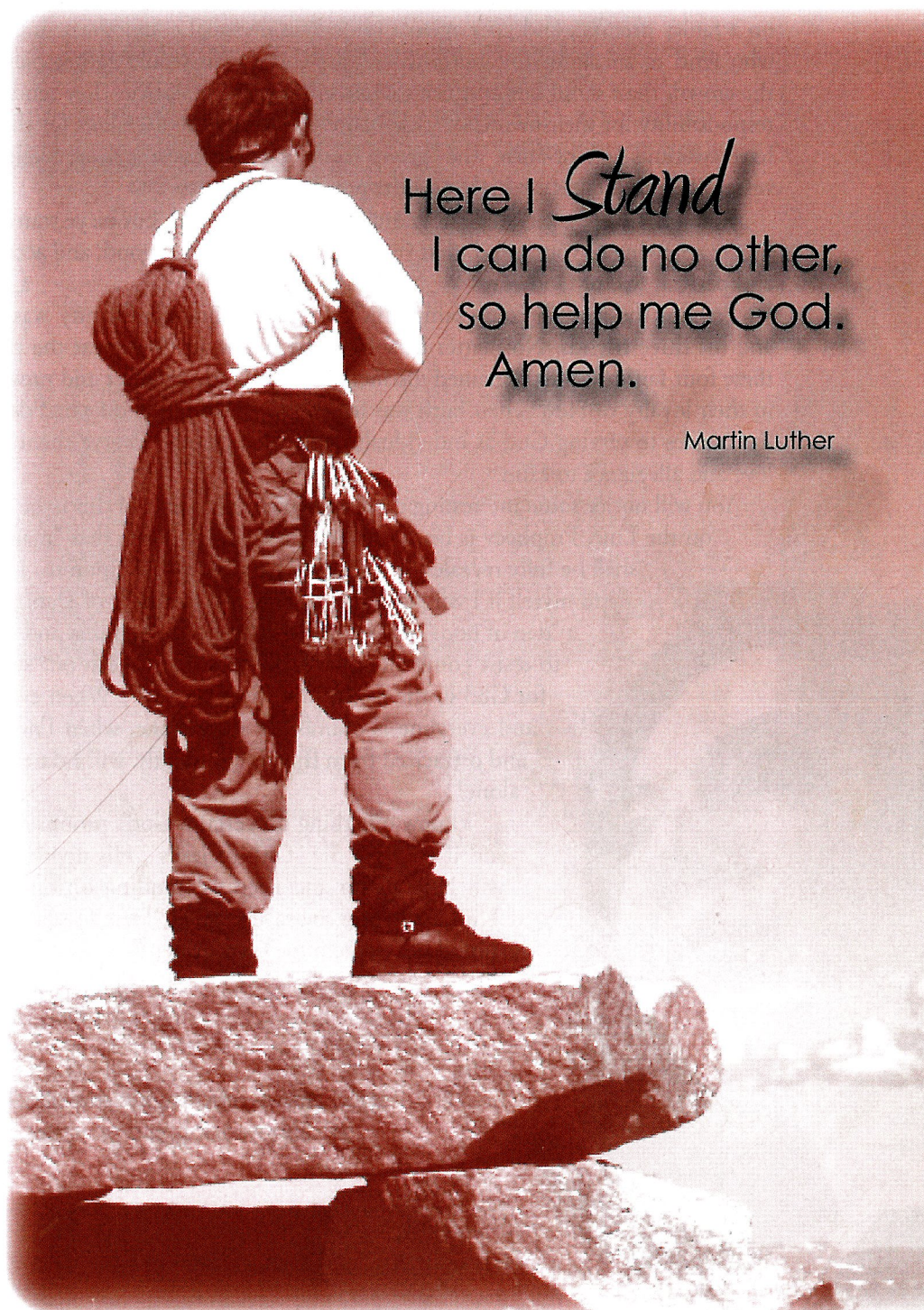
Issue 3

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Faith on the line

A Journal for Those Who Dare



Here I *Stand*
I can do no other,
so help me God.
Amen.

Martin Luther

Here I Stand

When individuals are pressured into conforming to the will of the majority against their own will, then a “group think” situation occurs. It’s a “social phenomenon” that has been prevalent throughout the history of mankind, as well as in today’s society, a society that puts a lot of pressure on being “in” via social conformity. The effects can be disastrous if the resulting conformity is based on a faulty premise, and goes against one’s own personal convictions. Individuals who tend to succumb to “group-think” are those who would rather blend into the crowd, than stand out and risk exclusion from the majority. They tend to lack responsibility for their own choices, rely on others to make decisions for them and have a serious lack of faith. The “group think” phenomenon is more likely to develop when the stakes are high, and the pressure is intense.

Romans 12:2 says: “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

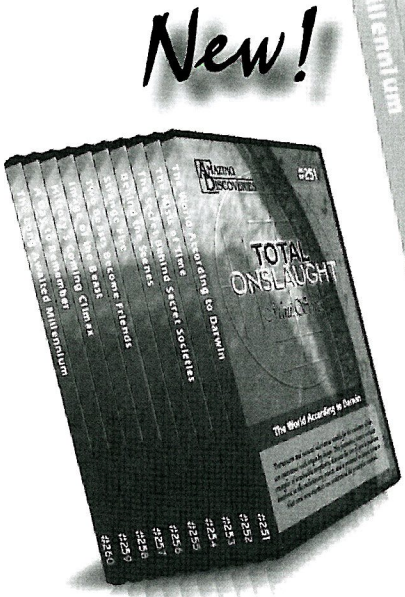
Perhaps the most heroic example in the Bible of non-conformity was Daniel and his three friends. No matter how high the stakes, or how great the pressure, these four faithful souls remained distinctly true to God, steadfast and unwavering in their loyalty to Him. Their faith was immeasurable, because they had dedicated themselves to serving God as individuals and nothing could swerve them in their love and allegiance to Him.

You will notice some interesting developments in the news in this issue of Faith on the Line. Prophecy is being fulfilled as we speak. Soon that “man of sin” shall be fully revealed and the Sunday Law will be upon us. I wonder to myself if I will have the courage and fortitude of Daniel to face a “den of lions” if need be. Will I have the stamina and strength to resist going along with the crowd and keep on “standing” for God in the face of the “fiery furnace”? When everything and everyone is crumbling around me, when I’m isolated and ostracized from friends and family, will I dare to stand alone?

I know one thing for certain: God’s promises are sure and if we have the “faith of Jesus”, His divine strength will hold us up and keep us standing on our feet for Him. As Luther so bravely stated, “Here I stand, I can do no other....so help me God. Amen.”

Odessa

here i stand



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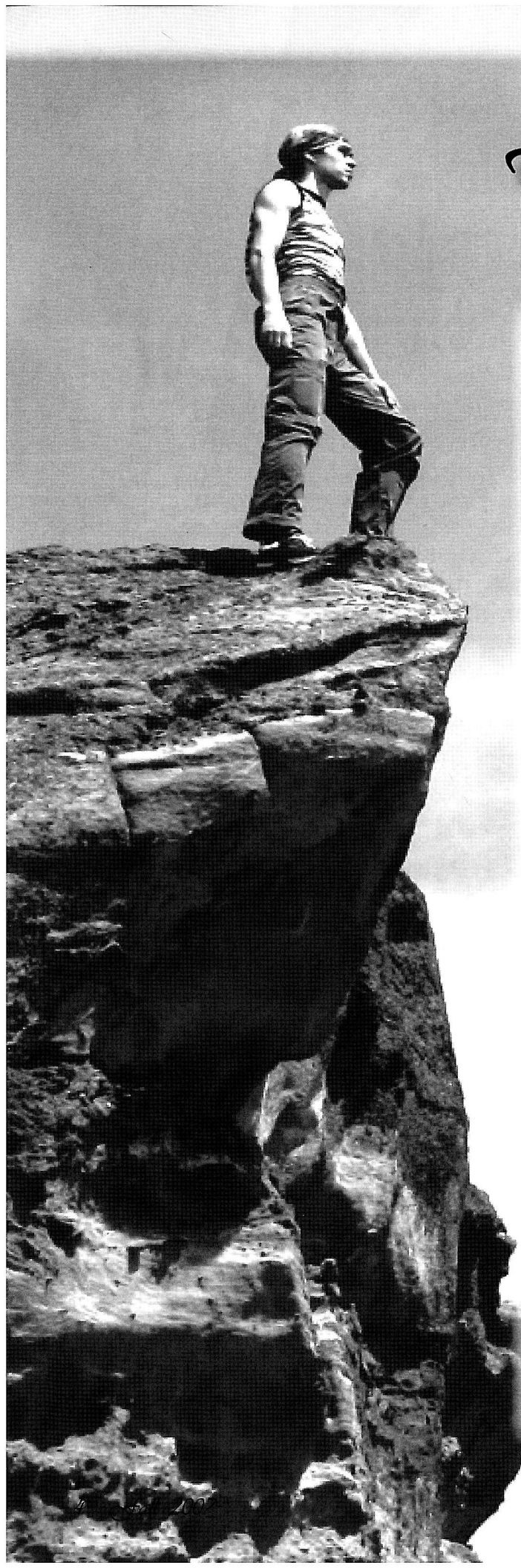
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AD News and Events...

Walter Veith John Triplett Victor Gill Brian Neumann

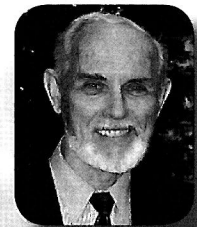
2007	2007	2007	2007
Montenegro Oct.12-18	Revelation Decoded	Pioneer Center,	Rapture Evangelistic
	Lehigh Township	Spruce Grove, AB, Canada	Campaign Series
Manchester South SDA Church,	Volunteer Fire Co. #1	Prophecy Seminar	Helderberg Basin Area,
Wilbraham Road,	4188 Lehigh Dr.	Sept.14-Oct.20	South Africa Aug.31-Oct.2
Fallowfield,	Cherryville, PA 18035		
Manchester, UK Oct.20-27	7:15 PM Sept.14-Oct.20	Africa November	
Youth Congress	Guam, Africa Nov.2-Dec.2		
Wales Oct.26-28			

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The Just Shall Live By Faith

by Victor Gill



For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry". Habakkuk 2:3

"The faith that strengthened Habakkuk and all the holy and just in those days of deep trial was the same faith that sustains God's people today. In the darkest hours, under circumstances the most forbidding, the Christian believer may keep his soul stayed upon the source of all light and power. Day by day through faith in God, his hope and courage may be renewed.

...In the service of God there need be no despondency, no wavering, no fear. The Lord will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him. He will give them the wisdom their varied necessities demand.

Of the abundant provision made for every tempted soul, the Apostle Paul bears eloquent testimony. To him was given the divine assurance, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness." In gratitude and confidence the tried servant of God responded: "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor. 12: 9,10.

We must cherish and cultivate the faith of which Prophets and Apostles have testified- the faith that lays hold of the promises of God and waits for deliverance in His appointed time and way. The sure word of prophecy will meet its final fulfillment in the glorious advent of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as King of kings and Lord of lords. The time of waiting may seem long, the soul may be oppressed by discouraging circumstances, many in whom confidence has been placed may fall by the way; but with the prophet who endeavored to encourage Judah in a time of unparalleled apostasy, let us confidently declare, "The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him."

"Let us ever hold in remembrance the cheering message, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." (Maranatha p.66)

I got to thinking about Mark 16: 16..."He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

I hear a lot of SDA's at times expressing unbelief. I'm sure I do it myself all too often. I think, we're like the woman at the well.

You remember she said to Jesus, "Sir, Thou has nothing to draw with." "Yes Lord, you really do make a strong impression on me, and that's for sure your ideals are so high, but come on now, lets get real, I mean after all."

Where are we going to get the money from to do it? How will we ever take care of ourselves? Who will take care of us?

"It's all very well to say, "Trust in the Lord," but a man must live, and Jesus has nothing to draw with, and the well is deep—nothing whereby to give us these things."

Oswald Chambers says, "Beware of pious fraud in you which says - "I have no misgivings about Jesus, only about myself."

None of us ever have misgivings about ourselves; we know exactly what we cannot do, but we do have misgivings about Jesus. We are rather hurt at the idea that He can do what we cannot."

Why am I talking about this? Because!

The Prophecies which the great "I AM" has given in His word, uniting link after link in the chain of events, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us where we are today in the procession of the ages and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order.

Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour's prophecy of the events to precede His second coming:

Matthew 24:6-7 "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars....nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."

"The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and Statesman, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes,

have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us.and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place --- that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis. The Bible, and the Bible only, gives the correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world,.... The sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear." - (PK 536, 537) (Maranatha p. 68)

"Today men and nations are being tested by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake. All are by their own choice deciding their destiny, and God is overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes. - (PK.626) (Maranatha p.68)

Beloved it is "closing time" in Earth's history. And we must "believe".

1 Peter 1:8: "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Remember, - John 20:29 says, "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

It is not every man's privilege to see, but it is every man's privilege to believe. Our love and our faith do not rest upon sight. Neither does our rejoicing. We have "joy and peace in believing." (Rom.15:13)

Do not demand a vision. Only three saw the glory on the Mt. of Transfiguration. But all the disciples walked with Him in the valley. The others were not disqualified by missing the vision. It is not a lack of sight but a lack of faith that rules us out.

2 Corinthians 5: 7 says "For we walk by faith, not by sight." We must believe anyhow! (Heb. 11: 33-40)

A hymn we used to sing is:

Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone,

Dare to have a Purpose Firm, Dare to make it known.

Do you dare to be a Daniel? Are you prepared to face your Den of Lions? Are your Purposes Firm? Do you have that kind of Faith? ■

Religious Liberty NEWS FLASH

HATE CRIMES AND HATE SPEECH

by James Standish

The "Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007" is a bill that would extend federal jurisdiction to, and provide federal resources for, the investigation and prosecution of "hate crimes." Further, it sets the prison terms for "hate crimes" in some circumstances.

By including homosexuality as a federal protected class, the proposed hate crimes bill may give added support to gay rights activists who want to ban criticism of homosexual activity in a variety of circumstances.

While the bill has support from groups that do not exclusively support gay rights, the primary force behind the bill is the gay rights issue. By including sexual orientation and gender identity in the categories protected by the bill, gay rights proponents achieve an important goal: the law would equate sexual orientation with race and other existing protected classes in other federal law. This is important because gay rights activists frequently equate those who hold Biblical views on homosexuality with racist bigots. By incorporating sexual orientation as a protected class along with race in federal law, they are one step closer to establishing in the law and in society the correlation between racists and those who believe homosexual behavior is immoral. Should they achieve this goal, organizations that continue to promote the Biblical view of sexuality will face a number of significant challenges in the law.

These include challenges to their hiring practices, challenges to their policies regarding student behavior, and possible challenges to broadcast licenses, among others. Organizations may even lose their tax exempt status. In *Bob Jones University v. United States*, 461 U.S. 574 (1983), the Supreme Court found that it was permissible to strip Bob Jones University of their tax exempt status in retaliation for their racist policies. But if racism and Biblical morality are equated in the eyes of the law, there is a possibility that those churches that remain faithful to the Biblical view will be treated in a similar manner to entities that maintained racist policies.

Thus, if the gay rights community is successful in equating Biblical morality with racism in the law, the legal implications could be quite dire for individuals and organizations that continue to hold the Biblical view that homosexual behavior is immoral; or at least those who express this view or formulate policies based on the view. ■

Faith is a living,
daring
confidence in
God's grace,
so sure and
certain
that a man could
stake his life on it
a thousand times.

~Martin Luther

BEHIND THE SCENES

AMAZING DISCOVERIES is growing and the facilities which we are currently located in are not adequate. We are looking for a suitable property (BC preferred) where we can build a better office, and expand into training facilities for new evangelists and Bible workers.

If there is someone who knows of, or has a property suitable for our operation, we would appreciate hearing from you.

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Reformation Tour Summer 2008

Amazing Discoveries is planning to organize a summer tour in 2008, for approximately 2 weeks, throughout the Reformation places in Europe.

Should you be interested in joining us, please send us an email for information on the travel package. Each participant must be prepared to bear their own cost of travel, accommodation and other expenses related to this venture. The months of May or June are in the plans.

More details will be announced in the next issue of Faith on the Line.



by John Triplett

two high Mountains

which mountain will you choose?

When one thinks about the Kingdom of God, and the devil's kingdom there are no doubt many differences. But, in this article I would like to focus on one particular theme that is often overlooked. The Bible tells us in Revelation 14:12....

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

When the people of God are described that are living in the last days, the word patience is used. Why is this? Why is the word patience used to describe God's people?

I would like to submit to you a principle regarding the two kingdoms, (God's and Satan's) that will help us better understand why the word patience is used to describe God's last day people. Let us begin by looking at Matthew 4:8-9...

"Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of this world, and the glory of them; And saith unto Him, all these things will I give Thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

Here we see Jesus fasting in the wilderness in our behalf. He is going through a terrible ordeal and at His weakest moment He is tempted by the devil. This is the same way the devil comes to us as well. At our weakest moments his temptations are the most difficult to withstand, but he is no match for the Word of God, and when the Word of God is buried like a

treasure in our hearts he is a vanquished foe.

But, I would like to direct your attention to the very last temptation in the wilderness. His last temptation was in essence, "I will give you everything NOW, if you will fall down and worship me." This is how the devil's kingdom operates. He offers immediate gratification and immediate pleasure. He is the god of the immediate, and this is central to his kingdom - the enthronement of selfish desires. Selfishness and immediate gratification are Siamese twins that cannot be separated. They cannot live without the other, and the tragic news is that the whole world has bought into his philosophy.

I remember as a child when I had my heart set on having a new toy and I begged my parents for it, when they finally caved in to my childlike persuasion I was very happy with my new toy for a while. But, after a few days it lost its appeal, and something else caught my fancy. Many of us, have carried this same mentality into our adult life and have embraced the kingdom of the devil without even being aware of it. The devil's kingdom is all about self and the pleasures of now. God's kingdom is about selflessness and pleasures forevermore.

Consider if you will, Pharaoh and Moses. Pharaoh lived a life filled with selfish carnal pleasure and he is in some dusty tomb in a museum and will ultimately be destroyed during the Millennium, and Moses who lived a life devoted to God in selfless labor has pleasures forevermore in heaven. Hebrews 11:24-26...

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward."

There is no doubt that sin has pleasure, for if it did not no one would enjoy it. But, sin only lasts for a season. The pleasures that God has are far more noble in nature and bring lasting contentment and true joy. In fact, they are so grand and so deep they will intensify throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

But, let's return to the passage in Matthew Chapter four... "Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of this world, and the glory of them; And saith unto Him, all these things will I give Thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

This is an amazing scene. Here the Creator of the universe is taken by one of the beings that He created and that created being has the audacity to say, "I will give you this world, if you worship me." The very first sentence is interesting to me. The devil took Jesus up to an exceeding high mountain. This high mountain was Satan's secret weapon if you will. He tried in vain during the first two temptations and now he employs his most cunning and vile deception. He offers Jesus immediate pleasure, immediate gratification. And this is shown clearly on this high mountain. This high mountain is in essence how the kingdom of darkness operates; selfish desire is made the cen-

ter of the life. But, this is not the only time the phrase "high mountain" is used, let us turn to the book of Revelation, and look at chapter 21 and verse 10...

"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

Note with me the similarities between Matthew 4:8 and Revelation 21:10. Do you see them? Both Jesus and John were taken to high mountains and both of them were shown something. Jesus was shown the glories of this present world and John was shown the New Jerusalem. And if you want to have this world you can have it NOW, or if you want to have patience you can inherit the New Jerusalem, along with the New Heavens and New Earth. But, we also can have pleasure NOW in God's economy also. The pleasure of self-denial and laboring for souls, is a different type of pleasure than what the devil offers. The devil's pleasure is like fools gold, it looks really good to the beholder, but at the end of the day it is a mirage, a counterfeit. The pleasure of God is unparalleled and unprecedented. Nothing on this earth can even remotely compare with knowing with all your heart that God is a real being, who loves you and wants the very best for your life.

Which mountain do you want to identify with? The mountain of having all that this world has to offer, or the mountain of patience and learning in the school of Christ? One results in 72 years of vain pleasure here on this earth as it is. The second, living with Jesus for all eternity, enjoying real pleasures for evermore. The choice is up to you. ■

of STEAMROLLERS and BROADROADS

by Ethel Price

www.OmegaProjectMinistries.org

This seems to be the summer of new roads in North Idaho. The main north-south highway in Idaho is getting a face-lift and expansion. Also, the road going to where our family USED to live is now going from winding and graveled, to winding and paved. Hurrah!

I've always been fascinated by the amount and size of equipment, not to mention the time, required to build a new road bed. There are layers of gravel put down and firmly embedded by a gigantic steam roller. Is it really steam? I don't know, but it sounds good, doesn't it? You know what I'm talking about, though; that huge roller that weighs about ten tons and flattens and permanently embeds anything and everything in its way. It's necessary for this preparation to take place so we can drive our shiny new cars, and old clunkers, without fear of accident. Except, of course for the deer; they can't pave them out!

What results is a broad new highway, in the case of highway 95, wide enough for four lanes of traffic - all together. Ah, progress! We like to see such growth and convenience in our world, don't we? We can get to Coeur d'Alene a lot faster now than we did just last week. I'm sure that must be important somewhere in the grand scheme of things.

I see we are getting somewhere else a lot faster this week, also. It even looks like that old "steam roller" is sputtering to a start to help pave their broad road to perdition with the blood and bones of the saints. "The papal church will never relinquish her claim to infallibility. All that she has done in her persecution of those who reject her dogmas, she holds to be right; and would she not repeat the same acts, should the opportunity be presented? Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed, and Rome be re-instated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution. {GC88 564.1}"

Yesterday morning I started receiving the first of a number of emails from concerned friends about the Pope's latest announcement. It wasn't on my news yesterday, but today it is front and center. I scanned through several pages of headlines about this - there's almost 500 headlines in all from around the world. It seems significant to me in light of Biblical prophecy and the clear statements from the Spirit of Prophecy, that we are seeing a momentous and meaningful resurrection of "her former power." Can the "revival of her tyranny and persecution" be far behind?

Even secular reporters are aware that the sleeping giant is awakening. Words like "primacy," "supremacy," "lust for

power," "persecute", and "death" are not chosen just to get you to read their articles. This pope was the head of the Office of the Inquisition - yes renamed to whitewash it for our modern sensibilities, but still the same old persecuting power inside the door.

Let's see what Ellen White has to say. "There are many who are disposed to attribute any fear of Roman Catholicism in the United States to bigotry or childishness. Such see nothing in the character and attitude of Romanism that is hostile to our free institutions, or find nothing portentous in its growth. Let us, then, first compare some of the fundamental principles of our government with those of the Catholic Church." {GC88 564.3}.

"The Constitution of the United States guarantees liberty of conscience. Nothing is dearer or more fundamental. Pope Pius IX., in his Encyclical Letter of August 15, 1854, said: 'The absurd and erroneous doctrines or ravings in defense of liberty of conscience, are a most pestilential error--a pest, of all others, most to be dreaded in a State.' The same pope, in his Encyclical Letter of December 8, 1864, anathematized 'those who assert the liberty of conscience and of religious worship,' also 'all such as maintain that the church may not employ force.' {GC88 564.4}."

Let's see now, what did the Pope say yesterday? Oh yes, the other churches are mere "ecclesial communities" and "their ministers in effect phonies." They cannot even administer communion. Hey, Pastor, when the next communion time comes around, guess you'll have to call in the local priest to get it right. Puts a whole new meaning on "open communion" doesn't it?

Lest we be misunderstood, let me hasten to clarify: "It is true that there are real Christians in the Roman Catholic communion. Thousands in that church are serving God according to the best light they have. They are not allowed access to his Word, and therefore they do not discern the truth. They have never seen the contrast between a living heart-service and a round of mere forms and ceremonies. God looks with pitying tenderness upon these souls, educated as they are in a faith that is delusive and unsatisfying. He will cause rays of light to penetrate the dense darkness that surrounds them. He will reveal to them the truth, as it is in Jesus, and many will yet take their position with his people." {GC88 565.2}

"Poper is just what prophecy declared that she would be, the apostasy of the latter times. [2 THESS. 2:3,4] It is a part of her policy to assume the character that will best accomplish

her purpose; but beneath the variable appearance of the chameleon, she conceals the invariable venom of the serpent. 'We are not bound to keep faith and promises to heretics,' She declares. Shall this power, whose record for a thousand years is written in the blood of the saints, be now acknowledged as a part of the church of Christ?" {GC88 571.1}. Wow - wonder what she would say if she read that it now claims to be THE ONLY church of Christ??

"As the Protestant churches have been seeking the favor of the world, false charity has blinded their eyes. They do not see but that it is right to believe good of all evil; and as the inevitable result, they will finally believe evil of all good. Instead of standing in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints, they are now, as it were, apologizing to Rome for their uncharitable opinion of her, begging pardon for their bigotry." {GC88 571.3}.

And yet the protestant world seeks to allay its fear and breathes in the assurance from yesterday's announcement that will not interfere with the ecumenical talks that seek to unite Christendom. "If the reader would understand the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest, he has but to trace the record of the means which Rome employed for the same object in ages past. If he would know how papists and Protestants united will deal with those who reject their dogmas, let him see the spirit which Rome manifested toward the Sabbath and its defenders." {GC88 573.2}.

Will history be repeated? "As the papacy became firmly established, the work of Sunday exaltation was continued. For a time the people engaged in agricultural labor when not attending church, and the seventh day was still regarded as the Sabbath. But steadily a change was effected. Those in holy office were forbidden to pass judgment in any civil controversy on the Sunday. Soon after, all persons, of whatever rank, were commanded to refrain from common labor, on pain of a fine for freemen, and stripes in the case of servants. Later it was decreed, that rich men should be punished with the loss of half of their estates; and finally, that if still obstinate they should be made slaves. The lower classes were to suffer perpetual banishment." {GC88 574.3}

An official in a former "life" stated to us that he would believe the Sunday Laws were coming when President Bush signed the papers. Well, hold on to your seat, sir; Sunday's coming. ■

PONTIFF ASSERTS CATHOLIC PRIMACY

By Liz F. Kay | Sun reporter, July 11, 2007

Pope Benedict XVI asserted yesterday that the Roman Catholic Church is the "one church" that Christ "established here on Earth" and that other Christian denominations "cannot be called 'churches' in the proper sense" - a statement that prompted condemnation and confusion as well as expressions of understanding from Protestants and Orthodox Christians.

"We are not the ones to whom this document is addressed. It is addressed to Catholics," said Ann Riggs, an associate general secretary of the National Council of Churches USA, which comprises most major American Orthodox and Protestant faith groups.

"Rome is certainly not saying the door is closed on ecumenical dialogue," she said in a statement.

But the Rev. Setri Nyomi, the general secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, with 75 million members worldwide, said: "An exclusive claim that identifies the Roman Catholic Church as the one church of Jesus Christ ... goes against the spirit of our Christian calling toward oneness in Christ.

"It makes us question the seriousness with which the Roman Catholic Church takes its dialogues with the Reformed family and other families of the church," said Nyomi, an evangelical Presbyterian from Ghana.

The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued the document containing the pope's assertion of Catholic primacy on June 29, though it was published only yesterday. It is the second document in a week to clarify teachings from the Second Vatican Council of 1962-1965, which the current pope attended as a then-theological adviser to a German cardinal. The earlier document loosened rules allowing wider celebration of Masses in Latin.

Pope Benedict faced harsher criticism last year after he made remarks on the nature of Islam - a statement that triggered violent demonstrations in Muslim countries. The pope subsequently said that his intentions had been misinterpreted and expressed regret that his words had caused turmoil.

Catholic theologians pointed out that the document echoed earlier statements on ecumenism issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith when it was led by the future pope, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

"It's a clarification of the meaning of the word church," said Lawrence S. Cunningham, who writes a column for the Catholic magazine *Commonwealth* and is a theologian at the University of Notre Dame. "Behind this document is the

Continued on page 16

if we are not born again, how can we reform?

by Dr. Richard Little

Contrary to the belief held by many Jews and Christians, God does not “save” us because we are members of a “chosen nation” or a particular religious sect. He saves us as individuals, as faithful believers and obedient servants of His Son, Jesus Christ. Heredity (bloodline) or denominationalism (sectarianism) has no merit in bringing anyone into His Father’s favor. Why? We are all of one race—the sinful race—condemned by our sins and bound to the pit of hellfire and eternal separation from God and His love, unless ...?

Why did the apostle Paul, perseveringly and systematically, declare, “By grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God?” (Eph. 2:8).

Friend, though one may “belong” to an enthusiastic and spiritual church, though one may be well-known in his community for his charitable deeds and “morality,” if he has not died to self and been born again, Christ cannot save him. Only through Christ’s grace and through His imparted faith can He save a penitent sinner. Easy to be “saved” and hard to be lost? Try dying to self!

Why, then, do some “professed” Christians believe that they can save themselves through their own effort and, eventually, “allow” Christ to take them to heaven—resurrected, translated, or as some believe “raptured”? If this were so, what value was Christ’s sinless life and sacrificial death? Why did He come to this sin-infested planet to endure unabated abuse, shame, and death? Was it possible that He chose to make this infinite sacrifice because the Eternal Three considered this the only way They could save man and show to the universe that God is holy, just, and merciful?

Once in Christ, those who genuinely believe in and truly love Him for what He has done for them, will reveal His love in their daily life. Once His enemies, these religious pariahs, gross sinners, and proud elitists, having been changed into His image by beholding Him, are now His followers. Amazingly, Christ honors these brands plucked from the burning

not only as His special representatives to this sin-filled world, but, later, as His redeemed, envoys to His vastly inhabited yet sinless universe.

And speaking of plucked, if one is connected to the True Vine, rich fruit will appear in his life as the natural result of this saving relationship. Soon, others will see that a practical faith in Christ results in action—doing His words. As a believer in and a laborer with Jesus, one will work the works of God. Ever and always, the true Christian knows that without Him or the Holy Spirit he or she can do nothing. Christ promises, however, that, in and through His grace, His faithful can do all things. (Phlp. 4:13).

Sadly, many Christians lose out in this life and in the life to come because they doubt Christ’s promises and reject His Father’s love for them. Why, then, don’t “we” address this issue directly by coming boldly to His throne of grace and ask God to work out His will in our life? (Heb. 4:16). Are we too proud to say “I am sorry” to God, to our neighbor and family, and to our self? Why can we not, by living faith, cling to the merits of Christ’s sinless life and be cleansed and saved by His blood, resurrection, ascension, and high priestly ministry? Does our foolish hubris separate us from His saving grace? Do we “choose” to allow others, ministers and laity alike, to misrepresent Christ, to prevent us from seeing God’s true character and, thus, from receiving eternal salvation?

Though the salvation process remains an individual work, why do many unenlightened souls turn to their priests and ministers to save them? Do they not know that one cannot be saved by another’s faith and experience? Every soul must be saved by the righteousness (virtue) developed by and given to them by Christ.

“Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls only by their righteousness says the Lord GOD....Though Noah, Daniel, and

Job were in it, as I live, says the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter. They shall deliver but their own souls by their righteousness.” (Eze. 14:14, 20).

Although nominal Christians attempt to manufacture or try to obtain this righteousness in other ways, they utterly fail! Why they try so hard to blatantly violate His teachings, when His Word so clearly states that He freely furnishes the penitent with His righteousness, shows how sin has permeated the church.

Why don’t we prayerfully explore this thought?

When the penitent sinner comes to Christ, He takes his load of sin, and, in return, gives him His righteousness (imputed and imparted). God, now, receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as though he were righteous, and loves him as He loves His Son. In this way, the most sinister sinner may claim all that God provided in His plan of salvation through Christ’s merits (perfect obedience and works).

Now having the Savior’s attributes, the penitent, transformed from a sinner to a child of God, may go forth to tell the world about his or her living, loving Saviour. And, having experienced the results of sin and having been relieved from its accompanying guilt, one may enthusiastically go forth to win others to the truth.

As a restatement of faith and fact, this erring soul has taken the necessary steps in coming to the LORD, (1) Repentance, (2) Confession, (3) Reformation, (4) Restitution. Thus prepared by the Holy Spirit, the forgiven sinner can lead others to Christ by teaching and directing them in the way of salvation. Without hesitating, without fear, he can humbly present Christ as One who left His heavenly throne, One who clothed His divinity with humanity that He might save a planet in rebellion and claim those who choose to follow Him.

Choose to follow Him? If we tell others that we believe in Jesus, would they not expect our “new” faith to manifest itself in works of righteousness through His Spirit? (Titus 3:5). Are works really necessary? How do works of faith relate to the fruits of the Spirit? (Rev. 20:13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9). If we say we believe in Jesus, how do we believe in Him? Do we believe that He saves us now and for eternity? (Matt. 11:28; Heb. 7:25). Are we in Christ and He in us?

Do we believe that we can ap-

ment, one cannot remain reluctant, for it is a matter of life and death—eternal life and eternal death. (Jn. 3:15; Rom. 6:23; 1Jn. 5:10-12).

When sincere desire prompts anyone (man, woman or child) to pray, rest assured they will not pray in vain. The Lord will execute His word and will give the Holy Spirit to lead them to repentance. With prayer the repentant sinner will, of necessity and love, mingle faith and not only believe in, but obey the precepts of His law. This trusting

“...the true Christian knows that without Him or the Holy Spirit he or she can do nothing. Christ promises, however, that, in and through His grace, His faithful can do all things.”

propriate His righteousness to ourselves or that we can throw ourselves at Christ’s feet in true repentance, knowing, without a doubt, that He will impute (assign or attribute) His righteousness to us?

When professed (nominal) Christians say that they need only believe in Christ, they dismiss the fact that faith without works is dead and that actively fighting the good fight of faith is unnecessary or that we need to cling tightly to Christ and eternal life. If we were to take their mistaken notion further, no longer would we need to daily, moment by moment, deny self, take up the cross, and follow closely in His footsteps—to die to “self” daily.

Concisely, if one is truly repentant, one must come to Jesus, just as he is, and confess his sin(s) without delay. (Isa. 1:16-20). He, then, must believe the validity of Christ’s Word, and, believing His promise, ask, that he may receive forgiveness (pardon). At this critical mo-

child of God will vehemently renounce all habits and associations that draw his or her mind from Him.

Nonetheless, in a subjective sense, having faith in Jesus is not only essential, one must believe that he is “saved” through Him. Even in this, however, there is danger in saying, “I am saved.” Though, to a degree this is true, we could better phrase it, “Christ is saving me. When He comes for me, He will at last save me!” Even so, Christ’s transforming grace is sufficient to redeem and to save us. Nevertheless, we need remember that only as we believe, establish, and execute the principles of His gospel in our lives can He claim us as one of His innumerable sons and daughters.

And, while contemporary man “survives” by living a life of distrust, attrition, and apathy, similarly, many among his “religious” counterpart, the tare or quasi-churched, seldom dwell on repentance, confession, restitution, and

continued on page 21

HOME AGAIN!

by Nettie Gill

We are back in Canada again after a trip to the Ukraine and then to Germany. God blessed in both ventures and we thank Him for His goodness, mercy, and protection!

Pastor Gill had been invited to speak at a mini camp-meeting in Ukraine. This camp-meeting was unique in that people were invited to attend a 10 day spiritual convocation with lodging and food supplied by the conference. These were people that were either interested in learning more about Adventism or some were friends or relatives of church members.

The camp-meeting was held in the village of Ilnytsa in the Trans Carpathian Region. Driving to Ilnytsa was truly a wonderful experience. The Carpathian mountains are so beautiful. They are not as rugged as our rockies, but very picturesque, nevertheless.

We arrived at our destination on Tuesday evening, July 24th, and settled in at Pastor Michael's home. The camp-meeting was being conducted in a Sports School and the people were fed and housed at an orphanage that had been vacated for the summer months as the children had been sent out to visit relatives.

The meetings began on Wednesday evening. We had a good attendance. There were approximately 110 people that were attending this campmeeting. This included the pastors that were helping as well as other church members who had come to help with the health program. There were 52 non-members present.

The meetings were very well organized. Each day was packed to the full. No time to be idle. Every afternoon was spent in small groups, discussing any questions that people might have. There were prayer groups for special needs also. Besides this there were health lectures each day as well, with massages for both men and women. One day we took the whole group to the mountain and had an outdoor meeting in an open field way up in the mountain, like Jesus would do with His disciples. It was an experience they will never forget. Everyone took a sack lunch, along with a bottle of water and

we all sat around and ate our "loaves and fishes".

Pastor Gill preached 27 times in 10 days, presenting two messages each forenoon and sometimes another one in the evening. On a couple of occasions we shared our experiences in India and China, showing them slides, etc. The people really enjoyed this.

On Thursday morning, a young lady came to my husband with some puzzling questions about her relationship with God. After talking to her about the love of God for her, he asked her if she would like him to pray for her. She readily agreed to this and before it was all over, she accepted Christ into her heart with tears streaming down her face.

A mother came with her daughter who was visiting her from Israel with her two children. The daughter was a Jehovah's Witness and the mother was very anxious that she hear the truth and make a decision to follow it. This was quite a change for the daughter and she would often go off to pray by herself because she was a very sincere seeker and

wanted to do what was right. What joy we felt when we saw her and her ten year old daughter take their stand for truth!

Each evening a different group would get up and testify as to why they had come and what was happening in their lives. Some of the testimonies were very touching. Some of the people were living in very difficult family situations. One lady's husband had threatened her with death. But here she was telling us what the Lord had done for her.

Another lady's husband was in the hospital not expected to live. He wanted to be baptized so badly. The Pastor made arrangements to baptize him in his bathtub because his condition was such that he could not be immersed in cold water. This was a very touching experience and some of the unbelieving relatives came to witness the event. There were tears in all their eyes. They were certainly touched by the little ceremony. Later on his wife also took her stand to be baptized. She is an alcoholic but has been dry for the past three months. This family has absolutely nothing of this world's goods. But what joy was on this young man's face after he had committed his life



to the Lord and was baptized!

The Ilnytsa SDA church is quite large – about 350 – 400 members. They have a very nice church building. Behind the church is a river. This river was dammed off so that the baptism could be held outdoors. 28 of the 50 non-members attending were baptized the last Sabbath, with 5 more taking their stand to be baptized shortly. One of the five was a medical doctor who came to all the meetings.

I had never witnessed such a long baptismal service. It lasted for over four hours. Then after it was all over, the people still stood around and talked and talked – just as though they were loathed to leave the church grounds.

During the morning while the adults had their services, I held some children's meetings for eleven of the young people who had come along with the parents. These children were very enthusiastic and really enjoyed singing and listening to the stories from the Bible. I taught them a couple of English songs which soon became their favorite songs to sing. They loved doing the crafts each day. The last day we had a treasure hunt. They had never had anything like it in all their life. The adults that were with me were just as excited about it as the kids were. They had never seen anything done like that before. The treasure at the end of the hunt was a watermelon – which the children quickly devoured!

After the meetings were over, Pastor Valentin took Pastor Gill and I to an orphanage where the children stay all year round. A lady began this orphanage on her own and keeps anywhere from 15 to 20 homeless children. We were able to give her some much needed quilts for the children's beds. These quilts were made and shipped to Ukraine by some of our dedi-

cated sisters in Lacombe, Alberta. God bless these dear dedicated ladies. The place was very clean and the children were well cared for. Around the building was a big garden that helps her feed the children in her care. She told us that she has some friends who have immigrated to the U.S. and they help to support her endeavors there in the Ukraine.

After leaving the Ukraine, we flew to Frankfurt, Germany, where we took a train and went to Nurnburg. We stayed there for five days and my husband had a series of revival meetings in one of the churches there.

Friday evening the church was fairly full. Then on Sabbath many people came from surrounding churches and the place was really full. Pastor Gill spoke three times on Sabbath. The last meeting was to be for the youth of the church and when the announcement was made that it would be held in our host's home, the church people came to him and told him it wasn't fair. Everyone wanted to hear what the young people's message was going to be. So it was held in the church and the attendance was very good. Many people voiced their appreciation for the messages that had been presented. The Lord really blessed.

We appreciate the support that you have given this ministry to make these mission trips possible. God has blessed and we praise Him for the opportunities He has given us to witness for Him! The Ukrainian and German Conferences have already asked us to come again next year to do a similar program. ■

worry that the language of ecumenism has become too flabby and too Pollyannish about glossing over real doctrinal positions.”

The document said the Catholic Church alone has “the fullness of the means of salvation.”

The Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches separated in the schism of 1054, and since then the Orthodox community does not recognize the pope’s primacy - a defect, according to the document. Protestant denominations, meanwhile, lack “apostolic succession,” the ability to trace their bishops back to the 12 Apostles, it said.

At the same time, the Vatican “would not deny that Lutherans or Methodists or Evangelicals ... have elements of the faith but do not constitute a church in the technical sense,” Cunningham said.

Still, “not everyone’s going to love this clarity,” he said. George Weigel, who has written biographies of Pope Benedict and his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, said the document contains nothing new, and questioned why it had been issued now.

It “does not deny the presence of God’s grace in other Christian communions, but the Catholic Church is never going to say ... that it is anything other than the most properly ordered expression of the will of Christ for his church,” he said.

“If people do not want to contend with that, then ecumenism has simply become another form of political correctness,” Weigel said.

Chester L. Gillis, a Georgetown University theologian, said the document, along with endorsement of the Latin Mass, was “clearly part of an overall pattern, of a clear move toward more conservatism and toward muting the effects of Vatican II.”

The pope has long complained that the intent of Vatican II had been distorted by church liberals, who viewed the council as a departure from past practice rather than a continuation of church tradition in the modern world.

Weigel faulted the Vatican for failing to place documents on ecumenism in context, leading to the pope’s intentions being misinterpreted.

“The inability of the Vatican to communicate the meaning of these documents is a serious problem, but it’s a serious problem magnified by the inability of the Western press to admit that its cartoon picture of Joseph Ratzinger was mistaken,” he said.

Gillis said church theologians are the real audience for the document issued yesterday and that a careful reading shows that the pope was emphasizing how close the Catholic Church is to the Orthodox religion.

“It seems to me that the church is trying to send a signal about how they understand the Catholic church vis a vis

other Christian communities,” he said.

Leaders of congregations in Maryland agreed that the Vatican could be seen as opening doors for further conversation rather than closing them.

“I just find it more of an object to come together and work even harder,” said Rev. Constantine Moralis, dean of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Mount Vernon. “There are more things that unite us than what separate us.”

The Rev. John R. Sharp, a Presbyterian and vice president of the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council, predicted that discussions will proceed.

“There’s different ways to look at unity, and that’s what this dialogue is all about,” he said. “The dialogue’s going to continue.” ■

NEWS NOTES

POPE REAFFIRMS THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS THE ONE TRUE CHURCH

(Friday Church News Notes,
July 13, 2007, www.wayoflife.org - fbns@wayoflife.org)

A new document approved by Pope Benedict XVI reaffirms that the Roman Catholic Church is the one church that Jesus founded and that Protestant churches aren’t true churches. The document, which was released on July 10, is entitled “Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine on the Church” and it revisits statements made by the Vatican II Council in the 1960s. It says that while the “Christian communities separated from the Catholic Church” can act as “instruments of salvation,” they are not true churches and they only act as “instruments of salvation” because they partially participate in “the fullness of grace and of truth which has been entrusted to the Catholic Church.” In addressing Eastern Orthodoxy the document calls them sister churches “because of apostolic succession, the priesthood and the Eucharist,” but says they fall short because they do not recognize the supremacy of the pope. Though this document (which was produced by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which is the old office of the Inquisition) is being widely reported in the news media, there is nothing new here. We have long pointed out that Vatican II reaffirmed the supremacy both of the Catholic Church and of the Pope, and ecumenical dialogue with Protestants and Orthodox is allowed only within the context of this supremacy. Vatican II stated: “It was to the apostolic college alone of which Peter is the head, that we believe that our Lord entrusted all the blessings of the New Covenant,

in order to establish on earth the one Body of Christ into which all those should be fully incorporated who belong in any way to the people of God.” (Decree on Ecumenism, chap. 1, 3, p. 415). The San Giovanni Laterano Church is the first church of Rome and an inscription on the front (translated from Latin) says, “MOST HOLY LATERAN CHURCH, MOTHER AND MISTRESS OF ALL CHURCHES OF THE CITY AND THE WORLD.” Rome has never renounced this heresy. ■

FORMER “RADICAL ISLAMIST” SAYS THE OBJECTIVE IS A WORLDWIDE ISLAMIC STATE

(Friday Church News Notes,
July 13, 2007, www.wayoflife.org - fbns@wayoflife.org)

The following is excerpted from a testimony by Hassan Butt of England, from the Daily Mail, July 2, 2007: “When I was still a member of what is probably best termed the British Jihadi Network—a series of British Muslim terrorist groups linked by a single ideology—I remember how we used to laugh in celebration whenever people on TV proclaimed that the sole cause for Islamic acts of terror like 9/11, the Madrid bombings and 7/7 was Western foreign policy. ... More important, [this thinking] helped to draw away any critical examination from the real engine of our violence: Islamic theology. ... I left the British Jihadi Network in February 2006 because I realised that its members had simply become mindless killers. ... what drove me and many others to plot acts of extreme terror within Britain and abroad was a sense that we were fighting for the creation of a revolutionary worldwide Islamic state that would dispense Islamic justice. ... The foundation of extremist reasoning rests upon a model of the world in which you are either a believer or an infidel. ... I was taught by Pakistani and British radical preachers that this reclassification of the globe as a Land of War (Dar ul-Harb) allows any Muslim to destroy the sanctity of the five rights that every human is granted under Islam: life, wealth, land, mind and belief. In Dar ul-Harb, anything goes, including the treachery and cowardice of attacking civilians.” ■

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND DOCUMENT SAYS CALLING GOD “HE” CAN LEAD TO WIFE ABUSE

(Friday Church News Notes,
July 20, 2007, www.wayoflife.org - fbns@wayoflife.org)

New Church of England guidelines for bishops and priests on the subject of domestic abuse warn that calling God “He” or “Lord” encourages men to beat their wives. The goofy

guidelines, issued by the Archbishops’ Council, urge pastors to make sure that sermons and hymns don’t contain “uncritical use of masculine imagery.” The document, which is fully endorsed by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, says: “Domestic abuse is fundamentally an abuse of power, and many conceptions of God derived from the Bible and the Christian tradition have portrayed divine power in unhealthy and potentially oppressive ways.” (“Outcry,” Daily Mail, Oct. 3, 2006). To blame God the Father and the Bible for man’s sin is feminism and apostasy run wild. “The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD” (Proverbs 19:3). ■

CHINA EXPELLING MISSIONARIES

(Friday Church News Notes,
July 27, 2007, www.wayoflife.org - fbns@wayoflife.org)

The following is excerpted from “China Sweeping Christians Out,” WorldNetDaily, July 14: “More than 100 foreign Christians in China have been accused of being involved in illegal activities and have been expelled in just a 90-day period, the biggest assault on the presence of Christianity in China since 1954, according to a new report from the Voice of the Martyrs. Most of those who have been expelled are from the United States, South Korea, Singapore, Canada, Australia or Israel, and had been working in or visiting Zinjiang, Beijing, Tibet and Shandong, according to the VOM report. A Christian who had worked in Xinjiang for 10 years told a VOM source that more than 60 foreign religious workers, many who had served people in the area for more than 15 years, were expelled from Zinjiang alone. As WND reported a week earlier, officials also are reporting an increase in arrests of Chinese house-church pastors and leaders, who have been accused of being ‘suspects using evil cults to obstruct the enforcement of the law.’ VOM reported that the campaign against Christians is called Typhoon No. 5, and ‘is part of the Chinese government’s efforts to prevent foreign Christians from engaging in mission activities before the Beijing Olympics in 2008.’ ... ‘This is the largest expulsion of foreign missionaries since 1954 when the Chinese Communist government expelled all foreign religious workers after taking power in 1949,’ reported a VOM source. ‘At least five different mission agencies and sources within the Chinese government report that in February, the government launched a massive expulsion campaign against foreign Christians. In spite of the public face of religious freedom the Chinese government tries to convey through its state run system, the arrests of Chinese Christians, and now the expulsion of active Christian visitors is a demonstration of their true nature,’ said Tom White, executive director for Voice of the Martyrs.” ■



by Dr. Rudy Davis,
ND, MT.

The Need for Gentleness

So often, people want to do what they have learned is right. This is good! But there is a down side to this. Whenever we desire to make changes we, as human beings, are usually a little extreme in our actions. As an example; when we find we have been eating the wrong kinds of foods we may go home and empty the cupboards of everything that we've learned is not so good. After all, if it's not good lets get rid of it!

Unless a person is suffering from a life threatening disease I would not recommend such a radical dietary change. Over the years, I have found that the most successful way to change a wrong habit to a good habit is to not focus on getting rid of a wrong habit but rather focus on adding a right habit.

There is a principle of thought which needs to be considered here; "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21) Bad habits, which make us feel good, need to be dealt with by adding good habits that make us feel good. In other words, do not focus on giving up or quitting but rather on adding.

Jesus constantly saw the good in people; He saw what they could become if their heart were surrendered. Isaiah put it like this "A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench." Isaiah 42:3 We all pretty well know what bad habits or character traits we do not like in ourselves, but just as Jesus did not focus on the weak points of those struggling to overcome, so we should not be focusing on our own weak points but rather focus on what we have that is good,....accentuate the positive. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil 4:8

We do need to realize our sinful condition as fallen human beings but this should not become our focus. Neither should focus on self take up time that should be spent focusing on Jesus.

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL PARALLELS

Physical: Consistently eating something which we know is good for us does have a dampening effect on the

desire for something which is not so good. To begin with, there is only so much room in the stomach so when we put something good in, it leaves less room for something that is not so good and we will find ourselves eating less of the things which are not so good, simply because there is no room for them.

Spiritual: Consistent time spent in prayerful Bible study leaves less time for our carnal natures to clamor for indulgence. It leaves less time to watch television or read materials which may not be the most elevating to our spiritual nature. As we are persistent in our Bible study we find ourselves thinking more about the material we have studied and thirsting for answers to our questions and it is thus that our desire for Spiritual things becomes stronger than the desire for carnal things.

Physical: Persistence is the key to changing things for the better. With many dear souls who come into my office I very often counsel them to add good things to what they are currently doing such as having a big green smoothie before having their supper every time they have supper. In a short while, they find themselves eating less of the foods that harm them and actually craving the foods which are beneficial. Needless to say, their symptoms also start disappearing and they find they have more energy.

Spiritual: Start adding the good persistently, such as having prayer time before you get dressed in the morning; having prayer mid-morning as a spiritual pick-me-up; having prayer time before you leave for lunch, etc. Do you get the idea? Within a short while Jesus starts to become your counselor and help in everything you do; your spiritual health will become very good and the symptoms of worldliness begin to subside.

Physical: And if we happen to like the taste of a healthful food, we may eat more than we planned on and find a lot less room for the not so good things.

Spiritual: If the Spirit of Jesus lives in you, lost souls may find you as attractive as they found Jesus; you may find them wanting to spend more time with you then they do with their worldly friends.

Just as sure as taking the time to eat healthfully is a good investment, spending time thinking upon Biblical, spiritual subject matter is definitely not time lost.

"Upon the right improvement of our time depends our success in acquiring knowledge and mental culture. The cultivation of the intellect need not be prevented by

poverty, humble origin, or unfavorable surroundings. Only let the moments be treasured. A few moments here and a few there, that might be frittered away in aimless talk; the morning hours so often wasted in bed; the time spent in traveling on trams or railway cars, or waiting at the station; the moments of waiting for meals, waiting for those who are tardy in keeping an appointment--if a book were kept at hand, and these fragments of time were improved in study, reading, or careful thought, what might not be accomplished. A resolute purpose, persistent industry, and careful economy of time, will enable men to acquire knowledge and mental discipline which will qualify them for almost any position of influence and usefulness." {Christ's Object Lessons page 343, paragraph 4}

The one thing we all have whether we are rich or poor, sick or healthy, is time and we have all been given the choice as to how we use that time. No one can control our thoughts. Even the one who is in prison can pray silently and commune with God.

Be gentle with your weak points and the weak points of others, (both spiritual and physical) and do your best to make consistent use of the time that God has provided for you to grow up into the fullness of the stature of Christ. ■

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by Connie Kiefiuk

"an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"

A recent study found that preventable medical errors cause between 9,000 and 24,000 deaths in Canada a year. These errors included health-care providers giving patients the wrong or too much medication, leaving a sponge in a patient, operating on the wrong limb, injuring a baby during delivery and patients contracting an infection after surgery. It seems that the majority of patients that enter the hospital don't have an accurate recording of their medications put into the hospital charts, so that they can be on the right medications in the hospital. Medications may then be missed that should be continued and others are started that may conflict with existing medications.

Hospital infections are another huge problem. You may know of someone in the hospital who has ended up with a *Staphylococcus Aureus*, a "hospital bug", that may have caused serious infection and even death. These preventable surgical site infections cost hospitals millions of dollars.

Another common bug that easily infects people weakened by illness is *Enterococcus*, a normally benign bacterium that lives in the intestine. Enterococcus infections can occur in the urinary tract, in the blood and in wounds, including surgical wounds.

Pseudomonas Aeruginosa is notorious for its resistance to antibiotics and is, therefore, a particularly dangerous and dreaded pathogen and is spread from patient to patient on the hands of hospital

personnel, by direct patient contact with contaminated items, and by the ingestion of contaminated foods and water.

A CBC-TV Marketplace investigation into the cause and effect of these "super bugs" interviewed a physician in charge of infection control at a leading Canadian hospital. He stated that most of the deaths caused by these infections could be prevented – by simple hand washing.

Because of the SARS outbreak that hit Toronto in March 2003, hand sanitizers have become common in hospitals and other public buildings across the country. However, it has been found that many clean their hands only 10-20 percent of the time.

The infection control expert at the University Health Network in Toronto says that doctors are the least likely to wash their hands. He stated that when he was a medical resident, nobody taught him to wash his hands or told him it was important. He would happily round on 30 patients and not wash his hands once because that was the norm!

Yes, mom was right when she said – "Wash your hands!" Washing hands and anything else that comes into contact with an infected person is important in preventing the spread of bacteria. Hand washing is the most important thing you can do to help stop the spread of germs that cause illnesses such as colds, the flu, diarrhea or vomiting.

We pick up these germs on our hands from touching things around us such as

people, animals, raw flesh foods, pets and many objects in our daily lives. It is especially important to therefore wash our hands before we prepare or eat food or feed a baby or child. In addition, it is necessary to wash your hands after you change a diaper, help a child use the toilet (or use the toilet yourself), blow your nose, take care of a sick person, touch pets or animals, and clean pet cages or litter boxes.

In May 2000, seven people died and more than 2,300 others fell ill in Walkerton, Ontario, in Canada's worst-ever *E. coli* outbreak after the bacteria got into the town's water supply. The source of the contamination was manure spread on a farmer's field near one of the town's wells. *E. coli*, short for *Escherichia coli*, is a type of bacteria commonly found in the intestines of animals and humans. Of the hundreds of strains of the bacterium, *E. coli* has been identified as the most dangerous to people, producing a powerful toxin that can cause severe illness and death. It is most often found in meat, but also in unpasteurized milk and apple cider, raw vegetables, cheese and contaminated water. Fruits and vegetables that grow close to the ground are susceptible to *E. coli* contamination if, for example, improperly composted cattle manure is used as a fertilizer. Once someone has eaten contaminated food, the infection can be passed person-to-person, by hand-to-mouth contact. Proper food handling techniques and safe water supplies can go a long way

towards preventing exposure to *E. coli*. Good personal hygiene such as washing your hands thoroughly and not handling food if you have diarrhea are critical in protecting yourself and others.

According to the British Columbia Ministry of Health, **Noroviruses** are a group of viruses that cause acute gastroenteritis, also known as stomach flu or winter vomiting disease. This is not influenza or the flu, which is a respiratory infection caused by the influenza virus. Stomach flu outbreaks occur in communities every year and are common in nursing homes, daycare centres, schools, children's camps and on cruise ships. The Ministry explains that the key to preventing the virus or reducing it from spreading is hand washing, especially after using the toilet, changing diapers or before eating or preparing food. Proper hand washing requires warm running water, soap and cleansing of the hands for about 15 to 30 seconds. In addition, you can reduce the risk of infection by disinfecting any areas that need cleaning due to vomit or diarrhea.

Flu pandemics happen when a new kind of influenza virus, that is able to spread easily from person to person appears, and spreads quickly around the world. There were three flu pandemics last century and the most severe, often called the Spanish Flu pandemic, was in 1918. Throughout history, every new flu strain has been scary because it catches the human immune system unprepared. The death toll from a new flu always seems to be higher. Even though a flu pandemic cannot be prevented, we can prepare for one by learning how we can keep ourselves healthy in diet and exercise. We need to also practice basic hygiene techniques now, such as regular hand washing and covering your mouth with a tissue or your shirt sleeve when sneezing and coughing. We know that germs and viruses are lurking all around us but if we do our best in obeying some of the simple laws of health and practicing sensible cleanliness, we may be preserved from many afflicting diseases. ■

if we are not born again, how can we reform?

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reformation in life and character. Accordingly, half-converted ministers and laity alike require little from those who participate in church-fellowship, those who do not mind Christ's pardon, but refuse to separate themselves from their sins and restore what they have taken from others. Thus, the line of distinction between the church and the world has not only declined. It has become blurred. Consequently, our only safety is to believe that which is truth because it is true, not because it harmonizes with our preconceived opinions and believing that which we want to believe is pleasant and agreeable because it harmonizes with our selfish and preconceived ideas.

Moreover, trusting to feelings, impressions, or miracles is unsafe, for these are unreliable guides. God's Law, the Law of Liberty, is the only correct standard of holiness. It is by this Law that Christ judges one's character. And, unlike human laws, His law never changes. Like His love, His Law is eternal. That is not to say that papal religionists have not tried to change it to satisfy their vice, to excuse their sin, and to assert their authority. Nevertheless, the Law of Liberty and Love, Christ's holy Ten Commandments, is that which God measures each soul. (Jn. 5:22; James 2:12; 1:25).

Furthermore, if one refuses to allow Christ to live His life within him, he will reap his wages for his sins—the "second death," annihilation. (Rev. 20:14). However, those who accept Him as their Lord, Master, and Saviour will receive their gift—eternal life. (Jn. 3:16-21).

Few understand, however, that since Christ is our Judge-Advocate, if we "fire" or dismiss our Advocate (Attorney), He becomes our judge. Therefore, intelligence, logic, and love inform the sinner that Christ will save those who love Him enough to love others, as He loves them. Anything short of this is mediocrity and ambivalence. What are we really trying to say?

Nicodemus, the once proud coward, eventually learned what Christ meant, when He told him, "You must be born again!" Taking Christ at His word, exercising the saving faith that comes only from Him, Christ not only justified (pardoned) Nicodemus, but He sanctified (transformed) him by and through it. And, unlike many professed Christians who want Christ to save them in their sins, having seen what sin did to his Saviour, others, and to himself, he, in Christ's strength, chose to stop sinning.

Knowing that thought precedes action and that we are sinners, why don't we ask Christ to forgive our sins and to renew our hearts (minds) with a new and vibrant spirit—His? ■

by Dr. Richard Little

"...most of the deaths caused by these infections could be prevented - by simple handwashing."

From the Mailbox

ONLINE VIDEOS...

Dear AD,

We found some of your films on Google video and www.youtube.com. They are very good. We gave the links to about 1000 people, and I think the result was they closed the films on youtube.com (perhaps the Jesuites). It is very good that these films are on Google video. Your work is very important to all.

May God protect and bless your work,
S.M.

MISSING ITEMS...

Dear AD,

I was looking for the DVDs about the dinosaurs and the different races. Do you have them? I think the work that you do is wonderful and God has truly blessed you all with a wonderful gift. I have been searching for several years on all the information that you have for us to learn. Being an ex-military person, who has worked at the Pentagon during the Sept. 11th phase, I knew that there was more going on than was to be let known. Oh yes, just in case you didn't know it; all of those ministers and scientists, etc...who support the Tim La Haye myths, are coming to town at the end of March and they will be having an open question and answer day; and a group of us are planning to go see what myths they will be telling about and asking them questions to see if they can give the true answers. Keep on doing what you are doing.

Your sister in Christ,
L.M.

EARTH SHATTERING!

Dear AD,

I just want to say I have been very blessed and awakened by your Total Onslaught series. I received it for Christmas from my mother and have been watching whenever I have a spare moment. I am now going to start inviting others to my home on Friday evenings to watch with me. Thank you for making this earth-shattering information available. Also, I live in Loma Linda, CA and really wish Professor Veith could come and give a series of lectures here. This area truly needs this message!

B.B.

NEW INSIGHT...

Dear AD,

I bought the Total Onslaught DVDs and this series was very shocking, but I must say they gave me insight and new views. I want to thank Walter for his work in this area and the

time he spent in looking for new evidence. I'm not part of the Seventh-day Adventist church, but I will visit the nearest one in the coming month. We need to warn more people to open their eyes. They must accept Jesus as the only true Savior. May God bless this ministry in the little time we have left!

W.O.

THANK-YOU TO THE SQUAD...

AD is what I've been waiting for all my life. I am so glad my faith in Jesus has been rekindled and I am very thankful to the squad of AD. May God bless you and your families.

D.K.

INCREDIBLE RELEVANCE...

Dear Dr. Veith,

I want to share with you how much our family (and many of our friends as well) have been educated and blessed by the series "Total Onslaught", a message of incredible relevance for our times and such a great tool for outreach (I now work in real estate and it is so nice to have something timely to share with people in the secular workplace). We were especially informed by your presentation on the "Battle of the Bibles" and how many problems there are with the "modern" translations such as the RSV and NIV. As we view this specific lecture with others, it would prove helpful to us if you could be so kind as to provide the answer with documentation for the following question: Specifically, how are the translations of the Bible after c. 1900 (such as the Revised Standard Version and the New International Version) traced back directly to Hort and Westcott? My Sabbath School class watched a portion of the DVD and it created such a negative and volatile outburst by one of the members of the class that the remainder of the discussion time was one of tension as I continued to calmly yet firmly stand for the position that you have presented so well (Truth is indeed a "two-edged sword"). I have an MA in Art History and a BA in History and was an educator at the college level for twenty-five years and I can not begin to tell you how refreshing it is to see such a scholarly and fascinating study of Daniel and Revelation with the emphasis on current events and how close we are to the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If I may ever be of assistance to you in terms of art historical references, please do not hesitate to contact me. With admiration for your courage and stand for Jesus Christ,

J.C.

Q

Dear Dr. Veith,

I am wanting to know if Michael the archangel is Jesus Christ? Please send me a message telling me. I think he is and what I read tells me that he is, but I need to know for sure. Please let me know.

Thanks, D.

A

Dear D,

The name "Michael" means "he who is what God is" and this was the angelic name of Jesus. You are quite right in your assumption that Jesus and Michael are one and the same.

For more information I include a portion of my book "Truth Matters" that deals with this issue: Filled with pride in his own glory, Lucifer fomented discord, discontent, and disaffection amongst the angels, leading to open rebellion. This had never been known in the universe. It was a new element, strange, mysterious, unaccountable. There was war in heaven.

"Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the devil, and satan...he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:7-9

The two great adversaries here mentioned are Michael and the dragon. We know who the dragon is; it is the fallen angel

Lucifer or Satan, because Revelation 12:9 identifies him.... "the great dragon was cast out, the old serpent called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world..." Revelation 12:9

Who is Michael? Because he is called the Archangel, some believe this to be an angel of the same rank as Lucifer was, but the Bible leads one to believe that Gabriel has taken the position of Lucifer. The name Michael is mentioned in Daniel, Jude and Revelation, and each time it is in the context of the great controversy with Lucifer, with Michael commanding the angelic host. The designation 'archangel' here refers to more than highest angel, but to leader of the angels. The name Michael means "He that is what God is," and only Christ qualifies for that position. Who would contend with Satan over the body of Moses (Jude 9) other than Christ himself? The voice of the archangel that calls forth the dead at the second coming of Christ, can only be the voice of Christ Himself. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thessalonians. 4:16 (Voice of the Son of man, John 5:28)

Christ is the creator of all things and is the one who therefore created the worlds, the angelic host and mankind. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. And

the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." (John 1:1,3,10,14) "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." 1 Corinthians 8:6

In the Old Testament Christ is called the "Angel of the Lord" or the "Angel of His Presence" and Michael is the Ruler of God's people.... "Michael your ruler"...Daniel 10:21 "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people:" Daniel 12:1.... "the Angel who redeemed me from all evil"...Genesis 48:16... "and the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire"...Exodus 3:2 "For He said, surely they are My people, children that will not lie: so He was their Saviour. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them;" Isaiah 63:8,9 Only Christ can claim to rule, save and redeem His people.

Genesis 48:16 refers to the "angel who has redeemed me from all evil". Only Christ has redeemed anyone from all evil. He is also referred to as the captain of the Lord's host. In Joshua 5:13,14, Joshua meets the captain of the Lord's host and falls down to worship him. Only God, and not angels may be worshipped. (Revelation 22:8-9) When God had created this world and all its creatures including man, God saw everything that He had made, and "behold, it was very good", Genesis 1:31.

Best Wishes,
Walter Veith

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

I Will Not Doubt

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea
Come drifting home with broken masts and
sails;

I will believe the Hand which never fails,
For seeming evil worketh good for me.
And though I weep because those sails
are tattered,
Still will I cry, while my best hopes lie shattered:
"I trust in Thee."

I will not doubt, though all my prayers return
Unanswered from the still, where realm above;
I will believe it is an all-wise love
Which has refused these things for which I yearn;
And though at times I cannot keep from grieving,
Yet the pure ardor of my fixed believing
Undimmed shall burn.

I will not doubt, though sorrows fall like rain,
And troubles swarm like bees about a hive;
I will believe the heights for which I strive
And only reached by anguish and by pain;
And though I groan and writhe beneath
my crosses,
I yet shall see through my severest losses
The greater gain.

I will not doubt, well anchored is this faith,
Like some staunch ship,
my soul braves every gale;
So strong its courage that it will not quail
To breast the mighty unknown sea of death.
O, may I cry, though body parts with spirit,
"I do not doubt," so listening worlds may hear it,
With my last breath.

~Ella Wheeler Wilcox



Faith on the Line

is a quarterly magazine with the aim of urging Christians to stand up for the truth and to resist error. The title describes the burden of the magazine, which is urging men in these last days to keep the faith once delivered to the saints and to avoid the error which is on every hand. We pray that in times of serious compromise our ministry will be giving you solid information on current issues, trends and separation from the world. Copies are sent to all who request them. Requests should be sent to the address below. A suggested minimum donation of \$20 CDN or \$16 US or \$25 US International would be appreciated.

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Printed in Canada