

Youth Messenger



Feature Article:

*Report From the Australasian
Youth Convention*

January–March 2000

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“Clear Shining After Rain”

*Across the silent, purple hills,
Through cloudy rifts of amethyst,
The setting sun softly thrills,
And wraps the world in amber mist.*

*A new, fresh world it seems tonight,
Untouched by any thought of woe.
I stand alone, and from my height
Watch the rich colorings come
and go—*

*On village spires silvery white,
On windows touched to ruddy glow,
On nearer stream, that glistens bright
Along its winding, shadowed flow.*

*How calm it is! And yet, in truth,
One hour ago a wild storm swept
These hills and valleys; while in ruth
The world was bowed, the heavens
wept.*

*But now what change! The golden
mist
Creeps over hill and sky again;
The smiling valleys, sunset kissed,
Catch God's "clear shining after
rain."*

*So sends He storm to every heart;
No perfect peace but comes
through pain.
We can but calmly take our part,
And wait "clear shining after
rain."*

—Grace Adele Pierce

Seeing the Invisible

[We are pleased to introduce our readers to the new GC Young Peoples' Department leader for 1999–2003, Bro. Radu Ionita, who lives in Romania.]



It's over! Contented, the king was looking on that huge multitude, bowed down in worship unto his image. His pride was fully satisfied. His power was unanimously recognized. He was the only one lord of the world. Everybody, just everybody, was there hovering in the dust!

But his joy was not for long. Soon he was informed about three Hebrew men who had not worshipped him. How could that be possible? His power to be questioned? By whom? And all his display of power to become nothing? Impossible! The rebellious should be exemplarily punished! The king was angry. The three young men were now before him. What a big contrast! Calm and noble, ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers in all matters of wisdom and understanding. . . . “How to lose them?” he thought. “Who will replace them? Let's try a compromise. Perhaps something was misunderstood.”

Then came the proposal. Another chance. But in the faces of the young men nothing changed. “Could they be so powerful? More than I?” Full of anger, the king demanded, “Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?” (Daniel 3:15).

At that moment, the three young men revealed naturally the secret of their tremendous power. In simple, clear words, full of heavenly dignity, they explained. There was Someone

else who had been challenged. They were not important, but He was! The king was invited to see, to understand the Lord whom these Hebrews loved and worshipped. They boldly declared, “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (Daniel 3:17, 18).

The anger of the king had no limits. “Heat the furnace seven times hotter!” he thundered.

In a few more minutes, the only three faithful men were to be consumed. . . . Satan and his army were rejoicing.

Still fuming with anger, the king on his throne tried to understand. “What insolence! To defy me publicly! Now it's over. . . . But what a pity! They were my best men—wise, worthy, humble. And if you think deeply, they were not really insolent. They were convicted in their conscience. . . . What foolishness! . . . But—what if that God of theirs can really save them? What great confidence they seemed to have! It was as if He were there, next to them. And only I could not see Him. . . . Then I'm lost!”

Forgetting the decorum, pomp, and pride, and now full of fear instead of wrath, the king stood up and ran past his armed servants to



the furnace, feeling as if he himself were facing the throne of judgment. Through the open door of the furnace, he saw. But he could hardly believe his eyes. "Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" "True, O King," replied his counselors. "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (Daniel 3:24, 25).

"I see!" What a great blessing! How could it be possible? Through the faith of only three young men—three young men with the faith of Jesus,

humble, noble friends of Jesus. They were officers in Babylon, but more importantly, they were coworkers with Jesus, and they had come to know Him, love Him, and see Him permanently before their eyes and to trust fully His wisdom and mighty power.

Being as they were "full time" workers for the Master, when this trial came, everything passed for them normally, simply. Their friendship with Him continued in the fire, too. Freely! What wonderful freedom!

There, at the door of that furnace, once more comes the chal-

lenge of the Lord for you, my dear one reading these lines. "Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death" (Jeremiah 21:8). What are you choosing? In the flames of trial, to continue your friendship with Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, or outside, maybe dreaming that you are the chief of the world, but in reality being full of fear, with a frozen heart, because of regrets? . . . This scene is being repeated countless times in the world's history. And each time a choice is involved. Now it's your turn! Have you already chosen? And if not, what are you choosing now?

Thank the Lord that the gospel is positive! You and I can choose anew, for eternity! Jesus, just beside us, is inviting:

"Choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19). What kind of life? Beyond imagination! Walking with Him, you'll have the chance to grow continually, "into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18). Day by day, closer to Him, more clearly understanding the challenges of life, you will fight the good fight of faith. . . . With what results? Who knows, except Jesus! But in order to have an idea, remember the three Hebrew friends. They and their clothes were not burned and not even the smell of fire could be found on them . . . and finally came that tremendous next decree from the astonished king: "Every people, nation, and language,

which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort" (Daniel 3:29).

The importance, the usefulness of such a life is unbelievable. Just as in those times, today our Lord is willing to turn the course of the history using ordinary, faithful people like you and me. Thus He will close His work. Thus He will answer the questions of the world, revealing His character and His mighty power.

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

"But such a character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. A noble character is the result of self-discipline, of the subjection of the lower to the higher nature—the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man."—*Education*, p. 57.

May the Lord help you and I to be coworkers with Him! Let us open our hearts and accept Him, with His infinite power to work in us, to use us according to His will, doing our part faithfully! This is my wish and prayer!—*Radu Ionita*.



AUSTRALASIAN YOUTH CONVENTION

December 24, 1999 to January 2, 2000

by Nathan Tyler—*Tennessee, USA*



An Australian Adventure

My first sight of Elim Heights Youth Camp was as we drove in and were greeted by dozens of kangaroos hopping away in every direction, their eyes beaming back at us as the car headlights shone on them. These uniquely Australian creatures were to be our companions during the convention, venturing out of the bush at dusk to graze on the fields around the edge of Camp, while peering cautiously at the occasional passerby.

Earlier in the evening I had arrived at the Sydney airport, and brother Paul Southwell provided transportation to the camp. "So this is Australia," I thought to myself as I prepared for my first night "Down Under." It was to be a real adventure.

One of the main highlights of my stay in Australia was to attend the Youth Convention, held every two years at Elim Heights.

The 1999-2000 Youth Convention began on Friday evening, December 24, with evening worship. Brother Harold Kraus was to be our coordinator and announcer, and he introduced himself to everyone. He welcomed us all warmly, distributed song sheets and folders for our papers and, after covering the code of conduct for the camp, he wished us all a happy Sabbath and a good night.



The meeting hall

The Camp

Elim Heights Youth Camp is located about 1 1/2 hours' drive northwest of Sydney, near Colo Heights, New South Wales State. Situated atop the Melong Ranges, it is surrounded by thousands of acres of national park land. The camp itself is quite large, about 400 acres.

The camp is about 20 km from the nearest electric utility power, so it is supplied electricity by a large diesel generator. This had to be started by someone every morning, so that we would have light in the buildings, power for the sound system,

Theme:
The Pilgrim's Progress

Attendance:
Average of 220 during the week; 330 on Sabbath.

From:
Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, South Korea, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, and the United States of America.

This youth convention is held every two years at Elim Heights Youth Camp, in New South Wales, Australia. The next convention will be held December 2001. You can contact the Australasian Union Conference for more information. Look for announcements of other youth events in upcoming issues of the Youth Messenger.

irons, computers, and other things we all usually take for granted.

Another interesting point for those of us not from Australia: the water supply comes completely from rainwater. The buildings have metal roofs, and rainwater is collected and stored in large holding tanks. It is filtered and gravity-fed into the water taps for use.

The Daily Routine

Mornings began with the camp bell ringing at half past six. Worship was at half past seven, and breakfast at eight.

After breakfast, there was cleanup. Kitchen and dining hall cleanup was divided among teams, which we had chosen at the beginning of the convention. Each team was responsible for several meal-times during the week. We learned teamwork skills as we cleared tables, swept floors, and washed dishes together.

At 9:30 a.m. we gathered together for presentations on our theme, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Different groups of youth from around the Australasian Union each took turns presenting a portion of the book. After each presentation, we would discuss the spiritual lessons we had learned.



A Pilgrim's Progress Presentation



Choir Item



Inside the meeting hall

The groups were very creative in their presentations. Some used props to help us visualize the things described in the story, and others did narration with different hymns played in the background, according to what was happening in the story. Everyone enjoyed all the presentations, and we learned many valuable lessons that will help us in our Christian walk toward the Celestial City.

Lunchtime came at 1 p.m. We were all ready and eager to eat, after our morning activities.

One of the memories we will all keep is of standing in a queue (line) at mealtimes. Besides enjoying talking to each other while waiting there in line, we also had something else to keep us busy: bush flies! They were everywhere, but they seemed to like pestering us there right outside the door of the dining hall. Some of us were introduced to what is known as the "Australian salute"—swatting at flies!

At 2:30 p.m. we came back for a

workshop. Workshops covered various topics, including careers, first aid, health, and also some forums on relationships, dress, and other questions the youth had.

Late afternoons were filled with various activities. Some youth chose to go walking along the roads that circle the camp, while those who were more daring would venture out into the bush to explore the perimeter of bluffs and caves. The groups doing presentations on *Pilgrim's Progress* the following day would often gather at the hall to review their material.

Supper is known in Australia as "tea." Six o'clock p.m. was tea time. We all enjoyed our third delicious meal of the day, prepared by a team of hard-working kitchen volunteers. We really appreciated their tireless efforts in feeding such a large and hungry crowd.

After supper came evening worship, presented by a young person, and then we had free time until lights

out at 10 p.m. Now, at this camp, "lights out" means exactly that. At ten o'clock, the generator is shut down and, ready or not, the lights go out!

Highlights

During the convention we had various special highlights that are worth mentioning.

Many of us enjoyed the talk given by Brother Will Goldthorpe. He is a paramedic, and told of his experiences responding to motor vehicle accidents and other medical emergencies. Brother Goldthorpe also teaches classes in first aid, and he taught us some important things we

all should know about what to do in emergencies when someone is sick or injured.

Brother Harold Kraus and his wife Vesna gave us a presentation on how to discover our God-given individuality. We learned that each one of us is different in personality and talents, and there are different occupations for which we each may be especially suited.

Brother Neville Brittain gave a talk on health. He answered the question "Why do we get sick?" There were several reasons: Imbalance ("Too much" and "Not Enough"), Trauma, Thoughts or State of Mind, and Germs. He pointed us to valuable resources that we

could each study on our own to learn more about health and medical missionary work. At the end there was a question-and-answer session where various health questions were answered.

Friday evening, December 31, Brother Peter Lausevic led the meeting. He spoke on the subject of the coming new year, and our need of recommitting our lives to the Lord. At the end, he made a special appeal, and many people came forward for the altar call, filling up the whole front. Many of the youth stood up there, including some who were first-time visitors. We put aside any differences and had a wonderful experience that night of prayer, confession, and recommitment to the Lord.

The following day we had a blessed new year's Sabbath service. In the afternoon there was a study on marriage, by Bro. Lausevic. We had a lot of fun in that meeting, as you can imagine, and the youth learned many very practical things about choosing a life partner.

Young People's meetings on both Sabbaths were really a blessing. We heard testimonies and experiences from around the world. We were treated to items from many different musical groups. Everyone especially enjoyed the items by the Samoan quartet. The second Sabbath of the Convention, January 1, the children's classes had a special presentation on the *Pilgrim's Progress* theme. They presented artwork and songs that they had been working on all week long.

On the last Sunday of the convention, after it was officially closed, almost everyone stayed for a very special event—the wedding of William Cupra and Patricia Maroschek. This was a joyous occasion for everyone, and we pray that the Lord



"Bush" (Forest) around the camp

will bless this new couple as they serve Him together.

Lessons

At this youth convention, we all learned important lessons to guide us in our Christian journey. If there is one thing that can be said about those lessons learned, it is that we must live our lives according to principle—doing what is right no matter what the circumstances are.

We saw in the journey of Christian, in *Pilgrim's Progress*, that we cannot trust our feelings and our senses to make decisions. Just as in the instance where Christian and Hopeful wander off the path into By-path Meadow and end up in Doubting Castle, we may be tempted to take the easy way in our Christian walk. The little compromis-



Bro. Harold Kraus leading out in a forum on dress principles

Bro. Will Goldthorpe lecturing on First Aid



es we may make here and there, add up until we find ourselves where we never intended to be.

During the camp, we had various questions come up about standards and principles. Different views were expressed on these issues. But we were directed to the Word of God to find our answers.

It was encouraging for all of us to find other youth who shared the same beliefs and hopes as ourselves. We all face similar challenges, and we came away confident that the Lord will help us meet the challenges of the future together—in His strength.

Looking Ahead

Finally the time came for us to leave. We had all made new friends, and enjoyed the company of old ones. We exchanged postal and e-

mail addresses, and as we parted, it was with a prayer in our hearts that the Lord would keep us all faithful to Him, so that we all may meet again.

Of course, everyone is looking forward to the next Australasian Youth Convention two years from now. Maybe you can plan to attend next time. See you there! ✨



Australasian Youth Convention Group Photo



by Lesley Johnson — *North Carolina, U.S.A.*

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Fifty years ago, high school life was—compared to today—simple and innocent. Students were disciplined for such things as talking or whispering in class, chewing gum, pushing in line, or perhaps saying an occasional vulgar word. One beautiful spring day, three friends committed the ultimate crime—skipping school. Never having done this before and thinking they would be caught, for them the day ended up lacking the enjoyment they had expected. Meanwhile, the school office, being concerned about the missing students, checked with their parents to see if maybe they were sick. Having been assured of their good health, both the principal and the parents prepared to welcome

them on their return. That day these youth learned what it means to “fall from grace.” They also learned that grace is desirable but only maintained through obedience.

This was earthly grace; heavenly grace is so much more desirable and is, finally, the only kind that counts; it is the assurance of a continuing relationship with God.

Questions on grace

What is grace; from where does it come? How can a person obtain grace? Who is eligible to receive it? Are there conditions necessary to obtain grace? These are important questions that deserve answers.

There are two kinds of grace. One is the favor shown to us by God’s mercy when we, totally underserving, come to Him, for justification. This grace, however, is to be maintained by a continual walk with

Christ. Such grace reflects God's influence in our heart. It is real, it is heaven-sent, it is not tangible; it reaches into the very thoughts and feelings, and causes changes. Knowing this, how important it becomes to correct wrong thoughts!

"If the thoughts are wrong the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 310.

Grace, therefore, changes one's character, which is the only thing that one can take with him or her to heaven. So, from where does grace come?

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

Christ was "full of grace" (John 1:14). In fact, there are many texts referring to grace as being "of God," Hebrews 2:9; Acts 15:11 for example. There is no other source mentioned as the originator of grace.

Obtaining grace

How does one go about obtaining this grace of God? The Bible tells us that "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8). Can one find grace? No. Grace has never disappeared; it cannot be found in the sense of finding lost eyeglasses, money, and so on.

There is a verse that gives the key to obtaining grace: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine

nature" (2 Peter 1:4). In *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 122, we learn that "it is in these promises that Christ communicates to us His grace and power." The thought is continued, "To learn of Christ means to receive His grace, which is His character" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 271). This is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27) and although grace is available to all, it is given only to those who claim God's promises. Christ is the Word (John 1:1). When He speaks, it is done (Psalm 33:9). This type of grace then becomes a creative act performed within those who read and assimilate His word, the Bible.

The life of God in this gift of grace is available to "every human soul that will yield itself to the ministry of His grace. . . . It is the word of God that creates the flowers, and the same word will produce in you the

graces of His Spirit" (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 97).

Even since man first fell from grace, it has always been the same. "The conditions of eternal life, under grace, are just what they were in Eden—perfect righteousness, harmony with God, perfect conformity to the principles of His law. The standard of character presented in the Old Testament is the same that is presented in the New Testament. This standard is not one to which we cannot attain. In every command or injunction that God gives there is a promise, the most positive, underlying the command. God has made provision that we may become like

unto Him, and He will accomplish this for all who do not interpose a perverse will and thus frustrate His grace" (Ibid., p. 76).

Consider these conditions—yielding, perfect righteousness, harmony with God, perfect conformity to the principles of His law. Here is where faith is shown to be absolutely essential as "we have access by faith into this grace" (Romans 5:2). And He will complete a "good work" begun in each of us (Philippians 1:6).

Only sinful human beings need grace

"God loves the sinless angels, who do His service and are obedient to all His commands; but He does not give them grace; they have never needed it, for they have never sinned" (*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 519). Grace is given when it is needed. "Our only claim to His mercy is our great need" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 161).

If we were to read the following statement every morning, we could avoid a lot of problems. (Actually, it would be good to read the entire chapter some Sabbath afternoon, since the chapter refers especially to the struggles of young people.) "I saw how this grace could be obtained. Go to your closet, and there alone plead with God: 'Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me' (Psalm 51:10). Be in earnest, be sincere. Fervent prayer availeth much. Jacoblike, wrestle in prayer. Agonize. Jesus, in the garden, sweat great drops of blood; you must make an effort. Do not leave your closet until you feel strong in God; then watch, and just as long as you watch and pray you can keep these evil

besetments under, and the grace of God can and will appear in you" (*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 158).

It is not a vague, nebulous goal; it is sure. This grace, of which we all are in dire need, is in the saving hands of God. He is the Author of grace and is eager to bestow it upon His obedient children—and abundantly. Without it, there is no salvation. See Acts 15:11 and Ephesians 2:8, 5.

Summary

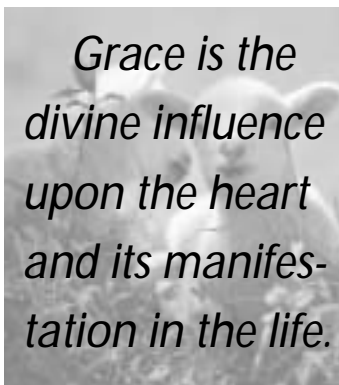
1. Sanctifying grace is God's influence in our heart and produces changes in our character, resulting in Christlikeness. True grace originates with God. See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 310 and John 1:17.

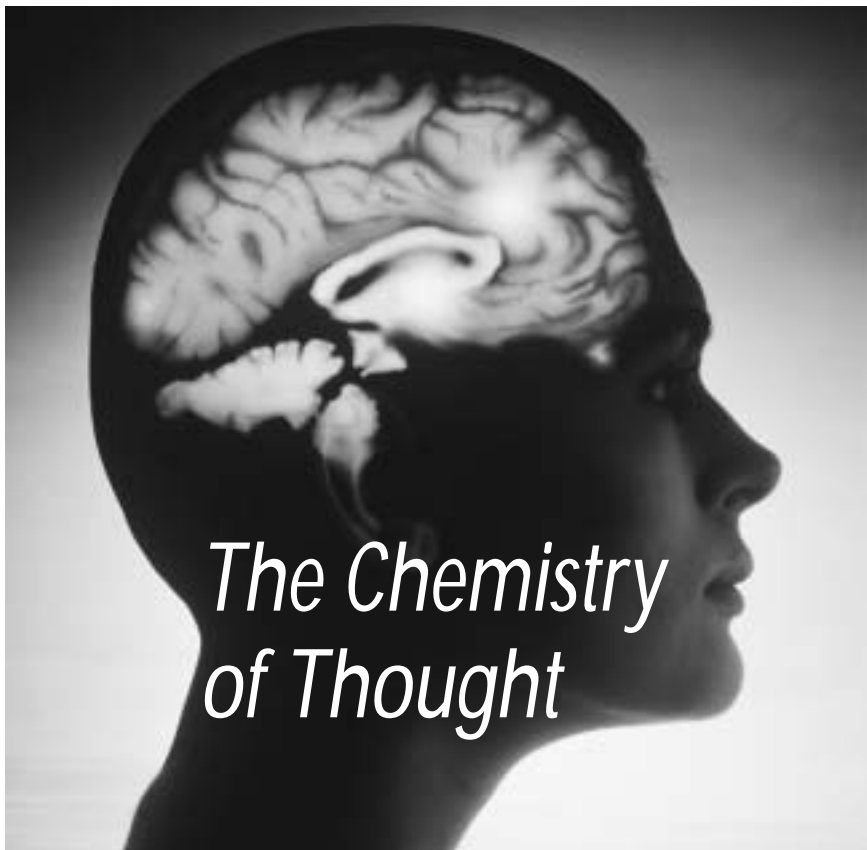
2. All grace is obtained through the promises of God (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 122) through the Word (Acts 14:3) and is a gift (Ephesians 3:7; 2:8).

3. Anyone is eligible to receive grace, but only those who do not frustrate His grace will receive it. (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 76.)

4. One has access to grace by faith (Romans 5:2) and it will be given when needed (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 354). One must actively plead in prayer, in secret, wrestling with God. His grace will manifest itself in each person who does this.

As sin has come upon everyone, so grace is given to everyone who will choose for Christ. Do not be afraid to totally commit your life to Him. He will take the dross of our life which is all that we have to offer, and turn it into purest gold. Make a covenant with God now, that through personal character changes, glory and honor may be returned to Him. ❀





Adapted from an article by M. A. Loper

In the laboratory of nature, both liquids and solids are made up of molecules. These molecules consist of atoms of various elements combined in certain definite proportions. For example, two atoms of hydrogen and one of oxygen combine to form one molecule of oxide of hydrogen—or water—shown by the familiar symbol H_2O . Two atoms of hydrogen and two of oxygen combine to form hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), a powerful germ killer. Some substances combine in such proportions as to form deadly poisons and powerful explosives.

Few people make a thorough study of natural chemistry, but in the laboratory of thought every human being can be a student. Each brain has its own natural combinations, and only the great Master Chemist is able to wipe out that which is evil. The menstruum (the medium in which a substance is dissolved) of divine grace will dissolve all the solids of sin; for God has promised to take away the stony heart.

In natural chemistry, fire is used to purge the dross, and filtering paper to separate the sediment. So in mental chemistry, the Spirit of God

will consume the dross of sin, and His love will separate the smallest sediment of evil. The Master Chemist has committed to us the symbols of heaven, and has instructed us just how to combine them in the formation of a beautiful character. But the trouble is, too often we deliberately permit wrong combinations in the laboratory of thought, and as a result our mental equations are out of harmony with those of heaven. The reaction of our selfish mixtures is destructive to the test tube of patience, and we tend to become discouraged over our failures. How natural it is to feel that we are being snubbed or unappreciated, that others do not pay us the respect which we feel our importance deserves. How easy it is to permit a few molecules of jealousy to combine with a like proportion of self-esteem and, before we realize it, to find that there is formed in the mind the deadly poison of hatred, which, if permitted to remain, will penetrate the entire being, and accomplish its ultimate ruin.

“Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts” (Matthew 15:19); and oh, how deadly are their combinations! From these come all the results of sin. And yet in the laboratory of human minds is constantly being worked out the long list of dreadful experiments whose results are seen in the many forms of evil all around us. “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7).

How different the combinations formed in the mental laboratory of him who chooses only elements as are found in the laboratory of heaven: “Whatsoever things are true,

whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

In that mind which keeps in store only such elements as these, no poisonous nor explosive reactions can occur. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind [thought] is stayed on thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

Humanity today needs a hefty dose of the oil of sympathy, the tonic of faith, and the stimulant of hope. And he whose thoughts are all combined in the mortar of love, pulverized with the pestle of self-sacrifice, and liquefied by efficacy of fervent prayer, will be able to provide a truly vitalizing tonic to all about him.

How beautiful the life of that youth whose mind is filled with beautiful thoughts. One can judge of the inner workings of such a mind from the outward signs of loving service to others. What a halo of happiness surrounds his pathway from morning till night! And how sweet the thought that he “shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels” (Malachi 3:17).

Young friends, look well to the chemistry of your thoughts. Be sure to avoid the very appearance of evil. Give no storage to such dangerous mental chemicals as selfishness, hatred, variance, strife, emulation, and envy, but keep constantly on hand a good supply of “love, joy peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance” (Galatians 5:22, 23). “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7). ❀

Better This Than That!

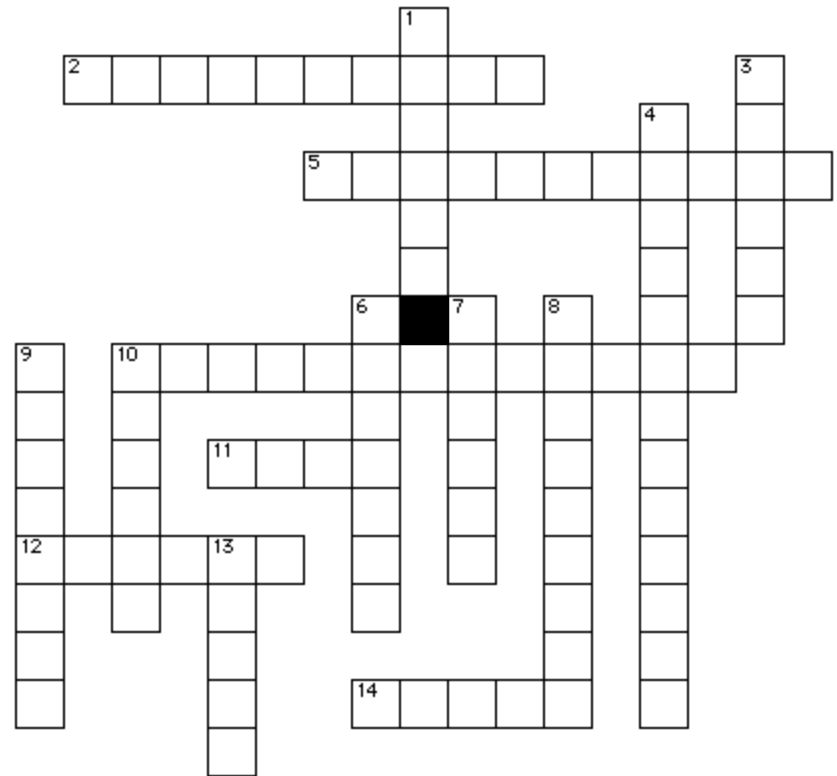
The following puzzle is based on several points in the book of Proverbs. The chapter and verse of each proverb is given after every clue.

Across:

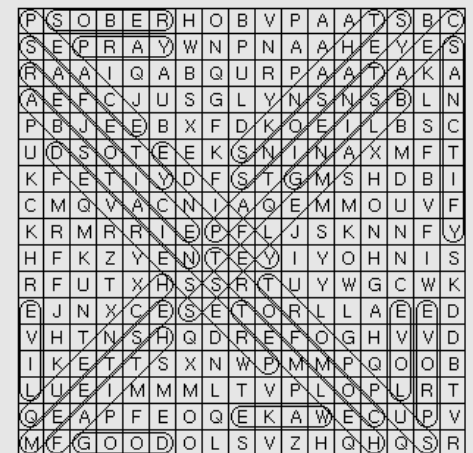
- It is better to dwell in the _____, than with a contentious and an angry woman (21:19).
- Better is the poor that walketh in his _____, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich (28:6).
- Better is a little with _____ than great revenues without right (16:8).
- The desire of a man is his kindness: and a _____ man is better than a liar (19:22).
- Better is _____ with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith (15:16).
- Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, _____ is he (29:18).

Down:

- Open rebuke is better than _____ love (27:5).
- _____ is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it (8:11).
- How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get _____ rather to be chosen than silver! (16:16).
- Happy is the man that _____ always: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief (28:14).
- Better it is to be of an _____ spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud (16:19).
- Better is the poor that walketh in his _____, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool (19:1).
- It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a _____ woman in a wide house (21:9).
- He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that _____ his spirit than he that taketh a city (16:32).
- For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be put _____ in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen (25:7).



Answers to last issue's puzzle entitled, "Children of the Day"





Are you coping? Nothing soothes the soul like Jesus!

Discouragement is very common in our day. I am not referring to emotional ups and downs which we all experience daily from the circumstances around us. Neither am I referring to mood swings that may be caused by various medical problems.

I am referring to a way of seeing the world and living a life that leads only to discouragement and helplessness. The Bible calls it a disease; it robs us of our purpose, our sense of meaning, and we see only our problems. We experience a loss of energy and strength.

Discouragement does not bypass Christians. We live in this sinful world as everyone else does. We are influenced by the same events and ideas.

We may respond to our surroundings out of the same set of emotions and reactions as the unbeliever. But we need to bear in mind that we are in the world but not of the world.

What kind of things lead us to discouragement?

1) When we look at ourselves and our circumstances rather than to the Lord.

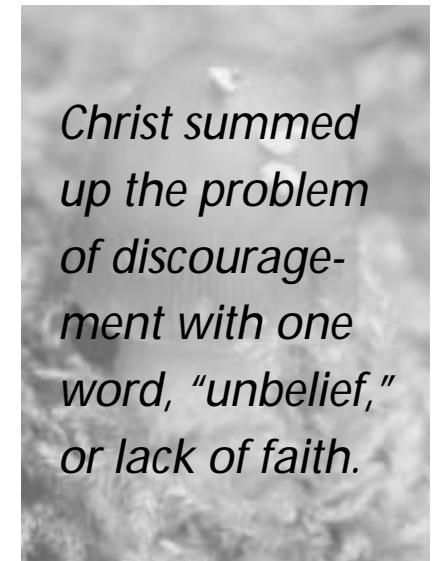
This happens when we dwell on our sinfulness, and our enemy Satan shows us that we are weak, worthless, and unworthy to be called God's children. When this happens we need not despair. Look to Christ and remember His word: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

Christ summed up the problem of discouragement with one word, "unbelief," or lack of faith. Remember this, young people, when faced with hard situations in your life. Christ was tempted and tried on all scores, but He never lost faith. He kept a constant communication with Heaven. In like manner let us not lose faith, let us keep studying God's word and we will find peace and, above all, the answers we need to face whatever circumstances that may be causing us to feel discouraged. Read Hebrews 11:21. Rahab the harlot is counted among those who had faith. She might have been discouraged with her life at some stage—one may even think she was a hopeless case. The Bible does not give us details of her repentance, but in *Prophets and Kings*, p. 369, we learn that her conversion was not an isolated case of God's mercy toward idolaters who acknowledged His divine authority. Let us remember God's converting power when we are tempted to let ourselves get discouraged in our Christian life, even when faced with trials in the church. We must not look to people or circumstances but to Jesus Christ as our only infallible Example. Human beings make mistakes, and when this happens let us not allow ourselves to fall into the trap of judging our brethren. Instead, pray with them to overcome and we will cease to be discouraged.

2) We may get discouraged when God acts differently from what we expect.

Read Luke 24. After Christ died, the hopes of the disciples were shattered. They had had high expectations. They were looking forward to Christ becoming the king of the Jews, and naturally they expected to be given high positions to rule with

Him. They expected Him to take power and redeem Israel (see Luke 24:21). But when He died on the cross, they felt like failures, they despaired, and some became skeptical. All because they were discouraged. They wrestled with their understanding of the cross and the death of Jesus. They looked at the whole scene with unbelief, which was prompted by a failure to see the Old Testament prophecies about Christ—a failure to accept Scripture as a guide and authority for their faith. We are no different from them today when we allow ourselves to lose our faith and fail to focus on the promises in God's word. How can we focus if we do not study? Dear young people, if ever there was a time when we have needed to dig deeper into the Scriptures, it is today!



Another example of unbelief came when Abraham, who was called the friend of God, allowed doubt to overcome him when he agreed to give in to Satan's sugges-

tion to have a child in a way that was not in God's plan. This is an example of things done by Christians when they lose faith.

Symptoms of discouragement

Symptoms of discouragement include emotional and spiritual despondency—deep sadness. These lead to confusion, brokenness of spirit, and irritability—grouchiness. There are examples of this in the Bible when the Israelites expected a deliverer, and also when they were about to enter the promised land but were delayed.

Remedy

** Think of what you know of God through the Gospel and apply it in your daily life.*

** Think against your feelings which may lead you to discouragement.*

** Talk yourself out of the gloom those feelings spread.*

** Unmask and admit the unbelief being indulged.*

** Encourage yourself, look up from your problems to the God of the Gospel.*

** Let evangelistic thinking correct emotional thinking. (Focusing on helping others puts you in a better mood right away.)*

** Make a commitment to believe the Scriptures; make them your guide.*

** Make learning God's Word a priority.*

** Learn of God, the plan of salvation, and His will for His people.*

** View the world through the lens of Scripture.*

Let us see ourselves in the world, being guided by God's statement of what is true and real. It is my greatest wish and prayer for every young person who will read this article never to utter the words, "I am discouraged." May God bless us as we continue to study His Word! ❀



The Hand That Never Lets Go

by E. G. White

The sun shone brilliantly on the dazzling snow of one of the highest mountains of the Alps, as a traveler followed his guide along the narrow path. The Englishman reveled in the scenes of beauty through which he passed. He had confidence in his guide, and followed fearlessly in his footsteps, though the track was entirely new to him. Suddenly he hesitated; for the bold mountaineer stepped across a narrow but very deep chasm, and then, holding out his hand, asked the Englishman to take it, and step across. Still the traveler hesitated, but the guide encouraged him to obey, saying, reassuringly, "Take my hand; that hand never lets go."

Dear young friends, One greater than any human guide calls upon you to follow Him over the heights of patience and self-sacrifice. The path is not an easy one. Christ says, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." In order to follow this path, we must lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us. Directly at the entrance of the path lies the cross of self-denial. This we must lift if we would follow the Saviour. We must rid ourselves of pride and selfishness. While weighed down by them, we can not scale the heights over which Christ bids us follow Him.

All the way along, Satan has prepared pitfalls for the feet of the unwary. But following our Guide, we may walk with perfect security; for the path is consecrated by His footsteps. It may be steep and rugged, but He has traveled it; His feet have pressed down the thorns to make the way easier for us. Every burden we are called upon to bear, He Himself has borne. Personal contact with Him brings light and hope and power. Of those who follow Him, He says, "They shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." "I the Lord . . . will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." More precious in the Saviour's sight than the whole world is the soul who gives himself to Jesus. Christ would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one soul might be saved in His kingdom. He will never abandon one for whom He has died. Unless His children choose to leave Him, He will hold them fast.

Christ's true disciples follow Him through sore conflicts, enduring self-denial and experiencing bitter disappointment; but this teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they are led to look upon it with abhorrence. Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory. In holy vision the prophet saw the triumph of the people of God. He says: "I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory . . . stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." —*The Youth's Instructor*, May 1, 1902. ❀

Departing Clouds

*When clouds arise and hide from view
The golden sun and heavenly blue,
Above the gloom the sunlight streams.
In wondrous ray, in radiant hue,
There beauty sheds her lovely beams,
And cheerfulness unmeasured teems;
There gladness doth its work pursue,
And grandeur as the morning gleams.*

*Ah! Soon the clouds shall pass away,
And brightness from the realm of day
Light up the gloom and gild the scene.
Departing clouds in glad display
Strew sparkling gems upon the green;
They leave a rainbow bright, serene;
The sky glows lovely o'er the way,
And soon no cloud shall intervene.*

*So thus in life; when clouds appear,
When trials come with test severe,
By faith we may behold the
prize,
And bring its beaming glories near.
The clouds soon break; before
our eyes
The stately hills of Canaan rise
In sacred calm, in heavenly clear
And everlasting sunlit skies.*

—Jonathan Spence

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