



# YOUTH Messenger®

Vol. XXVII, No. 1

## Be a Missionary to the Concrete Jungle

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# Saved?

# Saved?

# Still R U Saved?

BY JONATHAN TYLER



**H**as a Christian ever asked you, “Are you saved?”

Surprisingly, many sincere Christians aren’t really sure of what they are asking. Saved from what? Well, the popular meaning is to be saved from hell, but from what did Jesus really come to save us? Let us compare some scriptures for a real Bible-based view about being saved.

First of all the angel Gabriel announced Jesus’ work at his conception. “And [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou [Joseph] shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). According to the Scripture what was His work? To save from sin. The result of this work, of course, is to be saved from destruction. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). “The heavens and the earth, which

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***We may have been saved,  
but Christ only stays  
where He is wanted.***

as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37–40). Adam and Eve—instead of loving God with all their heart—became selfish, and took for themselves something that God had forbidden. Later this was more clearly defined in the Law of God as “Thou shalt not covet.” However, the principle remains the same: When we love something more than God it is a sin. It is breaking the very first and great commandment to love God with all our heart.

However, we have a problem. We like to sin. Ever since the first sin in the Garden of Eden, our natures have been corrupted with selfishness. It is now easy and natural for us to sin against God. In a way you could say that Jesus came to save us from ourselves! “Because the carnal mind (human nature) is enmity (at war) against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Romans 8:7). We naturally have no desire to make peace with God. “For to be carnally (selfish, sinful) minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Verse 6).

## **Dead to self and reborn in Christ**

The apostle Paul uses another illustration to help us understand. “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Here is the experience of a true Christian, to live by faith. Notice that before Paul was able to live by faith, he mentions being crucified. This is not a literal crucifixion. Paul explains himself in Romans 6:6, 7, 12: “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.” “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”

An old man is depicted by Paul and this old man is our human nature always longing for that which is hurtful to spiritual life. To put that old man in the grave and be changed into another is what being saved is all about!

are  
now,  
by the  
same word  
are kept in store,  
reserved unto fire  
against the day of judgment and perdition (hell, destruction) of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:7). Sin results in death and destruction. God wants to save us from destruction, and in order to do that He has to save us from sin. Is this getting confusing? Let’s go back.

## **In the beginning . . .**

Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden—they were happy and not in need of salvation. Why? Because they had not sinned against God. What is sin? “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). Was there really a law back then? Jesus said the original law is in two parts and very simple: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour

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“Jesus answered and said unto [Nicodemus], Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?” (John 3:3, 4). The very experience of the Christian, the experience of passing from death unto life, is putting off the old sinful life, and being born again.

How is this possible? Obviously Nicodemus was wondering the same thing. And Jesus made it clear. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6). When we accept Christ, we ask for forgiveness, and we invite God’s

***Once we accept Christ it is not the end, but the beginning.***

Spirit to dwell in our heart. Here is another way to put it: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). We have to bury that human-nature-of-sin six feet underground so to speak, and take on the spiritual nature or mind of Christ.

When the Spirit dwells in us what does He bring along? “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22, 23). When we live after the Spirit we are not under the law because the law does not condemn us. The law only condemns sin. “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16). Read the whole chapter of Galatians 5 if you really want to get into understanding the whole issue.

As we begin to study the scriptures deeper we find an ongoing Christian walk or journey—not just a one-time, quick fix. Notice Paul’s experience, “I die daily” (1 Corinthians 15:31). “I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I

myself should be a castaway” (1 Corinthians 9:27). The word “castaway” refers to metals that, when formed, were found to be unfit for use, or seriously flawed. They were then thrown out, rejected.

The Bible warns us to examine ourselves, prove ourselves to see if we are in the faith. “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2 Corinthians 13:5). A reprobate is one who is rejected. Those who have Christ living in them cannot be reprobates. The question then for each Christian is this: Does my life reveal that I am transformed or does it reveal that the old man is back in town? “Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

Is it possible to be saved and lose our salvation? Jesus gave a parable of a man who wanted to be saved. An evil spirit was cast out of him, and he was made clean (forgiven) and accepted. However, the evil spirit after sometime wanted to return, and he found the man’s house (heart) empty. So he moved back in with seven other demons worse than himself. And the man was worse off than before. (See Matthew 12:43–45.) We may have been saved, but Christ only stays where He is wanted.

## **Good seed**

Jesus gave also the parable of the good seed, which is the Word of God. There were several classes of people represented, but three I want to mention. All of them accepted the truth. All accepted salvation, and began to grow and rejoice in the truth. One class gave up when trials came, and the other was enticed by the world. Both of those lost the good seed; it died in their hearts.

The third class mentioned in the parable, grow and bear fruit (fruit of the Spirit). This shows that they not only accepted Christ but began the Christian journey to eternal life. Their mind was renewed every day, and they

# Saved?

remained steadfast against the enticements of the world. The parable of the good seed is found in Matthew chapter 13.

Is being saved a one time event and then the Christian can live as he or she pleases? "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:2). The Scripture says that he who endures to the end shall be saved (Matthew 10:22). It is not only just to accept Christ that constitutes being saved, but also to have Him living in our heart every day of our life.

Jesus gave this advice for His followers: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into

temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). This sums up the whole thing and is the message needed for everyone, including Christians. Once we accept Christ it is not the end, but the beginning. Always keep in mind that the flesh is weak. Unless we watch and pray we will fall again into sin.

Only Christ has the power to keep us from sinning. Look always "unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24). 

## Word Search

Find the following words in the word search grid. Words may appear backwards and diagonally.

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Christian     | endures    |
| eternal       | examine    |
| faith         | fruit      |
| gentleness    | goodness   |
| Jesus         | joy        |
| longsuffering | love       |
| meekness      | peace      |
| salvation     | saved      |
| spirit        | temperance |
| transgression |            |

G N I R E F F U S G N O L U S  
M E E K N E S S E R U D N E S  
R L B E G C D N G F I A V X E  
N A P X W N E O W E F O H D N  
O C P A X A V I T L L C D O E  
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V S R E B M E R E H Y C E I E  
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A I I U P T D S N I J Q O H U  
S A C K U S O N A U O T F C R  
S N I S V Z O A L R U J O O N  
Q B F J Y E G R E F M O P L X  
F B T K L W K T M T S U S E J

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# Beholding the Beaver

BY B. MONTEIRO

**H**ave you ever heard that the lowly, hardworking beaver may have actually played a role in helping to inspire the exploration of an entire continent?

When the first European settlers reached North America, these rodent-like mammals were already close to extinction in Europe and Asia. During the 1600's, fur trappers began to explore much of North America in search of the animals' pelts for the European market. By the 1800's, millions of profitable beaver pelts were being marketed, as was a product known as "castoreum." Castoreum is a musk-like secretion from the glands of the beaver. It is useful both medicinally and as a perfume stabilizer.

Weighing about a pound at birth, beavers grow to about 30-70 pounds (13-30 kg) as adults, and they never stop growing. They may actually grow to be four feet (1.23 meters) long and reach around 100 pounds (43 kg). They are well known for their broad, flat, scaly tail which they employ to steer when swimming or for balance when sitting on dry land. When an enemy is present, the

beaver slaps its tail on the water to warn other beavers. The tail is not used to plaster mud on their dam or lodges.

## **Safe around water: A spiritual lesson**

One interesting point about beavers is that they seem to feel safe only in water. While they may not be at all frightened by meeting a human diver underwater, they will usually flee in terror upon seeing a person on a distant riverbank. Indeed, the beaver is protected from many a predator in his watery dwelling. Even the coyote, his most dangerous foe, leaves him alone in his aquatic world. The beaver can remain submerged underwater for as long as 15 minutes at a time without having to come up for air.

Perhaps we can see a spiritual parallel in this. The Word of God is illustrated as the water of life (Revelation 22:17). As we trust



**Nature does not live  
for itself; it thrives  
by giving.**

in Christ, our only security is in abiding in Him, being totally submerged in His Spirit and will. We are not really safe in any “dry” territory where His angels would not be pleased to accompany us—separated from the water of life. How important it is that we be careful in choosing which places to go, and the friends with whom we associate. “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be **like a tree planted by the rivers of water**, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous: For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish” (Psalm 1).



## Creating a place to call home

To satisfy their distinctive preference for water, beavers create their own ponds by cutting logs with their sharp incisors, reducing them into manageable lengths for transporting, and then using them to raise a barrier across a selected stream. The base for their dam is made of logs and stones, and then sticks are wedged under the rocks with the free ends leaning in the direction of the current. The animals then weave a latticework of brush and scoop mud from the stream bed to plaster the dam face. Sediment and debris carried downstream are used to help fill in the gaps. Just as in caring for any house prone to leaks, constant repairs are needed to keep the dam from washing away. Apparently beavers are alerted by the sound of rushing waters, and they will conscientiously plug up any leaks in their structure. A beaver lodge can last for many years as younger generations continue to add mud and grass from the bottom of the pond, performing continual maintenance on the dwelling.

## Specially designed for their task

There is much truth to the expression, “busy as a beaver.” Beavers’ busiest yearly time would undoubtedly be autumn. They wait to gather their winter food until the leaves turn golden, when a tree’s sap and other nutrients are stored beneath the bark. Branches cut at this time will not rot during the long months in underwater storage, and their nutritive value remains at its peak.

In springtime, the beaver enjoys fresh grass, herbs, leaves, buds, and shoots. His teeth are self-sharpening as the lower pair of incisors work against the upper. Our ingenious Creator has designed the beaver to be specifically adapted for underwater activities. Two protective flaps of skin close off the mouth behind the chisel-edged incisors, keeping wood chips and water out of the animal’s throat as he works below the pond surface. Special glands secrete a substance which, in grooming, the animal rubs all over to waterproof his coat. Clear membranes shield his eyes, and valve-like ears and nostrils automatically close while he is working.



## Geared toward service

Beavers are monogamous creatures—that is, they stay with only one mate for life and remain as a close family unit. The mother nurses her young kits, and they play and work in the home pond until two years of age. Then they are sent away to assume the responsibilities of establishing their own family in a new area.

We read in the Spirit of Prophecy that nature does not live for itself; it thrives by giving. “All things both in heaven and in earth declare that the great law of life is a law of service . . . written upon all things in nature. The birds of the air, the beasts of the field, the trees of the forest, the leaves, the grass, and the flowers, the sun in the heavens and the stars of light—all have their ministry. Lake and ocean, river and water spring—each takes to give. As each thing in nature ministers thus to the world’s life, it also secures its own.”—*Education*, p. 103.

Beavers certainly offer a good illustration of this principle. In building their dams, the ponds they form help reduce erosion and can raise the water table, thus providing a blessing to many fish, waterfowl, moose, raccoons, otters, weasels, mink, and other creatures—including humans. 

### Facts About Beavers

**Type:** Mammal

**Diet:** Herbivore

**Average lifespan in wild:** Up to 24 years

**Size:** Head and body, 23 to 39 in (60 to 100 cm); Tail, 7.75 to 12 in (20 to 30.5 cm)

**Weight:** 60 lbs (27 kg)

**Group name:** Colony

**Did you know?** Beavers are second only to humans in their ability to manipulate and change their environment.

(Source: [animals.nationalgeographic.com](http://animals.nationalgeographic.com))

# The Hand That Never Lets Go

BY ELLEN G. WHITE



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

Dear young friends, One greater than any human guide calls upon you to follow Him over the heights of patience and self-sacrifice. The path is not an easy one. Christ says, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14). In order to follow this path, we must lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us. Directly at the entrance of the path lies the cross of self-denial. This we must lift if we would follow the Saviour. We must rid ourselves of pride and selfishness. While weighed down by them, we cannot scale the heights over which Christ bids us follow Him.

All the way along, Satan has prepared pitfalls for the feet of the unwary. But following our Guide, we may walk with perfect security; for the path is consecrated by His footsteps. It may be steep and rugged, but He

has traveled it; His feet have pressed down the thorns to make the way easier for us. Every burden we are called upon to bear, He Himself has borne. Personal contact with Him brings light and hope and power. Of those who follow Him, He says, "They shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." "I the Lord . . . will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee" (John 10:28; Isaiah 41:13). More precious in the Saviour's sight than the whole world is the soul who gives himself to Jesus. Christ would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one soul might be saved in His kingdom. He will never abandon one for whom He has died. Unless His children choose to leave Him, He will hold them fast.

Christ's true disciples follow Him through sore conflicts, enduring self-denial and experiencing bitter disappointment; but this teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they are led to look upon it with abhorrence. Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory. In holy vision the prophet saw the triumph of the people of God. He says: "I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory . . . stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints" (Revelation 15:2, 3).

—*The Youth's Instructor*, May 1, 1902.



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**Why YOU Should Be a Literature Evangelist—**

**a Missionary  
to the**

# **Concrete Jungle**

**BY KYLA STEMMLER**

## WHY???

Why would someone become a literature evangelist, colporteur, or canvasser? Why would anyone in his or her right mind choose a job that includes frequent rejection, door slams, exposure to the elements, barking dogs, upset people, and faith-stretching experiences? And why should you do it too?

I asked some of my team members in the December 2007 colporteur program in Charlotte, NC. A few of their names are included below. Here is what they had to share:



I had just been dropped off to work my last street before lunch. At my very first house a lady opened the door, stepped out, and told me that she was busy and not interested. In reply, I said, “Just so you know who stopped by. . .” and continued to canvass her. When I showed her the *Peace Above the Storm* (special edition of *Steps to Christ*), she looked like she was about to cry. She told me that God had sent me—her brother had just committed suicide!

After she bought the book

I asked if I could pray with her. She began to cry and we prayed.

“Not one sincere prayer is lost. Amid the anthems of the celestial choir, God hears the cries of the weakest human being. We pour out our heart’s desire in our closets, we breathe a prayer as we walk by the way, and our words reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. They may be inaudible to any human ear, but they cannot die away into silence, nor can they be lost through the activities of business that are going on. Nothing can drown the soul’s desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the confusion of the multitude, to the heavenly courts. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 174.

I think this is one of the best experiences I have ever had in canvassing! You never know who you can help and why, so it is always good to ask people if you can pray with them and often they will open up and share what is going on in their heart. I think you should canvass because this is the calling God has called us to, so that many people can be saved this way. If someone doesn’t want to save people, then they shouldn’t be working for God, because we are supposed to be getting people ready for the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus. I like canvassing because I like to talk, and I get to talk with a lot of people and new characters, make new friends, and some can be friends for life.—*Crystal Bauer, age 13 (started canvassing at age 9)*.

“Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 70.

The above quote I beheld upon a seemingly fruitless, discouraging morn, when my fingers of faith were releasing their grasp upon my Saviour.

The previous doors were either void of response or poured a deluge of rejections upon me. Not one book out, not one

***Our commission is not to convert the world but merely to spread the gospel.***

promising door to keep my hopes up. At first, this didn't faze me, but with each step away from a door was a step closer to doubt. My courage was being broken, my hope extinguished, 'til my frailty was worn upon my countenance.

“Opposition, the most bitter and determined, drove the servants of God to their Lord and to their Bibles.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 322.

I took note of my weakness and checked it at every door, but my durability was wearing thin. I talked to my Lord, fully baffled as to why success did not show its face just once. We spoke in prayer as my heart was opened to God as to a friend. He was my friend, but one that I lost sight of as I walked from door to door with my own self-righteousness.

I had put my trust in the arms of flesh and did not lean onto the Everlasting Arm.”

“He will not be slow to hear those who open their hearts to Him, not exalting self, but sincerely feeling their weakness and unworthiness.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 257.

Unknowingly, I crossed the wrong street. There I met more empty homes. I realized what I've been doing wrong and said that I would refuse to doubt my Lord. It then occurred to me that the books that I had in my hand carried words that were inspired by Him who never forsakes His children. I stopped at the side of the road, opened *Peace Above the Storm*, flipped to page 68 and read, “Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might.” Tears almost filled my eyes as I read and reread over the line: “Your

hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ.” My hope had not been in Christ that morning, it was taken up into self and the Lord humbled me.

“Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you” (2 Chronicles 20:17).

I walked with purpose and boldness in my stride, ready to take on the world. The Lord was



with me and I knew that I did not have to fight my battles alone. I remained still and watched the salvation of the Lord take place. Though it was my lowest day financially, it was my highest day with my Lord.

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness” (Isaiah 41:10).

It is not for the money that I choose to canvass, but simply for the experiences with my Lord, for the experiences with the people, for the opportunity I have to bond with them, for the opportunity to witness unto them about my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Some may ask why they should try the whole canvassing experience. The answer is quite simple. In the work of canvassing, success is only

proportionate to the strength of your relationship with Christ and Him alone.—*Jean Elmond, age 19.*

It was one of those cold, windy days. This was my second experience on a canvassing trip. I wasn't used to how everything worked, and I was discouraged. Canvassing is one of those jobs where you have to be totally focused on the positive and not the negative.

From about 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. I didn't even get one book out. I was so disappointed in myself, and was asking God, "What am I doing wrong?" My best friend was my leader that day, and when it was time for lunch pick-up (3:00 p.m.) I asked him to pray with me, which he did. We went for lunch, ate, talked, and got ready to go back and knock on more doors. By the time lunch was over, at 4:00 p.m., I was still discouraged. I prayed with my leader again. This time I told myself, "No, God is going to bless me; He has me here for some reason."

My leader dropped me and a fellow canvasser off on the first street. I heard the words, "Monica on my right, work to your 'T', cross over and work until you meet a friend." At that point I was still feeling discouraged, but I prayed one more time with my leader.

I knocked on the first door—no one was interested. Second door—someone opens the door. I told him who I was and what the donations are for. He looked at me, reached into his wallet and gave me a donation! I smiled and gave him a book of his choice.

By the end of the day, from what started out to be a disappointing day with no sales, I ended up putting out 13 books. From 4:00 to 8:15 – 13 books! It's all because God gave such amazing grace, and power, and the right people to give the right encouragement. Without Christ nothing is possible. With Christ anything is possible.

I think canvassing is an amazing work. You learn so much about yourself. You see how much you need Christ in this world, and that life isn't worth living unless you're living it for Christ. I thank God especially

for that wonderful experience in my life. I'll never forget it. I'll never forget the power that prayer has. Speechless. Remember to P.U.S.H. in life. Pray. Until. Something. Happens. That's what we need. Without it we won't get very far in life.—*Monica Gamez, age 17.*

I was tired, and feeling ill—sore throat, throbbing headache. I was ready to quit for the day since I couldn't talk anymore, but I decided to go to the next door before calling. I came to the door expecting rejection.

Sure enough, this super-intimidating-looking man came to the door and said NOTHING. I took a deep breath, and proceeded, "Good evening. My name is Israel and we're students working on a special scholarship project, but don't worry it's not junk food or magazines. I'll let you take a really quick look." His only response was "Uh-huh." I got halfway through the canvass and could tell he was really bored. He never looked at my books. Then, very demandingly, he stated that he had no interest in these books. I said, "Oh, no problem, I try to leave something with as many people as possible, so I have this little stress-buster called Happiness (*Steps to Christ*) that I can leave for as large a donation as you would like to give." Again he said "I am NOT interested!" With the same commanding attitude he said, "Stand right there and do not go anywhere!" To be totally honest, I began to pray for my own safety and for forgiveness of my sins. I heard the man opening and closing drawers.

"He who unites himself with Christ will gather to himself the graces of Christ and will give strength and efficiency and power to the Lord by winning souls to Christ. When Christ takes possession of the citadel of the soul, the human agent becomes one with Him. By cooperation with the Saviour, he becomes the instrument through which God works. Then when Satan comes and strives to take possession of the soul, he finds that Christ has made him stronger than the strong man armed."—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 5, p. 1092.

I again began to pray, and then was determined that I would not leave until I

had made a sale here. He immediately came out with some crumpled money, which I figured was a dollar or two, so I again reached for the *Happiness Digest (Steps to Christ)*. As he came onto the porch, I realized that he had tears in his eyes, and he handed me \$30.00.

At this unexpected blessing, I told him that I was speechless. “I really don’t know what to say. Thank you so much; you are almost bringing tears to my eyes”—well, they were already there. He responded, “I came from

### ***Do you hear God's voice calling you to try the literature ministry?***

a long line of hard-headed Scots. We don’t get anything for nothing. I have worked for everything I got, and I don’t give people anything for nothing.” Then I asked if he had any kind of religious background. “I am a hard-headed, cold-hearted, heathen, but I want one of your books. The one on top will do.” That one was a vegetarian cookbook, which I handed to him, but because the donation would quite cover a second book, I handed him *The Great Controversy*, and gave him a brief description of it. He said that it seemed interesting. I told him that he was a great encouragement and answer to my prayer. “I don’t care what you do with the cookbook. You can even throw it in the trash,” I said. “But please promise me that you will read or at least look over *The Great Controversy*.” He promised that he would. After a moment of silence I left and headed for the next door still wondering what exactly was that all about. I stopped to thank the Lord for that wonderful experience that came just when I needed it the most. Then without hesitation, I walked to the next door where the Lord blessed with another cookbook and *The Great Controversy*. This is why I continue from door to door, from rejection to rejection—to find that one that is willing to hear the message for this time. When I first began canvassing, I had this idea that I was out there to sell books and I often felt as though God had rejected me when I didn’t do so well. Now I realize that our commission is not to convert the world but merely to spread the gospel to them. “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).”—*Israel Thorne, age 18.*

“Chosen of God, sealed with the blood of consecration, [Christ’s ministers as the watchmen on

the walls of Zion] are to rescue men and women from impending destruction. Faithfully are they to warn their fellowmen of the sure result of transgression, and faithfully are they to safeguard the interest of the church. At no time may they relax their vigilance. Theirs is a work requiring the exercise of every faculty of the being. In trumpet tones their voices are to be lifted, and never should they sound one wavering, uncertain note.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 15.

Do you hear God’s voice calling you to try the literature ministry? I once read the following, “A call from God is to see a need and know that by God’s grace you can fill it.” No, it isn’t easy, but is there anything worth doing in life that is easy?

“[The shepherd—or canvasser] does not study his own ease or convenience. He is forgetful of self. In his search for the lost sheep, he does not realize that he himself is weary, cold, and hungry. He has but one object in view—the saving of the lost.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 16.

Why would anyone in his or her right mind do this work? I guess the answer is that anyone in THEIR right mind does not. They don’t. The secret is to being out of YOUR mind, and having Christ’s. That’s what Paul is talking about in his letter to the Philippians. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5–8).

If you think about it, it is pretty sad that we, the human beings Jesus sacrificed everything to save, are so ungrateful—so unwilling to endure a small fraction of what He endured for us so that others may have salvation.

Literature evangelism is a lasting work. Someone once said, “Spoken words will perish, but written words endure.” Martin Luther said, “A drop of ink will make a million **think**.” And inspiration tells us, “God will soon do great things for us if we lie humble and believing at His feet. . . . More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.”—*The Colporteur Ministry*, p. 151. Don’t you want to be part of that? 

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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.

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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:

##### Annual donation requested

United States	US \$ 8.95
foreign (surface mail)	US \$13.00
foreign (air mail)	US \$17.00
single issue	US \$ 2.95

**Illustrations:** Dreamstime.com on front and back covers and pp. 2-3, 6-15; Sermonview.com on pp. 12-13; [www.sxc.hu](http://www.sxc.hu) on p. 7; Getty Images elsewhere, unless otherwise noted.

## How About My Future?

From  
the Editor

*In this issue, we would like to introduce the new editor of the Youth Messenger, Bro. Eli Tenorio da Silva. He was recently elected to be the leader of the GC Young People's Department and we would like to extend a warm welcome to him in his rewarding new assignment to work with our precious youth around the world.*



**W**hat career am I going to choose? Who am I going to marry? Where am I going to live?

It would be very good if we all could have the assurance that we will have a happy marriage, a happy family, a good job, and that after enjoying a blessed life here in this world we finally would go to heaven.

My six-year-old son is always talking about how he wants the world to be when he grows up—a world where there is no need of money, where there is no robbery, no drugs, no corruption, no terrorism, no lies, and no separation.

How good it would be if we could live right now in such a perfect world! Yet the future will not be exactly as we may happen to wish. Things might happen that will afflict us, but we should not be discouraged. Our hope does not rest in what people can or will do. Our hope rests in what our God can do for us and in us. In God we can trust. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5).

A boy was once playing with his friends when they all decided to go and play in another field. While walking to the place where they wanted to play, they came to a stream and they had to cross it by going over a round stick which served as a bridge. Everyone had crossed to the other side except that one boy. His friends called him saying: "Come on, cross it!" However, the boy did not want to cross.

One of his friends came back over the round stick and offered his hand saying: "Hold my hand. I won't let you fall." The boy said: "No."

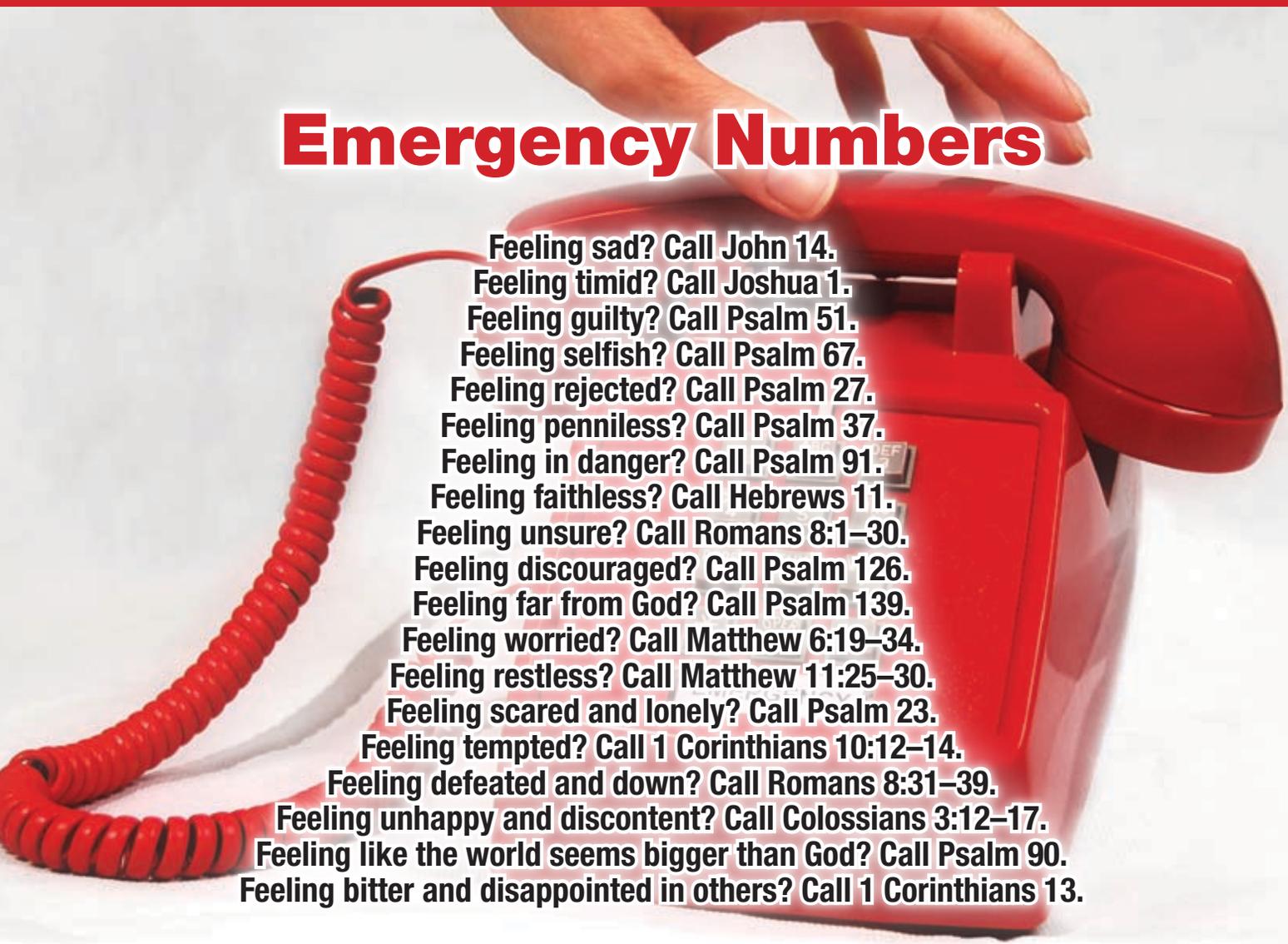
In that moment the boy's father arrived and asked: "Why don't you want to cross the river?"

"I am afraid, Dad," said the boy.

The father then held his hand and said: "Let's go!" Holding the father's hand the boy crossed it without any fear.

Even when the prospects seem good we should always remember that later in our journey we more likely will face the streams of life, when we have to go over the round stick. Trials and difficulties cross the path of each one of us.

We don't need to know all the details about the future; we just need to hold Jesus' hand, for He knows the future and He won't let us go. "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee" (Isaiah 41:13). 



# Emergency Numbers

Feeling sad? Call John 14.  
Feeling timid? Call Joshua 1.  
Feeling guilty? Call Psalm 51.  
Feeling selfish? Call Psalm 67.  
Feeling rejected? Call Psalm 27.  
Feeling penniless? Call Psalm 37.  
Feeling in danger? Call Psalm 91.  
Feeling faithless? Call Hebrews 11.  
Feeling unsure? Call Romans 8:1–30.  
Feeling discouraged? Call Psalm 126.  
Feeling far from God? Call Psalm 139.  
Feeling worried? Call Matthew 6:19–34.  
Feeling restless? Call Matthew 11:25–30.  
Feeling scared and lonely? Call Psalm 23.  
Feeling tempted? Call 1 Corinthians 10:12–14.  
Feeling defeated and down? Call Romans 8:31–39.  
Feeling unhappy and discontent? Call Colossians 3:12–17.  
Feeling like the world seems bigger than God? Call Psalm 90.  
Feeling bitter and disappointed in others? Call 1 Corinthians 13.

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- All emergency numbers can be dialed directly.
  - No operator assistance is needed. All lines are open to Heaven 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!
  - And you don't even need a telephone—just open your Bible!