

The Reformer

WORLD WIDE REFORMATION

"He That Winneth Souls Is Wise"



THE BANNER

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ALFRED DUDLEY.....Editor
MRS. L. L. JOHNSON.....Associate Editor
A. C. CHATMAN.....Contributing Editor

General Assembly Directory

Office Address..... 610 W. 36th Street
Telegraphic Address..... 610 W. 36th Street
Cable Address..... Adventist, Savannah, Ga.

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THE BUILDERS ON THE WALL

Nehemiah's journey to Jerusalem was accomplished in safety. The royal letters to the governors of the provinces along his route, secured him honorable reception and prompt assistance. No enemy dared molest the official who was guarded by the power of the Persian king and treated with marked consideration by the provincial rulers. His arrival in Jerusalem, however, with a military escort, showing that he had come on some important mission, excited the jealousy of the heathen tribes living near the city, who had so often indulged their enmity against the Jews by heaping upon them injury and insult. Foremost in this evil work were certain chiefs of these tribes, Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian. From the first, these leaders watched with critical eyes the movements of Nehemiah, and endeavored by every means in their power to thwart his plans and hinder his work.

Nehemiah continued to exercise the same caution and prudence that had hitherto marked his course. Knowing that bitter and determined enemies stood ready to oppose him, he concealed the nature of his mission from them until a study of the situation should enable him to form his plans. Thus he hoped to secure the co-operation of the people and set them at work be-

fore the opposition of his enemies should be aroused.

Choosing a few men whom he knew to be worthy of confidence, Nehemiah told them of the circumstances that had led him to come to Jerusalem, the object that he wished to accomplish, and the plans he proposed to follow. Their interest in his undertaking was at once enlisted, and their assistance secured.

On the third night after his arrival, Nehemiah rose at midnight and with a few trusted companions, went out to view for himself the desolation of Jerusalem. Mounted on his mule, he passed from one part of the city to another, surveying the broken-down walls and gates of the city of his fathers. Painful reflections filled the mind of the Jewish patriot as with sorrow-stricken heart he gazed upon the ruined defenses of his beloved Jerusalem. Memories of Israel's past greatness stood out in sharp contrast with the evidences of her humiliation.

In secrecy and silence, Nehemiah completed his circuit of the walls. "The rulers knew not whither I went," he declares, "or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priest, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work." The remainder of the night he spent in prayer; for he knew that the morning would call for earnest effort to arouse and unite his dispirited and divided countrymen.

Nehemiah bore a royal commission requiring the inhabitants to co-operate with him in rebuilding the walls of the city, but he did not depend upon the exercise of authority. He sought rather to gain the confidence and sympathy of the people, knowing that a union of hearts as well as of hands was essential in the great work before him. When on the morrow he called the people together, he presented such arguments as were calculated to arouse their dormant energies and unite their scattered numbers.

Nehemiah's hearers did not know, neither did he tell them, of his midnight circuit of the night before. But the fact that he had made this circuit contributed greatly to his success; for he was able to speak of the con-

dition of the city with an accuracy and a minuteness that astonished his hearers. The impression made upon him as he had looked upon the weakness and degradation of Jerusalem, gave earnestness and power to his work.

Nehemiah presented before the people their reproach among the heathen, their religion dishonored, their God blasphemed. He told them that in a distant land he had heard of their affliction, that he had entreated the favor of Heaven in their behalf, and that, as he was praying, he had determined to ask permission from the king to come to their assistance. He had asked God that the king might not only grant this permission, but might also invest him with the authority and give him the help needed for the work; and his prayer had been answered in such a way as to show that the plan was of the Lord.

All this he related, and then, having shown that he was sustained by the combined authority of the God of Israel and the Persian king, Nehemiah asked the people directly whether they would take advantage of this opportunity, and arise and build the wall.

The appeal went straight to their hearts. The thought of how Heaven's favor had been manifested toward them, put their fears to shame, and with new courage they said with one voice, "Let us rise up and build." "So they strengthened their hands for the good work."

Nehemiah's whole soul was in the enterprise he had undertaken. His hope, his energy, his enthusiasm, his determination, were contagious, inspiring others with the same high courage and lofty purpose. Each man became a Nehemiah in his turn, and helped to make stronger the heart and hand of his neighbor.

When the enemies of Israel heard what the Jews were hoping to accomplish, they laughed them to scorn, saying, "What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?" But Nehemiah answered, "The God of heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build: but ye have no

portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem."

Among the first to catch Nehemiah's spirit of zeal and earnestness were the priests. Because of their influential position, these men could do much to advance or hinder the work; and their ready co-operation, at the very outset, contributed not a little to its success. The majority of the princes and rulers of Israel came up nobly to their duty, and these faithful men have honorable mention in the book of God. There are a few, the Tekoite nobles, who "put not their necks to the work of their Lord." The memory of these slothful servants is branded with shame, and has been handed down as a warning to all future generations.

In every religious movement there are some who, while they cannot deny that the cause is God's, still hold themselves aloof, refusing to make any effort to help. It were well for such ones to remember the record kept on high,—that book in which there are no omissions, no mistakes, and out of which they will be judged. There every neglected opportunity to do service for God is recorded; and there, too, every deed of faith and love is held in everlasting remembrance.

E. G. W.

Manners are the happy way of doing things.

THE BANNER SPEAKING

With this number I wish to say for over thirteen years I have tried to tell plainly and simply the glad news of a soon-coming Saviour, and the need of a preparation to meet Him in peace.

"The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" have been the key-note of the Banner.

The current news of worldly kingdoms has been left for other journals to record, while the pages of the Banner have been filled with the blessed news relating to the heavenly kingdom.

I am glad to know that I have gained many friends, and I trust that this year will be one of prosperity, and that the Banner may enable many to become better acquainted with the blessed Master.

PLEASE CHANGE MY ADDRESS

If you have changed your address and have not notified this office, fill out this coupon IN FULL and mail at once to The Banner Publishing Association, 610 West 36th St., Savannah, Ga.

WRITE PLAINLY

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If you know of any subscriber who does not receive his Banner regularly, hand him this coupon.

DELIVERANCE

When you give yourself up to be chained and imprisoned by debasing appetites and worldly passions, God's angel will come in and smite you, as he smote Peter in the prison-house, with a swift and smarting stroke, and he will bid you rise up quickly and go forth with him into the path of a pure, earnest, self-denying life. That delivering angel may come in the cloud of a great conflict, in the stroke of a sudden disappointment, in the deep night of a sore affliction. However startling the voice with which he speaks, however dark the aspect which he puts on, do not think him an enemy. Anything which delivers from bondage to a low, worldly, self-seeking life should be received as a blessing.

In your hours of retirement and meditation God's spirit will wrestle with you and make you feel utterly worthless and helpless in yourself. Strange and startling light will flash in upon your soul, and you will wish you could hide yourself from the sight of your own vileness and impurity. When that feeling of wretchedness and dissatisfaction is deepest and most depressing, be sure that, like Jacob, you make supplication unto the Divine Comforter, and cease not till you prevail and are blessed.

True prophets have never been popular with the world.

"Yesterday is dead—forget it. Tomorrow does not exist—don't worry.

Today is here—use it."

OBITUARY

FENNILL—Merton O. Fennell was born at Kingston, Jamaica, B. W. I. October 27, 1912, and came to Cuba June 22, 1928. His vocation was a private school teacher. He was a believer of the Third Angel's Message since 1932, and was a very faithful member of the Moron Sabbath School; also a candidate in the Baptismal Class. He was taken ill on the 14th of December and fell asleep in Jesus on the 26th day of the same month. Leaving a mother, many relatives and friends to mourn his lost.

W. T. Daly.

He who has framed and brought us hither holds in His hands the whence and whither.

"Our duty is to be useful, not according to our desires but according to our powers.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Due to the financial depression and lack of funds, we will be compelled to reduce the size of the Banner. We regret to resort to this, but the only way same can be averted is, if every member of the denomination does his part in selling a definite number of copies each month, and put forth energetic effort to take subscriptions and report for them regularly. If this is done, the financial deficit that is now looming over this part of the work will be ameliorated.

MRS. L. L. JOHNSON,
Secretary.

"WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CHURCH?"

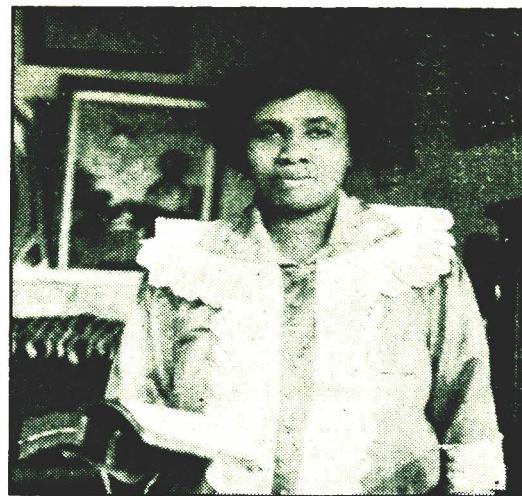
Let me hasten to say that the church which Jesus Christ founded, there is nothing wrong with it. It is the church militant on earth that the wrong is found. It left the station in the time of pentacost with heaven's approval, and was marked "purity" so much so that an impure person could not live in it.

Three thousand souls were added to this church in one day. Many of whom remained steadfast and true to God. It is evident, at the present time, that the church is not making the impression on the world that it should. Instead of the church overcoming the world, the world is fast overcoming the church.

The church does not seem to be bringing to shore the vessels that are so heavy laden with precious souls out of the wilderness of sin. 1933 is now in the past, and we have entered another year, 1934. What then? Shall we still be making new resolutions? We will do well if we have not as yet found the way back to pentecost to get busy and find it and remain till the work is finished.

The Lord commands the church to go into the "highways and hedges" and bring them in from the fields of sin. This work has been greatly neglected. The church has left the high standard of conversion; letting down the bars for the sake of membership so that most anyone can join. The church has long ceased to carry out the divine command, "ye may put differences between holy and unholly, and between unclean and clean." Lev. 10:10; and today, one can hardly distinguish between the church and the world.

The church is in great need of spiritual power. The rich red blood of an abundant faith in God and His word no longer courses through the veins as it should. True love and earnest devotion has been suppressed and supplanted by the false. Many false prophets have gone



MRS. LULA ROSE CHISUM

out. Many people read their Bible so little that it is very easy for them to take what these false teachers say for truth and then go on rejoicing in that false idea. Oh, may God help His church to break away from error and return unto Him through perfect obedience to His divine will.

MRS. LULA ROSE CHISUM,
Chicago, Ill.

THE NEED OF THE HOUR

Who, we ask, will follow the example of his Lord in self-sacrifice and disinterested benevolence, to save his fellowmen? There are young men and women and those of middle age who have had experience in the truth, but do not advance in the divine life and increase in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and they do not know the cause. One cause of their lack of spiritual strength, and of their not being full-grown men and women in Christ is, they are not workers with Christ. If they would work for Jesus, their sympathies would be brought in close union with Christ, and they would grow in Him their living Head, and have a better understanding of the nature of His work and His sacrifice for man; and would place that estimate upon souls proportionate to the value of the price Christ has paid man. There are a large number who, if they would come near enough to God by en-

tire consecration, would hear His voice saying, Go labor in my vineyard, and ye shall receive your wages by-and-by.

Many are not sufficiently aroused to their duty to do the work they might do if they would, and that they do not so because they have not the spirit of sacrifice. God will hold such accountable for the souls of their fellowmen. They might have done a good work in union with Christ, and they will be called to render an account for the good souls they could have done and did not.

We are not, as a people, sufficiently aroused to the short time in which we have to work, and we do not understand the magnitude of the work for the time. The night soon cometh, in which no man can work. Satan is earnest, zealous, and persevering in his work. If he fails to accomplish his work the first time, he tries again. He will try other plans, and work with great perseverance to bring in various temptations to ensnare souls. He never becomes so discouragd as to let souls entirely alone. If the zeal and perseverance of Christ's followers in their efforts to save souls were equal to Satan's efforts to deceive them to their eternal loss, we should see hundreds embracing the truth where we now see one.

We call for men and women to qualify themselves by consecration, to do His will and earnest study of the Scriptures, to do His special work for these last days. He calls for me now who can work. As they engage in the work in sincerity and humility to do all they can, they will be obtaining a more thorough experience. They will have a better knowledge of the truth and better know how to reach souls and help them just where they need to be helped. Workmen are needed now, just now, to labor for God. The fields are already white to harvest, and the laborers are few. There are among us who could work if they were awake to the wants of the cause, and were willing to bear burdens. God calls for men and women, who are followers of Christ, to volunteer to work under His dictation to rescue souls from ruin. All who engage

in the work of presenting the truth to others must have true courtesy, and Christian politeness, and sincere love for souls, so as to make, not general efforts merely, but personal efforts.

E. G. W.

CORRECT COUNTING

Much loss has been sustained because of mistakes in counting. Some men have failed in business because of being careless in their counting. A man adding several columns of figures had reached the sum of one hundred thousand. At this juncture some one spoke to him, and he turned to have a few words of conversation. When he resumed his work he wrote ten thousand. His few words of conversation cost him ninety thousand dollars.

With relation to spiritual things be careful in your counting. Count according to the rule. In mathematics we have rules to guide us in our counting. If those rules are followed, we never make a mistake, but get the answer. Thus, it is said that 2 plus 3 plus 5 are 10. Now, if we count according to this rule of science, we shall always get 10 for an answer. If we should count thus: 2 plus 3 plus 5 are 8, we should not get the correct answer, for we should not have done what the science of mathematics says. Now suppose that some day you have two trials, the next day three trials, and the next day five trials—what will they amount to? If you count according to the rule, they will amount to "all joy." You may set down in a column all your trials and temptations; and when you add them up, they amount to "all joy." If in counting them up you get any other result than "all joy," you have not counted in accordance with the rule.

A sister went with her eggs to the market. The grocer was engaged in counting the eggs brought in by another woman. The sister asked him the price of eggs. He gave no heed to her, but kept on counting the eggs. She again asked, "Mr.—what are you paying for eggs this morning?"

He gave her no heed, but kept on at his work. Now, had he stopped to talk with the woman,

he would have forgotten his count and would have become confused.

Many times amid the cares and trials of life Satan will come to you and suggest that the way is too hard and your trials are too severe. Give no heed to him, but go on counting it all joy. But he will persist and say, "You can never stand." Count God as being able to make you stand. But Satan will say, "This is indeed working bad." Give no heed to what he says, but count everything as working for your good. Rom. 8:28. He may say that God does not love you, or you would not have such trials. Count the love of God as everlasting. Satan may whisper, "You are not saved." Give no heed to him, but count the blood of Jesus as cleansing you from all sin.

Count everything according to the Bible rule, and you will have no failures nor losses. Count God faithful; count everything a blessing; count all joy.

If you value your peace of soul hold no conversation with Satan. If you stop to talk with him you will forget to count all things joy and will become confused. The devil is your enemy; he seeks to do you harm; he strives to get you to miss your count. Do not for a moment listen to the words of one who seeks to harm you. Count according to God's rule, and the answer will be—victory.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FAILURE

You love Jesus, and your very heart longs to do something for Him. You see His great love to you, and it arouses your soul to spend every moment of your life for Him. Nothing is too hard for you to do. Any suffering that would bring glory to His name you would gladly undergo. Oh, how sweet to suffer for His sake! How blessed to sacrifice for Him! How joyous to toil in service to His glory! But your heart is sometimes made sad by failures. You meant to do something for Jesus, but you failed. You are not sad for your sake, but for His sake. You think He cares and now what shall you do? Perhaps no life is wholly free from failures. Oft-

times we fail to accomplish what we had hoped to do.

When a child fails to accomplish something it has undertaken for a parent and then comes with its innocent tale of sorrow, the parent's heart is awakened to greater and more tender pity and love. You send your little child for an armload of wood, and it goes gladly and lovingly. As it is bearing the load back, you see it fall. Love and pity awaken in your heart, and you run quickly and gather up child, wood, and all. When you see the bruised flesh upon the little one, the tears start and you say, "Poor little darling! You received this bruise in trying to serve me." Remember, dear child of God, that Jesus feels toward you, when you fail in your loving and willing service for Him, just as you feel toward the child. The bruises you receive in your service endears you to Him.

Some of Christ's little ones once attempted to do something for Him, but failed. A man had an afflicted son. This son the man took to some of Jesus' disciples that they might cure him. In Jesus' name they attempted to do this, but they failed. They went to Jesus and asked why they could not cast out the evil spirit. That was a wise thing to do. In your failures do not sit and weep and decide you will never attempt to do anything again. Go to Jesus and ask Him why you failed. He will explain the whole matter and encourage you to try again, and will tell you just how you can succeed the next time. It is good to take everything to Jesus and learn how before you attempt to do it. Failures would be far less common. But do the best we can, there will be some failures. But through our failures, Jesus can teach us to do some things that we could not otherwise learn to do.

"The desire to 'get square' with someone is a poor policy; no man ever 'got square' with anyone but himself."

We can never measure the encouragement to continual effort that a word of appreciation gives.

FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS PROGRAM

Our Program Is:

1st—A deeper consecration to do service in the vineyard of the Lord.

2nd—To do our BIT in preaching the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, in all the world, for a witness unto all nations.

3rd—As a race, maintain self-respect, and do as Our Lord has said, "Occupy until I come."

4th—To establish among Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, Negro Conferences with Negro officers—Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Bookkeepers.

5th—To establish schools for the training of our children and for workers in our organization.

6th—To establish a publishing house in which we may furnish employment to Negro Men, Women, Boys and Girls, as we strive to preach the truth of the Third Angel's Message through the printed page.

An invitation is extended to all "INTELLIGENT" Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, those, with a vision, with moral courage, with backbone, those who are strong in the knees, in short, just common self-respect, who have the love of God in the heart, to join with us and help to put this program over the TOP, for over the TOP it must GO.

"Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34. Therefore, we are determined to, "Stand fast . . . in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us Free." Gal. 5:1.