

The Newsletter of Steps to Life Ministry

IN HIS STEPS

May - June 2025 | Volume 25 • Number 3



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

The Power of the Book

The *HMS Bounty* was a vessel in Britain's Royal Navy. In August, 1787, Lieutenant William Bligh was appointed to be her commander. The *Bounty* had been commissioned to carry breadfruit plants from Tahiti in the South Pacific Ocean to British colonies in the West Indies. In addition, Bligh's sailing orders included surveying an under-explored, yet important passage. He would enter the Pacific by way of Cape Horn and sail around South America to Tahiti. After picking up the breadfruit plants destined for the West Indies, he would then sail through the Endeavour Straits, and from there, he would cross the Indian and South Atlantic Oceans, arriving at the West Indies in the Caribbean. However, he had received permission to take an alternate route around the Cape of Good Hope if necessary.

Since the *Bounty* was a smaller ship, she was refitted to provide sufficient space for the breadfruit plants she would pick up in Tahiti. She had a crew of 46, which included Fletcher Christian. Christian has sailed with Lt. Bligh before, and due to their teacher-student relationship, Christian had become a skilled navigator. Also, because of this favored relationship, Bligh made Christian second in command, making him an acting lieutenant. The *Bounty's* crew was young. All, except Bligh (33), William Peckover (39), and Lawrence Lebogue (40), were under the age of 30.

The conditions aboard the *Bounty* were far from ideal. Living space was assigned by rank, with the best accommodations going to those of highest rank. But given how much overall space had been sacrificed to make room for the breadfruit plants, including the captain's cabin, even the ranking officers' spaces for this voyage left a lot to be desired. This left the rest of the crew crowded together, often living in the dark, windowless spaces of the ship.

“
*All
Scripture
is given by
inspiration
of God, and
is profitable
for doctrine,
for reproof, for
correction, for
instruction in
righteousness.*

2 Timothy 3:16

The *Bounty* tried to leave England on November 28, 1787. However, contrary winds made it difficult for the ship to clear the English Channel until December 23. Bligh's hopes of reaching and passing around Cape Horn before winter were dashed.

On April 2, 1788, as they approached Cape Horn, a strong wind and high seas drove the ship back so much that she was farther north than she had been a week earlier. So, on April 3, after days of fighting against nature, Bligh instructed his exhausted crew to turn around and head for the Cape of Good Hope. Nearly two months later, they dropped anchor in False Bay, east of the Cape, remaining there for five weeks to make repairs and restock supplies needed for the continuing journey.

Bligh was known to be a strict disciplinarian, often fanatical, fussy, and easily affronted. Add to that the crowded quarters and contrary weather, it is not surprising that there were many incidents of troublesome behavior among the crew before they reached Tahiti and after.

The *Bounty* dropped anchor in Matavai Bay, Tahiti, on October 26, 1788. They had sailed 27,086 nautical miles (the equivalent of 37,170 land miles). Christian was assigned to lead a shore party to establish a compound where the plants could be brought and tended until they were certain they could be loaded on the ship and safely make the trip to the West Indies.

For five months, the *Bounty* lay at anchor in Tahiti. Work was light, and many of the sailors including Christian, took the opportunity to become acquainted with the native women. Bligh remained chaste himself, but tolerated the crew's activities, yet he expected the men to do their duty efficiently. He was, however, quickly disappointed at the ever-increasing neglect on the part of his officers. Punishment was swift and severe.

From February, 1789, and forward, the work pace increased and the plants were



Pitcairn Church

potted and stowed aboard the *Bounty* in the captain's cabin. Historians say that, at this time, none of the crew were close to thinking about mutiny, but they were sorry to leave Tahiti. The work completed, the *Bounty* set sail on April 5, 1789, for the West Indies.

Throughout the month of April, Bligh became more and more tyrannical and paranoid, taking out his rages primarily on Christian. By April 28, Christian had had enough. He gathered his supporters and took command of the ship.

Christian lowered the *Bounty's* 23-foot launch. Bligh and every man who wished to stay with him boarded the launch. They were allowed to take with them the captain's journal, commission papers and purser's documents, sails, a compass, and quadrant, but Bligh was forced to leave behind his maps and charts. Christian gave them his own personal sextant. The launch was supplied with food and water for five days along with a tool chest, and four cutlasses. When the line holding the launch was finally released from the *Bounty*, it held Bligh and 18 of the crew.

Nearly three months and sailing 3,600 nautical miles, they reached the Dutch settlement of Kupang in Timor on June 14, 1789. Bligh informed the authorities of the mutiny, and procured passage back to England on October 16.

The Mutineers

Christian and the remaining crew of the *Bounty* returned to Tahiti and under false pretenses collected 30 Tahitian men and women, their belongings, livestock, and other goods, then sailed to the small island of Tubuai to establish a permanent settlement there. The island was surrounded with a coral reef

which provided protection against any attack from the sea. However, the islanders' reception was hostile. For two months, the *Bounty* crew fought against the natives of Tubuai, but in the end, the men became discontented. Christian offered a free vote and eight of the men stayed with him. The remaining 16 wanted to return to Tahiti.

On September 22, 1789, the *Bounty*, returned one last time to Tahiti. However, Christian discovered that the Tahitians had learned that his ruse at his last visit had been a lie. Of the 16 men who wanted to return to Tahiti, Christian allowed 15 to leave the *Bounty*. He kept men were allowed to go ashore. Christian detained William Purcell, the ship's carpenter, but he later escaped from the ship. Later that evening, Christian turned tail and headed out to sea with eight mutineers—John Williams, William Brown, Isaac Martin, John Mills, William McCoy, Matthew Quintal, Edward Young, and Alexander Smith (who later changed his name to John Adams) and 20 Polynesians, 14 of them women. Christian sailed west looking for a safe haven. It was then that he decided to sail to Pitcairn Island, far to the east of Tahiti. The island had been found in 1767, but its exact location had never been verified. He searched for months finally finding the island on January 15, 1790. It was 216 miles east of its recorded position and this error contributed to the decision to settle there.

The *Bounty* was stripped of everything that could be useful as they constructed their new home on the island, along with all the stores they had brought with them. On January 23, what was left of the *Bounty* was set afire, completely destroying it and removing the only means of leaving the island. The island was ideal—uninhabited, inaccessible, with an abundance of food, fresh water, and fertile soil.

For a time, life was peaceful on Pitcairn, but eventually the Tahitians began to feel abused, as though they were only property to the former sailors. They rose

up against them, and when an English navy ship dropped anchor there in 1818, only John Adams, the sole surviving mutineer, remained with the women and children.

The history of the *Bounty* mutiny, how Fletcher Christian and a handful of mutineers were able to locate and establish a community on Pitcairn Island is well known. What isn't as well known is that the primary religion of the island has been Seventh-day Adventist since 1887. How was it that the descendants of mutineers and heathen islanders came to understand that the seventh-day Sabbath was God's day of worship, to abstain from unhealthy food, drink, and activities, to believe that Jesus died to save all mankind, that He is able and willing to forgive, and that He is returning soon to take His children home, and that they have believed it, generation after generation, with little to no outside influence for more than 200 years?

The answer is found in God's book.

Christian was determined that this small group of survivors would live a life better than the lives they had left behind. And one day, by the hand of Providence, while rummaging through his sea chest, Christian came upon the Bible that his mother had given him years ago. He remembered how he would sit at her knee as she read to him from its pages. She had given him what she felt would be the best gift she could give.

Christian took the Bible to a cave looking out over the ocean and there he spent many hours reading the word of God. After a time, John Adams joined him, and as the days became weeks, and weeks, years, Adams, like Christian, found a wonderful peace he had never known before when he understood from the Bible that his sins could be forgiven.

However, a terrible struggle began over the next five years as Williams, McCoy, and Quintal, heavy drinkers before arriving on Pitcairn, began experimenting in an effort to make an alcoholic



Pitcairn is the world's most remote, inhabited island.

brew with the native plants. Sadly, they succeeded, and as they continued their lives of drunkenness and debauchery this started a landslide of warfare and murder. The Tahitian men rose up to protect their women and Williams, Martin, Brown, Mills, and Christian were killed. Believing that if they did not act quickly, they would all be murdered, Adams, Young, McCoy, Quintal, and the wives of those whom the Tahitian men had killed, killed them in a sudden attack.

McCoy and Quintal, the two drunks responsible for causing the nightmarish actions, lived through the murders and began a reign of terror and abuse. But soon, McCoy, in a drunken depression tied a heavy rock to himself and jumped into the ocean, ending his sad and miserable life. When Quintal's wife died from an accident, he demanded that one of the other men give him their wife. They made him drunk on his own liquor, and then took his life with an ax. From this day in 1798 to today, alcohol is outlawed on Pitcairn.

Now only Edward Young and John Adams remained from the original mutineers. Two years after this dark time on the island, Young died from an asthma attack, the first death on Pitcairn from natural causes.

A pristine island, a paradise, far away from any outside worldly influence, and yet, those who came to live there brought their vices, selfishness, and

immorality with them. The inherent wickedness that lives in every human heart did not go down with the *Bounty*. Is there anything that can keep man from destroying himself?

Adams remembered his time spent reading the Bible with Christian and determined that life on Pitcairn would be better than the life they had left behind. And he understood that it was Christian's Bible that was the only way that this could happen. One day, while contemplating these things in Christian's cave, Adams fell asleep and had a dream.

"I had a dream that changed my whole life. There seemed to be standing beside me an angel who spoke to me, warning me of my past life, and then he called me to repent and go down and train the children in the way of Christian's Bible."

Upon waking, he felt the presence of God, and kneeling there, he asked for forgiveness for the sins of a lifetime. From that day forward, he carried with him a deep and abiding repentance and tried ever to live on a higher level himself. But he also was determined that he must help the young people of the island learn about God.

It was 1800. Adams had four children of his own, but was very attached to Christian's oldest son Thursday. Born on a Thursday in October, his father had named him Thursday October Christian. He was ten years old when Adams shared with him the dream God had

sent to him instructing him to teach the children of the island about Him.

Thursday led the way, asking Adams if he would teach him to read his father's Bible. With Christian's Bible in hand, Adams and Thursday spent time in the solitude of Christian's cave, together reading God's word.

From then on, Adams would gather the children together and teach them about God's love and His power to save. He prayed for and with them and conducted morning and evening worship with them—a custom still practiced today.

As the families joined together for the daily worships and to study the Bible together, they grew strong with a depth of character and firmness to always do what is right. A wonderful peace filled their lives and they determined that they would never return to their previous way of life. They learned from the Bible to be helpful and kind. They learned the importance of being obedient to the law of God. They read that those who were not obedient suffered disastrous consequences—something they certainly could empathize with given their own experience when McCoy, Quintal, and Williams introduced alcohol to the island. They learned that He sent His Son to enable man to obey His commandments, and they learned what many other civilizations around the world had yet to understand; God means what He says, and those who refused to obey, would suffer.

When two British naval ships happened upon Pitcairn, Adams was concerned that he would be returned to England to face the consequences of his actions on that fateful April 28, 1789. British captains were not known to be sentimental. However, after spending time with the young men of the island, seeing their simple piety, and how heavily the inhabitants relied on John Adams, the captains resolved not to disturb the colony. Upon their return to England, the captains filed their official report and recommended that the colony,

including John Adams, be left alone. Since Bligh was now dead, it was decided that the case should be closed.

On March 6, 1829, John Adams passed peacefully at the age of 65. Thursday October Christian became the leader of the island.

With humility, the families of Pitcairn continued to pray and study together. In 1876, they discovered that Jesus would soon return to gather His children home. In 1886, they discovered that Sunday sacredness was not found in the Bible. They continued to study until they were certain that God had blessed and made holy the seventh day of the week, Saturday. Each family had studied it for themselves and accepted the truth. Soon the church bell no longer tolled on Sunday, but instead it rang loud and clear, calling the people of Pitcairn together to worship their Maker on His Sabbath.

In 1838, the Pitcairners had drafted a constitution by which to govern the island. Prior to that, there were no set laws. They weren't needed. And when they did become necessary, it was mostly to deal with crimes against animals and property. However, there was one law, an important law, that was established prohibiting liquor on the island. There is a jail on Pitcairn. The British thought it would be necessary, but no one can remember when it was used last. Its door stands rusted and frozen in a half-open position.

In the story of Pitcairn, we can see what the Bible is able to do for mankind.

While Pitcairn remains somewhat isolated, they are no longer completely removed from the influence of the world. Today a British possession, they receive supplies and mail by way of ships from England, New Zealand, and other parts of the world. Seventh-day Adventism is the official religion of the island, but most of her citizens appear to have lost the sweet joy and peace found in the pages of the Bible, as

Fletcher Christian and John Adams found. Cigarettes and alcohol are sold in the island store, despite the law banning alcohol passed over 100 years ago. There are still a number of God's people on Pitcairn. But though it was once a model of moral prosperity before the world, Satan has successfully brought about actions among the islanders that have ruined the lives of many and caused backsliding in the church.

In the 1870s, James White and John Loughborough shipped Adventist literature to Pitcairn. This aroused a strong interest among the islanders to learn more, and John Tay, a self-supporting missionary, found his way to Pitcairn, hitching a ride on a British man-of-war. He stayed for five weeks. He returned to the U.S. and requested that a pastor return with him to baptize the islanders and organize a church on the island. While there was some difficulty in accomplishing this, by December, 1890, 64 of the islanders were baptized, another 18 shortly thereafter, and the Pitcairn Island Church was established, including a tract and missionary society.

We must establish a habit of reading the word of God every day. As we take the word into ourselves and pray for the power of the Holy Spirit, we will experience a daily conversion, and our characters will be more and more transformed into the likeness of Christ. We must also take the Bible to the world, for only then will lives be forever changed and strengthened to firmly do what is right. This is the power of the Book.

Sources: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutiny_on_the_Bounty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutiny_on_the_Bounty); historyhit.com/mutiny-bounty; encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=782T Pitcairn Island; *Search for Paradise*, by Vance Ferrell



Article by
John Grosboll
Director of Steps to Life

Foreign Mission Project Update

Nigeria *In His Steps* **Orphanage**

By Sarah Torrence

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

With gladness, I write to let you know that we are doing well at the *In His Steps* Orphanage, both children and workers. The Lord has been faithful and 2025 has already been a wonderful year.

Our safety has been assured and, like the widow of Zarephath, our supplies have never run short. All praise to God for His providence, and a big thanks to the brethren at Steps to Life for the wonderful assistance we receive to successfully take forward the work. I also wish to send my deepest gratitude to all of you for your continued prayers and support.

There has been steady progress in the work here at the orphanage and in Nigeria generally. Satan places many obstacles in our path, but our focus remains on Jesus, and with prayer and counsel, we continue to push forward.

Our staff still numbers at five, after one young man went back to school to further his education.

The children improve daily in spirituality, morals, academics, and health, our primary concerns. They are assigned daily household chores, tending the plants in the vegetable garden and other outdoor activities.

The younger children (all of them now) frequently take part in worship. They present the memory verses, tell the children's story, illustrate nature object lessons, and lead the hymns. The older

children sometimes lead in the sun-down vespers service and close of Sabbath.

All the children joyfully go out on the designated days to witness in the neighborhood. Some of them have begun to ask key questions about the Bible. "What will be the fate of someone who is faithfully serving God, but dies in a fire and is burnt to ashes? Does such a one get his flesh back at Jesus' coming?" The children have many times corrected themselves and others when quoting what the Scriptures say. This has been very encouraging.

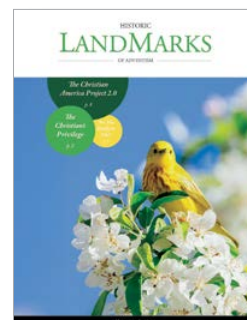
As is the nature of things when they are used every day, appliances eventually wear out. We work hard to be judicious in order to put off replacement as long as possible. Plates, cutlery, and cups have been replaced, as well as cooking utensils and the blender. We also work to use the money given to us in a judicious manner to make it last as long as possible.

The Lord has been faithful, as has Steps to Life, and all who send up prayers on our behalf and donate funds that we can keep the orphanage running to teach these young people about Jesus Christ, giving them the opportunity to tell others about Him, too. Satan works mightily against us, but if God is for us, the devil can do nothing to harm us. Please continue to pray for us. The Lord continue to bless and prosper you all in the work in His vineyard.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

—OF ADVENTISM—

in May



If you are a *LandMarks* subscriber, you should have the May issue in your hands already. If you are not a subscriber, the maga-

zine is available online at www.stepstolife.org.

We are living in the closing times of the world's history. People believed that the world would take a lesson from World War II because its horrors can never be repeated again. The people of the world believed they would now enjoy an era of peace and prosperity. But they didn't. We live in an unstable political climate. The arms race is picking up speed again. Is the wall of separation between the church and state also falling? Read the article "The Christian America Project 2.0" from our regular European contributor Marcin Watras.

If the worst comes true, many will not survive. But are we ready to die? Read the article "Are You Ready to Die?" to learn more.

On a brighter note, there is still beauty in this world to enjoy—nature, our wonderfully made bodies, the food we enjoy. The May issue of *LandMarks* offers reading on all these subjects.

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

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

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Camp Meeting 2025 Speakers Schedule

Wednesday May 21, 2025	Thursday May 22, 2025	Friday May 23, 2025	Sabbath May 24, 2025	Children/Youth Meetings: Gloria Mangum STL Book Room: North end of Basement <i>Speakers schedule is subject to change.</i>
Registration begins at 3:00pm	6:00 - 7:00 am <i>Private personal prayer and devotion time in the sanctuary</i>			
	Serving Breakfast 7:00 – 8:00 am			
	9:00 - 10:15 Dr. Heinrik Korinth	9:00 - 10:15 Evan Sadler	9:00 - 10:15 Pr. Domingo Nunez	
	Break			
	11:00 - 12:30 Pr. Domingo Nunez	11:00 - 12:30 Dr. Heinrik Korinth	11:00 - 12:30 Pr. John Grosboll	
	Serving Lunch 1:00 – 2:00 pm			
	2:30 - 3:45 Dr. Heinrik Korinth	2:30 - 3:45 Communion/Baptism Pr. Domingo Nunez	2:30 - 4:00 Concert - Don & Donna Mohl	
	Break/Snack Bar 4:00 – 5:00 pm		Watermelon 4:00 – 5:00 pm	
	5:15 - 6:30 Evan Sadler	5:00 - 7:00 Sabbath Preparation	5:15 - 6:30 Evan Sadler	
6:30 - 8:00 Pr. John Grosboll	7:00 - 8:30 Pr. Domingo Nunez	7:00 - 8:30 Pr. Domingo Nunez Mission Reports	7:00 - 8:30 Pr. John Grosboll	

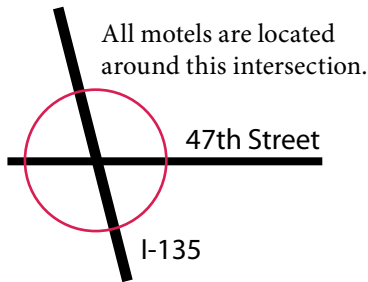
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Friday, May 23		
Sabbath, May 24		
Sunday, May 25		

Register for meals only if you are sure that you will be attending.

Because of limited preparation facilities, we are unable to accommodate special dietary requirements.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

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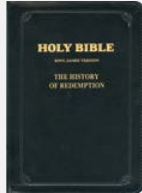
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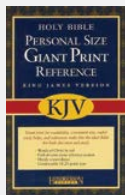
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