Fear and Trembling

Troubled times have come upon the Earth.

“Far more than we do, we need to understand the issues at stake in the conflict in which we are engaged. We need to understand more fully the value of the truths that God has given for this time and the danger of allowing our minds to be diverted from them by the great deceiver.” Testimonies, vol. 8, 312.

During the COVID 19 pandemic of the past few months, different voices from even the most unlikely individuals have been heard predicting that a spiritual awakening would come out of this experience. It is quite common for humanity to cry out to God in times of trial. However, too often when the trial is over, those who cried to God in their despair easily forget the experience and soon return to life as usual.

As believers and students of the word of God, we know that prophecy is fulfilling. We believe and proclaim the messages of the three angels of Revelation 14 and that we need to prepare ourselves for that blessed hope of the glorious appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We must not forget what Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23 “Not every one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day [the day of His return] many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ did we not prophecy in your name, cast out demons in your name, and do mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you: depart from me.…’ ”

Do you not agree that those would be the most startling and tragic words spoken to anyone thinking that they were going to be taken to heaven with Jesus? The apostle Paul admonished in his epistles that we must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, that we must continue to cultivate and press to complete the goal, not trusting to self or shrinking back from whatever might discredit our profession of faith.
Jesus said “Abide in Me.” We must strive to keep our lamps filled with the oil of the Spirit. Are we indeed acting like the wise virgins that have awakened at the message (sounds) that the Bridegroom is coming? How well are you “working out” your salvation, friend? The Lord expects every believer to exercise the gift of faith.

The worldwide scale of this pandemic most certainly captured the attention of many with thoughts of whether some prophetic occurrence was taking place and asking questions like “Are we on the verge of more troubled times?” Others are just happy thinking it will soon be a thing of the past.

“You have to talk faith, you have to live faith, you have to act faith, that you may have an increase of faith; and thus exercising that living faith you will grow to strong men and women in Christ Jesus (MS 1, 1889).” SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, 1121.

There are too many who are striving to obey all of God’s commandments who have little peace and joy. Why should this lack even exist in the Christian’s experience? This lack is the result of a failure to exercise true faith, to maintain regular communion with the Father, and of not fortifying the mind with God’s word and not meditating on the words of life. Although the enemy works tirelessly to discourage us, we must keep our eyes on Him who is true and faithful, remembering that grace and peace are multiplied through knowing the lovely Jesus, as it is our privilege to know Him. Too many habitually dial their earthly acquaintances or a “prayer partner” and pour into human ears their woes. Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

“It is the real, vital essence of Christian-ity to grasp the unseen by faith, reaching out constantly to lay hold of the spiritual efficiency found in Christ.” Christ Triumphant, 53.

“Day by day, God instructs His children. … It is the issue of the daily test that determines their victory or defeat in life’s great crisis.

“Those who fail to realize their constant dependence upon God will be overcome by temptation.” Ibid., 382.
The Enemy at Work
Continuously, Tirelessly, and Creatively

Both the Bible and Inspiration tell us that the nearer we draw to the return of Jesus, the more active Satan will become in suppressing the truth:

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time” (Revelation 12:10-12).

“Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth.” Testimonies, vol. 9, 16.

“Shall we let the multitudes who know nothing of the truth perish in their sins, unwarned? Satan is planning to hold these souls fast. He is seeking to hedge up our opportunities for reaching them.” Review and Herald, July 16, 1908.

“The message of warning must be carried to every nation upon the globe. The work should move forward with alacrity. Satan is already astir to hedge up the way. We must be wise or he will prevail. What we do must be executed with greater promptness.” Manuscript Releases, vol. 8, 215.

Every month, we send a large flat rate box of LandMarks to several countries in Africa at a significant cost. Although the box usually gets pretty beat up by the time it arrives a month or so later, it usually arrives with contents intact.

However, the last few months a new problem has appeared: with the cautions that have been put in place to try to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, no country in Africa is accepting packages from the U.S. All packages shipped prior to the suspension of service but before receipt in the destination country are being returned.

Truly the enemy is at work to hedge up the way in every manner possible.

Please pray that a way will be found to allow souls hungering and thirsting for the truth to be fed with spiritual food.

CAMP MEETING

with John Grosboll

September 11 & 12, 2020
Friday: 7:00 pm
Sabbath: 9:15 am - 8:00 pm

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
Recreation Center (next to swimming pool)
24 Office Dr, Crossville, TN 38555
Phone for Park: (931) 484-6138

CAMPING & CABINS:
Cumberland Mountain State Park:
(931) 484-4727
(5 miles south of meetings)

MOTELS:
EXIT 322 (most have a continental breakfast and refrigerator):
Holiday Inn Express: (877) 859-5095
Hampton Inn: (931) 707-7170
Comfort Inn & Suites: (855) 849-1513
Super 8: (800) 536-1211

Call two weeks in advance for discount pricing!

MEALS:
Provide your own breakfast. Bring food to share in a vegan fellowship meal on Sabbath following the church service. Bring extra for those coming from long distances! A light evening meal will be provided.

Children will be provided for during meetings.

CAMPMEETING HOSTS:
Danny & Paula Frisby
(931) 863-8071 - home
(865) 202-6079 - cell

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1 hr. 30 min. from Chattanooga
1 hr. 10 min. from Knoxville
Mission Project
Updates

Bibles and More
Zambia Blessings

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. The second recipients of the books whose purchase you facilitated is the Kitwe church that has all members enrolled in the TPMCL. The Kitwe church is composed of youthful, eager and greatly determined young people whose enthusiasm is towards defending the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

A great need for them is to take time and let Christ work in their hearts and fashion them under the divine similitude. If they let the Holy spirit do His part in teaching them, they have potential to become a harbour and shining example to how the gospel ought to be proclaimed with power. They have a rare opportunity to stand in defense of truth and righteousness.

Their training, which is imperative, was hampered by inadequate books to be used as reference material. They were moving at a snail’s pace and though they were determined, it was frustrating on my part to receive lessons that had some questions not attended to because of lacking material. This is why the donation from Steps to life towards the Zambia-Malawi division of Free Seventh Day Adventists will go a long way. Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique churches will also be beneficiaries to this kind gesture.

We believe that we are living in the end times when God’s people will be required to stand and give a reason of the hope that is in them with fear and meekness. This is why the training of workers needs to be expedited under the unction of the Holy Spirit. We will continue distributing these books accordingly and will keep reporting. The presentation of the books was done by Elder Changufu. We bought 6 boxes, a total of 48 sets to benefit 48 students across the three countries, including the brothers in prison. In some cases, the churches will come up with a library so that the books can be accessed on a revolving basis so as to encourage care and accountability. The same will be encouraged at the prison.

May God richly bless you.

Henry Mwesa and Ernest Changufu

Following is a report from our volunteer, Henry Mwesa, in Zambia. Brother Mwesa had earlier requested funds to purchase a set of the Conflict of the Ages for the charges under his care. Using funds that you have donated to our Bible and Spirit of Prophecy fund, we were able to fulfill his request.

$10,366 raised in 2020

 TN the beard of the head, ...
The July 2020 issue of LandMarks has compelling articles on character building. Remember that now you can also download every issue to your electronic devices from www.stepstolife.org.

The feature article “Fall on the Rock” reminds us that no matter how bad a sinner you are, if you are willing to quit, the Lord can forgive you for what is in your past and change the whole direction of your life.

We all look towards heaven. Yet, right here on Earth we should be living that heaven in our homes. The home that is beautified by love, sympathy, and tenderness is a place that angels love to visit, and where God is glorified. Read the article “A Little Heaven.”

The article “The Reconciliation of Man to God” addresses a very similar subject. Souls that have once borne the likeness of Satan can, by the deep mysteries of the Word, become transformed into the image of God.

The whole issue is full of character-transforming articles. As always, children will find their favorite corner, so will homemakers with the health article and the recipe.

You can receive a complimentary subscription of this spiritually uplifting magazine.

Haven’t gotten a subscription yet? Call us today to subscribe!

1-800-843-8788

Tabloid Project
Continued Work in Central America

Behold He Cometh” in Spanish is one of the tabloids on the subject of Jesus’ second coming. We sometimes don’t realize the good these little papers are doing.

Romeo sent ten boxes of tabloids to one of God’s faithful in Panama. They want to give out literature but they didn’t have any. Romeo sent me the audio message from the man in Panama. I listened to the message he sent to Romeo and it was a very heartfelt message expressing much gratitude and thanksgiving for those tabloids. He was so eager and excited to get those tabloids and he expressed that he was sure that God would help him get them to the people who needed to read them. I sure wish we could have sent him more than just 10 boxes. I can just imagine that shipping boxes is pretty difficult between Guatemala and Panama, considering the boxes must travel through Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Romeo didn’t tell me who paid the shipping but it is clear that there are sincere brothers and sisters who long to carry the message to their neighbors.

We are eagerly looking forward to having enough funds to reprint the Cornerstone tabloids. Millions, yes, millions are needing the truth. Panama alone has 4 million people and they only received 10 boxes of tabloids.

Cornerstone Publishing has $143,000 in the bank account now. This is wonderful! Our goal is to reach the $200,000 mark so we can reprint these present truth tabloids to reach the hearts of millions. We will keep praying that God will send the funds we need and hold back the winds so that the work that needs to get done can get done.

Seth Ferrell

Genevevo is a hard working farmer and attends our home church. I was interested that he pulled out one and preached a sermon from the front page, ragged and torn. This is what he does with anyone who will listen. That day I was the only one listening, but I was impressed. If all of God’s people were suchlike, the gospel would go quickly. I’d like to add to this man’s story that he grew up without learning how to read. When the Lord found him, He taught him how to read from the Bible. He reads very haltingly but does well in explanation and comprehension. I believe he’s a miracle man, and God is using him.

Romeo Toledo (Guatemala Central America)
Further Delay?

If we only remained faithful, the Sabbath reform would have gone forward with greater power than did the reform under Martin Luther.

Just after the turn of the 20th century, Sister White wrote several times about the delay of the Second Coming. The frequency with which she also wrote about the nearness of the time provokes us to wonder if there hasn’t been further delay.

“From the time of his expulsion from heaven, Satan directed his efforts against the law of God. He heaped upon it the rubbish of tradition and prejudice. But in 1844 God directed the eyes of his people to the sanctuary, and the first angel’s message was proclaimed. Satan saw that this work must not go forward unhindered, or the world would soon be warned. He said, ‘This must not be. If we cannot do something to hinder the advancement of this work, the knowledge of the binding claims of God’s law will go speedily to the world. A vast army will be raised up for the Lord, to enter the dark places of the earth. Our rule will come to an end. The sins of those who accept Christ will be laid upon us.’

“Satan went forth as a deceiver, to put a lying spirit in the mouth of his prophets. He accomplished that which he purposed. Taking advantage of the disappointment of 1844, he shook the faith of the believers in Christ’s coming. He threw them off the track, blinding their understanding in regard to the sanctuary question. Unbelief came in. Many gave up the faith. Some remained in confusion and perplexity, not knowing what to believe as truth. Had they been able to see the temple of God opened in heaven, their faith would have been established and strengthened. Love and harmony would have prevailed.

“Up to 1844 the body of Advent believers were united in their work. Brotherly love was cherished, and prevailed. This was an important time—the beginning of the great day of atonement. Oh, if all had been obedient to the light sent from heaven, if all had held their position without wavering, if none had cast away their confidence, if there had been no drawing back, how gloriously would the Lord’s purpose have been fulfilled! Strong in his strength, the Adventists would have united their voices in proclaiming the third angel’s message. The Sabbath reform would have gone forward with greater power than did the reform under Martin Luther. The truth would have been given to nations, kindreds, and tongues. In all the countries of the world sentinels for God would have raised their voices in defense of his truth. Speedily the tares would have been bound in bundles to be burned, and the wheat would have been gathered into the heavenly garner.

“But Satan’s device succeeded marvelously. Division came in among the believers, and God’s work was hindered.

“Shortly after the disappointment of 1844 there were a few who began to search earnestly for the truth on the sanctuary question. Great light shone upon them from the open door. They found a firm platform of faith, and took their stand steadfastly upon it. Those who refused to accept the light upon the sanctuary question became bitter opponents of those who advocated the truth. Their obstinate determination not to see light made them an easy prey to Satan’s devices. They joined the world and the churches in opposing the truth. They became instruments in Satan’s hands to present to the people fables and traditions. The enemy exulted that he had been able so completely to deceive those who had been used by the Lord in giving light to the world.

“Thus was hindered the work which began so gloriously, and which should have moved forward in majesty and power. This is why we are still on the earth. The great adversary hindered the work which should have been done in a few months.” Ms194s-1901.3-8.

“If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us.” Testimonies, vol. 9, 29. (1909)

Take courage to be a watchman who gives the trumpet a certain sound so that the three angels’ messages—the message of final warning—reaches every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.
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