

Youth Messenger



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Who Shall Be Greatest?

*Dear Master, in Thy kingdom,
 So glorious and so fair,
 Speak thou the word, and tell us, Lord,
 Who shall be greatest there.*

*Shall Simon, Andrew, Matthew,
 Or Peter, James, or John?
 Oh, who shall stand at Thy right hand
 When victory is won?*

*Here's John, the loved disciple,
 Who leaneth on Thy breast;
 Lord, shall not he be next to Thee,
 And greater than the rest?*

*And here's impulsive Peter:
 He'd brave the powers of hell,
 He would not fear when foes were near;
 Sure, he would serve Thee well.*

*Then spoke the blessed Master,
 In loving tones so sweet,
 And gently bare a child so fair,
 And placed him at His feet.*

*"Ye ask who shall be greatest:
 Behold this little child!
 Except ye be as pure as he,
 Humble, and meek, and mild—*

*"Except ye be converted,
 Your every sin forgiven,
 Pure, undefiled, e'en like a child—
 Ye can not enter heaven."*

—L. D. Avery-Stuttle

Editorial

Everyone needs to feel like he or she “belongs” somewhere. There is nothing more awkward and embarrassing than to feel as if you are in a place where you don't seem to belong.

Our kind and understanding heavenly Father has grouped the human race into families in which to live. In a healthy family, every member will have a sense of security—of belonging—and with that belonging comes a certain satisfaction. Happy are the children in this world who are securely blessed with their very own parents and grandparents. They may not realize the deep sadness of those who are orphans. Orphans are usually very thankful when kind-hearted persons reach out to them in care and sympathy. Stability and security are restored to their broken hearts when they get a chance to be adopted into a family.

There is, however, a security that is greater than any other on earth. This is the experience of belonging to the heavenly family. As we develop a more personal relationship with the Creator of the universe, we can enjoy a deeper security, a stronger stability, and a greater sense of belonging than anyone could ever imagine. No matter how hard our life seems to be at times, none of us need feel sorry for ourselves when we have such a wonderful Saviour as Jesus.

“The life of Christ was designed to show that purity, stability, and firmness of principle are not

A Sense of Belonging

dependent upon a life freed from hardships, poverty, and adversity. The trials and privations of which so many youth complain, Christ endured without murmuring. And this discipline is the very experience the youth need, which will give firmness to their characters, and make them like Christ, strong in spirit to resist temptation. They will not, if they separate from the influence of those who would lead them astray and corrupt their morals, be overcome by the devices of Satan. Through daily prayer to God, they will have wisdom and grace from Him to bear the conflict and stern realities of life, and come off victorious. Fidelity and serenity of mind can only be retained by watchfulness and prayer. Christ's life was an example of persevering energy, which was not allowed to become weakened by reproach, ridicule, privation or hardships.”—*Messages to Young People*, pp. 79, 80.

Dear reader, think about what this means! Even when people try to make fun of you or make you feel uneasy, there can still be a place where you belong. In this issue of the *Youth Messenger*, you are offered a deeper understanding of your very own Father in heaven. He cares about you, and wants you to depend on Him for stability and security. Count on Him to be your best, most trustworthy Friend, and He will help you learn to “feel at home” in the greatest place in the universe—Heaven!—*B. Monteiro*.



by E. G. White

Palm Tree Christians

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree." "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalms 92:12; 1:3).

These texts describe the happy state of him whose soul is rooted and grounded in Christ. But there is always danger of being satisfied with a superficial work; there is always danger that souls will not anchor themselves in God, but be content to drift hither and thither, the sport of Satan's temptations. "Enter ye in at the strait gate," says Christ, "for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14). The work

of the Spirit of God in the heart will develop true penitence, which will not end with confession, but will work a decided reformation in the daily life. There will be manifested an earnestness, a perseverance, and a determination that can be properly represented by agonizing. Many professed Christians greatly need just this experience.

Are you beginning to see the defects in your character? Do not feel helpless and discouraged. Look to Jesus, who knows your every weakness and pities your every infirmity. He came "not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13). It is no disgrace to confess our sins and forsake them. The disgrace rests upon those who know their sins, but continue in them, and grieve the dear Saviour by their crooked paths. A knowledge of our wrongs should be more highly prized than a happy flight of feel-

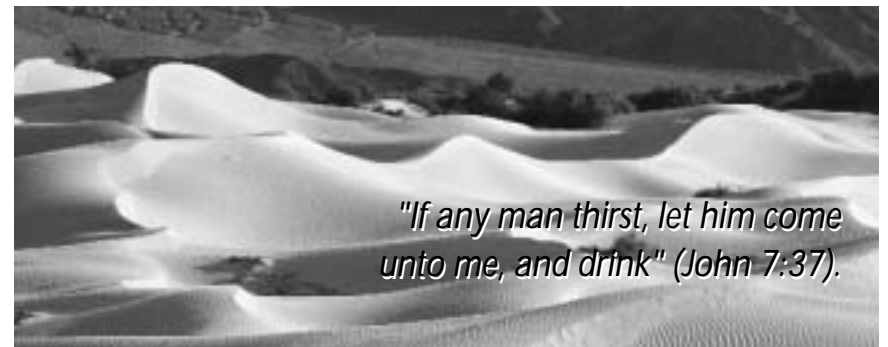
ing; for it is evidence that the Spirit of God is striving with us and that angels are round about us. Let the heart-searching work go forward; let it be deep and earnest, until every barrier is removed, and your heart is opened to welcome the messenger of pardon and peace, that has long been waiting to bring light and joy and gladness. In true contrition for sin, come to the foot of the cross, and there leave your burdens; come exercising repentance toward God because you have broken His law, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ to pardon your transgressions and reconcile you to the Father. Believe what God says; take His promises to your heart.

It is the Christian's privilege to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth. "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree." See the weary traveler toiling over the hot sands of the desert, with no shelter to protect him from the rays of a tropical sun. His water supply fails, and he has nothing to slake his burning thirst. His tongue becomes swollen; he staggers like a drunken man. Visions of home and friends pass before his mind, as he believes himself ready to perish in the terrible desert. Suddenly those in advance send forth a shout of joy. In the distance, looming up out of

the dreary, sandy waste, is a palm tree, green and flourishing. Hope quickens his pulses. That which gives vigor and freshness to the palm tree, will cool the fevered pulses, and give life to those who are perishing with thirst.

As the palm tree, drawing nourishment from fountains of living water, is green and flourishing in the midst of the desert, so the Christian may draw rich supplies of grace from the fountain of God's love, and may guide weary souls, that are full of unrest and ready to perish in the desert of sin, to those waters of which they may drink, and live. The Christian is ever pointing his fellowmen to Jesus, who invites, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37). This fountain never fails us; we may draw, and draw again.

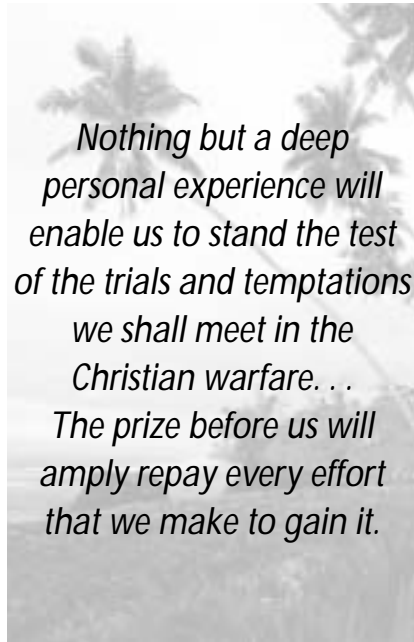
We may individually have an experience of the greatest value. The fact that iniquity abounds, that we are surrounded by infidels and skeptics, or by professed Christians who have a name to live, and are dead, is no reason why one of us should be swept away by the current toward perdition. Because there is an almost universal forsaking of God, there is the greater need that we stand firm and loyal. Says Christ, "Ye are the light of the world"



"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37).

(Matthew 5:14). We must gather the divine rays from the Sun of Righteousness, and reflect them to the world. In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, we must show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Nothing but a deep personal experience will enable us to stand the test of the trials and temptations we shall meet in the Christian warfare. Too often we feel well when everything goes smoothly; but when doubts assail the soul, and Satan whispers his suggestions, our defense is gone, and we yield quickly to the arts of the tempter, with scarcely an effort to resist and repulse him. It is not enough to have good impulses. The soul must be barricaded by prayer and study of the Scriptures. Armed with these weapons, Jesus encountered our wily foe on the field of battle, and



Nothing but a deep personal experience will enable us to stand the test of the trials and temptations we shall meet in the Christian warfare. . . . The prize before us will amply repay every effort that we make to gain it.

overcame him. We may all conquer in His strength; but it will not answer for us to suppose that we can dispense with His help. He says, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). But no truly humble soul who walks in the light as Christ is in the light, will be ensnared by Satan's deceptive devices.

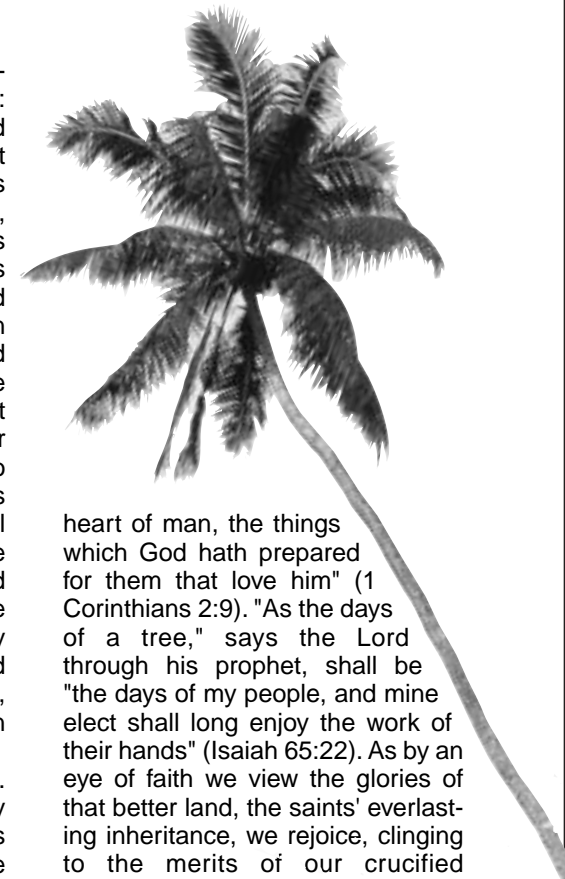
All self-confidence, all boasting, all pride of talent, must be yielded, and the soul must fall broken on the Rock Christ Jesus. Those who have a proud spirit, and feel that they are capable of doing a great work, will be left to their own weak strength, to fall into grievous sins. They do not realize what a pure, virtuous, and holy character they must possess if they would stand without fault before the throne of God. Self must be crucified. There must be a thorough transformation of character. The clear, sharp testimony of living truth will separate the wheat from the chaff, the half-hearted from the humble and devoted.

There never was a time of greater danger to the church than the present, and many will not be true to their own souls. They will not be sanctified through the truth. They have lamps, but no oil in their vessels to replenish them, and their light goes out in darkness. Eli and his sons trusted to the ark, the symbol of the divine presence, while they were transgressing the holy law enshrined in the ark, and their sins were separating them from God. As a consequence of their presumption, both the sons of Eli were slain, and God permitted the ark to pass into the hands of the enemies of His people. Some in our day are making a similar mistake in trusting to their profession while they are transgressing the holy requirements of God's law. Such are asleep to their true condition.

The apostle Paul exhorts careless and unconcerned professors: "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Ephesians 5:14). Christ, the True Witness, would break the slumbers of His ease-loving people. His voice is heard addressing them: "I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." I will not take your names into My lips, for you are unworthy. I am ashamed to call you brethren. "Be zealous therefore, and repent." "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Revelation 3:15, 16, 19, 18).

Our only safety is in Christ. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). Those who enter Heaven will not scale its walls by their own righteousness, nor will the gates be opened to them for costly offerings of gold and silver; but they will gain an entrance to the many mansions of the Father's house through the merits of the cross of Christ. Jesus is the ladder by which every soul must mount who would climb from earth to Heaven. But there is round after round of painful ascent; for our characters must be brought into harmony with the law of God, and every advance step in this direction requires self-denial.

The prize before us will amply repay every effort that we make to gain it. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the



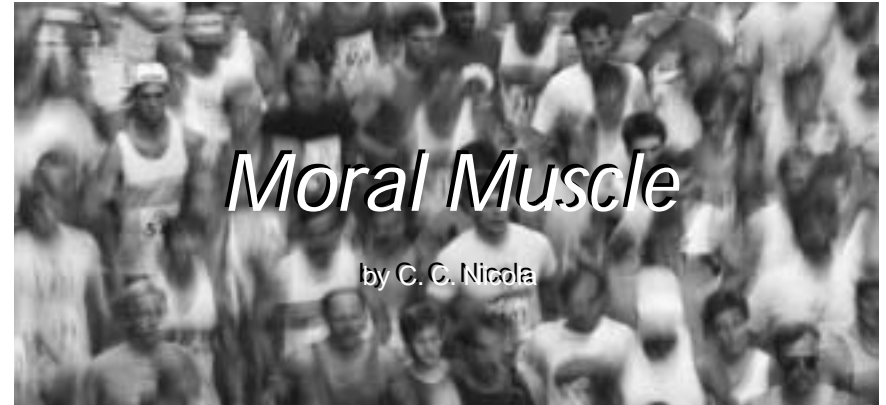
heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). "As the days of a tree," says the Lord through his prophet, shall be "the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands" (Isaiah 65:22). As by an eye of faith we view the glories of that better land, the saints' everlasting inheritance, we rejoice, clinging to the merits of our crucified Redeemer.

Love kindles in our hearts toward Him "who spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all," and faith grasps the promise, "How shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). Thus Jesus becomes the medium of communication between Heaven and our souls, and holy angels are sent to minister unto us. And while these divine messengers are striving to lead sinners to plant their feet on the ladder that extends from earth to Heaven, let us be colaborers with them, and urge all who will to climb the shining way.—*The Signs of the Times*, June 26, 1884.

Love From Heaven Motivates!

" 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.' Blessed results would appear as the fruit of such a course. 'With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.' Here are strong motives which should constrain us to love one another with a pure heart, fervently. Christ is our example. He went about doing good. He lived to bless others. Love beautified and ennobled all His actions. We are not commanded to do to *ourselves* what we wish others to do unto us; we are to *do unto others* what we wish them to do to us under like circumstances. The measure we mete is always measured to us again. Pure love is simple in its operations, and is distinct from any other principle of action. The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of others may produce a well-ordered life and frequently a blameless conversation. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of evil. A selfish heart may perform generous actions, acknowledge the present truth, and express humility and affection in an outward manner, yet the motives may be deceptive and impure; the actions that flow from such a heart may be destitute of the savor of life and the fruits of true holiness, being destitute of the principles of pure love. Love should be cherished and cultivated, for its influence is divine."

—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 136 [author's italics].



While a student at the University of Michigan, I always enjoyed the opportunity of spending an hour in the gymnasium. There is something exhilarating in finding yourself among a hundred or more young men who are all life and animation—running, jumping, tumbling, or working at the chest-weight machines like galley slaves; and when one sees the muscles of their bare limbs swelling with exertion, and energy sparkling from their eyes, he cannot resist the spirit of action, and is soon working with as much animation as the rest. Health is more contagious than disease. Here everybody has caught it, except, possibly, some listless fellow looking on from the sidelines, who wonders how these fellows can get so much pleasure out of hard work, while he himself, spending most of his time trying to be comfortable by the aid of cushions and cigarettes, is generally miserable. But anyone who has ever felt the energy tingling in his muscles can easily understand their enjoyment.

One young fellow, fresh from the chest-weight machine, steps up to another, and says, "Feel that, will you? How's that for an arm? Ah,

those muscles are getting harder every day," and his face fairly beams. Just then a future record-breaker comes puffing from the running track. "Did you see me go that last round?" he gasps. "I'll be able to keep that speed for a full lap before spring," and he thereupon thumps his inflated chest with his fist. Another fellow is jubilant over the fact that he has succeeded in turning a graceful somersault over the high beam. And so it is; in this happy throng those who work the hardest are the happiest. And why should they feel so happy? —Because they feel strong, and the pleasure of feeling those strong muscles growing daily stronger makes every fiber thrill with a healthy happiness. It is a sensation which the profligate, seeking to buy his pleasure, can never feel. It must be worked for.

We are all working every day in a moral gymnasium. Every question which comes to us to decide is a part of our practice, and every time we decide for the right, we are developing moral muscle. There is an enjoyment in the feeling of moral strength which even surpasses that of physical strength. We sometimes feel languid, and yield to the wrong because it seems easier, or

because it promises some new pleasure; and we all want pleasure. But after we have yielded, and the right way goes down, and we go down with it, instead of pleasure, how miserably weak we feel! Our backbone seems to be all gone, and it is hard even to hold our heads up before the world. There is no pleasure in being weak. Never! It is as impossible for one who is sickly and weak morally to be happy as it is for one who is so physically.

Possibly by this time some of you are beginning to think how nice it will be to meet some great temptation, so you may have the pleasure of overcoming it. But what is it that gives strength? It is not a single overstraining of our muscles, but the daily use of them in little things. How simple and easy it is to work with the chest weights! There is no glory in that; and yet it is the boy or girl who daily works with them who feels that pleasure which comes from growing strength. It is so simple to run around the track, anyone can do that; and yet it is that simple practice

Every time we decide for the right, we are developing moral muscle. There is an enjoyment in the feeling of moral strength which even surpasses that of physical strength.

which gives strength to win some greater glory at last. In the physical gymnasium, at certain times, contests are held in which only the very strongest and most carefully trained muscles can hope to succeed. How foolish we would consider the fellow who would ignore the daily practice with the weights and dumbbells because he thought of it as too trivial, but would enter the final contests hoping to cover himself with glory. He would only cover himself with shame and ridicule instead. So in the moral gymnasium; there occasionally comes a trial of strength which puts every fiber of our moral muscle on the strain. And when we see a man who has always stood well in society suddenly fall under some strong temptation, and bring shame and disgrace upon himself, we know he has been ignoring his daily practice in the moral gymnasium. In other words, he has not carefully heard Christ speaking to his conscience in all the little questions which have been daily coming to him for decision.

If you wish to be morally strong, you must daily exercise your conscience. It pays to follow conscience even in the smallest things, because you feel so much stronger from exercise. Some of your friends may suggest to you that it must be bothersome to be always following conscience. But it is always the strong man in faith who is the happiest. The right always yields the best returns in the end; and for the present, the pleasure which springs from a sensation of strength and energy for the right is far sweeter than any which can possibly come from yielding to the wrong. The God of all grace shall Himself make you perfect, establish, *strengthen*, and settle you (see 1 Peter 5:10). 🌿



Isn't it amazing how God sends little trials and temptations our way to strengthen and perfect our character? We are told to rejoice in our trials—that means to be glad that the Lord is giving them to you, because He doesn't waste any effort polishing a stone that can't be used in His crown. So, remember that when the trials and struggles come to you, rejoice because the Lord is working on perfecting your character! And we are always stronger and more confident when we come out of the trial victors, than when we went in.

I would like to share a little experience with you that I had not long ago. I was responsible for taking care of the laundry that day, and while a load of laundry was washing, I was working on a hard lesson in Math. Now, to acquaint you with just



a little of the situation, I do not like Math. It is my worst subject in school (I prefer Spelling!). But anyway, I heard the washing machine kick off so I went downstairs to hang up the load of clothes. As I was taking them out of the washer, I was debating whether or not I should go back upstairs and finish my Math lesson. I had a lot more enjoyable things I could be doing. Suddenly Luke 16:10 came to mind. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." Of course I knew it was the Lord speaking! I thought, "Lord, you DID have to do that!" as I struggled inside for a moment, realizing that He was battling for control, and so was Satan. I am thankful to say that I passed through that trial and came out a victor. Now I know that it is much easier the second time around if you choose Christ's way. Of course I didn't want to do the Math; my self was rebelling against the Holy Spirit, but I had to surrender myself to Christ and let Him have complete control.

I hope it will be each of our desires to serve Christ all the way and be all of what He wants us to be. May God bless you! 🌿

Letter From West Africa

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in the name of the Lord.

I have enclosed a photo of myself, hoping to meet pen pals from around the world. I therefore request that you publish this in the *Youth Messenger* which is greatly influencing the lives of brethren. My interest is mainly in the Bible and wanting to know more about the Saviour.

My address and name is below.

Caspar Hewlett
P.O. Box 955
Sakumono - State
Tema, GHANA

Date of birth: March 11, 1974.

Occupation: A teacher at SDA Junior Secondary School, Sakumono, Tema.



Dear Brothers in Christ,

I am very glad to write you this letter and first of all send greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers in Christ, my purpose in writing you this letter is that I want to congratulate you people for all the works you have been doing—God bless you all!

*Well . . . I was an unbeliever, but ever since I started studying a [magazine] entitled **Youth Messenger**, I have come to know that studying the Word of God is very, very good, but I still want to go deeper into God's Word to enable me to carry the message to the world. But my problem now is that I don't have a Bible of my own. I want to have a copy of my own but I am in a very hard condition that all I can afford now is food, and this makes me keep on thanking God that I am still alive.*

Dear brothers, I don't think that there is anything on earth that will stop me from telling you people my feelings. All I want you people to do for me is to please send me a copy of the Bible to enable me to carry out the message!

*Thanks, from
Imeh Stanley, Nigeria*

Editorial note: Through the generosity of friends, a Bible is now on its way to this new believer. Let us pray that it arrives safely and encourages our brother.

"With God Nothing Shall Be Impossible"

by Graceden Faith Dumaguit — *Philippines*

Promises such as found in Luke 1:37 are claimed by those who with earnest pleadings and sincere hope put their trust in the hands of the Almighty One in times of difficulties. And such a text was proven true by my dear mom, when a great storm of trials assailed her peaceful life and she found no panacea to fight the stupendous crisis, except to look up and lay down her burdens at Jesus' feet!

As it was related to me by my mom, her trials started when I was six years old and was sent to a grade school in our hometown, not far from our residence. I was in the first grade at that time and I had a best friend named Lucelle who was my classmate as well as my constant partner in going home. One day, I was on the way home with Lucelle when we saw my mom on the opposite side of the road, going to the market. Without any hesitation, not knowing that there was a car approaching, I crossed the street haphazardly to meet my mom so that I could go with her. But to much dismay, my mother was able to witness the tremendous and

gruesome event. I was terribly hit by that approaching car and was thrown from the point of the accident. As my mother drew near to where I lay unconscious, she tenderly picked me up and saw my pale visage covered with sand, and then made her way back home with tears falling down her cheeks, praying to the Lord to save her child from death. My mom seemed to have had a sort of amnesia at that moment, for she lost the ability to do the vital things needed for me. But before she reached home, a car stopped behind her, and an attorney urged her to take me to the hospital. At that very moment, my mother recalled the things she was supposed to do. They rushed me to the hospital and there I laid unconscious, with a pale countenance and a broken left hand and leg. The doctors who were attending me were shaking their heads, for they saw no sign of recovery for my pitiful, helpless condition.

But in spite of that, my mother lost no hope and wasted no time in diligently sending to the Almighty One her earnest prayer with unflin-

trust. Whatever else she did, she bowed on her knees and fervently asked for God's mercy and lovingkindness for her child to be saved from the stings of death, believing that, as written in Luke 1:37, "with God nothing shall be impossible."

"Even in the midst of life and death, You can still save my child from the stings of death!" my mom would exclaim in prayer.

Around that time, an annual meeting of the SDA Reform Movement was held in Digos, Davao del Sur, and a season of prayer was requested. Of course, God really hears and He never fails, for after a week of being unconscious, I started resuscitating! I gradually opened my weary eyes and started to imitate the words I heard. Oh, praise the Lord; He is really good! Due to that unexpected recovery, my family and relatives—chiefly my mom—greatly rejoiced, and could find no words to express their gratitude to the Almighty One.

After a month of living in the hospital, I was discharged for home.



Those who had witnessed the accident—mostly our neighbors—could not believe that I was well, alive and kicking, with no physical deformities on either hands or legs. They had never thought of me living again, and if by some chance I would live, they were sure that I would forever need crutches in order to walk. But with God's infinite grace, I was able to live normally just like other children do, and it is because of my mom's arduous prayer and willing trust in Him that I have survived.

That is the power of prayer, my friends. When we pray, we must believe and not doubt at all. If we will just lay down all our burdens at Jesus' feet, He will never forsake us—and that is why I am so thankful to God. He gives me enough strength and blessings, and He even adds more fruitful years to my life. Now I have already reached the age of 18 and I am happy—serving the Lord amidst difficulties—with the rest of my fellow young people here in the Philippines. 🌿



◀ The author of this article, Graceden Faith Dumaguit, is seated here on her 18th birthday together with siblings and friends. They, along with other young people in their area, are looking for pen pals from around the world, preferably from 20–25 years of age, ladies or gentlemen. You can write to them:

c/o SDA Reform Movement
Purok 3 Bagontaas
8709 Valencia Bukidnon
PHILIPPINES

The Test

by J. A. Edgerton

*The time of trial must come to all,
That tests the soul by fire.
We halt between the Spirit's call
And our own self-desire.*

*'Tis then one Light will show the way,
One rule makes duty clear;
To think upon the Christ and say,
"What would He do if here?"*

*All other rules may fail; But this
Applies to word and deed.
You cannot wander far amiss,
If you its precept heed.*

*Let Him become your constant goal,
When divergent paths appear,
Propound this question to your soul:
"What would He do if here?"*

*What would He do? To be like Him!
That hope makes life seem sweet;
Although our paths through life are dim,
A lamp before our feet;*

*And as we turned to it, 'twould be
A flame from year to year,
To light us to eternity—
"What would He do if here?"*

It Sometimes Pays To Miss the Boat



The following experience comes from a minister in Romania, Bro. Ion Anton. You can find this and other interesting stories in the book, *The History of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement* by A. Balbach.

One day, in 1987, Brother Anton picked up the phone and dialed. When the party answered, he spoke briefly: "Bread will be delivered with Psalm 14:4"; and he hung up. Believers at some distance had not been visited for a long time, and they had not been able to partake of the Lord's Supper. As a minister, Brother Anton was responsible for the spiritual well-being of all the members of our church, which at that time was operating underground because of the terrible oppression of all true Christians in the country. The group that he called had been on his mind, for he had intended to visit them previously, but every time he had begun to lay plans to visit them, something stopped him from doing

so. Now, he knew, it could not be delayed any longer.

The believers lived on the other side of the Danube River, which would have to be crossed by ferry. Preparations were made and, on the day indicated by the scripture reference, Brother Anton and his family prepared the family car for the trip.

All was well as they left home, but, when about half way, there was a loud bang and the car skidded to one side. Controlling the vehicle carefully, they stopped and examined the tires. One had blown out; but, more than



that, it had almost disintegrated. It was completely irreparable.

Now what to do? They were far from home and knew no one in the locality. They tried to purchase another tire, but that appeared to be an impossibility. They tried here and there, and the day was passing without a solution. No one could help them, no one had a spare tire of the correct size, nor could anyone tell them where they might be able to find someone willing to sell a spare tire if one could be found. At last, in the afternoon, they found another car owner who would sell the spare tire from his own vehicle.


They returned to the car and mounted the new tire, but now it was too late to continue their journey. The only thing left was to return home.

When they pulled up in front of their home and got out of the car, a lady standing at the front of her house saw them and ran screaming into the house. The Antons did not understand. That lady had never done such a thing before, as they knew her well, being good neighbors. Anyhow, they entered the house and began to settle down after the long trip.

Soon there was a knock on the door. Anton went to see who it was, and there stood a policeman. "Where have you been? What was

the purpose of your trip? Whom did you see? What time did you leave there?" Questions and more questions. This was not unusual in Romania at that time. But now the pathetic part of the story was revealed.

The brethren on the other side of the river, who had been waiting for them, had expected them at the time appointed for their arrival. They knew that at a certain hour the ferry that was to cross the river would bring them. But something terrible had happened. The ferry, when in the middle of the river, had suddenly capsized and all those on the ferry drowned, and it was believed that Brother Anton and his family were among the victims. The superstitious neighbor had heard of the tragedy and, on seeing them arrive home, thought it was an apparition—that the ghosts of the dead had returned to their house.

When all was over, the Antons knelt in thankfulness before the all-wise God who had preserved their lives. Now, just why did the tire of their car blow out? And why were they unable to find another one until late in the afternoon? Many things happen, not accidentally, but providentially, because the merciful hand of God is still overruling adverse circumstances in behalf of His chosen ones. 

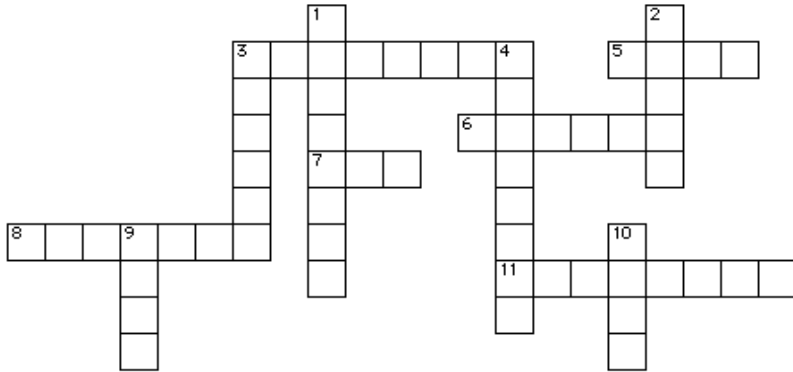
Dear young people:

If this had happened to you, what Bible verses might you share later with the frightened neighbor--and why?

Send us your answer for publication in the next Youth Messenger!

Thoughts and Attitudes

Twelve key words are hidden in this puzzle. Look up the clues in the **book of Proverbs** (King James Version; each chapter and verse are given), and you will learn some secrets for success in life.



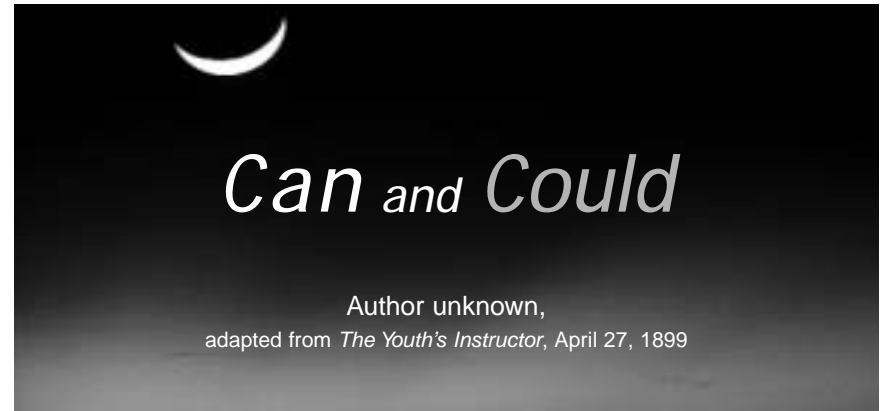
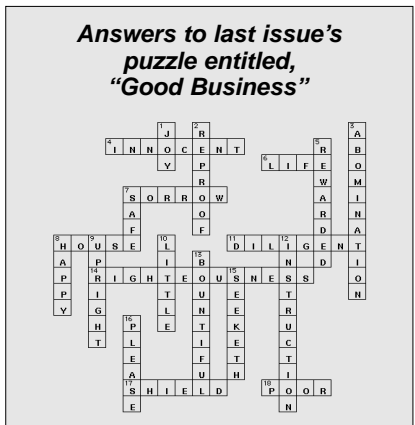
Across

3. The thoughts of the _____ tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want (21:5).
 5. A _____ uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards (29:11).
 6. _____ thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established (16:3).
 7. The thought of foolishness is _____; and the scorner is an abomination to men (24:9).
 8. There is a way that _____ right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (16:25).
 11. For as he _____ in his heart, so is he (23:7).

Down

1. The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord: but the words of the pure are _____ words (15:26).
 2. If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy _____ (30:32).

3. A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit _____ the bones (17:22).
 4. The _____ of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit (12:5).
 9. The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked _____? (21:27).
 10. A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but _____ the rottenness of the bones (14:30).



There'll be moonlight tonight," said a classmate; "won't you join our skating party?"
 "No," replied *Can*; "you know there wasn't a person in my class that had his math homework today, and the teacher gave it to us again. I *can* master it, and I *will*. That lesson must not beat me twice. I intend to make sure of it, so you'll have to excuse me from joining your party."
 "Shall I help you?" asked his elder sister.
 "Let me try it first," replied *Can*; "I feel like going at it with a will; for I've heard that 'where there's a will, there's a way.' " He did not stop until every example was worked out.

too hard and dry for anybody."
 "Surely you could learn some of it, if you would only try," said his mother, and as this could not be disputed, *Could* looked at his book again. But the next moment he jumped from his chair, and ran to the window.
 "Oh, this awesome moonlight!" he exclaimed. "It's really too bad to lose that skating. I think I'll go."



"If I only could learn this horrid lesson!" exclaimed his classmate, *Could*, who made a few random figures on his paper, and then began to draw dogs' heads.
 "Is that the way you do your homework?" asked his mother, reprovingly.
 "If I only *could* get it," replied the boy fretfully, "I would be glad to work at it with all my might; but it's

"But your homework is not done," said his mother.

"I know that," answered *Could*. "But when I come back, there'll be enough time for it."

Off he went, and the next day, in the class, he moaned, "I would have done the homework if I could."

Can and *Could* both had to lead cows to pasture, and to hoe in the garden. *Can's* cows were regularly grazing on the grass along the hillside long before *Could* was out of bed. *Can* easily kept ahead of weeds by hoeing before they got much start. *Could* waited until there was "some real need of hoeing, to keep the weeds down," but the weeds had such a start by then that they soon got ahead of him, and ahead of the crops, too, which were hardly worth gathering, although *Can's* garden yielded bountifully.



"If I could only have had such a garden as that," said *Could*, "I would have been glad to hoe up every weed; but my garden was so poor that it didn't make much difference whether I hoed or not."

"If I could only be a Howard, how much I would do to reform men!" exclaimed *Could*. "Someday I intend to do something on a large scale in this world."

Can was never heard to say such noble plans; but he went diligently about his business, and, as he prospered, employed many men at fair wages, thus enabling them to support their families in comfort.

Can, by diligence and economy, became prosperous and happy; *Could*, by indolence and procrastination, became discontented and unhappy. Will you be—*Can* or *Could*?



by B. Monteiro — Virginia, U.S.A.

At some time in our lives, we have all seen the amazing way that God heals a cut in our skin. It is a joy to observe how a spot which was once open and bleeding improves day by day, and soon may appear perfectly normal. How is the body able to perform such a miracle?

Controlling the bleeding

In a relatively minor wound, it may be only small capillaries that are broken. The first step in repairing the damage is the formation of a blood clot. Clotting begins when platelets in the spilled blood flow over the jagged edges of torn tissue. The contact stimulates the platelets to burst open and release proteins which are converted into a solid form called fibrin. Fibrin strands form a network of threads over the wound, actually "sewing" it

up even without the aid of man-made stitches.

At the same time, another safety mechanism comes into action to reduce the bleeding. Substances are released at the wound which cause the blood vessels to squeeze shut. (In the case of serious wounds with heavy bleeding, these substances will also send signals to the brain to preserve the blood supply by reducing the flow through a drastic lowering of blood pressure known as shock.)

The healing process

As soon as the bleeding stops, the mechanisms of healing begin. The first step is inflammation, with its redness, heat, swelling, and pain. This is due to blood vessels in the area becoming abnormally enlarged, flooding the damaged tissue with fresh blood. Capillary walls

become thinner, and water from the blood plasma seeps through into the surrounding tissues, causing swelling. Pain occurs because the swollen tissues put pressure on sensitive nerves.

White blood cells called leukocytes enter the inflamed area. They clean up the debris left by the injury and kill bacteria which enter the wound through the ruptured skin. They also release chemicals to attract other white cells to the injury. If infection should set in, these cells are drawn by the millions to combat bacteria, producing pus.

The blood-clot structure of fibrin constricts or shrinks, squeezing out watery plasma and drawing the sides of the wound together. Eventually the coagulated material firms up into a dry, hard scab on the top, which continues to protect the amazing work still going on underneath.

New skin cells are regenerated and white blood cells continue to fight against infection and clean up the damage. Fresh blood constantly flows into the area through new

capillaries formed to nourish the new cells. But in some cases the damage is sufficient to prevent the tissue from fully regenerating. Then the area is replaced by scar tissue.

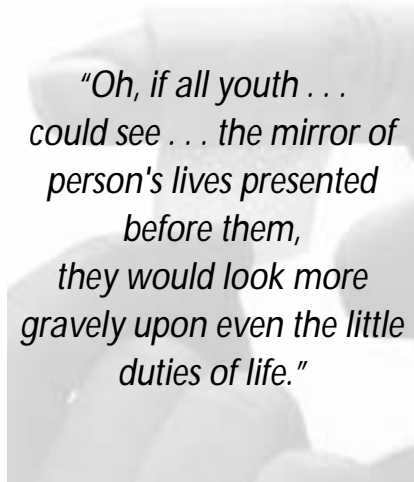
Scarring

If the wound is serious, a scar may remain—even for the rest of the person's life. There are various types of scars, depending on the nature of the injury. But most people are aware of one thing: We can be very thankful that so much repair is possible, but when compared to the original skin, any scar is disappointing and can even appear rather ugly.

Spiritual lessons

It is heartwarming to consider that for whatever help is needed, our body cells are able to signal and receive full assistance from their fellow cells to bring about healing. It brings to mind the peaceful knowledge that Jesus had, even at the hour He was betrayed, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53). It is indeed true that even in a literal sense, God "healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3).

Another sadder point comes to mind when we think about scarring. If a physical scar appears ugly to our eyes, how much more is a spiritual scar to our souls! Yet we may be in danger of inflicting such wounds to our soul as to leave scars, not only for this entire lifetime, but even to touch eternity. Let us ponder the following statements:



"Oh, if all youth . . . could see . . . the mirror of person's lives presented before them, they would look more gravely upon even the little duties of life."



God "healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3).

"Life is not made up of great things alone; it is the little things that make the sum of life's happiness or miseries. It is the little things in life that reveal a person's real character. Oh, if all youth and those of mature age could see as I have seen the mirror of person's lives presented before them, they would look more gravely upon even the little duties of life. Every mistake, every error, unimportant though it may be regarded, leaves a **scar** in this life and a blot on the heavenly records."—*Our High Calling*, p. 227. [Emphasis supplied.]

"Any low gratification, any self-indulgence, is a scar left upon the soul, and the noble powers of mind are corrupted. There may be repentance, but the soul is crippled, and will wear its scars through all time. Jesus can wash away the sin but the soul has sustained a loss."—*Letters to Young Lovers*, p. 43.

"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 glori-

ous 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."—*This Day With God*, p. 350.

Dear young people, let us therefore not only care for our physical skin, but especially guard our spiritual layer of protection—that we may not be wounded and scarred by the darts of the enemy of souls. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:11–13). 🛡️

I Love That Hand

*I love that hand that made the land
and made the sand so grand.*

I love that hand.

*I love that hand that made the bear
and made the pear.*

I love that hand.

*I love that hand that made the trees
and made the bees;*

I love that hand.

I love that hand that made me;

I love that hand—

The hand of God.

*— David Devai,
California, U.S.A., age 9*

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