

# BASHAN TIDINGS

## TO THE LITTLE FLOCK



### Thank God for Autumn



The leaves are changing colors now ...  
The autumn days are here ...  
And life assumes a thoughtful and ...  
More lively atmosphere ...  
Commingled with the peacefulness ...  
Of wistful memories ...  
There is a touch of loneliness ...  
As summer days depart ...  
But there are many joys and songs ...  
To fill the human heart ...  
The harvest field, the vineyard ripe ...  
The pumpkins everywhere ...  
Thanksgiving Day ...  
And snowflakes in the air ...  
Thank God for autumn with its shades ...  
Of russet, green, and gold ...  
And all of nature's glories we ...  
Are privileged to behold!



—James J. Metcalfe

## CONTENTS

Synoptic Report of Seminar 2001 .....	3
The Little People's Reader A Talk with Johnny Greene .....	23
Letters .....	25
Health Wave Water—Is it Your Best Friend or Worst Enemy? Part II .....	31
Recipe Page .....	38
Some Nice Things About Being 65-Plus .....	39
The Spirit of Thanksgiving .....	41
Another Year .....	42
The Year (Poem) .....	43
Notices .....	44
Seminar 2001 Tape List .....	45
Key to Abbreviations .....	46
Inspiration's Challenge .....	47



## SYNOPTIC REPORT OF SEMINAR 2001

After months and weeks of preparation, Seminar 2001 became a reality. The opening date found a total of 170 adults, young people, and children, seated in the chapel at 7:15 p.m. for song service. The chapel was tastefully decorated, the song service, led by Brother Lloyd Dodd, was lively, and the organ music, provided by Sister Marlynn Shelley, was melodious. At 7:30 p.m. Sister Bingham gave the welcoming address, the orientation, and words of comfort and hope. Here is a portion of her opening remarks:

### **“Welcome, Thrice Welcome, to God’s Holy Hill**

“Greetings. After months of planning and preparing for the Seminar, the anticipated date, September 10, is here. You prayed, you sacrificed, and you’ve traveled many miles from far and near to be here. You are expecting great things. Some of you have testified that you received great blessings from past Seminars, and some who are here for the first time have heard or read of the joys and blessings of attending past Seminars. You have come for these. You must not disappoint yourself. The atmosphere of grace and peace surrounding this place will encircle you if you

allow the Holy Spirit to have full control over you during the seven or eight days you will be here. The topics we chose for the Newsletters for the past several months were specifically to prepare you spiritually and mentally for this time. Now it is up to you to receive the blessings that God has in store for you.

“Brethren must leave behind them all worldly cares and business, murmuring, criticizing, faultfinding, and an unforgiving spirit, and must have an open mind to participate freely in the program that God has for them. Thus they will go away full and not empty of God’s blessings.”

She stressed that all should read the opening pages of the Syllabus where several important concerns were mentioned to ensure that all receive the maximum benefits. Some of these concerns were promptness and punctuality in attending meetings, being on time for meals, and taking care of duties and privileges. Parents were instructed to care for children in the proper way, not leaving them unattended or without parental control. It was also emphasized that all should be careful that there be no waste of food, water, electricity, etc. Another point stressed in the orientation was the matter of

cleanliness and order. All were admonished to keep their sleeping quarters and surroundings clean, neat, and sweet smelling.

After a few words introducing the topic for the week, "The Science of Overcoming," and explaining that the morning worships would deal with several topics on this subject, Sister Bingham went on to spend the remaining minutes on "Words of Comfort and Hope." To introduce this topic, the Bashan choir, under the direction of Brother Lloyd Dodd, gave a beautiful rendition of "How Cheering is the Christian's Hope," then a study on the Kingdom was presented. The nearness of its becoming a reality, with all its beautiful promises, was refreshing and invigorating to hear again, and the excitement in her voice that it is soon to be a reality was transferred to the congregation.

All seemed heartened and encouraged in the prospects of its soon becoming a reality. Everyone left the meeting that night expecting greater things at this Seminar than at any previous one. The format of the Seminar was structured so that the main character building studies were given in the morning with the theme, "What we do not overcome, will overcome us and work out our destruction."—SC 33:0.

In contrast to the inspirational, character-building morning studies,

the evening studies were doctrinal, and the daily studies were from the Syllabus. This report will deal mainly with the morning and evening studies. Apart from this, time was given in the afternoon to subjects on personal improvement. Tuesday, Dr. M. S. Robert-Leadlay presented a short but enlightening talk on the digestive system, On Wednesday, Dr. Theryl Humphrey-Davis gave a very interesting talk on oral hygiene. Also, on Wednesday and Friday, several of the brethren volunteered to share their experiences in directory and name gathering. It encouraged all to become active in this most important work.

September 11, the second day of the Seminar, will be an unforgettable day for the whole world, but especially for America. It was just shortly after our first worship period on that first morning of the Seminar that the media reported the horrific tragedy that befell the people in the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. Even while the newscaster was telling of the plane that crashed into the first tower, the second plane crashed into the second tower, causing it to collapse. Five men armed with utility knives (box cutters) took control of American Airlines, Flight 11. Within an hour the same happened on United Airlines, Flight 175. It was reported that two other planes were being hijacked. The disaster appear-

ed on TV minutes later. The President, who was visiting a school in Florida, appeared on TV and told the nation that the country had suffered a terrorist attack. What a tragic event to occur on that morning, crippling New York City and the entire nation for several days. Many thousands of people lost their lives, including all those who were in the planes and many of the fire fighters and policemen. It was a tragedy of tragedies to befall America that day. But that wasn't all. Another plane hit the Pentagon, damaging one side of the building and killing over 150 people. Around the same time, another terrorist attack caused another plane to crash in Pennsylvania. It is believed that the plane's passengers overpowered the hijackers in order to prevent the terrorists from using the plane to attack another target. (Reports later said that this plane's target might have been Camp David, the presidential retreat in the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland.) It indeed was a day never to be forgotten, for, worst of all, it crippled not only New York City, but also the entire nation for several days.

Amidst all of this, we were safely ensconced on God's holy hill participating in the holy convocation. Special prayers were called for at the next meeting, and the brethren were divided into prayer groups that earnestly petitioned the throne of grace

that God would be with those who were wounded, that He would take those who were fleeing for their lives to safety, and that He would help the rescuers to get to those trapped in the burning buildings. At that time, we did not know the full extent of the damage done nor of the loss of lives. Since then it was reported that many fire fighters lost their lives, but 25,000 people were rescued from the Twin Towers, with over 6,000 reported dead. Many of those who were rescued were taken to nearby hospitals for treatments.

Thank God we were able to go on with our program. Each day, after the early morning meeting, we were divided into classes headed by a presenter. Between 8 to 10 people were in a class, and that gave each one ample time to discuss the lesson. Questions were raised and answered, and everyone had an opportunity to participate in the class discussion. The subjects were "The Mechanics of Davidic-Levitical Constitution," "General Oral Health," "Shun Debt as Leprosy," "Stewardship," "Inspiration and the Living Spirit of Prophecy," "Davidian Dress Standards," "Sabbath Reform," and "Marriage and the Home." This report will not deal with an overview of these subjects since they are found in the current publications. From the lively discussion in each class, it was clear to see that all were being blessed and

edified. After the class study, and a short break, all returned to their classes for "Prayer, Praise, and Discussion."

### **An Overview of the Morning Devotional Topics**

**Tuesday, September 11**, found everyone in the chapel at 6:00 a.m. sharp for the lively song service. Sister Bingham's topic was "The Science of Overcoming Through Prayer." With each reference, Sister Bingham made appropriate comments making them come alive in all of their importance. Here are but two that were very impressive:

"Our God is an ever-present help in every time of need. He is perfectly acquainted with the most secret thoughts of our heart, with all the intents and purposes of our souls. When we are in perplexity, even before we open to Him our distress, He is making arrangements for our deliverance. Our sorrow is not unnoticed. He always knows much better than we do, just what is necessary for the good of His children, and He leads us as we would choose to be led if we could discern our own hearts and see our necessities and perils, as God sees them. But finite beings seldom know themselves. They do not understand their own weaknesses....God knows them better than they know themselves, and

He understands how to lead them ...."—OHC 316:3.

"Prayer is both a duty and a privilege. We must have help which God alone can give, and that help will not come unasked. If we are too self-righteous to feel our need of help from God, we shall not have His help when we need it most. If we are too independent and self-sufficient to throw ourselves daily by earnest prayer upon the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, we shall be left subject to Satan's temptations.... Earnest, sincere...prayer would bring strength and grace to resist the powers of darkness. God wants to bless. He is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him than are parents to give good gifts to their children. But many do not feel their need. They do not realize that they can do nothing without the help of Jesus...."—Id. 129:2.

**Wednesday, September 12**, the topic was divided into two sections: "Overcoming Doubt of God's Forgiveness" and "Overcoming an Unforgiving Spirit." Here are a few of the references that were read:

Overcoming doubt of God's forgiveness: "As we see our failings, let us confess them to Jesus, and, with true contrition of soul, cooperate with the divine power of the Holy Spirit to overcome all evil. If we confess our sins, we must believe that they are pardoned, because the

promise is positive.—R&H, March 21, 1912.”—TDG 89:3.

“Why do we not have the consciousness of sins forgiven? It is because we are unbelieving.”—Id. 261:2.

“If you confess your sins, believe they are pardoned, because the promise is positive. ‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1:9). Why, then, dishonor God by doubting His pardoning love? Having confessed your sins, believe that the word of God will not fail, but that He is faithful that hath promised. It is just as much your duty to believe that God will fulfill His word and forgive your sins as it is your duty to confess your sins. Your faith must be exercised in God as one who will do just as He has said He would do—pardon all your transgressions....”—HP 126:4.

Although God’s pardoning love is extended to us, yet we suffer a great loss by our unrighteous actions. In order to prevent this loss, we must keep ourselves always in grace and away from the temptations that cause us to fall:

“Every sin, every unrighteous action, every transgression of the law of God, tells with a thousandfold more force upon the actor than the sufferer. Every time one of the glorious faculties with which God has enriched man is abused or misused,

that faculty loses forever a portion of its vigor and will never be as it was before the abuse it suffered. Every abuse inflicted upon our moral nature in this life is felt not only for time but for eternity. Though God may forgive the sinner, yet eternity will not make up that voluntary loss sustained in this life.”—TDG 350:1.

Overcoming an unforgiving Spirit: “We want pardon, forgiveness; but we can have it only as we shall pardon and forgive others.”—Id. 288:3, last sentence.

“Jesus teaches that we can receive forgiveness from God only as we forgive others. It is the love of God that draws us unto Him, and that love cannot touch our hearts without creating love for our brethren.”—MB 113:2.

“After completing the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus added: ‘If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.’ *He who is unforgiving cuts off the very channel through which alone he can receive mercy from God.* We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. It is their part, no doubt, to humble their hearts by repentance and confession; but we are to have a spirit of compassion toward those

who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults. However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries; but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God we are to pardon all who have done evil to us"—MB 113, 114. ( See AG 328:3.)

"Satan will be highly pleased to have you cherish an unforgiving spirit instead of drawing together in even cords. But Jesus, who places a high value upon man, is grieved to see division among brethren. I wish we could all be as Jesus has given us an example in His life. He came not to destroy men's lives but to save them. He used His powers to bless but never to hurt. His words, His bearing, and His work were full of divine tenderness. Nothing could disturb His absolute patience or rouse Him to vindictiveness.—Letter 46, April 22, 1887, to Dr. J. H. Kellogg."—TDG 121:6.

"Jesus has given us an example that we should follow in His steps, and manifest compassion and love and good-will toward all. Let us cultivate a kind spirit, a spirit of forbearance, and tender, pitying love toward those, who, when under temptation, have done us grievous wrongs. If possible, let us heal these wounds, and close the door of temptation by removing every barrier the wrongdo-

er has erected between himself and us....The Lord delights to bestow His blessings upon those who will honor Him, who will acknowledge His mercy, and show that they appreciate His love to them by manifesting the same gracious characteristic to those around them."—SD 144:2.

**Thursday, September 13,** the topic was divided into two parts: "How to Overcome Uncleanliness" and "Cultivating System and Order."

Cleanliness: "Believers should be taught that even though they may be poor, they need not be unclean or untidy in their persons or in their homes. Help must be given in this line to those who seem to have no sense of the meaning and importance of cleanliness. They are to be taught that those who are to represent the high and holy God must keep their souls pure and clean, and that this purity must extend to their dress and to everything in the home, so that the ministering angels will have evidence that the truth has wrought a change in the life, purifying the soul and refining the tastes. Those who, after receiving the truth, make no change in word or deportment, in dress or surroundings, are living to themselves, not to Christ. They have not been created anew in Christ Jesus, unto purification and holiness...."—AH 21, 22.

"Clean, Neat, Orderly—Cleanliness, neatness, and order are indis-

pensable to the proper management of the household. But when the mother makes these the all-important duties of her life, and devotes herself to them, to the neglect of the physical development and the mental and moral training of her children, she makes a sad mistake.”—AH 21:3.

These traits—cleanliness, neatness and order, were exemplified on God’s holy hill throughout the Seminar. The living quarters, the cafeteria, the chapel, the premises—all gave a picture of these qualities on God’s holy hill not only for the duration of the Seminar, but in its everyday existence.

“God Is Particular—The Lord commanded the children of Israel to wash their clothes and put away all impurity from their encampment, lest in passing by He should see their uncleanness. God is passing by our homes today, and He looks upon the unsanitary conditions of families and the lax habits. Had we not better reform, and that without delay?

“Parents, God has made you His agents, that you may instill right principles in the minds of your children. You have in trust the Lord’s little ones, and that God who was so particular that the children of Israel should grow up with habits of cleanliness will not sanction any impurity in the home today. God has given you the work of educating your chil-

dren in these lines, and in training your children in habits of cleanliness, you teach them spiritual lessons. They will see that God would have them clean in heart as well as in body, and will be led to an understanding of the pure principles which God designs should prompt every act of their lives.

“If God was so particular to enjoin cleanliness upon those journeying in the wilderness, who were in the open air nearly all the time, He requires no less of us who live in ceiled houses, where impurities are more observable and have a more unhealthful influence.”—CG 106:1-3.

“Cleanliness Should Become Second Nature—Uncleanness in the home is a great mistake, for it is educating in its effects and casts its influence abroad. Even in babyhood a right direction should be given to the minds and habits of children.... Show them that uncleanness, whether in body or dress, is objectionable to God. Teach them to eat in a clean manner. Constant vigilance must be exercised that these habits may become second nature to them.... Impurity will be despised as it should be....”—Id. 106, 107.

“Every form of uncleanness tends to disease. Death-producing germs abound in dark, neglected corners, in decaying refuse, in dampness and mold and must. No waste

vegetables or heaps of fallen leaves should be allowed to remain near the house to decay and poison the air. Nothing unclean or decaying should be tolerated within the home. In towns or cities regarded perfectly healthful, many an epidemic of fever has been traced to decaying matter about the dwelling of some careless householder. Perfect cleanliness, plenty of sunlight, careful attention to sanitation in every detail of the home life, are essential to freedom from disease and to the cheerfulness and vigor of the inmates of the home.

“Personal Cleanliness Essential to Health—Scrupulous cleanliness is essential to both physical and mental health. Impurities are constantly thrown off from the body through the skin. Its millions of pores are quickly clogged unless kept clean by frequent bathing, and the impurities which should pass off through the skin become an additional burden to the other eliminating organs.”—CG 108:1, 2.

“If every family realized the beneficial results of thorough cleanliness, they would make special efforts to remove every impurity from their persons and from their houses, and would extend their efforts to their premises. Many suffer decayed vegetable matter to remain about their premises. They are not awake to the influence of these things. There is constantly arising from

these decaying substances an effluvia that is poisoning the air. By inhaling the impure air, the blood is poisoned, the lungs become affected, and the whole system is diseased. Disease of almost every description will be caused by inhaling the atmosphere affected by these decaying substances.”—CH 62:1.

“Cleanliness Important—Frequent bathing is very beneficial, especially at night, just before retiring, or upon rising in the morning. It will take but a few moments to give the children a bath and to rub them until their bodies are in a glow. This brings the blood to the surface, relieving the brain; and there will be less inclination to indulge in impure practices. Teach the little ones that God is not pleased to see them with unclean bodies and untidy, torn garments. Tell them that He wants them to be pure without and within, that He may dwell with them.”—CG 461:2.

“When Lord Palmerton, premier of England, was petitioned by the Scottish clergy to appoint a day of fasting and prayer to avert the cholera, he replied, ‘Cleanse and disinfect your streets and houses, promote cleanliness and health among the poor, and see that they are plentifully supplied with good food and raiment, and employ right sanitary measures generally, and you will have no occasion to fast and pray. Nor will the Lord hear your prayers

while these, His preventives, remain unheeded.”—CTBH 106:1.

“A great amount of suffering might be saved if all would labor to prevent disease, by strictly obeying the laws of health. Strict habits of cleanliness should be observed. Many, while well, will not take the trouble to keep in a healthy condition. They neglect personal cleanliness, and are not careful to keep their clothing pure. Impurities are constantly and imperceptibly passing from the body, through the pores, and if the surface of the skin is not kept in a healthy condition, the system is burdened with impure matter. If the clothing worn is not often washed, and frequently aired, it becomes filthy with impurities which are thrown off from the body by sensible and insensible perspiration. And if the garments worn are not frequently cleansed from these impurities, the pores of the skin absorb again the waste matter thrown off. The impurities of the body, if not allowed to escape, are taken back into the blood and forced upon the internal organs. Nature, to relieve herself of poisonous impurities, makes an effort to free the system. This effort produces fevers and what is termed disease. But even then, if those who are afflicted would assist nature in her efforts, by the use of pure, soft water, much suffering would be prevented. But many, instead of doing

this, and seeking to remove the poisonous matter from the system, take a more deadly poison into the system, to remove a poison already there.”—CH 61, 62.

System and order in the work: “There is order in Heaven, and God is well pleased with the efforts of His people in trying to move with system and order in His work on earth. I saw that there should be order in the church of God, and that system is needed in carrying forward successfully the last great message of mercy to the world. God is leading His people in the plan of systematic benevolence, and this is one of the very points to which God is bringing up His people which will cut the closest with some.”—1T 191:1.

“‘God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.’ 1 Corinthians 14:33. He requires that order and system be observed in the conduct of church affairs today no less than in the days of old. He desires His work to be carried forward with thoroughness and exactness so that He may place upon it the seal of His approval. Christian is to be united with Christian, church with church, the human instrumentality co-operating with the divine, every agency subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all combined in giving to the world the good tidings of the grace of God.”—AA 96:1.

Bashan gave everyone an excel-

lent example of having system and order in the way everything is structured and organized on God's holy hill, not only at Seminar time, but in its day-to-day activities.

In the home: "You fail to carry through what you undertake. You have not disciplined yourself to regularity. System is everything. *Do but one thing at a time, and do that well, finishing it before you begin a second piece of work. You should have regular hours for rising, for praying, and for eating.* Many waste hours of precious time in bed because it gratifies the natural inclination and to do otherwise requires an exertion. One hour wasted in the morning is lost, never to be recovered. Says the wise man: 'I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty come as one that travelth; and thy want as an armed man.'"—5T 181: 3.

**The topic for Friday, September 14,** was "Overcoming Impoliteness and Impatience."

Impoliteness: "True Politeness Defined—There is great need of the cultivation of true refinement in the

home. This is a powerful witness in favor of the truth. In whomsoever they may appear, vulgarity of language and of demeanor indicate a vitiated heart. Truth of heavenly origin never degrades the receiver, never makes him coarse or rough. Truth is softening and refining in its influence. When received into the heart, it makes the youth respectful and polite. Christian politeness is received only under the working of the Holy Spirit. It does not consist in affectation or artificial polish, in bowing and simpering. This is the class of politeness possessed by those of the world, but they are destitute of true Christian politeness. *True polish, true politeness, is obtained only from a practical knowledge of the gospel of Christ.* True politeness, true courtesy, is a kindness shown to all, high or low, rich or poor."—AH 422, 423.

"Christianity will make a man a gentleman. Christ was courteous, even to His persecutors; and His true followers will manifest the same spirit. Look at Paul when brought before rulers. His speech before Agrippa is an illustration of true courtesy as well as persuasive eloquence. The gospel does not encourage the formal politeness current with the world, but the courtesy that springs from real kindness of heart."—Id. 425:2.

"Parents, teach your children... how to conduct themselves in the

home with true politeness. Educate them to show kindness and tenderness to one another. Allow no selfishness to live in the heart or find room in the home.”—CG 143:1.

“Be polite to God and to one another.”—SD 315:4.

How may we be polite to God?

“Be polite to those with whom you come in contact; thus you will be polite to God. Praise Him for His goodness; thus you are witnesses for Him, and you are preparing for the society of the angels. You are learning in this world how to conduct yourselves in the family of Christ in Heaven.”—UL 248:2.

**Impatience:** Although the following statements are written to parents the principles taught apply to everyone.

“Seek divine help to overcome hasty temper—I wish to say to every father and mother, If you have a hasty temper, seek God for help to overcome it. When you are provoked to impatience, go to your chamber, and kneel down and ask God to help you that you may have a right influence over your children.

“Mothers, when you yield to impatience and deal harshly with your children, you are not learning of Christ, but of another master. Jesus says, ‘Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and

my burden is light.’ When you find your work hard, when you complain of difficulties and trials, when you say that you have no strength to withstand temptation, that you cannot overcome impatience, and that the Christian life is uphill work, be sure that you are not bearing the yoke of Christ; you are bearing the yoke of another master.”—CG 267:2, 3.

“Parents sometimes excuse their own wrong course because they do not feel well. They are nervous, and cannot, they think, be patient and calm, and speak pleasantly. They deceive themselves in this thing, and please Satan. He exults that the grace of God is not allowed by them as sufficient to overcome natural infirmities. They can, and should, at all times, control themselves. God requires it of them. They should realize that when they give way to fretfulness and impatience, they cause others to suffer. Those around them are affected by the spirit they manifest, and if they in their turn act out the same spirit, the evil is increased, and everything goes wrong.”—4bSG 129:1.

**Sabbath’s Topic** was “Overcoming Wrong Habits.” “There is a science of Christianity to be mastered—a science as much deeper, broader, higher than any human science as the heavens are higher than the earth. The mind is to be disci-

plined, educated, trained; for we are to do service for God in ways that are not in harmony with inborn inclination. There are hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome. Often the training and education of a lifetime must be discarded, that one may become a learner in the school of Christ. Our hearts must be educated to become steadfast in God. We are to form habits of thought that will enable us to resist temptation. We must learn to look upward. The principles of the word of God—principles that are as high as Heaven, and that compass eternity—we are to understand in their bearing upon our daily life. Every act, every word, every thought, is to be in accord with these principles.”—8T 314:1.

“No effort should be spared to establish right habits of study. *If the mind wanders, bring it back.* If the intellectual and moral tastes have been perverted by over-wrought and exciting tales of fiction so that there is a disinclination to apply the mind, there is a battle to be fought to overcome this habit. A love for fictitious reading should be overcome at once. Rigid rules should be enforced to hold the mind in the proper channel.”—AH 411, 412.

“It is the duty of every Christian to acquire habits of order, thoroughness, and dispatch. There is no excuse for slow bungling at work of

any character. When one is always at work and the work is never done, it is because mind and heart are not put into the labor. The one who is slow and who works at a disadvantage should realize that these are faults to be corrected. He needs to exercise his mind in planning how to use the time so as to secure the best results. By tact and method, some will accomplish as much in five hours as others do in ten. Some who are engaged in domestic labor are always at work not because they have so much to do but because they do not plan so as to save time. By their slow, dilatory ways they make much work out of very little. But all who will, may overcome these fussy, lingering habits. In their work let them have a definite aim. Decide how long a time is required for a given task, and then bend every effort toward accomplishing the work in the given time. The exercise of the will power will make the hands move deftly.”—COL 344:1.

“Habits of negligence should be resolutely overcome. Many think it a sufficient excuse for the grossest errors to plead forgetfulness. But do they not, as well as others, possess intellectual faculties? Then they should discipline their minds to be retentive. It is a sin to forget, a sin to be negligent. If you form a habit of negligence, you may neglect your own soul’s salvation and at last find

that you are unready for the kingdom of God.”—COL 358, 359.

“If it falls to your lot to prepare the meals, make careful calculations, and give yourself all the time necessary to prepare the food, and set it on the table in good order, and on exact time. To have the meal ready five minutes earlier than the time you have set is more commendable than to have it five minutes later. But if you are under the control of slow, dilatory movements, if your habits are of a lazy order, you will make a long job out of a short one; and it is the duty of those who are slow to reform and to become more expeditious. If they will, they can overcome their fussy, lingering habits. In washing dishes they may be careful and at the same time do quick work. Exercise the will to this end, and the hands will move with dispatch.”—CG 125:2.

“...The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal ac-

quaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.”—DA 324:1.

### An Overview of the Evening Meetings

**Tuesday evening:** After a lively, song service that began promptly at 7:15 p.m., for 15 minutes, Brother Lloyd Dodd presented *The Porter* and *The Three Pastures*. He began by reading John 14:6, John 10:9, and Mark 13:34.

He read from *Bashan Tidings*, Vol. 17, No. 3, page 5, and stressed the point that the porter was to protect the flock. Several other references were read from this Tidings, and he brought out the point that the porter is an on-going role, and that he is a faithful servant to the end. Continuing with the same Tidings, he led us to the three pastures, and emphasized that these three pastures are where God's true sheep are to feed, and that Carmel, the first in the sequence of Micah 7:14, was a good spiritual pasture that produced the message. Producing the truth was Carmel's victory. Bashan, the next pasture in the sequence, is perfecting the saints, and he emphasized that this is one reason why the standard is high at Bashan, and perfection of character is stressed at this time. Bashan's victory will be pro-

ducing the saints for the Kingdom. This was further reinforced when he read *Bashan Tidings*, Vol. 11, No. 1, page 9, paragraphs 2 and 3, that since Bashan is the dressing chamber, the place where we put on the righteousness of Christ, that now is the time we have to overcome every besetting sin. "What we do not overcome will overcome us, and work out our destruction."—SC 33:0.

He read again from *Bashan Tidings*, Vol. 17, No. 3, page 14, paragraph 3, pointing out that Gilead's victory is to produce the first dominion, the Kingdom that is to gather all the righteous.

He next took us to the point that since God has stationed a porter at the door, He will not use a novice, but one who knows his duties. He will use one who is qualified to do the work. This he read to us from *The Servant and the Porter Educator*, Vol. 11, No. 1, page 21, showing the qualifications of the porter.

His next reference was taken from the publication, *Bashan Bulls*, page 24, paragraph 1. In order for us to get to Gilead, the final pasture that is the Kingdom, we must feed in Bashan—we must pass through Bashan first. In conclusion, he read from *Bashan Tidings*, January 14, 1985, pages 12, 13 and 14, 15.

**Wednesday night's** meeting was entitled "How to Give a Study." Sister Bingham said the first thing to

do before giving a study was to earnestly pray for divine guidance. No one should give a study who feels qualified to do so without this guidance. Such a person invariably depends on his knowledge and what he wants to present, instead of asking God to help him to present what he and the flock need. She also emphasized that teaching is a talent. Present-truth studies should be given not to parade one's knowledge or to show how much more you know than your audience. Humility and earnestness are needed in giving the studies.

If the study chosen is a chart study, one should carefully study the chart with all its references, then go over the index references on the subject, studying every relevant one. Study the chart, and stick to the chart. Do not bring in extraneous material and hope that your audience would follow what you have in your mind. All your points should be given in a connected way, one point following the other, as links in a chain. She illustrated this by using the chart of Zechariah 6:1-8. After briefly taking each symbolism on the chart and giving its meaning, she emphasized that there are two main lessons that could be given in teaching this chart—the cutting loose of the last team of horses, resulting in the purification of the church, or the cutting loose of the bay team of horses, re-

sulting in the setting up of the purified church, the second brass mountain, the Kingdom church. Choose the one you want, whether the purification of the Church or the setting up of God's kingdom and the work of the Loud Cry. Study each symbolism connectedly. Do not take in the dates of the valley between. That should be another study by itself. Deal with the chariots and the horses, their colors, etc, then deal with the paradox of all ages, the two sets of horses in the last chariot. When you get to this, develop the point either on the cutting off of the grisled horses, and what it means, bringing in Ezekiel 9, the state of the church leaders today, gray in color, meaning neither black nor white, nor hot or cold, etc. If you choose to deal with the purified church in the loud cry, then proceed to show that after the bay horses are set free, the pure church represented by the last brass mountain is set up to gather all of God's people to the Kingdom. Many Kingdom texts can then be used to explain this further. You should be acquainted with the study sufficiently that you will not need to use the tract to read each point of the study. Remember that too much reading makes for a tedious study.

If you decided to give the group a study from the *Timely Greetings*, then study the subject matter thoroughly. Have everyone bring their

TG on the subject, and encourage active participation. *Do not do all the reading yourself.* When you read, read clearly. Cultivate a good speaking voice. Be careful of how you pronounce each word. If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, look it up in a good dictionary before you give the study.

She read from *Evangelism*, p. 175:1-3: "Make your explanations clear; for I know that there are many who do not understand many of the things said to them. Let the Holy Spirit mold and fashion your speech, cleansing it from all dross. *Speak as to little children*, remembering that there are many well advanced in years who are but little children in understanding.

"By earnest prayer and diligent effort we are to obtain a fitness for speaking. This fitness includes uttering every syllable clearly, placing the force and emphasis where it belongs. Speak slowly. Many speak rapidly, hurrying one word after another so fast that the effect of what they say is lost. Into what you say put the spirit and life of Christ.... To those who hear, the gospel is made the power of God unto salvation. Present the gospel in its simplicity (CT 253-255).

"Attention to Sermon Preparation—The discourses given upon present truth are full of important matter, and if these discourses are carefully considered before being

presented to the people, if they are condensed and do not cover too much ground, if the spirit of the Master goes with the utterances, no one will be left in darkness, no one will have cause to complain of being unfed. *The preparation, both in preacher and hearer, has very much to do with the result.*"

To close, she again emphasized that studies should be short and to the point, uplifting Christ throughout the entire study. *The preparations made before the study in earnest prayer, self-examination, and study will tell in your presentation—your voice, your looks, and the earnestness with which you are speaking. In other words, allow the Holy Spirit to take over.*

**Thursday night's** topic was "The Five Pastures" of Isaiah 33:9 and 1TG 34:13:6, 7. In giving an analysis of these passages, Sister Bingham first emphasized that the point to consider about these pastures was their figurative meaning, not the time of their fulfillment, which was from the time Brother Houteff commented on it. We must understand their profoundly figurative content.

In order to understand the figurative content of these nouns it is important to get the key word to unlock them. She read from 2TG 8:27 and 4T 414:1. These passages show that we need only the key word to unlock the mysteries of God. The keyword

to understanding these mysteries is in Micah 7:14 and 1SR 243:2:

"...Carmel, Bashan, and Gilead are used as symbols of good spiritual pasture." The keyword, then, is "good spiritual pasture." Davidians know that Carmel and Bashan are symbolical of pastures. Therefore, the two previous nouns, Sharon and Lebanon, have to be symbolical of pastures also. For added evidence, she read from *A Word to the "Little Flock,"* pages 10 and 11, which explained that if the three angels of Revelation 14 represented messages (Rev. 14:6-11), then the last two angels (Rev. 14:14-20) must also represent messages.

Step by step she showed that Bashan came from Carmel, Carmel came from the SDA church (Sharon), and the SDA church came from Lebanon (the Millerite movement).

Then she showed the meaning of each noun, figurative of the type of leadership God used in each movement. Lebanon was known for its cedars. Cedar is known for its noble, tall stature, affording forest shade. This was the kind of leadership the Millerite movement had—men of stalwart integrity who were willing to suffer any abuse, shame, or ridicule for what they believed. Moreover, as shade trees, they offered protection and hope in the soon coming of Christ. But because of their misunderstanding of the prophecy, they

were “ashamed and hewn down.” No Millerite movement is known worldwide today, as in Miller’s day when the message and movement was in “every mission station of the world.”

God designed that Sharon, the SDA church should be as the sweet smelling rose of Sharon, to perfume the earth with the truth and beauty of the gospel. But because of apostasy, she became a wilderness. She has not only retreated to Egypt (5T 217), but today she is actually in Egypt. The servant of the Lord says: “...As Jesus views the state of His professed followers today, He sees base ingratitude, hollow formalism, hypocritical insincerity...” (5T 72:2). She read two statements, one from the *Paulson Collection of Ellen G. White Letters*, page 158:2, and the other from the *Review and Herald*, February 23, 1887, where Sister White made the following statements: “The wilderness of the church is to become a fruitful field...” and “many church members...dwell, as it were, in the salt land, in a parched wilderness.” So, unlike Lebanon, the church still exists today, but she is as a wilderness.

Carmel of old was noted for its excellence and fertility. Elijah was also connected with Carmel, and the servant of the Lord predicted that God would send Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord,

(TM 475). Carmel was known for its excellent leaders, and for the fertility (abundance) of the truth it produced. It was not a separate movement, but a movement within a movement. The Lord gave antitypical Elijah (the last interpretative prophet) the message of the Shepherd’s Rod, and with the Rod (a symbol of correction), he faithfully sounded the message throughout Laodicea until it was time for him to lay down his work on February 5, 1955. The Church, however, being in the wilderness and destitute of the Holy Spirit has turned a deaf ear to all the corrections, instructions, and reproofs the Lord has sent them, and has opposed the Rod message for over seventy years.

Bashan, the next pasture, came up after Carmel withered (was “deserted”) (*The Symbolic Code*, Vol. 11, No. 12, page 25:1). Bashan was known for its good pasture land, for its oaks, cattle and sheep, and rugged men. These are the characteristics of God’s pasture today—rugged men, who are not afraid of anything when daring for God, men of stalwart integrity (like the oaks), men who are not afraid of insults, ridicule, and unlawfully being removed from the church and its records; men who are working ceaselessly to take care of God’s pasture, the cattle and the sheep. Bashan’s work today is binding up the Rod and sending it out to

the “rebellious house” of Israel. (See Ezek. 2 & 3.) It is also the place where God is fitting up His people for the Kingdom and where they are receiving instructions in righteousness to enable them to secure the wedding garment for the Kingdom. Like Carmel, Bashan will shake off its fruits when its work is done—shaking off its fruits means that its work is done. Bashan is used conjointly with Carmel, like the 6th and 9th hour messages of Matthew 20, because they are closely connected—Carmel produced the message that Bashan is binding up, but Bashan is spoken of before Carmel in Isaiah 33:9 because the truth of all of the figurative meanings of these nouns are given in the Bashan period, a subject we never understood while the Carmel period was in existence.

But the question may arise, why is Gilead, the third and final pasture of Micah 7:14, absent in this sequence of Isaiah 33:9? Since all of these pastures exist in the tare-and-wheat period, naturally, Gilead, the Kingdom, is not found in this sequence. It is the pasture that will have God’s purified people with the “healing balm,” the total truth that is to heal the daughters of Babylon. They will sound the Loud Cry message to Babylon, and when the call is made, “Come out of her,” all of God’s honest people in Babylon will heed the call and join them and be

safe and secure in Gilead—His Kingdom.

Her closing thought was from *The Symbolic Code*, Vol. 12, Nos. 6 & 7, pages 15, 16:

“We are approaching the parting of the ways where we must decide whether we will be among the many of whom Daniel spoke that shall be purified, and made white, and tried, and understand; or of those who shall do wickedly and not understand. If we would be among the wise and purified ones, we had better without delay find out what our idols are and put them away; for that is the factor that will decide to which of the two classes we will belong. Since none of the wicked shall understand in the day of the Lord, it shows that the Truth will become deeper and deeper until finally the wicked will not be able to comprehend It. The point where they first lost out or became blinded, however, was when they met their idol and refused to tear themselves from it. The things we love and esteem more than God’s Kingdom are our idols.”

Before she took her seat, Sister Bingham held up *Bashan Tidings*, Vol. 11, No. 2, and told everyone that the study was taken from this publication. It was not a tedious study with long readings, except for the reference quoted above. This, she emphasized, is how studies should be given when following a publica-

tion. One should be so thoroughly acquainted with the subject, that it is given as a study, and not as a reading. There were none there who even knew that Sister Bingham was using the above Tidings as the basis of her study.

**Friday night's** study by Brother Pilgrim was "Our Only Hope of Overcoming." His first reference was taken from *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 1, No. 42, page 2, which showed that "our only hope of overcoming is to unite our will with God's will and work in cooperation with Him." He next read from *The Answerer*, Bk. No. 1, page 76:2, the most frequently quoted Spirit of Prophecy reference in the Rod publications:

"... 'Only those who have withstood temptation in the strength of the Mighty One,' warns the Spirit of Prophecy, 'will be permitted to act a part in proclaiming it [the Third Angel's Message] when it shall have swelled into the Loud Cry.'—R&H, Nov. 19, 1908."

He brought out the thought that the fainter cry (what we have today) is proclaimed by those who have, as well as those who have not, overcome temptation, while the Loud Cry is to be proclaimed only by those who have overcome temptation. He read from Tract No. 15 pages 76, 77, showing that God's people should ever be watchful and be on the alert for the Voice of the

Spirit of Christ, as well as to be on guard to discern the spirit of Satan. *The Symbolic Code*, Vol. 11, No. 6, page 5, warned that those who are standing in the forefront are not exempt from despondency. We were all encouraged to have faith and to stand steadfastly till the end. Because Satan knows our weakness, we should cling to Jesus, abiding in His love, that we may be able to stand the tests of the wily foe.

Another point of emphasis was from *The Answerer*, Bk. No. 5, page 29:5—that we should not neglect to study every page, every word of the message, and that we should be diligent in our perusal of truth. We were also encouraged with the passage found in *The Answerer*, Bk. No. 2, pages 29, 30. Now that the sealing message is making its way through the church, if we are awake and reform and share the message with others, we will receive the seal.

Here are some of his closing thoughts: The way to true holiness is wholeness in service. This can be realized only by those who are truly born again. This thought was taken from *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 2, No. 13, page 2.

Another thought was brought out from Tract 6, *The Universal Dairy*—what the butter and honey means for us, and what they are symbolical of. He closed with the importance of being reformed the moment we are

convinced of the truth (4Ans. 10, Question No. 80).

### Sabbath

**Sabbath morning:** For the 10:30 a.m. study, we separated into classes and had our Syllabus study on "Marriage and the Home." Many interesting and pertinent points on what the home and marriage ought to be were discussed in this lesson—some new to some and some a reminder. The lesson closed with the section on building a firm and durable home "out of the city."

After the midday meal was served, some went on a nature walk with Brother Jeriel. It was an instructive walk for them, as they learned to identify medicinal plants and the names of the wild flowers that grow so profusely here at Bashan.

The afternoon program consisted of the Davidian Youth program followed by an Impromptu program where several took part in singing and performing other pieces.

After supper, we again met in the chapel for thirty minutes to close the Sabbath. Sister Bingham highlighted a few of the most important points brought out in the morning meetings. She closed with these words:

"The secret of success is the union

of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the Almighty Arm. The man who commanded, 'Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon,' is the man who for hours lay prostrate upon the earth in prayer in the camp at Gilgal. *The men of prayer are the men of power.*"—PP 509:1.

For the young at heart, a camp fire was held on the premises of Creek House, close to the creek. All who attended seemed to enjoy themselves.

For those who had not left Bashan before worship on Sunday, September 16, the reading was taken from 2T 595-597, "An Impressive Dream." All who heard these lines are encouraged to read this very impressive dream. We were encouraged to know that despite appearances, God is in control of His work. His chariot of truth is on His holy hill, ordering and directing the work.

Thus ended Seminar 2001.

"Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be His glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with His glory; Amen, and Amen." Ps. 72:18, 19. □

## THE LITTLE PEOPLE'S READER

### A TALK WITH JOHNNY GREENE

[Taken from *The Youth's Instructor*, page 198]

Come here, Johnny Greene, and sit down beside me; I want to talk with you. You are trying to be a follower of Christ, are you not? I think that is what you told us in our meeting last Sabbath. But the same evening after you went home, you arose while milking the cow, and beat the poor unoffending creature just because she didn't stand perfectly still. Again, when you were driving one of the calves through the gate, I noticed that you kept striking it with a stout stick, although it was going as fast as it could.

Well, what of it? you ask. A great deal of it, Johnny. Any thoughtful beholder would have discounted your religion a great many per cent on account of that scene. Do you really suppose that the spirit of Christ and the spirit of cruelty can dwell in the same heart?

The abuse of animals is a crying evil, and there is need that every one who will should do all in his power to prevent it. You ask what a boy like you can do. Well, you can at least be kind to them yourself. Some boys have the strange idea that it is not manly to be gentle and tender-hearted. Let me tell you, my boy, the very reverse is true. There is a saying to the effect that "the bravest are the tenderest," and as a rule you will find

it true. No one will deny that Abraham Lincoln was a man of great nobility of character. Yet there are many instances on record of his inconveniencing himself greatly to befriend some poor beast or bird. It is related of him that once while riding in great haste through the woods, he saw a young bird which had fallen from its nest, and lay on the ground. He rode on, but the cries of the distressed parent-birds kept sounding in his ears. Finally, unable to endure it longer, he turned and went back, a long distance, picked up the bird, and put it in the nest; then he proceeded on his journey.

There is that milk-white pony which your father lately gave you. He is a beautiful animal; but to tell the truth, Johnny, I am sorry he is yours. I have watched you a great many times as you rode by on his back, like the wind. How do you suppose the little pony likes to be whipped up hill and down, mile after mile, until he is utterly exhausted? You treat him as if he were some piece of machinery, which it was impossible to hurt or tire. For shame! to use as useful, sensitive, and affectionate a beast as the horse in that way! Do you know that when you misuse anything simply because it is in your power to do so, you are a

tyrant just as much as Nero of Rome ever was? Yes; and a coward, too. I don't like to call hard names, Johnny, but it's the truth.

Yet I believe you are more thoughtless than cruel. You do not mentally put yourself in the place of these dumb creatures, and try to imagine their feelings. Then, Johnny, it would add something to your own happiness, would it not, to gain the love of every animal on the place?

Suppose that when you go down to the barn in the morning, your horse should whinny a glad greeting, and perhaps rub his nose affectionately against you instead of starting nervously at your step, as if he feared you; suppose the cat should come purring to you, rubbing against you trustingly, as if to say: "I know you're my friend," and Rover should come eagerly to meet you, wouldn't it be pleasanter and much more to your credit than to have them slink out of your way as if they expected a kick? There is nothing in the world that yields such large returns as kind-

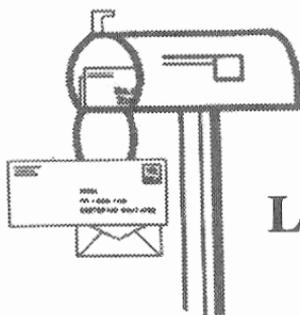
ness. Try it, Johnny, try it.

You could also do a great deal of good by your influence over the other boys. You know there are a few of them who think anything Johnny Greene does is just exactly right. Show these boys that you do not approve of unkindness to animals. Take the part of every weak, defenseless creature. If you see someone abusing one of them, do not stand by and say: "Well, it's too bad, but it's none of my business." If there is anything you can do to prevent it, it is your business, Johnny Greene. If you witness abuse without doing what you can to hinder it, you are partly responsible for the wrong done.

There is a vast deal of missionary work to be done in this direction, Johnny, and I would that you might be one to engage in it. It is work which God will bless, too; for if not a sparrow falls to the ground without His notice, certainly it must grieve Him to see any of His creatures wronged.

—Viola E. Smith. □





## LETTERS

### **“God Was In Charge”**

Once again I was blessed by being on God’s holy hill and fellowship with brethren of like precious faith. I know that wherever God’s people gather Satan is there also, but everything seemed to go so smoothly, and was conducted in such an orderly and Godly manner that even though the enemy was there you could not tell it. God was in charge. It was just beautiful; praise the Lord.

I was so happy to see so many new believers. It did my heart good. I am praying for them that the Lord will bless them to hold on and let nobody steal the truth away from them. (Long time Davidian and soldier of Christ—Florida)

### **“The Seminar!...Enriching, Encouraging, and Enjoyable”**

Praise the Lord for a safe trip home from the Seminar! What a

wonderful time I had—so enriching, encouraging, and enjoyable. The proof of it is that the Lord is helping me every day to be “spiritually energized” through correcting wrong habits that I had slumped into. It is so much better to have God’s peace and presence than the pleasure of sin, which reap doleful consequences and separation from God. I had a good experience in Name Ingathering, I will e-mail the names. (Maine)

### **“Dew of Heaven to Refresh Our Weary Souls”**

By God’s grace I arrived home safely. I thank God for Bashan—the dew of Heaven to refresh our weary souls. Please remind the brethren there of how much we appreciated their dedication and hard work.

My indifference and carelessness cause me sorrow as I awake to my responsibilities. By God’s grace I will strive to be conscious of what God has called me to do, and to seek

fortitude and courage to shoulder my duties. (Washington)

### “All Benefited Tremendously”

There is absolutely no doubt that we all benefited tremendously from the Seminar. Knowing how everyone thinks, I am not too surprised that they were richly blessed.

Before we came to Bashan, all had in their minds exactly the reasons for these Seminars and the spiritual preparations needed beforehand.

\_\_\_\_\_, for instance, was very glad that he made the sacrifice to attend. He loved the meetings amidst the surroundings and the quiet atmosphere of Bashan and would have liked to have stayed longer. \_\_\_\_\_ is already planning his next Seminar visit by putting aside his money from now. Whenever the next Seminar is, he certainly plans to be there. That says enough about how much he gained from the meetings. He also enjoyed the cabin life and everything else. \_\_\_\_\_ said that it was the first time for a long time that she didn't have to think about anything like cooking, washing, and looking after others, but to enjoy wonderful meetings with good food and sleep, to top it off. You see, the Seminar was a blessing to soul, body, and mind for everyone.

Regarding \_\_\_\_\_, in her own words, “Bashan more than exceeded

my expectations.” She was also impressed with the organized way that things were done. Everyone also liked the way their names were on their doors and study-folders.

My conviction regarding the Seminar is that the Lord is showing us how much we need character building over deep prophetic studies. So I think that the format and content of the Seminar was exactly what Davidians needed at this time. I have no doubts—spiritual things are spiritually discerned. (England)

### Left With Answers

I am dropping you these few lines to let you know that I arrived home safely.

When I came to Bashan there were so many unanswered questions in my mind, but when I left, they were answered. One thing that I learned—when you let God take over your life He makes it possible for you to understand the things that seems impossible concerning the second tithes. By God's grace I will try to comply with His command. After all, He is the one that giveth wealth and He can take it back.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you and the staff at Bashan. The meals were delicious, on time, and more than we could eat. Thank God for such abundance of grace, delicious and well prepared. My be-

ing able to be on God's holy hill is a real blessing to me. Thank you for the accommodations.

Enclosed is my first and second tithes with my offering. May God continue to bless you with good health and strength to see us enter with the 144,000 on that great day. (New Jersey)

### "Rich Blessings"

I was honored above many of my brethren to attend the Seminar. I trust that the rich blessings showered upon me will flow to others when I return home.

To put it simply, morning worship was divine, spiritually fulfilling and it created an insatiable desire to experience it daily.

I was strengthened with the following thoughts from *Our High Calling*: "Only look to Jesus and tell Him every perplexity and trial.... Ask Him to help and strengthen and bless you, and believe that He hears your prayers"; also, "Learn to pray aloud where only God can hear you. Believe and keep on praying when there is no ray of hope."

I know the brethren will have many questions about the Seminar. I trust I'll be able to sum it up the way it was given. However, the tapes will compensate where I lack. (Barbados)

### "Seminar 2001—The Best"

Seminar 1997 was good. Seminar 1999 was better. But Seminar 2001 was the best.

I give God the glory for answering my prayers and giving me such great blessings through the power of the Holy Spirit. It was truly inspiring, a wonderful experience, and once again I have proven that God never fails those who call upon Him in faith and await His leadings.

The morning worship sessions were enriching. The blessings of each topic were pouring into hearts that were opened to receive them. The topics were very clearly and thoroughly expounded upon and there was much soul searching during these sessions.

God's holy hill looked beautiful—it was its best this year. The trees, the grass, the flowers; Bashan House and the road looked clean and tidy; everything was orderly, and we had a beautiful sunny week for the Seminar. Praise the Lord.

Sister Shelley, the organist, did a remarkable job on the organ and in her singing. Everyone was blessed. The food was good and the fellowship with the brethren was uplifting and encouraging. The Syllabus and the group discussions were a tremendous blessing to me also.

May blessings, honor and praise go to God for His grace and mercies

during Seminar 2001 and special blessings to Sister Bingham, her helpers, and all who came to assist in the preparations to make it such a success—God’s blessings for a job well done. (A Bashan Resident)

### **Like Sitting at the Feet of Jesus**

The Seminar was quite different from all the others because when you said you were going to tell us what the Lord told you to tell us, it was like we were sitting and listening at the feet of Jesus. (Alabama)

### **“I Needed That”**

God bless you for letting me be part of the Seminar. I needed that. (Maryland)

### **“We Were Richly Blessed”**

It was a wonderful experience for us, meeting brethren from all over the country and abroad, feasting on spiritual food and also on the temporal food that was served in abundance. We were richly blessed.

The truths that were prepared for us were timely and designed to meet our present need—that of overcoming sin in our lives. We have seen how much work needs to be done in our character-building.

We really appreciate all the effort and hard work that was done and we

are sure God was present to bless and do us good. (New York)

### **“Foretaste of the Kingdom”**

Months before the Seminar the Lord had told me in His Word to come up to His holy mountain and worship Him. And through my devotions He had promised to be there in our midst, and He did not fail to keep His promise. When we sang at our daily convocation, I felt the presence of an innumerable Host of Heaven joining us in praise and adoration and swelling the ranks of God’s Davidian army on earth. Every time we met, God’s angels were with us, swelling our numbers in preparation for that great and glorious day when we will join forces.

Finally, words cannot describe the atmosphere of pervading joy, peace and grace that continually surrounded us at Bashan during the Seminar. It was truly a foretaste of the Kingdom—unrivaled and blissful joy, the essence of brethren unitedly joined by His Holy Spirit.

I humbly thank the Lord for His untiring help, for bringing me to the Seminar by His own power, and for preparing everything for each of us by holding back the winds of destruction to enable us all to arrive and return safely. I humbly ask Him to please let this experience live in my heart daily so that I won’t miss

out—that I daily remember God’s goodness, leading, and care as my personal Shepherd and Redeemer, leading me and guiding me into good pasture—Bashan, and finally Home. (Florida)

### **Resolved to Implement Counsels**

I am resolving by the grace of God to implement the counsels and admonitions I received during my stay there. In order to keep them fresh in our minds, during our worship I am taking each reference given and reading it in its entirety. I have most of the books, so that really helps.

I like what was said and read about home religion—How we treat others well in public, but our family receives the brunt of our personality. If I am a true Christian the other traits will come naturally. (Pennsylvania)

### **“My Soul Was Truly Blessed”**

It gives my heart joy that I was able to be there and receive all the wonderful blessings that the Lord imparted to us.

My soul was truly blessed. I hope that, by God’s grace, sometime in the near future I will be able to come and spend some time. (Florida)

### **Seminar Blessings Extended**

We thank the Lord for such a wonderful experience at the Seminar. For the past two Sabbaths the Seminar blessings have been extended to the group meetings. He is still speaking to us through the many words of comfort and admonition. We cannot help but express it through our words and actions toward one another. My prayer is that the Lord will continue to work through us and among us mightily. (New Jersey)

### **“Spiritually Enlightening”**

Just a quick note of thanks for the spiritually enlightening and elevating time we had at the Seminar.

It was surely a blessing to be there on God’s holy hill to receive instructions and to fellowship with brethren of like faith; I praise the Lord for the opportunity. (Maryland)

### **Left Changed for the Better**

The Seminar stressed heavily on the Kingdom and brought before God’s people their greatest need—the need for a revival of true Godliness. Our entrance into the Kingdom is contingent on how we hear and treat God’s message for the hour.

The topics presented during the morning worship sessions, the group discussions, and the evening meet-

ings emphasized the power and influence of the Holy Spirit to facilitate growth and change in all who acknowledge their need of divine help. There was a force and power generated during the convocation that was obtainable to all who put out earnest effort to obtain the blessings of the Lord. I must admit, I left the Hill of God changed for the better.

For those who were unable to attend I must say you missed a great blessing. It is my prayer that this letter will stimulate your appetite to study the topics mentioned. Know that you will receive a blessing as you research the materials. Those who attended, may we restudy our Syllabuses and gain an even greater blessing as we put into practice what we have learned. (Missouri)

### **“I Was Truly Blessed”**

Just a few lines to say thank you for making it possible for me to attend the Seminar. I really was very glad to be there to receive my blessing, and I was truly blessed. It was a happy occasion to meet with brethren from different walks of life to fellowship in the Lord in such a holy convocation. If I wasn't there I would have really missed something very valuable, which could not be gained in any other way but to be there. Just to have the Syllabus is not

the same as being there in person to experience for one's self the Holy Spirit's working among God's people. It was wonderful and orderly. Thank you for the Syllabus. I am truly glad for it. I am already making the best of it by studying it over to get everything out of it. With the help of the Holy Spirit, it will be possible. (Kansas)

### **“No Better Place for Me”**

I have to take this time to say how grateful I am to the Lord for being at the Seminar.

While there I picked up some older copies of the Tidings. I just went over the July 22, 1985 edition, which reminded me of the pastures mentioned in Isaiah 33:9. You spoke on this during the Seminar. The subject came home to me in a new way then, and the review today was great as well. This is what I like. There is always more evidence from the Lord of who we are, and of what is to be. We have a great and precious store of wealth, a royal treasury of truth.

It was good to be at Bashan this year—a blessing for sure. There was no better place on earth to be than there, with His people, and at that time—a time of peace.

Once again, thank you all for your kindness; it was much appreciated. If it is permitted, come and see us soon. (Canada) ☐

## HEALTH WAVE

### PART II

#### WATER — IS IT YOUR BEST FRIEND OR WORST ENEMY?

[By Joseph Sterling, Editor, *Secrets of Robust Health Newsletter*, 1997, Adapted]

#### Chlorine Is Only the Beginning

Here are the most common minerals present in water which are considered harmful to your health in their inorganic form: aluminum, cadmium, lead, magnesium, arsenic, chromium, mercury, sulfur, silicon, asbestos, copper, nickel, strontium, cobalt, molybdenum, barium, fluorine, radium, uranium, iron, vanadium, chlorine and many others. The most dangerous contaminants are lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium and aluminum.

More than half of the American cities still use lead water pipes that become the main source of lead in their drinking water. According to EPA, lead in our drinking water causes serious health problems. It is one of the most dangerous contaminants. Lead is poisonous for the human body when it accumulates in it. Consumption of water that contains even a small amount of lead can have very serious consequences. A study on water contaminants published in the American Journal Water Technology states:

“Lead is extremely harmful to the human brain, kidneys, and nervous system, as well as to the red blood cell creation process, vitamin ab-

sorption, kidney function, neurological processes, as well as to the sexual function in both males and females. For many years, scientists have linked high blood pressure, arterial hypertension, strokes and heart attacks to the effect lead has on the human body.”

The magazine states also that embryos, as well as children up to seven years of age, are especially susceptible to the effect of lead since their central nervous system is still at the developmental stage and because of their relatively low weight when compared to that of adults. Thus they consume and accumulate more lead per pound of their weight than adults. According to the Centers For Disease Control, lead poisoning is one of the most common illnesses among young children—even more common than infections. Especially disturbing are the latest studies: they prove that even the lead levels that used to be considered harmless, can be harmful for a child’s nervous system. Heavy lead poisoning can cause brain damage, mental retardation, coma, cramps, and even death. Small doses of lead poisoning, usually unnoticeable, can lower mental activity and cause a whole range of physical and mental defects, deviations and

such disturbances of the blood cell creation processes as anemia.

Even such a well-known poison as arsenic has been found in the drinking water of 85% of American municipalities—water that tens of millions of Americans drink in sufficient quantities to cause cancer and other serious diseases.

Another substance found abundantly in our water supply is aluminum. The study published in the *Canadian Journal of Aging* shows that "...there is a direct link between the Alzheimer's patients' death rate and drinking water with aluminum content. Aluminum also raises great concerns due to its potential harmful effect on children's and teenagers' development."

The alarming data about even more health problems caused by other harmful minerals in your water can go on and on. Traces of the following chemicals have also been found in tap water: synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, paints, plastics, aromatizing additives, preservatives, pharmaceutical substances, etc.

All these man-made compounds do not exist in nature. Very often, they are harmful for the human body in that they affect our health, depending on the kind of chemical compound and its use. As various studies have established, the risks are as follows: skin diseases, blood disorders, damage to the nervous

system, genetic reproductive disorders, cancer and many others.

Asbestos, which is used when mixing concrete, gets into our water supply from the concrete-made main waterways. It, too, is a carcinogen. Concrete waterways can be found all over the country. Low level asbestos poisoning is linked to various kidney, bone and blood disorders as well as nervous system disorders. Different compounds containing nitrogen can also be found in tap water. Nitrates and nitrites in our food can cause digestive disorders in adults and oxygen deficiency in children. According to EPA studies, the nitrate level in American tap water has increased by 52%.

As to the radioactive additives, according to EPA, about 50 million Americans risk getting cancer due to the radioactive contamination of their drinking water. The most widespread of these are radium and radon. Radium is contained mostly in subsoil waters and mostly in the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico, as well as in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. Radon is a colorless and odorless gas found in nature where it is generated as the product of the soil's mineral decay. It gets into houses through cracks in their foundations, unfinished basements and contaminated water. It is considered to be the second main cause of lung cancer—next to smoking.

### **Fluoride: Banned in Europe and Many Regions of the U.S., Yet It's Still Used in Many American Cities as a "Useful Additive"**

The initial purpose of this article was to convince the reader how important it is to consume daily, as recommended by physicians, 6-8 glasses of water. On the other hand, I won't be surprised if those of you carefully reading this article are now not too enthusiastic about following this medical advice. But wait, the real horror story is still ahead! Yet, don't get discouraged—there are indeed solutions to these problems, too, so please don't be afraid to read on.

Apart from chlorine, municipalities add another strong poison to water during its treatment—fluoride. The idea of its use is to make our water "better." The famous American oncologist (cancer specialist) Dr. Ludwig Gross considers fluoride to be a "silent poison with high toxicity and cumulative effect," while the American magazine *Drugstore* calls it "a strong poison for all the living tissues." However, many scientists, without considering the real cause of cavities, offer this poison as the means of their prevention and do not even try to find out whether this substance is harmful to the human body. Fluoride is the worst non-organic substance added to drinking water. Robert Carlton, a former scientist

with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in a popular television news show aired in 1992, shocked the viewers of "60 Minutes" by publicly stating that "fluoridation is the greatest case of scientific fraud of this century if not of all times."

Substances added to drinking water include sodium fluoride, silicofluoride hydrogen acid, or sodium silicofluoride; all of them are nothing other than toxic industrial waste derived from the process of cleaning foundries and phosphate-producing plants. Water fluoridation is a convenient way for industrial companies to get rid of their waste while passing it for useful additives; that was the reason for introducing water fluoridation in the '40s.

Water fluoridation has been a controversial subject for the media for a long time. There is a lot of literature on this subject. Let's take a look for example at an Internet web page for the Preventative Dental Health Association, which features numerous articles where the documented side effects of fluoride are analyzed. The articles were not very favorable. Look at just a few of the many facts about fluoride that are known. The Toxicological Program of the National Cancer Institute has found fluoride to be a possible carcinogen. A study conducted by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that "drinking fluor-

idated water will double the number of hip fractures in both older men and women.”

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported a close link between the decrease of total fertility rates in women and the increase in the levels of fluoride. Opaque white spots and brown ugly teeth caused by fluoride are called fluorosis. This condition currently affects at least one out of five children in the U.S., with the exception of California, where fluoridation has been discontinued in most places. In fact, fluoride in California is added to less than 16% of the population's drinking water.

Even though the majority of European countries as well as many American municipalities have already banned fluoridation of their tap water, many municipalities change their water purification technologies at a very slow rate. Many years will pass before this problem has been solved completely. There is enough proof that fluoride in drinking water does not reduce tooth decay. In fact, tooth decay has decreased more in some communities with non-fluoridated water than in the communities where water fluoridation is used. Even the FDA itself considers fluoride an unapproved drug with no proven safety or effectiveness record.

The International Academy of

Oral Medicine and Toxicology has classified fluoride, because of its high toxicity, an unapproved dental medicament. Studies have now confirmed a dramatic increase in osteosarcoma (bone cancer) in young males who had been exposed to fluoride during the period of their bone growth, as well as a 5% increase in all types of cancers in communities with water fluoridation.

Having read all this you will wonder why anyone would intentionally add this poison to our drinking water. The *Ottawa Citizen* writes on February 9, 1989, in an article dedicated to the subject of fluoride and its toxicity, "...fluoride is a waste product of aluminum...it may cause cancer and other degenerative diseases, although your loved ones may die with beautiful teeth. Pharmacology laws list arsenic, cyanide, and fluoride as dangerous poisons. The high courts of Holland and Sweden have struck down fluoridation. The practice has been banned in Australia, Denmark, France, Greece, Germany Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and other countries. Over 200 cities in the United States gave up the concept of drinking water fluoridation after they had tried it. The minute amounts of fluoride we receive everyday stay in our bones and tissues much the same way arsenic, lead and other poisons do. The body ends up storing several

times the amount originally present in the fluoridated water....The body is unable to get rid of this poison.”

George L. Waldbott, M.D., an allergist and a recognized authority on fluoride poisoning, has described some of the more common symptoms of fluorine intoxication—gastric distress, such as cramps and stomach pains, poor appetite, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea or constipation, shortness of breath, palpitations, cough and expectoration, joint stiffness and indefinite or localized rheumatic pains and aches, fatigue, insomnia, indisposition, headache, dizziness, rash, itching, and other skin symptoms.

Our liver, kidneys, skin, and lungs continuously rid our body of everything harmful and useless for its growth and functioning. Let's refrain from overburdening these organs by giving them yet another task of eliminating the salts, metals, poisonous chemicals of industrial, agricultural and domestic origin contained in our drinking water. As we get older and our body's ability to cleanse itself, including cleansing on the cellular level, diminishes, drinking contaminated water can poison your body completely and cause salt deposits in the brain, blood vessels, muscles, intestines and other organs. This often causes eyesight problems. In other words, acceleration of the aging process, as well as untimely death,

are consequences of drinking bad water for many years and not giving our frequently dehydrated bodies enough pure, clean water.

“But why does the government allow it to happen?” you may ask. Because ensuring full safety of tap water for our health is too expensive a venture. And how can you absolutely, precisely define what specifically caused a person's suffering when the contamination process has a long-term cumulative effect? Only after years and years of drinking tap water may the person become seriously ill but nobody will be held responsible for it.

The best solution is that we become personally responsible for the water we drink and make sure that the water coming into our kitchens and showers is purified. Only two types of home water treatment processes—distillation and reverse osmosis—can clear water from virtually all the harmful pollutants and additives, including fluoride. Charcoal filters, as well as other kinds of filters representing 95% of what's on the market, are simply not up to the task.

### **What Water Should I Drink? Which Purification Method Is Best?**

If, 20 years ago, somebody told you that there will come a day when we start buying water in a supermar-

ket...this prediction would certainly have provoked either hearty laughter or total disbelief. Meanwhile, water contamination levels have increased so fast that some people noticed it and started buying water at the supermarket to ensure their own safety.

So which water is the best for drinking and cooking? This is an extensive subject but I am going to be brief and will describe only the most popular existing water purification systems. The first thing to do is of course to stop using tap water right away. Then you can choose one of the following options:

(1) Buy bottled water with a label that says Purified Drinking Water. Try not to buy spring water (Spring Water or Natural Spa Water) since this water comes from natural sources and these can be contaminated with natural pollutants. Don't forget that the spring water industry has no strict regulations for its purity and few guidelines exist for the companies producing spring water. The outrageous costs of bottled spring water would lead consumers to believe that they are buying something of super quality. On the contrary, it is no better for your health than ordinary tap water. In 1991, the University of Iowa conducted a detailed study involving 39 different brands of bottled water. "Among the 39 samples, 11 contained measurable amounts of THM's; 18 contained

dissolved metals; and others had traces of arsenic, barium and toluene. It is, therefore, concluded that bottled water is no better than tap water and, in some cases, even worse."

(2) Use distilled water. It is excellent purified water with no additives....

(3) Buy certain kinds of water in health food stores. Much of this water has gone through powerful purification systems such as reverse osmosis or micro-filtration, that produce excellent results, leaving only a small percentage of pollutants. The only problem is the prohibiting cost of this water. To drink and cook with this water will considerably strain the family budget for a family of 3 or 4, not to mention the necessity of lugging these heavy bottles.

(4) Install a good purification system at home. Filters that use the reverse osmosis method produce excellent results. They purify water on the molecular level.

### **How Much Water Should I Drink?**

We have already discussed how harmful, even detrimental, it is for the human body to *not* consume enough water. The more water you drink, the more your body is able to neutralize harmful substances that have gotten inside it, by one way or

another. Statistics show that the majority of people don't drink enough water (not liquids but water). Yet pure water alone has been medically proven to help people with weight loss, migraine headaches, asthma, ulcers, heart problems and many other ailments. It is impossible to list all the advantages of consuming enough pure water in such a concise article.

Well, what does the "sufficient intake of water" really translate into? On the average it's important to drink 8 and sometimes as high as 12 or more glasses a day, depending on your weight and on how physically active you are. It is no surprise that doctors practicing alternative medicine have for years been recommending drinking at least 8 glasses of water a day to those who want to

be healthy.

If you are not used to drinking plain water you may initially think that this is too much. But our body needs large amounts of water and it gets accustomed to the growing volume of consumed liquid very quickly. I can share with you good advice that I have been following for years. Put a glass of water in front of you and do whatever work is at hand while sipping a few sips every, say, 15-30 minutes. You will not even notice how you have drained the glass. Many people prefer using a 1 quart bottle that used to contain some store-bought water, constantly refilling it with distilled or purified water (1 quart equals 4 glasses, so 2 such bottles a day are recommended.) □

"Water! You have no taste, color nor smell. You defy description!  
You are enjoyed by everyone yet no one can comprehend why.  
It is not that you are vital to life – you are life itself.

"Water, you fill us with inexplicable joy. You restore in us the strength that we thought had been lost forever. Thanks to you, the dried up springs of our heart start splashing again.  
You are the biggest riches of all."

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery



## RECIPE PAGE



### Sweet and Simple Bread Pudding

6 or 8 slices of bread	¼ tsp. cinnamon
5 cups soy milk mixed with	¼ tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. vanilla	½ cup or less honey
½ cup raisins or currants	

1. Cube bread slices (you may use buttered slices if you are still using dairy).
2. Spray Pam or oil a 10"x10" pyrex dish.
3. Layer bread cubes in pan with raisins, sprinkle cinnamon and nutmeg until dish is full.
4. Drizzle honey over the layers.
5. Cover with milk and vanilla mixture.
6. Press down bread to soak in milk mixture.
7. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 350° for 35-45 minutes, or longer if a browner or dryer pudding is desired.

#### Just for the "Health" of It

- \* Pita bread pockets usually contain no sugar or added fat.
- \* A quality brown bread should contain 100% whole wheat flour or whole grain flour.
- \* Moldy bread should be disposed of. Throw out the whole bread even if only one piece has the mold.
- \* Avoid any baked products made with shortening or hydrogenated oils. They will be high in saturated fat.
- \* English muffins has no nutritional advantage over white bread.
- \* Bagels have a low-fat content and have more protein than 2 slices of white bread.
- \* Toasting bread reduces the protein efficiency ratio from 0.90, out of a possible 2.5, to approximately 0.32.
- \* To increase the protein value of bread, remove 1-2 tablespoons of whole wheat flour and replace it with an equal amount of soy flour.

—*Food Facts & Chef's Secrets*, p. 143.

## SOME NICE THINGS ABOUT BEING 65-PLUS

[By D. A. Delafield, *Adventist Review*, July 4, 1991, p. 20]

**F**irst of all, you don't have to worry about dying young.

\*You don't mind being 65, 75, or 85-plus when you consider the alternative.

\*You encourage yourself by remembering that a candle burning low is a candle still.

\*You try to talk less and listen more. It's better not to be a bore.

\*You can testify that the gauge for age is not the calendar on the wall but the temperature of the fires that burn within your body and soul.

\*The older you get, the less you fret about the advancing years. While once you balked at saying "I'm 65," you now can't wait for the chance to say "I'll be 85 on my next birthday!"

\*You endeavor to develop a good "forgetter" so that those things in your past that aren't worth remembering are forgotten.

\*You've learned that common sense in business affairs makes your dollars and cents go further.

\*You observe that good finances can figure strongly in good romances and help to hold marriages together.

\*You find that while money is important, it can't buy everything; the more you give and the less you hoard, the longer it lasts.

\*While physical vision dims and sights and sounds may blur, spiritual eyesight grows a little keener every day.

\*You discover that certain people aren't as bad as you once thought, and you come to view them now as you ought.

\*Your children and grandchildren loom big on your horizon, and suddenly, like a flash of light, you realize that you must be important to your heavenly Father.

\*You know that you have oodles of wisdom to share, and you're surprised that people don't pay more attention to you, so you acquire more grace and humility.

\*When you are 70 or older, people generally are more apt to excuse your frailties.

\*You've come to accept yourself for what you are and have stopped trying to be somebody you aren't.

\*You've forgiven those who have mistreated you and forgiven yourself for all your indiscretions.

\*You've come to accept whatsoever state you are in and have decided to be content with such things as you have.

\*You've learned to walk instead of run and found you can get there just the same.

\*You now take time to stop and smell the flowers and wonder that you ever passed them by.

\*You're often busier now than you were when you were in active employment, but you can now do the things you've always wanted to do, even though you are not paid for them.

\*There are monetary advantages: you can use special discounts offered to senior citizens, and there is always the Social Security checks, Medicare, and even Medicaid.

\*You find being busy and working for others to be a tonic more invigorating than all the vitamins and minerals in your medicine chest.

\*You find wisdom, wariness, and satisfaction in parrying the efforts of politicians who seek your vote, solicitors who covet your money, and con artists who would profit from your unguarded moments.

\*You've time to mend life's broken down fences and to define more clearly the eternity that stretches beyond.

\*Heaven gets closer all the time, while earthly things recede and hope for a brighter future grows big and beautiful. ☐

# The Spirit of Thanksgiving

[By George Matthew Adams]

It is not easy for us to think back to 1620 when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts. At that time there was very little settlement of human beings, mostly Indians, and a vast forest. But they had a purpose, these travelers to a new land. They wanted freedom — and space in which to exercise it. Their lives had been preserved after a rough crossing of the ocean in a frail ship.

And so it was in appreciation for all the many benefits accorded to them, that the Pilgrim Fathers decided to celebrate their coming to a new and strange land by giving thanks to the great Father of all. Thus we have carried on the tradition of Thanksgiving, after plentiful harvests and a kindly care over us during each year. In the United States, Governors and the President issue a Thanksgiving proclamation.

It is the spirit of Thanksgiving that has the meaning, not the mere preparation for a feast in which so many engage. The simplest fare can be full of meaning and gratitude. Thanksgiving should be an habitual ceremony on our part, and every day we should thank our Creator for the many blessings that are ours. We should be thankful for the privilege of living in a free land, with endless

choices for service and happiness. What other nation in all this world has placed upon its coins the words: "In God We Trust"? It is because of this trust that this nation has become the most powerful one in all history.

The celebration of our Thanksgiving Day should be one of great gratitude and humility of spirit. As individuals in America we are uniquely blessed. The humblest born, with uplifted head, can exclaim:

"This is my home! This is America! This is the land of blessings that keep running over!"

How proud we should be to be able to think as we choose, to worship where we will, without interference or dictation, and to choose our own way of life as best suits our inherited abilities. How unlimited are our opportunities! Not only should all these thoughts come to us on this nationally appointed day for thanksgiving, but it should be something that ought to inspire every one of our days throughout the entire year.

I like those words from the Doxology: "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow." Let us keep them in mind as we again celebrate our famous Thanksgiving Day this year. □

## ANOTHER YEAR

[By Ellen G. White, *The Youth's Instructor*, page 38]

Dear children, another year has passed with its burden of records. What has the recording angel written of your life during the last year? Has the angel borne record of an earnest effort on your part to perfect Christian character? Does this record testify of the fruit you have borne of good deeds in imitation of the life of your Redeemer? Are there deeds in your life record of self-denial, benevolence, and of mercy? If so, you will not be ashamed to meet the record in the day of final account, when all will be rewarded as their works have been.

Another year is before you, and it rests with you to say what the record shall be. You may resolve to be persevering in your efforts, to be right, to be self-denying, and in cheerfulness to perform every known duty. You may resolve to be forward in deeds of charity, and, by your good works, seek to be a blessing to others. All this is good. But have you made your resolution, relying upon the strength of God. *If you have felt your weakness, and have surrendered yourselves wholly to the claims of your Saviour, you will have the influence of His grace in all your efforts, and you will be sure to succeed.* Your life will be like a fruitful branch in the true and living Vine. If you draw

sap and nourishment from the Vine, your life will be adorned with clusters of graces, such as love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, meekness, and temperance. The beauty of these graces will reflect their bright and attractive influences upon others. You will possess a sunny, happy spirit, and you will be worthy and correct representatives of the simplicity of the genuine religion of Christ.

*But watchfulness and prayer will be necessary on your part.* Will all my youthful friends seek earnestly, the present year, to overcome selfishness, pride, envy, hatred, discontent, fretfulness, and ill-temper? These will mar your character, disturb your peace, and cause unhappiness and sorrow to those around you. Outward beauty and adornment will not prove that loveliness exists in the heart. *The foundation of a lovely character is a truly-converted, subdued heart.* If you are renewed in the image of Christ, you will imitate His life, live to bless others, and you will be blessed.

Good deeds and benevolent actions will reflect softened luster upon all. A meek and lovely spirit will possess a hallowed power over other hearts, and will be reflected back in love upon you again. The ornament

of a meek and quiet spirit is the inward adorning, which, in the sight of God, is accounted of great price. Seek, then, dear youth, to think less

of the outward adornment, and faithfully cultivate that which God regards as valuable—virtues which He declares to be of great price.

## THE YEAR

We dare not weep the waning year,  
We dare not hail the new;  
For vain alike are smile and tear,  
And blent the shadows are with cheer,  
As past the frostbite and the fear  
The gladness struggles through;  
But this one truth we surely hold—  
*God rules all years, the new, the old.*

The Past, which brought us so much pain,  
Brought, too, the cure of ill;  
The Future dimly gleams, in vain  
Our steps we urge, our eyes we strain,  
As slowly in unhastening train  
The days their course fulfill;  
And each to each these tidings tell—  
*God rules the years, and all is well.*

Brave and content, then, come what may,  
We face what time may send,  
Life cannot be all holiday,  
And love and hope alike decay,  
And disappointments bar the way  
Sometimes until the end;  
But we can bear all, knowing this—  
*God rules the years, and we are His.*

—Susan Coolidge

## NOTICES

**Field Work:** God needs “men who will labor with earnest, ceaseless energy for the purifying of the church” (5T 187) and who, with a spirit of self-sacrifice, will gladly enter His service. Pray ye therefore that the Lord of harvest will send forth laborers into His vineyard, for the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. It is encouraging and amazing to see that despite the few laborers in the field, the message is going forward and reaching the honest in heart through the members who are sharing it with others, and through the printed page. Please pray for all the self-sacrificing ones who are giving of their time and means to study with others and to engage in the Name Ingathering Campaign. Pray, too, that God will put the burden on others who are capable of doing this work that they, too, may be stirred to respond to Heaven’s call while we still have opportunity to warn “Mother.”

**Fellowship Certificates:** As 2001 comes to a close, be reminded that it is time to request an Application for your Fellowship Certificate. In order for you to conscientiously sign this Application, you must inspect yourself. The statement of self-inspection reads as follows:

“I am herewith judging myself (1) as having carefully re-read 2TG

38:18:20 and the Fellowship Application, and (2) as scrupulously maintaining both explicit and implicit fidelity to all the principles and requirements therein set forth, and (3) as having discarded all articles in violation as enunciated therein, and covenanted never to wear and/or use any of them again.

“In signing the Statement, I am doing so not because I am obliged in any way to do so, but solely because it is my conviction, in the light of 1TG 2:20, 21 and 11 Code 3:9-10, that no one can morally be given or receive the Fellowship Certificate who does not happily ‘pay the price’ in coming up fully, both in spirit and in letter, to the present standard of requirements, spelled out in the Application for the Fellowship certificate.

“I gladly pay the price—sincere, conscientious compliance with all the Davidian Fellowship principles.”

**Prayer and Month-end Fasting:** Daily prayer is essential for healthy spiritual growth. At these seasons of prayer, we should pray for overcoming faith, remembering that “if we do not overcome these evils [unholy desires and unlawful ambition] they will overcome us” (GA 33:3). Let us remember to keep our appointments with the Lord—morning, noon and night, and the month-end prayer and fasting. □

## SEMINAR 2001 TAPE LIST

NO.	TITLES	LENGTH
S628	Welcome and Orientation .....	90
S629	Health Talk—Digestion .....	45
S630	Truth, Present Truth, and the Very Present Truth .....	90
S631	Oral Health .....	60
S632	How to Give a Study .....	90
S633	The Five Pastures .....	90
S634	Our Only Hope of Overcoming .....	90
S635	Impromptu Program .....	60
S636	Closing Statements .....	30
S637	Post Seminar Morning Worship— “An Impressive Dream” .....	45
S643	Directory Hunters Speak .....	90

### MORNING WORSHIP

#### The Science of Overcoming Series

S638	The Science of Overcoming Through Prayer .....	60
S639	The Science of Overcoming Doubt of God’s Forgiveness .....	90
S640	The Science of Overcoming Uncleanliness .....	60
S641	The Science of Overcoming Impoliteness and Impatience .....	60
S642	The Science of Overcoming Wrong Habits .....	60

**Cost of Tapes:** 30 minutes—\$1.00; 45 minutes—\$1.50; 60 minutes—\$2.50; 90 minutes—\$3.00; Entire set—\$40.00. All monies must be in U.S. currency. ☐

**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS**

4Ans.	The Answerer, Book No. 4
4bSG	Spiritual Gifts, Volume 4
AA	The Acts of the Apostles
AH	The Adventist Home
CG	Child Guidance
CH	Counsels on Health
COL	Christ's Object Lessons
CT	Counsels to Parents and Teachers
CTBH	Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene
DA	The Desire of Ages
Ev	Evangelism
AG	God's Amazing Grace
HP	In Heavenly Places
MB	Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing
OHC	Our High Calling
PP	Patriarchs and Prophets
R&H	The Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald
SC	Steps to Christ
SD	Sons and Daughters of God
3SM	Selected Messages, Book 3
ISR	The Shepherd's Rod, Volume 1
1-8T	Testimonies, Volumes 1 through 8
TDG	This Day With God
1, 2TG	Timely Greetings, Volumes 1 and 2
TM	Testimonies to Ministers
UL	The Upward Look
YI	The Youth's Instructor



## INSPIRATION'S CHALLENGE

"Could the ledger of Heaven be opened before us, we would be greatly astonished at the large proportion of professing Christians who really contribute nothing toward the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom, who put forth no efforts for the salvation of souls. Such are slothful servants. Many who are satisfied not to do much good, flatter themselves that they are doing no harm so long as they do not oppose the earnest, active workers. But this class are doing much harm by their example....

"The slothful servant was not condemned for what he had done, but for what he had not done. There is no more dangerous enemy to the cause of God than an indolent Christian. An open profaner does less harm, for he deceives no one; he appears what he is, a brier, a thorn. The do-nothings are the greatest hindrance. Those who will not bear burdens, who shun all disagreeable responsibilities, are the first to be taken in Satan's snare, the first to lend their influence to a wrong course.

"Watch, pray, work—these are the Christian's watchwords. Let none excuse themselves from labor for the salvation of souls. Let none deceive themselves into the belief that nothing is required of them. No less is required of any than was expected of the man with one talent.

"There is work to be done for Christ in our families, in our neighborhoods, everywhere. By kindness to the poor, the sick, or the bereaved, we may obtain an influence over them, so that divine truth may find access to their hearts. Opportunities for usefulness are on every hand. All who are imbued with the spirit of Christ will show themselves to be fruit-bearing branches of the living Vine....

"It is ours to make the record which we desire to meet hereafter. Would we have its pages filled with the history of earnest work for God and humanity? Let us follow in the footsteps of Him who declared, 'I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.' John 9:4."—OHC 302.

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