

The Banner

WORLD WIDE REFORMATION

"He That Winneth Souls Is Wise"



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THE BANNER

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SPECIAL NOTICE!

Owing to the existing conditions, we deem it very necessary to call a fast. Therefore, all churches and companies are requested to hold a two days fast from sunset Thursday, September 21, to sunset Sabbath, September 22, 1934. Let us set aside this period for special prayers and fasting. The theme of our prayers should be that God for Christ's sake send forth laborers into His vineyard. There has always been times in the history of God's people that special prayers and fasting were needed. And as we realize that we are facing just such a time now, let us pray that God for Christ's sake send laborers to help finish this great work.

PRAYER AND FASTING

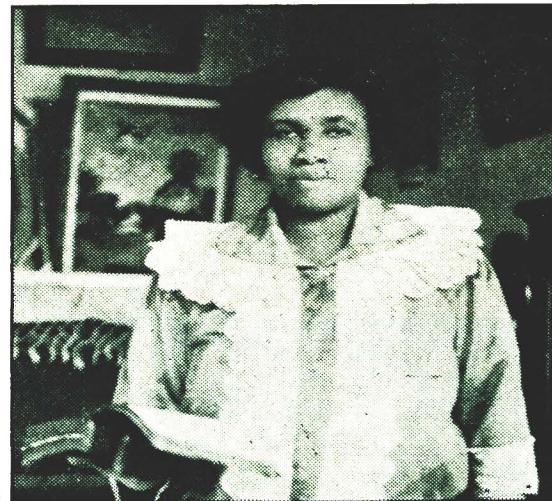
Jesus in teaching His disciples said, "again I say unto you that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven. Enter into thy closet and shut the door and pray to the Father in secret and He will reward thee openly."

I am sure God will hear and answer prayer. He answered my prayer on one occasion and richly was I blessed as my heart had hoped. He granted my request.

To pray seems a simple thing to learn, but to pray in such a manner that we can come face to face with God, to get a real connection with Him, to receive His blessings, we must be willing to yield to His will, and make a complete surrender of our selfish ways, die daily to self and take the way of the cross, for the way of the cross leads home.

In Prov. 28:13 we read: He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Unforgiven sins paralyze our prayers, and if we fail to confess every known sin it hinders our prayers from being heard and answered. Sometimes we think a sin is so small that it is not worth while to confess it, but remember, it is the small grains of sand that heap so high one by one, till they make the mighty deep.

Let us clear the King's Highway. Let us pray earnestly to God for mercy, and to be forgiv-



Mrs. L. R. Chisum

en for all of our known sins and those we know not of. Help us to confess and forsake them. He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness when the way is clear.

God will for Christ's sake hear our prayers and grant us our request according to His own will. Prayer is necessary on our part. It was through prayer that Christ kept in touch with His Father when on this earth. It was His first concern. He was never too busy to pray. The more work He had to do, the more He prayed. It became a

part of His life so much that often food and rest were neglected or forgotten. It was the connecting link between Himself and His Father. If it was necessary for Christ who knew no sin, to keep in close connection with His Father, how much more with us?

We have been taught to say prayers from our early childhood days, and many have not learned the difference in saying prayers and earnestly praying to God.

Now we read in the book of Esther, 4:15, how that when Esther understood what was soon to befall her people, she sent her uncle to gather all the Jews together in Shushan and proclaim a fast that she might go unto the king and intreat for her people. Do you believe this was saying prayers or praying? Daniel said, "I will set my face unto the Lord God to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth and ashes: and I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love Him, and to them that keep His commandments." Dan. 9:3, 4.

Again we read in Matthew, "And when they were come to the multitude, there came a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord have mercy on my son: for he is a lunatick, and so vexed: oft times he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said Why could not we cast him out? and Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out

but by prayer and fasting." Matt. 17:14-21.

I believe if there was ever a time in the history of our life as a people, that prayer is needed, it is right now. Brethren and sisters, I know from self experience that there is power in prayer, for I have received a direct answer from my heavenly Father through faith by prayer and fasting.

Now I am asking this one request of the Brethren, to put on a two days fast throughout the General Assembly of Free S. D. A. Beginning Friday, September 21, and continuing until sundown Sabbath, September 22. The object is to fast and pray that God will send forth laborers into His vineyard, and that souls may be won to Christ. The harvest truly is ripe, but the laborers are few. Christ left this example for His church, and commanded us to follow it by walking in His steps.

Let us pray earnestly that God will give those strength to return to the fold, who through weakness and lack of faith fell out by the wayside, and that they will take new courage and remain until Jesus comes. Let us go out in the streets and lanes, hedges, byways and find them that know not the way, and bring to Jesus, the Saviour of the world, and our friend in trouble.

We who have seen the light, should not rest until we do all we can to help others see the light of this glorious truth. It is those that are out of the ark of safety that we want to bring to Christ. There are hundreds today right at our door that don't know Jesus in the pardoning of their sins. We have relatives or friends or someone that we can work with concerning their soul's salvation. There is work for every Christian to busy himself without coming in contact with one another. So let us pray and work, and work and pray that God will for Christ's sake send laborers into His vineyard, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts. And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matt. 21:22.

ANOTHER ECHO FROM THE SABBATH SCHOOL OF SAVANNAH, GA.

Owing to the depressive times and so many of our people are cut off work, we did not do so well in reaching our goals last quarter as we did the quarter before, though the classes did well in striving to reach their goals.

The Bible class was the only one last quarter to reach their goal of thirty-four dollars, and they won their prize.

We had only one to recite the subjects of the lessons and the Memory Verses the past quarter, Sister Lillie Johnson, and Sister Cornelia Herbert won the prize for bringing the most people to Sabbath School during the quarter. Now this quarter the Sabbath School is learning the first Psalm and after we have learned it perfectly we will take up another. Prizes are again offered for this quarter to those reciting the subjects and Memory Verses perfectly.

Our Superintendent is striving hard with the co-operation of the school to have a 100% School so all those coming in late are asked to put their names on the board. And yet we are trying hard to have everyone to Sabbath School on time. Sister R. Anderson, former teacher of class No. 3 for the past quarter, was promoted to teach class No. 1. We are hoping and praying for her success this quarter with her new class.

We have started out this quarter with new zeal, and new courage to reach our goals by God's help. Pray for us.

A. H. PERRY,
S. S. Reporter.

MANNER OF CHRIST'S RETURN

As the disciples of Jesus reclined around the table at the last supper before His betrayal and crucifixion, He broke to them the sad news of His soon departure. But He promised them He would return; and to let not their heart be troubled. John 14:1. Across the heavens in flaming fire, leading the marshalled hosts of heavenly angels amid vivid lightning flash and rolling thunder, Christ soon will

appear to the astonished gaze of earth's millions, according to the startling assertion of Holy Writ.

In the words of Scripture, and "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him." As we read in Psalms 50:3. Behold He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him, and all the kindred of the earth shall wail because of Him." Are the definite striking words of the seventh verse of the first chapter of Revelation.

No desert coming nor spiritual appearing, no mystic incantation nor death-bed vision can fulfill the accurate and reliable prophecies of the Bible which say that Christ will come literally, personally, visibly. The second coming of Christ is the emphatic doctrine of both the Old and New Testaments. More is said about it than about any other single theme.

One verse in every twenty-five refers to this important event. In His last hours with His disciples, Christ's words of encouragement were, "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also. John 14:2, 3.

The only way we or anybody else ever can get to heaven where Jesus dwells, is for the Lord Jesus to come the second time and take us there. Says the Apostle Paul, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him, shall He appear the second time, without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28. Paul the apostle bases the surety of Christ's coming the second time on the certainty that He came the first time. 1 Cor. 15:1-7. One is as sure as the other.

Christ came once, and lived upon earth. He will come the second time and gather to Himself those who look for Him. 1 Thess. 4:16-18. Christ's coming is no phantom. It is the return of a real personal being. Jesus left the earth, bearing in His body the marks of His humiliation. The record of Acts 1:9 is that after His resurrection as

He was walking with His disciples. "He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight." As they stood gazing in wonder at the place whence the Lord had disappeared from their view, two angels were sent to remind them of His return.

This same Jesus said, "the angels, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Verse 11. He went away visibly. He will return visibly. He went away personally. He will return personally. The Bible is as clear and definite concerning how the Lord will return as of His coming.

How strange that the simple, direct language should be misunderstood. "The same Jesus," the one they loved, who in His glorified body, with pierced hands and feet, had ascended to heaven with a cloud of angels, was to come "in like manner." Jesus knew erroneous theories concerning the exact manner of His glorious return would prevail at the time when His coming was near, so He warned them "Then if any man shall say unto you Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." As we read in Matt. 24:23. He suggested that some would teach that His coming would not be generally known, that He would be "here and there."

Again He warns us, "Wherefore if they shall say unto you behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold He is in the secret Chambers; believe it not." Verse 36. The two errors that Christ's coming will be general, but local, are widely taught today. But, says Christ, "As the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Verse 27.

What must this coming act of redemption mean to the Redeemer Himself, when attended with heavenly glory? He prepares to descend to the world that witnessed His suffering, sorrow and shame. Paul describes the event: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain

shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thess. 4:16, 17.

Must we believe that the Lord, when He comes for His people, will utter a soundless shout; that the Archangel will speak without being heard, and that the trump of God will be blown without producing an audible sound? Such suppositions are absurd. They reduce the language of Scripture to a meaningless array of words calculated to give only a false impression and make the second coming of Christ a mere joke.

A victorious Conqueror He comes, escorted by "All the angels." When one angel burst asunder the sealed tomb to call forth the Redeemer as He lay locked in the embrace of death, the glory attending the Celestial Messenger struck to the earth the Roman soldiers who guarded the sepulchre. How much glory think you, will be revealed when the unnumbered millions of mighty angels come with the Redeemer?

To God's people, that event will bring unending joy. Earth's long reign of sin will then be over. God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there shall be no more death neither sorrow nor crying.

The glorious day draws near. Prepared or unprepared, all soon will face its stern realities.

A. C. CHATMAN.

HOPE SET BEFORE US

The goal of every child of God is in reach of him. God Himself has set the goal. He knows what it takes to attain it. No man-made standard is to be noticed. The one who has set the standard is able and is willing to carry us through. Every step of the way we hear Him say, "I am the way, follow thou me." Thou shall hear a voice behind thee saying this is the way, walk ye in it."

The hope that is set before us is the hope of eternal life, and this life is in God's dear Son. For we read, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." This

Son is as sure ours as God has given Him. Only we must believe in Him. The gift is ours. Why not take it?

If we take God at His word our eternal life is sure. The goal is certain. Believing in its true sense is action, for our faith is live. Our hope is not of human sight, the prophet cries. "And where is now my hope? As for my hope who shall see it?" Job 17:15. Our hope is hid in Christ; it has entered into that within the vail and is therefore safe as long as we keep the faith.

The trials of life sometimes are like the waves of the great sea that tossed the ship to and fro on the bosom of the mighty deep. But we have this hope as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. Often as we journey along in this life, our Saviour speaks to the troubled sea of trials, saying "Peace be still, and Lo I am with you always." Isa. 41:10. He is faithful who has promised. Let us take fresh courage, believe more fully, pray more earnestly.

M. L. IVORY.

WATCH THE TONGUE NO. 1

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." Luke 6:45.

In this Scripture we see the close connection between the mind of man and the words of his lips. In a former article we saw the importance of having the heart softened by the spirit of the Lord in order to render acceptable service to Him, and the danger of trusting to the imaginations of a self-satisfied, deceitful heart, and now it may be well to note a few of the many Scripture testimonies respecting the words, for they are an index of the heart's condition.

Here is a description of one who gives loose rein to both mind and tongue, "they speak vanity every one with his neighbor; with flattereing lips and with a double heart do they speak. The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue

that speaketh proud things; who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own; who is Lord over us." Psa. 12:2-4.

Of such the Psalmist said, "My soul is among lions; and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword." Psa. 57:4. Still further we read of them, "they are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression; they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. Psa. 73:8, 9. Realizing the danger from such he prays, "Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and a deceitful tongue! what shall be given unto thee thou false tongue?" Psa. 120:2, 3.

Solomon, in his proverbs declares, "there is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword; but the tongue of the wise is health. The lip of truth shall be established forever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment." Prov. 12:18, 19. Again, "He that hath a foward heart findeth no good; and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief." Prov. 17:20.

This perverse tongue is not all confined to those who lay no claim to godliness, but is found, as in David's time, among the Lord's professed people. He plead, "Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues; for I have seen violence and strife in the city . . . It was not an enemy that approached me; then I could have borne it, neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him; but it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, end mine acquaintance. We took sweet council together, and walked unto the house of God in company . . . The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords." Psa. 55:9-21. To his face they probably said, "I am glad to see you," but behind his back he called them "plowers (that) plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows." Psa. 129:3. They were not those,

however, who shall "Dwell in thy Holy hill," for he said such would be "He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor." Psa. 15:3.

The Apostle James gives a vivid illustration of a tongue uncontrolled, when he says "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and it is set on fire of hell . . . Therewith bless we God even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be." James 3:6-9. The remedy for this stirring up of the evil nature is "the soft answer that turneth away wrath." Prov. 15:1.

Sometimes it is duty to wait, instead of to work. It is he who aspires highly who highly achieves.

HISTORICAL FACTS CONCERNING THE DARK DAY

Almost if not altogether alone, as the most mysterious and yet unexplained phenomenon of its kind in nature's diversified events, stands the dark day, May 19, 1780.

It is related that the Connecticut legislature was in session at this time, and that, so great was the darkness, the members became terrified, and thought that the day of judgment had come; a motion was consequently made to adjourn. At this Mr. Davenport arose and said: "Mr. Speaker, it is either the day of judgment, or it is not. If it is, I desire to be found doing my duty. I move that candles be brought, and that we proceed to business."

The time of the commencement of this extraordinary darkness, was between the hours of ten and eleven in the forenoon of Friday, May 19, 1780, and it continued until the middle of the following night, but with different appearances at different places. As to the manner of its approach, it seemed to appear first of all in the southeast. The wind came from that quarter,

and the darkness appeared to come on with the clouds that came in that direction. The degree to which the darkness arose varied in different localities. In most parts, it became so dense, that people were unable to read common print distinctly, or accurately determine the time of day by their clocks or watches, or dine, or manage their domestic affairs conveniently, without the light of candles. In some places, the degree of darkness was just about equal to preventing persons seeing to read ordinary print in the open air, for several hours together. The extent of this darkness was also very remarkable. It was observed at the most easterly regions of New England; Westward, to the farthest parts of Connecticut, and at Albany; to the southward, it was observed all along the seacoasts; and to the north, as far as the American settlements extended. It probably far exceeded these boundaries, but the exact limits were not positively known. With regard to its duration, it continued in the neighborhood of Boston for at least fourteen or fifteen hours; but it was doubtless longer or shorter in some other places. The appearance and effects were such as tended to make the prospects extremely dull, gloomy, and unnatural. Candles were lighted up in the houses; the birds in the midst of their blithesome forenoon enjoyments, stopped suddenly and, singing their evening songs, disappeared, and became silent; the fowls retired to their roosts; the cocks were crowing in their accustomed manner at the break of day; objects could not be distinguished at a comparatively slight distance; and everything bore the aspect and gloom of night—to say nothing of the effect upon the minds of the people, which indeed, was quite indescribable.

The above general facts concerning this strange phenomenon were ascertained, after much painstaking inquiry, soon after its occurrence, by Prof. Williams of Harvard College.

O. F. C.

Every now and then somebody sees the dawn of a new era, but it seems to cloud up before noon.

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.