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The Lord Is on My Side

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President,

General Conference of S. D. A.

TRULY my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved. My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us." (Ps. 62:1, 2, 5-8)

These are very comforting words in a time like this. In fact, they have been comforting words ever since they have been written. They were written to sinners and David points out here that Salvation comes from God. Our expectation is from Him. In fact, in the matter of being saved from sin we can expect nothing from anyone else.

There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. We cannot remove a single stain of sin from our souls; we cannot work out our own Salvation in our own efforts, and nobody can do it for us. Without God we are absolutely hopeless. No one will be able to go to Heaven in his own righteousness. "There is none that doeth good" (Rom. 3:12) We have all gone out of the way like lost sheep; so unless God helps us and comes to our rescue and does something for us, way beyond what we can do for ourselves, we are hopelessly lost. So, desiring Salvation, we must realize that it comes from God.

The Apostle Paul in talking about this same subject tells us: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and

that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." (Eph. 2:8) You know, if it were possible for human beings to do something that would save themselves and didn't need God, they would make a boast about it. But Salvation comes from God. Holiness, righteousness, power to overcome temptation, all come from God.

Salvation is the gift of God. It is not something we earn. It is something we receive as a gift. It is wonderful to know that a helpless sinner may receive this gift.

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear; what can man do unto me?" (Ps. 118:6) This is a most comforting verse—The Lord is on my side. You know when you get into trouble, it is comforting to have a lot of people on your side, and David says that is the way it was with him and he would not fear what men would do to him. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men. So we need to recognize, as did David, that we must have the Lord on our side. If He is not on our side we are hopelessly lost. Our utter and complete dependence must be on God. David says: "My soul waiteth only upon God."

In a certain Mohamedan temple are the following words written in Arabic over the altar: "He that cometh to me must first cleanse his own heart." It is not in man to direct his own steps, much less to cleanse his heart from sin. Mohamed leaves it to the individual to work out his own salvation, then he takes him in,

God says, whosoever will, let him come; I will make him clean; I will take out the stony heart and give him a new heart. We need somebody to lift us up and save us from sin. Christ says, "Come unto me and I will give you rest."

It is a wonderful thing to be on Christ's side, so that He can recognize us as being His children. "If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? 'Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.' There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are." (S. C., 35)

Even Christian people are entirely without strength to live a Christian life. That is where a lot of people make their fatal mistake. They confess their sins and make right, and then say, I am not going to sin any more; now I am a Christian I am going to live like one. Apart from the power of Christ, it is utterly impossible to keep such a resolution. Even when we become Christians we are still dependent every day and hour upon the power of Christ to keep us loyal and true to Him. We must remember that the same God who saved us is the One who must keep us. Jude says He "is able to keep you from falling." If man tries to keep himself he is a miserable failure. Luke says the Lord will give power over all the power of the enemy. He is able to

save unto the uttermost; He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we are able to ask or think.

Christianity isn't just one of the religions of the world. Christianity is the only religion that saves; and how wonderful it is to be on God's side, but God must keep us. The same God that created the universe has to keep it every day. He didn't make the planets and the worlds and then just left them to work like a clock. Today, just as it was in Eden, He clothes the lilies of the field: He feeds the sparrows; He guides the worlds through space; He sends the sunshine and the rain; He causes the earth to bear fruit. Constantly, day by day, moment by moment, He operates in perfect symmetry everything, except that which has been marred by sin.

When one has been saved from his sins he cannot say, now I can operate myself. We are just as dependent upon the keeping power of God after conversion as the universe is dependent upon Him. The only way to live a powerful Christian life is through the power of God. The only way man must keep the commandments is through the power of God. Nothing good ever appears in our lives but what is the operation of the power of God.

In Isa. 27:2, 3 the church is referred to as a vineyard. "I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day." Every day and every moment we have the right to claim the keeping power of God. That is why David says: "My soul, wait thou only upon God". He learned not to expect help from any other individual but to expect all the help he needed and required from God.

"Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." (Ps. 37:3,7) The whole world is worried because of the atomic bomb, because of the difficulties that appear in the world, to which no human being can find any solution. Their hearts are failing them for fear; but the only person in the world who is not afraid is the Christian who is resting in the Lord. He says, I know that the Lord is able to keep me, and that he loves me, or He wouldn't have died for me, and I am going to trust Him. "A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. Your hope is

not in yourself; it is in Christ. . . . So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell on self, but look to Christ." (S.C., 75) Come to me, He says, and I will do everything for you.

Christ in you the hope of glory is the only hope of Salvation. Allow Him to come in and take control of the life. "Behold I stand at the door and knock", He says, I will make my home in your heart. The secret of Salvation is that Christ has already conquered sin. Our Captain is a mighty leader—a resurrected Christ. May God grant that we may be only on the Lord's side from whom our Salvation cometh, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

—W. H. BRANSON, *President*
General Conference of S.D.A.

A Year of Precious Blessings

(Partial Report of 20th Century and Voice of Prophecy Bible Schools in the British West Indies Union, given at Year End Meeting).

The results of the 20th Century Bible School for the year 1951 have surpassed those of any previous year since 1945. We are very happy to report that during the first nine months of this year 3,480 were enrolled, 900 finished the course, 317 have been baptized, 725 believe the Seventh day to be the Sabbath of Jehovah, 46,522 lessons were sent out. We have a meagre staff of six—Miss A. W. Sangster as Instructor of the 20th Century Bible School, with Miss M. Bryan and Misses M. Swaby and I. Dunn, part time workers; Mrs. R. W. Numbers as Instructor of the Voice of Prophecy School, assisted by Mrs. C. S. Greene, a part-time worker. Owing to the pressure of work in the Bible School, the staff has had to work long hours and, in many instances, at nights in order to keep up.

The lessons from these schools are finding their way not only over hills and valleys but also behind prison walls, the Leper's Home, and other places of confinement. Hundreds of the students have never visited our churches and, perhaps, never would have heard of, or got the chance of studying, the message had it not been for these mediums of spreading the gospel. Time will not permit us to give many of the rich experiences that are coming to us day by day, but here are just three of them:

"I was a drunkard, a gambler, and one of the most unpleasant husbands for a wife to get along with. Nothing pleased me in the home: but one day someone

came along and handed me a card and asked me to get enrolled in the 20th Century Bible School. At first I scorned the idea, but after I went home, I looked at the card again and thought I should sign my name and mail it. A few days afterwards, I received my first lesson, and step by step I became interested; then I gave up the drinking, smoking, and my bad expressions. I became a changed man. My home is now a very happy one and there is a change in the entire family circle. This is nothing but a miracle as expressed by my family. Thank God, today I am a baptized member of the Advent Faith, and my wife and two of my children have also been baptized as a result of studying these lessons."

"It was in June, 1950, that an unexpected misfortune awakened me to the fact that I was in need of Christ. I was determined to live a reformed life, but my knowledge of God and the Bible was so little that I did not know where to go to obtain the true teaching of Christian living.

"I prayed earnestly for guidance and God sent a friend to introduce me to the 20th Century Bible Correspondence Course. Perhaps if I had known at the time that it was connected to the Seventh-day Adventist faith I would not have started; but, fortunately, I did not discover it until I reached the subject of the Holy Sabbath.

"The doctrine was presented with such clarity that I accepted the Message; but my husband protested against it and discouraged me until I lost my zeal. However, my courage was renewed by the visits of many Seventh-day Adventist workers and friends who were sent to me, and I started out again. Since then, I have been baptized and received into church fellowship at the Regent Street Church. By the grace of God and the sincere prayers of myself and the brethren, I am working and waiting for our Lord's return."

"Please enroll me as one of your correspondence students. For quite a while I have been listening to your programme. It is one of the first truths that I have listened to; you preach the true preaching of Christ. It is only a pity that your programme is so short. The public would be glad to have it for about an hour or so. You are doing a good work, softening hard hearts to know God."

These valuable lessons are finding their way into every corner of our field. Thanks to the Presidents of the Conferences and Missions who are giving

(Continued on page 4.)

Room for Improvement

(Partial Report of the Home Missionary & Sabbath School Departments of the British West Indies Union, given at Year End Meeting.)

The Home Missionary and Sabbath School Departments of the British West Indies Union continue to move forward under the Divine leadership of God. Much has been accomplished as a direct result of the work carried on in these departments, especially along the line of soul winning.

One Lay Preacher, Brother Wright, from the Newell church, told us how God had been using him, a humble instrument, to win souls for Him. At a Convention held in that church there were a number of persons present, whom he had won to the Truth, and among them were an elementary school teacher and his wife. The interesting thing about this Lay Preacher is that he can neither read nor write, and he has to take another brother along to read the Scriptures for him. Truly, our lay brethren have caught the vision of the unfinished task and are blazing the trail for God.

Recently a report came in from one Brother Moore of East Jamaica that he was conducting an effort at Redwood in the Parish of St. Catherine. Brother Moore has been an outstanding Lay Preacher, having raised up the churches at Haywood Hall and Albany in St. Mary, and now there is every indication that he will raise up one at Redwood. He states that he has to fight against the vices of ganja and tobacco smoking, obehism and immorality. How can we neglect to hold up the hands of these brethren who labour so untiringly, and without remuneration?

The 1951 Ingathering Campaign has been one of the most successful ever conducted in the British West Indies Union, and we are very happy to report that every field went over its set goal, as the following figures will show.

Fields	Goals	Amt. Raised
Bahamas	700 0 0	1,005 1 6
British Honduras	250 0 0	284 9 3
Cayman Islands	50 0 0	68 16 9
Salt Cays	25 0 0	27 7 6
East Jamaica	2,000 0 0	2,300 0 0
West Jamaica	2,000 0 0	2,361 10 3
	£5,025 0 0	£6,047 5 3

In the months of September and October a major effort was conducted by the writer in Nassau, Bahamas. In spite of one week of very heavy rains, there was a good interest shown in attendance. The last night of the effort closed with a larger attendance (about 600) than any of the nights of the first week. On the last morning of the effort, seven souls

were baptized as the first fruits, and there are at least twenty more whom we feel sure will go forward in baptism at an early date. There is a good interest over there to be followed up.

By the end of 1951 a large number of Dorcas Federations will have been organized throughout the Island of Jamaica. During the past year quite a lot of time has been spent in clearing Dorcas packages, several hundreds of which have come in from the United States, Canada, and Great Britain, especially since the hurricane. We are deeply appreciative of the interest that the Dorcas Societies in these countries have shown toward our needs.

The tabulation below gives a comparative report of some of the missionary activities carried on in the British West Indies Union for the first three quarters of 1950 and 1951:

	1950	1951
Bible Readings	178,815	171,327
Missionary Visits	259,005	268,127
No. Persons Helped	381,915	443,744
Literature Distributed	164,623	165,812
Persons Won by Church Members	1,166	1,402

Through the Sabbath School many are being brought to a saving knowledge of God. We are pleased to report that at the end of the third quarter all the fields which reported, but one, are conducting Branch Sabbath schools. They are as follows:

British Honduras	2	Cayman Islands	3
Salt Cays	1	East Jamaica	40
West Jamaica	16		

The combined membership of these schools is 791.

Sister M. E. Campbell of West Jamaica gives the following experience: "I was called to go to Big Bridge with the Printed Page, and there I started a Sunday School. In spite of much persecution, I never gave up, and my Sunday School grew. As a direct result of this branch School seven are already baptized, and sixteen are enrolled in the baptismal class." We certainly thank God for such experiences.

The comparative figures below, with the exception of average attendance, show an improvement of the first three quarters of this year over the first three quarters of last year.

	1950	1951
No. Organized Schools	297	307
Membership	19,130	19,348
Average Attendance	14,978	14,955
S. S. Offerings	£3,787 7 2	£4,155 17 1

Though much is being accomplished for God in these two departments, there is still room for improvement. As we return to our different fields, let us determine to foster, in a more definite

way, the work of the Home Missionary and Sabbath School Departments.

—ALLAN C. STOCKHAUSEN, *Secretary,*
H.M. & S. S. Departments,
British West Indies Union.

CORRECTION!

Appearing in the November-December issue of the VISITOR, on page 8, is the obituary of Sister H. V. Dunbar. The sentence in the ninth line should read: "In 1902 she was united in marriage with the writer."

Literature for the Blind

For better than fifty years now the Christian Record Benevolent Association, under the direction of the General Conference, has served as a source of Christian reading matter for the English braille reading blind of the world field. Five monthly publications in braille grade 1½ are now issued: *The Christian Record*, a general interest religious journal; *the Bible Expositor*, doctrinal; *Life and Health*, a slightly condensed edition of the ink-print journal; *the Sabbath School Monthly*, a slightly condensed edition of the regular Quarterly; and *the Children's Friend*, a selection of lower junior level character-building articles and stories.

In addition to the five regular publications, the Association brailles and distributes the Voice of Prophecy Bible School lessons. A large circulating library of our denominational books is maintained and during recent months two of our books, "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing" and "Steps to Christ" have been recorded on 33 1/3 rpm records and placed in libraries for the blind. All of the regular services of the Association are free to the blind. The publications and Bible School lessons are available for English Braille readers overseas. So far, the recordings and library facilities have been confined to Canada and the United States.

The giving of the Gospel to those denied the blessings of sight is very definitely a part of the Advent Message. We solicit the interest and co-operation of our workers and people everywhere in placing our truth-filled braille literature in the hands of those able to read the braille and who are reaching out after God.

—C. W. DEGERING, *Editor-manager,*
The Christian Record
Lincoln 6, Nebraska, U. S. A.

One Touch of Nature Makes the World Akin

The seemingly undissoluble armies of the Medes and Persians, Napoleon, the American war of Independence, Caesar Augustus, Adolph Hitler, down to the very death-crack of the atomic bomb could not affect the eternal revelations of binding qualities, in proportion of time, the amenable link—an inherent common denomination in man. But the storm of August 17, 1951, did it. Just as war and hurricane are synonymous in the final analysis, so humane and human are alike in the end product when the prospect of annihilation needs a remedy. The event of August 17 revealed that one touch of nature makes the world akin.

One of the first object lessons of note is the militant movement of individuals in search of friends, relatives and families who were apart owing to circumstances fabricated prior to the storm. Half-baked friendships were properly cooked even for the moment. The forlorn and storm-wrecked were given that degree of sympathy proportionate to the inevitable losses. Indolent factions became urgent in that which seemed not what they had been before the storm, and much hope was engendered about the life that was spared. Where thanksgiving was a mute design, words, which bespeak gallantry, passed on from friend to friend, stirred the golden emotions of the soul. God's name was glorified in many a small group. It would seem to me that the one strong, common thread of humane relationship that there is, which binds heart to heart, had returned from the bobbin inside a shuttle, as nature's machine moved on its wheels of destruction.

The writer visited a certain area stricken by the holocaust, and, dear reader, share with me these episodes: Said an Indian young man when I saw him three days after the storm, "I felt when our house was about to collapse, and I with my three children, accompanied by my wife, ran out for rescue in a nearby home. God stopped us on the way, felling two trees just abreast of us, under which we sheltered until daylight. Our house and all our belongings went with the the river. Now we have nothing to eat and nothing to wear." Here is another. She is only a damsel who told me, "The monster, a muddy and murderous stream, roared into the house with an earthquake-cracking crash, and carried away the house and everything in it."

Storm, like war, cannot but steal our sympathy for such.

The term communism has a double application for good, but the catholicic moral behind it today is an index to the low stoop of unregenerate minds which foster such. Yet it worked, and is still working since the storm. If man is frightened into social adjustments which reflect a common picture that draw men nearer each other, then the act is justified by the results. One woman told me that her housing accommodation increased by five times its usual capacity, for wherein it could scarcely comfort two, it has become a sweet asylum for ten. Note that neither the house nor the owner got bigger, but the better mind forced by circumstances.

By this I believe that even the benumbed can feel the nation-wide affability that begets a school of thought which will long linger on memories walls. "Storm brings ships to harbour." If I must come down to earth with this mystical philosophy of truth I have to put it this way. The philanthropical line of inter-relationship as originally created in man to man by God is partially divulged by the manifest aid in money and material both at home and abroad: £3,500,000 as gift and £1,000,000 as loan from England alone to relieve storm sufferers; a single purchase of 1,500 tents to house the homeless.

What aid has the Christian sphere contributed, and are there spiritual dangers permeating the acts of the populace? First of all the Christian contribution with its eternal weight is not merely to show the deeds of kindness and to speak the words of love, but much the more to use every opportunity in pointing out the great deception of putting complete confidence in the transitory objects of this life. Again there is much danger in settling down on the less in heart-rending sympathy over the loss of temporal things, which, in the true sense of the act, are transitory, and fail to ignite the richer desire toward the eternal. And in a nutshell it is the Christian's profound duty to analyse clearly to the public, without compromise or dove-tailing, the separate meaning of these eventful acts; namely, the storm, the temporal and spiritual contributions.

—A. A. MORGAN,

*Assistant Publishing Department Secy.
East Jamaica Conference.*

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their wholehearted support, and to the Workers, Bible Representatives and Laymen who have laboured faithfully to bring about such achievements. God will reward them richly for their labours.

The Voice of Prophecy lessons are also doing a marvellous work. The school started in September, 1950, and for the past nine months, 140 desire to be baptized as Jesus was, 239 believe the Sabbath, 21 have joined the church, and 26,294 lessons were sent out.

The Voice of Prophecy Broadcast over "Radio Jamaica" every Sunday morning at nine o'clock is creating a great interest among all classes. According to reports reaching the office, many people look forward to the broadcast and even turn off other programmes in order to listen to the Voice of Prophecy. We look forward to many more accepting the message as time goes by.

We thank God for the splendid reports that have come in from the Bible Schools operating in the Bahamas, British Honduras, and the Cayman Islands. This has been made possible by the untiring efforts of Sister R. E. Gibson, Sister J. N. Williams, and Brother C. R. Wood respectively.

We are very sorry that, owing to financial reasons, we have had to cut down on our enrollments for the last quarter of 1951; however, we look forward to 1952 with greater confidence and assurance that much more will be accomplished than we have ever seen before.

*E. E. PARCHEMENT, Radio Secretary,
British West Indies Union.*

We wish
for all of you
A Prosperous
and
Happy New Year

*R. W. Numbers Editor
A. L. Edeburn Asst. Editor*