

2017 November - December #60

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Letter from GC President

December 19, 2017

Dear brethren of the Reform Movement around the World

May the Lord Jesus Christ be with you as we approach the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018!

Inspiration brings to us these timely warnings: “The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and

of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.” Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 11.

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The days in which we live are solemn and important.

“The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently, these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God’s purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.” Prophets and Kings, p. 277.



sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events



Reading the above texts may seem like we are reading current news even though these warnings were written more than 100 years ago.

Considering the realities that we are witnessing, how is our preparation going in anticipation of the last-day events?

The apostle Peter, who lived at the beginning of the Christian era, wrote: “The day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that day, the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, it is clear what sort of people you should be in holy conduct and godliness as you wait for and earnestly desire the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be on fire and be dissolved, and the elements will melt with the heat. But based on His promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell” 2 Peter 3: 10-13 (Holman CSB).

As we approach this new year, we need to evaluate our spiritual condition as individuals, families, and as a church.

We must ask ourselves “How much

time am I spending on a daily basis prayerfully studying Scripture?” How about our family altars? Are we holding morning and evening worship together? Are we making the necessary preparations for the Sabbath? Are we attending our prayer meetings?”

In the book *The Desire of Ages*, Ellen G. White advises us to spend one hour a day studying especially the last scenes of the life of Christ. This practice would strengthen our spirituality more than any other religious duties. We need to go with Jesus to Gethsemane and to Calvary to understand the great cost of salvation and how terrible sin is in the sight of God.

Our eternal salvation and that of our family must be our great priority. Jesus declared: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things [food, clothes, shelter] shall be added unto you,” Matthew 6:33.

As we consider the great crisis which is before us, we recognize our weakness and human limitation to face the coming trials, but we have a wonderful promise in Hebrews 4:16, “Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Concluding this message, I would strongly recommend that we:

- Take time to prayerfully study the Word of God every day;
- Restore the family altar (morning and evening worship), to make our home a Bethel (the gate of heaven);
- Study the life, the mission, the death, the resurrection of Christ, His intercession in the most holy place, and His second coming in glory;
- Study deeply the book *The Desire of Ages*. After the Bible, this book is the best tool to know Christ.
- Pray and work for the unity of God’s people around the world, in response to the prayer of Christ before His crucifixion.
- Observe the seventh day Sabbath, respecting its limits, and making this wonderful day a special time of communion with God and family in nature as much as possible.
- Take serious heed to the “eleventh commandment,” loving one another as Christ loved us.
- Dedicate time to missionary work as individuals and as a church.

To be eternally with Christ, it is worth to renounce all things that are a hindrance to our salvation. What Satan offers to us is too cheap in comparison with those things that “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”

Christ said: “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24).

Are we willing to do that? May the Lord give us grace to fulfill these simple conditions!

Your brother in the blessed hope,

~ *Davi Paes Silva*

AUC Youth Music Camp Report

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

Here is an interesting verse where Paul associates “teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” through “singing in [their] hearts to the Lord.” I truly love this verse because it briefly explains what the AUC Music Camp was about, a week where we had the opportunity to look at different hymns and worship songs that teach us many things about the Lord and the things of God.

The 2017 AUC Music Camp was a wonderful and joyous experience for me and my sister as we were able to share our God-gifted talents in the String and Choir Orchestra, and also be filled by the word of God through a range of different lectures all mainly discussing on how to light the way in music reformation.

Without the help of the Balarezo, Reyes and Amayas family we wouldn't have been able to witness and attend the 2017 AUC Music Camp. Overall, the AUC Music Camp was a blessing and we like to Thank God that it had been an exceptional experience.

~ Everett & Yvette Faumuina

Sabbath 23rd December

We awoke this morning to a beautiful, warm day. Br Luke Kneebone led worship with a very encouraging message entitled, “Trust in the Lord.”



He reminded us how easy it is for us as humans to place our trust in ourselves or others around us and how important it is to shift our trust completely to God. Anxiety comes when we take responsibility upon ourselves for things we have no answers or solutions for. Worrying cannot change one thing but clouds our thought and judgement. We need to have the same complete trust in our heavenly Father that little children have in their earthly parents and remember that He knows what things we have need of. We need take no thought for tomorrow.

We were privileged to have the Orchestra play for Sabbath School which was led by Br Paul Chapman. Br Nathan Tyler took the Review of last week's lesson, “Righteousness for Today,” before we were divided into different groups led by Danie-



la, Csongor, and some of our Youth Mentors to study the lesson for this week, “Complete in Christ.”

There were a few children's programs running, with the little ones being led by Sisters Vesna Kraus, Kaylene Matyas, and Bianca Ilic where they learnt about Paul's stand before Nero and how he let his light shine. The next age group was tak-



After a special item by the Children's Sabbath School class singing "This Little Light of Mine," Br Liviu Tudoroiu took the Divine Service entitled, "Music is Power." He shared with us a story that demonstrated this. In 1994 on the same night that Nelson Mandela obtained freedom for the people of South Africa, a rock concert was held in America. After two hours of this heavy rock music, a young South African girl came to the stage and began to sing "Amazing Grace", a cappella. Initially the crowd resisted the change to such simple music, but as she continued singing they quieted down and sang along as they consciously or unconsciously realised their heart's longing for this grace. Br Tudoroiu reminded us that we need to meet people where they are, in the mud and misery, and address their thirst

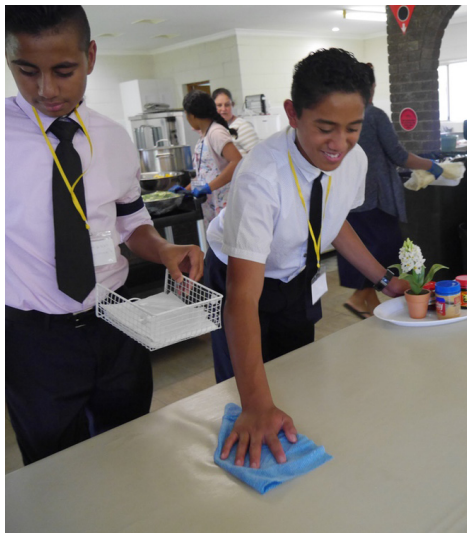
as this young woman did. He went on to discuss the story of Paul and Silas in jail and how their midnight concert brought an earthquake and touched the hearts of all the prisoners so that they did not flee. All this resulted in the baptism of the jailer and his family. Through these and other stories we were reminded that we must have Christ in our heart so that His power and love can shine out of us to reach others and touch their souls. Then they will see the difference in us and say, "We want what you have; give us what you have." We need the self-sacrificing love of Moses—such a great love that it can say, "If you must, remove my name from the books of heaven, but save these people."

We were served a delicious lunch after which we had free time with the option of a walk led by Br Madelin Duna or a Song Service led by Sr Dorothy Ilic followed by tea, which was enjoyed by all.

“After two hours of this heavy rock music, a young South African girl came to the stage and began to sing “Amazing Grace”, a cappella.

The special evening program was held in the amphitheatre which had been decorated beautifully. The backdrop was draped with vines and sprinkled with twinkling lights. The cicadas had prepared their own private concert, so those participating in the human concert had to exert themselves to compete with

en by Sr Lidia Voncina and Br Martin Staudinger, and they studied William Miller and how he studied the prophecy of the 2300 days and 70 years and was instrumental in spreading this message to the world. The teenagers aged 13-16 were led by Sr Tanya where they were impressed with the importance of coming to Jesus just as they are.



the sound volume. There were quite a few special items as well as the pieces the orchestra had prepared, and these were greatly appreciated by all. Sabbath was closed midway through the evening with a short talk by Br Ben Thiel, and as darkness fell the cicadas eventually quieted. The time spent in nature enjoying beautiful music together was a very special

experience that I am sure will be remembered for a long time.

Sunday 24th December

We awoke early to a beautiful, sunny morning. At 7:00am we split into groups for the meetings with our youth mentors, who had prepared great activities for us. Br. Nathan Tyler had prepared a beneficial worship for

us, which was at 7:30am, after which we had a hearty breakfast.

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Br. Liviu Tudoroiu had prepared an educative lecture on the story of Jonah, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the congregation. Then the choir, led by Sr. Elisabeth Balarezo, and the orchestra, led by Sr. Barbara Montrose, split for rehearsals. Meanwhile the children had great activities. They sang songs, engaged in craft making and thoroughly enjoyed the jumping castle.

Our wonderful cook, Sr. Esther Boje, prepared a delicious lunch for us. Someone said it was the best meal yet. After lunch, Sr. Barbara Montrose had a thought-provoking lecture prepared on the topic of music history. What made it more interesting was that she presented the topic from a biblical perspective.

Activity directors Br. Benny Gules



and Br. Chris Cosson prepared for us the best activities for a hot day. We had a great water slide and water fight with buckets and water bombs. Once we were thoroughly cooled down, we got ready for the next meal of the day. Cool, refreshing watermelon and mini pizzas were a perfect addition to a delicious tea. This wonderful day finished with an inspiring worship taken by Br. Miguel Mendoza. He gave us three main points to contemplate, 1. Rejoice evermore; 2. Pray without ceasing; and 3. In everything give thanks. We look forward to another dynamic day filled with great mind-building activities.

Monday 25th, December

Monday morning dawned cool and wet, a contrast from the heat of the last couple of days. Despite the



weather, a few brave people met at 6am for exercise. At 7:00am the young people met with their respective mentor groups, followed by worship, which was taken by Br Larry Ah-ching. Worship was entitled "Shine the Light," and we were reminded that ALL who receive the light of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men.

We need to be a mirror that reflects Christ's light to others. This must start in the home. Unity in the home will flow into unity in the church, and unity in the church will spread its light to the world. No one will enter heaven who does not labour together with God. The work cannot be finished unless we each do our part.



We were shown results from a study where rats had to work their way through a maze to find the cheese.

Our first lecture for the day was taken by Sr Barbara Montrose and entitled "Understanding Sacred Music", the Sacred vs the Profane; Building up, not Tearing down. This was a deeply interesting and enlightening lecture, as she showed us from science the effects that music, good or bad, has on the brain and the emotions. Classical music, such as that from the Baroque era, relaxes the pulse and heartbeat and increases learning ability. We were shown results from a study where rats had to work their way through a



After a delicious lunch we had choir rehearsal. All those from the orchestra who would be joining us in singing certain pieces, took part in this rehearsal. After a short break the choir continued practicing alone while the orchestra returned to practicing their pieces.

Tea followed, after which we had the second lecture of the day, "The Gospel of Jonah" taken by Br Liviu Tudoroiu. Br Tudoroiu titled the four chapters of Jonah this way:

- An Angry Prophet in the Hands of a Merciful God
- Jonah's Night of Trouble
- Jonah's Loud Cry
- A Merciful Father in the Eyes of an Angry Prophet



maze to find the cheese. Classical music helped them solve the maze much faster, but after listening to rock music, they took at least twice as long as they had in the beginning. Certain rhythms cause memory and learning problems, and it has been shown that rock music causes frontal lobe shrinkage. Sr Barbara went on to share with us the Seven Principles

of Sacred Music, and these are:

- Cheerful, yet Solemn Melodies
- Beauty, Pathos, Power
- Clear, Distinct, with Solemnity and Awe
- Not to be Ill-Prepared
- Simple, Natural Sounding
- Free from Fleshly Sensuality
- Not to resemble Worldly Music

Yesterday we covered the first two chapters of Jonah; today we covered the last two. We are shown in Jonah that those we consider hopeless, the worst sinners imaginable, God still draws to Himself. In fact, Sr White tells us that they are the very ones He is drawing to Himself by His mercy and love; and if they turn to God with repentance and give their heart to Him, they will be nearest the throne in heaven. "The Lord Jesus imparts all the powers, all the grace, all the penitence, all the inclination, all the pardon of sins, in presenting His righteousness for man to grasp



by living faith—which is also the gift of God. If you would gather together everything that is good and holy and noble and lovely in man and then present the subject to the angels of God as acting a part in the salvation of the human soul or in merit, the proposition would be rejected as treason.” Faith and Works, p. 24.

Tuesday 26th December

Tuesday was another big day of the 2017 Music Camp entitled, “Light the Way”, which started with the usual exercise routine at 6am sharp, and some early risers made it there. This was followed by the youth mentor groups meeting at 7am. In my group, led by Br. Nathan Tyler, we were discussing the Lord’s Prayer and how each phrase has a deeper meaning than what we read on the surface. “Thy Kingdom Come” was discussed



Tuesday morning and how when we pray this, we are saying that we want Jesus to come and we also want to save all those around us. This was followed by worship and then break-



fast. Br Liviu Tudorio from the U.S. took the lecture at 9:30am on the book of Jonah, bringing out really insightful thoughts and showing how our experiences as Christians are often similar to Jonah’s. Choir and orchestra rehearsals began at 11am, and it was really starting to come together. Sr Barbara Montrose was conducting the orchestra and she gave a lot of tips on how to make the music come alive and sound great!

Sr Barbara shared a message on music in the afternoon and then her testimony of how she came to be a Christian and how God led her away from her all-absorbing life of just wanting to play the violin to wanting to serve God as her main priority.

For the afternoon rehearsal we had the privilege of welcoming Br Aaron Quispe, an oboe player from Peru who had come to help the wood-wind section. He was a great asset who really helped the flute and clarinet players achieve a better sound. At 6:00pm we stopped rehearsals for the evening meal, which Sr Esther Boje had prepared yet again, as she was the main cook in the kitchen. It was very delicious, as usual.

After evening worship the choir went in to record the audio for their first song, “How Great Thou Art”. In



Wednesday 27th December

We woke up to a promising day of sunshine and warmth, which we had been praying for. With the rain clearing out and the sun smiling down on us, we began our day with worship, then breakfast and then prepared ourselves to leave for white water rafting at Penrith. I was really excited because this was the first time I had ever done anything like this. We had been told that we would leave camp at 10am, but of course, as we proved, young people can have timing issues. There were people missing, cars missing and cars that couldn't start, but in the end we finally got everything in order and left camp officially at 10:40am.

The car ride down to Penrith was short because I was asleep for most of the 1 hour and 30 minutes, but for the rare moments that I was awake I heard lots of laughing and happy, excited conversations about music which were mostly in Spanish—which I couldn't understand, by the way, but it was fine because I was asleep!

We arrived at our destination just in time to get changed and start our 12 o'clock booking. Everyone had full smiles, and we were super excited as we sorted and signed forms. Then the real fun began. What I had

imagined in my head was not what I experienced; it was ten times better.

The water was not cold, the boat was fast, rough and so fun! I was in a boat of nine people where 2 people sat side by side and one other person sat at the back of the boat and shouted directions to us. At first we were out of sync which was funny because our choir conductor was leading us in the rowing rhythm, but after our first go round the course we were much better. It was so hilarious! Some people couldn't get back up, feet were stuck between seats and our boat kept rotating backwards as we went down.

My favorite part of the whole experience was when we were trying to ride the boat like we were surfing. The idea was for all nine members to balance the boat on one wave. People were falling out of the boat and had to be rescued and falling back in straight after. No one could stop laughing, but best of all we managed to not somehow flip the boat upside down! I had never held on to something so tight.

After our one hour, we had a beautiful lunch and headed back to camp. For me the biggest lesson I learned was that rough waters are always easier to overcome with others.

~ Bec Amani

Thursday 28th, December

With the final concert only two days away, there was much preparation and last touches to add to the music that the choirs and ensembles were rehearsing. After the previous day of fun and games, all settled once again to practicing diligently.

In the morning, Br. Liviu gave another lecture in his series and Sr.



the meantime the orchestra went to rehearse again. The choir took until almost midnight to complete their first recording. I thank God for giving each camp participant strength and ability to get through another day at "Light the Way". All music videos and meetings, as well as the concert, will be on video, so keep your eyes open for these to come out!



began taking the necessary shots for the music videos.

In the meantime, the orchestra fine-tuned, and the children's choir also enjoyed their time rehearsing until lunch time.

After lunch and Sr. Barbara's lecture, we held further rehearsals and the orchestra prepared to record the audio for the music video at 8:30pm in the evening. It seemed that we would not finish everything in time, but the Lord blessed, and we managed to squeeze about twenty-six instrumentalists into the children's Sabbath school room and record two of the songs we had prepared. Our theme song for the camp, the Reformation Symphony written by Felix Mendelssohn was a very significant piece for the orchestra to play and record. It would most easily

be recognized by the hymn called "A mighty fortress is our God" and in a 'musical' way, demonstrates the amazing headway made by those who stood up for their faith and brought the immense change that became known as "The Reformation."

Friday 29th, December

The morning dawned with anticipation and for the orchestra, the day began with a 5am appointment. With a successful recording session, the previous night, the orchestra was ready to shoot the music video footage at the amphitheatre, amidst a chorus of rowdy cicadas. Nevertheless, they did their best to block out the noise and concentrate on each take. The Lord blessed with a beautiful day and the media team skilfully managed to finish filming in time for breakfast.

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Very soon, streams of choir members dressed in white tops and black bottoms began to mill about the camp.

This was to be the final day of rehearsals and everyone was eager to wrap up well in time for lunch, so we set to work from 10am. By the time lunch rolled around, we had polished up the choir and orchestra separately before combining for a final concert program run through. It was very gratifying to see everyone's hard work pay off during the rehearsals and we all looked forward to presenting at the concert the following day. The beautiful weather

Barbara also gave her final presentation on music in the afternoon. The choir had already made the sound recording in a stoic effort and now they were ready to film. Very soon, streams of choir members dressed in white tops and black bottoms began to mill about the camp. They all headed out to a beautiful spot marked out by the media team and



also merited in many people going down to the Colo River and enjoying the cool of the water before heading back to camp and finishing preparations. Once the busyness of the day had subsided, dinner had been served and the Sabbath hours drew closer, all gathered in the main hall for evening worship which was held by Br. Peter Lausevic.

Sabbath 30th, December

The camp was quickly drawing to a close and all had worked very hard to make the presentation for the public concert in Wentworthville a success and great blessing. Everyone awoke early and enthusiastically made their way to the Redgum Centre in Wentworthville to begin the services for the day and the large auditorium began to fill quickly. It was fantastic to see so many

visitors from near and far come to support and witness the culmination of an excellent camp only made so by everyone's unflagging zeal and support. As the orchestra gathered on the stage for divine service and played along with the hymns, filling the cavernous space with songs of praise, one could not help but think of the way we would all praise God together in the halls above.

The guitar ensemble, which featured over twelve musicians gave a beautiful performance just as divine service ended and we proceeded to have lunch before the concert began. By the time 3pm rolled around, we were ready to begin, and the curtains opened to reveal the fresh, young faces of the children who had energetically learned all their songs. Much credit and many thanks are due to all the teachers and their

devoted leaders, mainly Diana Szabo and Vesna Kraus who not only taught throughout the week but also spent much time engaging the children in crafts on a day to day basis. The children were followed by the rest of the presentations which were by the orchestra, choir and special guest One Glory. It was a special gift to have so many talented musicians and artists who were able to commit to this project.

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the large auditorium began to fill quickly.

Harold Kraus narrated the concert and brought out the main characteristics of each song showing that indeed we are to show forth the praises of our God in a way that will praise him, honour and uplift the one who has given us the best gifts in life including, music. The day culminated in the close of Sabbath and giving out certificates, gifts of appreciation and tokens of gratitude to the organisers, volunteers and supporters of this venture. Being the first of its kind in Australia for the Union Youth Department, we were encouraged to see the participation, engagement

and unity that was displayed not only on concert day but throughout the camp as well. All had combined for nine days to “Light the Way” to Reformation in Music and this means that we must walk in the light that we have been shown. How will God help us complete this goal? “To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:79)

We cannot thank God enough for the gift of music in bringing so many together in unity to praise, inspire and engage one another in the service of our awesome God that we have the privilege to love and serve.

~ Daniela Balarezo

Ordination of Br. Miguel Mendoza

On the 9th of December 2017, Br. Miguel Mendoza’s ordination took place at 20 Dornoch Dr, Sunbury at 2 pm. Br. Paul Chapman and Br. Nathan Tyler were in charge of the

ness for the privilege to work for the Lord in this new responsibility. “The greater the responsibility, the greater God’s grace”. Amen!

Cooking Demonstrations Victoria

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” 3 John 2

By God’s grace, this year 2017 was a blessing to the Victorian/Tasmanian Field. We had seven cooking demos at 20 Dornoch Dr, Sunbury, running from May to December. They took place every second Thursday of the month, and about 18 people generally attended the presentations. It was nice to see these people coming along every single month, being active and asking questions on how to improve or have better, healthier food.

We had the help of different brothers and sisters in the setting up and general preparations before the

started showing them how to make and prepare every recipe listed. In between the demonstrations, important information about the nutrients of



ordination ceremony. Scripture passages were read from the 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 11. Br. Miguel Mendoza, after being ordained as an elder, read 1 Timothy 1:15, 12 as words of thankful-



presentations began. We started at 6pm and welcomed the participants, supplying them with the recipes and material needed for the demonstrations. At the presentations, we

every ingredient was shared.

At the end of every demonstration, everyone had the opportunity to partake of the recipes already prepared, always after we said grace;

actually, before doing that, we had to explain to people that we believed in God and thanks to Him we were able to be there sharing all that knowledge with them. Also, some of them asked if we belonged to any religious organisation, and, of course, we told them we belonged to the SDARM Church. This gave us the opportunity to witness about the gospel of salvation, and in one of the presentations we were even able to talk about the Sabbath day and what the biblical reasons are for keeping it. We are sure that those seeds of truth were not thrown into dry hearts but into good soil.

Last but not least, in December we had the last cooking demo of the year, and it was such a blessing to all participants and church members who were actively involved in helping out. We had the normal demonstrations, and at the end, our participants really enjoyed the choir songs and the melodious orchestral presentation. Finally, we handed out certificates to all the ones that participated that day and had a short survey to see how we could improve in future presentations. The best of all was that a family who attended these cooking demos requested a Bible study, so praise the Lord for that!

Please keep us in your prayers, and may the Lord bless us all.

Declared Righteous & Made Holy - Part 3

The plan of redemption is amazing – it is not only reactive, but proactive. God not only removes my guilt for sins that I've already committed, but he also removes the corrupt dispositions and defective ideologies that have the potential to lead me to

further guilt! Where is this process of cleansing described in the Bible? Look at these verses.

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:8 ESV)

“Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.” (2 Timothy 2:21 ESV)

Christians are generally familiar with the fact that the blood of Jesus removes our guilt (forgiveness), but we are less familiar with the purpose of God to remove the precursors to our guilt. The Bible shows us this work of cleansing is needful.

When David was confronted with the horror of his guilt with Bathsheba and of murdering her husband – he longed not only for cleansing from guilt, but from what led to his guilt. Look at his prayer in Psalm 51.

“Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalms 51:2, 7, 10 ESV

To recap, the defiling elements of our nature are: 1. our guilt 2. our corrupt dispositions 3. our defective ideologies. Point 1 is dealt with via justification by faith (forgiveness), points 2 and 3 are remedied via sanctification by faith. God's cleansing agents are: 1. the blood of Jesus 2. the Word of God 3. the Spirit of God. All these three cleansing agents are brought to bear in the experience of justifica-

tion and sanctification by faith. Now, let's look at how this happens.

The cleansing agents

The blood of Jesus is the fountain provided by God to cleanse us from guilt. Why? Because his blood was spilt instead of ours. It was spilt because of our iniquities and sins.

“On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.” Zechariah 13:1 ESV

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:14

“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever...” Revelation 1:5, 6

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (behavior) received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:18, 19

The blood of Jesus does not only remove our guilt for bad behavior already done, but it cleanses us from the sinful moral reasoning or disposition that led to it – thus preparing us to serve God by faith.

“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living

God?” Hebrews 9:13, 14

It is this cleansing the sinner needs for victorious living. But faith in the blood of Jesus for cleansing is nothing without the living Word of God – that declares it so – and the Spirit of God which makes it so. People need to expose themselves entirely to all three cleansing agents to experience complete recovery from sin.

The Word of God has in it the power to affect change. Its principles expose error by truth, and as we come face to face with its teachings our ideologies are confronted, they are challenged and our sinful dispositions begin to lose their strength. As we submit to this process of change, the Spirit of God renews our minds and hearts by faith.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:25-27

Notice the sequence of the Apostle Paul’s words and how justification by faith without works relates to sanctification by faith that works. Notice the transformation achieved by the Holy Spirit in the heart that trusts in divine grace and mercy.

“Not by works of righteousness

which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.” Titus 3:5-8

Do you see how God saves you? He first saves you without works of your own righteousness, as long as you have faith in Christ and belief in God – you are justified by faith. Paul then mentions that God also washes you, who is saved, and regenerates you by his Spirit. Then he says that if you have believed in God (justification by faith), you should be careful to practice good works. Notice that these works are not to save you, but because you are already saved by grace since you have believed in God.

This is very much like what he wrote in Ephesians.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-9

- First, you are saved by grace through faith without works (declared righteous)
- Then comes a divine workmanship – you are recreated in Christ Jesus (made holy)
- Then comes good works – not

to save you, but because you are saved.

Where is the glory? It belongs to God. Your glory is in the dust where it belongs. There is no boasting. There is not merit but Christ’s. You are declared righteous by faith, you are made holy by faith and it is all because Jesus lived, from the manger to the cross, a perfect life of righteousness and sanctification that God accepted instead of yours.

“That no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:29-31 ESV

~ Gerson Robles

Righteousness by Faith Symposium

Ministers and Bible Workers from across the AUC will be gathered from Monday 5th to Sunday 11th of March at Elim Heights to study and consider the vital topics of the atonement and righteousness by faith.

Those attending have looked forward to this event for along time since the date was rescheduled from last year to this year.

Friday night 9th of March and Sabbath 10th of March will be Combined Meetings held in Schofields.

May the Lord bless the ministry in the AUC as they dwell upon this vital subject.

~ Gerson Robles

GENERAL CONFERENCE Education Center

Currently, the Reform Movement has grown to over 40,000 members, 70,000 Sabbath School students, 2,800 worship places, and 1,560 ministers, elders and Bible workers worldwide.

Now is the time to equip this workforce by establishing a higher education center to take the present truth around the world.

GC Education Center

- **Continuing Education** for GC officers, Gospel workers, and missionaries on doctrinal, administrative, and spiritual areas all year round.
- **Online Education.** While live seminars are being conducted, all the important sessions will be recorded and made available online for anyone unable to attend in person.
- **Conference Center.** A new facility has been designed to hold regional conferences—and even General Conference Sessions can be accommodated as needed.
- **A House of Worship** to be a lighthouse to the community.

MAKE AN IMPACT!

Interested in helping to build the GC Education Center? We'd love to hear from you! Here are several ways to get involved:

■ Pray

Please pray for this cause, building project, funding, volunteers, and foremost for educators and students who will be coming to this place for true higher education.

■ Giving

If the Holy Spirit inspires you in this project, please send your donation to help finish this Education Center.

■ Volunteer

If you are a professional in construction work, you are welcome to join other volunteers in different stages of the building construction.

■ Spread the Word

If you are inspired to support this project, please share the news with your family, friends, and church members that they may be involved as well.

"Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee"
(1 Chronicles 29:13, 14).



HOW CAN I DONATE?

1. CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

Payable and mail to:

SDA Reform Movement GC
Att: GC Education Center
PO Box 7240
Roanoke, VA 24019

2. DIRECT DEPOSIT (U.S.A. only)

Beneficiary: SDARM General Conference
Account #: 2134849260
Routing #: 051400549
Bank: Wells Fargo

3. PAYPAL: treasurer@sdarm.org

(Scan the code for quick access.)



4. INTERNATIONAL WIRE TRANSFER

Bank's Name: BB&T (Branch Banking & Trust Co.)
ABA (Routing number): 051404260
SWIFT Code: BRBTUS33
Address: 6625 Williamson Road
Roanoke, VA 24019, USA
Phone: (540) 265-5723
Account Name: SDA Reform Movement GC
Account Number: 5236248331

CONTACT

Phone: +1 (540) 362-1800
Email: treasurer@sdarm.org

SDARM Education Center

5240 Hollins Road, NW
Roanoke, VA 24019, U.S.A.

GC Circular

Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement

General Conference

November 11, 2017

Dear Brethren:

Greetings from Roanoke with the following thought:

“Every talent lent of God should be used to His glory in giving the warning to the world. God has a work for His colaborers to do in the cities. Our missions must be sustained; new missions must be opened. To carry forward this work successfully will require no small outlay. Houses of worship are needed, where the people may be invited to hear the truths for this time. For this very purpose, God has entrusted a capital to His stewards. Let not your property be tied up in worldly enterprises, so that this work shall be hindered. Get your means where you can handle it for the benefit of the cause of God. Send your treasures before you into heaven.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, page 465.

As we continue the mission that Christ has given us, there come various needs that are essential to the advancement of this work. Houses of worship are to be built, Bible workers are to be trained, and souls are to be reached, by door-to-door work or virtual means.

With all these points in mind, we are building an Educational Centre and Chapel, located in Roanoke, US, within the premises of the General Conference headquarters. With only three phases being completed—the design, foundation and structure, together with the framing and roofing—we still have the next step in completing this project. For more details, see the flyer.

Keeping in mind the Spirit of Prophecy statement above as well as the needs for this project, we would appreciate willing donations to help us complete this project according to your desire. We thank you for your time and your cooperation.

God bless you.

Rudolfo Gessner

GC Treasurer

2018 NSW CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING

GATHERED FOR ETERNITY

OUR NEED, OUR MESSAGE, OUR PREPAREDNESS
FOR CHRIST'S SOON RETURN.

2018 CLIM
MISSIONARY COLLEGE
GRADUATION

CONCURRENT
YOUTH MEETINGS
& CHILDREN'S PROGRAM.
SUNDAY AFTERNOON
ADVENTURES IN NATURE

JUNE 7-10

GUEST SPEAKERS
INCLUDE CMAC
2018 STUDENTS

Gathered for Eternity

COST INFORMATION

10% discount for all registration and payments made by 18th May, 2018. All other registrations to be returned no later than 1st June, 2018.

Food and Dormitory (Full Weekend Price):

Adults.....	\$132.00
Children (5-14).....	\$66.00
Family (2A/2C).....	\$360.00
Family (2A/3C).....	\$420.00
Family (2A/4C).....	\$480.00

Food and Tent/Caravan (Full Weekend Price):

Adults.....	\$108.00
Children (5-14).....	\$54.00
Family (2A/2C).....	\$300.00
Family (2A/3C).....	\$345.00
Family (2A/4C).....	\$395.00

Day Visitors Only: (includes meals and use of facilities):
\$20.00 flat rate per adult / \$13.00 flat rate per child.

HOW TO GET THERE

Coming from Windsor:

After crossing the Hawkesbury River bridge at Windsor, follow the Putty Road towards Singleton for 63km, and turn right onto the dirt track (marked by a white tyre in a gum tree) 200m after the telephone box which is on the left. Take the dirt road in for approximately 14kms; continue through gate at left fork of dirt road, marked Elm Heights Youth Camp.

Coming from Singleton

Follow the Putty Road from Singleton for about 110km, and turn left onto the dirt track 200m before a public telephone box on the right (you will see a white tyre in a gum tree on your left just before the driveway). Follow directions as above.

Registration
3:00pm Thursday,
6:00pm Evening Meal,
7:30pm Opening
of Conference.
Closing on Sunday
evening.

REGISTRATION

Register by June 1, 2018

Registration is best done online at
www.sdarm.org.au/nswcamp2018

Otherwise, please fill out this form
and send it in to:

PO Box 132 Riverstone NSW 2765

Registration Form

Name.....

Telephone.....

Address.....

Period of stay.....

Number Attending

Males.....

Females.....

Accommodation Options

Please tick one

☐ Dormitory ☐ Own Tent
☐ Camp Tent ☐ Own Caravan

Transport required (Pickup from
Windsor or Schofields Train Station
provided)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Contact Details

Larry Ah-Ching
0431 409 439

Daniela Balarezo
0491 120 056

Email
nsw@sdarm.org.au

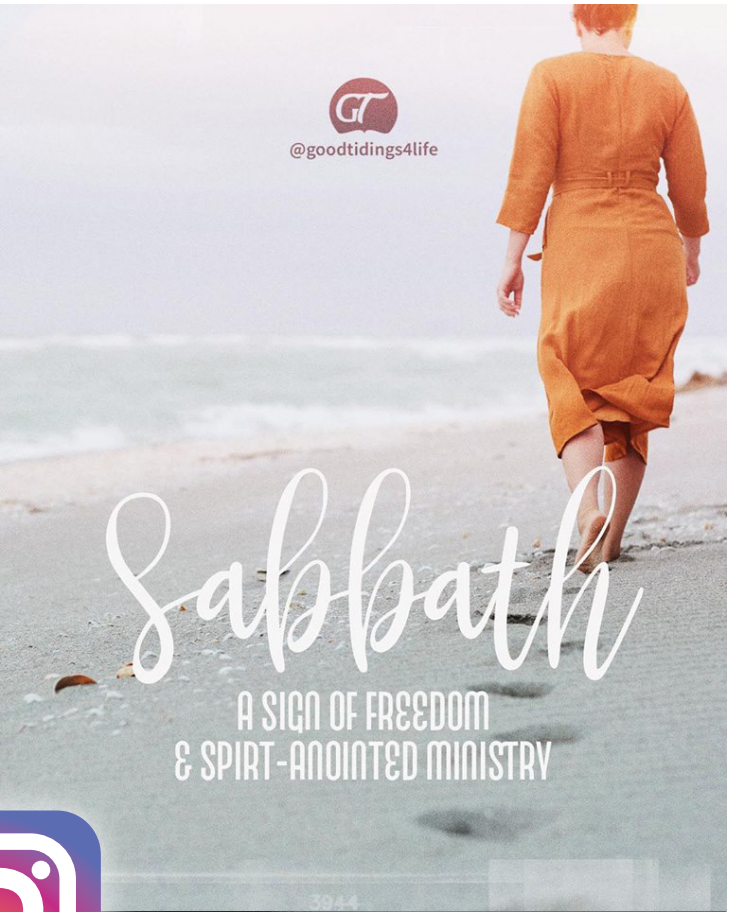
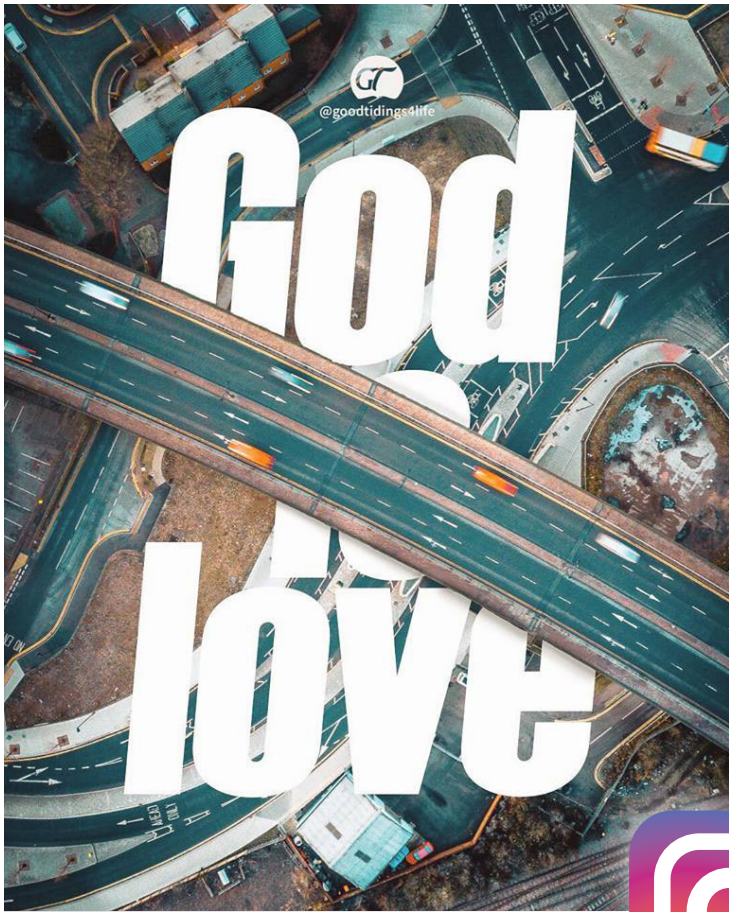
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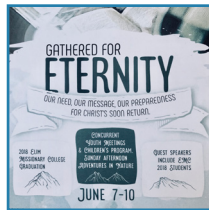
VIC Camp 2018

Date: March 30 - April 2, 2018

Venue: Alexandra Adventure Resort

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact: 0410 640 787



NSW Camp & EMC Graduation

Date: June 7-10, 2018

Venue: Elim Heights NSW

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact: nsw@sdarm.org.au



AUC MediaCon 2018

Date: 8-13 July, 2018

Venue: Queensland

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact: 0433 283 135

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