



YOUTH Messenger®

Volume XXVI, Number 3

The Divine Ideal of **EDUCATION**

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Overcoming Shyness

BY TONY MARAIZU

After the Sabbath school lesson one Sabbath morning, the leader stood up and expressed his dissatisfaction about how many young people do not like to participate in the Sabbath school activities. They do not seem eager to read the Bible references found in the *Sabbath Bible Lessons* or to offer comments or questions when the lesson is being discussed. His words were met with complete silence.

When the service was over, one young man met a brother and said to him, "I desire to work for God, I would love to teach the lessons, I would love to pray in the church, and sing before the congregation, and I even have some questions to ask for the lesson. But I am too shy, so I cannot do these things. I feel like I should just stop coming to church!"

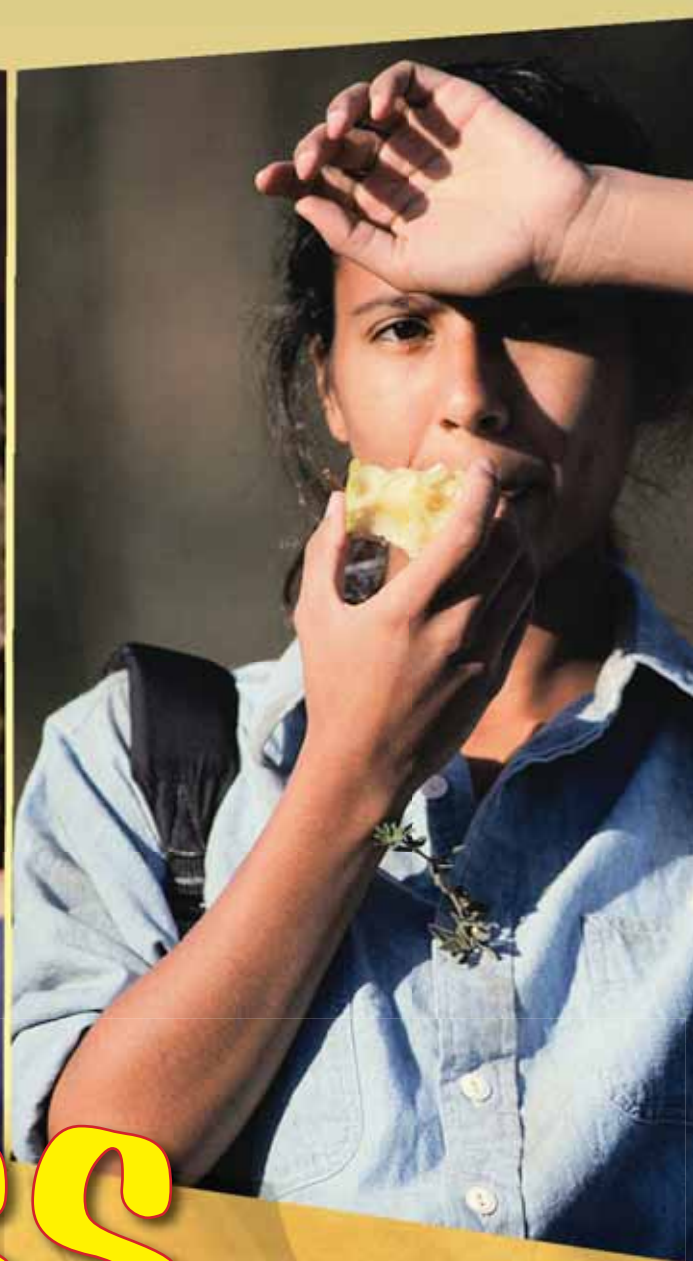
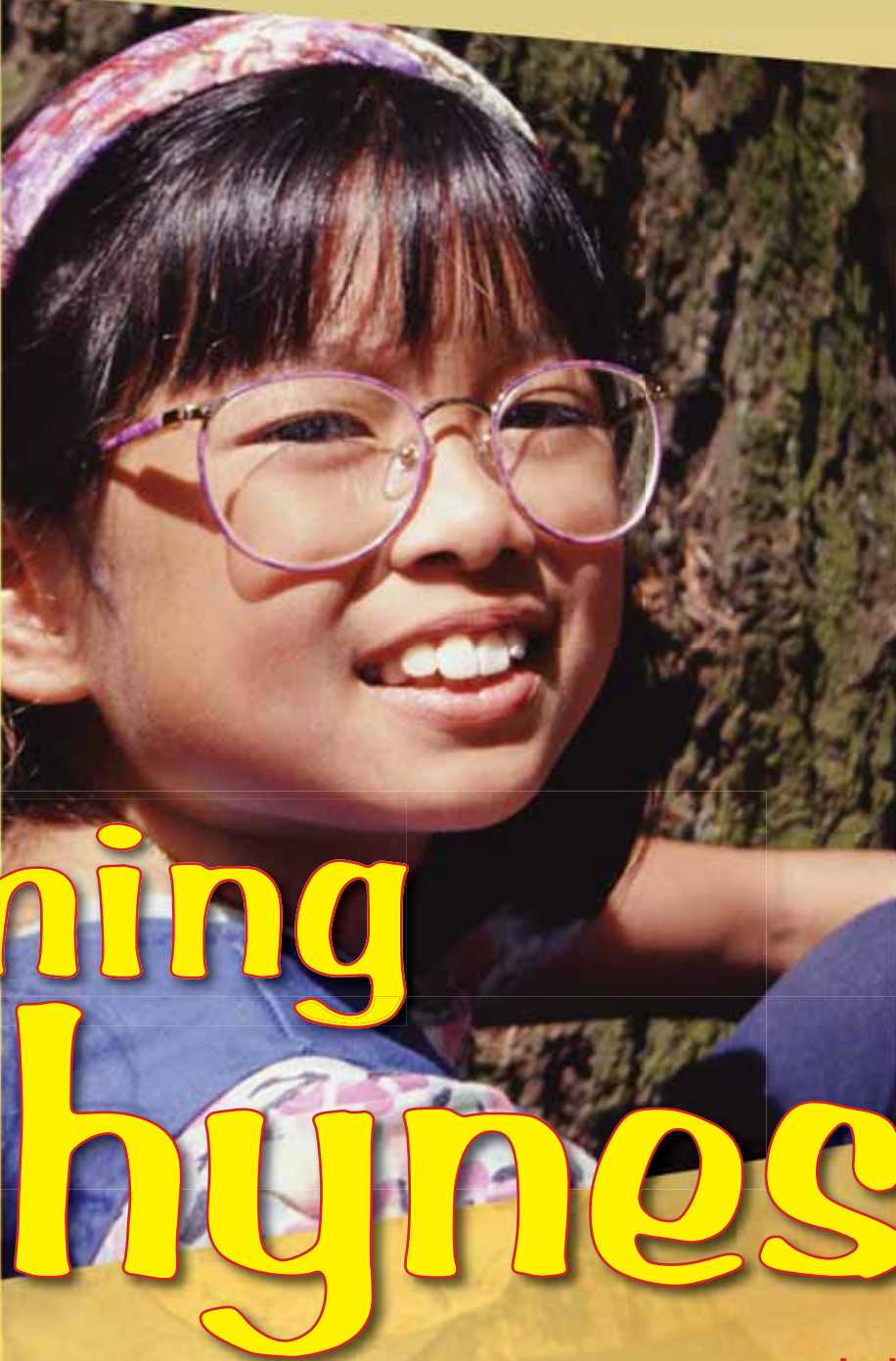
Only those who have experienced what shyness is can understand what this young man had just said.

What is shyness?

Shyness is being timid, diffident, nervous, and uncomfortable in the company of others.

Quite frankly, a shy person is in real trouble. He or she seems to be more or less like a prisoner. Since such a person is afraid to express his or her real feelings for fear of being laughed at, or to avoid being disgraced, he or she often accepts situations that he or she doesn't want—all because of shyness.

A shy person misses so many opportunities and loses the joy of making new friends.



Winning Shyness

Does shyness affect only young people?

There was a special occasion which occurred here in Africa—it was a very big event at which the organizers needed a “big” man to address the people. Therefore they decided to use a man who had studied in the United States of America for many years.

Unfortunately nobody knew that this man was very shy and nervous. When he stood before the people to read his address, he was so nervous that he could not even read the headlines. He was shivering until the papers fell from his hands, and some people came and accompanied him to his seat.

Is shyness a problem?

Yes, shyness is a real problem. One young man came to me weeping because of this ugly trait. But after telling him my past experience, he gained courage.

When I was growing up as a youth, I was so shy that I preferred to die rather than to live. I disgraced myself many times whenever I was called to do anything in front of the people. I could not read any Bible quotation, no matter how short it was. I absented myself from school on any day I had been assigned to do anything in front of the classroom.

What was the cause of this problem to me? It was an inferiority complex. I was comparing myself with others. Thus, I wanted to do things the way they did, without knowing that God made us different. I never realized

that nobody is perfect. All of us have our strengths and our weaknesses.

Can shyness be overcome?

Yes, shyness can be overcome. We have examples from the Bible about people who suffered from a similar condition, but they overcame as they depended upon God for strength.

When God sent Moses to Egypt to deliver His people, he refused for the following reasons: "Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue" (Exodus 4:10).

Little did Moses know what he would accomplish in the Lord's cause. This very Moses who could not stand before Pharaoh in Egypt led the assembly of over one million people for years.

What about Saul?

Saul was the first king of Israel. He was actually so shy that when he was appointed to be king, he went and hid himself. He was too shy to stand and speak before the people. "When [Samuel] had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found. Therefore they inquired of the Lord further, if the man should yet come thither. And the Lord answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff. And they ran and fetched him" (1 Samuel 10:21-23). Amazingly, this very Saul eventually led the children of Israel to victory.

Helpful hints

The truth is that there are lessons to learn about shyness.

Shyness could be a means in the hands of God to stop a person from going deep into a worldly association.

He also uses this means to show us that we can do nothing without

Him. Thus, He wants us to depend completely on Him for strength all the time. Experience has shown that 70% of those who have worked for God or who are working for Him today were once very shy.

In my church where I worship, nobody laughs at someone who makes mistakes.

I remembered one day when a sister came forward to sing a song, but in front of the congregation, she was just standing looking at the ceiling. When the members realized that she was nervous, they began to sing a nice song which the sister joined in singing, and finally she came out victoriously. I believe the church can also encourage those who are shy to participate in church activities.

I want to tell every youth who is shy, that if I can stand today in the presence of thousands and give lectures, you too can do it.

If I can speak in seminars in many places today, you, too, can do it.

All you need to do is:

1. Promise God that you will never misuse this privilege by using your boldness to do things that will not bring glory to His holy name.
2. Learn to come early to every meeting. As you see the people coming in, greet them one by one if at all possible.
3. Learn to love the church members and remember their names. Almost everyone loves to see someone he or she is not acquainted with calling him or her by name.
4. Determine never to say anything against your brother or your sister in the faith.
5. Learn to appreciate what others do. As a result, others will appreciate you as well. The word of God says it better: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should

do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).


6. Always read the Word of God, so as to become conversant with the Bible and its references.
7. Whenever you are asked to present anything before the people, go back home and prepare yourself very well. Read

Seventy percent of those who work for God were once very shy.

the subject over and over. This will help you to present things nicely before the people.

8. Speak good things about others. Appreciate their effort. "In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3).
9. Dress neatly and nicely. Do your best to look good.
10. Practice making eye contact with others, beginning with children.

Those points being said, no matter what we say about how to overcome this problem, the truth is that only God can help us to overcome this problem. Hear what He told Moses, "And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say" (Exodus 4:11, 12).

Therefore pray about it. Do not worry about what people say about you. Serve God faithfully and put self aside. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). 

THE AGE OF EVIL

BY JONATHAN TYLER

Did God create all things? Yes! Then God must have created evil. Right? Well, not exactly.

However, the Bible does say, "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things" (Isaiah 45:7).

Let's take a look at light and darkness, for instance. In reality, darkness is only the absence of light. Light can be studied, but not darkness. You cannot measure darkness. Light can be measured, identified, and broken down into different colors. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. So, darkness

only exists when there is no light. Darkness in and of itself is not a thing or a substance that can be created. The only way to create darkness is to block out the light.


Jesus Christ according to the Bible has "immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see" (1 Timothy 6:16).

We could call this the perfect light. It is so full and intensely perfect that no darkness can exist in its presence. Can you imagine what would happen if an evil person got close to that kind of light?

Jesus brought that very light to earth, but He had to

hide it. John 1:4 says "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." He revealed the light through His life. However, there was a conflict going on. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

So evil cannot stand to be in the presence of this light. In fact, just as the light dispels darkness so would this light of goodness destroy all evil. God then allows darkness or evil to exist by veiling His glory. If He did not, all darkness and evil would be instantly wiped out. ►



*The Bible gives us hope
that soon God will fix
this evil world.*

WHY IS EVIL PERMITTED?

We often struggle with trying to understand why God allows evil to exist. How can God allow young people to be shot and killed in school? How can He sit by while innocent people are blown up? However, if in fact God were to put an end to all evil at this moment, almost all of us would be destroyed in the process.

For years people have been demanding that God be removed from the government, the courts, and the schools. Why then would we be shocked if He did actually leave? So it seems we want the benefits of God's protection against evil, but not the guidelines to keep us from being destroyed along with it.

When God looks down upon our darkened world He is looking for something. He looks "to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psalm 14:2, 3). These are very depressing verses! God is looking for good (light) and He sees none. However, God does not leave us in darkness if we desire to have the light.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee" (Isaiah 60:1, 2).

This is a prophecy of the condition of the world in these last days, but with it is an assurance that if we look to the light we will dwell in the light.

Another prophecy of the last days is found in the book of 2 Timothy. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

The above seems like a perfect description of the generation in which we are living. It is a perilous time, especially for the youth. The only way that you can avoid the darkness of this world is to look to the light of God's presence. In this way we can have hope when the whole world is on a path of self destruction.

The Bible gives us hope that soon God will fix this evil world. "The wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered" (Proverbs 11:21). "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. . . . And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:1, 4). ❧

The Divine Ideal of **EDUCATION**

BY DORIVAL N. DUMITRU

PART 3

As we look forward to the culmination of God's plan for our redemption, we see the importance of character development. "The formation of character is the work of a lifetime, and it is for eternity. If all could realize this, if they would awake to the thought that **we are individually deciding our own destiny for eternal life or eternal ruin**, what a change would take place!" (*Child Guidance*, p. 162).

What is character—and how is it developed?

A person's character consists of his or her habits. Thoughts and feelings indulged prepare the way for acts and deeds of the same kind. By repeating the same acts over and over again, habits are established. Through determination and strong effort, habits may be modified, but seldom can they be changed. Actu-

ally, once the character is completely developed, it can never really be changed by human devices. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jeremiah 13:23).

Once we are grown, the only hope left for us is found in the good news of the Bible. Character transformation is the miracle of miracles. Only God is able to perform it—and He is willing to do this for all who submit to obey His holy law. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God's Law and the seven divine institutions or principles

In this *Youth Messenger* series on education, the seven divine institutions or principles we have been considering all have their authority

in the Ten Commandments. We can even identify their relationship with some commandment in particular. In taking True Education, for example, as a principle, we learn to consider the Lord first in everything and to recognize the importance of speaking only the truth in all circumstances. This is the very essence of the first and ninth commandments.

On True Worship: we have the second and third commandments. On the True Day of Rest—the Sabbath—nothing could be clearer than the fourth commandment. On the Marriage Institution, the principles of the fifth and seventh commandments are positively binding. The Original Diet is clearly related to the sixth commandment, and the concept of Stewardship points to the eighth commandment. Country Living relates to the first and tenth commandments.

Finishing the work of restoration

Thus we see that these principles are designed to help restore the character of Christ in us. God Himself gave us all of them in the beginning. He confirmed them by His prophets. The second coming of Christ will not take place until these principles are completely restored by His remnant people on earth. "In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored." (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 678).

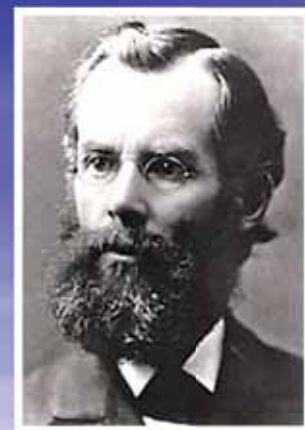
"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:19–21). The seven principles of holy living need to be restored as we are called to know and practice them in our daily

life with Jesus. This identifies us as true reformers. "They that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it' (Isaiah 58:12–14). Here are given the characteristics of those who shall be reformers, who will bear the banner of the third angel's message, those who avow themselves God's command-keeping people, and who honor God, and are earnestly engaged, in the sight of all the universe, in build-

ing up the old waste places. Who is it that calls them, The repairers of the breach, The restorers of paths to dwell in?—It is God. Their names are registered in heaven as reformers, restorers, as raising the foundations of many generations." (*The Review and Herald*, October 13, 1891).

May the Lord help you and me to understand these divine principles of true education and put them into practice. If we truly want to have a place in the kingdom of heaven, we must allow the Holy Spirit to complete the work that He has begun in our individual life and in our family. "Now, as never before, we need to understand the true science of education. If we fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God. 'This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent' (John 17:3). If this is the price of heaven, shall not our education be given on these lines?" (*Spalding and Magan Collection*, p. 56). ❧

"Now, as never before, we need to understand the true science of education . . . 'that they might know thee.'" (John 17:3)



John Nevins Andrews

BY NIKITA ESPINAL

John Nevins Andrews was born in the state of Maine, USA, on July 22, 1829, to Edward and Sarah Andrews. There is not much information about his early childhood, but when he was 11 years old he had to quit school because of health problems. From then on, everything he learned he taught himself. He always carried a book with him because he loved to read. He begged his father to buy him books in different languages. He soon mastered seven languages fluently and read the Bible a lot. With such diligent study, he memorized the New Testament.

Preaching in his early teens

At the age of 14, John went preaching and was recognized as a "powerful speaker." At six feet tall, he was no longer a frail, sickly boy but had grown to be handsome and sturdy. In 1843 the Andrews family went to the Second Advent meetings and became Millerites. They experienced the great disappointment on October 22, 1844. But between 1844 and 1845 when John was 15 years old, Mirian Stowel gave him a tract about the seventh-day Sabbath. It was well received.

Heralding the message

Soon afterwards, in 1850, James and Ellen White moved into the Andrews house because James wanted to start publishing a new periodical called *The Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*. So John Andrews started writing articles for the *Review* that impressed James White so much that two years later, when they set up an office for the *Review*, James invited John to join the staff as one of the corresponding editors. But as part of the *Review*, John still was not completely satisfied. He wanted to preach the gospel on foot, going to different places proclaiming the message.

In the year 1855 John lost all his courage after traveling so much. He lost a lot of his health, and looked like a beggar. Eventually he made his

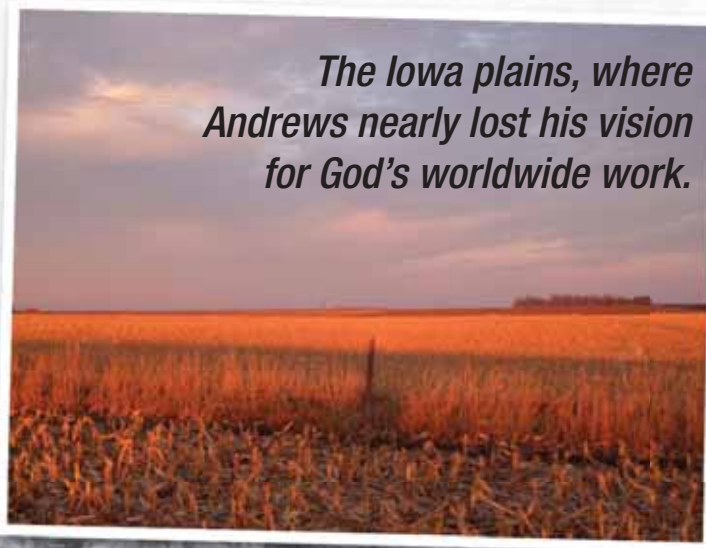
way back to the office where James and Ellen White offered him a room to sleep and food to eat until he got better. He ended up staying there ten weeks until his health improved.

After staying with the Whites, John decided to go home to see his family. That same year someone asked him whether the Sabbath begins at 6:00 p.m. or at sunset. By studying the Bible, he was able to show that it was from sunset to sunset.

Sidetracked out west

Inspired by an article of James White urging believers to open new territory by taking the message further west, the Andrews family accepted the challenge. They moved to Waukon, Iowa, on the opposite side of the Mississippi River. The

*The Iowa plains, where
Andrews nearly lost his vision
for God's worldwide work.*



Iowa soil was rich and the fields wide open—both geographically and spiritually. It was there that John Andrews married Angeline Stevens. (In marrying Angeline he also became the brother-in-law of Uriah Smith, as she was Uriah's wife's sister.)

Another famous Advent pioneer who moved out west was John Loughborough. Back in the east though, where James and Ellen White were still living, Brn. Loughborough and Andrews were greatly missed. But that was not the real problem—the Whites were concerned that these brethren were getting sidetracked from their true calling and mis-

This time John began traveling again . . . to spread the gospel far and wide.

sion. At great personal sacrifice, the Whites decided to go to Iowa and urge the two families to come back east. It seemed as if these new Iowans had switched from harvesting souls in the east to harvesting crops in the west. After the long and hard trip, the Whites reached Iowa and convinced the two Johns to go back to preaching. So John Andrews began holding meetings locally and within two years, in 1859, he began traveling again, this time maintaining his focus to spread the everlasting gospel far and wide.

Family sacrifice

The separation between John and Angeline was hard on them both, but they wrote to each other constantly. One time, in June 1860, Angeline walked to the post office to see if there was a letter for her. To her disappointment there was none. She stayed the night there, hoping to find one in the morning—only to be disappointed again because there was

no letter. Sadly she walked three and a half miles back home. She wrote in her diary: "I miss him much, but it is for the Lord's work and I will do it cheerfully." But she was not alone—she had two children. Their first son, Charles, was born in the year 1857 and their second child Mary was born in the year 1861.

In the same year that Mary was born, John Andrews published his classic study that he had researched on the Sabbath, entitled *History of the Sabbath & the First Day of the Week*.

John moved his family back to Rochester because he felt he could labor more effectively in New York.

The Civil War brought problems to the men who had accepted the Advent message—they received a lot of official inquiries as to whether or not they could conscientiously bear arms. James White felt that they should be non-combatant and take a moral stand, so John Andrews traveled to Washington to meet with the officials of the Lincoln administration, explaining about their beliefs. The mission was successful.

John Andrews traveled so much that sometimes, when he would return home, his children could not recognize him. Once when he arrived back home from a long trip, he went to pick up his daughter. She ran to her mother screaming—she would not sit on someone's lap that she did not know. (She did not realize it was her father!) Charles, their eldest child came limping toward his father. When John looked at him, he saw that one leg was much thinner than the other—a condition which was greatly improved by the use of hot and cold packs.

John kept writing tracts and articles, but due to his

frequent work late into the night, it was often at the expense of his health.

Church responsibilities and foreign missions

After John Byington and James White, John Andrews became the third president of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference, from May 14, 1867, to May 18, 1869. He was then chosen editor of *The Review and Herald* from 1869 to 1870.

Right about this time, the denomination in Battle Creek received a letter from Albert Vuilleumier of Switzerland, bringing news that there were 50 Sabbathkeepers there and they wanted someone to move to Switzerland to spread the everlasting gospel. Ten years earlier an ex-Catholic priest named Michael Czechowski had accepted the message and moved to Europe to preach the gospel. Now these 50 Sabbathkeepers were the result of his work, and the desire was to see it expand further. So, the denominational leaders decided to send their first official missionary overseas. In Ellen White's words, they sent "the ablest man in our ranks"—John Andrews.

It was in 1874 that John and his 16-year-old son, Charles, and his 12-year-old daughter, Mary, made the trip to Switzerland. Just two years earlier, in 1872, the children's mother Angeline had suffered a fatal stroke. She had never complained when he was gone for a long time. They never



said unkind things to each other. She had also helped John in any way she could in his travels. After his wife's death, Ellen White had advised John to remarry, but he felt that no one could replace Angeline.

One day an elderly man stopped by the house where Andrews was giving a Bible study, to ask for money. He was invited in and was surprised to find people singing and having a service. He was given food to eat and he decided to stay and hear the service. After John Andrews had spoken, the beggar told them that there was a group like this in Germany. The man had kept the address in case he was ever in that area. After hearing that, Andrews went with James Erzberger, the translator, to Germany. Once there they were happy to see that there were 46 Sabbathkeepers. The Sabbathkeepers were very happy to have John and James with them. They ended staying there for five weeks. John returned after the five weeks of visiting, but James Erzberger stayed there continuing the Lord's work.

Life in Europe

John and his children needed to learn French. They realized that the best way to learn French was to stop speaking English. They decided to only speak English for one hour a day, from five-o'clock to six-o'clock in the evening. It was very hard for them. But this was the best way. Sometimes they would wait till five o'clock, then talk really fast till six o'clock, then go back

to speaking French. All their hard work paid off because they learned very well how to speak French!

John moved to Basel, Switzerland, so he could start printing. In July 1876 he published the first monthly paper *Les Signes des Temps* (The Signs of the Times). Then in 1882 three new periodicals in as many languages were begun: the German *Herold der Wahrheit*, Italian *L'Ultimo Messaggio* (The Last Message), and the Romanian *Adeverulu Present* (Present Truth)."

The health of the Andrews family was not good. There was no homemaker—young Mary was not a cook, although she did become very good at French. In a short time she was proofreading the French publications, even finding mistakes that the French copy editors had missed. One of the French workers stated: "Mary speaks French as though she were a French girl."

Sadly, in the summer of 1878, Mary got tuberculosis. Her condition became worse and when John received an invitation to go to Battle Creek for a General Conference he took her along with him. The doctor told John that he might end up getting tuberculosis, too, because he hardly left Mary's bedside. On November 27 she died. She was 17 years old. Four years of service had come to an end in Europe for her. First John had lost his wife and now his daughter was gone. He stayed in Battle Creek that winter to try to regain his own health.

On May 29 of the same year he returned to Europe with a few companions. But he got so sick that he could not continue his trip until August 11.

Meanwhile more people were calling to receive *Les Signes*. That was good news for John. But he still had not recovered completely. When he went to the doctor, he was told that since one of his lungs was almost gone and

the other one infected, there was no hope for him. The tuberculosis had advanced and had gotten worse.


At this point John decided that he really had to quit working as missionary director in Europe. Elder B. L. Whitney was chosen to sail across the Atlantic with John's mother so he could take over the work that John could no longer do.

The legacy of a life of service

John wrote his last report to the *Review* on July 22, 1883, saying: "My life seems wholly filled with faults. I pray that I may be thoroughly cleansed in the blood of Christ, those who have seen my faults may freely forgive me."

We should be thankful for the work that John Andrews did. He spent his whole life working for the Lord. He also did extensive Bible research on the tithing system, which the denominational structure adopted. His spirit of sacrifice was great—even though he was sent as a missionary to Europe, the church did not pay him a specific salary.

John Andrews died of tuberculosis on October 21, 1883, at the age of 54 in Basel, Switzerland. Although acclaimed as an outstanding evangelist, he is best known for his writing ability. Besides his dozens of articles and several books, his masterpiece, *History of the Sabbath*, was published in several editions and is still appreciated today as a valuable reference tool.

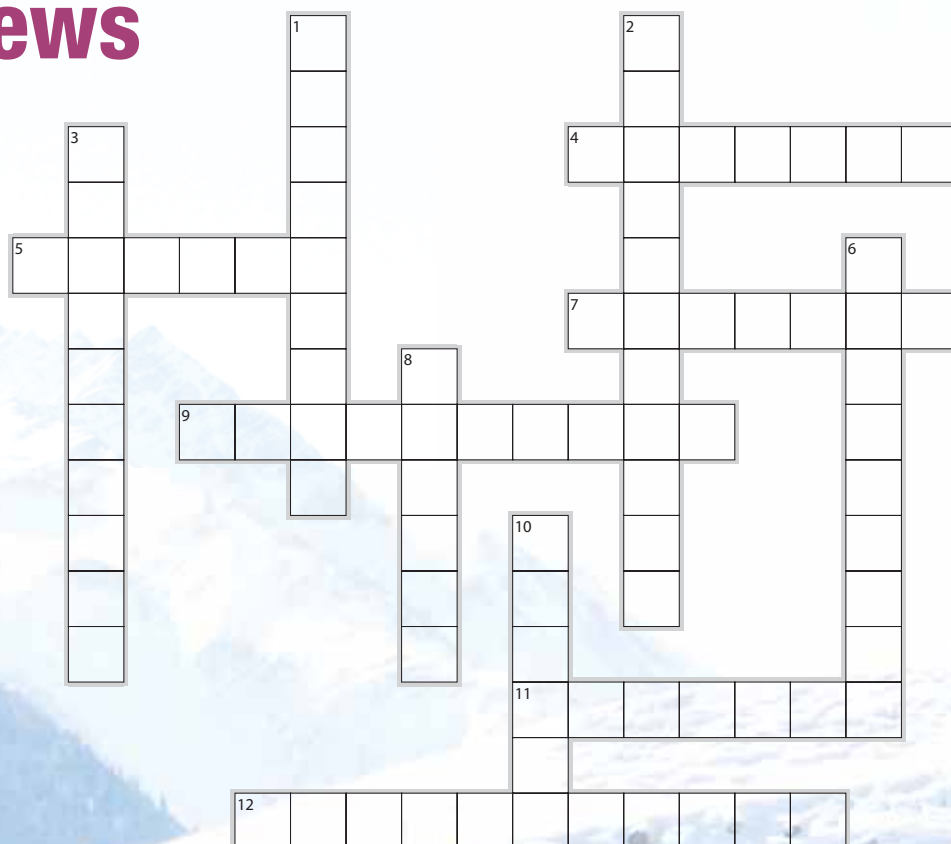
Quiet, yet dynamic, the entire mind, life, and energy of John Nevins Andrews were wholeheartedly dedicated to promoting the cause he loved. If more believers in the three angels' messages would live such an exemplary life, how soon the Lord's work could be finished and God's people hasten the glorious return of Jesus Christ. Let us be inspired by such a legacy! 



Switzerland

Andrews

Answers About



Across

4. When the Civil War brought problems to the conscientious objectors, John Andrews appealed successfully to the _____ administration to recognize the Adventist position.
5. God used a _____ in Switzerland to provide the address of a group of Sabbathkeeping believers in Germany.
7. Before John Andrews' departure for Europe, Ellen White advised the recently widowed minister to _____. He should have heeded the recommendation.
9. When John resumed his traveling to preach, his wife Angeline determined to do the Lord's work _____.
11. One topic to which John Andrews contributed his ability to research was that of the _____ system.
12. While in prosperous Iowa, unfortunately John got _____.

Down

1. With diligent study, John Nevins Andrews _____ the New Testament.
2. To follow up on the successful missionary effort begun in Europe, the denomination sent John Andrews to _____.
3. The first Adventist layman to volunteer to take the message to Europe was named Michael _____.
6. At the age of 14, John went _____.
8. The Lord used John Andrews' daughter Mary to help in proclaiming the message in _____ publications.
10. Besides being an excellent evangelist, John Andrews is best known as a _____.



Like what you see? why not order a gift subscription to the *Youth Messenger*, for a young person who might really appreciate it? You could be instrumental in saving a soul!

**PART 3
IN A SERIES ON
CANVASSING**

BY KYLA STEMMLER

God Will Give a Most Wonderful Experience

Those who work for God will meet with discouragement, but the promise is always theirs: ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world’ (Matthew 28:20). God will give a most wonderful experience to those who will say: ‘I believe Thy promise; I will not fail nor become discouraged’ (*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 335, 336).

“You know, if you don’t have enough businesses for me to canvass today, I don’t mind doing houses,” I hinted to my leaders on the way to the section of town in which we were going to work. (I actually was hoping, however, that they would take me to do houses. Businesses were harder for me.) The morning had kind of started on a bad note. I had awoken with a start much past the time I had meant to get up. In the kitchen about 35 minutes later to get breakfast ready for a group of hungry young people, I realized that I had forgotten to take the bread out of the freezer the night before, and that the lettuce for the salad had gone bad in our malfunctioning refrigerator. With a quick change of the menu and a rushed breakfast preparation time, by the time breakfast was over, I felt like I had already put in a day’s worth of work.

The morning circumstances hadn’t helped how I felt about canvassing in

the afternoon. I was thinking, “Lord, I am kind of tired of canvassing businesses. The people are often more in a hurry, it takes more courage to walk into a place and face many people, rather than knock on a door, where maybe one person will answer. And I am not even getting very many books out in businesses anymore. It just seems like too much work for the returns I am getting.”

I suppose I was trying to reason that the gospel commission of going “into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature” didn’t include businesses, but God was about to teach me a lesson.

So guess where my leader dropped me off that afternoon. Of course, businesses! “Lord, I know you can make this a blessing. Give me a smile for my face. I need energy and cheerfulness. Help me to reach people today,” I prayed.

I guess I was expecting God to work a miracle in the first business, but I was met with kind rejection after rejection. Soon, however, a few books went out—one here, a couple there, three there. I was beginning to feel more encouraged and energetic, especially with a vibrant leader working with me a little while.

When we reached the end of the section of businesses that we were told to work, and radioed the leader

for pick-up, he told us to keep going. All I saw were trees, grass, and weeds, but we kept walking, along the road through the dusty grass, and soon came upon more businesses.

We almost passed a huge building, thinking it was just a drive-thru bank, when we realized it wasn’t. The lady inside was very kind, but was sorry she couldn’t do anything, because of the bank rules. She did inform us that there were more businesses upstairs, and told us how to get up there. “Should we give it a try?” With only a few minutes until lunch pick-up time we decided to give it a try—it wouldn’t hurt.

Finding the door the kind lady had told us about, we took the elevator up to the 2nd floor. “Where do I start?” I thought. My leader had to quickly go, and here I was left in front of closed double doors that apparently led to an office of some sort. As I pressed the button for service, a lady came on over the intercom. “Hi,” I said, “My name is Kyla...” Oh no, I had been pressing the button while I was talking. “Sorry about that!” and I started all over again. “I am a student working through a Christian school on a special scholarship project, and I promise I’ll be real quick.” “Sure, go ahead and pull the door,” a kind voice replied.

As I stepped in, feeling a little small for my ignorance on how to use an intercom, the smiling lady behind the desk greeted me. I reintroduced myself to Connie, and showed her what I was doing. As I explained the books to her she began telling me how she and her husband had just been talking about how they needed to get back to church! She could not financially afford to buy my books, but as I shared with her how I have never regretted investing in these books myself because of the difference they have made in my spiritual life, she decided to trust God that He would provide. She purchased 6 of my books! Praise the Lord!

“Lord, forgive me for complaining about businesses!” I prayed. What if I had given up? What if I had just started on the other side of the hall? I never would have met Connie, a soul searching after God.

The Lord had to continually remind me this summer that He could and would abundantly bless me if I would only remember not to allow myself to be discouraged.

About halfway through the summer I began to be concerned. My sales were going down, and I couldn’t figure out why. If it was just the area I was in, that was fine! But if I was doing something wrong, I wanted to know what it was, and change it!

As my leader and I talked about it before she dropped me off to work one day, we decided to pray about it. God knows, and He is the only One that can make a difference. I felt a confidence that God could and would bless, somehow.

After the first businesses I got mostly rejection, after rejection, after rejection. My leader, after working with me for a little while, assured me I was doing fine! “All right, Lord, I’ll keep working!”

When my leader dropped me somewhere else after I finished that section, she told me I could be my own leader, meaning, I was the only one doing businesses and so I could do what I thought best and just let her know where I was when I called.

I quickly noticed a “Steak ’n Shake” over in the far corner of the section I was working, rather out of my way. As much as I tried, I could not shake off the thought to go there. Once there, the manager gave me a donation for *Happiness Digest* (paperback *Steps to Christ*). The employee that had lent her the money to give me a donation really liked books, and seemed so interested that I showed her all I had. After I was finished she informed me she had no money and my stomach sank. As I left I smiled and wished them God’s blessings, but outside I wondered why God had sent me all the way over there for “just” a *Happiness Digest*. It really didn’t help me feel real encouraged about the upcoming businesses, but I knew that one *Happiness Digest* can make a big difference in a life, and was thankful.

Reminding myself that God will give a most wonderful experience to those who will say “I believe thy promise, I will not fail nor become discouraged,” I continued to work. Now coming to a bar (tavern), I began to have second thoughts about canvassing such a place. Now, I rarely skip businesses, even bars, but I was tired. I thought, “You know, I have heard that some places aren’t good for girls to go into. Maybe I should just skip this one this time.” But I couldn’t pass it. I decided I would peak in and see if there was a lady working inside. Of course there was; there always is!

There in the dimly lit, smoky bar, I shared about books that tell of Jesus’ love, that help relieve stress; books that teach children about Jesus, and books that give hope to hurting families.

She kept saying that her daughter is really into these things and decided to get the 5 children’s

books for her grandchildren. Since she had showed a general interest in all the books, I went ahead and told her that she could have all of them for just \$____. She got all 13 books!

I left that bar with a song in my heart. Of all places, in a bar—one I had thought to skip—she got 13 books! Would I have had all those books if I had just sold some at “Steak ’n Shake”? Is it possible God was saving those books for someone that really needed them and would read them, and I was becoming discouraged? “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

I am so glad I am not in charge, for God always knows what He is doing. Satan seeks to discourage us by delays, because he doesn’t want us to be prepared for the awesome blessings God has in store, blessings that may mean the salvation of souls. Certainly, “the Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord” (Lamentations 3:25, 26).

And now “he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord” (Psalm 40:3). I never need to be discouraged, because God has great things in store. God will give a most wonderful experience if I will refuse to be discouraged. He’s proven it many times! ❧

**. . . if I will
refuse to be
discouraged!**

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Dealing With the Fiery Darts

From
the Editor

We live in an age of powerful technology. Amazing tools are available that seem to make the performance of daily tasks more efficient than ever.

Unfortunately, almost everyone—whether good or evil—has great tools. And some of these tools are not merely part of the post-modern era—they've been around for hundreds, even thousands of years.

When you really consider it, Christians actually live in an enemy-occupied territory. The prince of this world and the powers of darkness have some pretty sophisticated tools at their disposal. Among those tools with the greatest "horse power," one stands out that starts with a "D," just like the devil himself. Can you guess what it is? It's spelled D-I-S-C-O-U-R-A-G-E-M-E-N-T.

This weapon known as discouragement is used by Satan against nearly everyone at some point. It is especially effective against young people. It can dampen their desires for union with divinity, zap out their zest and zeal, and exterminate their experience for eternity. If ever there was a tragedy, that's one.

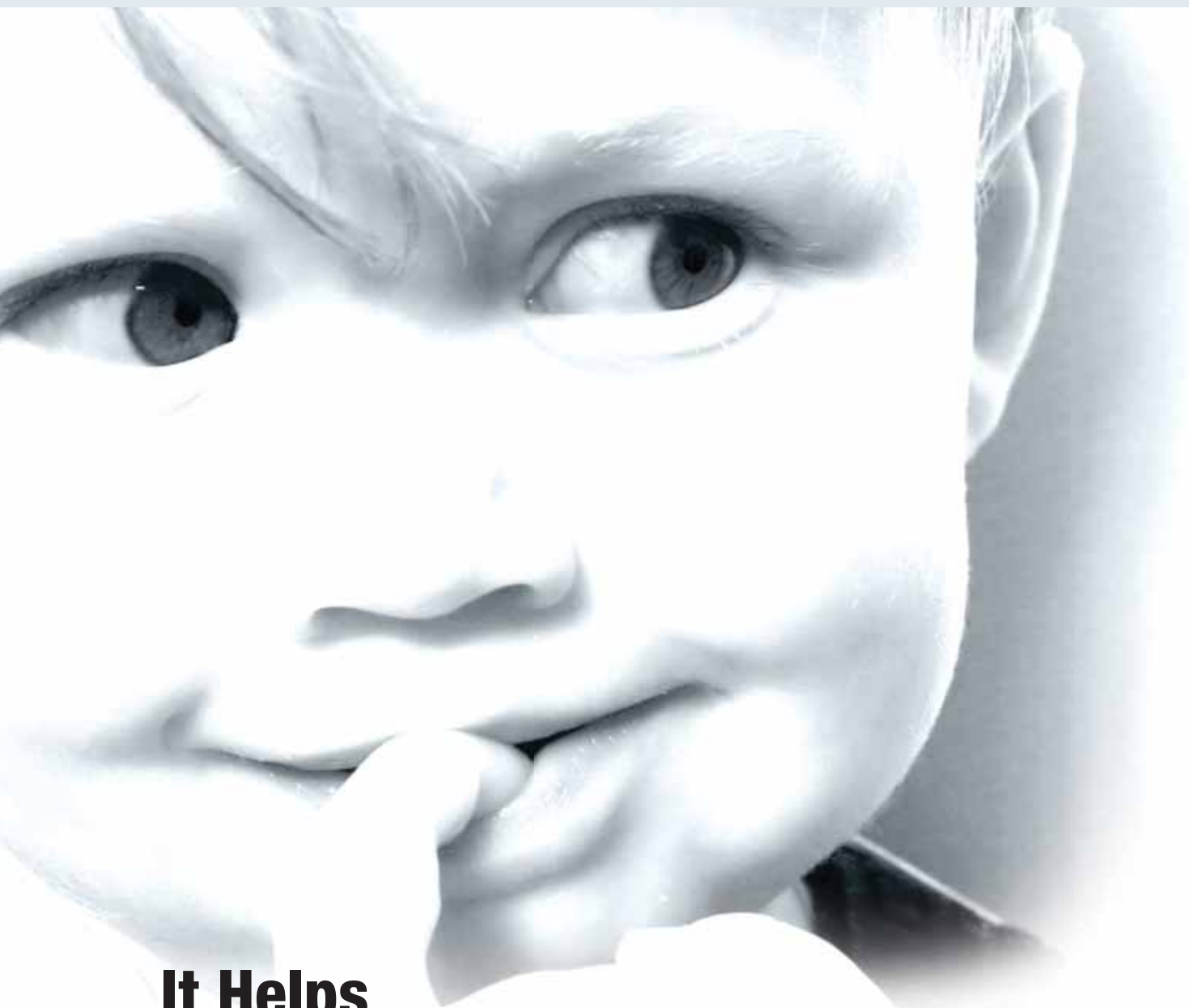
In this issue of the *Youth Messenger*, we're taking a look at how shyness discourages many young people. Yet with God's help, you can overcome it—you really can.

A lot of youth tend to blame God for all the evil in the world. We're be reminded here why that's neither accurate nor fair at all—and how to explain this to doubting, discouraged friends.

Canvassing can sometimes be a very discouraging work. Many give up on it. But what a truly wonderful joy is experienced by those who press on through the strength of Christ, refusing to let the enemy stop them.

Even great Advent pioneers such as John Nevins Andrews faced discouragement at some point in their life. The messenger of the Lord made a long journey to appeal in person to this soul—to rescue him from becoming too absorbed in earthly, temporal matters. Would we respond the same way as he did, if such an appeal were made to us? Even the type of education we are pursuing can make a difference in how we deal with bouts of discouragement—and how deeply our heart can be touched by the glorious truths of the everlasting gospel.

So, in an age when the tool of discouragement seems to have reached advanced technological proportions, now is a good time to "take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" (Ephesians 6:13-16). **YM**



It Helps

It helps to have words
Of encouragement so pure,
It helps to know that Jesus
Is the only cure. . . .

It helps to praise Him
And His holy name,
It helps to know that
He is always the same. . .

It helps to be dependent
Each day one at a time,
Upon Him and the way He
Comes so frequently sublime. . .

It helps to know that others
Have passed the same way too,
It helps when you make Jesus
First, last, and best in
everything you do. . .

It helps to hold the hand of Him
When all other hands let go,
It helps to know that He'll remain
To fight against the greatest foe.

—Veronica Collins