

The Newsletter of Steps to Life Ministry

# IN HIS STEPS

September - October 2022 | Volume 22 • Number 5

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



## God-fearing vs. Godless

### The Contrast Speaks for Itself

The quotes below from *Patriarchs and Prophets* explain how far God's creation has wandered from its original state and how the principles that He established to not only govern all their affairs, but to ensure their true happiness have eroded. The lawlessness that prevails and the success of the enemy's tactics to twist and destroy the fundamental truths established by our Creator God provide further proof that His wisdom and His laws of governing are far superior to anything man can devise.

"The government of Israel was administered in the name and by the authority of God. The work of Moses, of the seventy elders, of the rulers and judges, was simply to enforce the laws that God had given; they had no authority to legislate for the nation. This was, and continued to be, the condition of Israel's existence as a nation. From age to age men inspired by God were sent to instruct the people and to direct in the enforcement of the laws.

"The Lord foresaw that Israel would desire a king, but He did not consent to a change in the principles upon which the state was founded. The king was to be the vicergerent of the Most High. God was to be recognized as the Head of the nation, and His law was to be enforced as the supreme law of the land.

"When the Israelites first settled in Canaan they acknowledged the principles of the theocracy, and the nation prospered . . . But increase of population and intercourse with other nations brought a change. The people adopted many of the customs of their heathen neighbors and thus sacrificed to a great degree their own peculiar, holy character. Gradually they lost their reverence for God and ceased to prize the honor of being His chosen people." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 603

God-fearing vs godless society – The contrast speaks for itself.

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*If the foundations are destroyed,  
What can the righteous do?*

Psalm 11:3



*It should be  
self-evident that  
drastic changes have  
taken place in this  
country since its  
founding.*

The departure from God's Word by one king after the other, doing "that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel," and the warnings through His prophets to return to Him "for why should you be destroyed?" has continued to the present time. This departure has created a stark distinction between those who fear God and those who are serving Satan.

God-fearing vs godless society – the contrast speaks for itself.

So what can the righteous do?

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

"Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the Lord of hosts. But you said, 'In what way shall we return?' "Malachi 3:7

In the book *The Great Controversy*, in the chapter "The Pilgrim Fathers" and those that precede it, we read the history of how God providentially guided this nation by sending God-fearing men to continue to uphold God's foundational truth. But the foundation that God gave for His people to build upon has eroded.

"The Bible was held as the foundation of faith, the source of wisdom, and the charter of liberty. Its principles were diligently taught in the home, in the school, and in the church, and its fruits were manifest in thrift, intelligence, purity, and temperance. One might be for years a dweller in the Puritan settlement, 'and not see a drunkard, or hear an oath, or meet a beggar.'--Bancroft, pt. 1, ch. 19, par. 25. It was demonstrated that the principles of the Bible are the surest safeguards of national greatness. The feeble and isolated colonies grew to a confederation of powerful states, and the world

marked with wonder the peace and prosperity of 'a church without a pope, and a state without a king.'

"But continually increasing numbers were attracted to the shores of America, actuated by motives widely different from those of the first Pilgrims. Though the primitive faith and purity exerted a widespread and molding power, yet its influence became less and less as the numbers increased of those who sought only worldly advantage." *The Great Controversy*, 296

"The strength of nations and of individuals is not found in the opportunities and facilities that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. That which alone can make them great or strong is the power of God. They themselves, by their attitude toward His purpose, decide their own destiny.

"Human histories relate man's achievements, his victories in battle, his success in attaining worldly greatness. God's history describes man as heaven views him. In the divine records all his merit is seen to consist in his obedience to God's requirements. ...

"The centuries have their mission. Every moment has its work. Each is passing into eternity with its burden. ... God is still dealing with earthly kingdoms. He is in the great cities. His eyes behold, His eyelids try, the doings of the children of men. We are not to say, God was, but, God is. He sees the very sparrow's fall, the leaf that falls from the tree, and the king who is dethroned. All are under the control of the Infinite One. Everything is changing. Cities and nations are being measured by the plummet in the hand of God. He never makes a mistake. He reads correctly. Everything earthly is unsettled, but the truth abides forever. *Sons and Daughters of God*, 338

"The whole work of the father of lies is recorded in the statute books of heaven, and those who lend themselves to the service of Satan, to put forth and

present to men the lies of Satan by precept and practice, will receive according to their deeds. Root and branch will be destroyed by the fires of the last days. Satan, the great general of apostasy, is the root, and all his workers, who teach his lies in regard to the law of God, are the branches." *SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1184

Bible prophecy predicted that the city of Rome would rule the world hundreds of years before it happened. The Bible also predicted that this power would not be taken over by another but that rather it would be divided up into ten different powers. Bible prophecy further predicts that an eleventh power would become dominant over all after destroying three of the first ten and that this eleventh power would not be destroyed by human hand but would last until it was destroyed by the judgments of God. The kingdom would then be given to the saints of the Most High.

In the same way Bible prophecy predicted the rise of the United States as a world power. The United States is the world power described in the latter part of Revelation 13. The weight of evidence for this conclusion is as follows:

- 1 A beast in Bible prophecy represents a kingdom or nation (See Daniel 7).
- 2 The second beast in Revelation 13 is seen arising (coming to power) during the time when the first beast in Revelation 13 (the one described in verses 1-10) receives a deadly wound. As protestants have believed for many years, the first beast represents the papacy. The evidence for this is very strong. Of the thirty or more points in the first verses of Revelation 13 we will mention just three:
  - (a) This beast was given his throne or seat of government by the Dragon. The dragon represents primarily the devil but in a secondary sense it represents the pagan Roman empire because it was that empire that attempted to destroy Christ at His birth (Revelation 12:4, 5;

Matthew 2). Historians agree that the Roman emperor Justinian gave the papacy international power and established the power of the papacy in the so-called (but falsely called) eternal city. In 533 A.D. Justinian wrote a letter to the pope in which he stated that the pope was the head of all the churches. He said in this letter “We have made no delay in subjecting and uniting to Your Holiness all the priests of the whole East.” In 532 he issued an edict “to unite all men in one faith, whether Jews, Gentiles or Christians, such as did not, in the term of three months embrace and profess the Catholic faith were declared infamous, and as such excluded from all employments both civil and military, rendered incapable of leaving anything by will, and their estates confiscated, whether real or personal.” (Bower, *History of the Popes*, Vol. 1 p. 334)

**(b)** This beast or power was predicted to persecute holy people (saints) for over 1000 years (Revelation 13:5-7) “Cardinal Bellarmine (1542-1621) when Luther had stated that the church (meaning the true church) never burned heretics, Bellarmine, thinking of the church only as the professed church or Roman Catholic church said, “This argument proves not the sentiment but the ignorance or impudence of Luther; for as an almost infinite number were either burned or otherwise put to death, Luther either did not know it and was therefore ignorant; or if he knew it he is convicted of impudence and falsehood... .” (John Dowling, *History of Romanism*, 547, quoted in *Daniel and Revelation* by Uriah Smith, 133, 134)

**(c)** At the end of this long period of time—1260 prophetic days, 1260 literal years, this power would receive a deadly wound. In 1798 Berthier with a French army entered Rome, proclaimed a republic, took the pope prisoner, and inflicted a deadly wound upon the papacy.

The United States was just rising to power in 1798, just as predicted in Revelation 13:10, 11.



Bible prophecy predicted that the city of Rome would rule the world hundreds of years before it happened.

**3** This second beast in Revelation 13:11 arises in a different location from any of the former beasts or powers in the books of Daniel and Revelation. The former beasts arose from the sea or the bottomless pit, but this beast arises from the earth. The sea represents multitudes, peoples, nations, and languages. So the power described in the latter part of Revelation 13 could not arise amid the teeming multitudes of peoples, languages, and nations in Europe, Africa or Asia. It must arise in some other location.

**4** This power would appear as a gentle power, not a persecuting power, at its arising. It had the appearance of a lamb.

**5** It had two horns like a lamb. A horn in prophecy represents a power (See Daniel 7). We leave it to the reader to define what these two horns represent. It is explained in the book *The Great Controversy* by Ellen White.

It should be self-evident that drastic changes have taken place in this country since its founding.

According to this prophecy in Revelation 13, the United States in the very final years of earth’s history is going to undergo even further changes. It ...

**1** will become a persecuting power exercising all the power of the first beast who by this time will have been healed from its deadly wound and will be receiving honor and worship from all over the world

**2** will cause the inhabitants of the world to worship the first beast, that is, the papacy

**3** will perform great miracles by which it will deceive almost the entire world

**4** will create something just like the first beast; in other words, something that will be a replica of the first beast in the dark ages

**5** will use economic pressure to force people to either worship the first beast or its image or at least receive its mark of authority

**6** will eventually try to kill anyone who does not yield to its demands. This decision to kill those who will not violate the warning of the third angel’s message in Revelation 14:9-12 will bring the world to the fulfillment of Daniel 12:1-3 when “your people shall be delivered” and when there will be a resurrection of some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

When students of Bible prophecy first proclaimed these things on the basis of Bible prophecy about 175 years ago, it seemed unbelievable that the United States would ever do things like that. It does not appear at all unbelievable anymore.



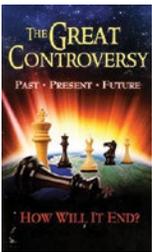
Article by  
John Grosboll  
Director of Steps to Life

# Mission Project Updates



## Bibles and More

### Herculean Undertaking in England



The 2022 Commonwealth Games were held from July 28 – August 8 in Birmingham, England. Over 5,000 athletes from 72 Commonwealth nations competed in 280 events in 20 different sports. Over one million tickets were sold, but the most exciting aspect of the event was the distribution of

thousands of copies of *The Great Controversy*. Advent Books, headed by Jonathan Bennett, coordinated the distribution and arranged for volunteers to staff strategic locations to distribute this truth-filled gem. Steps to Life was able to use your donations to our Bible/Spirit of Prophecy fund to supply several thousand copies of this enlightening book for distribution. Perhaps you will meet in heaven the person your donation provided a copy of

*The Great Controversy* to that changed their life and put them on the track to heaven.

To support similar efforts, please mark your donations *Bibles/SOP*.



## Orphanages

Pastor Domingo continues to work with Daniel and Ruby Terence to develop an orphanage in Nigeria. The building is currently under construction, and we look forward to providing a full report once that project is operational.

We also continue to support the High Way orphanage in Kenya, overseen by Bill and Becky Humeniuk. The Lord has really blessed their efforts there, where their orphanage continues to develop eleventh-hour workers to spread the gospel message.

Although there are many, many opportunities to support orphanages in every country in Africa, our objective is to develop workers who will go forth to spread the Adventist message of salvation through the three angels' messages. To assist us in that endeavor, mark your donations *Orphans*.



This amount represents 2022 funds raised for several orphanages in Africa which Steps to Life supports.



## Tabloid Project

For many years, Steps to Life has helped raise funds for Cornerstone Publishing to print inexpensive tabloids.

For several months, Cornerstone has been having problems getting tabloids to southern Mexico. The shipping agency would not ship them because the cost was too high. They kept hoping that the cost would go down—which it didn't! So Cornerstone shipped them to Texas and from there to Belize. Once in Belize, they were taken to Mexico so they won't be charged Belize import fees—complicated, but the least expensive way to spread the word to southern Mexico.

To support this effort, mark your donations *Tabloids*.



## Off and Running

### With Solar Power



In our last newsletter, we shared the good news that your donations had enabled us to purchase a solar printer for use in southeast Africa, near where Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique meet. Pr. Milton Kampini has worked faithfully to translate Great Controversy into Chichewa, the most common language in that portion of Africa. How exciting it is to know that present truth is now accessible to potentially thousands who have never had access before. Pr. Kampini and Pr. Henry Mwesa are working together to spearhead this wonderful effort.

To support their work and similar projects, please mark your donations *Bibles/SOP*.

## Property Ownership

### Moving Forward Rapidly

As a result of the untiring efforts of our director of outreach, Pr. Domingo Nunez, some very, very exciting things are developing in the mission field. Steps to Life has now achieved legal status in Mexico, Bolivia, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, and Zambia. While some decry official government recognition, the fact is that in today's legal atmosphere, it is impossible to hold title to real property without legal standing. By establishing legal status in these countries, the ministry is enabled to hold property and gain certification for our workers to canvas legally. In addition, by having a legal framework for holding title to office space instead of renting, we save significant amounts of money, recouping our investment in just a few years.

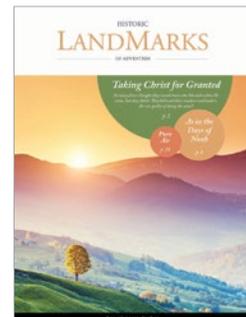
Some people have said that achieving such status will be a short trip to a quick end with the onset of the time of trouble, but the fact of the matter is that if/when the powers under the control of Satan begin persecuting God's people, the only protection anything will provide is that directed by the throne of heaven.

To continue to support our work in the mission field, please mark your donations *Missions*.

## HISTORIC LANDMARKS

—OF ADVENTISM—

in September



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

you can access the magazine online at [www.stepstolife.org](http://www.stepstolife.org).

Many Jews thought they would know the Messiah when He came, but they didn't. They believed their teachers and leaders. Will we be guilty of doing the same? Read more in the article "Taking Christ for Granted."

War. Distress. Tragedy. We see it all around the world. But we shouldn't be surprised. All and more are predicted by the Bible. The world seems unaware that all these things must, and will, come to pass. Yet on the other hand, many people party and indulge in all kinds of pleasures as if nothing were happening. Read more in the article "As in the Days of Noah."

But there is hope for God's elect. In fact, it's not just hope, it's a firm promise. *LandMarks* magazine's aim is to help you reach the promise. In addition to spiritual articles, it also contains fun sections such as puzzles, children's stories, recipes, etc.

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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"For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in him should  
not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

# On the Move in Colombia



Many hands make light work.



The happy result of many hands at work.

Steps to Life has supported Benjamin and Rose Cortes, faithful workers in the Colombian vineyard, for well over a decade. This dedicated couple regularly hold Bible studies and health seminars and continually print booklets and tracts to spread present truth throughout much of Colombia. Following is a brief report we recently received from them.

Dear Brethren at Steps to Life:

It's been a privilege to be the recipients of the blessings of the Lord to work in His vineyard. While we are at El Arbolito farm, it's time for building, farming, and to work in formatting new books. A group of our brethren who live nearby have come to help us out two Sundays in preparing the site for new facilities.

In purchasing a new laptop, we've been able to work in formatting new books while we are at the farm. While we are in Valencia at Sister Matha's farm, where we have a printing press, we use all the time to print.

We thank you for all your support for our ministry. May the Lord bless each one of you.

In the Christian hope,

*Benjamin and Rosana Cortes*

## Fall Fairs

It's That Time of Year!



In most parts of the country, the approach of fall heralds the return of annual county and state fairs, which present wonderful opportunities for reaching thousands of people with the message of hope so badly needed today.

This will be the twenty-eighth year that Prairie Meadows Church, affiliated with Steps to Life, has hosted a booth at the Kansas State Fair. Thousands of copies of Spirit of Prophecy books and invitations for Bible studies are distributed each year—and not just to adults. Volunteers prepare special “kids’ bags” that contain a “My Bible First” lesson, a

pack of crayons and a page to color with a Bible memory verse on it, a card for a free copy of *The Great Controversy* (America in Prophecy), and a copy of *America – Land of Liberty*, a magazine containing a condensation of *The Great Controversy* for their parents. Similar bags with appropriate content are prepared for teens.

Please pray that Holy Spirit will germinate the seeds planted through this effort and bring forth fruit for the kingdom. And...pray about how your church can participate in a similar outreach effort in your area.

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## Literature on Grief



### SOMEBODY CARES

Marshall J. Grosboll

Written a few days before he and his family were killed in a plane crash, this was, in a way, Marshall Grosboll's last will and testament to this world.

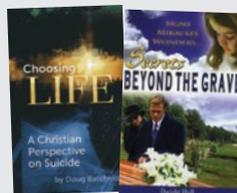
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