



The
PRESENT TRUTH
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C O N T E N T S

BE SERIOUS AND WATCHFUL	50
BE YE CLEAN THAT BEAR THE VESSELS OF THE LORD	52
TRIP REPORTS:	
CARIBBEAN	57
POLAND	58
FRANCE AND UNITED KINGDOM	60
IN REMEMBRANCE	61
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	62
ANNOUNCEMENTS	

Back Page

"The Lamb opened the seventh seal." "Ye have approached Mount Zion, and the City of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem. . . See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh . . . saying . . . 'Yet once more I shake not the earth only but also heaven' . . . Wherefore, receiving a Kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear." "Christ being come an High Priest . . . by a greater and more perfect Tabernacle . . . obtained eternal deliverance."—Rev. 8: 1; Heb. 12: 22, 25, 26, 28; 9: 11, 12.

BE SERIOUS AND WATCHFUL

*“But the end of all things is at hand;
Therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers” (1 Pet. 4: 7).*

When we look back from our vantage point in 2007 to when we crossed the threshold from 1954 into 1955, we realize that we had then entered into the first beginning of the Basileia, and Kingdom period, of our Lord's Second Presence. Here all the Gospel-Age elect classes, the last of which is the Youthful Worthies, were then complete in their membership (Joel 2 : 28); that new consecrations from that time to the present, do not gain a position among any of the four elect classes but rather they will have access to the highest

standing among the Restitutionists. These, after the New Covenant is established, will be given the privilege of eventually attaining perfect human life and be among the first to walk up the highway of holiness in the Millennial Kingdom (Isa. 35: 8). Realizing this we are deeply impressed with the words of the Apostle Peter quoted above.

Seeing that over nineteen centuries have passed since St. Peter gave this counsel, some might think that he was somewhat premature as to the proximity of the end of this present evil dispensation; but considering the great symbolic week of 7,000 years *(SITS Vol. 2, pp. 33-62), which began with the creation of man and ends with his full restitution to the image and likeness of God, each of whose days is a thousand years (2 Pet. 3: 8), and that St. Peter was living in the fifth day of this great week, we see that from this standpoint his words were not only true but timely. The end of the old order of things—the beginning of the end of the dominion of evil—was to come with the closing of the Gospel Age and the opening of the Millennial Age, and the seventh thousand-year day, was indeed at hand, as was also the Second Advent of the Lord and the beginning of the setting up of His Kingdom.

While this and all similar expressions, referring to their time as the last days, were therefore true when uttered, the early Church did not fully understand the matter, for the significance of the time-prophecies was wisely hidden from their view, as it was also from the Prophets and the Apostles, since the length of a single one of these days would have seemed very long and consequently a cause of discouragement to them. But God, who through His Holy Spirit inspired the words of the Prophets and Apostles, knew the end from the beginning; and from His standpoint the end of all things was at hand (*has drawn near, or has approached*—Diaglott) in the fifth day of the week. If these words, therefore, were true in this sense when

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Free from all sects, parties, organizations, and creeds of men, but bound to God as it understands His Word, this magazine stands for —

- The defense of the Parousia Truth, given by the Lord through “that Servant,” as basic for all further development of the Truth;
- The defense of the arrangements, charter and will given by the Lord through “that Servant,” as binding on controlling corporations and associations among Truth people; and for
- The exposition and defense of the unfolding Epiphany-Basileia Truth, as meat in due season for the Lord's people, as He is pleased to provide it.

declared to the early Church, how much more are they true from the human standpoint when fully understood by the Lord's people here in the end of the Gospel Age! Especially was this true at the end of the 40 years of the Epiphany as we entered into the initial beginning of the Basileia. For the night of the "Time of the End," which began in 1799, came to its first end in the Fall of 1954, in the beginning of its lapping into the Kingdom time (E Vol. 6, p. 454, par. 1; comp. P '54, pp. 52, par. 1, 54 top).

In view of these things, how appropriate is the Apostle's counsel to watchfulness and sobriety! What a lamentable calamity it would be to any of the Youthful Worthies or the Consecrated Epiphany Campers, now at this late date, to become discouraged and falter and fall, back into the World, when so near the realization of their Kingdom hopes! Let us, therefore, be sober; let us guard against the worldly spirit and its stupefying and intoxicating influence upon our spiritual life and our new mind. If we refuse the first drink of the wine of worldly-mindedness we will not be tempted to take the second. If we take the first, it may revive the old appetite and thus quickly and suddenly precipitate our fall. Let us, therefore, "watch unto prayer" (Greek: be vigilant in the prayers). Let us pray for Divine assistance, to resist even the slightest encroachment of the enemy, bearing in mind that only to the watchful and prayerful is promised grace sufficient to overcome the world.

SPIRIT OF CHRIST

With this timely counsel the Apostle then proceeds (v. 8) to show us how to cultivate the spirit of Christ, saying: "Above all things have fervent love [agape] among yourselves; because love covers a multitude of sins" (Diaglott). Love is one of the first essentials and the final perfection of the Christian character. While we must love all men as God loves them—not always for what they are, but for what they will be when their characters will have been developed and made perfect—yet we can love one another in a much higher sense, as those in whom God-likeness is already being developed and perfected. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. He who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? He who hates his brother is in darkness, and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him" (1 John 4: 7, 8, 20; 2: 11, 10).

Professions of love to God may be rightly judged as empty professions, if they find no expression toward those possessing His Spirit and likeness. Toward these love should have a glowing, fervent and constant expression. Love so fervent, considering the imperfections of the earthen vessels of others and yet their strivings of the spirit to overcome, can cover a multitude of sins—of shortcomings and failures to measure up to our highest ideals of moral excellence. And while so regarded by one another we are so regarded of God, who also looks upon the heart, and noting there the warm impulses of love toward Him and His, excuses all our unintentional sins through the merit of our Redeemer. "Love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13: 10). Consequently, if we have pure and fervent love, and if we walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, the law is reckoned as fulfilled in us (Rom. 8: 1, 4). Therefore, "above all things" let us have fervent love among ourselves; and let us "be hospitable to each other, without murmurings." And "as each one has received a free gift [the favors of life], so minister it among yourselves as good stewards of the manifold favor of God" (1 Pet. 4: 9, 10—Diaglott).

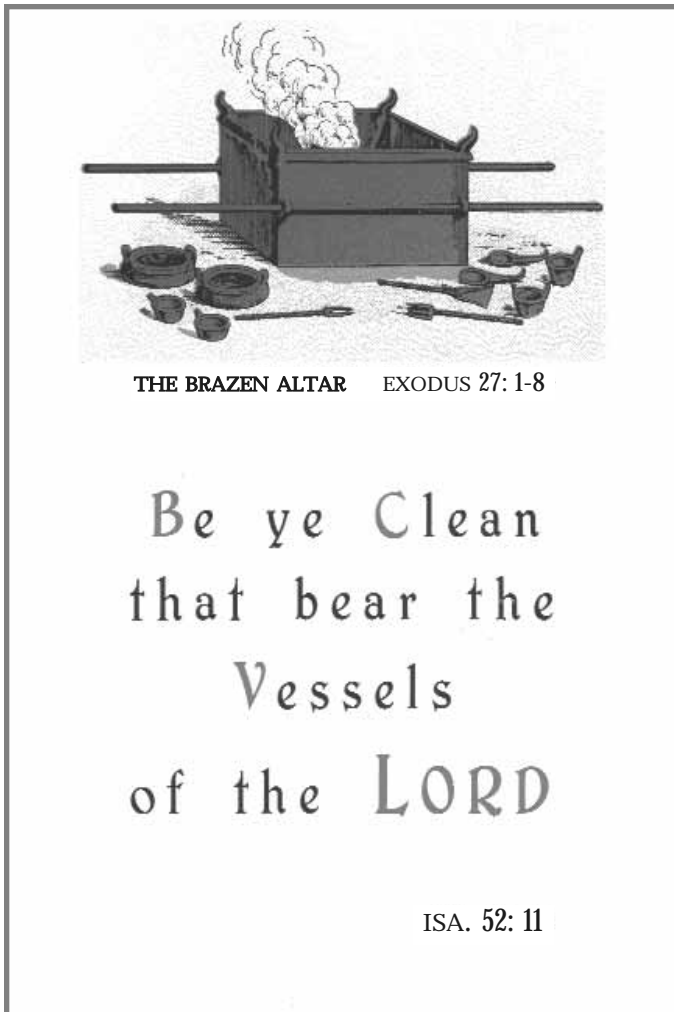
CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

There is probably nothing better calculated to cement and knit together the Lord's people than Christian hospitality—mutual fellowship of one another in love and ministering to one another the temporal and spiritual favors. However humble these favors may be, they give evidence of the love that prompts the dispensing of them. Those who have much of this world's good things, who have a well-ordered and comfortable home life, have good opportunities for this kind of service; and while some of those in less favored circumstances might hesitate to show the hospitality they feel toward those more favored, such advances on the part of the latter class quickly show that the class distinctions based upon relative degrees of wealth or pedigree, which are prominent in the world, find no recognition among those who have the true spirit of Christ. Therefore, those in humble circumstances will have no pride or rivalry to sustain, but in simplicity and love will delight to manifest the hospitality they feel both toward those in more and those in less favored circumstances—to minister to them both of their temporal and their spiritual good things according to their several needs, as good and faithful stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Let each of us be solicitous for the welfare of his brother, taking heed that he place no stumbling block

in his brother's way, but that in all things his own course shall prove helpful to others. "If any one speak, let it be as the oracles of God" (v. 11). If we would teach the Truth, let us first prove it and make sure that it is truth, and not crude ideas and human imaginations or speculations to stumble the weaker ones. Likewise in dispensing religious reading matter, we should be similarly careful to speak by this agency also as the oracles of God. No tract or book or paper which we cannot endorse should be handed to another. In this way we may speak as the oracles of God and minister "from the strength which God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, whose is the glory and the power for the Ages of the Ages. Amen."

* * *



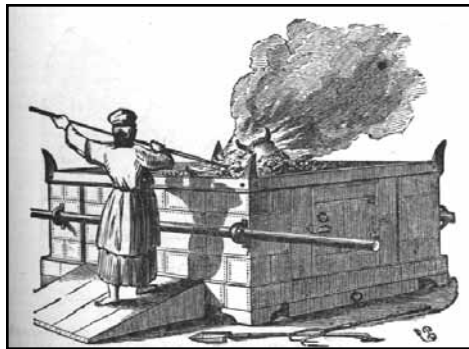
guidance in the selection of the annual texts and hymns, and each year's needs and experiences are a good evidence of the Lord's supervision of their choice. Many are the testimonies which are coming to hand on their fitness as to each year's experiences. Understanding from Lev. 12 that we have come to the end of the antitypical 80 days (1874-1954) of the antitypical mother's purification in connection with the birth of the antitypical daughter (the Parousia and Epiphany Great Company; (see E Vol. 4, pp. 96-107; P '54, pp. 54-59), and understanding that then was the due time for the cleansed antitypical mother in the sense of the servants of the Truth to bring the antitypical burnt offering and sin offering in attestation of her purification (E Vol. 4, p. 100), we believe that a very suitable text for the year 2008 would be God's admonition in Isa. 52: 11, quoted at the head of this article.

This injunction was addressed primarily to those Priests and Levites who were connected with the Jewish Temple. There was an outward cleansing provided for, both in the Tabernacle and in the Temple services. The Priests and Levites were to wash at the laver before handling the vessels of the Lord's House. Doubtless the admonition of our text also included the thought that they should be clean in their lives, in their conduct before the people; for they represented the Lord before the people. The vessels of the Lord in the Tabernacle, and also in the Temple, were the vessels which were connected with the holy service—in the Court, in the Holy and in the Most Holy. They consisted of censers, pans, shovels, snuffers, cups, bowls, chargers, and spoons—a variety of precious vessels. Those used in the Holy and the Most Holy were of gold and those used in the Court were of copper. The only ones who were allowed to handle these vessels at all were the consecrated class. The Priests handled these in the Holy and the Most Holy in certain parts of the service, and in less important services they were covered up and borne in the hands of the Levites. So the vessels were handled only by the Priests and the Levites. They required a cleansing before being used, and so were washed. Every bearer of these vessels was also required to be cleansed, typically washed free from sin.

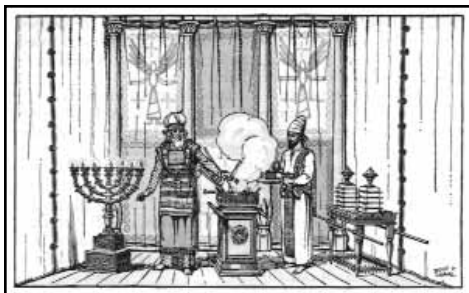
In the antitype, our Lord is the great High Priest. The most faithful of His followers are those who during their sojourn in the flesh have been tried and proven faithful and hence are worthy of constituting the Priesthood in glory. But all the rest of the consecrated have the robe of Christ's righteousness also.

IN HARMONY with the example of the Laodicean's last two Principle Men (Micah 5: 5) The Present Truth continues each year to offer its readers a motto text for the year. We are satisfied that this custom has the Lord's approval and has been favored with His blessing. Moreover, we have looked to the Lord for

The Spirit-begotten had it by imputation, whereas others of the consecrated have the robe tentatively. Whoever is not thus clothed by the righteousness of Christ, whoever is not thus justified in God's sight, can have neither part nor lot in handling the holy vessels—the various truths of the Lord's Word.



The antitypical significance of the exhortation of our text is that as in the type God required that everything should be clean, so as the LORD's people we must be clean, pure of heart. "Blessed are the pure in heart." We have not perfection of the flesh at the present time. When we by faith accepted Jesus as our Savior, this imperfection of the flesh was considered as covered tentatively by a clean, white robe, representing the righteousness, the merit, of Christ. In the case of the Spirit-begotten, it became theirs actually at consecration. Now, those of the Spirit callings have faithfully finished their earthly sojourn and are in the spirit realm; we brethren remaining are of necessity seeking to fit ourselves, with the Lord's help, for a place in the earthly phase of the Kingdom. And yet we must retain our belief in Jesus and fulfill our consecration vows in order to be clean (Rom. 12: 1); it is necessary that we keep ourselves cleansed; as the Scriptures exhort, we are to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (2 Cor. 7: 1; 1



John 1: 7). We were cleansed from sins of the past when we accepted Christ as our Savior and this means also a provision on God's part for the continued cleansing from all the sins that are ours through Adamic weakness and unavoidable failures. However, nothing in this provision indicates a cleansing from willful sin.

PURITY OF HEART

The Great Company and the Little Flock while on the earth as new creatures could not practice willful sin and still remain New Creatures; for the New Creature represents the mind of Christ, which is holy. "Whoever

is born [begotten] of God does not sin; but he that is begotten of God keeps himself, and that wicked one touches him not [gets no hold upon him]" (1 John 5: 18). The child of God may be overpowered by his old nature, which is reckoned dead, but is not fully, actually so; he may be overtaken in a fault, may make a mistake in judgment or in word, but he will never willingly transgress God's law. He delights to do God's will, and would not willingly violate or in any manner oppose it; he would rather have God's will done, and His plan fulfilled, even though, it would dash his fondest hopes and break every tender tie. He will not sin willfully so long as he has the new spirit, mind and will for, "Whosoever is born [begotten] of God does not commit sin [willfully; for the old will to triumph over the new would signify the death of the New Creature]; for his seed [the holy seed, or spirit, of the Truth] remains in him: and he cannot [willingly] sin, because he is born [begotten] of God" (1 John 3: 9). All unintentional blemishes of thought, word and deed are a part of the original sin and its depravity, still working in the flesh through heredity. From these we are "being justified freely by his grace through the redemption [apolutrosis, deliverance] that is in Christ Jesus: whom God set forth as a propitiation [hilasterion; a mercy seat, a channel of mercy] by His blood, through faith, [the ransom-price, the merit of which

covers all Adamic sin]" (Rom. 3: 24, 25). "In Him we have redemption [apolutrosis, deliverance, from the Divine curse and wrath—justification] through his blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Eph. 1: 7; Col. 1: 14). While the Youthful Worthies and Consecrated Epiphany Campers are not new creatures, nevertheless these same principles apply to them: they are tentatively justified, hence are covered by the robe of Christ's righteousness tentatively (Psa. 32: 1, 2); they have the new mind, the new heart and the new will to do God's will, and they must keep it in control if they would prove faithful.

The context seems to make the admonition of our text applicable in the present time. It was applicable also in our Lord's day. He was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. It was applicable also in the Apostles' day. All these had to be clean. Now, Judas, who was unclean, went to his own destruction. He went into the Second Death because he failed to use the opportunities that had been given to him. As it was possible for Judas to fail, it is possible for us also to fail—to a greater or a lesser extent. As Judas was put out of the Divine service because of impurity of heart and love of money, so we may be sure that all not pure in heart will be put out of this service. Just as none would be placed into this service if not pure in heart, so if any become impure they will be put out of it. This is illustrated by the case of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5: 1-11), who were cut off, and thus put out of their affiliation with the Lord's faithful people, because of their love of money and their attempt to deceive. We remember this also in the case of Simon Magus (Acts 8: 9) and others mentioned in the New Testament. Some are defiled of heart and others may not recognize it. As the Scripture (Luke 16: 15) intimates, some who are highly esteemed among men are abominable in God's sight. And some who are not much esteemed among men are highly esteemed of God. "The world knows us not, because it knew Him not" (1 John 3:1).

THE TABERNACLE'S VESSELS

Apart from the censers there were four sets of vessels belonging to the brazen altar (Num. 4: 14; Ex. 38: 3), to the golden table (Num. 4: 7), to the golden lampstand (Num. 4: 9), and quite likely also to the golden altar (Num. 4: 11, 12). From 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17 we learn that the Scriptures are especially intended to teach four lines of thought: (1) "doctrine," (2) "reproof," [refutation of error], (3) "correction," [disapproval and setting aside of wrong qualities and conduct], and (4) "instruction in righteousness," [inculcation of proper qualities and conduct]. We believe that the four sets of vessels connected with the four pieces of Tabernacle furniture correspond to these four sets of Biblical teachings brought to our attention in 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17. The facts of the fulfillment also indicate that this conclusion is correct, for, apart from the Bible passages (the censers), the Lord's people have throughout the Gospel Age used, and are still using, the Bible's doctrines, reproofs, corrections and instructions in righteousness, which are given so "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

As noted previously, only the Priests and the Levites were allowed to handle the holy vessels in the type; hence in the antitype, only those who are God's antitypical Priests and Levites have been entrusted with the precious truths of God's Word. And now that the antitypical Priests, (the Little Flock) and the primary class of Levites (the Great Company), have in the fullest sense finished their journey to the spiritual phase of the Kingdom, the secondary class of antitypical Levites (the Youthful Worthies), are as the Lord's special ambassadors left in the earth, entrusted with bearing the vessels of the Lord. How important and timely, then, is the injunction of our text: "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the LORD"!

SIN IN HEART

The thought given in our text is to be continually before our minds—that all who would attempt to bear the message of the Lord, to be His servants, to speak His Truth, should be, first of all, clean, pure of heart. "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." Those who are impure of heart will not be permitted to see God, either in the literal or in the figurative sense. The seeing of God now—the discerning of His character, the understanding of His Plan in its continuous and glorious unfolding, and the exercise of diligence in copying Him—all this comes to us through purity of heart. The more pure in heart we become, the more our intentions are honest, true and clean, the more we may understand and appreciate our great Heavenly Father. To these He reveals Himself and to no others. Hence the work of cleansing ourselves and keeping ourselves clean is of the greatest importance. We must attain absolute purity of heart, of intention, and then so far as possible keep our thoughts, words and acts free from sin, free from defilement of any kind. If anyone approves of sin in his heart, the Lord will not hear him (Psa. 66: 18). If, therefore, anyone neglects to keep himself in the love of God, he will soon go into outer darkness (Matt. 6: 23; 22: 13), the darkness of the world and darkness of the merely nominal people of God. Hence, our abiding in the Lord's favor and in the light of His Truth is made dependent upon our keeping ourselves in His love, upon our keeping ourselves in this cleansed condition, in purity of heart, and so far as possible in purity of thought, word and deed.

There are many in Great Babylon and also in Little Babylon and regrettably, even among ourselves who really esteem themselves as the ministers of God, and who are esteemed of others, but who do not honor

His Word, and who, therefore, are not bearing His vessels. We are told that some of the ministers of Satan are thought to be ministers of God (2 Cor. 11: 13-15; Rev. 2: 2; 3: 9). Some of them confess that they have no faith. Some of them say that God is simply the god of nature, a principle manifested in all good things, the "all-good," that God is everywhere, not a personality, but a principle, etc. By doing this they worship the creation, rather than the Creator; the laws of nature, rather than the Law-giver; the effect, rather than the Great Cause back of the effect. Others, say that they believe in a personal God, but do not believe in the Scriptures. Some of them openly declare that the Bible's first five books and its last book are fictitious. We cannot suppose that these are bearing the vessels of the Lord's house in any sense of the word. Probably they never did bear these vessels despite their high rank in Great Babylon.

It is evident, that some ministers of the Word, once bore the Lord's sacred vessels, but have now ceased to do so. Some, who once faithfully ministered to the Truth as the Lord gave it into their hands to further, have neglected to cleanse themselves continually in connection with their bearing of the vessels of the Lord. Consequently, they have gone into more or less error, and in many cases have gone out of the Court condition altogether and have become enemies of the cross of Christ. "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things" (Phil. 3: 18, 19). The Apostle also (Rom. 1: 18) mentions some "who hold [katecho: hold down, suppress] the Truth in unrighteousness." In this text the word, "hold" is used, not in the sense of retaining the Truth, but of suppressing, or oppressing it—holding it down. Thus some, instead of holding forth the Truth, suppress it. This is especially true of the leaders both in Big and in Little Babylon and some of us, if as uncleansed antitypical Levites, we are following their bad and God-displeasing example, will have God's condemnation.

In another epistle (Phil. 1: 15-17) St. Paul mentions some who "proclaim the Anointed even through envy and strife" and "out of contention are announcing Christ, not purely" (see Diaglott), while others preach Christ "through good will" and "out of love." Surely he is not in any way referring to the former as bearing the vessels of the Lord, for they oppose the Truth, while seeking to advance their own

personal interests and ambitions through envy, strife and contention, hence "not purely." The Lord withdraws the Truth and the Spirit of the Truth from such, and as a result they walk "in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the pure life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Eph. 4: 17, 18). Now, as always, those who are specially favored by the Lord in bearing His vessels of present Truth as it unfolds more and more, are those who heed His exhortation, "Be ye clean."

THE TARGET OF THE ENEMY

The intimation of the Scriptures everywhere is that there are adverse influences at work in the world, tending to defile the people of God. We all have, of course, through the weaknesses of our own flesh, a sufficiency of temptation to overcome. But the Scriptures say that this is not all against which we have to contend. There are fallen angels that operate through occult influences and that are intent upon defiling especially the Lord's consecrated servants. They are most subtle in their suggestions to the minds of the Lord's people. They do not operate through the graces of God's Holy Spirit, such as faith, hope, self-control, patience, piety, brotherly love, charity, humility, meekness, and goodness but through the allurements of the world. Their influence is gained through the sinful desires, of the flesh, such as selfishness, personal ambition, love of money, pleasure, lust, others' approval, power, honor or position, and through such evil qualities as pride, envy, jealousy, malice, uncleanness, strife, vainglory, and hatred; and "they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5: 21). Indeed, "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against [unseen] powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places [wicked spirits in the heavenlies—see margin]. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph. 6: 12, 13). The purer the person, the more surely will he be the Adversary's target. The "game bird" is more a mark for the huntsman than are the others. Thus all who are bearing the vessels of the Lord are special targets for the fiery darts of the wicked one, his demons and his earthly agents. We must contend against the world, the flesh and the Adversary. If we are in the right condition of heart, the pure in heart, faithful as the Lord's children, we will watch to keep our minds and bodies clean and pure. Unless attentive to ourselves

and our surroundings, we will surely get our characters defiled. Satan is especially endeavoring to influence us; and we know that whoever he would touch there is defilement. Whoever the wicked one contacts there is a measure of injury. And there is a degree of culpability in every individual before he is touched. Let us then walk circumspectly and keep our hearts with all diligence, for out of the heart are the issues of life (Prov. 4: 23). Let us carefully keep ourselves, that the wicked one touch us not (1 John 5: 18).

The suggestion is that to whatever extent one becomes defiled, unclean, in that proportion he would not be fit to be entrusted with the vessels of the Lord's house. Perhaps all of God's people can say from experience that they know something of what this means. Doubtless it is the experience of all of the Lord's children that in proportion as our hearts are clean our spiritual vision is clear. And in proportion as we depart from this purity, in that proportion we have less and less opportunity for service—for bearing the vessels of the Truth.

Of the 60 groups of the Great Company, the antitypical Levites, the Good Levites were the only ones sufficiently cleansed to serve God to the largest degree in Spirit and in the Epiphany Truth (John 4: 24). Our loving Savior had purged and purified them during their earthy development, that they were able to present to God an offering in righteousness (Mal. 3: 3). When they had reached the end of the antitypical 80 days purification of the mother of a daughter, the Good Levites, as representatives of the Great Company as a whole, were then by God's grace, ready to bring the antitypical burnt offering and sin offering in attestation of their cleansing as a class. We are to distinguish between the individual cleansing, which has been going on all through the Gospel Age, and the class cleansing of the Great Company, which began very shortly after the 60th post was set up (E Vol. 4, pp. 146, 147). Crown-losers as individuals throughout the Gospel Age have had to cleanse themselves from sin, selfishness and worldliness, in the sense of overcoming them—otherwise they would have gone into the Second Death. But their cleansing was not necessarily from errors, for if this had been the requirement, the vast bulk of them, would have died the Second Death, seeing that many of them finished their course without getting the Truth due in their times. God provided for the cleansing of these brethren from error, and for their getting the Truth as due after their resurrection as spirit beings (Rev. 7: 17; 19: 9). In their class cleansings, however, we understand that the

antitypical Levites had to cleanse themselves from error, as well as overcome their sins, selfishness and worldliness. This is evident from the fact that, until their cleansing from both sets of evils and they had made at least a large beginning, they were not able to minister to the Priests (Num. 8: 7, 21, first and second clauses, 22, 13-19). A part of their cleansing, which must be made Godward, "before God," as distinct from their personally effecting their own part in the cleansing process pointed out in Num. 8: 7, 21 (first and second clauses). Additionally, they had to undergo the washing in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7: 14), which is typed in Num. 8: 8, 12, 21, last clause. Some of their cleansing has been accomplished since their resurrection to the spirit realm.

The Good Levites, as they participated in the special service that attested to the purification of the antitypical mother of the antitypical daughter prior to their death; would have been mistaken to think that their individual cleansing ended then. It had to continue until they finished their earthly course. We understand that the servants of the Truth are purified of such defilements as would unfit them for their place in the Millennial Age, as well as for their special attestatorial service from Oct. 1954 onward; but this does not mean that there was no further cleansing to be done before receiving the spirit nature. Each individual had to continue to wash at the antitypical laver. It was necessary for them to continue faithfully to cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the reverence of God. We suggest for the Lord's people of the present to use Hymn No. 215 "The Cleansing Stream" as appropriate together with this article for 2008. May they prove to be a blessing to us all, during this New Year. Now we are among those of God's people throughout the Christian world who go to make up the last two consecrated classes before Restitution begins. It is these Youthful Worthies and Consecrated Epiphany Campers who serve God now, previous to the inauguration of the New Covenant and the opening of the Highway of Holiness. Let us join together and faithfully distribute the precious Truth that our Heavenly Father has entrusted to our hands!

* * *

2008 MOTO TEXT

"Be Ye Clean That Bear the Vessels of the Lord"—Isaiah 52: 11. The motto card shown on page 52 is available in color for 50 cents each. The cards are 6 x 9 inches. A color copy of the Motto card will be shown in the 2008 January/February Bible Standard.

Caribbean — Trip Report

Dear Pastor Herzig:

Christian love and greetings in Jesus' name!

Sr. Sue and I have returned from our trip to the Caribbean with many fond memories and love for the brethren we met. Accordingly we submit this report. Our trip began April 5, 2007.

JAMAICA

We arrived in Kingston, Jamaica at 6:00 p.m. After clearing immigration and customs we left the secure area and into a crowd of people, we paused to get our Bible Standard for identification. Before I could open my briefcase we heard a man with a clear and certain voice boldly say "Bro. Dan"! We were immediately put at ease. We were met by Bro. Calvin Hall, Bro. Victor Lipscombe and Bro. Ezekiel Muirhead. It is remarkable that Bro. Calvin was able to identify us for the first time so easily. He later said that he is able to recognize "his people" by the way they carry themselves and their luggage. The Lord's people are different.

We found Jamaica to be a very beautiful island with beautiful flowers, majestic mountains and very delicious fruits. However the Lord's people there are even more beautiful.

We stayed in Bro. and Sr. Hall's home. Bro. and Sr. Hall and Bro. Victor sacrificed a great deal of personal comfort, time and efforts to tend to our every need for which we are grateful. Sr. Mary and Bro. Victor prepared very delicious meals for us and we tried many foods for the first time. The fruits, vegetables and fish were wonderful. We cannot get mangoes nearly that delicious at home.

The highlight of our visit in Jamaica was the four day Convention in Bartons. The opening prayer invoked the Lord's blessings on the Convention and the prayer was answered abundantly with the Lord's Holy Spirit manifested by the brethren. The Bible talks, symposium, testimony meetings, prayer and praise services were all very profitable to the brethren. The questions for the Question Meeting showed the brethren are studying the deeper things of God with truth seeking minds. The attendance was 35 the first day, 32 the second, 45 the third and 35 the last day.

Every day of the Convention we were served excellent meals provided by a group of consecrated, dedicated and hard working sisters. They prepared goat, chicken, fish, rice, beans, soups, bananas, yams, and salads. We also had fresh coconut water which is a very refreshing drink indeed.

Fortunately these sisters had the benefit of hearing the services and discourses through speakers that were put in the kitchen.

Bro. Muirhead accompanied by Bro. & Sr. Hall brought us to the airport. We enjoyed our last opportunity for fellowship and said our good-byes.

BARBADOS

The evening of April 11, we were met at the airport in Bridgetown, Barbados by Bro. Anthony Phillips, Sr. Ulraldine Cox and Sr. Marby Comberbach. They brought us to our accommodations for our stay in Barbados. It was newly remodeled and very comfortable.

The next day, April 12, we were privileged to give a Bible talk in the morning and one after lunch. After the services, the brethren showed us around the island. It is very beautiful and we saw several of the parishes and parish churches. It was fascinating to read the epitaphs of so very long ago. The beaches and water were beautiful.

On our last day in Barbados we gave one Bible talk in the morning after which we had much fellowship, a delicious lunch and more fellowship. The meetings were held in Sr. Holly Edgehill's home. Sr. Holly prepared very nice breakfasts and lunches for us both days. They featured local traditional fare including flying fish, corn and yam pie and a wonderful refreshing and healthy drink called sorrel. All was very appetizing and we liked the food immensely. The attendance both days was 7.

Bro. Phillips accompanied by Sr. Ulradine and Sr. Marby drove us to the airport where we had our last opportunity for fellowship and say our good-byes.

TRINIDAD

Bro. Navind and Sr. Meer Madoo met us at the airport in Port of Spain the Thursday evening, April 12. Again we didn't need to get our *Bible Standard* out. Bro. Navind was wearing a blue "John 3: 16" shirt (a gift of Bro. Steenrod) and Sr. Sue recognized him immediately. Friday we traveled to Sr. Nelson's home for an evening meeting (7 p.m.) with 19 in attendance. Saturday evening we traveled to Sr. Bruno's home for a meeting (7 p.m.) with 23 present. Sunday afternoon (4 p.m.) we traveled to Sr. Whitehead's home for the meeting with 23 present. Refreshments were served after each meeting.

Brother and Sister Madoo took us sightseeing to enjoy the beautiful island of Trinidad. The highlight was visiting the farm of their eldest son, Gershom.

Sr. Meer prepared delicious meals for us that included traditional local fare and cuisine with the flavor of India. We cannot remember the names of all the dishes but we do remember that they were all delicious. She served a very hot condiment that was good to our palate. We enjoy spicy food.

Sr. Meer drove us to the airport where we had our last opportunity for fellowship before saying our good-byes.

FORT LAUDERDALE

The last leg of our journey brought us back to Miami where we had the privilege of serving the Lauderdale Lakes class with a Bible talk. There were 7 present. We enjoyed the fellowship and Sr. Carter prepared a delicious American dinner for us. We look forward to serving the Lauderdale Lakes class on a regular basis.

SUMMARY

We found the brethren to be “dwelling together in unity”! They show love richly and are walking in Jesus’

footsteps according to their ability. We appreciated the “spirituality” of the brethren everywhere we traveled. All of the brethren went out of their way to ensure that our every need and comfort was provided.

The brethren in Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Lauderdale Lakes both individually and collectively asked us to send their warm Christian love to you, the Bible House family and all we meet in our travels.

We brought with us 16 copies of the “Bible Standard Cyclopedia” (Version 3.0) and distributed all 16 copies. The interest in the disk was gratifying.

For Sister Sue and I this was truly a “life changing” experience! Everywhere we traveled, the brethren were a continual blessing and their fellowship was precious. We now understand why the brethren who previously made this trip said they were overwhelmingly blessed—so were we!

Dear Bro. Herzig, Sue and I want to express our sincere appreciation for giving us the opportunity to serve the Lord by making this trip.

Respectfully submitted with much Christian Love,

Bro. Daniel Herzig

Florida

* * *

Poland — Trip Report

Dear Bro. Ralph,

Grace and peace of our heavenly Father be with you and Bible House co-laborers. Psalm 92 : 13, 14.

With rejoicing in the Lord I wish to briefly describe my trip to Poland on Bro. Woznicki invitation and your assignment. The trip was focused to participate at the Poznan Convention, and possible other classes.

Originally my wife Sr. Maria planned to go with me, but unfortunately after flu complications she was not well enough for a long trip. Sr. Maria always accompanied me on my trips in the Lord’s service here and abroad. I think that this experience allowed me to appreciate more her part and contribution in Lord’s service. It was not an easy trip without her.

My plane landed in Krakow where I was met by some local brethren before I took the train to Poznan. In the train I sat in a section where an older lady and another younger lady also were traveling to Poznan. I had the opportunity to witness the Truth. At first, the older lady did not react or respond. The younger lady explained to me that she was a Nun from France traveling to Poland. She did not understand Polish at all. Then I asked, do you speak English, and she said yes.

I witnessed on different subjects, she asked me, “What is your church?” I said to her, “We are interdenominational.” She asked me, “Why are you doing this?” And I said from the desire to explain that there are two salvations not just one, because the Bible says that the majority cannot inherit Heaven.

She pulled out her old and worn Bible, and she said, “The Bible nowhere says that.” I said “Yes, the Bible and Lord Jesus Himself said, “That many are called but few chosen only.” “O yes it says so,” she said. I gave her more information and a tract about Restitution, she wished me Lord’s blessing and I did the same.

I moved to other section where I met our dear brethren Hanna and Anatol Wawrzyniak from Krakow class traveling to Poznan for Convention. We had very loving truth and other conversations, as we had not seen each other for long time and the time passed very quickly.

At the train station in Poznan two brothers Olekszy and Michalak were waiting for me and another brother for Sr. Anna and Bro. Anatol.

All four days I stayed at Bro. and Sr. Michalak’s home. Thanking them again for their brotherly hospitality.

The Convention was all day each day; there were only short intermissions for sandwiches, tea, coffee and snacks in general. One of the reasons there is no lunch break is because there are no restaurants that have room for serving 900 – 1,000 brethren at one time.

Brethren in Poland are of great zeal, truth knowledge and still hungry and thirsty for the Word of God. All brethren are appreciative for each issue of the Present Truth, and Bible Standard. They are in full agreement and understanding with the article: "The Youthful Worthies." Bro Woznicki, and everyone I have spoke with told me that they were of the same understanding, long before this article was published. Many of the brethren study the English volumes and literature directly, and they are good help to others.

The convention was held on April 28, 29, 30. The Motto was: "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" Rom. 10: 17. The attendance reached 970 brethren. Some came from Germany, France, Ukraine and Lithuania.

Conveying greetings and reading your letter was appreciated and the brethren cordially and warmly received them, inviting you Bro. Herzig in return, to visit them in the future. At the same time the brethren voted to send you and all American brethren their greetings and Christian love.

I gave one discourse each day. The subjects were: A — "Children in the Bible and its Teachings" Phil.2: 15; Matt. 18: 3; B — "God's Harp" Ps. 33: 1, 2; 92: 2; C — "Baptismal Discourse" Rom. 12: 1-3. There were nine brethren immersed.

Bro. Janusz Puzdrowski representative from Germany was a guest speaker also. He spoke on Genesis Chapter 27 type and antitype in three parts.

Bro. Michael Hilczuk, from the Ukraine, whom I met, also gave a discourse from John 6 : 68 "To whom would we go?" His discourse full of faith was interpreted by Polish Bro. Wacław Szpunar, who gave outstanding and very fluent translation.

Bro, Woznicki led the Question Meeting answering the questions, and Business meeting as well.

After the Convention Bro. Woznicki took me by car to Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, in the vicinity of Warsaw, where the Polish LHMM Headquarters is located. Bro. and Sr. Woznicki need our warm prayers in their trials as they continue faithfully to serve the Lord and the brethren.

After most hospitable fellowship and dinner with help of Sisters Bochniak, Szpunar and Pietka, I departed again to Krakow. Bro. Ireneusz and his mother, Władzia Szpunar, took me by car reaching our destination at about

midnight. The trip was about 300 kilometers.

Brethren in Krakow had organized a meeting with brethren from other classes attending. One class was from Oswiecim (Aushwitz). We had very blessed meetings and after the meeting conversations at the dinner. Sr. Adela and Alek Nowak hosted the dinner. This gave us opportunity for informal question meeting at the table. Bro. Alfred Szwed and I also spent additional time on truth conversations next day.

After few days I was ready to depart and the brethren Nowak's and also school friends of my wife Sr. Maria, Sabina drove me to the Airport for 6 AM departure!

They told me that some were able to listen to the Convention in Poznan on the Internet. They had about 60 openings in total, including other countries.

I should mention that even now when you open the Polish web page by clicking on "Contact" to Polish site and then on menu next to word "Poznan" there is a word "wiecej" which means "more" click on it, and you will be able to see different pictures of brethren, the immersion service, children and speakers with description in English.

There were great blessings shared. Then we traveled to the Convention in New England where we gave a similar Baptismal service. One sister symbolized her consecration.

Sr. Maria joins me in Christian greetings.

Your brother in His humble service,

Bro. John Wojnar

New Jersey

* * *

The Cleansing Stream

*O now I see the crimson wave,
The fountain deep and wide;
The blood which Christ so freely gave,
Which all our sins will hide.*

*The cleansing stream, I see, I see!
And now by faith it cleanseth me.
O, praise the Lord, it cleanseth me!
It cleanseth me, yes, cleanseth me!*

* * *

HYMNS FOR 2008

Our annual hymn for the year 2008, is number 215, 'The Cleansing Stream'. Use this hymn on the first of each month as the day's hymn; all other days, please use the first hymn listed with the day's Manna.

Hymns of Dawn \$6.00

France and United Kingdom— Trip Report

Dear Brother Herzig: Greetings in our Lord's name!

Sister Patricia and I are very thankful to our Heavenly Father for the privilege of attending the French and British Conventions. We received many blessings and had wonderful fellowship with the brethren.

The Daily Manna and Scripture text for August 10 really sums up our trip. Phil. 2: 1, 2 "Therefore if there is any consolation (comfort) in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

At each convention I gave Christian love and greetings from you and the Bible House family, our Minneapolis Ecclesia, the Ohio convention, and other U.S. brethren. The French and British brethren returned those greetings by convention vote and individually.

When we arrived in Paris we were met by Bro. & Sr. Alain Viard who drove us to their home in Barlin, the town where the convention was to be held. Sr. Viard is the daughter of Bro. & Sr. Hermetz. We had a meal with them the next day. Bro. & Sr. Hermetz speak some English but Sr. Viard speaks English fluently so there was no problem in communicating. Sr. Viard does a lot of the translation work and Bro. Viard, who is very knowledgeable in computers, works on the website and the publishing of The Bible Standard and The Present Truth.

Enclosed are two copies of the French Convention program. One is in French and the other one is mainly in English which was especially done for us so that we could follow along. The cover has a picture of the sun rising over water while dispelling the clouds. The Scriptures quoted are Isa. 40: 31 and Psa. 19: 1. The convention was for three days with morning and afternoon sessions for a total of six sessions.

The first day Bro. Hermetz gave the welcome address for the convention. Then I gave my first discourse which was "Seven Saved Classes." The attendance was 106. The second day the discourse was "Developing Faith" with 135 present. The last day it was "The Lost Coin" (Restitution) with 146 in attendance. Sr. Ann Marie Obajtek-Kirkwood and her two sons were in France visiting her mother and she was asked to do the translating of my discourses. She did very well and her translation work was appreciated by the brethren and me. During the convention Sr. Viard would give Sr. Patricia and me notes in English

of some of the thoughts and Scriptures the brothers were giving in their discourses. This helped us to better understand what was said from the platform.

We ate our lunches in the convention hall as each day the brethren brought their own food. There were tables set around the perimeter of the room so it was like one giant picnic (without the ants). Bro. and Sr. Viard provided food for us since we were staying with them. This gave us additional time for fellowship.

Bro. Hermetz conducted the Question Meeting. His comment after the last question was that after Bro. Jolly there was Bro. Gohlke then Bro. Hedman then Bro. Herzig all prospective Youthful Worthies. Each one in turn upholding the Truth and doing the work so we should be confident. Then the convention was closed with the final comments and Love Feast.

Patricia and I had attended the 1991 October French Convention. In 1992 we returned to France to conduct the marriage service for our son John to Sr. Anne Lawiak. Many of those brethren we had met at the wedding, came and talked to us during this convention. The teenagers, who speak some English, are now adults. We talked to them and met their children. We had brethren that had been to the United States Bible House come up to us and tell us about their visit to the States. Other brethren who could speak some English words and those who could only speak French came and talked to us. It was a wonderful convention and we will miss those dear brethren.

After the convention we walked to the French Bible House which is only a half block away from the convention hall and just across the street from Bro. & Sr. Hermetz's home. We were given a tour of the Bible House and saw all the books and publications plus where the brethren work. In one room there are pictures on the wall of past conventions and there was one of the 1950 Philadelphia Convention with Bro. and Sr. Johnson sitting in wheelchairs. Sitting in the front row are my grandmother, my mother and my sister. Bro. Viard sent by E-mail a copy of that picture and I appreciate his kindness.

The next day we were invited to have lunch at Bro. and Sr. Lawiak's home in Bethune, which is only about 8 miles away from Barlin. They are the parents of our daughter-in-law Sr. Anne Lewis. Since we do not speak the language Sr. Andree Huchette joined us to translate the conversation. We enjoyed both the meal and the fellowship. Then we headed back to

Barlin to the Hermetz's home. The Viards joined us for fellowship and Bro. Hermetz gave a parting prayer.

The next day Bro. & Sr. Viard took us to the airport which is a two hour drive from their home. They made sure we got the correct flight to Manchester, England. We appreciate the hospitality and fellowship of these dear brethren.

We were met at the Manchester airport by Bro. Paul Markiewicz. He is a relative of Bro. Walter Markiewicz of Seattle, Washington. Bro. Paul came to England from Poland for more education and is now working there. He just recently bought a car and before that, his transportation was a bicycle. He would ride it six miles on Sunday to the meeting place. Now with the car he can transport brethren to the meetings. He took us to the home of Bro. & Sr. Doidge.

The day before the convention Bro. and Sr. Doidge drove us to Lepton in Yorkshire and we met in Bro. Tompkins' home with him and Sr. Tracy to study *The Photo Drama of Creation*. We covered Lesson 30 on Joseph Sold Into Egypt. It was a very nice study and we enjoyed meeting with these two brethren. Bro. Doidge likes the Photo Drama and Question book and is promoting it for class study.

The British Convention is a three day convention held in the Festival Theatre in Hyde. Enclosed is a copy of the program. The cover consists of an artist's picture of John Bunyan and the women of Bedford. Beneath the picture it says, "Bunyan considers Him with the poor women of Bedford." The convention theme was "Consider Him . . ." (Hebrews 12: 3). There were a total of seven sessions with two on Friday, three on Saturday and two on Sunday. The Opening Service was led by the Hostess Ecclesia, the next day the Morning Worship was led by the Birmingham Ecclesia and the last day the Morning Worship was led by the London Ecclesia.

After the morning service the Address of Welcome was given. Then I gave the Bible talk "The Test of Endurance" with 53 brethren in attendance. My other two talks were "God's Family" and "God's Various Covenants" with 60 and 55 brethren present. There was a Symposium "Consider Him" where brothers covered Jesus' Faithfulness, Humility and Kindness. Brothers gave Bible talks on "His Commandments," "All Things Bright and Beautiful," "Considering Him – as Leader," and "A Root of All Evil."

During the Business Meeting Bro. Doidge read your E-mail with your greetings to the brethren. The last question at the Question Meeting was on the present leader of the brethren. Bro. Doidge mentioned

that in the beginning of the Gospel Age it was necessary for the speaking in tongues but that had finished and the Truth continues. In addition he said that Bro. Johnson in 1919 provided the necessary arrangements for leadership and that Bro. Ralph Herzig is continuing with these. Then we had the Chairman's closing remarks followed by the Love Feast.

Here again we knew a number of the brethren since Patricia and I had attended the Hyde convention in 1988 and the Sheffield Convention in 1991. I mentioned in giving the greetings from the States that Bro. Charles Stapleton of England in 1966 served in the United States and the Minneapolis Ecclesia. Our son John was born that year and Bro. Stapleton conducted the child blessing service for him.

All the meals were catered at the convention and so this gave us additional time for fellowship. Sr. Sara Roberts brought a number of Bro. Roberts' books for the brethren to take for themselves. He had an extensive library and many of his books are treasured collectibles. It was a wonderful convention and we will miss these dear brethren.

Bro. and Sr. Doidge took good care of us and we appreciate their hospitality and fellowship. Bro. Paul Markiewicz took us to the Manchester airport and he stayed with us while we checked in for our flight to Amsterdam.

No matter what the culture or the language, when you meet with the brethren you can feel the spirit of the Truth and it seems like you have known them all your life. A couple of times Sr. Patricia and I shed tears of joy. May God continue to bless these dear brethren.

Your brother in His service,
Bro. Donald Lewis
Minnesota
* * *

IN REMEMBRANCE

Sr. Delma Doris "Peggy" Cason 85, formerly of Norfolk, Virginia died October 10, 2007 in Nassawadox, VA.

Peggy was deeply dedicated to her Lord and was a true servant of God, joyfully witnessing to all she met. She was associated with the Norfolk, VA, ecclesia for many years.

Sr. Peggy is survived by a daughter, Sr. Virginia Holland and husband Bro. Willie of Parksley, VA; sons, James and Leslie and many grandchildren; a sister, Sr. Thelma Fowler and husband Charles and a brother, Ivy Cuthrell.

Bro. Leon Snyder of Michigan officiated at the funeral. **Bro. Cornelius C. Enwereji** of the Ibadan, Nigeria ecclesia died on October 2007. He was buried at his home town, Umuaka in Imo State, Nigeria

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bro. Herzig,

The brethren of the London class voted unanimously last Sunday in favour of sending you their encouragements. We are in no doubt as to the heavy load you carry, dear Brother, as you endeavor to serve our Lord and His people.

We appreciate the articles published, and we understand that this is the "Present Truth."

It is our aim to remain faithful to those teachings which come from a careful study of God's word. Nothing short of it will do.

So may our Lord help you dear Brother and all your co-laborers in the measure of your and their faithfulness. We end this note with the words of one who suffered much for the love of God, Jesus, the brethren and Divine Truth: "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing" 2 Thess. 3: 13.

Sister M. C., Secretary
for the London (England) class

Dear Brother Herzig,

God bless you (and all with you) in your Office and Ministry!

I am just writing to say how helpful I have found the Truth and its Spirit revealed in The Bible Standard and The Present Truths since your Editorship; so encouraging in one's Christian trials and joys.

We all must be tested. The Lord Jesus being the most tested of all and proven faithful and true. God is not going to place unfaithful Shepherds over His sheep (By their fruits shall you know them Matt. 7: 20) a loving kindness to us all.

I thank God for your love and faithful ministry. Continue to "Fight the good fight"!

God bless.
D. T.
England

Dear Brother,

I want to express my great contentedness with the Truth which our Lord gave us through His instrument regarding a leader of the Lord's people in present time and Executive Trustee of the LHMM.

I am deeply convinced, that this will be a great blessing for all faithful and those whose hearts are filled with the Lord's Spirit, and at the same time it will become an agent of testing and revealing state of heart of all individually.

This is the Lord's Epiphany work in wider meaning, especially it may disclose unfaithful Youthful Worthies and Consecrated Epiphany Campers as well, who may lose their position before the Lord. May all the Lord's people come out victorious from these trials.

Our Christian love and greetings to all brothers and sisters gathered at this convention (Minneapolis, Minnesota).

May God bless His people!
Remain with brotherly love and co-servant in the Lord's service,

E. G.
Poland

Dear Bro. Ralph,

Christian love and greetings!

Thank you for the Present Truth subscription reminder, enclosed is payment.

Please know that you are in my prayers daily, especially in this trying time. Sr. and I wish to express our support and appreciation for the work that you, and all at the Bible House do. We pray for the Lord's will to be done in all things as we study, practice and spread the Truth.

Yours in His service,
D. F. H.
Ohio

THE TEACHINGS
OF
"JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES"
EXAMINED IN THE
LIGHT OF THE
SCRIPTURES



SIZE: 9 X 6; 29 PAGES—
\$1.50

The name Jehovah's Witnesses was given by the late Judge Joseph F. Rutherford to his followers in 1931, and was adopted by them at that time. Because of their mass meetings, their zeal in carrying their message from door to door, and their extensive growth over the succeeding years, they have come more prominently into the public eye. They have been unfairly treated and misrepresented in many cases, some going so far as to call them disparaging names, from communists to cultists. We thoroughly disapprove of such conduct, though we believe that their public teachings should be open to appropriate public criticism. We are instructed to test by 1] **the Scriptures** (Isa. 8: 20; Acts 17: 11; 1 John 4: 1-4), 2] **reason** (Isa. 1: 18; Acts 17: 2; 18: 4) and 3] **facts**, all teachings presented to us as truth and to hold fast (1 Thes. 5: 21) to those only which are "good," those propositions that are clearly in harmony with these three things. In this spirit we desire to make a general examination of their teachings. We hope that all whose desire is only for the Truth, including those associated with the "Jehovah's Witnesses," will give careful attention to this assessment.

From: Bill Roberts [*****]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2006 6:46 AM
To: Ralph Herzig
Subject: Hyde Convention. Also, Administrative Changes

Dear Brother Herzig;

Grace be unto you, and Peace!

HYDE CONVENTION 2006

This year the brethren of the Hyde Ecclesia have agreed to hold the Annual British Convention on the first week-end in August. That is, Friday 4th, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th of August, 2006. This time setting is in keeping with custom in Britain for many years.

Again this year, the British brethren would very much welcome a visit from our dear Bro. Dan and Sr. Sue Herzig for that occasion. All here are agreed that their two previous visits have been so spiritually profitable that their presence among us once more would bring both pleasure and help to all concerned. This year, however, there is a desire for all expenses incurred by their visit to be paid from British funds, which can well afford it. If you agree, I shall be grateful if you will mention this to our dear Bro. Dan, after which it would be helpful if he could contact me directly and we could take the matter on from there.

ADMINISTRATION

Last year we successfully negotiated the position of the Movement in Britain as being a legally approved and registered Charity, updating the position negotiated by Bro. Armstrong in 1982. In the ensuing years and in various ways the Movement had outgrown the earlier position with its Constitution dated 1982, so that it was no longer acceptable to the authorities as an approved charity in 2004. We either had to change in keeping with the authorities' requirements today, or we could have faced legal action by a Government department. This action could have led to heavy fines, the dissolution of the LHMM of Britain and the enforced transfer of all our resources to other charities. Something had to be done, so we have done it, mainly under my own direction but with the full support of all General Elders. The Bible House was fully informed of what had to be done when the move was launched in 2004.

With the registration of the Movement as a bona fide charity, that situation is now resolved. A Board of Trustees is made legally responsible for the proper use of funds and other assets in keeping with the declared aims and purposes of our work. This is satisfactory to the authorities, who are concerned only to ensure that we obey the law and do not abuse our privileges as an approved charity. That Board of Trustees, however, does not control the work of the Movement and it has no spiritual function. The care and direction of the work in Britain is in the hands of the British Pastor with the help of General Elders.

All the secular, legal arrangements we have agreed to in registration are quite reasonable. They are in keeping with the law of the land, and will be honestly observed as we endeavour to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's". However, great care has been taken at every stage and in every way both to observe and to preserve what we understand of our Truth arrangements, and to maintain our proper relationship of affiliation with the Epiphany Bible House.

CHANGES

Several brethren here are having health problems which are adversely affecting the work of the Movement. I myself feel unable to carry forward all the things traditionally done by the British Pastor since the early days of Bro. Armstrong. I am having considerable difficulty in healing a leg wound suffered in a fall nearly a year ago, which has ulcerated and spread, leaving me in need of investigative and possibly other surgery, and measurably incapacitated. However, I do not care for details to be made generally known. For this and other age-related difficulties I am, therefore, contemplating the best way of passing major sections of the work to others.

The work of Treasurer will go to Auxiliary Pilgrim Bro. Torry McMillan. He is a well educated brother capable of handling that side of the business. The general administration work including the setting up and control of a new literature store would be in the care of Auxiliary Pilgrim Bro. Richard Doidge. If all goes well he will, in due time, be in a position to take on the responsibilities of British Pastor. That title of British Pastor is the official designation used by

Bro. Armstrong in drafting the 1982 Constitution, and by myself since he died.

As we grow older and faculties fail, change is inevitable, but the Truth, its spirit and its arrangements must remain intact. I shall, therefore, do all I can to ensure the safe transfer of responsibilities to those who are best equipped to take on the work. In fact, the British field is a comparatively small one and the qualified, spiritually experienced labourers are few.

I trust this update, although brief, has been worded sufficiently clearly for you to follow, and to be reassured that all that can be done to preserve the teachings, principles, arrangements and traditions of the Truth in serving God acceptably, is being done.

With warm Christian love,
Faithfully your brother in the Master's service,
H.W. Roberts

P.S. This e-mail is intended for your private information, not for publication. I hope shortly to send you an end-of-year "Report from Britain" covering various Truth-related aspects of affairs here over the past year.

H.W.R.

[We publish this e-mail in order to validate the appointments made in the United Kingdom since Bro. Roberts' death. The Editor]

**THE PRESENT TRUTH
and Herald of Christ's Epiphany
HARD BOUND VOLUMES**

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MEMORIAL DATE FOR 2008

Thursday, March 20, after 6:00 p.m.

The Memorial date this year comes on March 20 after 6:00 p.m. The newing of the moon nearest the vernal equinox, at Jerusalem, occurs at 7:36 p.m. March 7. Accordingly Nisan 1 begins at 6:00 p.m. March 7 and Nisan 14 begins at 6:00 p.m. thirteen days later, or at 6:00 p.m. on March 20. May the Lord bless His consecrated people as we properly prepare ourselves to commemorate Him and His great sacrifice for us (1 Cor. 5: 7, 8)!

REQUEST SERVICE OF VISITING MINISTERS

Congregations, Classes and individuals please send in your requests for Pilgrim and Evangelistic service for 2008. Indicate what days of the week are preferable and the services you desire; Bible Talks, Studies or Testimony meetings. Funeral and wedding services also available. Write to: Bible Standard Ministries — LHMM,
1156 St. Matthews Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425-2700

2008 LHMM CONVENTIONS

United States:

Jacksonville Beach, Florida, March 7, 8, 9

Muskegon, Michigan, May 16, 17, 18

(PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED DATES FOR MUSKEGON, MI)

Lionville, Pennsylvania, July 11, 12, 13

Tulsa, Oklahoma, September 19, 20, 21

**JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA
CONVENTION**

Friday—Sunday, March 7, 8 and 9

SITE: Oceanfront Comfort Inn, 1515 N. First St., Jacksonville Beach, FL, 32250. Telephone: (904) 241-2311. Rates and Reservations: \$95.00, for 1-4 guests, includes breakfast and tax. Reservations must be made directly to the hotel by February 1, 2008. State that you are attending the Laymen's Home Missionary Movement Convention to secure the special rate. Inquiries can be made to Sr. Cathy Kirkpatrick, telephone (904)-771-7180. Limo Service is available from the following businesses: Bob's Limo (904) 241-1013, \$50 for up to 3 people, each additional person \$5.00 (10 max); Costal Cab (904) 246-9999, \$44 up to 4 people, \$11 each additional person (10 max); Runways Shuttle 800-578-6929 \$24/person, ½ price for the others. Rental cars are available at the airport. (Make reservations in advance).

TO: