

The Newsletter of Steps to Life Ministry

IN HIS STEPS

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



Do You Have a Bible You Can Trust?

“Even a fool when he holds his peace is considered wise and when he shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.” Proverbs 17:28

In other words, when a fool talks about something he does not understand, those who do understand the subject immediately recognize his ignorance because what he speaks is not all true.

In choosing any religion to follow, it is very important to know on what authority it is based. For example, the Mormon religion is based on the Book of Mormon. If there is any difference or contradiction between the Bible and the Book of Mormon, which authority will a Mormon follow?

Likewise, the Muslim and Islamic religion is based on the Koran which does not acknowledge the divinity of Jesus. So, if you asked the question, is Jesus the Creator and Lord of all and of the same substance and having the same attributes as God the Father, which authority would they follow? The Bible or the Koran?

In Christendom, “The very beginning of the great apostasy was in seeking to supplement the authority of God by that of the church. Rome began by enjoining [encouraging] what God had not forbidden, and she ended by forbidding what He had explicitly enjoined.” *The Great Controversy*, 289, 290

God’s authority and will is found in His word, the Bible. If you are a Protestant Christian, your faith is based on God’s word. But here we have a major problem because Protestants and Roman Catholics do not agree on what God’s word is.

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If you are a Protestant Christian, your faith is based on God’s word. However, Protestants and Roman Catholics do not agree on what God’s word is.



The Roman Catholic Bible cannot be considered the “word of God” by any Protestant Christian because the Bible pronounces a curse on anyone who adds to it or takes away from it.

The Roman Catholic Bible cannot be considered the “word of God” by any Protestant Christian because the Bible pronounces a curse on anyone who adds to it or takes away from it.

“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God

shall take away his part from the book of life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” Revelation 22:18, 19

A large collection of books known as the Apocrypha has been added to the Roman Catholic Bible. While Protestants do not say that this collection is total rubbish, they do not believe it is a part of God’s word.

As Protestants, these are some of our reasons:

- The Jews never accepted the Apocrypha as part of the word of God. Conclusive evidence of this is found in the testimony of Josephus who states definitively which writings were accepted by the Jews as the word of God and those they did not. Our Old Testament today includes the same books the Jews accepted as the word of God (although the number is different).

Josephus was born in Jerusalem in AD 37 of the priestly aristocracy. He was educated in both Jewish and Greek culture. For a time, he was governor of Galilee and a military commander in Jewish wars with Rome, present at the destruction of Jerusalem. His testimony regarding which books the Jews considered to be part of the God’s word and His statement that the collection of Sacred writings had been completed and fixed 400 years preceding his time is unquestionable.

- The Apocrypha is, mostly, of uncertain authorship.
- They were never quoted by Jesus. There are statements in the New Testament that appear to be a paraphrase of some statements in the Apocrypha, but it is never quoted as an authority.
- The early church did not recognize it as of divine inspiration.
- The Protestant reformers did not recognize the Apocrypha as part of the word of God.
- The Roman Catholic Church in the Council of Trent in 1546 (which was convened to stop the Protestant Reformation) declared that these books were canonical and remain in the Roman Catholic Bible today.
- If you have been a Bible student for very long and know Jesus as your personal Saviour and friend, and using Revelation 22:18, 19 as your authority, that it will be clear to you the books of the Apocrypha cannot be considered part of the word of God. To include them as such, would violate God’s clear command not to violate His word and, as a consequence, will involve you in blasphemy in the day of judgement.

Following is an abbreviated content of the Apocrypha, all of which are almost certainly fiction.

1. **Esdras** (Greek form of Ezra) – compilation of passages from Ezra, Nehemiah, and II Chronicles with additional legends about Zerubbabel. The purpose of the writer was to picture the liberality of Cyrus and Darius toward the Jews as a pattern for the Ptolemies.
2. **Esdras II** – sometimes called IV Ezra. It supposedly contains visions given to Ezra, predicting a coming new age and the restoration of lost scriptures.
3. **Tobit** – a love story with no historical value. It describes a rich young Israelite captive in Ninevah who was led by an angel to marry a “virgin-widow” who had lost seven husbands.
4. **Judith** – an historical romance of a rich, beautiful, and devout Jewish widow who in the days of the Babylonian invasion of Judah adroitly went to the tent of the Babylonian general and under guise of offering herself to him, cut off his head and thus saved her city.
5. **Rest of Esther** – inserted passages from the book of Esther to show the hand of God in the story.
6. **Wisdom of Solomon** – contains linguistic similarities to parts of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. A sort of fusion of Hebrew thought and Greek philosophy. Written by an Alexandrian Jew whom impersonates himself as Solomon.
7. **Ecclesiasticus** – written by a widely-traveled Jewish philoso-
pher. Gives rules of conduct for civil, religious, and domestic life.
8. **Baruch** – the writer wants the reader to believe he is Jeremiah’s scribe and his writings consist mainly of paraphrases from Jeremiah, Daniel, and other prophets.
9. **The Song of the Three Holy Children** – a fictitious addition to the book of Daniel inserted after 3:23. This addition is supposed to include the prayer of the three worthies while in the fiery furnace and their triumphal song of deliverance.
10. **History of Susanna** – a fictitious story added to the book of Daniel relating how the godly wife of a wealthy Jew in Babylon was falsely accused of adultery and was cleared by the wisdom of Daniel.
11. **Bel and the Dragon** – a fictitious story in which Daniel proves that Bel and the Dragon are not gods.
12. **Prayer of Manasses** – supposedly the prayer of Manassah the son of Hezekiah while a prisoner in Babylon. The date written is believed to be hundreds of years later, and the author is unknown.
13. **Maccabees Parts I and II** – These writings are valuable as Jewish history during the 200-year period before Christ. Part I was written by an unknown Palestinian in about 100 BC. Part II was written sometime after 100BC by a person named Jason of whom nothing is known.

Do you have a Bible that you can trust and depend on? There will be more on this subject in upcoming newsletters.

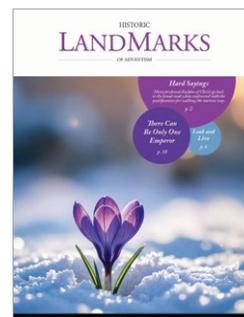


Article by
John Grosball
Director of Steps to Life

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

in March



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

subscriber, the magazine is available online at www.stepstolife.org.

It seems that most professed followers of Christ prefer to hear of the Christian’s reward and the glories of heaven, and not of the narrow road. Many professed disciples of Christ go back to the broad road when confronted with the qualifications for walking the narrow way. Read the article “Hard Sayings.”

We must keep looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. He alone can change our character to reflect His own. Keep the eye fixed on Jesus, inquiring at every step. Read “Look and Live.”

This March issue also features the powerful Religious History section. This time you will learn how to identify the papacy in the Bible.

Don’t miss this issue!

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

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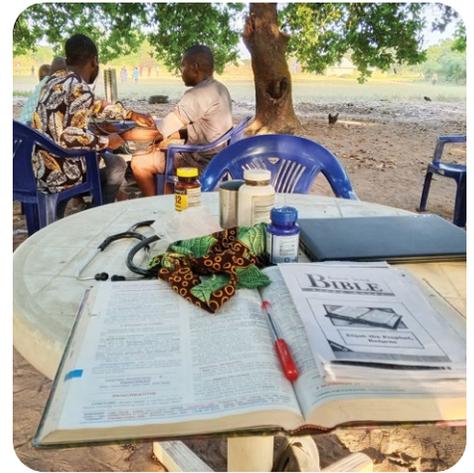
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Foreign Mission Project Update

■ ■ Nigeria

Evangelism in Nigeria

Pastor Daniel Terance



Top left: The Igbor church during Sabbath School Bible class.

Bottom left: Children of the Igbor church in their study class

Top right: Igbor church health counseling

November, 2025

The Igbor church held a community guest day. Seven people attended for the first time. Among them, a Pentecostal pastor who had been studying the message, had analyzed and compared the Adventist message to other religions. He determined that it was truth. He took a stand and has been attending worship since then. Let us pray for him and others as they receive additional materials and pledge to study more.

The Apir church conducted community outreach for a week. Health counsels and treatments were given daily. Various ailments were treated including digestive and lifestyle problems and female issues. Hydrotherapy techniques were used at the sanitarium housed within the office premises. Over 50 persons received treatment. Every person who came for treatment was given a copy of our final warning materials in both English and the local language.

Health lectures and prophecy seminars were given in the evening.

As a result of this outreach, six people requested Bible study lessons and three visited our Sabbath morning worship. One of these was a man who made a pledge to give up his drinking habit, and to continue following the truth and be a part of the medical missionary training program. Please remember him in your prayers.

December, 2025

North Central Nigeria conducted its camp meeting in December. Campers took time out from the various meetings to visit the community during the day and hold nightly health and prophecy presentations. During the day, the women challenged themselves through the Women in Ministry presentations and made renewed pledges to ensure more progress in 2026. A youth program attracted youths from the community. Seven individuals from the community asked to be baptized and were scheduled in January for baptism in Makurdi.

Our prison ministry work continues to flourish with 16 inmates. Bible study lessons 15 and 16—*The Sign of Allegiance to God* and *The Beast*—were shared with them. Our visitation continues weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays with two lessons each. May the good Lord impress upon their minds to receive and follow what they are studying. Let us pray for those who have been released and have taken their marked lessons back to the localities.

May the Lord help and keep us from falling in 2026 as we pledge to do much more for our eternal salvation and that of the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Coworkers with God

The day is long, and the day is hard;
We are tired of the march and of keeping guard;
Tired of the sense of a flight to be won,
Of days to live through, and of work to be done.
Tired of ourselves and of being alone:
Yet all the while, did we only see,
We walk in the Lord's own company.
We fight, but 'tis He who nerves our arm;
He turns the arrows that else might harm.
And out of the storm He brings a calm;
And the work that we count so hard to do,
He makes it easy; for He works, too:
And the days that seem long to live are His,
A bit of His bright eternities—and close to our need His helping is.

Susan Coolidge

The Review and Herald, December 26, 1899



Hearts Converted

Pastor Domingo Nunez



Left: Dayboro, Josseline, Genesis and Uziel

Center: Pastor Jose Luis, Dayboro Capi Bustos, and Josseline Rojas Vergara (Dayboro's wife)

Right: Pastor Jose Luis, Pastor Domingo Nunez, Alfredo David, and Maria Jesus receiving baptismal certificates

In the last quarter of 2025, I asked our Lord for guidance on how to plan for my last mission trip of the year. After two weeks of contemplation and prayer, the Lord placed on my heart the need to visit Bolivia and the faithful believers in the city of Santa Cruz who have been witnessing in the region and preaching the three angels' messages. I have preached there and conducted meetings including prophecy seminars many times. I was so excited and motivated to reach Santa Cruz and begin the work the Lord had for me during this trip.

Jose Luis Siles Ugarte, pastor of the church in Santa Cruz, met me at the airport with the most wonderful news possible.

The news was that one of the church members there, Dayboro Capi Bustos, who had been struggling for a year to surrender himself to a personal relationship with God, finally did surrender his life to our Saviour.

For a long time, Dayboro struggled with spiritual and family issues. He desperately wanted victory in every aspect of his life. He and his family were willing to assist more at church, and Dayboro personally sought to work harder in his personal relationship with God, live according to God's expectations for him.

When I arrived, I wanted to immediately see him and hear from him what was happening; what was different now. Dayboro described how foolish he had been in the past, making the wrong decisions, making his own moves, and realizing that he was not connected with God as he needed to be. Everything began to crumble around him and he knew he would not be able to overcome it all on his own. God had shown him his foolishness. Now he asked God to put in front of him whatever he needed to do, that he was ready to surrender fully to Him and to witness for Him.

The Lord answered his prayer, and his friends Alfredo and Maria, who had been dating for quite some time, asked Dayboro to have Bible studies with them. Together they spent the next several months studying God's word and when the studies were complete, they decided to be baptized.

Imagine my excitement to know that the next Sabbath I would have the privilege of baptizing this young couple. When I asked them how they had come to the decision to be baptized, they said it was because Dayboro spent so much time answering their questions. He was kind and friendly. They could tell that he was dedicated to working for God and determined to teach them the truth.

They could see the work that God had done in his life, and they wanted the same in theirs.

Sometimes God may use individuals who are not prepared to or interested in serving and witnessing for Him (consider Nebuchadnezzar and Pharaoh). However, what God wants to do in our lives, is accomplished when we have surrendered and dedicated our lives to Him. Only then can we see who we are and what must be changed so that we can be used in His final work of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some people believe that they have a saving relationship with Jesus, but they do not commit themselves to work in His way and according to His will. They may say, "I pay tithe" or "I give offerings" or "I hold an office in the church." However, they are not willing to take up the work that God has for them to do.

We must be sincere as we search and evaluate our own lives, laying them at the feet of Jesus. We must ask Him, "Lord, I wish to live my life worthy of being Your child. I want to know what You want me to do. Help me to be willing to go where You want to send me. And most of all, help me, Lord, to seek always to do Your will, just as Jesus did." It is time that we all were made ready to attend the marriage supper of the Lamb.

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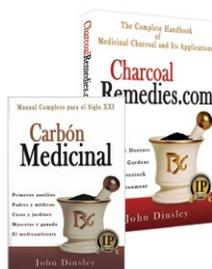
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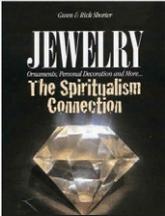


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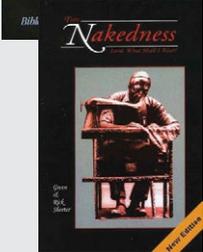
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