

A Bimonthly Publication of the Ellen G. White Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre,
Northern Caribbean University

Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

PRAYING FOR THE LATTER RAIN

Robert Wright

The Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter

The Spirit of Prophecy Newsletter is a publication dedicated to the promotion of the biblical truth concerning God's revelation through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of Prophecy. This newsletter is published by the Ellen G. White SDA Research Centre, NCU to equip readers to participate in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Editorial Staff:

Dr. Robert Wright, Acting Director; Manifa Riley, Secretary; Mrs. Sonia Lewis

Inside this issue:

Praying for the Latter Rain	2
For Christian Growth	2
Did you know?	2
Health Corner	3
Youth Issues	4
Revival and Reformation	5
Comments from our Visitors	6
Pioneer of the Month	7
Book of the Month	8

The keen observer of world events will agree that darkness covers the land and gross darkness the people. In this postmodern world, individualism and situation ethics bear sway. "I do as I please," "It is my body, I choose how I live my life," or "I have a right do what feels good to me, how dare anyone impose on my human rights." These are some of the stated and implied positions of many persons today. The idea that there is a Supreme Being to whom we are all responsible and to whom we must give account does not impact or inform the ethical worldview of this age. Sadly, even in Christendom we find this attitude to be quite pervasive. Not many are willing to submit to the principles of God's government. As such, the level of immorality, division, self-centeredness among God's people is alarming.

In addition, because we are not willing to have God ruling over us we have set up our own gods; gods

that require nothing of us; gods to whom we do not have to give account of how we live our lives; gods of sports, music, fashion, education, material stuff, etc. Genuine love for each other has all but died among the Israel of God. Evangelism is not foremost on the minds of the majority in the church. Family life is messed up because many are not willing, do things God's way. In this technological age the new altars in many homes are the television, the computer and internet, the ipad and other similar gadgets, the play stations, the cell phones, etc. In many homes every child has his/her own little idol and one or both parents have theirs too.

While we are so distracted, the enemies of religious liberty are on the move. While we "sleep" the devil is busy at work; busy plotting our destruction. "If



they but sleep a while longer, I will surely succeed in ensnaring and destroying them," the Adversary must be surmising. However, though the majority in Zion is distracted, there is a remnant that is interceding. And, yes, the prayer of the remnant will be heard. In mercy for His flock, God will arise to reform and revive His church. Yes, "enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts. (*Acts of the Apostles* p. 12 {continued on page 2})

PRAYING FOR THE LATTER RAIN **cont'd from p. 1**

God has a grand plan for his Remnant flock. He has promised to pour out His power in great measure upon this feeble, weak and struggling people called the Remnant. It is by this weak, erring and broken body that Christ will accomplish His greatest feat in taking the Three Angels Message into all the world. By unprecedented Holy Spirit power the work will be accomplished. And so He has promised us power; but He has also implored us to pray – earnestly. “Ask ye the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain: so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.” Zechariah 10:1.

“The church needs to reform before she can receive the latter rain power.”

The concept of the latter rain is one which suggests great and awesome spiritual empowerment of the church to evangelise the world and prepare a people for the coming of the Lord.

“But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest in the time of the latter rain.” In response, the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain. He will cause to come down . . . the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain, Zechariah 10:1; Joel 2:23. (AA 55).

The prophet Hosea is clear as to the condition to be met in order to receive this spiritual empowerment.

“Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us

as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.” Hosea 6:1-3.

The church needs to reformation before she can receive the latter rain power. Repentance (returning to the Lord), and an earnest seeking after the Lord (‘if we follow on to know the LORD’), are prerequisites to empowerment according to Hosea. Revival follows closely on the heels of repentance. Many church members believe that because they are members of the Remnant church they are automatically qualified to receive the latter rain when it begins to fall. That is not so, and many will be sadly disappointed. They expect that power will be suddenly given them to do a work in which they are not now engaged. Others are idly waiting for the time when, they believe, the Spirit will come upon them and enable them to have a relationship with Jesus.

{Continued on page 6}

Christian Growth

Everyday some progress should be made.

“All should consider that God's claims upon them are paramount to all others. God has given to every person capabilities to improve, that he may reflect glory to the Giver. Everyday some progress should be made.... God designs that Christians shall grow continually, grow up unto the full stature of men and women in Christ. All who do not grow stronger, and become more firmly rooted and grounded in the truth, are continually retrograding.” *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 556.2*



Did you know that...

The Bible verse most often referred to in the writings of Ellen G. White is:

“Ye are the light of the world” Matthew 5:14



Horse meat and Pig DNA found in UK Supermarket Burgers

**H
E
A
L
T
H**



LONDON, England (AP) — The Irish food safety watchdog said Tuesday that it had discovered traces of horse and pig DNA

in burger products sold by some of the country's biggest supermarkets, including a burger sold by global retailer Tesco that authorities said was made of roughly 30 per cent horse....

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland also said Tuesday that it had found traces of pig DNA in 85 per cent of the burger products it tested in Irish supermarkets, including those operated by British frozen food specialist Iceland, German discounters Lidl and Aldi, and supermarket giant Spar. Irish stores, including Dunnes — the country's largest domestically owned supermarket chain — also carried beef with horse or pig DNA.

Many of the brands affected, like the Oakhurst Beef Burgers carried by Aldi, carried DNA from both creatures, but most of the traces were miniscule.

For example, the authority said it found 0.1 per cent horse DNA content in Iceland's own-brand quarter-pounder patties....

"In Ireland, it is not in our culture to eat horsemeat, and therefore, we do not expect to find it in a burger," said Alan Reilly, the authority's chief executive. "Likewise, for some religious groups or people, who abstain from eating pig meat, the presence of traces of pig DNA is unacceptable."

*“God is trying to lead us back , step by step to His original design.”—
White*

Meat exports are big business in Ireland, and opposition politician Eamon O Cuiv warned that the news "could have a damaging effect on the Irish agriculture sector if not dealt with quickly and comprehensively". Excerpt taken from *Daily Observer* January 17, 2013

“Again and again I have been shown that God is trying to lead us back, step by step, to His original design—that man should subsist upon the natural products of the earth. Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it. . . .” *Counsels on Health* p. 450

Youth Issues



Youths can do a work that preachers cannot do.

“Pray more than you sing. Do you not stand in greater need of prayer than of singing? Young men and women, God calls upon you to work, work for Him. Make an entire change in your course of action. You can do a work that those who minister in word and doctrine cannot do. You can reach a class whom the minister cannot affect.”--*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, pp. 511-513.*

“Preachers, or laymen advanced in years, cannot have one-half the influence upon the young that the youth, devoted to God, can have upon their associates. They ought to feel that a responsibility rests upon them to do all they can to save their fellow mortals, even at a sacrifice of their pleasure and natural desires. Time, and even means, if required, should be consecrated to God.” *Messages to Young People, p. 204*

God calls upon young men and women to work for Him.



Youths are God's Helping hand

“The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand. If in every church they would consecrate themselves to Him, if they would practice self-denial in the home, relieving their careworn mother, the mother could find time to make neighborly visits, and, when opportunity offered, they could themselves give assistance by doing little errands of mercy and love.” *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7 p. 64-65*

Youths called to learn other languages to go on the mission field

“Young men should be qualifying themselves by becoming familiar with other languages, that God may use them as mediums to communicate His saving truth to those of other nations. These young men may obtain a knowledge of other languages even while engaged in laboring for sinners.” *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 3, p. 204*

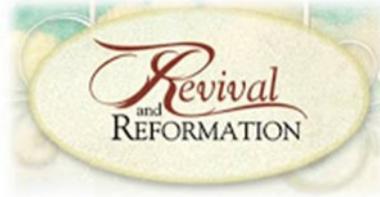


Revival and Reformation

Be Careful not to Call God's Revival— Fanaticism

“When the Lord works through human instrumentalities, when men are moved with power from on high, Satan leads his agents to cry, "Fanaticism!" and to warn people not to go to extremes. Let all be careful how they raise this cry; for though there is counterfeit coin, this does not lower the value of that which is genuine. Because there are spurious revivals and spurious conversions, it does not follow that all revivals are to be held in suspicion. Let us not show the contempt manifested by the Pharisees when they said, "This man receiveth sinners." [Luke 15:2.]

There is enough in the life of Christ to teach us not to sneer at His work in the conversion of souls. The manifestation of God's renewing grace on sinful men causes angels to rejoice, but often this work has, through unbelief, been termed fanaticism, and the messenger through whom God has worked has been spoken of as having zeal that is not according to knowledge.” *Gospel Workers*, p. 170



God enables men to Distinguish between False and Genuine Revivals

“Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches. Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavour to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that

God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvellously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.

In many of the revivals which have occurred during the last half century, the same influences have been at work, to a greater or less degree, that

will be manifest in the more extensive movements of the future.

“None need be deceived. In the light of God's word it is not difficult to determine {false revivals}.”

There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead. Yet none need be deceived. In the light of God's word it is not difficult to determine the nature of these movements. Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world, there we may be sure that God's blessing is not bestowed. *Great Controversy*, p. 464

PRAYING FOR LATTER RAIN cont'd

The parable of the five foolish virgins will have its fulfillment on many in the Remnant church. The opportunities for building a relationship with Christ in preparation for the latter rain are being squandered. *“But unless the members of God's church today have a living connection with the Source of all spiritual growth, they will not be ready for the time of reaping. Unless they keep their lamps trimmed and burning, they will fail of receiving added grace in times of special need. Those only who are constantly receiving fresh supplies*

of grace, will have power proportionate to their daily need and their ability to use that power. Instead of looking forward to some future time when, through a special endowment of spiritual power, they will receive a miraculous fitting up for soul winning, they are yielding themselves daily to God, that He may make them vessels meet for His use. Daily they are improving the opportunities for service that lie within their reach. Daily they are witnessing for the Master wherever they may be, whether in some humble sphere of labor in the home, or in a public field of usefulness.” (Acts of the

Apostles p. 55).

The Latter Rain is not for conversion of the church; it is for empowerment of the already converted to evangelize with power and to gather in the harvest of souls for the kingdom of God. The Promise is sure, it is guaranteed, but we need to pray earnestly, remain connected while being active in evangelism. *“Ask ye the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain.”*

COMMENTS FROM OUR VISITORS

“Very informative. Good to know this information is easily accessible.” Imran Allie, Siloah SDA, St. Elizabeth

“I learnt new stuff about her [EGW] life and her extended family.” Veneta Beckford, student, NCU

“ She [Ellen G. White] had a very wonderful and interesting life. — Tameka Barton, student, NCU

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.” James 5:7.

PIONEER OF THE MONTH

William Ambrose Spicer (1865– 1952)



Elder Spicer was a Seventh-day Adventist minister and president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He was born December 19, 1865 in Freeborn, Minnesota in the United States in a Seventh-day Baptist home. Spicer worked for the church in the United States, England and India, where Spicer College is named after him.

In the early years, when Elder Spicer was secretary of the Mission Board, he wrote letter to all our foreign missionaries, knowing most of them personally. He travelled much, and when visiting mission stations he took along little gifts for the children of the missionaries. He kept in touch with these families , and his

letters brought cheer and courage to their hearts. He never forgot them.

Spicer was also a careful eater, following the simple rules of healthful living and adhering to the principles of health reform.

No fancy hotels

He also avoided fancy hotels, going to a simple one. He was really happy saving money for the cause. Ernest Lloyd stated, “The last time I met him was in Mountain View, California, the home of Pacific Press. At the close of the evening service, where he spoke to the Press workers and church members, the brethren concerned with the hospitality matters spoke to him about a place that they had been selected in which he would spend the night. He thanked them heartily and remarked that he had left his travelling bag at a hotel downtown as he walked up to the church, and since he was leaving on a train very early in the morning for San Francisco, he would carry out his plan. And he did. I knew where he stayed

downtown. His room cost was one dollar.

Elder Spicer backed his faith with liberal giving. He saved in every way he could so has to give more. Sister Menkel says her father “would sit on a platform and pledge money which he did not have.” when the family would ask where he expected to get the money, his answer was, “the Lord will provide.” And the Lord did. The elder’s economical habits helped him to save money , and this helped him to be liberal.

“He would pledge money that he did not have.” Menkel Spicer

He was 87 years of age when he died in 1952. Beginning at about 17 as an office secretary in Battle Creek, he worked for 70 years, almost 40 of which he were spent in the foreign mission service, including his years of travel. He retired at 75 years of age , and after that did considerable writing for the *Review*.

Sources: Lloyd, E.. (1963, March 7)). Memories of W. A. Spicer. *Review and Herald*, DF434
W.A. Spicer. Retrieved on January 23, 2013 from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_A._Spicer

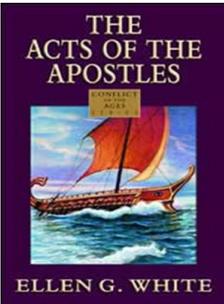


Ellen G. White Seventh-day
Adventist
Research Centre
Northern Caribbean University
Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica,
W.I.

We are on the web:

<http://egw-sdaresearch.ncu.edu.jm/>

Book of the Month



The amazing story of the early Christian believers is told in volume 4, *The Acts of the Apostles*. After Jesus was victorious over Satan and returned to heaven, the enemy turned his attention to Jesus' church on earth. Here are thrilling stories of fierce persecutions and unswerving loyalty to God. Peter, Paul, James, John, Luke, Barnabas, Stephen, Mark and other early apostles carried the wonderful news of the gospel to all of the then known world. Unwilling to surrender their faith, many gave their lives. That story is still continuing. Christ's church today is carrying forward the same work and has the same promise of divine guidance and power.



Sabbath Programmes at the Research Centre

The Centre opens its doors to one church per month to worship on a Sabbath at our facilities. We also conduct seminars and AY programmes at local churches. For appointments call or e-mail us at the addresses on this page.

Do you have any questions or comments on Spirit of Prophecy matters?

If you do, please call us or send your questions to:

*Ellen G. White SDA Research Centre
Northern Caribbean University,
Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica, W.I.*

Tel: (876) 963-7768-9

E-mail:

rwright@ncu.edu.jm

manifa.riley@ncu.edu.jm

egwresource@ncu.edu.jm