

# YOUTH Messenger®

Volume XXVI, Number 4

**The Case  
of the**

**Sin  
Addict**

- ▶ Cell Phones
- ▶ The Turtle

- ▶ Uriah Smith
- ▶ The King Who Couldn't Preach



# The Cell Phone—a Blessing or a Curse?

BY TONY MARAIZU

## R U really living 4 Christ?

**M**any, many things have been said about television, video, and even radio, but little or nothing has been said today about cellular or mobile phone. Is it good or not to use a cell phone? Is a cell phone a blessing or a curse?

No reasonable human being can overlook today the blessings and help found in the use of cell phones in our world. The only questions are, do you have credit, and is your cell phone connected to a network? You can speak with your loved ones provided that their own cell phones also are connected to the network. Cell phones have helped in bringing souls to Christ. They have helped saving many a life that would have been lost today.

For instance, there was a fatal accident one night on a lonely expressway, in which the driver died at the spot and the vehicle went beyond repairs. Fortunately, a man was able to save many people with his cell phone as he called the ambulance which arrived at that place in just a few minutes.

As a matter of fact, it is somewhat difficult to survive in this age without a cell phone. A cell phone itself is not a sin, but the abuse of this device is what needs to be considered.

Many cell phones in the world today have many features, like capturing images, long video clips, which can also record sound. Some can also download and play back movies, and others can still connect to various phones and computer websites with the help of the Bluetooth (wireless connection). Still many cell phones can send and receive e-mails instantly. And all these are classified as multimedia phones.

Films, music, websites, and other features may not be bad for the children of God who honor their Maker in all their conduct. But in the hands of many who are still serving the devil as master, cell phones end up being used to honor that very master. The word of God says, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning" (1 John 3:8).

There are some things about which we cannot draw a distinct line or advise believers precisely as to their use. The apostle Paul summarized, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do

all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

What pleases God so much is not when someone does not have the knowledge of/or access to evil things, but what pleases Him most is his or her determination to resist evil in every condition.

### What's the danger?

What makes the abuse of cell phones more dangerous than television and video is that the cell phone is very convenient, thus one can access any website, listen to music, watch movies, chat, send mails, and make calls without any disturbance from anybody. Some of these phones can also download pictures from the websites, and store them in the phones. And some can also access television channels.

But, unfortunately, many of these films, music, websites, and pictures only defile pure thoughts. And many professed believers spend time watching these things.

When there was little of this evil, the following message came from the pen of Inspiration:

"Many of the young are eager for books. They read everything they can obtain. Exciting love stories and impure pictures have a corrupting influence. Novels are eagerly perused by many; and, as the result,

## Do U C how 2 B?

their imagination becomes defiled. In the cars photographs of females in a state of nudity are frequently circulated for sale. These disgusting pictures are also found in daguerrean saloons [photo shops] and are hung upon the walls of those who deal in engravings. This is an age when corruption is teeming everywhere. The lust of the eye and corrupt passions are aroused by beholding and by reading. The heart is

corrupted through the imagination. The mind takes pleasure in contemplating scenes which awaken the lower and baser passions. These vile images, seen through defiled imagination, corrupt the morals and

prepare the deluded, infatuated beings to give loose rein to lustful passions. Then follow sins and crimes which drag beings formed in the image of God down to a level with the beasts, sinking them at last in perdition. . . .

“It is the special work of Satan in these last days to take possession of the minds of youth, to corrupt the thoughts and inflame the passions; for he knows that by so doing he can lead to impure actions, and thus all the noble faculties of the mind will become debased, and he can control them to suit his own purposes.”—*Child Guidance*, pp. 439, 440.

“The mind of a man or woman does not come down in a moment from purity and holiness to depravity, corruption, and crime. It takes time to transform the human to the divine, or to degrade those formed in the image of God to the brutal or the satanic. By beholding we become changed. Though formed in the image of his Maker, man can so educate his mind that sin which he once loathed will become pleasant to him. As he ceases to watch and pray, he ceases to guard the citadel, the heart, and engages in sin and crime. The mind is debased, and it is impossible to elevate it from corruption while it is being educated to enslave the moral and intellectual powers, and bring them in subjection to grosser passions. Constant war against the carnal mind must be maintained; and we must

be aided by the refining influence of the grace of God, which will attract the mind upward and habituate it to meditate upon pure and holy things.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, pp. 478, 479.

“The baleful influence of sin poisons the life of the soul. Our only safety is in separation from those who live in its darkness. The Lord has enjoined upon us to come out from among them and be separate, and to touch not the unclean thing, and He will receive us and will be a Father unto us, and we shall be His sons and daughters. If we wish to be adopted into the family of God, to become children of the heavenly King, we must comply with His conditions; we must come out from the world and stand as a peculiar people before the Lord, obeying His precepts and serving Him.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 4, pp. 109, 110.

“We may refuse to be corrupted, and place ourselves where evil association shall not corrupt our hearts. Individually the youth should seek for association with those who are toiling upward with unfaltering steps.”—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 234.

“John, the forerunner of Christ, did not expose himself to evil conversation and the corrupting influences of the world. He feared the effect upon his conscience, that sin might not appear to him so exceedingly sinful.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 109.

Some professed Christians visit many nasty websites that only make the thoughts impure. They make calls, chat, and download songs, music, or watch movies that only remove the thought of their Maker from their heart.

## What do we talk about?

Many young people who don't have the privilege to stand and discuss things with the opposite sex find it very convenient to say various things over the phone which they would find very difficult to say when they meet face to face. They also make arrangements and plans that dishonor their heavenly Father. Text messages are sent and received only inside the room. Many young people whom their parents thought were fast asleep have been found in the late hours of the night very busy with their cell phones.

The question remains, does God see these things?

Christ plainly declared that “every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36). “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

Furthermore, God is not well pleased by the amount of money spent on all useless communication. “We are to remember that our money is not to be spent selfishly, but that all we can spare is to be used to advance the work of God.” (*Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 19, p. 20).

Do all these things make the use of a cell phone a sin? No indeed. The question then is how we use it. Even a very valuable thing such as our ownself or right hand can be a problem if it causes us to sin.

Jesus makes a shocking statement: “If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell” (Matthew 5:30). When you consider how serious matter it is to avoid sin, it really would be a lot easier to part with or restrict our use of a cell phone if our conscience would tell us to do so, than it would be to part with our right hand!

Of Joseph it was written that he lived where there was no worshipper of God, but he never sinned against Him.

“Remember that to form characters that will stand the test of the judgment is very serious business. You yourselves are responsible for the kind of character you build. No professor in an institution of learning can make your character. You yourselves decide your own eternal

destiny. It is necessary to contemplate such characters as are worthy of imitation. We refer you to Joseph in Egypt, and to Daniel in Babylon. These youths were tried and proved; and because they stood firm to principle, they became representative men, and patterns of integrity. I would say to the youth at our institutions of learning, whether you profess to believe or not, that you are now in probationary time, and a second probation will not come to any of you. This is the only opportunity you will have of standing the test and proving of God.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 245.

“Those who would not fall a prey to Satan’s devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon every subject that the enemy of souls may suggest. The heart must be faithfully sentinelled, or evils without will awaken evils within, and the soul will wander in darkness.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 518.


“Say firmly: ‘I will not spend precious moments in reading that which will be of no profit to me, and which only unfits me to be of service to others. I will devote my time and my thoughts to acquiring a fitness for God’s service. I will close my eyes to frivolous and sinful things. My ears are the Lord’s, and I will not listen to the subtle reasoning of the enemy. My voice shall not in any way be subject to a will that is not under the influence of the Spirit of God. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and every power of my being shall be consecrated to worthy pursuits.’”—*The Adventist Home*, p. 409.

Dear friends, you too can say it firmly with David, “I will set no



wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me” (Psalm 101:3).

The surest way to live beyond these evils that are very close to us these days is to watch and pray. In other words, reading the Word of God always and meditating upon it, like the psalmist who said, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

“Men and women may reach a high standard, if they will but acknowledge Christ as their personal Saviour. Watch and pray, making a surrender of all to God. The knowledge that you are striving for eternal life will strengthen and comfort you both. In thought, in word, in action, you are to be lights in the world. Discipline yourselves in the Lord; for He has committed to you sacred trusts, which you cannot properly fulfill without this discipline. By believing in Jesus, you are not only to save your own souls, but by precept and example you are to seek to save other souls. Take Christ as your pattern. Hold Him up as the One who can give you power to overcome. Utterly destroy the root of selfishness. Magnify God, for you are His children. Glorify your Redeemer, and He will give you a place in His kingdom.”—*The Adventist Home*, p. 96. 



# Learning From the Rechabites

EDITORIAL STAFF

**T**here is a record in the Bible that God Himself asked Jeremiah His prophet to gather the Rechabites into one of the chambers of the temple and to give them wine to drink. "But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever" (Jeremiah 35:6).

The Rechabites had access to wine, they were brought into the house of God, and, moreover, they knew Jeremiah very well as a prophet of the Most High God. But simply because their grandfather had told them that it was wrong to drink wine was enough on making them decide to refuse to drink it.

"The Rechabites were commended for their ready and willing obedience."—*Conflict and Courage*, p. 238.


"God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automation. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. . . . It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule."—*Ibid.*, p. 13.

"As a shield from temptation and an inspiration to purity and truth, no other influence can equal the sense of God's presence. 'All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.' He is 'of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity' (Hebrews 4:13; Habakkuk 1:13). This thought

was Joseph's shield amidst the corruptions of Egypt. To the allurements of temptation his answer was steadfast: 'How . . . can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?' (Genesis 39:9). Such a shield, faith, if cherished, will bring to every soul."—*Education*, p. 255.

God Himself does not force anyone against his or her will. Hear what He said, "Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed" (1 Samuel 2:30).

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

"God cannot save man against his will from the power of Satan's artifices. Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to conquer at any cost to himself. In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame. And then, through the victory that it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. This could not be the case if Christ alone did all the overcoming. Man must do *his* part; he must be victor on his own account, through the strength and grace that Christ gives him. Man must be a coworker with Christ in the labor of overcoming."—*God's Amazing Grace* p. 254. 

**Would you not do something simply because God said so?**



# The Case of the **Sin Addict**

BY JONATHAN TYLER

**Y**ou're caught! You just got busted for using an illegal, addictive substance, and a sting operation nabbed you in the middle of trying to obtain more. You have been arrested and are now awaiting trial. What are you going to do?

The first thing that comes to your mind is, "I need a good lawyer." In despair you remember that you lost the last of your paycheck in that deal that landed you here in jail. Discouragement and shame settles around you like a thick darkness as you sink deeper down into that cot in the corner. You have no one to turn to; all your friends are just like you.

Suddenly a deep, heavy voice snaps you to attention. The big man in uniform informs you that you will be going before the judge in the morning. The judge! The thought sends chills down your spine as you lay down preparing for a long night.

All night you go over the whole situation again and again, looking for some excuse to help you

out. Nothing seems realistic. To make things worse you are wearing the evidence! You think of those unmistakable stains that cover your clothes and shudder at the thought of standing before the judge. After a seemingly endless night, you hear the distinct sound of keys jingling.

The door to your cell opens and two guards enter to escort you out. "Your time has come, let's go!" snaps one of the guards.

Through long hallways and winding staircases you are led until you finally arrive at the door. As the guard calls out his name, the great door slowly opens. You gasp as you see the great walls of the room; it seems large enough to fit millions of people. You are seated but still wondering out loud: What is this place?


Suddenly a voice calls, "Arise before the Honorable Judge!" Standing you see a flash of light that explodes into the room and your legs collapse beneath you. Everything is violently shaking—including you, as the judge is seated. The guards pull you to your feet and support you as

the judge calls your name. Weakly you reply, "Here, your Honor." The judge explains you have the right to a trial by jury and the right to an attorney.

"Would you like an attorney?" the voice of the judge rolls down and vibrates to your very core like the peals of thunder. Unable to force yourself to speak, you nod your head. Terrified to look at the judge, you finally and weakly explain that you have no money to hire an attorney. "Call in the Public Defender!" the voice again vibrates through the courtroom.

As a door opens, hope for the first time washes over you. Your new attorney enters the room, and he must be the best looking man you have ever seen! He wears clothes so expensive that they seem priceless, and a woven belt of pure gold. An impressive sight indeed as he takes his place next to you. At first you feel that you're already pardoned but, as your eyes drop and you see those stained clothes, fear returns. You realize once again that you are wearing the evidence.





**The Friend you have  
waited for your whole  
life is standing before  
you bleeding to death. . .  
“Go and sin no more.”**

The prosecution starts with energy that seems to know no bounds. As he reads from a seemingly endless list of crimes, your memory arouses. How does he know all this stuff?

“Silence!” The gavel slams down. “Be seated.” The voice of the judge thunders. Meekly the prosecution sits down, so shaken he seems to have no desire to object.

“Your Honor,” your attorney begins, “those clothes are mine.” A look of shock comes across your face as you glance up at him. He repeats himself again and you realize you were not mistaken. He is pointing at you.

The judge orders the stained dirty clothes to be removed, and then the priceless clothing of your attorney is placed upon you. Adoring the beautiful clothing, for a moment you forget where you are and feel transported to a land of eternal bliss. As you turn to show your new friend the perfect fit, tears fill your eyes.

“No,” you cry out in desperation, “Not you!” He is standing there in your clothes. Why? You ask.

Wiping the tears from your eyes you look again, but this time to your horror he is bleeding. Blood gushes from his side, from his hands, feet and the temples of his noble brow.


You are paralyzed with fear, the Friend you have waited for your whole life is standing before you bleeding to death. Those clothes you have worn so long are now soaked in blood.

The sight is more than you can bear, but the guards once again pull you up. With the evidence removed your case is now cleared. The judge now places you on probation and offers you a job. It is too much for you to take in all at once, but he continues. “If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by” (Zechariah 3:7).

The walls shake once more as the honorable judge retires, and the court session comes to a close. As the courtroom empties you feel alone, and then you see your new Friend lying on the floor with blood everywhere. “No,” falling to your knees beside Him you cry out again, “Not You!”

He is alive! It couldn't be, but yes, He opens His eyes and looks at you. Smiling He says, “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore” (Revelation 1:18).

You apologize profusely that you caused Him so much trouble. He says simply, “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more” (John 8:11). You are about to promise the world that you'll never do anything bad again, but you stop. “I am addicted,” you stutter, trying to compose yourself. “I can't do it myself. I am an addict!”

“Yes I know,” He says with compassion, “I have arranged to move in, if you are willing. I am also an expert Counselor, Physician, and Probation Officer. You have no need to worry as long as you stay close to me. I will get you safely through your probation without any incident, but if you leave me you will return to your old ways. You have my word that I will do everything in my power to help you. You are a new creature: “old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The days ahead will be a struggle, and there will be many things that you will have to suffer. No matter how hard it is, you have my pledge, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). 





# The Turtle

BY JULIE MONEGRO

**A** box turtle grew up along the wooded area of a well-visited state park. He was used to eating, burrowing, taking a small swim, and going back to his burrows. One day he decided to seek for something better. He was no longer satisfied with the surroundings about him. “It looks greener over there,” he surely must have thought. The place to which he was referring was on the other side of a busy road. In order to get there he had to risk everything—including life itself—for the supposed joys on the other side. The calling was great, the temptation was strong, his will . . . weak.

As he began his journey, excitement rushed all over his body, and this made him all the more eager to press forward to the “greener side.” He pressed on faithfully, when . . . VOOSH! A car just passed over him. Whoa! Nevertheless, eager to enjoy the pleasures that he knew awaited him, he continued. Another car came by the road, VOOSH! All right, at this rate, he would be able to make it on the other side and not just make it to the other side, but boast about the fact that he crossed the road successfully while dodging vehicles. He was already halfway across, when the dreadful event happened. A car came along and drove right over him. Thankfully, he was made with a tough, outer shell, but his bottom shell could not resist the pressure and cracked. As

he felt the pain and as blood started to surge through the cracks, this box turtle retreated back inside his shell and waited for death.

Down the same road, several minutes after that dreadful event, came a young couple riding with some friends. Their friends were a mother and her daughter. The young man, being the driver, spotted something on the road. “Look! A turtle,” He said. “Oh, please pick him up, we don’t want something bad to happen to him,” replied the mother. They stop the vehicle and pick the turtle. As they examine the turtle their worst fears come true. They see the blood running down his cracked bottom shell. “Mommy, he looks dead,” said the child. “Why don’t we leave it on the side of the road?” “No, we must care for him and see if he is still alive,” said the mother. When they get to their campsite, the mother, using all her motherly love and care, tenderly washes the turtle and seeks to find ways to help relieve some of his pain. After a few moments, the mother eagerly rushes over to her child and shows her the turtle. “Look at what Jesus did.” The turtle was not only alive, but he had his head out and was moving around his two front paws as if nothing had happened. Oh, what joy!

At the end of this story, two lessons, even three, come to mind. The first might be obvious to everyone. It is the importance that we need

to give to nature and to care for it. How we need to be able to lend a helping hand and nurture that which our heavenly Father has given under our dominion.

The second lesson is this: As our first parents started out life, they were like that box turtle—enjoying life in the Garden till temptation came. Their way of life soon was not satisfying and, seeking for something better, they decided to try something new. That something was not only what hurt us, but sunk us so desperately into sin that we were left to die. Then a kind Hand came and picked us up, washed us from all our sin and even gave us the opportunity to have eternal life.

As we go through life, we see many souls that go through their daily chores pressed about with the weight of sin. Their souls are hurt and are bleeding, and they are waiting for the moment when they can just give up their life and die to end the hurt. We see them, even converse with them, but we think as the child and say, “Why don’t we leave them on the side of the road?” They don’t seem to be interested in the gospel, they don’t think they need the message, they have already gone too far. And yet, if our Saviour thought the same, wouldn’t you and I be left on the side of the road also? Would you have been worthy to be rescued, or would you have looked just like that turtle, hurt and ready to die under the weight of sin? **YAM**

# Uriah Smith

BY KARINA ESPINAL



Uriah Smith was born to Samuel and Rebekah Smith in West Wilton, in what is known as the “granite” state of New Hampshire, on May 2, 1832. His father was a highway builder and contractor and his mother a pious, cultured lady. He had three siblings: Samuel Junior, Annie, and John.

At the age of 12 Uriah suffered from a serious infection on his left leg above the knee. When the doctor brought the solemn news that the leg would have to be amputated, Mrs. Smith asked her son, “Will you go through it?”

“Certainly,” was the boy’s reply.

The surgical procedure that day took 20 minutes without any hospital or anesthesia. To replace the original limb, a primitive wooden leg with no joints had to serve as a poor substitute.

When William Miller presented the doctrine of Christ’s return in 1844, Mrs. Smith and her children became believers in the Advent message. However,

following the Great Disappointment when Jesus did not come as expected, only the mother still clung to her faith. With her prayers and the help of Joseph Bates, however, Annie was reconverted as was her brother, Uriah, soon afterwards.

A gifted individual, Uriah Smith soon distinguished himself in the church as a leader, teacher, writer of books and pamphlets, editor, poet, and engraver. (Hymn #602 in the *Reformation Hymnal*, “O Brother, Be Faithful” was also penned by him.) Keen editorial skills qualified Uriah Smith to serve for nearly 50 years

as either the chief editor or a key member of the editorial staff of the *Sabbath Review and Advent Herald*. He was elected as the first secretary of the General Conference and for many years taught Bible at Battle Creek College. As a public speaker, Elder Smith’s sermons were meticulously prepared and quite well appreciated. He was also a kind husband to his wife Harriet and the father of 5 children.

Perhaps the name Uriah Smith is best known for his famous book, *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, a thorough, verse-by-verse commen-

***Uriah Smith’s  
home in Battle  
Creek, Michigan.***





**This fluent writer ever kept before him the blessed hope of his Saviour's soon return.**

tary on the important prophecies found in these books of the Bible.


Interestingly enough, this talented man was also an inventor. Ever since his youth, whenever Uriah knelt for prayer, that wooden leg had been bothersome. So, in his few spare moments, he eventually designed a way for the toes to be able to bend by the addition of hinges and springs. Then he came up with another idea to make the knee more flexible. A few months later, he invented a desk with a folding chair—an invention which he was able to sell to a desk factory for \$3,000. These funds provided helpful means for building his family a new home.

Not one to waste time, Uriah Smith devised a way by which he could limit the visitation of those who might be inclined to stop by his editorial office for too lengthy a chat. At his door was posted a sign on which he had drawn a man lying

in a coffin, with the bold inscription added, "THIS MAN WAS TALKED TO DEATH!" Potential chatterboxes got the hint and kept their conversations short.

On December 30, 1902, a dreadful thing happened when the Review and Herald building burned down. The workers watched sadly as the building crumbled down to pieces. About two months after that tragedy, on March 6, 1903, Uriah died of a stroke at the age of 71 while on his way to the Review office. His whole life had been bound

up with the development of the publishing work. He was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery and thousands assembled to mourn his death.

This fluent writer ever kept before him the blessed hope of his Saviour's soon return. A graceful and tenderhearted man, his longing and purpose in life had ever been aimed toward that momentous hour. His written works which live on are silent witnesses which continue to bear fruit for glorious, eternal kingdom so soon to come. 

***The Review and Herald publishing building in Battle Creek.***

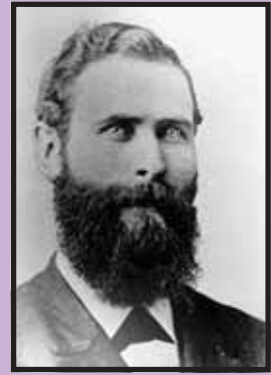


**Like what you see? Why not order a gift subscription to the *Youth Messenger*, for a young person who might really appreciate it? You could be instrumental in saving a soul!**



# The King Who Couldn't PREACH

BY KYLA STEMMLER



*George King was not much of a preacher, but there was something ...*

**H**e wanted to be a preacher. He would imagine himself on the platform, in one of those big tents that were used at camp meetings back in the 1800s, in front of a large crowd of eager listeners. The people would be so intent on the message that even the children wouldn't think of the fact that they were sitting on those hard, wooden benches. He anticipated looking over that sea of earnest faces, with his well-worn, well-marked Bible in one hand, and the aid of his charts detailing the relevance of the image, the lion, bear, leopard, and the dreadful beast, the little horn with a face, the long numbers, the kingdoms, and other mysteries of Bible prophecy. He wanted to preach! He wanted to spread the three angels' messages! This truth was too urgent to remain silent about—it was burning in his bones.

George Albert King was from Ontario, Canada. He was a young man, born in 1847, that had come to Battle Creek, Michigan, with this desire to spread the message blazing in his heart. He hoped that here he would have an opportunity to realize his dream. And so he made the trip.

A man that carried a burden for the salvation of souls on his shoulders, Elder James White was happy to meet George and was eager to see him use his talents in spreading the message of the second advent. Just one problem: George hadn't had the opportunity to acquire much formal education and he had a stumbling speech impediment that made it difficult to clearly understand what he tried to say. He could scarcely express himself intelligently, much less hold the attention of large groups of people. Especially when he got up in front of people, he would stumble and forget what he was going to say. Convinced that George had no gift for preaching, but not wanting to see his desire to work for the Lord wasted, James went to talk with Brother Godsmark.

"Uncle Richard" Godsmark was a very devoted man, a farmer near Battle Creek. In response to James' request, he agreed to let George work for room and board until the summer, when he might be assigned as an assistant with a tent company. Here he could ascertain if George had any "preach" in him. The Godsmark family desired their home to be a place where George could be prepared for the world he would face when he stepped into

his new calling, and they took upon themselves to encourage him in his undertaking for the Lord.

George spent a lot of time on his knees in prayer, seeking God's guidance for his future. The candle burned long and bright as George exhausted hours pouring over the Bible, the prophetic charts, and Uriah Smith's books, *Thoughts on Daniel* and *Thoughts on Revelation*. He spent his spare moments preaching to empty chairs in the big parlor at the Godsmark home. He practiced how he would hold his Bible in one hand, pace the platform as he spoke, point to the charts, and expound on the seemingly complicated Bible prophecies, causing the pieces to come together clearly. The sermons would ring with stirring appeals that would surely affect reform in the heart of the people he so desperately wanted to help prepare for Jesus' soon coming. He so wanted to be used by God!

Finally the Sabbath came when George was to have his first trial sermon. He hung up his prophetic charts and arranged a makeshift pulpit. In anticipation, friends, neighbors, and church members crowded into the parlor of the Godsmark home. They sat quietly as George King began to speak. . . .

It was a total disaster!

At the close of the meeting, Mrs. Godsmark spoke up. She did agree with George that he had been called to do the work of the Lord, and she tactfully suggested that perhaps he should try a less conventional way of preaching—become a fireside preacher—going from house to house, opening the Bible to the people, and selling and distributing SDA tracts and booklets from house to house.

The Godsmark family agreed to finance his initial supply of literature and support him in this new work.

George was encouraged! He had thought before that in order to work for God he needed to be a preacher, but with this suggestion, he understood that we are often called to different kinds of preaching. God needs workers in all the different avenues of outreach.

So he headed out!

The first week he sold only 62 cents worth of tracts, but he loved the work! Realizing that in this world nothing comes for free, he understood that by selling his literature, not only was he enabled to purchase more to continue his work, but people would be more likely to read and appreciate the material. Soon he became a successful salesman of tracts and subscriptions to *Good Health & Signs of the Times*.

But the man that wanted to preach was not satisfied with selling only a health book! He wanted the entire three angels' messages to go to the people. In the fall of 1880, he began to lobby with the church leaders. He suggested that Uriah Smith's two books, *Thoughts on Daniel* and *Thoughts on Revelation*, be combined into one book. He was sure that if they gave it detailed illustrations of the beasts and symbols it spoke of, it would sell! Colporteur that he was, he finally convinced the publishing house managers to bind up a limited number to see what he could do.

After selling 50 copies door to door, when the new edition of the book arrived, George rushed off to the Battle Creek Broom Factory where he was temporarily employed. He wanted to show his fellow employees to whom he had been excitedly ranting about this new project for some time! In 4 days he took orders for 25 copies!

This was just the beginning. Soon others were selling this book as well! George was not content to work from door to door himself. He proved not only to be an excellent salesman, but a recruiter as well!

Soon students were canvassing to pay for their education. Colporteurs were swarming in with increasing numbers. By 1886, 400 canvassers were reported in the field.

Over the next 25 years, until his death in 1906, George King sold thousands of dollars worth of denominational literature, beside what was sold by the many that had come into the work through his efforts, and reached many souls in the United States of America and Canada—souls who would never otherwise have been reached.

Thus began the modern work of literature evangelism by a man who was stumbling in speech and unable to fulfill his original dream of becoming a preacher. Instead, he became the first modern colporteur, the first to sell a copy of *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, and a man to begin a work that has reached thousands of souls until this time.

Is the message burning in your bones like it was in George's? Do you have this desire eating at you that you don't know where to place yourself? You may find that your calling is something different, and yet remarkably just as important, as the one of which you had dreamed. *The Colporteur Ministry*, pages 7,


8 says, "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures. . . . By the canvassing work the truth is presented to thousands who otherwise would never hear it."

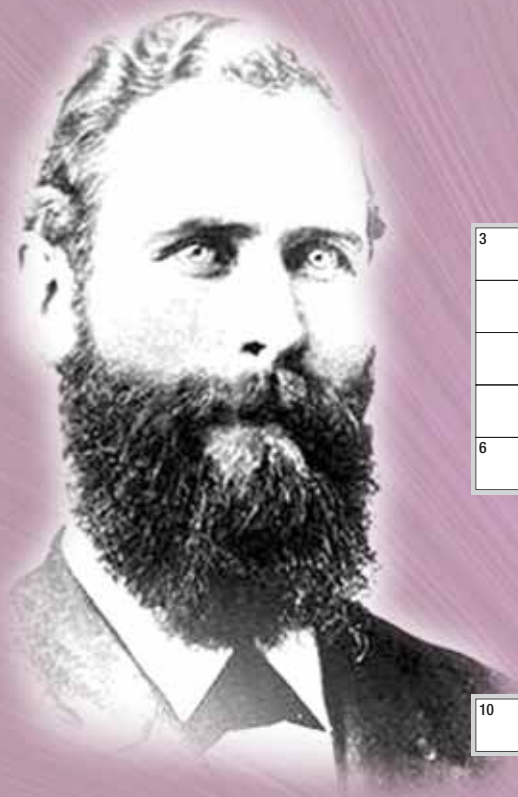
"The angels of heaven are waiting for human instrumentalities to

## Colporteurs were swarming in with increasing numbers.

enter the places where witness has not yet been borne to present truth." —*Evangelism*, p. 60.

"God will soon do great things for us if we lie humble and believing at His feet. . . . More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications." —*The Review and Herald*, November 10, 1885. Do you want to be part of this?

When God calls, as He called George King, you have no clue what may be the results of answering that call. *The Desire of Ages*, pages 250, 251 says, "There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God." The only safe answer to give is the same that Isaiah, Moses (a man who couldn't preach also), Abraham, Joseph, Ellen White, George King, and other individuals—normal people like you and me, people with a burden for the cause of God—gave: "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8). Will that be your answer? 



# Puzzle: George King



## Across

4. George King wanted to teach the mysteries of Bible \_\_\_\_\_.
5. By 1886, there were 400 \_\_\_\_\_ working in the field.
6. Even after training, George's first trial sermon was a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. George established the modern work of \_\_\_\_\_ evangelism.
10. The suggestion came that George should try a less \_\_\_\_\_ way of preaching.

## Down

1. The work of literature evangelism has reached \_\_\_\_\_ of souls.
2. More than 1,000 will soon be \_\_\_\_\_ in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.
3. After his very first week of selling tracts and booklets, George \_\_\_\_\_ his work.
7. When George got up to preach in front of people, he would \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The man that wanted to preach was not satisfied with selling only a \_\_\_\_\_ book.

Read **ten years'** worth of  
*Youth Messenger*  
online at [www.sdarm.org](http://www.sdarm.org)!





Editor Radu Ionita

Associate Editor Barbara Monteiro

Design Nathanael Tyler

**Youth Messenger®** (USPS 765-030) is published quarterly by the Young People's Department of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference as an educational service for our youth worldwide.

**Web:** <http://www.sdarm.org>  
**e-mail:** [info@sdarm.org](mailto:info@sdarm.org)

The *Youth Messenger* is printed and distributed by Reformation Herald Publishing Association, 5240 Hollins Road, Roanoke, VA 24019-0240. Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, Virginia 24022. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Youth Messenger, P. O. Box 7240, ROANOKE, VA 24019-0240.

Manuscripts, inquiries, address changes, subscription requests, and donations should be mailed to the address above.

#### Subscription rates as follows:

##### Annual donation requested

United States	US \$ 8.95
foreign (surface mail)	US \$13.00
foreign (air mail)	US \$17.00
single issue	US \$ 2.95

**Illustrations:** Comstock on back cover; Corbis on front cover and pp. 7, 8, 15; [www.sxc.hu](http://www.sxc.hu) on pp. 2, 6, 9; [www.openclipart.org](http://www.openclipart.org) on p. 5; Dreamtimes.com on 14; Getty Images elsewhere, unless otherwise noted.

## Honing Up Our Habits

*From  
the Editor*

**T**here is a famous saying: "You are what you eat." The same is true with our mind. "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). How often we overlook these basic words of wisdom.

One of the worst habits to afflict many youth today is that of addiction. Frequently we hear of young people that have become addicted to illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. They are powerless to break away from these strong chemical substances that cruelly abuse their bodies and debase their young mind.


We all should be aware of some downward steps that can lead to the perilous pathway of addiction: "The youth and children should understand the effect of alcohol, tobacco, and other like poisons in breaking down the body, beclouding the mind, and sensualizing the soul. It should be made plain that no one who uses these things can long possess the full strength of his physical, mental, or moral faculties.

"But in order to reach the root of intemperance we must go deeper than the use of alcohol or tobacco. Idleness, lack of aim, or evil associations, may be the predisposing cause. Often it is found at the home table, in families that account themselves strictly temperate. Anything that disorders digestion, that creates undue mental excitement, or in any way enfeebles the system, disturbing the balance of the mental and the physical powers, weakens the control of the mind over the body, and thus tends toward intemperance. The downfall of many a promising youth might be traced to unnatural appetites created by an unwholesome diet.

"Tea and coffee, condiments, confectionery, and pastries are all active causes of indigestion. Flesh food also is harmful."—*Education*, pp. 202, 203.

Such sobering comments! Even sin itself is like an addiction. It is habit-forming and we need deliverance from it. The enemy of our soul may not have managed to ensnare us with drugs, tobacco, or alcohol. Maybe the trap he has custom-designed for us consists of habits of evil or naughty thoughts, or sensuous, covetous deeds. The Ten Commandments are our guideline. If we fall short in word, thought, or deed from the spirit of that law, we need help.

How wonderful it is that help is available, and costs much less than many drug treatment centers do. It's free in fact, and the great Physician can supply more than a temporary balm to ease the way to full restoration. He provides His own companionship; He will sup with us. He promises that if we hunger and thirst after righteousness we shall be filled.

So, why be satisfied with cheap, addictive junk food for the body, mind, or heart? Choose instead the awesome, spiritual experience described in Scripture, "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love" (Song of Solomon 2:4). 

#### Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Title of Publication: Youth Messenger	11. Bondholders, Mortgage, and Other Security Holders: None	c. Total Paid and/or Requested [Sum of 15b(1),(2),(3),and(4)].....7,512 ... 7,137
2. Publication No: USPS 0765-030	12. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and exempt status for federal income tax has not changed during preceding 12 months	d. Free Distribution by Mail:
3. Filing Date: October 1, 2007	13. Publication Title: Youth Messenger	(1) Outside-County.....35 ..... 38
4. Frequency of Issue: Quarterly	14. Issue Date: Vol XXVI No. 4	(2) In-County.....0 ..... 0
5. Number of Issues: 4	15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Average Actual	(3) Other Classes Mailed through the USPS.....0 ..... 0
6. Price: \$8.95 in US, \$13.00 in all other countries	a. Total Number of Copies: .....10,000 ... 10,000	e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail...630 ..... 650
7. Mailing Address: PO Box 7240, Roanoke, VA 24019-0240	b. Paid and/or Requested:	f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d&e).....665 ..... 688
8. Headquarters: 5240 Hollins Rd., Roanoke, VA 24019	(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions.....3,500 ... 3,191	g. Total Distribution(Sum of 15c &f)...8,177 ... 7,825
9. Publisher: Young People's Department of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference, P.O. Box 7240, Roanoke, VA 24019	(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions.....0 ..... 0	h. Copies not Distributed.....1,823 ... 2,175
Editor: Radu Ionita, Str. Linia Mare. nr. 31, Bucov, Cod 2038, PH, Romania	(3) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales, Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution.....262 ..... 184	i. Total (Sum of 15g, and h.).....10,000 ... 10,000
10. Owner: Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference, 5240 Hollins Rd., Roanoke, VA 24019	(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS.....3,750 ... 3,762	j. Percent paid and/or requested circulation:.....91.86% 91.20%
		16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: Volume XXVI, Number 4
		17. Signature of Business Manager: Orlando Estevez

# *The Home of the Saved*

BY URIAH SMITH

*Hail Earth, renewed! Celestial Paradise!*

*Fit dwelling place, with all thy loveliness,  
Thy long reproach forever wiped away,*

*And fairer now than when at first thy God  
Pronounced thee good—fit dwelling place, so pure,  
So beauteous, so adorned with smiling peace,  
For all the saints, all the redeemed of men;*

*Who through thy gates, immortal City fair,  
Thy gates of pearl, will freely enter in,  
Where violence and riot never come,  
And walk thy bright and dazzling streets of gold;*

*And to the stream of life, the crystal stream  
Fast by the throne of God, have access free;*

*And from the tree of life, high arching o'er,  
Pluck the eternal fruit and eat and live;*

*And in Thy glad'ning smiles, O King of saints!  
Glory unspeakable possess; for in*

*Thy presence bright, there fullness is of joy,  
At Thy right hand, pleasures forever more.*