

The Newsletter of Steps to Life Ministry

IN HIS STEPS

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2021
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Son, go work today in my vineyard... *Matthew 21:28*



Sheltered in the Storm

Sealed by Angels

Soon there is going to be destruction coming to thousands of cities in this world. In fact every city is going to be visited with divine judgments just before the coming of the Lord. (See Revelation 16:19.) The people who will be sheltered from these judgments that are coming are those who have received the seal of God. (See Revelation 7:1-3 and Ezekiel 9:1-10.)

Will you be one of the select group of people who have God's seal on you so that you will be protected when the judgments of God fall on this world? The Lord says that He is going to destroy the sinners out of the land (Isaiah 13:6-9).

In the end of this world's history there will only be two groups of people in the world—those who have the seal of God and those who have the mark of the beast, the mark of antichrist (Revelation 7:1-4; Revelation 14:1-5 and Revelation 13:11-18; Revelation 14:9-12; Revelation 15:2; Revelation 16:2; Revelation 19:20, 21; Revelation 20:4).

How can a person have assurance that he or she has the seal of God? Many people will come up to the end of the world thinking that they are saved and find out that they are lost. They will be so sure that they are saved that they will try to argue with the Lord. (See Matthew 7:21-23; and Luke 13:22-29.)

In the Bible the word “sign” and the word “seal” are used interchangeably. For example in Romans 4:11 we read “And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also” That which was a sign was also a seal.

All laws must be sealed or signed if they are to be enforced. God's law has a seal too. The Bible says, “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples” (Isaiah 8:16). The seal of a law must identify (1) the law-giver; (2) the source of the law-giver's authority; and (3) the territory over which this power has jurisdiction. The only



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SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 4, 1161

commandment in God’s law, the ten commandments, which contains these elements is the fourth commandment, the command to keep the Sabbath holy (see Exodus 20:8-11).

The fact that the Sabbath is the seal of God’s law and is the mark that will distinguish His people from the rest of the world is the simple fact that this has always been the case. Israel was told clearly that the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished them as God’s people from the rest of the nations.

The prophet Ezekiel said that the Sabbath was the distinguishing sign of God’s people, showing that they were His people and He guaranteed to make them holy if they kept the Sabbath.

“Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them. ... hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God” (Ezekiel 20:12, 20).

And in the last book of the Bible, the special distinguishing sign of God’s people was predicted to be the fact that they kept God’s commandments and had the faith of Jesus. “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

Contrary to what most Christians believe, Jesus enjoined the keeping of the Sabbath after His death and resurrection (See Matthew 24:20) and many years after the cross, the apostle Paul explicitly commanded the Sabbath to be kept by Christians. Notice how clear it is:

For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: “AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS”; and again in this place: “THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.” Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “TODAY,” after such a

long time, as it has been said: “TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.” For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. (Hebrews 4:4-11)

Those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus are the ones who will be sealed by the special sealing angel.

The work of angels and their participation in the salvation of man is something worthy of deep study. Their work is much more than shielding and protecting. In God’s word are recorded the different ministrations of angels, as in the following verse, but they do much more as we will see in our study.

“After these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree” (Revelation 7:1).

This verse tells us that angels have been delegated by heaven and given authority over the various elements (See also an angel having “power over fire” in Revelation 15:8 and “the angel of the waters” in Rev 16:5).

The number four denotes universality, telling us that the events predicted are to be worldwide. The four corners of the earth is an Old Testament term which is better translated “four quarters of the earth,” as in Isaiah 11:12.

The “four winds” represent the worldwide forces of destruction. Winds in Scripture represent war, strife, and commotion, especially when the close of human probation occurs and the judgments of God in the seven last plagues fall upon those who reject God’s truths. The prophet Jeremiah in 25:31-33 describes the release of these angelic powers that will produce a whirlwind of destruction on the “day of the Lord.”

Why are angelic beings commissioned by heaven to hold back the winds of judgment? God's servants, His angels who "excel in strength," obey His command and do His pleasure. They are cooperating with all of heaven in the salvation plan.

"If the curtain could be rolled back, and each one could discern the constant activities of the heavenly family to preserve the inhabitants of the earth from Satan's seductive wiles, lest in their careless attitude they should be led astray through satanic strategy, they would lose a large degree of their self-confidence and self-assurance. They would see that the armies of heaven are in continual warfare with satanic agencies, to obtain victories in behalf of those who do not sense their danger, and who are passing on in unconscious indifference.

"We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God's people shall be accomplished." *In Heavenly Places*, 98.

In prophecy, though, an "angel" represents a messenger, as in the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. "Ascending from the east" denotes the heavenly origin of the message.

"And I saw another angel ascending from the east having the seal of the living God; and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying Hurt not . . . till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads" (Revelation 7:2,3).

This work of sealing the servants of God is a most important work that a select group of God's angels have been assigned to carry out. The prophet Ezekiel in chapter nine describes a similar work done by these angels. We have been warned that it is a most solemn fact for a Christian to be owned

and approved of God. If you believe and trust in salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30). It is upon these individuals that the angels of God will place a special seal, the seal of the living God, which is placed in the forehead just before Jesus finishes His work in the heavenly sanctuary.

"Soon the people of God will be sealed in their foreheads -- it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved. The angel with the writer's ink horn is to place a mark upon the foreheads of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel follows this angel." *SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1161.

This seal placed on the forehead is only visible to the angels of God. Just as the destroying angel had to respect the sign and pass over the houses with blood sprinkled on the lintels and doorposts, in the same manner those with the seal of God will be protected when "Our God comes, he does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire . . . He calls to the heavens above, to the earth, that he may judge his people; Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" (Psalm 50:3-5, RVS).

Who is able to live through a "devouring fire?" Only those will be sheltered in the terrible storm that is coming who have completely surrendered to God all they have and are.

"Every angel would be commissioned to come to our rescue, when we thus depend upon Christ, rather than that we should be permitted to be overcome. But we need not expect to get the victory without suffering; for Jesus suffered in conquering for us.

"The angels of God are communicating with and guarding His people, and are pressing back the powers of darkness that they shall not have any control over

those who shall be heirs of salvation. Are we working in harmony with the angels? This is the line of communication the Lord has established with the children of men."

"Angels from heaven, ministers of Jehovah, that have skill, power and great strength have been commissioned to help, protect and encourage us (sometimes unknowingly) to remain faithful, to keep fighting the good fight. Real wars are not pleasant, and spiritual warfare is just as fierce. How thankful are we that angels of God are communicating with and guarding His people, pressing back the powers of darkness? 'Are we working in harmony with the angels? This is the line of communication the Lord has established with the children of men.'" *In Heavenly Places*, 98.

"Angels are interested in the spiritual welfare of all who are seeking to restore the moral image of God in man, and the human family are to connect with the heavenly family in binding up the wounds and bruises that sin has made. Angelic agencies, though invisible, are cooperating with visible human agencies, forming a relief association with men. The very angels who, when Satan was seeking the supremacy, fought the battle in the heavenly courts and triumphed on the side of God, the very angels who shouted for joy over the creation of our world and over the creation of our first parents to inhabit the earth, the angels who witnessed the fall of man and his expulsion from his Eden home--these very heavenly messengers are most intensely interested to work in union with the fallen, redeemed race for the salvation of human beings perishing in their sins." *Ibid.*, 102.



Article by
John Grosboll
Director of Steps to Life

Co-authored by
Hilde Nunez
Contributing Editor

Mission Project Updates

Orphanages

Mission in Action, Nakuru, Kenya



Breakfast porridge, which is cooked on open fire is being served to older children.



Younger children at breakfast.

In the last newsletter, we provided a brief summary of the operating philosophy of Mission in Action, managed lovingly and devotedly by Ivan and Damaris Budulica. Because of the effects of the corona virus pandemic, their support has sharply declined. Through donations we have received for our orphan fund, we have been able to provide some assistance for their ongoing expenses. However, one of their big needs right now is a new outside kitchen. Following is a brief description from their Australian Office Manager:

“Our staff cook in a traditional outdoor kitchen when they are making a large meal for our 86 children. It is fascinating to see. They cook over an open fire.”

To enable them to improve their ability to feed their charges in a safe and healthy manner, they would like to build a more conventional facility. The cost is estimated to be US\$5,000.00. To assist them in achieving their goal, please mark your donations *MIA*.



This amount represents 2020 funds raised for several orphanages in Africa which Steps to Life sponsors.

Bibles and More

Under the leadership of Pr. Domingo Nunez, Steps to Life is undertaking a project to print study Bibles that will include the Bible studies developed by Marshall Grosboll. These comprehensive study guides have been used for over three decades to open God’s word to “hungry” souls. To provide assistance for this project, please mark your donations *Bibles*.



Tabloids

Cornerstone Publishing is nearing its goal of having enough funds on hand to print another 3 million copies of its signature tabloids. These inexpensive witnessing tools are distributed by hand all over the world. All of the funds raise are used to purchase and ship the tabloids to overseas locations. None of the funds are used for overhead. To assist Cornerstone in achieving their goal of printing another 3 million tabloids, mark your donations *Tabloids*.



Dominican Republic

A Beacon of Light in a Dark Place



The first Adventist church under construction in the Monte Plata region, Dominican Rep.

La Pista, or La Pista de Juan Sanchez, is a small town located in the province of Monte Plata, Dominican Republic. Steps to Life,

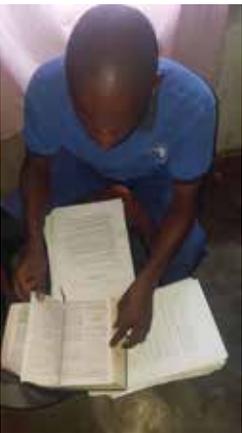
using funds you have donated to us, is assisting in the completion of what will be the first Seventh-day Adventist church there—not only in La Pista, but in the entire region.

The area is almost totally Catholic, and the enemy of souls is not happy about the True Faith making inroads into his territory. He is doing everything possible to hinder progress, but the locals are really responding to the three angels' messages and are looking forward to having a place of worship and taking part in the activities of the remnant church.

To assist in the completion of the church, please mark your donations *Dominican Republic*.

Virtual Visit to Zimbabwe

Henry Mwesa's Typical Month



Henry grades lessons from students taking the Training Program for Ministers and Church Leaders.

One of our most faithful Bible volunteers is Pastor Henry Mwesa, who works diligently in the vineyard in Zimbabwe. He and his coworker, Milton Kampini, are doing a noble, wide-ranging, and varied work in Zimbabwe and the neighboring countries of Malawi and Mozambique.

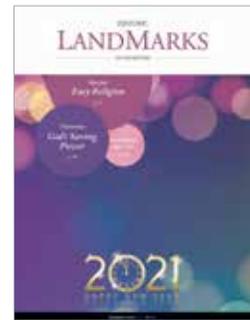
In a typical month, their work routine is incredibly varied. It always includes evangelism as the touchstone of their efforts, but can include tasks as wide-ranging as literature distribution, medical missionary work, conducting Bible studies, teaching Sabbath school, preaching for the main worship service on Sabbath, and even making bricks for church construction.

Their work is supported entirely by your contributions to Steps to Life, with financial support coming as appropriate from the evangelism fund, the mission fund, the general fund, and tithe for that portion of their work that is tithe-worthy.

Brethren Mwesa and Kampini are only two of the volunteers who receive monthly stipends and other financial support from your contributions.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS —OF ADVENTISM—

in January



If you're a *LandMarks* subscriber, most likely you already have your 2021 January issue in your hands. If you're not a subscriber,

you can access the magazine online at www.stepstolife.org.

Many people today claim to be Christians, and as evidence, they point to their attendance of fancy worship services in lofty cathedrals. But is this the true religion that Jesus spoke about? Far from it. Read the article: "Wanted: Easy Religion."

This issue also features a powerful testimony of a World War II fighter jet pilot whose life was at risk on several occasions. God miraculously intervened each time. Read the article "God's Saving Power."

This January issue contains even more compelling articles. Did you know that animals recognize medicinal plants and use them for self-medication? Read the Nature section.

Do you desire to have the gluten-free trend clarified once for all? The article "Give Us Our Daily Bread" will do just that and you can share the information with your friends who fall victims to dietary trends.

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

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

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Challenge in Central Nigeria

Orphans in Africa are omnipresent.



Left: Brother Daniel Terence with his family and Pastor Nunez.

Top: Brother Daniel with his wife Ruby and one of their sons.

Those who have been receiving our publications over time are undoubtedly familiar with Daniel Terence, the Bible worker volunteer based in Makurdi, Benue State, in Central Nigeria. He has been a faithful servant in that part of the Lord's vineyard for over a decade and has weathered many strange winds of doctrine, always remaining true to the basic tenets of historic Adventism.

His faithfulness and reliability are unquestioned. Whenever we receive a request for information or Bible studies from someone within a hundred kilometers or so of his location in Nigeria, we forward it to him. He then makes contact and ensures that their desire to know the truth is appropriately addressed.

During Pastor Domingo's last visit to Nigeria, he discussed with Brother Daniel and his wife the possibility of administering a training center and small orphanage. As you probably

know, there are countless orphans in Nigeria, as there are in just about every African country. The prevalence of life-threatening diseases and harsh living conditions results in many premature deaths, leaving thousands of young children with none or only one parent, the latter termed "half-orphans." Because of a lack of a support system, a single parent is often incapable of caring for children. In addition, poverty is so extensive that it is often impossible for surviving adults to take in their orphaned relatives.

After much thought and more prayer, Brother and Sister Terence agreed to accept the opportunity to manage a center for spiritual support for central Nigeria and to establish a small orphanage to nurture the young who are parentless. Brother Daniel will supply the administration and spiritual oversight, while his wife, Ruby, who is a trained educator, will manage the orphanage.

When Pastor Domingo explained the project to Prairie Meadows Church, the church affiliated with Steps to Life in Derby, Kansas, the church board enthusiastically agreed to undertake sponsorship of the project and agreed to fund half of the cost, challenging our supporters to match their support.

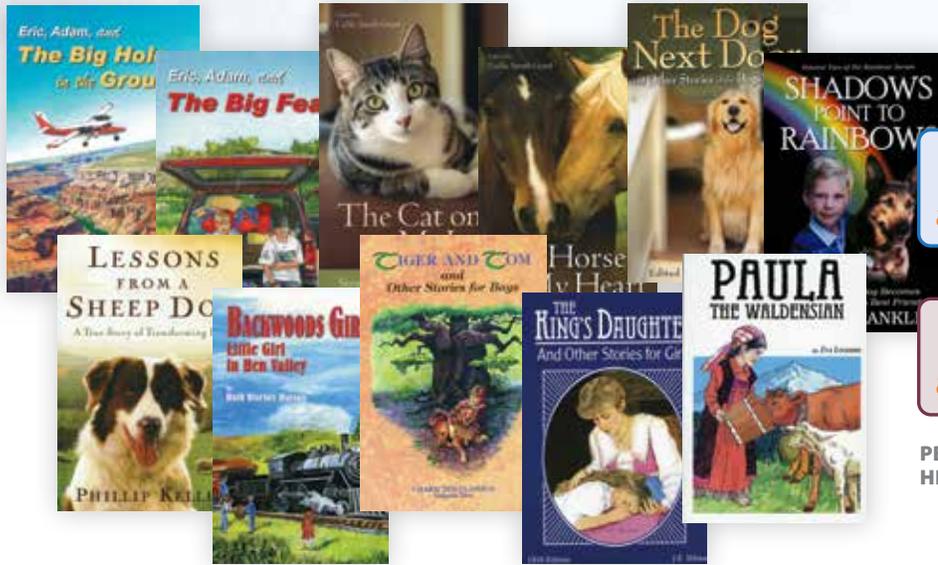
The total cost of the center and orphanage is approximately US\$18,000. The Prairie Meadows Church board agreed to supply US\$9,000 if this ministry's supporters will provide an additional equal amount.

As the project goes forward, Pastor Domingo will provide advice, oversight, and counsel as needed.

To join Prairie Meadows Church in support of this worthy effort, please mark your donations *Central Nigeria*.



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