

Youth messenger

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Sometimes in Life . . .



CHRISTMAS ADDRESS

to the young *Ellen G. White*

The 25th of December has long been commemorated as the day of Jesus' birth, and in this article it is not my purpose to affirm or question the propriety of celebrating this event on this day, but to dwell upon the childhood and life of our Saviour. It is my purpose to call the attention of the children to the humble manner in which the Redeemer came to the world. All heaven was interested in the great event of Christ's advent to earth. Heavenly messengers came to make known the birth of the long-promised, long-expected Saviour to the humble shepherds who were watching their flocks by night on the plains of Bethlehem. The first manifestation that attracted the

notice of the shepherds at the birth of the Saviour was a radiant light in the starry heavens, which filled them with wonder and admiration. "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:9-14).



Dear children, shall not these precious words, coming from the lips of heavenly angels, find a response in our hearts? Shall they not awaken gladness and melody in the soul because Jesus has come to our world to bring back to God those who through sin were estranged from Him? If the angels of heaven glorified God, and poured forth their joy in divine melody and sacred song over the plains of Bethlehem, shall our hearts be cold and unimpressible? Shall we with indifference turn from the salvation brought to light through Christ?

The astonished shepherds could scarcely comprehend the precious message borne to them by the angels, and when the radiant light had passed away, they said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child" (verses 15-17).

They were filled with joy; they could not keep to themselves the precious knowledge of the advent of the Redeemer, but with glad enthusiasm they told to all whom they met the wonderful things they had seen and heard;

and all who heard them, related the wonderful experience of the shepherds to the others, and many wondered and rejoiced, for they believed the words that had been spoken by the heavenly messengers. Glorifying and praising God, the shepherds returned to their flocks on the plains of Bethlehem.

All heaven was moved on the occasion of the Saviour's birth. The triumphant song which the shepherds heard was only an echo of the praise resounding round the throne on high. The whole angelic host rejoiced and sung praises because salvation was presented as a free gift to fallen man. After the proclamation song to the shepherds, the heavenly multitude veiled their faces from human sight, the flood of heavenly light passed away, the thrilling song of praise was no longer heard by the shepherds; but the remembrance of that song could never die out of their hearts. O, what reason have we to praise God that this wonderful revelation from heaven was made to humble men! It is not those who occupy high positions, who hold most honored places in the world, who are selected as bearers of God's message of peace and salvation, which is of the greatest interest to fallen men. The Lord has said, "Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Luke 10:21).



Those who love God should feel deeply interested in the children and youth. To them God can reveal His truth and salvation. Jesus calls the little ones that believe on Him the lambs of His flock. He has a special love for and interest in the children. Jesus has said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me [let no one place any obstruction in the way of the children's coming to Me]: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Jesus has passed through the trials and griefs to which childhood is subject. He knows the sorrows of the young. By His Holy Spirit, He is drawing the hearts of the children to Himself, while Satan is working to keep them away from Him. The most precious offering that the children can give to Jesus is the freshness of their childhood. When children seek the Lord with the whole heart, He will be found of them. It is in these early years that the affections are the most ardent, the heart most susceptible of improvement. Everything that is seen and heard makes an impression on the youthful mind. The countenances looked upon, the words uttered, the actions performed, are


not the least of the books the young read; for they have a decided influence upon the mind, heart, and character. Then how important it is that the children come to Jesus in their earliest years and become lambs of His flock! How important it is that the older members of the church, by precept and example, lead them to Jesus, who taketh away the sin of the world, and who can keep them by His divine grace from the ruin it works. The better acquainted they become with Jesus, the more they will love Him. and be able to do those things that are pleasing in His sight. God has sanctified childhood in that He gave His only begotten Son to become a child on earth.

What matchless love Jesus has manifested for a fallen world! If angels sung because the Saviour was born in Bethlehem, shall not our hearts echo the glad strain, Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to men? Although we do not know the exact day of Christ's birth, we would honor the sacred event. May the Lord forbid that anyone should be so narrow-minded as to overlook the event because there is an uncertainty in regard



to the exact time. Let us do what we can to fasten the minds of the children upon those things which are precious to everyone who loves Jesus. Let us teach them how Jesus came into the world to bring hope, comfort, peace, and happiness to all. The angels explained the reason of their great joy, saying, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Then, children and youth, as you celebrate the coming Christmas, will you not count up the many things for which you are to be grateful, and will you not present a gratitude offering to Christ, and so reveal that you do appreciate the heavenly Gift?

The angels were amazed at the great love of Christ that led Him to suffer and die on Calvary to rescue man from the power of Satan. The work of redemption is a marvel to the angels of heaven. Why, then, are we, for whom so great a salvation has been provided, so indifferent, so cold and unloving? Children, you can do errands for Jesus which will be wholly acceptable to Him. You can bring your little gifts and offerings to Christ. The wise men who were guided by the star to

the place where the young child was, brought offerings of gold and frankincense and myrrh. When they found the Promised One, they worshiped Him. Children, you may ask, "What gifts can we bring to Jesus?" You can give Him your hearts. What offering is so sacred as the soul temple cleansed from its defilement of sin? Jesus stands knocking at the door of your hearts; will you let Him in? He says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Will you let Jesus into your hearts? Will you clear away the rubbish, and throw open the door, and willingly, gladly welcome in your heavenly guest? I shall not need to plead with you to bring your thank offerings to God if you will but let the Saviour in. You will be so grateful, that you cannot be restrained from laying your gifts at the feet of Jesus. Let the hearts of all respond with exceeding joy for the priceless gift of the Son of God.—*The Review and Herald*, December 17, 1889. 

Spiritual Math

Jonathan Tyler

Math may not be your favorite subject, but

I am sure you'll love spiritual math! Spiritual math is where we use the rules of mathematics to solve spiritual problems. For instance, the Bible says that "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (1 Corinthians 3:19). So if we take wisdom apart from God it is called foolishness. We could then make an equation with this. Wisdom (w) minus God (infinity) or " ∞ " ($w - \infty = -\infty$) is negative infinity, or so far behind zero that it cannot be written out. In other words, negative infinity is infinite loss. However, if you add God to the equation, then you have the opposite result: ($w + \infty = \infty$) infinite gain!

Math is actually used a lot in Scripture, like in the prophecy about the Messiah where seventy weeks ($70 \times 7 = 490$), or 490 years, are determined (subtracted) from the 2300 [Daniel 9:24]. Another prophecy speaks about the dividing of time [Daniel 7:25]. Peter tells us to add [2 Peter 1:5].

When John is counting the angels, multiplication is used [Revelation 5:11], and Jesus tells us to forgive seventy times seven ($70 \times 7 = 490$) [Matthew 18:22].

Okay, let's use math to solve a really big spiritual problem. That problem is sin. According to the Bible, the wages of sin is death. Wages are what is paid when you finish a task and is judged or determined complete. So sin (s) plus judgment (j) equals death (d). Let's put it into an equation: ($s + j = d$). Now we have the problem stated, but we actually don't like the result. How can we avoid having this equation as part of our life? Let's use some more math to solve the problem.

The well-known verse in John 3:16 tells us that God loved us and gave His Son so that we would not die but have eternal life. So if we take sin (s) and judgment (j) and add Jesus (J), we get a different result: Eternal Life (L), ($s + j + J = L$). Adding Jesus makes sense. However, Jesus did not come just as an add-on. He came to take away sin [John 1:29]. So if we, humanity (h), accept Jesus (J) into our life then He takes away sin (s) and leaves us with

peace (P) [John 14:27]. That would be written ($h + J - s = P$).

Hold on, class is not over yet! We cannot have Eternal Life without keeping Jesus as a permanent part of our life. It is not enough just to have Him forgive us and leave peace in our heart. Without God or infinity there is nothing everlasting. So we must each day add God to our life.

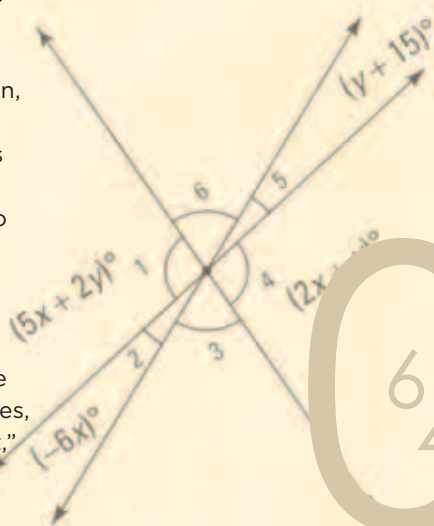
Consider this quote: "The work of transformation from unholiness to holiness is a continuous one. Day by day God labors for man's sanctification, and man is to cooperate with Him, putting forth persevering efforts in the cultivation of right habits. He is to add grace to grace; and as he thus works on the plan of addition, God works for him on the plan of multiplication" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 532).

While we are doing the addition, God does the multiplication in our life. You may think that it is worthless to try because you have tried and failed before. So let's use math one more time to figure this out. If we take two negatives and add them together, we always come out with a negative. That is the rule of mathematics. The saying goes, "two wrongs don't make a right," or in mathematical terms two negatives added never equal a positive. We try to add up all the

things we do, and it always comes out in the negative.

If this has been your experience, then you should be adding God to your life and not adding up all your own works. When we add God to our life every day, as we just learned, He works on a different level: Multiplication! According to the laws of mathematics, when you multiply two negatives they become a positive. So with God, even the negatives in life are turned into positives! So, don't forget to add God each day, and He will turn your life into something awesome for Him!

Class dismissed. . . . Oh, and don't forget to do your heart-work! 🍌





The Stone That Kills the Giants

A Bible and Spirit of Prophecy compilation, with comments
by Paul Balbach

David's story of how he killed the giant with a simple stone slung from his slingshot is a favorite story with children. There is a song that says that "the sling went round and round and round in the air, and the stone hit the giant, and the giant went tumbling down."

I made slingshots when I was young. I cut a tree branch with a perfect "Y."

Those were the days when there were no video games. I enjoyed working on the farm and had fun playing in the open air.

I also loved to collect stones. I was fascinated with the shapes and colors of stones. I still have some. I am sure that you are familiar with what marble and granite look like—smooth and shiny. Do you find such a polished stone in nature? Not quite.



Five smooth stones

The Bible tells that David "took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:40). "He chose five smooth stones." Where did he find smooth stones? By the brook. Why are the stones by the brook smooth? Does the water make them smooth? Can the water, something so soft, smooth something so hard? How does the stone become smooth? Through the action of the water. The force of the water, particularly during rainy seasons, pushes the rocks around and they rub against each other. What is the result? Smooth stones of different shapes and sizes.

There is more to it. Did you ever wonder where sand comes from? Sand particles, called grains of

sand, are made from the stones rubbing against each other. The rough stones loose a grain of sand at a time and become smooth stones.



Rough stones

“We are now in God’s workshop. Many of us are rough stones from the quarry. But as the truth of God is brought to bear upon us, every imperfection is removed, and we are prepared to shine as lively stones in the heavenly temple, where we shall be brought into association, not only with the holy angels, but with the King of heaven Himself.”—*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 161.



Hewing the stone to proper dimensions

The stone must be chiseled to the right proportions to fit in the building. The truth of God is the chisel; the love of God is the hammer. The polishing process involves test and trial.

“By the mighty cleaver of truth God has brought His people, as rough stones, from the quarry of the world. These stones must be squared and polished. The rough edges must be removed. This is a **painful process**; but it is a necessary one. Without it,

we could not be prepared for a place in God’s temple. By trial, by warnings, by admonitions, God seeks to prepare us to fulfill His purpose. If we cooperate with Him, our characters will be fashioned ‘after the similitude of a palace.’ It is the specified work of the Comforter to transform us. At times it is hard for us to submit to the purifying, refining process. But this we must do if we would be saved at last.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 3, p. 1154. [Emphasis supplied.]

“You were **rough stones with jagged edges**, bruising and marring whoever you came in contact with; there is a work to be done to smooth off the rough edges. If you appreciated the value of the work that is to be done in the workshop of God, you would welcome the blows of the ax and the hammer. **Your self-esteem** will be hurt, your **high opinion of yourself** will be cut away by the ax and the hammer, and the **roughness of your character** will be smoothed off; and when self and carnal propensities are worked away, then the stone will assume proper proportions for the heavenly building, and then the **polishing, refining, subduing, burnishing processes** will begin, and you will be molded after the model of Christ’s character.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 319. [Emphasis supplied.]

Rough stones rub against each other in church capacity to become polished stones, and heart and character are transformed.



Trusting in the name of the Lord: the mighty Rock

“Said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied” (1 Samuel 17:45).

“The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Psalm 18:2).



The rock that kills

Very early in human history, God promised our first parents: “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15).

What are the giants in your life that need to be smashed by the Rock?

Lack of self-control? Appetite? Presumption? Love of self,

pride of life? Love of the world? In Matthew chapter 4 we see that these are the main areas of temptation by which Satan tempted Christ. He presents the same temptations to us.



Giants that will try to prevent you from entering the Holy City

Psalm 15 points out things like backbiting, evil-doing, greed, injustice, and treachery as common giants in people's lives. Do you gossip or break your promises? These are just a few examples.



Fall upon the Rock!

“When you fall upon the Rock and are broken, you will experience the power of Christ, and others will recognize the power of the truth upon your hearts.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 317, 318.

“We must fall upon the Rock and be broken before we can be uplifted in Christ. Self must be dethroned, pride must be humbled, if we would know the glory of the spiritual kingdom.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 57.

“To fall upon the Rock and be broken is to give up our self-righteousness and to go to Christ with the humility of a child, repenting of our transgressions, and believing in His forgiving

love. And so also it is by faith and obedience that we build on Christ as our foundation.”—Ibid., p. 599. We read in 1 Corinthians 10 about the spiritual Rock that led the Israelites in the wilderness. “That Rock was Christ” (verse 4). Have you ever drunk water that comes out from the rock? The purest water comes out from the rock.

The aim of the Christian home should be “that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace” (Psalm 144:12).




Have you received the Holy Spirit?

The servant of the Lord described a dream about the doorway to the marriage supper of the Lamb of God. A sentinel guarded it and the following explanation was given:

“You may be tall and well proportioned in self, but no such ones can enter here. None can be admitted who are grown-up children, with all the habits and customs, the disposition, the characteristics, which pertain to children. You have nurtured your suspicions, your criticisms, your bad temper, your self-dignity, and you cannot be permitted to spoil the feast, for all who go in through this door have on the wedding garment, woven in the loom of heaven.

“Your leaven of distrust, your want of confidence, your power of accusing, closes against you the door of admittance. Within this door nothing can enter that can possibly mar the happiness of the dwellers here by marring their perfect trust in one another. Those who have educated themselves to pick flaws in the characters of others have thus revealed a deformity of character which makes families unhappy, which has turned souls from the truth to choose fables. You cannot join the happy family in the heavenly courts, for He will wipe all tears from their faces. You can never see the King in His beauty if you are not yourself a representative of the loveliness of Christ’s character.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, p. 231.

Dear young and old: Let us gladly submit to the Lord’s polishing process. Only then can we brilliantly shine as beautiful smooth stones in the Lord’s temple! 



THE STORY OF CAIN AND ABEL

NIKITA ESPINAL

The first baby born on earth was Cain, and Abel followed shortly after. Adam and Eve were filled with hope that one of them would be the saviour of the world. They thought that one of their boys would be the one to die for their sins. As the young men grew, Cain became a farmer and Abel a shepherd.

God told Adam to build an altar by the entrance to the Garden of Eden. Adam's instructions were to bring a firstborn lamb to the altar to sacrifice it. While doing that, the family would remember that it was because of their sins that the Saviour would have to come to the world and die for them.

It was there, at the entrance to the Garden of Eden, that Adam and Eve would tell their growing sons stories of how it was when they lived there, of how they used to talk to God face to face, and how they had worn the bright robe of light. They told them about how they talked to the beautiful angels and sang praises to God with them. Then they told them about how they had sinned. They also told the boys of God's love and mercy to them and of His plan of redemption.

Adam and Eve taught Cain and Abel to love God. Abel did love God, and he was thankful for His mercy and love. Cain, on the other hand, let bad thoughts go into his head. He was always complaining, and he did not think it was fair that God had thrown his parents out of Eden and made the ground hard to farm.

When they were older, God told the young men to go to the altar to make a sacrifice. He gave them specific instructions on what to do. As the lamb was dying, they were to think about their sins and remember again why the Saviour was coming to die for them. Abel brought the best of his lambs. He did everything God had asked of them, so God accepted his offering. But Cain brought fruit instead of a lamb. He brought it complaining to the altar, so God did not accept his offering. When Cain saw that God had not accepted his offering, he became very angry.

God then sent an angel to ask Cain why he was angry. The angel told him that God would accept his offering if he did it the right way. If Cain wanted to do it his own way, God would not accept it. Cain was also told that God

loved him as much as He loved Abel, and, if he did the offering correctly, he would become the leader because he was the firstborn.

But even after all that the angel had said to him, Cain did not repent. He thought that Abel was God's favorite, and that God was not fair even though the angel had told him God was. Cain then argued with Abel. Abel tried to calm him down and spoke to him nicely. Abel told Cain that God was right and fair, and that He loved them both. But Cain did not want to take any advice from Abel; after all, he was the oldest. He then got so mad that he killed his brother.

God came once again to talk with Cain. He asked him, "Where is Abel your brother?"

Cain replied, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

God knew what Cain had really done. The Lord told him that, because of what he did, He would have to punish him. His punishment was that he was to leave home and become a fugitive and a vagabond. God also cursed the ground again for Cain's sake. Never again would the things he planted come up good and healthy.

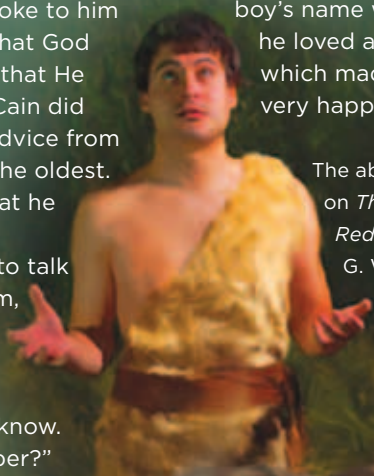
Cain thought his punishment was greater than he could bear. He

was scared to go because he knew that anyone who found him would kill him. God then put a mark on Cain's forehead, saying that whoever killed Cain would be punished sevenfold. So Cain left home and became a fugitive.

Thus Adam and Eve lost two sons on the same day. They were very sad, but God made them happy again when He gave them another son, who would be later followed by other brothers and sisters. The

boy's name was Seth, and he loved and obeyed God, which made his parents very happy. 🕊

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



MINNEAPOLIS

PROJECT

2011

By Peter D. Lausevic

THE NEED

The future holds the most wonderful possibility before us—that of actually seeing Jesus face to face. To see the One who made salvation possible, who suffered such enormous agony for a sinner like me—that would be such a wonderful experience!

Of all the promises in the Bible, the personal, visible coming of Christ holds the most precious place in the heart of a believer. Jesus said, “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3).

Do you look forward to that day? Unfortunately, it has been long delayed. What is Jesus waiting for? “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14). God is waiting for the gospel message to go into the whole world so that every person on this planet will have the opportunity to make an

intelligent decision regarding his or her eternal destiny.

We often hear about God’s time clock and that Jesus will come whether we are ready or not. To some degree that may be true—however, the coming of Jesus depends partly on us. We are not only to be “looking for” but also to be “hastening the coming of the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12, NKJV). “It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 69).

Who is really needed to take an active role in missionary outreach?

“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 (emphasis added).

In the modern military machine with all its technological advances, it is the youth who are continually being invited to join one or any other branch of the armed forces. Recruitment officers are constantly roaming the campuses of high schools and universities to attract the brightest minds among the young. From the outward appearance, some of these bright minds do not seem so promising, but when such ones realize they are needed, energies and abilities which before were unknown suddenly surface.

For the 2011 Minneapolis Project **WE NEED YOU** to unleash the hidden energies God has given you. "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).

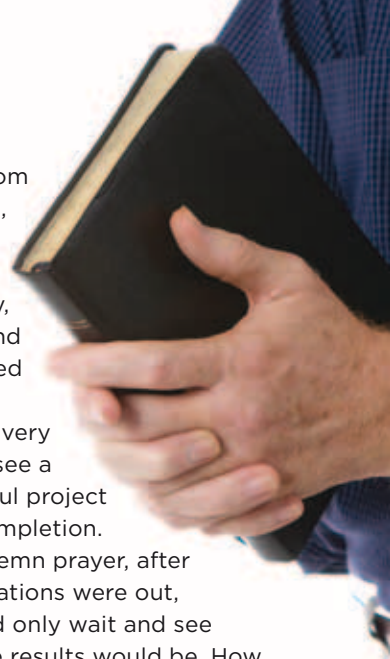
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, U.S.A.

Last year our project was held in Geneva, Switzerland—one of the birthplaces of the Protestant Reformation. We are so thankful that nearly 30 youth rose to the challenge and united their efforts to reach that long forgotten city. We distributed around 100,000 invitations to a health convention and then later to a prophecy

seminar. We had youth from Australia, Croatia, France, Germany, Spain, and the United States

working very hard to see a successful project to its completion. With solemn prayer, after the invitations were out, we could only wait and see what the results would be. How amazing that for the very first evening of the health convention we had about 45 visitors coming eagerly to hear the message of health and well-being. Today some of the visitors from these outreach programs are still coming to our regular meeting place in Geneva, and several are receiving Bible studies in their homes.

With such exciting results as we saw there, we have decided to take up another challenging opportunity. To ensure even more success, we are adding actual canvassing to the program. This is not just handing out literature, but actually meeting people with the goal of selling some books of eternal value. For that reason we have selected the United States as the location for the project for 2011 where in the past we have



had some success in this method of canvassing.

As Geneva had a historical significance in the Protestant Reformation as a whole, Minneapolis has great significance in the history of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement. It was the location of the pivotal meetings of the 1888 General Conference Session in the Seventh-day Adventist Church that germinated the beginnings of the Reform Movement. In spite of the great effect of this city on the worldwide stage, there never has been a serious attempt to establish the message of truth in this place. These are today no members in the entire state of Minnesota. It is for this reason that we have selected this city for the 2011 Evangelism Project. This is why we really need your help in canvassing. Health and evangelistic outreach meetings will be held for the public, but first the people will need to be

personally invited to attend. Here is where **YOU** come in!

Are you prepared to step up to the plate and meet this challenge?

COST FACTOR

We are planning to raise enough funds to cover the cost of the project, food, and housing. You will need to earn or raise enough funds for the following:

- 1** Transportation to and from Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. Plan early and purchase tickets at least three months in advance to get the best fares.
- 2** Cost for any visas needed to travel to the United States. Since you would be applying to do canvassing work, you will need to state that to the U.S. embassy to make sure you get the right visa.




3 You will also need some funds for your personal toiletries.

4 Fridays will be the day off to get ready for the Sabbath as well as for some personal time.

DONATIONS WELCOME

If you are inspired to participate but are not able to go, your donations are welcome and needed. Just designate your gift for the 2011 Minneapolis Project, and either give it to your local SDARM treasurer to pass on to the General Conference or send it directly to the treasurer, SDA Reform Movement, P.O. Box 7240, Roanoke, VA 24019. You may contact Brother Roberto Duarte at rduarte@sdarm.org or +1 540 362 1800. May God bless your heart as you give and pray for the success of this endeavor.

COMMITMENT

If you decide this is for you, you need to make a full commitment for the entire period of time. We need 40 youth who are up to the challenge. More detailed information is available, so if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me personally at plausevic@sdarm.org or at +1 540 352 4367. Although this is a U.S.A. number, I live in Australia, so try calling during normal Sydney, Australia, time (GMT +11). 

2011

!! It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.!!

Test Your Reading!

ACROSS

1. Even children can do _____ for Jesus.
3. God chisels the _____ stones to become polished souls.
4. Adding Jesus to our life makes _____.
5. Besides volunteers, evangelistic projects also need _____.
7. When we work on the plan of addition, God does _____.
10. By believing God's prophets we _____.
12. The _____ changed the people of Tierra del Fuego.

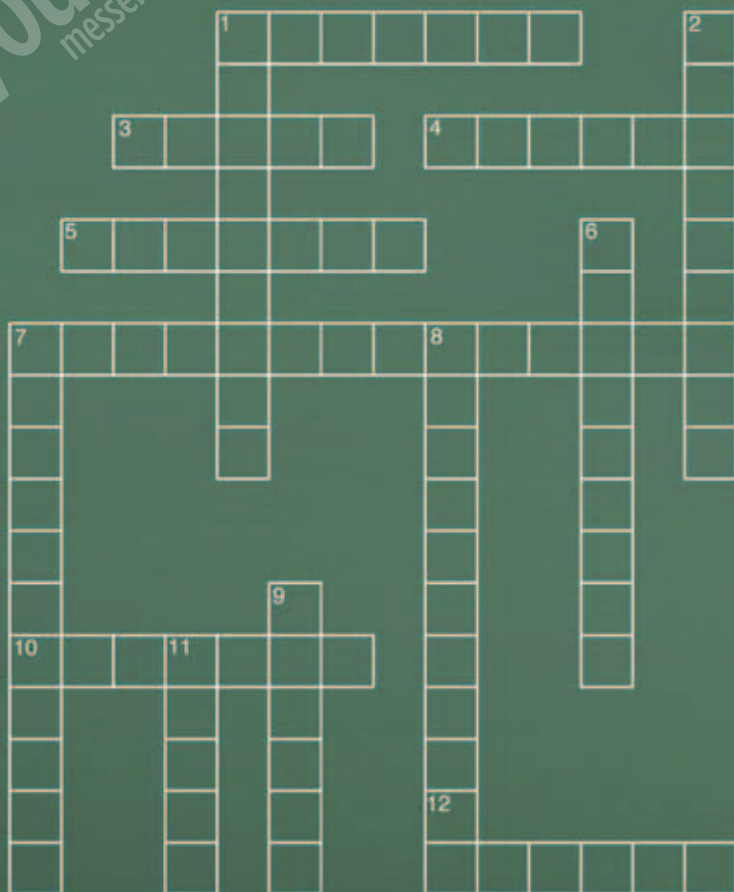
DOWN

1. _____ is a subject on which God inspired Ellen White to write much.
2. In coming to Christ, self must be _____.
6. _____ is the best time to seek the Lord.
7. In 2011, youth are invited to be part of an evangelistic project to be held in _____.
8. Cain was _____ on his way to the altar.
9. In 2010, youth were involved in an evangelistic project in _____. 🕒

"CHRIST'S WORDS ARE THE BREAD OF LIFE. AS THE DISCIPLES ATE THE WORDS OF CHRIST, THEIR UNDERSTANDING WAS QUICKENED. . . .

"SO WILL IT BE WITH US AS WE STUDY GOD'S WORD. OUR MINDS WILL BE QUICKENED, AND OUR UNDERSTANDING ENLARGED."

-THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES,
APRIL 4, 1906.



My Experience With The Geneva Project

By Sara-Rut Piñero

In the previous issue of the *Youth Messenger*, there were two reports on the exciting evangelistic project held in Europe this year. Since this was such a life-changing event for many of us young people, I'd like to fill in some more details about some of our activities:

On Thursday, July 23, a total of 15 young people went to Lipik, Croatia, to attend a conference and to witness the baptism of two souls. The trip took approximately 12 hours in which we passed through different and beautiful countries like Italy and Slovenia.

We arrived about nine o'clock in the evening. Brother Mladen waited for us at the Lipik church, and from there he took us to where we would be staying. He took us to a very large house which had been almost destroyed during the Serbo-Croatian war and was being reconstructed. We received a very warm welcome from the Mandic family. The

house was beautiful, and the food was delicious and abundant. The sister worked hard, cooking for us to give us the best, and to make us comfortable. We want to thank this family for their great hospitality toward us: Thank you with all our hearts.

On Friday we prepared to open the Sabbath, and in the evening we went to church for worship. The meeting was led by Etienne Lombard, one of the youth involved in the evangelistic campaign in Geneva, Switzerland.

On Sabbath we had our normal program. The Sabbath School was divided by languages. After that Peter Lausevic gave a great study that spoke of repentance and of giving our life to God. We are not alone in this life because Jesus is by our side, accompanying us at every moment even during all the bad things that can happen. On Sunday we had the baptism of Brethren Josep and Stefan. It was not a sunny day, but everything

went well. God's presence was felt in that place. The brethren and sisters of Croatia (the choir) sang hymns, and we felt closer to the Lord. After that we went to church to have the reception. Immediately after eating the noon meal, we started off for Italy.

Italy:

We arrived in Italy in the evening and stayed at the Tinta's home. We stayed there only that evening because on the following day at six in the morning we left for Venice.

We arrived in Venice early in the morning. It is a beautiful place where a river crosses through the city. Its romantic architecture is reflected throughout the city with its many cathedrals. The main one in Venice is St. Mark's Basilica. We had a wonderful day, although the time flew fast, because we still had six more hours to travel, and we couldn't leave late since we wanted to arrive early in Geneva.

Germany:

Most of the young people went on the trip to Germany, and only four people stayed behind. We

were a total of 26 young people that took part in the evangelistic campaign.

We left at six in the morning in different vehicles and arrived in Munich, Germany, at approximately 4:00 p.m. We ate and then were sent to different homes. When we arrived there, we prepared for the opening of the Sabbath.

On Sabbath morning we held our regular program. The Sabbath School was again divided by languages: English, German, Romanian, and Spanish. Peter Lausevic had the worship service.

The noon meal was spectacular! The sisters in German prepared a superb meal with all their love. Thank you very much sisters for the great food!

In the afternoon we held a young people's meeting. It was an afternoon full of blessings, with beautiful songs and music to



praise our God. We also heard many precious experiences which encouraged many of us there. It was such a blessing that, by the grace of God, this church in Munich, Germany, decided to give a donation of 5,550 Euros toward the 2010 Geneva Project. Praise the Lord for that!

Sunday morning we went to the Dachau Concentration Camp. We were moved because for many

**"I prayed that the Lord
would show me
if I should go on
this trip."**

of us this was the first time we had ever visited such a place. First, we visited a museum that is located inside some houses, where we saw the names and nationalities of the prisoners who suffered in that place. Then, we watched a documentary that explained many things about the concentration camp. We were informed that many of the people died on their way to the camp, and that many people died in the gas chambers.

After the video we divided into groups and went to see the rooms of the "prisoners." We had a frightening feeling when we saw the great shame that rests with the twentieth century

civilization. The bathrooms were small and used by many people. There were three churches—one Evangelical church and two Catholic churches. When I entered the gas chambers and the crematorium, a chill passed through my body. I had another feeling of terror. It was a small, dark room with iron bars on the windows. On the ceiling there was a device which looked like a shower where the gas came out. We also saw the room where the corpses were cremated.

We left the concentration camp with great sadness in our hearts. We are sure that, in the day of judgment, God will render to every person according to his or her deeds.

After this we visited Munich. We had a very nice afternoon visiting spectacular sites of the city. Since the previous Thursday we had given away all the pamphlets we had, we were able to stay an extra day.

Early Monday morning a group of us went to the magnificent Neuschwanstein castle. Although we did not get to see all the inside of the Castle, we saw the sleeping quarters, the dining room, and the concert hall. After our visit in and around the castle, we were off again to Geneva.

I thank the Lord for His protection in these two great outings.

Experience:

ELENA RUZICKA

I prayed that the Lord would show me if I should go on this trip. I did not want to go unless I could be sure that the Lord was going with me. After I felt sure that my prayer had been heard, there was still a problem: I did not have the money for the trip.

But a few days before the date set for our departure, a sister gave me the money to pay for everything that I needed. I never told her that I needed the money. I had waited for a special providence from the Lord, and He opened the way. God often keeps us waiting until the last minute to test our faith, before He sends the needed help.

The Lord is good and always fulfills His promises.

"God often keeps us waiting until the last minute to test our faith."

heart. So I decided to submit my life to the Lord and be baptized. This is the most important decision that I have made in my life. I trust that God will help me. He helps all who are willing to take up the cross and follow Him. We have a friend in Him, a friend who helps us in our time of need. He loves us more than a friend, He is our Brother and Creator.

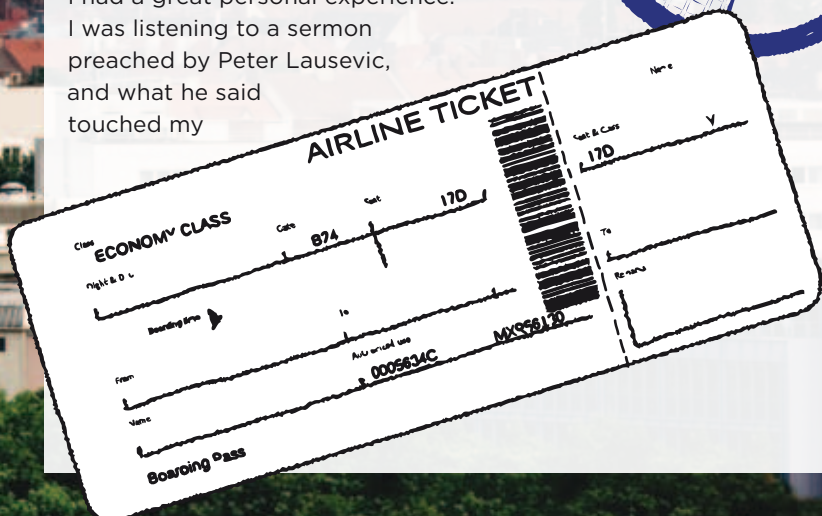
He gave
His life
for us.



Experience

SARA-RUT PIÑERO

I had a great personal experience. I was listening to a sermon preached by Peter Lausevic, and what he said touched my



THE MISSION STORY

THE SALT OF THE EARTH

A. Balbach

In a narrow street in London, England, in the quiet hours of the night, a man heard a baby crying near him. He looked around to find out where the weeping was coming from. He could not see anybody, but a strange bundle in the gutter near him attracted his attention. It contained a baby that had evidently been abandoned by an irresponsible mother. So he picked it up and took it to the nearest hospital, leaving it there.

He felt sure that the nurses would take good care of the child. And they did. They called the boy Thomas, after the name of the hospital (St. Thomas Hospital), and, in choosing a second name, they decided to call him Bridges, because there were some bridges near the hospital.

They put Thomas Bridges to school, and he grew up to become a serious-minded, clever, worthy young man. When he finished studying at the university, he began to work as a successful doctor. He was a real physician, since he understood the relationship between body, mind, and soul; so he was able to help many people by telling them about the power of the Gospel.

Facing Tierra del Fuego: The land of fire

One night Thomas went to attend a lecture presented by Charles Darwin, who spoke about the people that lived on the island of Tierra del Fuego, at the bottom end of South America. Darwin, who in those days was considered a great scientist, had been there in 1833 and had tried to civilize those natives, but all his efforts were in vain. He wrote about them: “The Fuegians are in a more miserable state of barbarism than I ever expected to have seen in any human being.” During his lecture, Darwin explained how filthy those savages were, how they merely subsisted under the most squalid living conditions, how inhuman and cruel they were, how they would kill their old people instead of looking after them, how promptly they would stab each other to death for no good reason, how they practiced cannibalism, and so forth. Lamenting the fact that he was unable to help them, he said:

“I would rather try to civilize the dogs in London streets than the people of Tierra del Fuego.” After having heard Darwin’s lecture, Thomas made up his mind to go to Tierra del Fuego. What the great scientist was unable to achieve without

the help of God, the medical missionary was convinced that he could accomplish by the help of God. His friends were unable to hold him back despite all their dissuasive arguments.

Upon his arrival there, Thomas built his own house and kept it clean. Around the house he had a tidy garden and grew his own vegetables. He washed and mended his own clothes and kept himself neat. And he was always careful to set the best example of true Christianity before the people. Gradually the natives realized that Thomas had something which they did not have—that his ways were so much superior to theirs. So they began to come to him and ask him to teach them and help them. Thomas realized that the door had now been opened for him to evangelize the Fuegians. So, as he always showed himself willing to serve them, not only as a doctor but in many other ways, he presented to them the One who said:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Mathew 11:28, 29).

“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the

light
of life”
(John 8:12).

Darwin is impressed

Thirty-six years after his first visit, Darwin visited Tierra del Fuego for the second time. When he got there, he thought he must have landed in the wrong place. The houses were neat and surrounded with gardens, the people were clean and neatly dressed, and their behavior revealed a high degree of civilization and decency. “Surely,” Darwin said to himself, “this is not the place I visited in 1833.”

Darwin was about to board his ship and set sail when Thomas met him and assured him that he had come to the very same place where he had been thirty-six years before. The surprised scientist wished to know how such a fundamental change was possible—how those whom he had regarded as below the level of domestic animals could be totally transformed. The medical missionary explained to him: “It is only the power of God that can do a thing like this. You see, the coming of His Word brings light.” Thomas referred to the following scriptural verse:

“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding

unto the simple” (Psalm 119:130). Darwin changed his mind about the power of the Gospel and the work of the foreign missions.


He wrote:

“I certainly should have predicted that not all the missionaries in the world could have done what has been done [on Tierra del Fuego]. It is wonderful and it shames me, as I have always prophesied a failure. It is a grand success.”

When the scientist was convinced, by the evidence that he had seen with his own eyes, that the Gospel (not the theory of evolution, but the Gospel) is the only reformatory power that can work changes such as the ones he had witnessed on Tierra del Fuego, he wrote to the London Missionary Society:

“I shall feel proud if your committee shall think fit to elect me as honorary member of your society.”

And in his letter Darwin enclosed a donation for the gospel missions—twenty-five pounds, which was a lot of money at that time. Jesus said:

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” (Matthew 5:13). 



the Spirit of prophecy

By Peter D. Lausevic

Part 4: Blessings From the Prophetic Gift

What is the difference between the work of an apostle and that of a prophet?

“God hath set some in the church, **first apostles, secondarily prophets**, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:28, emphasis added).

a. The work of an apostle is primarily for those outside the church in raising up new companies of believers and administrating the church for that purpose.

b. The work of a prophet is specifically for the church itself.

“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe,

but to them that believe not: but **prophesying** serveth not for them that believe not, but **for them which believe**” (1 Corinthians 14:22, emphasis supplied). After the apostles have done their work, then follows that of the prophets. Their work is for the purpose of counseling, encouraging, and building up of the church. “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).

Christian education

The prophet Samuel established schools, and Elijah later reestablished them, after they had gone into decay. His concern for these schools is seen in his final round of visits before his

departure from earth. Elisha continued the task.

Like the ancient prophets, Ellen G. White spanned many areas of Bible present truth, including in the work of education. Books such as *Education, Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, and *Fundamentals of Christian Education* reveal amazing principles that could change the world.

“Now, as never before, we need to understand the true science of education. If we fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God. ‘This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent’ (John 17:3). If this is the price of heaven, shall not our education be conducted on these lines?”—*Mind Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, p. 53.

Health

The Bible has a grave concern for the health of God’s creation. “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2). Our bodies are to be a healthy living sacrifice to God, not some degenerated matter. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1). We can then expect a

comprehensive modern day prophet to address the subject of health reform. Her first vision on the health message was given on June 6, 1863, in Otswego, Michigan. This vision covered issues such as healthful living, disease and its causes, and drugs and their evil effects.

At the time Ellen White’s writings on health first appeared, this subject had been almost wholly ignored. Myths abounded. People thought smoking was good for you. But the Lord’s messenger revealed the truth about this and many other health topics in a way that was far in advance of her time.

Have the principles presented stood the test of time and experience? Definitely yes! Modern, state-of-the-art science is finally catching up with what Ellen White wrote over 100 years ago.

Additional areas

Besides education and health, there are more areas in which the writings of Ellen White provide divine instruction, including science, management, mental health, child rearing, marital relations, history, prophecy, oratory, and biblical principles of interpretation. With such a wealth of resources, who needs Sigmund Freud and other humanistic sources of counseling?

Practical help

Many who read any of Ellen White's books and, who don't know anything about her say: "When I read her articles it seems to me as though her writings are inspired." As we consider some of these facts, we are urged to follow the words of King Jehoshaphat of Judah in their time of crisis: "And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper" (2 Chronicles 20:20).

The prophetic Spirit in the last days?

In the book of Joel there is a prophecy about the last days of this earth's history. "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh" (2:28). The apostle Peter refers to this "afterward" as the last days. "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh" (Acts 2:16, 17).

The context of these last days, although partially fulfilled in the time of the apostles, has a direct fulfillment as we approach the close of time. Joel 2:30, 31. The fulfillment of the prophecy would

have specific significance after May 19, 1780.

To prepare the church for these last days, God will give them His Holy Spirit in a special measure. What will be the special gifts given by the Holy Spirit? The Lord has declared: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit" (verses 28, 29). Who are the only ones that will respond to this work of the Holy Spirit? "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call" (verse 32).

It is the work of the prophets that prepare the remnant for the closing events of earth's history. What parallel prophecy in the New Testament shows that prophets will have a major role at the end of time? "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17).

What is this testimony of Jesus?


“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10). This does not mean Jesus is speaking directly to us. It is Christ speaking through prophets. Their work is to prepare a people, the remnant, for the end of time. What will be their characteristic? “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). It is the work of prophets to prepare a people to be like Jesus at the second coming. This was the work that Ellen G. White did in her lifetime, and her writings continue to carry forth this work even after her death.

But what if . . . ?

What if these claims are false? What would we do then with these writings? In the Old Testament, the Lord directed that false prophets be removed from the camp (see Deuteronomy 13:5). And in the New Testament, those that taught false doctrine were to be avoided (see Romans 16:17). Too often, a person would like a portion here and a portion there, rather than accepting the whole message as it is given through the Spirit of Prophecy. This is usually true only if a person does not like the reproof that he or she is reading. But we are to either

accept the whole message or reject it.

“God has given us, as His servants, our work. He has given us a message to bear to His people. . . . We have been receiving the words of God and speaking them to His people. We have trembled at the responsibility, which we have accepted with much prayer and meditation. We have stood as God’s ambassadors, in Christ’s stead beseeching souls to be reconciled to God. We have warned of danger as God has presented before us the perils of His people. . . . God is either teaching His church, reproofing their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. 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. In arraying yourself against the servants of God you are doing a work either for God or for the devil.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, pp. 229, 230.

If the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy have falsehood, then drop the whole matter. But if they are accurate, then realize that God is speaking to you through them! 

Sometimes in Life . . .

Sometimes in life temptations arise from every corner. We look at our life and are overwhelmed with all our faults and how many times we have given in and fallen. We are discouraged and just continue to sin and think, "Oh, what's the use; I've already sinned and fallen so many times." Little do we realize that this is a temptation in itself. The devil wants us to think so little of ourselves that we don't try to find a way out of our sins but continue wallowing in them. We forget to look up to a Higher Power that can help us. Yes, we cannot on our own overcome our sins, but we can ask for help. God has promised grace and mercy to all that ask.

Sometimes in life we need to be reminded of how much God values us: "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour" (Psalm 8:5). We do our part, and He will be faithful to do His! Let us never allow our temptations to discourage us, but let them remind us of our need to accept the Gift of Calvary!

Temptations and anxiety are callings for you to pray!

"In the gift of Jesus, God gave all heaven."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 565. And it was all given for you and me! Then as we appreciate this gift, we become encouraged to help others understand about it also. This is why we do missionary work. God comforts us "in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (2 Corinthians 1:4). As we lift up others, we are amazed to find that our own hearts become encouraged as well. So don't give up—and don't give up on cheering up others, too!

May God bless you. Your friend and brother in Jesus, Eli Tenorio. 

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THE FURNACE

Out from the furnace's glowing heat,
 With beautiful refining,
God takes His jewels, all complete,
 That for His crown are shining.
Drawn from the depths of human woe,
 In dust and darkness sifted,
How sweet eternal morn will glow
 For stricken hearts uplifted!

Then in the shadow of the cross,
 Though never strewn with flowers,
Oh, let me aid the poor and lost
 To Eden's lovely bowers!
How sweet to find, when time has flown,
 And we are saved in glory,
Some little stars within our crown,
 We've won among the lowly!

Behind the cloud I'll quiet rest
 To Jesus all resigning,
Maybe I'll find the inside best,
 With all its silver lining:
With stricken hearts to weep and wait,
 Through the dark night of sorrow,
Till called to pass the pearly gate,
 Into the bright tomorrow.

—Author Unknown