

The Newsletter of Steps to Life Ministry

IN HIS STEPS

September - October 2021 | Volume 21 • Number 5

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



Who is on Trial?

John J. Robertson wrote in 1981 in *The White Truth*, “A lie always parades as truth; the truth never parades as a lie. A lie will call the truth a lie. The truth never calls a lie the truth.

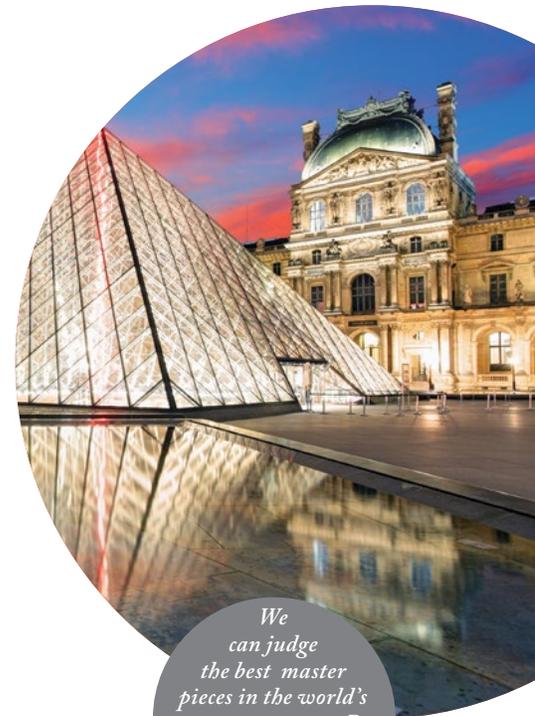
“Two unsophisticated men were sightseeing. When in Paris they decided to visit the Louvre. As they viewed the famed art treasures, they were not impressed with the value of the priceless oil paintings. Standing before an especially noted masterpiece, one said to the other, ‘Imagine that being worth a million dollars! I don’t see what’s so special about it. You’d certainly never catch me paying a fortune for it.’

“The guard, overhearing the conversation, quietly stepped up to the man, touched him on the elbow and said, ‘I couldn’t help but overhear your conversation. I would like to say, Sir, that these paintings are not on trial, but those who come to see them are.’

“So it is with God’s prophets. Daniel was not on trial in the lions’ den. Babylon was. Jeremiah was not on trial in the pit., Zedekiah was. Paul standing with chains before Agrippa was not on trial. The king was. And Jesus, that Greatest of prophets and King of kings standing accused before the Praetorium, was not on trial. Pilate and His accusers were. ...

“Remember that Mrs. White is not on trial. Those of use who read her are.”

When rebellion erupted in heaven, “Satan’s representations against the government of God and his defense of those who sided with him were a constant accusation against God. His murmurings and complaints were groundless; and yet God allowed him to work out his theory. God could have destroyed Satan and all his sympathizers as easily as one can pick up a pebble and cast it to the earth. But by so doing he would have given a precedent for the exercise of force. All the compelling power is found only under Satan’s government. The Lord’s principles are not of this order. He would not work on this line. He would not give the slightest encouragement for any



We can judge the best master pieces in the world’s greatest museums. But in reality, it is we who are on trial.

“

The severity of the trial through which Christ passed was proportionate to the value of the object to be gained or lost by His success or failure.

This Day With God, 14

human being to set himself up as God over another human being, feeling at liberty to cause him physical or mental suffering. This principle is wholly of Satan's creation." *The Review and Herald*, September 7, 1897.

Satan has been working for about 6000 years to attempt to prove (1) that God is responsible for the rebellion, (2) that God's law is unjust and cannot be kept and therefore needs to be changed, (3) that God and all His loyal children are selfish, (4) that God and his loyal children do not really keep the law either, (5) that God is arbitrary, (6) that God is cruel (The doctrine of eternal torment has been successful in turning millions away for the Father in heaven.), and (7) that he has been treated unfairly.

By allowing Satan to live on and repeat his lying charges to the entire universe for thousands of years, God allowed Himself to be placed on trial in a sense before the entire universe. When Jesus came to this earth, this argument had been going on for over 4000 years. But who is really on trial here?

"When Christ entered upon His campaign, Satan met Him and contested every inch of ground, exerting his utmost powers to conquer Him. Much was involved in this controversy. Intense interests were at stake. The questions to be answered were 'Is God's law imperfect, in need of being amended or abrogated? or is it immutable? Is God's government stable? or is it in need of changes?' Not only before those living in the city of God, but before the inhabitants of all the heavenly universe, were these questions to be answered. ...

"From the manger to the cross Satan followed the Son of God. Temptations beat upon Him like a tempest. But the more fierce the conflict, the more familiar He became with the temptations wherewith man is beset, and the better prepared He was to succor the tempted.

"The severity of the trial through which Christ passed was proportionate to the value of the object to be gained or lost by His success or failure. Not merely the interests of one world were involved. This world was the battlefield, but all the worlds that God has created were affected by the

result of the conflict. ... Satan sought to make it appear that he was working for the liberty of the universe. Even while Christ was on the cross, the enemy was determined to make his arguments so varied, so deceptive, so insidious, that all would be convinced that God's law was tyrannical. He himself laid every scheme, planned every evil, inflamed every mind to bring affliction on Christ. He himself instigated the false accusations against One who had done only good. He himself inspired the cruel deeds that added to the suffering of the Son of God--the pure, the holy, the innocent.

"By this course of action Satan has forged a chain by which he himself will be bound. The heavenly universe will bear witness to the justice of God in punishing him. Heaven itself saw what heaven would be, if he were in it. ..." *This Day With God, 14.*

Paul wrote, "let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." The judgment of God and His government by the unfallen universe was completed about 2000 years ago. (See the chapter in *The Desire of Ages* entitled, "It is finished.") It remains for his last-day children to make a final vindication of His character and His government. How is this to be done?

"Of the Spirit Jesus said, 'He shall glorify Me.' The Saviour came to glorify the Father by the demonstration of His love; so the Spirit was to glorify Christ by revealing His grace to the world. The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. The honor of God, the honor of Christ, is involved in the perfection of the character of His people." *The Desire of Ages, 671.*

"Christ designs that heaven's order, heaven's plan of government, heaven's divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. Through them the Sun of Righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world. Christ has given to His church ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. He has bestowed upon His people capabilities and blessings

that they may represent His own sufficiency. The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depositary in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display. Christ looks upon His people in their purity and perfection as the reward of His humiliation and the supplement of His glory.--Christ, the great Center, from whom radiates all glory." Ibid., 680.

"It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. . . . The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.

"The light of the Sun of Righteousness is to shine forth in good works--in words of truth and deeds of holiness. *Christ's Object Lessons*, 415, 416.

"When Christ reigns in the soul, there is purity, freedom from sin. The glory, the fullness, the completeness of the gospel plan is fulfilled in the life. The acceptance of the Saviour brings a glow of perfect peace, perfect love, perfect assurance. The beauty and fragrance of the character of Christ revealed in the life testifies that God has indeed sent His Son into the world to be its Saviour." Ibid., 419.

"Christ is coming with power and great glory. He is coming with His own glory and with the glory of the Father. He is coming with all the holy angels with Him. While all the world is plunged in darkness, there will be light in every dwelling of the saints." Ibid., 421.

Who is really on trial?



Article by
John Grosboll
Director of Steps to Life

Co-authored by
Hilde Nunez
Contributing Editor

A Multi-faceted Work in Zambia



With assistance from Steps to Life, the Zambia ministry purchased herbs and have engaged four medical missionary workers to reach out to the surrounding communities.

Following the counsel given in the Spirit of Prophecy, Henry Mwesa, our volunteer in Zambia, has embarked on an ambitious printing program to provide books, tracts, and Bible studies in Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique. He reports that "Our efforts have been blessed of the Lord. One highlight of our distribution program was when one of our Bible workers encountered a woman who told him she could not read and write but desperately wanted to learn how to read so she could read and understand the Bible for herself. She further reviewed that she has since enrolled for night school for this purpose alone. She has since joined our Bible study group."

Medical missionary work is another line of work that Henry's team has vigorously engaged in. With assistance from Steps to Life, they purchased herbs and have engaged four medical missionary workers to reach out to the surrounding communities.

Henry wrote, "The Bible correspondence school has moved beyond locals to the seekers in Malawi and Mozambique who are learning Bible truth as they answer questions from the Know Your Bible lessons. The printed page has been extremely effective as it has sparked interest in churches that have previously been ignorant on the work that Christ is doing in behalf of penitent sinners in the sanctuary above.

"Our efforts through God's grace remain untiring and results have been encouraging. In Malawi, we have had an entire church branch from Mulodza SDA take a stand and are now using Landmarks magazines for their studies. We have further provided other materials to them and we expect them to attend our camp meeting.

"May God richly bless you as we together await our redemption."

Henry Mwesa

Mission Project Updates

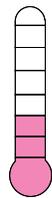


Bibles and More

We have recently been made aware of an opportunity to participate in an effort to ship a pallet consisting of 2,520 copies of *The Great Controversy* to Zambia. The project is being coordinated by Jonathan Bennett of Advent Books in England. You may remember our previous reports of the inspired work being done in Zambia by our volunteer Henry Mwesa, who attended our camp meeting in 2018. Henry is excited about receiving a portion of these books that Ellen White said should be distributed more than

any other. Henry makes frequent missionary visits to Mozambique and Malawi and anticipates an eager reception of the books there as well as in Zambia.

To support this effort, please mark your donation *Zambia*.



\$9,073 raised in 2021



Tabloid Project

Seth Ferrell has provided an encouraging update on their efforts to provide tabloids for the faithful to distribute in Romania.

“We have been waiting to get a tabloid translated into Romanian and now that it has been translated, brother Daniel thinks that he can get them printed there. That way we would not have to pay for the shipping fees and he would not have to pay for the import fees there. This is good - less money used. Unfortunately it takes time to get quotes and now that we finally got the quotes it looks like it will work out to be printed there. Now we can coordinate the

printing of the tabloids for other locations.”

We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to our Creator for this cost-effective solution.

To assist Cornerstone in sharing life-saving truths around the world, please mark your donations *Tabloids*.



\$1,983 raised in 2021





Orphanages

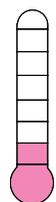
Encouraging News from Central Nigeria



We have previously reported on the construction of a worship center and ministry building under the leadership of Daniel Terence. Daniel's work is centered in Makurdi, Benue State, in Central Nigeria. Your funds have helped us support Daniel for almost two decades. Daniel loves the Lord and is a diligent worker in the vineyard in Central Nigeria. On a recent visit to Nigeria, Pr. Domingo discussed with Daniel and his wife the possibility of organizing and operating an orphanage in conjunction with their ministry—an orphanage with a dual purpose. First, it would be able to provide hope, sustenance, and housing for some of the many orphans in Nigeria. More impor-

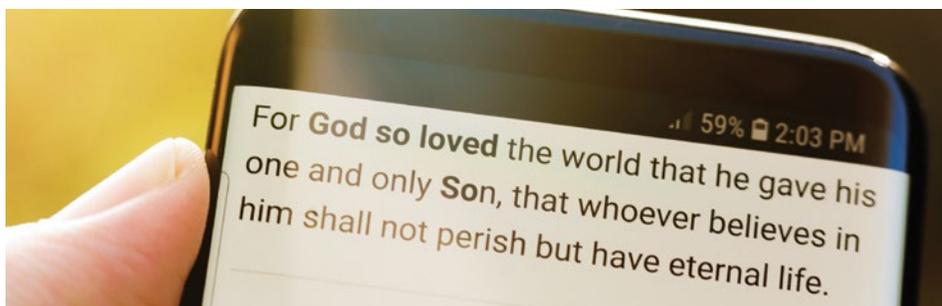
tantly, however, it will provide an opportunity for Daniel and his wife to instill in a significant number of young minds a love of the truth and a desire to work to hasten the return of our Lord and Saviour.

To support this effort to secure a stable future for orphans in central Nigeria and raise a "family" of inspired stewards, mark your donations *Nigeria Orphans*.



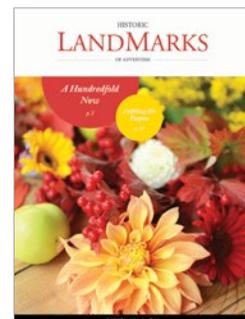
\$10,530
raised in
2021

This amount represents 2021 funds raised for several orphanages in Africa which Steps to Life sponsors.



HISTORIC
LANDMARKS
—OF ADVENTISM—

in September



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

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

In promising a mere "hundredfold," Jesus was in fact stating a very conservative return on investment in human terms. For who can estimate the value of the Being around whom all heaven revolved? Read more in the article "A Hundredfold Now."

God's love is one of infinite love and sacrifice. However, the love we return is initially a passive love, one brought on by the action of another. If it remains passive, it runs the danger of growing stagnant or even fading. Read more in the article "To Know and To Love Jesus."

This issue of *LandMarks* has an abundance of knowledge in all the regular sections you're used to. Children's story, recipe page, nature, there is something for every family member.

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

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Excellent Progress on Worship Centers in Two Nigerian Locations

Central Nigeria



Ready for roof and windows.

Daniel Terence, who has overseen the work in Central Nigeria for almost two decades, reports that much work has been accomplished on the worship and outreach center there. Most construction materials have been purchased to complete the structure and an adjoining plot of land has been bought for the cultivation of crops. The building has now been roofed and concrete flooring and plastering the walls has begun.

Even while much energy and time is devoted to construction of the new ministry building, the day to day work of the ministry continues. Brother Terence's report provides the details:

The Nigeria division meeting was held at Enugu and follow up issues were put in place, such as the registration of the work with the government, worker collaboration through funds contribution for outreach efforts.

Sadly, we lost the brother Enyinaya Okoro who was the Nigeria Division Treasurer and was overseeing the work at Enugu. He was gunned down by unknown

gunmen who came to attack a police checkpoint. He was laid to rest early August.

In Makurdi church we are pleased to announce that the Lord in adding souls to the fold. Our Igbor branch Sabbath school has five new persons. Gboko, Adikpo and Mbaper churches have all witnessed increase in membership. We continue to print *LandMarks* magazine and share with church members, who pay for them, and outsiders who make request for them.

Our Ministerial Training Course (MTC) has an average attendance of 23 persons monthly. We have 13 students taking the MTC/ Medical Missionary course. They are on the third module.

The Steps to Life Bible correspondence course continues for nine church members and the young growing children so they can be grounded in the faith. They are at various levels of completion.

The work in Nigeria could not have been undertaken were it not for the contributions that our supporters make to this ministry. Our workers in the mission field and the staff of Steps to Life offer sincerest gratitude for the confidence you place in our work through your prayers and financial support.

Please keep the work in Nigeria and throughout the mission field in your prayers. To assist in financing the work in Nigeria and elsewhere, mark your contributions *Missions*.

Eastern Nigeria



Eastern Nigeria Worship Center.

All hands are on deck in Eastern Nigeria as Michael Ugorji and volunteers from his church make great progress on the outreach center there.

They have purchased land and nearly completed the block work for the church sanctuary building, which will house a church, classrooms, and offices. Work is also progressing on the second building—the training and residential facility. Work on the third building, the sanitarium, began in late July.

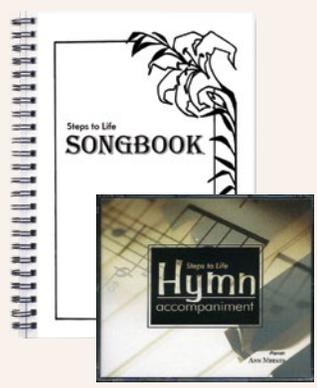
A borehole (well) has been successfully completed, which has provided water for the project and will supply the complex once completed.

Continuing price hikes for supplies and unforeseen expenses associated with land acquisition and development have been challenging.

Michael reports that even though it is the peak of the rainy season, they are making steady progress.



“
Singing, as a part of religious services, is as much an act of worship as is prayer.
 Ellen White



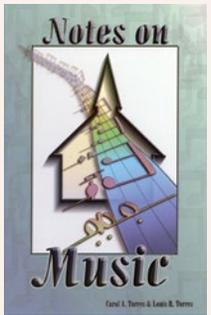
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Contacts

Editor
Contributing Editor
Graphic Design
Phone
Email
Web

John J. Grosboll
Hilde Nunez
Martin Bernar
316-788-5559
historic@stepstolife.org
www.stepstolife.org

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