

The Newsletter of Steps to Life Ministry

IN HIS STEPS

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



Meekness

Alive and thriving!

Jesus places meekness among the first qualifications for entrance into His kingdom, and from the Scriptures we know that this divine attribute was manifested by our Savior throughout His earthly life. His example and invitation to “follow Me” should urge us to covet this gift to be qualified to enter His kingdom. If Jesus is indeed our example in His lowliness, we need to understand the principles on which this attribute is founded.

“From the root of true humility springs the most precious greatness of mind, greatness which leads men to conform to the image of Christ. Those who possess this greatness gain patience and trust in God. Their faith is invincible. Their true consecration and devotion keep self hidden. The words that fall from their lips are molded into expressions of Christlike tenderness and love. Having a sense of their own weakness, they appreciate the help which the Lord gives them, and they crave his grace that they may do that which is right and true. By their manner, their attitude, and their spirit, they carry with them the credentials of learners in the school of Christ.” *The Review and Herald*, May 11, 1897

Meekness, or Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is the first duty and highest virtue of every believer, and the root of every other Christian virtue. And so pride, or the loss of this humility, is the root of every sin and evil. “The spirit of Christ’s self-sacrificing love is the spirit which pervades heaven and is the very essence of its bliss.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 381

In Matthew Jesus says “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.” In the gospels we have read how the Savior endeavored over and over to teach this principle to his disciples. We read the most striking revelation of this from *The Desire of Ages*:

“There was ‘a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.’ This contention, carried on in the presence of Christ, grieved and wounded Him.

“

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:5

“

The spirit of Christ's self-sacrificing love is the spirit which pervades heaven and is the very essence of its bliss.

Testimonies, vol. 3, 381

The disciples clung to their favorite idea that Christ would assert His power, and take His position on the throne of David. And in heart each still longed for the highest place in the kingdom. They had placed their own estimate upon themselves and upon one another, and, instead of regarding their brethren as more worthy, they had placed themselves first. The request of James and John to sit on the right and left of Christ's throne had excited the indignation of the others. That the two brothers should presume to ask for the highest position so stirred the ten that alienation threatened. They felt that they were misjudged, that their fidelity and talents were not appreciated. Judas was the most severe upon James and John.

“When the disciples entered the supper room, their hearts were full of resentful feelings. Judas pressed next to Christ on the left side; John was on the right. If there was a highest place, Judas was determined to have it, and that place was thought to be next to Christ. And Judas was a traitor.

“Another cause of dissension had arisen. At a feast it was customary for a servant to wash the feet of the guests, and on this occasion preparation had been made for the service. The pitcher, the basin, and the towel were there, in readiness for the feet washing; but no servant was present, and it was the disciples' part to perform it. But each of the disciples, yielding to wounded pride, determined not to act the part of a servant. All manifested a stoical unconcern, seeming unconscious that there was anything for them to do. By their silence they refused to humble themselves.

“How was Christ to bring these poor souls where Satan would not gain over them a decided victory? How could He show that a mere profession of discipleship did not make them disciples, or insure them a place in His kingdom? How could He show that it is loving service, true humility, which constitutes real greatness? How was He to kindle love in their hearts, and enable them to comprehend what He longed to tell them?

“The disciples made no move toward serving one another. Jesus waited for a time

to see what they would do. Then He, the divine Teacher, rose from the table. Laying aside the outer garment that would have impeded His movements, He took a towel, and girded Himself. With surprised interest the disciples looked on, and in silence waited to see what was to follow. “After that He poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded.” This action opened the eyes of the disciples. Bitter shame and humiliation filled their hearts. They understood the unspoken rebuke, and saw themselves in altogether a new light.

“So Christ expressed His love for His disciples. Their selfish spirit filled Him with sorrow, but He entered into no controversy with them regarding their difficulty. Instead He gave them an example they would never forget. ... One of the last acts of His life on earth was to gird Himself as a servant, and perform a servant's part.” *Op. cit.*, 643 – 645

“Christ's work was to set before men the character of His kingdom, showing that names and positions and titles are nothing, but that pure virtue and a holy character is accounted as everything in the sight of heaven. In His sermon on the mount, the very first sentences that came from His lips were calculated to lay those ambitions low in the dust. ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit,’ He said, ‘for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. ...’” *Lift Him Up*, 135.

When the old serpent, he who had been cast out from heaven for his pride, spoke his words of temptation into the ear of Eve, she did not perceive the poison with which they were laced. And when she listened, and yielded her desire and her will to the prospect of being as God, knowing good and evil, the poison entered into her soul and blood and life, destroying forever that blessed humility and dependence upon God which would have been our everlasting happiness. The life of the race that sprang from her became corrupted to its very root with the most terrible of all sins

and all curses, the poison of Satan's own pride. All the wretchedness of which this world has been the scene, all its wars and bloodshed among the nations, all its selfishness and suffering, all its ambitions and jealousies, all its broken hearts and embittered lives, with all its daily unhappiness, have their origin in this cursed, hellish pride, either our own, or that of others. Our insight into the need of redemption will largely depend on our knowledge of the terrible nature of the power of pride that has entered our being.

This is why it is so hard for human beings to accept the gospel: "The natural stubbornness of the human heart resists the light of truth. Its natural pride of opinion leads to independence of judgment and a clinging to human ideas and philosophy." *The Review and Herald*, August 19, 1909

This is also the reason for the strife that exists in families and in the church: "As pride and worldly ambition have been cherished, the spirit of Christ has departed, and emulation, dissension, and strife have come in to distract and weaken the church." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 240, 241

"There is nothing which will weaken the strength of a church like pride and passion." *The Review and Herald*, July 5, 1887

"In many families we hear very little affection expressed. The members of the family seem cold and alienated, and regard all manner of expressions of affection as sentimental. There is no need of sentimentalism, but there is need of thoughtful courtesy one toward another, of chaste, ennobling, dignified manifestations of regard. Many who profess to love God seem to pride themselves on their hardness of heart. In language and action they reveal a character that is an offense to God. The tenderest affection should be cherished in the family circle. Especially between the husband and the wife should thoughtful love and refined courtesy ever be manifested. Brothers and sisters should never act as though they did not



By their manner, their attitude, and their spirit, they carry with them the credentials of learners in the school of Christ.

love one another; they should learn to restrain hasty words and manifestations of impatience. Every member of the family should manifest kindly affection one for another." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, 81

"But the blessed Jesus will come to us in no other character than the meek and lowly Crucified One. We must partake of His self-denial and suffering here if we would take the crown hereafter. ..." *Our Father Cares*, 110

"When unkind, discouraging words are spoken to you, do not retaliate. Do not reply unless you can return a pleasant answer. Say to yourself, 'I will not disappoint my Saviour. The Christian woman is a gentlewoman. On her lips is ever the law of kindness. She utters no hasty words.' To speak gentle words when you are irritated will bring sunshine into your hearts, and make your path more smooth. A schoolgirl, when asked for a definition of meekness, said, 'Meek people are those who give soft answers to rough questions.' Christ says, 'Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.' They will be fit subjects for the kingdom of heaven; for they are willing to be taught." *The Review and Herald*, April 7, 1904

"When discouraging words are spoken to you, do not reply unless you can return a pleasant answer. When you are tried and tempted by unkind words, do not retaliate. Say to yourself, 'I will not

disappoint my Saviour.' Every man who is a Christian is a gentleman; and every woman who is a Christian is a gentlewoman. The law of kindness is ever on the lips of the Christian woman. She utters no hasty words. To speak gentle words when you feel irritated will bring sunshine into your heart, and will make your path more smooth. A school girl, in answer to a question, said, 'Meek people are those who give soft answers to rough questions.' Christ says, 'Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.' They will be fit subjects for the kingdom of heaven, because they are willing to be taught. *Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, 50

"You say that your husband is not yet converted to the truth. Show him in your life the advantage of taking Christ at His word. By patience, forbearance, and kindness you may win your husband to the Saviour." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, 442

"Meekness and humility will characterize all who are obedient to the law of God, all who will wear the yoke of Christ with submission. And these graces will bring the desirable result of peace in the service of Christ." *Signs of the Times*, July 22, 1897

Christ is our example of humility. "In order to be happy, we must strive to attain to that character which Christ exhibited. One marked peculiarity of Christ was His self-denial and benevolence. He came not to seek His own. He went about doing good, and this was His meat and drink. We may, by following the example of the Saviour, be in holy communion with Him, and by daily seeking to imitate His character and follow His example, we shall be a blessing to the world and shall secure for ourselves contentment here and an eternal reward hereafter." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 227



Article by
Hilde Nunez
Contributing Editor

With input from
John Grosboll
Director of Steps to Life

Foreign Mission Project Updates

A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss

On the road again...

The dust hardly settles from one trip by Pr. Domingo Nunez, our Director of Outreach, before he is out on another mission. In the last newsletter, we reported on the multitude of projects he has been working on around the globe. In this newsletter, we will provide progress reports on several of them.



An artist's rendering of the new worship center in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Bolivia

The facility that will serve as a center for worship and education for much of South America is nearing completion. It is amazing to reflect on how mercifully God's hand has moved in the development of this project. By the merciful grace of God, this facility will be ready for dedication this summer. It will encompass a full range of functions that will hasten the spread of the gospel throughout South America.

Mexico

Changes in Guadalajara

Initially planned as a remodel of an existing structure for the purpose of a radio station, this project has grown significantly. A major reconstruction was called for when architects realized that the existing infrastructure in the original building was inadequate to support the addition of two stories. Another wrinkle occurred when it was determined that a major power line had to be rerouted, as it would have been too close to the upper story of the new building.

Once completed, this facility will be a major point of dissemination of light in a heavily Catholic country.



Jadial Rosales-Aguilar prepares to broadcast a present-truth message from his home studio, which will soon be replaced when the worship center is completed.

Ghana



Joseph Class-Peters has worked with Steps to Life since 1995.

Encroachment by worldly activities on Steps to Life's facility in Ghana that has served as the center of our outreach efforts for over 20 years has necessitated a relocation. An offer had been made and accepted on a property in Accra, Ghana, that would have served as the new center for our missionary efforts in West Africa. However, the selling party was unable to complete the sale, requiring a renewed search.

Pr. Domingo has been working with Joseph Class-Peters to find another location for our highly successful Bible correspondence school, office, and training facility for Bible workers.



Zambia

Henry Mwesa should be familiar to you, as we have reported on his work several times before. He is a faithful worker in Zambia who coordinates work with Milton Kampini across the border from Zambia in Malawi. They work together as a team to spread the gospel in their respective countries with frequent visits to Uganda to conduct evangelistic series there.

Henry began a major project to develop a ministry administration center, only to find out that the land on which construction was planned could not be purchased. If the local authorities decided that it was needed for another use, we would have to vacate with no compensation.



Henry Mwesa, on the right, preaches while Milton Kampini translates.

After a thorough search, Brother Henry found a suitable location and is developing plans now to begin construction.

Nigeria



Pastor Domingo visits with Daniel Terence, his wife Ruby, and their children.

As of this writing, Pr. Domingo is in Nigeria making final arrangements for the completion of the major project we are developing in Central Nigeria, under the guidance of Daniel and Ruby Terrence.

We have reported before on the construction of this facility, which will serve as a center for evangelism in that part of Nigeria and will house a worship center, offices, a study center, treatment facilities, and an orphanage.



The new facility in Makurdy, Central Nigeria, is ready for occupancy, but additional funds are needed for furnishings.

This project has been underway for over a year, and we are eagerly looking forward to its completion. When Pr. Domingo returns, he will provide an update with a projected completion date, which we will share with you.

In East Nigeria, Michael Ugorji is undertaking a similar project, though without an orphanage. Work is nearing completion and we look forward to sharing the end result with you soon.

Camp Meeting 2023

May 24 evening - 27 evening, 2023

Speakers:



Pr. John Grosboll

Pr. Grosboll is the Director of Steps to Life Ministries and pastor of Prairie Meadows Church.



Pr. Domingo Nunez

Pr. Nunez is the Director of Outreach for Steps to Life Ministries. His work in the mission field is often reported in this newsletter.



Michael Snyder, MD

Dr. Snyder is a physician in private practice in California. His practice gives special emphasis to how lifestyle and diet affect your health and therefore your spiritual growth.



Jonathan Bennett

Johathan is the Director of Advent Books, Blaby, Great Britain. His objective is to give every household in England an opportunity to receive a copy of *The Great Controversy*.



Stephanie Griffin – Stephanie Griffin Ministries

Stephanie was thriving as an emergency room nurse when she came under the influence of the spiritual formation movement. She was well on her way to becoming a spiritual director before God intervened! Having been delivered from the depths of this false revival and its mystical practices, Stephanie now shares her deep understanding of its dangers and false teachings.



Laura & Ernie Williams – Sabbath Afternoon Concert

Laura believes music is a powerful tool that can be used to spread the gospel and point people to Christ. Sometimes a song can go where a sermon cannot. Together, Laura and her husband Ernie have dedicated their lives to taking the message of the gospel to all they can reach for as long as God continues to open the way.



HISTORIC LANDMARKS OF ADVENTISM

in March



Special
Sabbath
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While most of the Christian world keeps Sunday as the memorial of Jesus' resurrection, you'd be amazed to find out that many Christians know better! Yet they choose to remain in their Sunday-keeping churches. For now. Will we be ready to embrace them when the circumstances change?

The Sabbath has its firm place in our modern world. If it were observed, literally many of the world's problems would dissappear. This includes issues such as health, environment/ecology, agriculture, human rights, etc. We would witness the world's transformation for the better!

Most of the regular sections such as children's story, nature, Q&A, etc. are also focused on the Sabbath and will bring you amazing insights.

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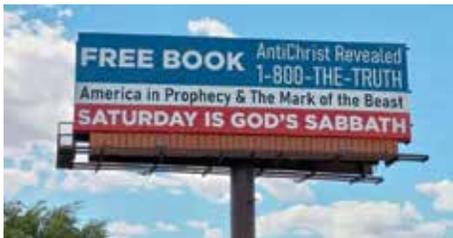
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Working Close to Home

Domestic Mission Fields



Ellen White counsels: “It is better, far better to die of hard work in some home or foreign mission field, than to rust out with inaction.”

This is guidance that Pr. Domingo Nunez, our director of outreach, has taken to heart. We often report on his work in Mexico, in Bolivia, and in different countries in Africa, but he also works within the boundaries of the United States to provide encouragement and guidance to those closer to home.

When asked about the extent of his domestic work, Pr. Domingo listed over a dozen churches in the U.S. that he and Steps to Life have provided support to from time to time. Our assistance has consisted not only of providing speakers, but also organizational assistance, resource materials,

conflict resolution, and Sabbath school supplies, as well as other forms of support and encouragement.

While these domestic efforts do not have the general appeal that those in foreign countries do, they are nevertheless critical to ensuring that every nation, kindred, tongue, and people hear the salvational truths.

Only a well-organized local church can do effective work as a beacon of light.

More general outreach efforts

In addition to providing specific support to established home churches, Steps to Life also engages in more widespread outreach efforts. Late last year, one of our supporters worked with a national billboard company to place a billboard west of Oklahoma City on Interstate 40, with an intriguing offer for information about the seventh day Sabbath and the mark of the beast. According to the company that put up the billboard, tens of thousands of vehicles pass by the location of the billboard each week. When someone expresses interest in the offer by calling

the toll-free number on the billboard, we send a copy of *America in Prophecy (The Great Controversy)* and any other information that might address questions the caller raises.

Follow-up

A continuing and significant problem we face with more general outreach in the U.S. is finding dedicated and committed individuals who can follow through when someone expresses an interest in God’s truth. While we can easily send literature to any place in the country, being able to put a truth seeker in contact with someone for personal instruction is a real challenge. As we draw closer and closer to the meeting of time and eternity, the number of faithful, self-sacrificing souls grows smaller.

If you are one of those faithful souls who would like to support our efforts in letting the world know of the good news of salvation, please mark your donation *Evangelism*.

To assist with the support of our efforts in the foreign mission field, please mark your donation *Missions*.

New Look on YouTube

You may have noticed the YouTube icon on our web page, in our newsletter, and in *LandMarks* magazine. Jerry Dillon, who oversees digital media for us, has used the creative talents the Lord has given him to create a new look for videos that upload to our YouTube channel.

Please click the link on our website www.stepstolife.org to not only see Jerry’s creations, but also to view some truly edifying messages from Pr. John Grosboll. Of particular note is the message entitled “The Humiliation of Christ.”

To support our efforts to share the gospel via the Internet, mark your donations *Website evangelism*.



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