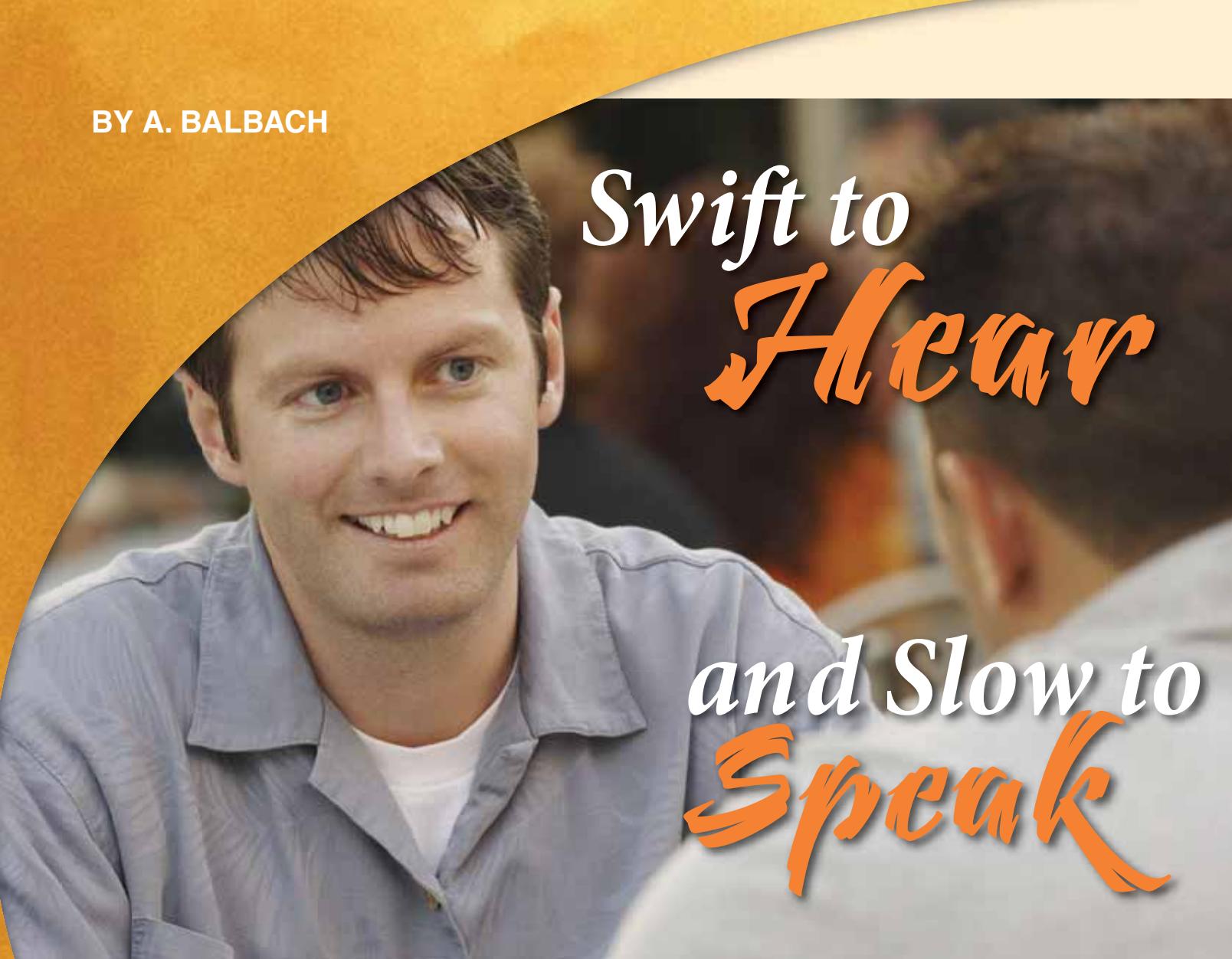


YOUTH Messenger®

Volume XXVI, Number 2

DIVINE WONDERS

- ▶ Swift to Hear and Slow to Speak
- ▶ The Divine Ideal of Education
- ▶ Once a Canvasser . . .
- ▶ J. N. Loughborough



BY A. BALBACH

Swift to Hear and Slow to Speak

The Bible says: "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19).

Have you ever wondered why God has given us two ears but only one mouth? I have often wondered why some people act as if they had two mouths and only one ear.

We have heard that our words should be few and well chosen, but there are those who can hardly open their mouth and, when they do, they seldom find the right words. I was like that before my conversion.

Before, when I was involved in a

discussion, I would gruffly say, "You do not understand." Now I say very kindly, "Maybe I was not clear enough. Let me say it all over in other words." Before, I would say, "You are wrong." Now I say, "Have you considered both sides of the question?" Before, I would say, "You are a liar." Now I say, "It seems to me that you do not have all the facts."

"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor

listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell" (James 3:2–6).

"There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (Proverbs 12:18, RSV).

A lesson from Gideon

The principle we've been examining is well illustrated by an incident that occurred in the history of Israel in the time of the judges. The Middle East, as you know, has been a place of trouble for thousands of years. When the people of Israel turned away from the Lord, He punished them by delivering them into the hands of their enemies. Then, when they repented and turned to the Lord for mercy, He delivered them from the hands of their enemies. On one occasion God used Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites. But, after the power of the Midianites had been broken, a conflict with bloodshed almost broke out in Israel—and for no good reason at all.

"Gideon returned from pursuing the enemies of the nation, to meet censure and accusation from his own countrymen. When at his call the men of Israel had rallied against the Midianites, the tribe of Ephraim had remained behind. They looked upon the effort as a perilous undertaking; and as Gideon sent them no special summons, they availed themselves of this excuse not to join their brethren. But when the news of Israel's triumph reached them, the Ephraimites were envious because they had not shared it. . . . [After the Midianites were defeated,] the men of Ephraim followed up the battle, and helped complete the victory. Nevertheless, they were jealous and angry, as though Gideon had been led by his own will and judgment."

—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 554.

The Ephraimites acted as if Gideon had purposely put them aside, while in reality, they actually had shown themselves unworthy by ignoring the general call sent out by Gideon.

So, when they returned from chasing the fleeing Midianites, they came to Gideon with an angry reproach: "What is this that you have done to us, not to call us when you went to fight with Midian?" (Judges 8:1, RSV).

The men of this tribe pretended that they had been ready to send a special force at the very beginning of the war. But in reality, this had been neither their desire nor their intention.

Now Gideon was put to the test. Should he tell them angrily how disappointed he was when they had rejected his general summons from the start? Or should he praise their final help in response to his special call? His better wisdom, self-control, and tact came to his aid, and by his good answer he was able to avert the bitter conflict which surely was about to come. He said:

"What have I done now in comparison with you? . . . God has given into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb, and Zeeb; what have I been able to do in comparison with you?" (Judges 8:2, 3, RSV).

"The spirit of jealousy might easily have been fanned into a quarrel that would have caused strife and bloodshed; but Gideon's [wise and] modest answer soothed the anger of the men of Ephraim, and they returned in peace to their homes. Firm and uncompromising where principle was concerned, and in war a 'mighty man of valor,' Gideon displayed also a spirit of courtesy that is rarely witnessed."—Ibid., p. 555.

The thief, the grandmother, and the cobbler

One of the lessons that I have learned from history, from experience, and from common sense is: There is power in the talent of speech. Fools use this talent fool-

ishly to make enemies; wise men use this talent wisely to make friends.

There is an interesting story to this effect in one of the books of Leo Tolstoy, a Russian writer and philosopher. A poor cobbler was glancing out of the window of his shoe repair shop one day, when an elderly woman, carrying a bag of shavings on her shoulder and a basket of apples on one arm, stopped opposite his shop. While she was shifting her loads from right to left and from left to right, a boy passed by, grabbed one apple and tried to run.

But before he could escape, she grasped him firmly. And they struggled—he trying to get away and she doing her best to hold him. He kicked her and screamed at her, but she would not let him go. Finally his cap flew off his head, and she caught him by the hair.

While the woman was shaking the boy, the cobbler could not stand it any longer and decided to intervene. She said she would call the police to give the boy a good beating. He separated the two, and as he was holding the boy by the hand he asked the lady to forgive him.

"Not until he has tasted a new rod from a birchtree," she said.

The boy denied the accusation, saying that he had not stolen any apple.

The cobbler was in a difficult situation because the woman wanted to turn the boy over to the police, while the boy denied the theft. But he soon found a solution and kindly said to the boy:

"I saw you
seize the
apple."

You cannot deny it. Now you must ask the lady to forgive you, promising her that you will never do such a thing again."

The boy's eyes filled with tears, and he finally confessed his guilt, asking the woman to forgive him.

The lady thought of her own grandchildren, whom she loved dearly, and who were not any better than that ragged boy. So she said to him:

"All right. You are forgiven."

When she tried to lift her bag of shavings to continue on her way home, the boy said to her:

"Now grandmamma, let me carry this bag for you."

The boy swung the bag on his shoulder, the lady smiled at him, and they walked away together, happy to have met each other.

Summary

In the case of Gideon and the Ephraimites, the incident shows that envy, jealousy, duplicity, resentfulness, suffocated pride, anger, and a spirit of revenge go together like dry shrubs on a hot summer day, when the fire department must be on the alert. The incident also shows that heavenly wisdom, self-control, tactfulness, and modesty go hand in hand to put water on the fire.

The story told by Tolstoy shows how covetousness, stealing, lying, fear of punishment, anger, and harsh mutual accusations go together and may create great trouble out of a little thing. The story also shows how tactfulness, confession, understanding, forgiveness, helpfulness, and happiness go hand in hand to prevent or solve conflicts.

What the world needs today is a double portion of the spirit of Gideon and of the cobbler.

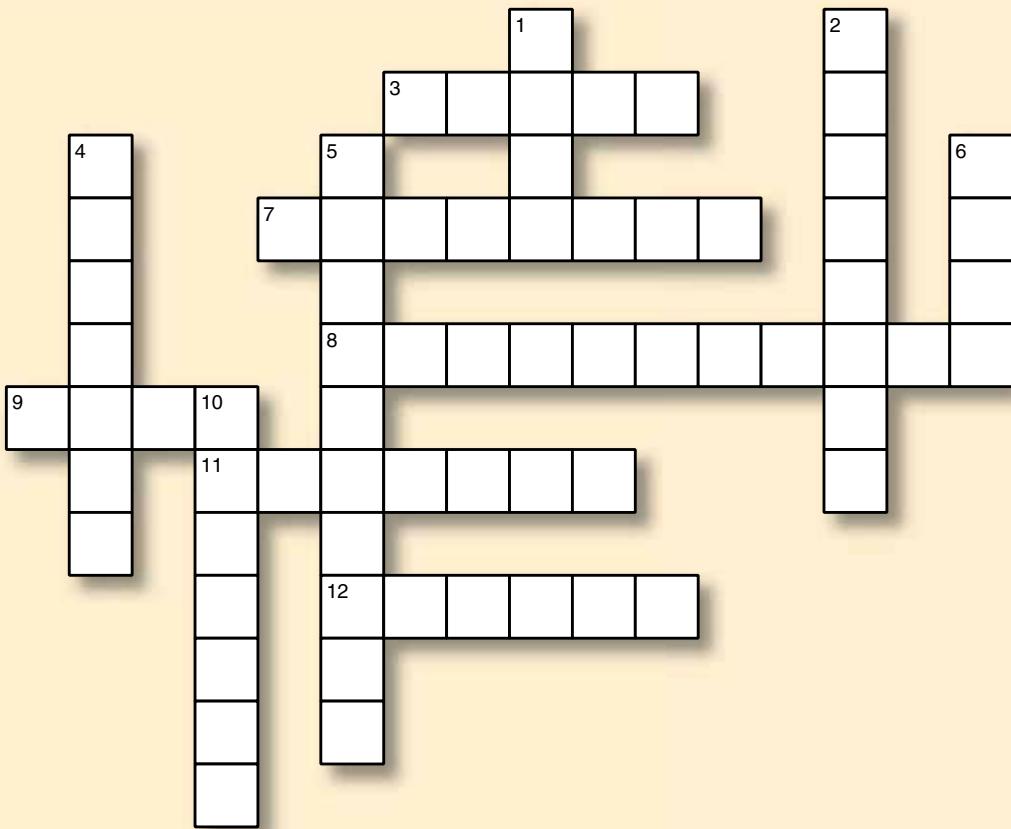
One of the proverbs of King Solomon reads: "A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).

At the beginning of His ministry, Christ taught: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

There is a bright future for peacemakers, but not for troublemakers.

PUZZLE

Swift to Hear



Across

- 3 Rash words are like _____ thrusts.
- 7 The tongue is a little member, and _____ great things.
- 8 There is a bright future for _____, but not for troublemakers.
- 9 By nature—without God's help, our tongue is a world of _____, a world of iniquity.
- 11 If any man offend not in word, the same is a _____ man.
- 12 Grievous words stir up _____.

Down

- 1 A _____ answer turneth away wrath.
- 2 Gideon displayed a spirit of _____ that is rarely witnessed.
- 4 The tongue of the wise brings _____.
- 5 Gideon humbly, tactfully asked, "What have I done now in _____ with you?"
- 6 We need to put _____ in the horses' mouths that they may be under control.
- 10 Gideon's wise and modest answer soothed the anger of the men of _____.

The Divine Ideal of EDUCATION

BY DORIVAL N. DUMITRU

PART 2

In our previous article in this series, we considered God's plan for education, beginning with its roots in the Garden of Eden. It was a beautiful plan. What happened, then, after Adam and Eve's disobedience brought a tragic fall upon the perfect race? At first glance we may really wonder how deeply it could have affected God's entire purpose for us. But amazingly, it was then that a most wonderful aspect of God's love was revealed. Even though, by transgression, Adam became alienated from God, and "he could no longer find joy in holiness," (*Steps to Christ*, p. 17), he was not abandoned. "By infinite love and mercy the plan of salvation had been devised, and a life of probation was granted" to our first parents (*Education*, p. 15).

Through the glorious plan of redemption, God's purpose for the

human race was still a possibility. The Creator was to become the Redeemer, and Christ would lead in a great work of restoration in behalf of humanity. Education had just found a new field of study!

"To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life."

Ibid., pp. 15, 16.

Restoration and the Seven Principles

Looking again at the seven principles given to Adam, before the Fall, we may see how these very principles became the pillars for his character recovery. Because of that,

these principles would be the object of Satan's constant attacks. As we consider them, shining with the light of God's plan for our salvation, we may rejoice over the wisdom of our Creator.

Let us use a comparison here. Before you is a palace with a strong and sure foundation, seven magnificent pillars, and a neat, impressive façade. Represented by the reliable base, we have the Moral Law with its ten precepts—the immutable transcription of God's character and the basis of His government. The seven columns are supported and maintained by this universal law. Binding and protecting, as a roof would do, we have the good news of God's redeeming love—a revelation of the mystery that made possible the restoration of men's and women's character.

Now, consider the main columns. They are the Sabbath and mar-

riage, the “twin institutions for the glory of God in the benefit of humanity” (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 63). These twin institutions are directly attached to the first, fourth, fifth, and seventh commandments of the Decalogue. Activity and recreation, respect and adoration have become essential requirements for the recovery of the fallen race. To experience freedom from the slavery of sin, we should have God first. Trusting Him, we should obey the very instructions received before, to keep us from falling. Honor and loyalty to God and love to one another are the fundamentals for the stability of the family and society, just as they were in Eden.

Along with the twin divine institutions, the Lord gave the original diet. (See Genesis 1:29.) This was confirmed before Adam had ever been sent out of the Garden. It was intended to preserve life and physical health. We all may see the close connection of diet with the positive principle of the sixth commandment: “Thou shall not kill.” The human race should still sustain life with food from the ground. Thus, country living was to remain our habitat even after the Fall. In contrast, it was wicked Cain that, after receiving the curse of God, founded a city, “to seek his possessions and enjoyment in the earth under the curse of sin, thus standing at the head of that great class of men who worship the god of this world. In that which pertains to mere earthly and material progress, his descendants became distinguished. But they were regardless of God, and in opposition to His purposes for man” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 81).

To those who accepted these principles of education, the relationship with God which was lost by transgression, was restored. By the sacrifice of innocent animals, early believers expressed their faith in a Saviour to come, and they had the divine presence and God’s approval manifested.

In gratitude, these faithful souls confirmed their recognition of God’s ownership of every created thing. They dedicated their first fruits, tithes, and offerings to Him. Thus, they obeyed the commandment: “Thou shalt not steal” (Exodus 20:15).

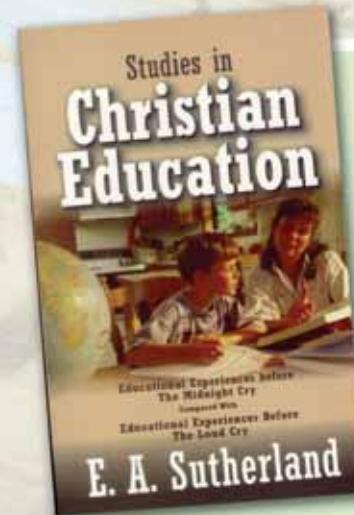
Excellence of Character Is the Goal

Even today, firm adherence to the divine principles from Eden shall identify those who are on the Lord’s side. “God has elected a certain excellence of character; and every one who, through the grace of Christ, shall reach the standard of His requirement, will have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of glory. All who would reach this standard of character will have to employ the means that God has provided to this end. If you would inherit the rest that remaineth for the children of God, you must become a collaborer with God” (*Christian Education*, p. 118). Are we getting the education that will enable us to be recognized by Jesus as such people? May the answer be always a positive yes!

(To be continued.)



True education promotes a closer relationship with our Creator and Designer.

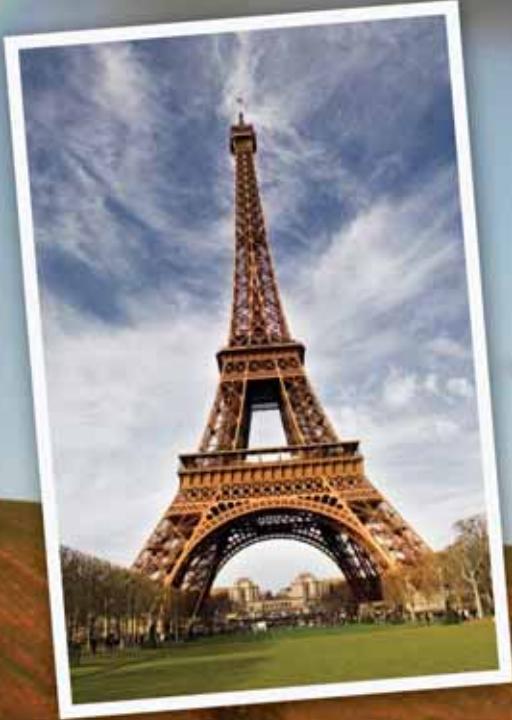


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DIVINE WONDERS

A few years ago, I visited the impressive Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. I was amazed both by its colossal size (about 1000 ft high) and the amount of people that came from all parts of the world to visit this wonder (about 17,000 each day; over 6 million per year). Hundreds of millions travel every year, spending their time and money to see some marvels like this tower just to satisfy their curiosity.



Yours to Contemplate and Partake

BY MICHEL-ANGE F. DUCHEINE

But however great and attractive they may be, human wonders are temporary—subject to destruction, their glory fades with time. Inspiration has foretold that “Marvels of architectural skill will be destroyed without a moment’s notice” (*This Day With God*, p. 152). The seven wonders of the ancient world which have for centuries captivated the interest of viewers are now dusty ruins. The twin towers which for decades were the glory and pride of New-Yorkers were destroyed without expectation. Therefore we should keep in mind the frailty of human inventions.

There is, however, another type of more reliable wonders: the natural ones. Being God’s handiwork, the things of nature were created to last. Some have lasted thousands of years. There are many natural wonders all over the world: majestic mountains, trees, splendid shores, cascades, rainforests and waterfalls, coral reefs, botanical gardens, and so on. Each country has its own wonders, and it often is necessary to travel from one place to another to see most of them. Unfortunately, some are being de-

stroyed by human unwise management and subsequently by the forces of nature: earthquakes, hurricanes or tsunamis.

But there is one wonder, the most beautiful of all, which cannot be touched by humanity. People of all lands can behold its splendor as it marvelously displays its radiant colors in the sky after the rain—the rainbow.

BEHOLD THE RAINBOW

The rainbow was first given to Noah after the Flood as a token of God’s love for humanity (Genesis 9:11–16). “The bow represents Christ’s love which encircles the earth, and reaches unto the highest heavens, connecting men with God, and linking earth with heaven” (*The Review and Herald*, February 26, 1880). And this “wonderful love of Christ will melt and subdue hearts” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 826).

In the late 1660’s, the God-fearing English physicist Isaac Newton made a series of experiments with white light that he published in 1672.

By refracting white light with a prism, Newton discovered the spectrum of light with its seven component colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet), and was the first to understand the rainbow.

The awesome scene of a magnificent rainbow spanning the heavens is one of nature’s greatest vistas depicted by the pure and perfect hands of the great Master Artist. One day Sister White saw a rainbow and wrote about it in her diary (2/9/1873): “We have seen the wonders of God in a gorgeous rainbow spanning the heavens” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, p. 174). What are these wonders? Since “The things of nature are an expression of God’s character” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 413), we will examine the colors of the rainbow, try to unfold their meaning, and thus discover the divine wonders of the Creator’s character.

RED AS THE BLOOD OF JESUS

"The children of Israel were anciently commanded to make an offering for the entire congregation to purify them from ceremonial defilement (see Numbers 19:2–10). . . . This heifer was to be red, which was a symbol of blood. . . . Here, again, Christ was typified" (*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 120).

In the blood of Jesus shed on Calvary's cross, we can clearly see "the tokens of His wonderful mercy and love" (*Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, p. 389). "Man can be saved only through the wonderful forbearance of God in the forgiveness of his many sins and transgressions. But those who are blessed by the mercy of God should exercise the same spirit of forbearance and forgiveness toward those who constitute the Lord's family" (*The Upward Look*, p. 43).

ORANGE AS THE GOLDEN PLATE

The most sacred utensils of the sanctuary were of pure gold: the mercy seat (Exodus 25:17), the candlestick (Exodus 25:31), and the high priest's plate upon which was written HOLINESS TO THE LORD (Exodus 28:36). Gold must then denote God's excellency and His holy and pure character. God's character is wrought out in "His wonderful works to the children of men" (Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31).

"Human knowledge, human philosophy, cannot transform character. But the Lord can take fallen man, and by grace transform him. He says, 'I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir'—fitted, like Enoch, to walk with God, to be the companion of angels. In Christianity there is a wonder-working power" (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, p. 334).

YELLOW AS THE MANNA

The Bible tells us in Numbers 11:7, that "the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium" (a transparent yellowish resin). In vision, Sister

White saw in the heavenly ark, beneath the angels' wings, "a golden pot of Manna, of a yellowish cast" (*A Word to the Little Flock*, p. 16).

For forty years, the Lord in His compassion fed the children of Israel with yellow manna (Exodus 16:35). In spite of their constant murmurings, He continued in His benevolence to bless them with the angels' bread. The Spirit of Prophecy invites us to "strive to understand the wonderful science of the matchless compassion and benevolence of God" (*Mind, Character and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 390).

GREEN AS PASTURES

Green foliage is always associated with abundant life; for wherever there is a rich flora there is always an abundance of food supplies for both animals and human beings. Christ is the source of life. He said "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

"Just as we trace the pathway of a stream of water by the line of living green it produces, so Christ could be seen in the deeds of mercy that marked His pathway at every step. Wherever He went, health sprang up and happiness followed wherever He passed. The blind and deaf rejoiced in His presence. His words to the ignorant opened to them a fountain of life. He dispensed His blessings abundantly and continuously. They were the garnered treasures of eternity, given in Christ, the Lord's rich gift to man" (*Counsels on Health*, p. 499).

Let us celebrate His "great goodness" (Psalm 145:7), by uniting our voice with that of David who said, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters" (Psalm 23:1, 2).

BLUE AS THE RIBBON

"God had commanded the children of Israel to have a ribbon of blue in the border of their garments [Numbers 15:37–41], upon which was embroidered words of the law,

which expressed in short the ten commandments, to remind them of their duty to love God supremely, and to love their neighbor as themselves” *The Review and Herald*, March 4, 1873.

In prayer, the psalmist declared, “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psalm 119:18). What are these wondrous things? Since “The law reveals the attributes of God’s character” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 762), therefore, God’s attributes (Exodus 34:5–8) embodied in this law of justice are the wonders we have to behold and partake of!

“We are called to represent to the world the character of God as it was revealed to Moses. In answer to the prayer of Moses, ‘Show me Thy glory,’ the Lord promised, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before thee.’ And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin’ (Exodus 33:18, 19; 34:6, 7). This is the fruit that God desires from His people. In the purity of their characters, in the holiness of their lives, in their mercy and loving-kindness and compassion, they are to demonstrate that the ‘law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul’ (Psalm 19:7)” (*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 221).

INDIGO

The color indigo is often overlooked. Yet it is nonetheless known to be one of the seven distinct colors of the rainbow. It is found between blue and violet. In the tabernacle, the curtains, veil, and door-hangings were to be made of “fine twined

linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet” (Exodus 26:1). (See also Exodus 26:31, 36; 27:16.) From a distance, the merging of these three colors into the fabric likely brought out an overall appearance of indigo, symbolic of the beautiful blend of character qualities to be restored in humanity. The ephod of the High Priest was designed with these three colors, but it also mingled in gold as well (Exodus 28:6, 8, 15). How beautiful the symbolism!

Our God is the King of kings, yet He is meek and lowly. His righteous government provides our universe with the perfect blend of justice and mercy. We will understand more about this as we consider the next color.

VIOLET OR PURPLE

In Bible times, purple was the adopted color for kings’ raiment (Judges 8:26; Mark 15:17, 16) because of its richness and durability (Proverbs 31:22). Purple can easily be obtained by mixing two colors—red (symbol of the sacrificial blood of Jesus shed for our sins) and blue (the symbol of His divine law of justice). “Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face” (Psalm 89:14).

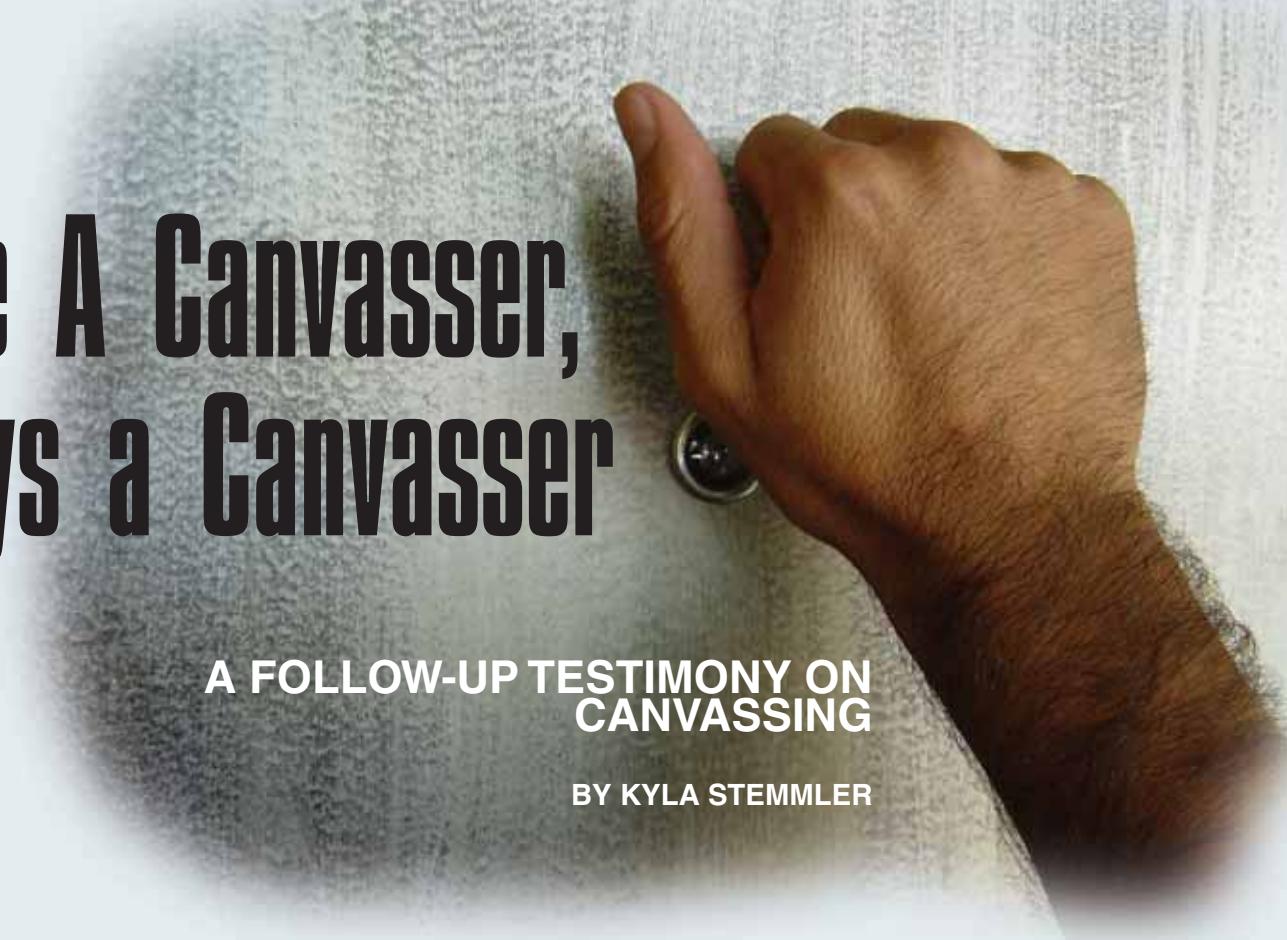
“The long-suffering of God is wonderful, because He puts constraint on His own attributes; but punishment is nonetheless certain” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, pp. 372, 373). “God’s love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. . . . Christ shows that in God’s plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other. ‘Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other’ (Psalm 85:10)” (*The Desires of Ages*, p. 762).

CONCLUSION

In vision, the beloved apostle John saw the throne of God in Heaven and “Behold...there was a rainbow round about the throne” (Revelation 4:2, 3). Therefore for all eternity the redeemed of the Lord will have the privilege of constantly beholding the rainbow. And the more we behold, the more will we resemble our Creator (2 Corinthians 3:18). But before getting to Paradise, we must be partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:3–7). “By a contemplation of the marvels of divine power, the mind will learn that hardest but most useful of all lessons, that human wisdom, unless connected with the Infinite and sanctified by the grace of Christ, is foolishness” (*Messages to Young People*, p. 253).

As the colors of the rainbow imperceptibly blend into each other, so the wonders of God’s character likewise blend into each other. And as the colors of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet) are the different components of light, so God’s attributes (mercy, grace, long-suffering, justice, and goodness) are the components of His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9) and the different manifestations of His wonderful love. Let us gaze upon them now as we strive to partake of these divine attributes which are true and everlasting wonders! YM

Once A Canvasser, Always a Canvasser

A close-up photograph of a person's hand with dark skin tone, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The hand is positioned as if knocking on a light-colored wooden door. A silver doorknob is visible on the door. The background is slightly blurred.

A FOLLOW-UP TESTIMONY ON CANVASSING

BY KYLA STEMMLER

March 12, 2003, was another warm day in sunny, brown New Mexico where our college colporteur group and an enthusiastic Bible work team were temporarily stationed. As I headed off to work just a few days into the program, I prayed again for courage and strength. With a sinking heart, at the thought of meeting another day, I pled with God and sought for promises in my copy of *Colporteur Ministry*. I clung to that book, hoping to find a thought, a gleam of hope, to carry me through what seemed like an incredibly long tunnel of weariness and darkness ahead.

Diary entries, such as "Lord, give me hope and courage!" scattered

between the accounts of my regular activities of the day hint of the discouragement and physical exhaustion that I was experiencing. The cry of my heart to God is felt throughout those pages, even as I read them now.

My prayer requests on the way to work that morning reflected the longing of my heart. I knew that Satan was trying to discourage me, but that God could and still would bless because literature evangelism is His work. Though I knew God's promised blessings were available for the required work at hand, I was almost convinced that I would continue in this work only as long as necessary. "When I finish school," I thought, "I'll give up this canvassing work." And so my requests to God

that morning for the day—that He would set up divine appointments for me, give me special experiences, use me to minister, and that 5 people would sign up for Bible studies. How I longed to see God work through me in a direct way! Little did I know that through God's leading that day, I would realize the joy of a life of service to God, and that once a canvasser means always a canvasser!

Obviously not feeling strong and brave, I hinted to my leader that I would rather work in houses than in businesses before lunch. Dropped off to work with another girl that wasn't feeling too well that morning, I didn't feel very confident in how the day was going to end up, but knew that with God all things are possible. I wondered: Had I hindered

something that God had in store for me because of my lack of faith and trust in God, and by my request to canvass an easier area today?

At one of the first stucco complexes, typical of New Mexico, a small, rough-looking man came to the door in answer to our knock. Although he politely listened to what we had to say, we understood that he was not interested. We showed him *Happiness Digest*, explaining that it was written to give you a smile on a down or stressful day, and give freedom from worry, guilt, and fear. With a, "I'll see what I can find; you can't say 'no' to God," he went into the house and found fifty cents. As we talked further we were shocked to realize the error of our first impressions of his disinterest. We soon learned he was 42 years old, had been married 5 times, had struggled with alcoholism, drug addiction, and had bipolar syndrome. As I began to share with him how much this little book would mean to him, how much it has meant to me, and the result it would have on his relationship with Jesus, he broke down, and said, "I can't believe this is happening." For months he had been in despair, struggling with thoughts of suicide and hopelessness, and crying to God for help. Now God had sent us to His door! As we prayed together, his heart melted more, and tears welled up again in those rough-looking eyes. To this man, a prayer had been answered; a light had begun to shine, and there was hope! God was real; He was there to help; there were people in this world that cared!

Before we left, my friend and I offered to sign him up for personal Bible studies. We realized he needed someone to come by and help him and his daughter learn more about our God, and continue to encourage him. As he stood there, struggling with conviction, which was evident on his face, we sent up a prayer to God. Praise God, He signed up for all four services we offer—Cooking School, Stop Smoking

Program, Daniel and Revelation Seminars, and best of all, personal, in-home Bible studies! How many times he thanked us, and we said "good-bye" I can't count. We finally left with a song on our lips, "Our God is an awesome God!" God had used me to touch a life in a visible way. Wow!

The experience didn't end there. A few minutes later, as we started on the complex facing the one we had just finished, he came out and gave us two possessions that meant a lot to him. A heart had been touched by the Holy Spirit. A life had begun to change before us. A voice is heard calling for help, for guidance.

What has become of this man? Has anyone followed up on His request to study the Bible and meet the God that brings peace and victory into a life? I really don't know... but I do know that there are many more in this world, right in this neighborhood, that are longing after God, and see no way out of their misery.

That day I met so many hungry souls, and finished the day with eight Bible study contacts! In the succeeding days God reaffirmed that this work is where God wants me, where He NEEDS me. I understood, as it says in *Evangelism*, page 333: "There is no greater bliss on this side of heaven than in winning souls to Christ."

When the call comes, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" I want to send back the answer clear and distinct, "Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8). If this is the work God has called me to do, then indeed it is right that once a canvasser means always a canvasser, and a happy person, too. **WM**

**"There is no greater bliss
on this side of heaven than
in winning souls to Christ."**

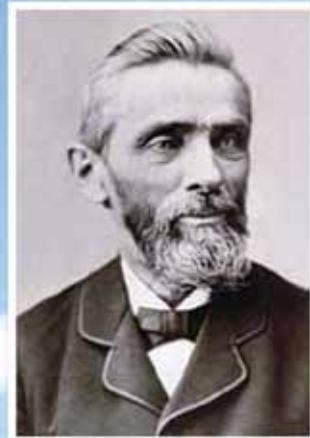
Do you have a story to share?



Have you attended a youth convention recently? Can you share an experience you have had? How about photos of your youth activities? Others would like to read your story in *Youth Messenger*! Get involved. E-mail us at info@sdarm.org.

John Norton Loughborough

BY HEATHER HAZELHOFF



John Norton Loughborough was born on January 26, 1832. When he was young, his father died and some words the preacher had said during the funeral service puzzled him, "When a person dies, his spirit ascends to the heavens. With the spirits of others they sit on the edge of a cloud and sing psalms forever." Many times he would look up in the clouds hoping to see or hear the saints sing. But they always seemed to be on the other side of the cloud!

In December 1843, John's grandfather told him that a man was coming to tell them about the soon return of Jesus and asked him to tell the neighbors the news. The boy passed out religious papers at school, but some students got angry and one even threatened to kill him. Thankfully, John's friends made a circle around him to protect him.

At the age of 16, John started preaching and when he was 20, he married Mary J. Walker. Together they made their home in Rochester, NY. In addition to preaching, he was a house painter and later began to sell sash locks.

John became an Adventist through the work of J. N. Andrews. He felt that God was calling him to preach full time, but he did not feel that he had the means to stop his regular job. Finally he just went ahead by faith; he made the decision to serve the Lord and depend on Him.

One day John's wife, Mary, came and told him that she needed some thread and matches. He told her they only had three cents and that she should go and make her purchase, but to bring one cent home so they would not be penniless. She went to her room and cried for almost an hour. As soon as she left to the store, a man came and ordered \$80 worth of sash locks. The day before, John had tried to sell sash locks but nobody wanted to buy any. When Mary returned from the store, she found her husband singing. He told her of the sale and that they had earned a commission of \$26. She went to her room and cried, but this time not because of money; it was because a miracle had happened.

After Mary's death, John married Margaret Newman, and together they went as missionaries to California along with D. T. Bourdeau. All three arrived in San Francisco on July 18, 1868. After ten years of labor in that field, John was sent to England as a missionary. He made several world tours and wrote the books *The Rise and Progress of Seventh-day Adventists*, *The Great Second Advent Movement*, and *Hand Book of Health; or a Brief Treatise on Physiology*. □

Sources:

- Adriel D. Chilson, *They Had a World To Win*.
- Virgil E. Robinson, *Reach Out*.
- A. W. Spalding, *Pioneer Stories Retold and Footprints of the Pioneers*

Editor Radu Ionita

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Youth Messenger® (USPS 765-030) is published quarterly by the Young People's Department of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference as an educational service for our youth worldwide.

Web: <http://www.sdarm.org>
e-mail: info@sdarm.org

The *Youth Messenger* is printed and distributed by Reformation Herald Publishing Association, 5240 Hollins Road, Roanoke, VA 24019-0240. Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, Virginia 24022.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Youth Messenger, P. O. Box 7240, ROANOKE, VA 24019-0240.

Manuscripts, inquiries, address changes, subscription requests, and donations should be mailed to the address above.

Subscription rates as follows:

<i>Annual donation requested</i>	
United States	US \$ 8.95
foreign (surface mail)	US \$13.00
foreign (air mail)	US \$17.00
single issue	US \$ 2.95

Illustrations: iStockPhoto on p. 8; StockXpert on front cover; Design-Pics on p. 2; www.sxc.hu on back cover and pp. 8-12; Getty Images elsewhere, unless otherwise noted.

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**From
the Editor**

A Place of Refuge

Scattered throughout the world are special places set aside to provide refuge for wildlife. These are quiet havens secluded from the world's clamor, where waterfowl and other creatures can enjoy peace and protection. Often motorized vehicles are not even permitted in some portions of these parks, which may be several thousands of acres in size.

Despite the noisy, violent nature that characterizes much of the human race in these last days, it is amazing to realize that people have actually made it a point to take this much interest in the small, winged creatures of God's glorious creation. They exert substantial means and influence toward setting aside wildlife refuges. Such peaceful places are not only a blessing to birds—they are also a blessing to people.

If we as mere humans can exercise this much care, how much more care does the God (who created both us and the birds) have for us all! Jesus says, "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Luke 12:6, 7).

Amidst the clamor of the world, Jesus assures us of His loving care. When pressure and stress seem to cave in on your soul, remember the words of Christ, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (Matthew 6:25, 26).

When we truly realize the depth of our heavenly Father's care for us, we can sing and rejoice in thankfulness, just as the birds do every day. "The birds of the forest sing with sweetest strains the praise of God. The heavens declare His glory, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. The things of nature—earth itself, teeming with bounties and blessings—would call the mind away from self to honor and adore the Lord God, our Creator" (*The Signs of the Times*, January 26, 1882).

When we choose to make quiet moments for our soul, we come back to our work refreshed and with a new perspective. We learn to be silent before speaking and to realize that God has made a whole rainbow of different kinds of people. Each is His special creature and we must treat all with care and respect. This helps us face the world in a better frame of mind. "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" (Psalm 62:7, 8).

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The Furnace

Out from the furnace's glowing heat,
With beautiful refining,
God takes His jewels, all complete,
That for His crown are shining.
Drawn from the depths of human woe,
In dust and darkness sifted,
How sweet eternal morn will glow
For stricken hearts uplifted!

Then, in the shadow of the cross,
Though never strewn with flowers,
Oh, let me aid the poor and lost
To Eden's lovely bowers!
How sweet to find, when time has flown,
And we are saved in glory,
Some little stars within our crown,
We've won among the lowly!

Behind the cloud I'll quiet rest,
To Jesus all resigning,
Maybe I'll find the inside best,
With all its silver lining:
With stricken hearts to weep and wait,
Through the dark night of sorrow,
Till called to pass the pearly gate,
Into the bright tomorrow.

—Anonymous