

The Newsletter of Steps to Life Ministry

IN HIS STEPS

September - October 2024 | Volume 24 • Number 5

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



Rags to Riches

Alexandrina Victoria was the queen of the United Kingdom and Ireland from June 20, 1837, until her death on January 22, 1901. Her reign as queen lasted 63 years and seven months, longer than that of any other British monarch to that date. The period centered on her reign is known as the Victorian era.

Though Queen Victoria ascended the throne at a time when the United Kingdom was already an established constitutional monarchy in which the king or queen held few political powers, she still served as a significant symbolic figure of her time. The Victorian era represented the height of the Industrial Revolution, a period of significant social, economic, and technological progress in the United Kingdom. Victoria's reign was marked by a great expansion of the British Empire, and during this period, it reached its zenith, becoming the foremost global power of the time.

Because of the Industrial Revolution and the progress of technology in her country, Queen Victoria decided to visit a paper mill owned by one of her subjects to see how paper was made. The owner of the paper mill was pleased to give the Queen a tour of his plant and to explain every detail of the process from start to finish.

During the tour through the factory, the Queen was taken into a large room filled with rags—rags in huge bins, rags in bales, and rags in huge piles on the floor. Some rags had been brought in by rag pickers and were still filthy and dirty. These rags were all being sorted or separated and processed.

When the Queen saw the rags, she asked, “Do you make the paper out of these?”

The owner answered, “Yes, my Queen, our best paper is made from rags.” The Queen became very quiet for a while, but then she asked, “But how can these dirty rags ever be made into clean white paper?”



Queen Victoria ruled the United Kingdom from 1837 until 1901.



Even in the Victorian era, experts knew how to make the whitest paper out of dirty rags.

“Well,” the owner answered, “we have washers that remove all the dirt and grime followed by a chemical process that removes every bit of color, even from the darkest red rags.”

A few days after the Queen’s visit to the paper mill, a nicely wrapped package was delivered to her. When she opened it, she was very surprised. The package contained some of the whitest, most beautiful paper she had ever seen. Her name was embossed on each sheet of paper, along with a watermark of her image. A note from the owner of the paper mill explained the gift.

“Will the Queen be pleased to accept a specimen of my paper, with the assurance that every sheet was made from the dirty rags she had seen in the warehouse on her recent visit to our mill? I trust the result is such that even the Queen may admire it.

“Will the Queen also allow me to say that I have had many good sermons preached to me in my paper mill? I have come to understand how the Lord Jesus can take a poor heathen, the vilest of the vile, and make him clean, and how, though his sins be as scarlet, He can make them white as snow.

“I can see how He can put His own name upon them; and just as these rags transformed, may go into a royal

palace and be admired so poor sinners can be received into the palace of the Great King.”

The paper mill owner found a beautiful sermon in his grimy, filthy rags, and the Queen held unquestionable evidence in her hands that spotless, snow-white paper could come from soiled, cast-off rags of every color.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that all our righteousness is as filthy rags. Yet we hope someday to have a home in that land where Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us as He promised. How is that possible?

As the many-colored rags in the paper warehouse were changed into lovely, snow-white stationery, so we, with our different degrees of imperfection, can have all our sins washed “as white as snow” and might enter into God’s kingdom if we ask, “Lord Jesus, I want to be made perfectly whole, wash me so that I can be whiter than snow.” By C. L. Paddock, *The Signs of the Times*, May 1, 1951

For more than 35 years, Steps to Life Ministry has devoted its time and resources to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our mission to tell the world:

- There is a God in heaven, and He loves you (1 John 4:9, 10).

- Jesus Christ lived His life as an example of the life that we must live. He died to pay the penalty on behalf of sinful man because the wages of sin is death, and it is through Jesus alone that we are saved from our sins (Romans 6:23).
- He has promised power, grace, and mercy so that we may be victorious in overcoming our sinful nature and reaching the standard of Christian perfection that Jesus Himself placed before us. He promises we can accomplish all His biddings (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 329–332).
- We live in this world but are not to be part of it. We are saved from sin, not in sin, with hope for a miraculous, instantaneous change. The process of sanctification—perfecting character—is completed here or not at all; it is the work of a lifetime with the assurance of a miraculous transformation of character (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 333).
- No power on earth or in hell can overcome us as long as we remain steadfastly surrendered to Christ (Romans 8:38, 39; Isaiah 40:28–31).

Friends, the time is almost here when we will hear the trumpet sound, and Jesus, with all His angels, will descend to this earth to take His children home. Individually, we must be ready to see Him face to face. But as His body, He calls us to join Him in warning the people of this world as it spins faster each day toward destruction. Steps to Life is privileged to have taken up this work, and we thank you for your support, prayers, and financial contributions. The end is near, and there is still work to do. God asks, “Who shall I send?” May our answer be, “Lord, send me.”



Article by
Hilde Nunez,
Judy Rebarck
Contributing Editor

With input from
John Grosboll
Director of Steps to Life

Appeal for Funds

Van for Kenya



Steps to Life can purchase a passenger van on the used market for \$10,000.

In the United States, we enjoy the good fortune of living in a country that not only gives more liberty to its citizens, but is blessed by God with more temporal prosperity than most other countries.

Ellen White clearly states in *The Great Controversy*, p. 441, that Republicanism and Protestantism are the underlying reasons for this nation's power and prosperity. Because of this prosperity, the Seventh-day Adventists living in the United States can finance mission projects worldwide. Sometimes, we have been temporarily financially overextended in these mission projects, but the Lord has seen our need and impressed some of His children to supply the lack.

Recently, a worthy mission project was brought to my attention, which Steps to Life hopes to very soon embark upon.

However, we have had to spend a few thousand dollars more on our current mission projects in recent months than we have received in donations. This over-expenditure has led me to petition the Lord to impress some of His children to supply the necessary funds to make up the financial difference with our existing projects and to begin this new project.

In Kenya, the three angels' messages have successfully been taken to the areas surrounding the churches where our gospel workers gather each Sabbath. Many individuals have accepted the gospel message but cannot attend church because they live too far away to walk and do not own motorized transportation. Our workers told us they could transport them to church if they had a van, and we would like to purchase one for them for \$10,000.

Just as the Holy Spirit impressed a man that Joseph Bates didn't even know to send just the right amount so that Bates' pamphlet about the Sabbath could be published, even before Bates knew how much he would need and had yet to ask for, I know that the Holy Spirit can impress God's people to help others living in dire circumstances to be able to receive the blessing of attending Sabbath services with like believers. If just 200 people would give \$50, this would not be difficult to raise.

To help with this missionary project, mark your donation *Van for Kenya*.



By John Grosboll
Director of Steps to Life

Foreign Mission Project Updates

 Guadalajara, Mexico

Who Are the Angels?

By Jadiel Rosales



We presented a series of studies on our radio program titled “Who are the Angels?” In this country where spiritualism is not only highly believed in, and multitudes make important life decisions based on this thinking, the truths taught based on God’s word concerning this subject are extremely important. We began with the visible things of this world versus the invisible, the ministry of God’s

angels, and the influence of the evil angels that all humanity is being influenced by in the great controversy between our Lord Jesus Christ and our arch-enemy, Satan.

Hebrews 1:14 tells us, “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister those who will be heirs of salvation?” Not only does the Bible teach the existence of good and bad angels, but it also teaches and contains conclusive proof that angels, whether good or evil, are not disembodied spirits of men who have ceased to exist. Starting in the book of Genesis, we can read how the Creator sent cherubims to guard the entrance into Eden after Adam and Eve’s expulsion after disobeying God. An Angel saved Daniel’s three companions after they were cast into the burning furnace; later, Daniel himself, after being thrown into the lions’ den, was saved by an angel sent to “shut the lions’ mouths.” These heavenly messengers are still ready to protect God’s faithful followers when they are in danger. The New Testament also contains several instances concerning the work of evil angels during the ministry of Jesus on this earth.

The devil, the enemy of God and His children, has no confusion about the

angels of God. “Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.” Job 2:1. God’s word records direct statements by the devil himself on how he knows and understands the words in our opening text: “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” The angels of God come to us on missions of love and mercy, commissioned by our heavenly Father to protect, warn, and guide His obedient children. There are many verses in the New Testament regarding evil angels, and the life of Job teaches us that faith and trust in God are essential if we are to stand against the enemy of our souls.

After listening to the study for about a month, Alejandra called to request the free books. She stated that the studies were just what she needed because she had experienced demonic attacks that prevented her from completing her daily responsibilities. She is very excited to have the opportunity to study the books *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy* to learn more about God’s will for her life.

Encouragement and Hope

By Jadiel Rosales



Another broadcast focused on a message of encouragement and hope, a message greatly needed in today's climate of strife, protests, violence, and financial difficulties. Catholicism is the prevailing faith in Mexico, and it teaches that we cannot directly approach the throne of grace. We intentionally direct our listeners to pray to God in heaven and trust Him to answer

their prayers. We shared this quotation from *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 112, 113:

“We receive Christ through His word, and the Holy Spirit is given to open the word of God to our understanding, and bring home its truths to our hearts. We are to pray day by day that as we read His word, God will send His Spirit to reveal to us the truth that will strengthen our souls for the day's need.”

And our Saviour says, “Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet Your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” Matthew 6:26. What a beautiful expression of God's love for us.

One of our listeners, Mrs. Catalina Manzano, called to explain that this message had touched her to the core of her being. She requested the free books and said she was very anxious to continue her study on the encouragement and hope God offers to His children.

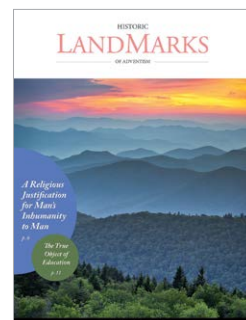
We praise our Almighty God and Father for His excellent work in Guadalajara. And we thank you, dear faithful supporter, for your prayers and support.

Maranatha, Christ is coming very soon.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

in September



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

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

There is an abundance of suffering in our world. Because of our sinful nature, a person is capable of monstrous crimes. Entire modern cities have been built by slave labor in the middle eastern region. In the past, it was no different in the western world. Until the 20th century, the Roman Catholic Church preached that slavery is in accordance with natural law. Yet, Christianity provides countless examples of fighting for social justice. It is a fascinating subject you can read about in the article “A Religious Justification for Man's Inhumanity to Man.”

Sin has almost destroyed the image of God in man. The article “The True Object of Education” shows us that through Biblical education, it doesn't have to be.

This issue of *LandMarks* has more fascinating articles, including your favorite sections.

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Steps to Life

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		John Grosboll	Sab, 7:00 pm	The Adventist Kadesh Barnea
		Patricia McEachrane -Gross	Thu, 9:00 am	Stress - Not Distress, Pt. 1
		Patricia McEachrane -Gross	Thu, 2:30 pm	Stress - Not Distress, Pt. 2
		Patricia McEachrane -Gross	Fri, 11:00 am	Stress - Not Distress, Pt. 3
		Domingo Nunez	Thu, 11:00 am	The Ladder to Heaven, Pt. 1
		Domingo Nunez	Thu, 7:00 pm	The Ladder to Heaven, Pt. 2
		Domingo Nunez	Fri, 7:00 pm	The Ladder to Heaven, Pt. 3
		Domingo Nunez	Sab, 9:00 am	Mission Report
		Ivan Plummer	Thu, 5:15 pm	Seven Deadly Sins, Pt. 1
		Ivan Plummer	Fri, 9:00 am	Seven Deadly Sins, Pt. 2
		Ivan Plummer	Sab, 5:15pm	Seven Deadly Sins, Pt. 3
		Eldaa Royer	Sab, 2:30 pm	Music Program
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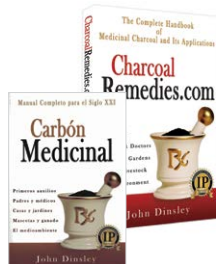
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September - October 2024



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Change Service Requested

Tennessee Camp Meeting

with Pastor John Grosboll

Friday, September 20, 2024, 7:00 pm
Sabbath, September 21, 2024, 9:15 am - 8:30 pm

Cumberland Mountain State Park
24 Office Drive
Crossville, TN

(On Highway 127 South of Crossville
at the Recreation Center next to the
swimming pool.)

Provide your own breakfast. Bring food to share in a vegan fellowship meal on Sabbath after the church service. A light evening meal will be provided. (Please bring extra food if you are able to share with those coming from long distances.) A children's program is planned.

Accommodations: Camping and Cabins at the Park: (931) 484-4726. Area motels: Holiday Inn Express, Hampton Inn, Super 8, and Comfort Inn & Suites. (Mention Steps to Life for a discount.)

For additional information, contact:

Danny or Paula Frisby, (931) 863-8071 or (865) 202-6079