

# Youth messenger

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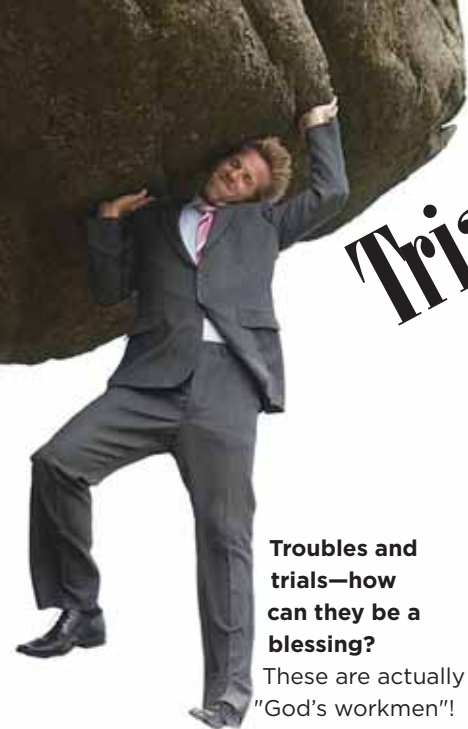
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# Trials & Victories

A Bible and Spirit of Prophecy compilation, with comments  
by Michel-Ange Duchaine

## Troubles and trials—how can they be a blessing?

These are actually  
"God's workmen"!

"We miss very much because we do not grasp the blessings that may be ours in our afflictions. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, and in short all things, work together for our good. . . . All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us. Let us look at the light behind the cloud" (*My Life Today*, p. 185).

The story of Joseph's life and character is a fit example of the way trials can purify and bless us. As a young orphan (Genesis 35:16-18), Joseph went through many trials before coming out "as silver tried in a furnace of earth purified seven times" (Psalm 12:6). Let's consider some of the most

significant facts of this tumultuous life and see how God brought Joseph out of all his troubles. And as we analyze his trials and victories, may the Lord grant us wisdom to be like him, "patient in tribulation" (Romans 12:12)!

**1. Jealousy:** We read in Genesis 37:2-4 that the brothers of 17-year-old Joseph were very jealous of the favoritism their father showed to this particular son, symbolized through the gift of a coat of many colors. What had made Joseph his father's favorite?

Joseph's "rare personal beauty seemed but to reflect an inward beauty of mind and heart. Pure, active, and joyous, the lad gave evidence also of moral earnestness and firmness. He listened to his father's instructions, and loved to obey God. The qualities that afterward distinguished him in Egypt—gentleness, fidelity, and truthfulness—were already manifest in his daily life" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 209).

Besides the coat's gift, what had made his brothers' resentment even worse? "As Joseph witnessed the evil conduct of his brothers, he was greatly troubled; he ventured gently to remonstrate with them, but only aroused still further their hatred and resentment. He could not endure to see them sinning against God, and he laid the matter before his father, hoping that his authority might lead them to reform" (Ibid).

**2. Hatred:** Joseph dreamed one night that he was binding sheaves of grain with his brethren and that their sheaves bowed down to his. (See Genesis 37:5-8). His brethren hated what they viewed as pride in him.

"As [Joseph] stood before his brothers, his beautiful countenance lighted up with the Spirit of inspiration, they could not withhold their admiration; but they did not choose to renounce their evil ways, and they hated the purity that reproved their sins. The same spirit that actuated Cain was kindling in their hearts."—Ibid., p. 210.

**3. Facing Death:** As shepherds, it was necessary for Joseph's brothers to move from place to place to find good pasture for their flocks. They would often need to be away from home for months at a time. In one instance, the father was concerned for their safety and sent Joseph to make sure that they were safe. Joseph genuinely loved his brothers and did not hesitate to travel the 65 miles it took to search

for them, bringing homemade food for their refreshment.

Finally, however, Joseph's "brothers saw him approaching; but no thought of the long journey he had made to meet them softened the bitterness of their hatred. The sight of the coat, the token of their father's love, filled them with frenzy" (Ibid., pp. 210, 211).

"And [Joseph's brothers] said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams" (Genesis 37:19, 20).

**4. Thrown Into a Pit:** As Joseph came near to his brothers his face was beaming with joy at finding the beloved ones for whom he had so long searched. "But instead of the expected greeting, he was terrified by the angry and revengeful glances which he met. He was seized and his coat stripped from him. Taunts and threats revealed a deadly purpose. His entreaties were unheeded. He was wholly in the power of those maddened men. Rudely dragging him to a deep pit, they thrust him in, and having made sure that there was no possibility of his escape, they left him there to perish from hunger, while they 'sat down to eat bread' (verse 25," *ibid.*, p. 211). How cruel!

**5. Sold as a Slave:** Suddenly Joseph's brethren decided to sell



him to some Ishmaelite merchants rather than have him perish. (See Genesis 37:26-28.)

“As [Joseph] saw the merchants the dreadful truth flashed upon him. **To become a slave was a fate more to be feared than death.** In an agony of terror he appealed to one and another of his brothers, but in vain. Some were moved with pity, but fear of derision kept them silent; all felt that they had now gone too far to retreat. If Joseph were spared, he would doubtless report them to the father, who would not overlook their cruelty toward his favorite son. Stealing their hearts against his entreaties, they delivered him into the hands of the heathen traders. The caravan moved on and was soon lost to view.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 211, 212. [Emphasis supplied.]

**6. Falsely Accused:** In Genesis 39:7-12 we read that the wife of

Potiphar (Joseph’s new master) tried to get Joseph to lie with her. But the young man flatly refused—and what was the reason he gave? “How . . . can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” This wicked woman did not give up so easily, however. “And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, that she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice” (verses 12-14). What a deceptive woman! But Joseph was innocent of this totally false charge.

“While slander may blacken the reputation, it cannot stain the character. That is in God’s keeping. So long as we do not consent to sin, there is no power, whether human or satanic, that can bring a stain upon the soul. A man whose heart is stayed upon God is just the same in the hour of his most afflicting trials and most discouraging surroundings as when he was in prosperity, when the light and favor of God seemed to be upon him. His words, his motives, his actions, may be misrepresented and falsified, but he does not mind it, because he has greater interests at stake. Like Moses, he endures as ‘seeing Him who is invisible’ (Hebrews 11:27); looking ‘not at the things which

are seen, but at the things which are not seen' (2 Corinthians 4:18)." — *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 32. [Emphasis supplied.]

**7. Unjustly Condemned:** As a result of the deliberate lie told by Potiphar's wife, Joseph was unjustly cast into prison. "Had Potiphar believed his wife's charge against Joseph, the young Hebrew would have lost his life; but the modesty and uprightness that had uniformly characterized his conduct were proof of his innocence; and yet, to save the reputation of his master's house, he was abandoned to disgrace and bondage" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 218).

Why did these trials come to Joseph? "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). Yes, the Lord was with Joseph in each one of these trials. Every apparent defeat was in reality a victory, a stepping stone toward his final triumph. From a slave-prisoner (Genesis 39:20-23), God brought Joseph forth as the prime minister of the then most powerful empire of the planet (Genesis 41:38-43).

By forgiving his brethren (Genesis 45:1-15), he also conquered self.


### **As in the case of Joseph, how can our trials bring us victory?**

"The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that the Lord Jesus sees in us something precious which He desires to

develop. If He saw in us nothing whereby He might glorify His name, He would not spend time in refining us. He does not cast worthless stones into His furnace. It is valuable ore that He refines. The blacksmith puts the iron and steel into the fire that he may know what manner of metal they are. The Lord allows His chosen ones to be placed in the furnace of affliction to prove what temper they are of and whether they can be fashioned for His work. . . .

"In the full light of day, and in hearing of the music of other voices, the caged bird will not sing the song that his master seeks to teach him. He learns a snatch of this, a trill of that, but never a separate and entire melody. But the master covers the cage, and places it where the bird will listen to the one song he is to sing. In the dark, he tries and tries again to sing that song until it is learned, and he breaks forth in perfect melody. Then the bird is brought forth, and ever after he can sing that song in the light. Thus God deals with His children. He has a song to teach us, and when we have learned it amid the shadows of affliction we can sing it ever afterward." — *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 471, 472.

### **Conclusion**

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). 

# The Voice Within:

RACHEL STANTON *Our Conscience*

Moral faculties or feelings of right and wrong have been planted in our mind by Christ. Romans 2:15 says "The work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." Christ has placed a conscience in us so we are able to recognize when we do wrong. Our conscience has the ability to accuse or excuse another or one's self, as the verse states.

The problem with our sinful and degenerate nature is that our consciences have gone down the same path, as it is written in 1 Corinthians 8:7: Our "conscience being weak is defiled." We have

to ask ourselves why is it that we don't feel as much guilt as we should. We should also wonder when we can trust our conscience. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." Therefore, to answer the question, we need to be careful about what our heart will lust after, or it will take us down a dark and dreary path. The Bible says "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23, 24). You may need to ask yourself in what direction the choices you make will send you—towards God or away from Him. Psalm 68:5 tells us that He is there for us as a father to the fatherless. Study your Bible more, pray often, and ask yourself what Christ would



do in your position. “Take your conscience to the Word of God and see if your life and character are in accordance with the standard of righteousness which God has there revealed” (*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, p. 323). Line your conscience up in harmony with the Word of God.

Don't allow your conscience to degrade and become desensitized to the wickedness around you. Once you violate your conscience, it becomes weakened and unreliable. You sever your conscience if you ignore or reject the pleadings of the Holy Spirit. “When, by rejecting the light that God has given, men abuse and trample upon the conscience, they are in fearful danger. Their future eternal welfare is imperiled” (*Ibid.*, p. 320). Don't stop your conscience from speaking to you. Allow it to point your guilt.

Remember Hebrews 9:14, which speaks directly to each of us, saying, “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Our Lord and Saviour is trying so hard to get us to be attentive to what we each do on a daily basis. Ellen White writes:

“God's frown is upon you, and yet you appear destitute of feeling;


you do not realize your lost and undone condition. At times you do have feelings of remorse; but your proud, independent spirit soon rises above this, and you stifle the voice of conscience.”—*Messages to Young People*, p. 75.

We are also told that by following our Saviour's example, we

***Don't allow your conscience to degrade and become desensitized to the wickedness around you.***

will have “inward peace and a conscience void of offense toward God” (*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 693).

E.G. White says, “We are safe only in following where Christ leads the way. The path will grow clearer, brighter and brighter, unto the perfect day” (*Ibid.*, vol. 1, p. 320).

Do not give Satan the satisfaction of winning your heart. “Choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Joshua 24:15). Remind yourself daily of how long you may or may not be on this earth. Don't forget on whose side you are. Peace and happiness awaits those who hear “the voice within.” 

# Two Romantic Roads

Compiled from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, with comments by Jonathan Tyler

## The disaster of dating:

*Today's typical road  
to heartbreak*

Wherever you look nowadays, it seems that romance is promoted as the answer to nearly every one of life's ills. The advertising industry uses this exaggerated propaganda to the maximum extent. The subject of male and female relationships easily becomes the topic of conversation among friends, until unattached persons may almost become obsessed with the idea of finding a mate. In succumbing to such a state of mind, however, a person becomes quite vulnerable to the sly deceptions of the enemy of souls.

When attracted to someone in the romantic sense, the natural tendency is to go with our feelings

until we finally realize that they are now controlling us. So totally are we then engulfed by our feelings and desires, that we lose our interest in other things. But beware: when this happens, disaster is lurking around the corner. We are being deceived by our own heart. Inspired counsel has been given to warn us, but we need to know it in advance:

“This underhand way in which [deceptive] courtships and marriages are carried on is the cause of a great amount of misery, the full extent of which is known only to God. On this rock thousands have made shipwreck of their souls. Professed Christians, whose lives are marked with integrity, and who seem sensible upon every other subject, make fearful mistakes here. They





manifest a set, determined will that reason cannot change. They become so fascinated with human feelings and impulses that they have no desire to search the Bible and come into close relationship with God.”—*The Adventist Home*, p. 58.

There is more here that we should consider. By dating one and then another we are playing a game with the feelings of others and causing them misery and suffering. For our own character we develop a dangerous habit that will continue even into married life: “The young women make advances to the young men and get up a flirtation with them. Their forwardness, their common, cheap talk and ways, are offensive to God.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 219.

“To trifle with hearts is a crime of no small magnitude in the sight of a holy God. And yet some will show preference for young ladies and call out their affections, and then go their way and forget all about the words they have spoken and their effect. A new face attracts them, and they repeat the same words, devote to another the same attentions.

“This disposition will reveal itself in the married life. The marriage relation does not always make the fickle mind firm, the wavering steadfast and true to principle. They tire of constancy, and unholy thoughts will manifest themselves in unholy actions. How essential it

is, then, that the youth so gird up the loins of their mind and guard their conduct that Satan cannot beguile them from the path of uprightness.”—*The Adventist Home*, p. 57.

**In contrast:**

*The road to  
lifelong love*

God never intended us to experience rejection. It is the one thing that can destroy even the bravest, but for many it is a continual part of life. Trust is the basis of relationships, and a certain amount is required for any relationship. Trustworthiness is only possible where level-headed maturity prevails, since mere emotions can drastically go up and down, depending on circumstances. Many would be surprised to realize in actuality, that feelings are not an accurate measurement of love. Unfortunately, modern dating practices do not develop trust; neither do they teach healthy relationship skills.

“A youth not out of his teens is a poor judge of the fitness of a person as young as himself to be his companion for life. . . .

“Immature marriages are productive of a vast amount of the evils that exist today.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 79, 80.

Genuine, enduring love requires an active choice from both parties. It is a mature commitment based on

principle, not dreams, feelings, or passions. Our God-fearing parents should be involved in this decision, and we should always compare our heart's desires to what the Bible defines as true love: "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). In this case, let us also read the translation as expressed in the Revised Standard Version: "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

"Love is a precious gift, which we receive from Jesus. Pure and holy affection is not a feeling but a principle. Those who are actuated by true love are neither unreasonable nor blind.

"The divine love emanating from Christ never destroys human love but includes it. By it human love is refined and purified, elevated and ennobled. Human love can never bear its precious fruit until it is united with the divine nature

and trained to grow heavenward. "True love is not a strong, fiery, impetuous passion. On the contrary, it is calm and deep in its nature. It looks beyond mere externals and is attracted by qualities alone. It is wise and discriminating, and its devotion is real and abiding.

"Hearts that are filled with the love of Christ can never get very far apart. Religion is love, and a Christian home is one where love reigns and finds expression in words and acts of thoughtful kindness and gentle courtesy."—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 255.

## Appeal

Dear fellow youth: Don't be deceived by the false, counterfeit road to romance. Always remember the clear warning from Scripture: "Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away" (Proverbs 6:32, 33).

Wait patiently for God's timing until He provides the right spouse in the right way.

You'll never regret such a decision, and your faith will be richly rewarded. ●



# How Did Adam and Eve

*Heather  
Hazelhoff*

# Fall?

## Heaven sought to prevent the disaster

When Lucifer was cast out of heaven, heavenly angels warned Adam and Eve that Lucifer was on the prowl, and that he was going to try to get them to sin. When the angels arrived, they told Adam and Eve to stay together no matter what. The angels related the story of Lucifer's fall and warned them about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The angels told them that Satan was out to get them, and the reason they had to stay together was so that it would be harder for Satan to tempt them. The angels told Eve to always stay with Adam and to never part from his side. Adam and Eve promised to be together always. Then the angels and Adam and Eve sang together. As Satan heard them sing, he was mad with jealousy. He came up with an idea to separate Eve from Adam. The sinister plan of the foe was to trigger such a state of things that, instead of singing songs of praise to their Creator, the human

pair were going to sing songs of hatred.

In Eden the serpent was a beautiful creature with wings. As it flew, it looked like gold. Instead of slithering on the ground as snakes do today, this creature soared around the garden and ate of the fruit of the lofty tree branches. Satan entered the snake and waited at the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

## An Intruder's Sly Trick

Eve did not realize it, but after a while she began to wander from her husband. Once she realized that Adam was not at her side, she assumed that she was strong enough to resist temptation. A little while later—as she was looking at the tree of knowledge of good and evil—she heard a voice asking her if God had told them not to eat the fruit of every tree. Suddenly, Eve realized that a snake was talking to her. She was surprised and curious, since animals could not talk. The snake then began to admire her for her

beauty. When Satan asked her the question, she answered that they could eat the fruit from all the trees in the garden except for one—the tree of knowledge of good and evil. She stated that if they ate it or even touched it, they would die. Then the snake claimed that God did not want them to eat from the tree because it would make them wise.

Satan in the form of the snake picked a fruit and handed it to Eve. His next words to her implied

### ***Adam and Eve saw how disobedience would bring death.***

this: “Look now—you were prohibited from even touching it lest you die.” What a sly trick he had played on her! At this point, Eve was obviously touching the fruit, but she did not feel her conscience bothering her. And she did not suddenly die. So, her conclusion was that the serpent must be very wise and right. When Eve ate the fruit, she felt kind of giddy. As she ate more, imagining the things the serpent had said, she then went to offer the fruit to Adam. Satan was pleased as he realized that his plan was working.

### ***Adam’s Fatal Decision***

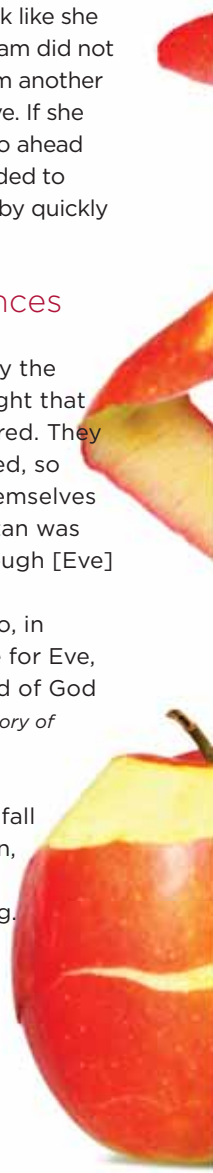
When Eve found Adam, she told him that she had eaten the

forbidden fruit. She also said that she felt fine—she was not dead. So she urged him to try eating the fruit, too. Adam knew that his wife had disobeyed God and that the penalty would be death. He was sad that she had wandered from his side and had disobeyed. He knew that she must die. But Eve stood before him—still lovely and beautiful. She did not look like she was going to die, and Adam did not think God could make him another woman as beautiful as Eve. If she was to die, he chose to go ahead and die with her. He decided to suffer the consequences by quickly taking a bite.

### ***Tragic Consequences***

After the couple ate the forbidden fruit, suddenly the air felt colder and the light that covered them disappeared. They saw that they were naked, so they quickly clothed themselves with fig leaves. Now Satan was very glad because “through [Eve] he had also caused the overthrow of Adam, who, in consequence of his love for Eve, disobeyed the command of God and fell with her” (*The Story of Redemption*, p. 38).

The news of humanity’s fall spread quickly in heaven, and the angels stopped their singing and playing. They took their crowns and laid them down. “A council was held to decide what must be



done with the guilty pair” (ibid., p. 39).

When God came to find the couple, they hid. They told their Creator that they hid because they were naked. He asked if they had eaten from the forbidden tree. Rather than answering properly, they immediately began to blame each other and the snake. God gave each of them punishments for eating that fruit.

God told the snake that it would not fly around anymore, but would slither on its belly and would be hated. Then God told Eve that her husband would rule over her. To Adam He said that since he had listened to the bad advice of his wife and had eaten the fruit, they would have to till the ground in order for it to produce food. God also told them that they could not live in Eden anymore. He sent angels to guard the tree of life so they could not eat any of it, or else they would live forever as sinners. Adam and Eve then realized that because they had sinned they would indeed die.

Everyone in heaven was sad. God had a meeting with Jesus

so they could confer what to do. While they were in the meeting, the angels were anxiously waiting to know what they had decided. After the meeting Jesus told them He would come to earth to rescue humanity by dying for them and thus pay the price for their guilt. That way people could still be saved. When the angels heard this, they offered to die in His place. They did not want this to happen to Him! Jesus told them that He would have to do it because His Father would not accept their life in substitution. He told them that Satan and his evil angels would be destroyed later. The angels were sent to talk to Adam and Eve and inform them of the plan of redemption.

When the angels told them how Jesus would have to die, Adam and Eve offered to die instead of Jesus. The angels told them that Jesus had to die to pay for their sins. Adam and Eve saw how disobedience would bring death, crime, violence, and misery.


## God’s Mercy Provides Hope

Just before Adam and Eve were sent out of the Garden, God gave them clothes made of skin to protect them from the heat and the cold. Holy angels with flaming swords were stationed to guard the entrance to Eden so that no one could enter there again and have access to the tree of life—at least until the Lord grants that



privilege again in the earth made new. We should prepare ourselves for that great day by trusting in Christ and living for Him. We will see our Lord face-to-face and get the chance to explore once again the most beautiful Garden that has ever existed. How thankful we should be to God for restoring that opportunity by allowing His only-begotten Son to be sacrificed for us!

“Reach up for the blessing, believe for the blessing. Your Saviour who died upon the cross is God’s gift to a fallen world, and that gift embraces all heaven. Walk not in the shadow of the cross. Do not give

expression to weeping, lamentation, and woe; but encourage your soul to hope and joy.”—*The Signs of the Times*, July 25, 1895. 

*The above is based on  
The Story of Redemption  
by Ellen G. White.*

## When you have needs, say. . .

*“We have a wise, loving heavenly Father, who hears the prayers of His children. But He does not always give them what they desire. He withholds that which He sees would not be for their good. But He bestows on them all that they need. He gives them that which is necessary for growth in grace. When we pray, we should say, ‘**Lord, if what I ask for is for my good, give it to me; but if it is not, withhold it, but give me Thy blessings.**’ The Lord hears our petitions; He understands our situation, and He will supply the very thing we need. He will strengthen our faith and increase our spirituality. The Lord is good and merciful, perfect in understanding and infinite in wisdom.”—*The Upward Look*, p. 369 (emphasis added).*

*“There are few who rightly appreciate or improve the precious privilege of prayer. We should go **to Jesus and tell Him all our needs.** We may **bring Him our little cares and perplexities as well as our greater troubles.** Whatever arises to disturb or distress us, we should **take it to the Lord in prayer.**”—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 74 (emphasis supplied).*

Part 3:

## Blessings From the Prophetic Gift



# the Spirit of prophecy

By Peter D. Lausévic

In our preceding two issues of the *Youth Messenger*, we examined several tests of a true prophet and began to explain how the prophetic gift is powerfully manifested in the writings of Ellen G. White. As we continue this series, let us consider first of all:

### **The purpose of the Spirit of Prophecy**

A major reason for a prophet is to warn the church of the devices and schemes of Satan. An example of this is found in 2 Kings 6:8-12. The prophet Elisha was then warning the king of Israel of the secret plans the king of Syria was plotting against the nation. This information was revealed to Elisha through God's prophetic gift. Likewise in the case of Ellen G. White, we can definitely say that

the purpose of her writings—also a manifestation of the Spirit of Prophecy for us—is to warn the church today of the devices and schemes of Satan and to point out the way of escape from his wiles and snares.

How can we best describe the days in which we are now living? The apostle Paul reveals: "In the last days perilous times shall come" (2 Timothy 3:1).

What is especially needed in this day and age when Satan is working so hard to destroy the people of God? "So shall [his adversaries] fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall

lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord” (Isaiah 59:19, 20). What greater tool to use than the Spirit of Prophecy—just as in the days of Elisha?

### **Was the rise of modern New Age/Spiritualism (occultism) prophesied?**

Yes, by Ellen G. White. In 1849, she described a vision about its beginnings:

*To turn us away from wrong, what greater tool to use than the Spirit of Prophecy—just as in the days of Elisha?*

“I saw that the **mysterious knocking in New York** and other places was the **power of Satan**, and that such things would be **more and more common, clothed in a religious garb** so as to lull the deceived to greater security and to draw the minds of God’s people, if possible, to those things and cause them to doubt the teachings and power of the Holy Ghost.”—*Early Writings*, p. 43.  
[Emphasis supplied.]

Realize that at the time this was written, there were no Pentecostal or charismatic

churches, and most people believed it was some kind of trickery. No church organizations were definitely thought of as being likely candidates for such occult activity. Sister White also predicted that many would be deceived by the appearance of deceased friends and relatives (often referred to by today’s New Age movement as supposed “channeling” with the dead):

“Satan will have power to bring before us the appearance of forms purporting to be our relatives or friends now sleeping in Jesus. It will be made to appear as if these friends were present; the words that they uttered while here, with which we were familiar, will be spoken, and the same tone of voice that they had while living will fall upon the ear. All this is to deceive the saints and ensnare them into the belief of this delusion.”—*Ibid.*, p. 87.

The above was written in a time when the only thing that the spiritualistic mediums used was spelling out letters and yes and no answers, such as still exists in the Ouija board game promoted today by many who practice witchcraft. This materializing of spirits first began in 1857–1858.

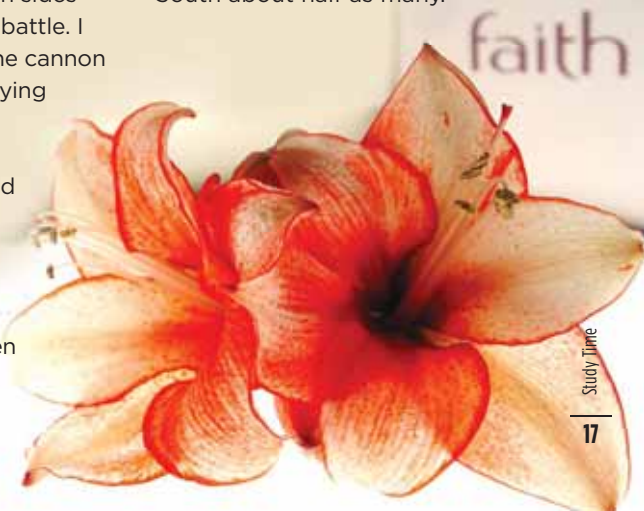
**Was the Civil War in the United States accurately predicted by Ellen G. White—living in the northeast part of the country, far away from the initial uprisings?**



Yes. By January 1861 only South Carolina had separated from the Union (December 20, 1860). Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune* described the situation at that time. “A few old women with broomsticks could go down there and beat out all the rebellion there is in South Carolina.” In speaking of it the week before, he said: “If someone with the firmness of Andrew Jackson should go down there and say, ‘South Carolina, where are you going?’ they would reply, ‘Back into the Union again, sir.’” However, on January 12, 1861, at a dedication of a church in Parkville, Michigan, Sister White had a vision of terrible events: “There is not a person in this house who has even dreamed of the trouble that is coming upon this land. People are making sport of the secession ordinance of South Carolina, but I have just been shown that a large number of States are going to join that State, and there will be a most terrible war. In this vision I have seen large armies of both sides gathered on the field of battle. I heard the booming of the cannon and saw the dead and dying on every hand. Then I saw them rushing up engaged in hand-to-hand fighting [bayoneting one another]. Then I saw the field after the battle, all covered with the dead and dying. Then I was carried to prison

and saw the suffering of those in want, who were wasting away. Then I was taken to the homes of those who had lost husbands, sons, or brothers in the war. I saw there distress and anguish.” (*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, January 31, 1893).

What could Sister White say about individuals in that church? “There are those in this house who will lose sons in that war” (Ibid). Indeed, there turned out to be at least ten men there that day who lost sons in the war—among them the very fathers who sneered when the vision was related. This was given contrary to all sentiments in the North. By May 1861, eleven southern states had seceded and elected Jefferson F. Davis as provisional President of the Confederacy. On April 12 the guns fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. President Lincoln called for only 75,000 men for three months to put down the rebellion. But instead, the war continued till the spring of 1865, and the North would have used 2,859,132 men in the war and the South about half as many.




**What about the cozy friendship that exists today between Protestants and Catholics? Was that predicted in 1885 during a period so unlike today—during an era when Protestants in the U.S.A. staunchly hated Catholics and vice versa?**

Yes, the drastic change in attitude that we see today was actually prophesied 125 years ago:

“When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions,

then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 451.

If any prophet fails to qualify—there is no light in them at all. We cannot pick and choose what to believe if a prophet does not pass the test. Sister White wrote: “My work for the past thirty years bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The *Testimonies* are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 4, p. 230.

Dear youth—what an exciting time in which to be living—what truly amazing information flows from the Spirit of Prophecy through the writings of Ellen G. White! This is only the beginning. More will follow in the next issue. 



# Are the Dead Conscious?

A. C. Sas

“The living know that they shall die; but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6).

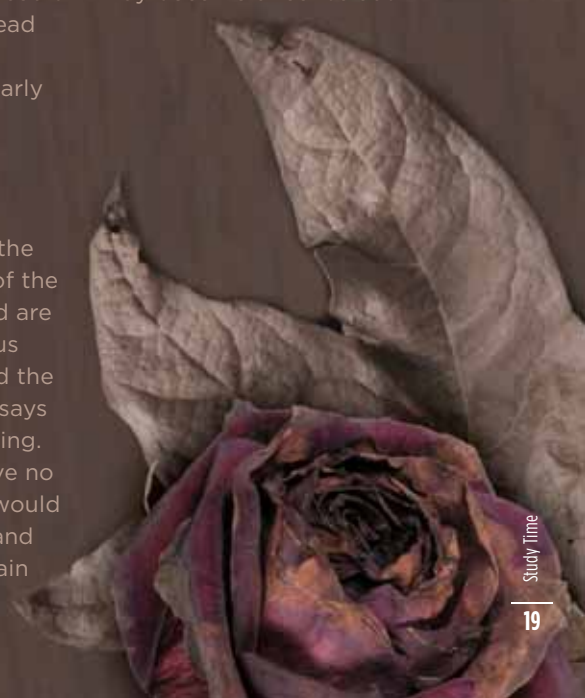
Nominal Christians commonly teach in these last days that the dead are conscious. But this is in direct opposition to the testimony of the Bible. It is strange that those who profess to take the Bible as their guide and rule could believe such a delusion. Instead of saying that the dead are conscious, the Scriptures clearly reveal the opposite.

## Let's Be Logical

Let us look at this topic just from a logical standpoint. If the doctrine of the immortality of the soul were true—and the dead are conscious—then the righteous dead would be in heaven and the wicked in hell. But the Bible says that they do not know anything. Therefore, the just would have no joy in heaven because they would not know where they were, and the wicked would have no pain

nor suffering in hell and would not even know they were in hell. The dead have neither love nor hatred. The consciousness of a person is found in his or her brain and not in some strange, abstract, immortal, conscious entity, which people call “spirit” or “soul.” Such a thing does not exist. If a person possessed such a consciousness viewed as an independent type of existence, the mental faculties would never stop working after his or her death.

Let's look at a practical example: If a man is hit on the head, he may become unconscious. If



his head is hit a little harder, he may die. If this occurs, would he recover his consciousness after his death? Obviously not.

Another example: A man that is very sick may fall into a coma. He becomes unconscious. He is not dead; he breathes, his heart still works—but his mind does not. When his consciousness returns, he does not know what happened while he was unconscious. If such entity erroneously called "spirit" actually existed, he would know where he was, what he had seen, and so forth. If the physicians delay in medicating him while in his comatose state and he dies, would his consciousness return immediately after his death? Of course not!

### Just think . . .

If a person possessed such a supposed immaterial and immortal entity ("soul" or "spirit") that survived separate from the body, then the consciousness of that person would be part of such entity. In this case, how could

a physical defect in the brain affect the psychological faculties and cause a mental illness (as we all know it can)? How could such a person lose his thinking capabilities?

Here is another interesting thought: How could anesthesia affect only the body? Why not also the "spirit" or "soul"? Strange to say it, but when the patient is under the effect of the anesthetic, he or she is completely unconscious.

### The verdict is clear

We either reject the theory of the consciousness of the soul after death and accept the plain declarations of the Bible, or the other way round because they conflict with each other. The Bible insistently tells us that the dead cannot exert their mental faculties. Isaiah says that Abraham is "ignorant of us" (Isaiah 63:16). He does not know

*The Word of God tells us that the dead are in the dust, and they will remain there, unconscious, until the day of resurrection.*

anything about us. Job says that after a man dies he has no knowledge whatsoever about what goes on around him. "His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them" (Job 14:21). What happens to the thoughts of a human who dies? "In that very day his thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:4). If the imaginary "soul" or "spirit" is a thinking, intelligent entity, as some people say, it would stop thinking at death. The psalmist says: "In death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" (Psalm 6:5). According to a popular belief, the righteous continue praising God in heaven after death. But the Bible says, "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down in silence" (Psalm 115:17).

The notion that the righteous dead are in heaven is a tale with no foundation in the Holy Scriptures. The Word of God tells us that the dead are in the dust, and that they will remain there, unconscious, until the day of resurrection.

"If a man die, shall he live again? . . . So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they

shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep" (Job 14:14, 12).

## What about the resurrection of the dead through Christ?

The Scriptures give hope on this point: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28, 29).

At the resurrection of Christ, certain "graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose" (Matthew 27:52). These saints were not in heaven, but rather were sleeping in their dusty beds.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Remember the story of Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha? After a serious illness, this man was dead when Jesus declared: "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out

of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead” (John 11:11-14). Four days had past since his death, but he had not yet gone up to heaven. He was sleeping in the grave. Jesus did not call him down from the heavenly glory to this dark, gloomy, sin-stricken world. He did not say: “Lazarus, come down from heaven,” but He ordered to remove the stone and called with a loud voice: “Lazarus, come forth” (verse 43).

## What about the “soul” and “hell”?

The Bible does not say that when a person dies he or she is split into two parts: the dead matter and the living, conscious, immortal “soul.” Nothing is separated from the deceased at death, except the breath of life. If a so-called “soul” were to go to heaven, the person’s knowledge would continue there, but the Bible clearly says that such knowledge cease when a person dies.

The word which corresponds to “grave” in Hebrew is *sheol*, and the word in Greek is *hades*. These two words are sometimes rendered in English as “hell.” The grave and hell are, in this sense, the same thing.

The word *sheol* is often translated as “hell,” but it never means a place of eternal torment. Such a place does not exist now. The

## After one dies there is no knowledge whatsoever about what goes on around him or her.

Bible mentions a lake of fire where the wicked will be consumed, but that will be after the millenium.

Jacob knew he would go down to the *sheol* at his death (Genesis 37:35; 42:38) where he believed his son Joseph was. But he did not think that his son was in the flames of hell, nor did he desire to be in such a place.

The faithful patriarch Job, in a moment of great suffering, longed to go down to the *sheol*. He said: “O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!” (Job 14:13). Did Job really want to go to the flames of a burning fire? Not at all!

When Jonah was in the belly of the big fish, he cried to the Lord from *sheol*, which was not a lake of burning fire (Jonah 2:2).

The soul, which is the person himself or herself, dies and is buried. “What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?” (Psalm 89:48). The soul of Jesus Christ was also put in hell (*sheol*) from which He arose on the third day. “For thou

wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption” (Psalm 16:10). Certainly, Jesus did not go to a lake of burning fire but, simply, to the grave.

The “sheol” or grave is the destiny of all humanity at death. “Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling” (Psalm 49:14). No one believes that sheep go to a place of fire when they die.

## Hope in the truth, not in a lie

Every person—whether good or bad—goes to the dust of the earth, to the grave. However, the true Christian rests in the blessed hope of the resurrection at the second coming of Jesus. Let us be faithful and share in the hope expressed by David: “God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me” (verse 15). “Our mortal bodies may die and

be laid away in the grave. Yet the blessed hope lives on until the resurrection, when the voice of Jesus calls forth the sleeping dust. We shall then enjoy the fullness of the blessed, glorious hope. We know in whom we have believed. We have not run in vain, neither labored in vain. A rich, a glorious reward is before us; it is the prize for which we run, and if we persevere with courage we shall surely obtain it. . . .

“There is salvation for us, and why do we stay away from the fountain? Why not come and drink that our souls may be refreshed, invigorated, and may flourish in God? Why do we cling so closely to earth? There is something better than earth for us to talk about and think of. We can be in a heavenly frame of mind.”—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 352. 🌿

# The 2010 Croatia Mission Trip:

## The classroom training program

*Cherith Zujic*

Mid-Friday afternoon, Dragan Ivanov, Peter Lausevic, Elisha Zujic, and I finally arrived at the Osijek SDARM church. We had just driven from Novi Sad, Serbia, to Osijek, Croatia. I quickly spotted my friends from Australia and the United States. We had all arrived at boot camp, a.k.a. the training camp for our Geneva, Switzerland, adventure. While a few of us enjoyed a late lunch, the rest of our group waited around the long table we would get to know so well while Peter Lausevic and his assistants welcomed us to our training program.

Name cards and directions to our dormitory rooms were given as we arrived. My name card reminded me that although I have a European surname I am Australian born! Helpful hands carried my heavy bags up to room four. Room four, we all agreed, was designated for the Australian girl-foursome.

Here you could find Adrianna, myself, Nadine, and Shelly (from youngest to oldest) when we wanted some quiet.

Croatia, as I said, was our training grounds for Geneva. Our first Sabbath we enjoyed relaxing and recovering from our long trip. Hearing the sound of incessant talking in the meetings might make you think that this was an irreverent church, until you realized you didn't understand most of what was being spoken! Yes, we had a roomful of translators. Our group was made up of three different language groups, Croatian, English, and Spanish. Thankfully a fair few of this group were bilingual, otherwise it might well have felt like a return to the tower of Babel! Here in Croatia I was surprised to find that our church members often speak more than two languages. Steve, a Serbian assisting us in Croatia,





often reminded me that he found it easier to understand the Spanish group than my Australian accent! Europeans are always known for their excellent hospitality and cooking. Our hosts outdid themselves entirely. We enjoyed strudel, sarma, sweet pasta, gibanica, and the like. We had two cooks who not only prepared our food but did our washing and kept the bathrooms clean. I think the main idea with doing our washing was an attempt to save time, water, and electricity, but I still think they should have made us do it! I'm sure they'll be ready to take a month holiday after we leave! Needless to say, I was duly impressed with the European work ethics!

Our Croatian leg consisted of doctrinal studies in the morning in anticipation that we will be giving Bible studies in Geneva. In the afternoon we had classes on door-knocking; this consisted of a short theory session and hours of practice. During the week we handed out collectively 9,850 pamphlets and also a lot of kilometers walked collectively! Sunday afternoon we spent an hour and a half door-knocking on the streets. Well, that was

what supposedly should have happened! Most of us got lost and spent the time trying to find the streets we had been allocated!

The week sped by as those of us who were attempting to keep up with our extracurricular activities worked hard on staying awake during our four and a half hours of doctrinal studies in the morning (the sun doesn't set until 9:00 p.m., and it is light at 5:00 a.m. here). Peter Lausevic was most helpful in this regard. Needless to say, there were a few who were startled out of sleep by his deep, stern voice asking the sleeper to read the next text.

### **Out to the streets!**

Sunday afternoon Gisselle Lanuza, a Bible worker from U.S.A., gave us our marching orders for door-knocking and was our fearless door-knocking leader for the week. Not long after we returned from being lost while attempting to door-knock on Sunday, we had visitors. The police! Someone had reported that strangers were walking the streets and knocking on doors. After the police left, Peter Lausevic appeared to give us the news. Sunday morning we were



asked to hand in our passports for the brethren to report our presence to the police station. A few of us had wondered why. Peter Lausevic informed us then that that was what had kept us out of trouble now with the police and would for the remainder of our visit.

Gisselle Lanuza used each day a different method to pair the English and Spanish speakers with the Croatians. Naturally, each day we went out with someone different. The week disappeared as we marched up and down, street after street, inviting people to the weekend seminar. Each evening those of us who didn't have amazing experiences were inspired by those who had. Evening after evening amazing experiences were shared. I was one of those who had handed out countless pamphlets and did not have a single amazing experience.

Thursday was our last day to door-knock. I determined to ask God for a story. Shelly Newman and I went door-knocking with Sabina Poropat. We decided to try and save time by dividing into two groups. Sabina and Shelley took the left side of the road and I walked up the right side. Praying as I walked, I figured I would only be able to have a good story if I met someone who fluently spoke English. I quickly learned to say the following:

*"Dobar dan! Ja sam Cherith." (Good day! I am Cherith.)*

*"Govoric te li engleski?" (Do you speak English?)*

*"Ne razumijem hrvatski." (I don't understand Croatian!)*

*"Nisam Jehovin svjedok." (I am not a Jehovah Witness)*

*"Mi smo grupa mladih koja poziva vase susjedstvo na biblijski seminar." (We are a group of youth who are inviting your neighborhood for a Bible seminar.)*

*"Molim vas, dodajte!" (Please come!)*

## **Delightful communication**

God is not limited by language barriers, so I found. Despite my inability to speak Croatian and the fact that most Croatians don't speak English, God blessed me with three positive conversations in Croatian (as difficult and confusing as it sometimes became)! It was amazing how much I found I could actually understand and communicate. God really blessed. I'll never forget the sweet old lady I talked to who was 81 years old and told me she has eye problems, the ex-Jehovah Witness who wished me God's blessings, or the man who offered me a glass of water. I had been really concerned that I cannot have much of a conversation in Croatian—my deficiency does not limit God! Doubtless it will be



something all of our group will smile about when we remember Gisselle's new vocabulary as she directed us: "up-up-up-up-up the street, then down-down-down-down and then you'll meet some friends." Or as she would call out after us, "Go-go-go-go-go-go!"

## On to the seminar!

The week soon finished and the time for the seminar arrived. Altogether, we accumulatively had thirty guests arrive for the different meetings (not counting members). Peter Lausevic, Etienne Lombard, Rolly Dumaguit and Gisselle Lanuza took the different meetings. Gisselle gave a timely presentation on having a friendship with God. On Sabbath we had members from as far as Novi Sad, Serbia, and Zagreb arrive for the Sabbath services and fellowship. It was wonderful to meet everyone and to attempt to practice my limited Croatian vocabulary. It was great on Sunday to see the guests take advantage of the breaks and mealtimes to ask questions and talk with the Croatian

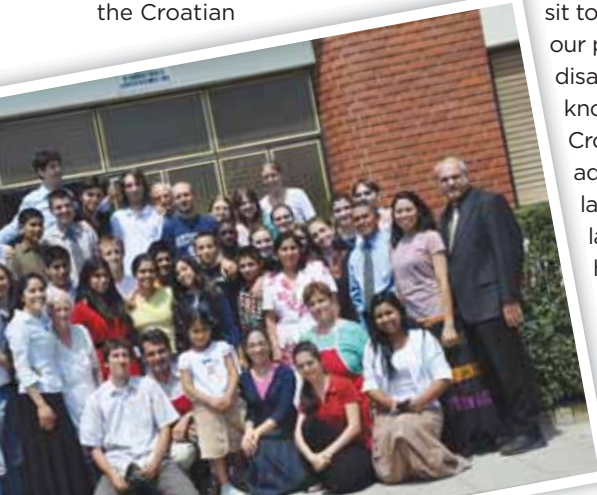
believers. I wished I could have been more involved in this, but the language barrier limited my ability to say to the guests "Would you like some beans?" while I served the food!

## Conclusion

Early Monday morning, Shelley, Adrianna, Nadine, Elisha, Paulina, and I loaded our suitcases into the waiting vehicles. It was time to leave Osijek. After a five-hour train trip we arrived in Zagreb where waiting brethren picked us up and took us to the church house while we waited for the hour that would wing us away from Croatia.

Sitting in the airport I traced the outline of the Serbian and Croatian stamps in my passport. For me this has been a special trip. Serbia is where my dad had been born. Croatia is also the land of my ancestry. This has been my first trip to this land and I'll never forget it.

The five of us who had come from Australia and Paulina checked in at the same time so that we could sit together during the flight. As our plane took off and Croatia disappeared on the horizon, I know I'll always remember Croatia. This was a wonderful adventure with God into a land where I knew not the language, although it does have a familiar ring! I'm glad I made that decision to put my college degree on hold to do this trip. 🌐



# Competing for Ultimate Control

## Evangelistic Program and Conference

in Osijek, Croatia, July 9–11, 2010

*Abigail Siclovan*

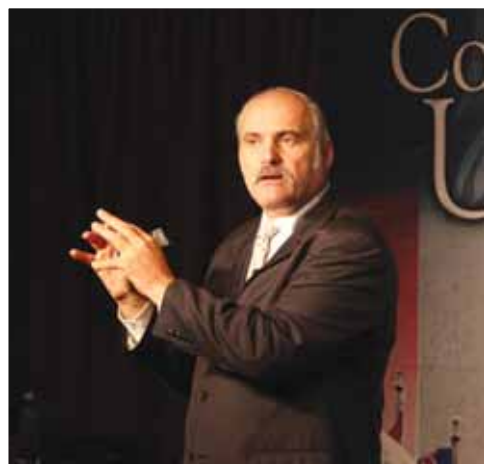
During the first week of July, our Croatian believers and their 35 helpers from all over the world—most of them youth—spread about 10,000 invitations throughout the city of Osijek, Croatia, to invite the inhabitants to come to the evangelistic meeting, “Competing for Ultimate Control.”

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!”—*Education*, p. 271.

### Who would come?

After many interesting experiences, we were all waiting excitedly for the arrival of the first guests on Friday, July 9, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting began with a song we sang together; then an item was presented by a group of Croatian youth. After a prayer, Etienne Lombard, our French Bible Worker, explained the “Origin and End of Sin,” showing by the Bible the fall of Lucifer and the raising of humanity by the



price paid by our Saviour Jesus Christ. Fifteen guests listened attentively to his presentation. On Saturday, after the Sabbath school lesson, at 11:00 a.m., Rolly Dumaguit from Belize shared a study with us entitled “Our Need, Our Conversion.” As “all have sinned” (Romans 3:23) and are affected by the “illness” of sin, we all need the only one solution, our sin-bearing Saviour! Back in 1847, Dr. James Y. Simpson, the discoverer of chloroform, the world’s first anaesthesia, was asked by his students which was the most valuable discovery of his life. He answered: “My most valuable discovery was when I discovered

that I am a sinner, and Jesus Christ is my personal Saviour.”

During the next two presentations, Peter Lausevic explained the chapters 8 and 9 of the prophet Daniel to show the audience their importance in prophecy today—Christ and His coming being the center of prophecy. We need to look into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary and to our Mediator who has been there since 1844, waiting for His people to be willing to be cleansed.


For the Sabbath services, 90 persons attended the meetings; about 30 of them were visitors, and the rest were our believers from Croatia and Serbia.

By God's grace, on Sunday, July 11, five more studies were presented by the brethren already mentioned. Further prophetic truths concerning Daniel 7 and Revelation 13, the mark of the beast and the role of the United States, were revealed to the attendees to give them a clear biblical and historical explanation. In the afternoon, Giselle Lanuza, from North Carolina, U.S.A., led our minds to the understanding that Jesus is a real Friend to us if we accept Him as such. Thus at His glorious coming we won't have to fear, but we will be happy to meet Him and see Him face to face. What will you choose to be—His friend or His foe?

By 9:30 in the morning only 3 guests had joined the meetings,

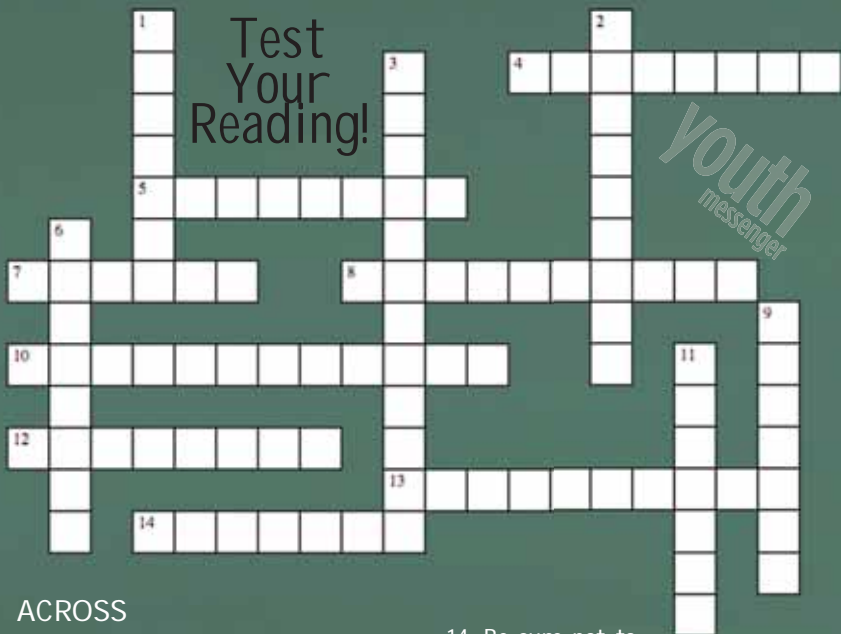
but by the evening the number grew to about 17. All of the helpers from Croatia and from other parts of the world were happy for the privilege to lead these souls to Christ and His message.

Many wonderful experiences showed us the providential work and presence of our dear Saviour during that whole week, which proved the following quotation of the Spirit of Prophecy to be true: “As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings” (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 333). Just to give you an idea, we would like to share two experiences: One older man heard of the evangelistic meeting through a pamphlet that he found in a trash can while waiting for the bus in a station. During the whole weekend he attended the presentations and listened attentively. He, along with 28 other visitors, took the book *The Great Controversy* to study it at home.

Another young man who did attend all of the meetings has been searching for truth. He has visited all kinds of Christian and non-Christian churches to find it. When he saw a poster we had put up in the city of Osijek, he decided to come to the meetings. He attended all ten presentations. 

# Test Your Reading!

youth  
messenger




## ACROSS

4. The hatred of Joseph's brothers was due to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Occult spiritualists often profess the Christian \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Joseph was unjustly taken to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Today's dating practices lead to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ thinks to communicate with the dead.
12. Eve was not to \_\_\_\_\_ from Adam.
13. God can speak through our \_\_\_\_\_.

14. Be sure not to \_\_\_\_\_ your conscience.

## DOWN

1. The true state of the dead is shown in the story of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The police needed \_\_\_\_\_ to clear the way for the door-knockers.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ caused the fall of our first parents.
6. God unveils the future through \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Joseph suffered the woe of \_\_\_\_\_.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ caused Joseph's imprisonment. 



# How Could He?

**H**ow could Judas betray Jesus? They had walked together for three years. “Judas saw the sick, the lame, the blind, flock to Jesus from towns and cities. He saw the dying laid at His feet. He witnessed the Saviour’s mighty works in healing the sick, casting out devils, and raising the dead. He felt in his own person the evidence of Christ’s power. . . . He loved the Great Teacher and he desired to be with Him. He felt a desire to be changed in character and life, and he hoped to experience this through connecting himself with Jesus” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 717).

An intriguing question is: How could Judas betray Jesus? Evidently, because he was not converted. He was still under the control of the enemy. Yet how could Jesus still love Judas? (And He did.) Judas came in despair and “cast himself at the feet of Jesus, acknowledging Him to be the Son of God, and entreating Him to deliver Himself. The Saviour did not reproach His betrayer. He knew that Judas did not repent . . . Jesus spoke no word of condemnation. He looked pityingly upon Judas, and said, For this hour came I into the world” (*Ibid.*, p. 722).

Judas was not the only one to disown Jesus. The other eleven deserted Him when He most needed them. Peter denied Jesus with cursing and swearing.

## How could Jesus still love His disciples?

Christ forgave and loved those who abandoned Him. Later, when they showed genuine repentance, He entrusted them to enlighten the world. We should be inspired and encouraged by their example.

We also sometimes betray Jesus in our Christian walk, but He still loves us. How could He? Christ can forgive us if we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us to repentance. And through Him we also can love the faulty disciples we meet in our journey in this world. 🕊

**Editor** Eli Tenorio da Silva, **Associate Editor** Barbara Monteiro, **Layout** Jessica Skorich, Daniel Lee.

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# At the Crossroads

He stood at the crossroads all alone,  
The sunrise in his face;  
He had no thought for the world unknown—  
He was set for a manly race.

But the road stretched east and the road stretched west,  
And the boy did not know which road was best;  
So he took the wrong road and went down,  
And he lost the race and the victor's crown.

He was caught at last in an angry snare  
Because none stood at the crossroads there  
To show him the better road.

Another day at the selfsame place,  
A boy with high hopes stood;  
He, too, was set for a manly race,  
He was seeking the things that were good.

But one was there who the roads did know,  
And that one showed him which way to go.  
So he turned away from the road that went down,  
And he won the race and the victor's crown.

He walks today the highways fair  
Because one stood at the crossroads there,  
To show him the better way.

—Author unknown

