

World Conditions facing the Christian Worker

Dear

We recently read through and completed the book "Christian Service" for our morning and evening worship times and there is one chapter that really captivated me, to the point I knew I had to share it with someone, and the more the better. So it came to me to share it in a newsletter editorial and here it is!

Truly we are facing difficult times, and to be honest, we are more entrenched in Laodicea that we realise. It is a condition of the church that is stated by divine script and if we think we are astute enough to not be affected by the condition, it would do well to read Revelation 3:14-21 again, because it explains exactly the problem. We think we are good and in need of nothing, but really we are in a dreadful state.

Even though this is taken from the pages of Christian Service, it struck me deeply. Please take the time to read it and consider the impact of the words on your life.

The world is a theater; the actors its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama. With the great masses of mankind, there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes. God is looking on. His purposes in regard to His rebellious subjects will be fulfilled. The world has not been given into the hands of men, though God is permitting the elements of confusion and disorder to bear sway for a season. A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama,—Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of the enemy. The cause will be followed by the effect.—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, pp. 27, 28.

Last Act of the Drama

Never did this message apply with greater force than it applies today. More and more the world is setting at naught the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled up the measure of their iniquity. This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it. The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal

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—Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 141





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—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 14



Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 141

The Crisis of the Ages

We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another,—fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent.—Prophets and Kings, p. 278.

The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy forever shut.—The Southern Watchman, October 3, 1905.

Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.—Testimonies for the Church, vol 8, p. 28

In this time of prevailing iniquity we may know that the last great crisis is at hand. When the defiance of God's law is almost universal, when His people are oppressed and afflicted by their fellow men, the Lord will interpose.—Christ's Object Lessons, p. 178.

We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars, and rumors of wars. The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. Events are changing to bring about the day of God which hasteth greatly. Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains. But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle."—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 14

The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us... Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails—Testimonies for the Church, vol 9, p. 11

The Arch-Deceiver at Work

At the present time, when the end of all things earthly is rapidly approaching, Satan is putting forth desperate efforts to ensnare the world. He is devising many plans to occupy minds, and to divert attention from the truths essential to salvation. In every city his agencies are busily organizing into parties those who are opposed to the law of God. The arch-deceiver is at work to introduce elements of confusion and rebellion, and men are being fired with a zeal that is not according to knowledge. —Acts of the Apostles, p. 219

Satan is now seeking to hold God's people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth, that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found wanting. —Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p. 260



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 sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events 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 to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p.11.

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.

Men in their blindness boast of wonderful progress and enlightenment; but the heavenly watchers see the earth filled with corruption and violence. Because of sin the atmosphere of our world has become as the atmosphere of a pesthouse.—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, pp.10, 11.

An Epidemic of Crime

We are living in the midst of an "epidemic of crime," at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails, it is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud. Every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide. Who can doubt that satanic agencies are at work among men with increasing activity to distract and corrupt the mind, and defile and destroy the body?—The Ministry of Healing, pp.142, 143.

The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation. The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world, represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening. Even now, in the present century, and in professedly Christian lands, there are crimes daily perpetrated, as black and terrible as those for which the old-world sinners were destroyed. Before the flood, God sent Noah to warn the world, that the people might be led to repentance, and thus escape the threatened destruction. As the time of Christ's second appearing draws near, the Lord sends His servants with a warning to the world to prepare for that great event. Multitudes have been living in transgression of God's law, and now He in mercy calls them to obey its sacred precepts. All who will put away their sins by repentance toward God and faith in Christ, are offered pardon.—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 102.

The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.—Acts of the Apostles, p.219.

Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counter-work the work of the Lord upon this earth.—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p.16.

Satan is now seeking to hold God's people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth, that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found wanting.—Testimonies for the Church, vol.1, p 26

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—Testimonies, vol.9, p. 65



World Stirred with the Spirit of War

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.—Testimonies for the Church, vol.9, p.14

I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land.... My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men's hearts failed them for fear, "and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p:268.

Spiritual Darkness

This is a time of spiritual darkness in the churches of the world. Ignorance of divine things has hidden God and the truth from view. The forces of evil are gathering in strength. Satan flatters his coworkers that he will do a work that will captivate the world. While partial inactivity has come upon the church, Satan and his hosts are intensely active. The professed Christian churches are not converting the world; for they are themselves corrupted with selfishness and pride, and need to feel the converting power of God in their midst before they can lead others to a purer or higher standard.—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p.65

In our day, as of old, the vital truths of God's word are set aside for human theories and speculations. Many professed ministers of the gospel do not accept the whole Bible as the inspired word. One wise man rejects one portion; another questions another part. They set up their judgment as superior to the Word; and the Scripture which they do teach rests upon their own authority. Its divine authenticity is destroyed. Thus the seeds of infidelity are sown broadcast; for the people become confused, and know not what to believe. There are many beliefs that the mind has no right to entertain.—Christ's Object Lessons, p.39.

Wickedness is reaching a height never before attained, and yet many ministers of the gospel are crying, "Peace and safety." But God's faithful messengers are to go steadily forward with their work. Clothed with the panoply of heaven, they are to advance fearlessly and victoriously, never ceasing their warfare until every soul within their reach shall have received the message of truth for this time.—Acts of the Apostles, p.220.

There is a cause for alarm in the condition of the religious world today. God's mercy has been trifled with. The multitude make void the law of Jehovah, "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Infidelity prevails in many of the churches in our land; not infidelity in its broadest sense,—an open denial of the Bible,—but an infidelity that is robed in the garb of Christianity, while it is undermining faith in the Bible as a revelation from God. Fervent devotion and vital piety have given place to hollow formalism. As the result, apostasy and sensualism prevail. Christ declared, "As it was in the days of Lot, ... even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." The daily record of passing events testifies to the fulfillment of His words. The world is fast becoming ripe for destruction. Soon the judgments of God are to be poured out, and sin and sinners are to be consumed.—Patriarchs and Prophets, p.166.

Separating the Wheat from the Tares

The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter.—Testimonies for the Church, vol.9, p.97

Soon the battle will be waged fiercely between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. Soon everything that can be shaken will be shaken, that those things that cannot be shaken may remain.—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, pp.15, 16.

In the time of distress and perplexity of nations there will be many who have not given themselves wholly to the corrupting influences of the world and the service of Satan, who will humble themselves before God, and turn to Him with their whole heart and find acceptance and pardon.—Testimonies for the Church, vol.1, p.269

There are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.—The Acts of the Apostles, p.109

Lessons From Elijah's Experience

From Elijah's experience during those days of discouragement and apparent defeat, there are many lessons to be drawn,—lessons invaluable to the servants of God in this age, marked as it is by general departure from right. The apostasy prevailing today is similar to that which in the prophet's day overspread Israel. In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mammon, and in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following after Baal.

Doubt and unbelief are exercising their baleful influence over mind and heart, and many are substituting for the oracles of God the theories of men. It is publicly taught that we have reached a time when human reason should be exalted above the teachings of the Word. The law of God, the divine standard of righteousness, is declared to be of no effect.

The enemy of all truth is working with deceptive power to cause men and women to place human institutions where God should be, and to forget that which was ordained for the happiness and salvation of mankind. Yet this apostasy, widespread as it has come to be, is not universal. Not all in the world are lawless and sinful; not all have taken sides with the enemy. God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal, many who long to understand more fully in regard to Christ and the law, many who are hoping against hope that Jesus will come soon to end the reign of sin and death. And there are many who have been worshiping Baal ignorantly, but with whom the Spirit of God is still striving.—Prophets and Kings, pp.170, 171.

So in closing, while we are facing the present changing world conditions, which will eventually pressurize us to make an eternal decision, let's just find a bit of encouragement, that through all these dangers and issues, there is hope and security to all who will yield to the law of God.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." — 2 Peter 1:10,11

So what does our calling and election actually mean? Every soul is elected who will work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. He is elected who will put on the armor and fight the good fight of faith. He is elected who will watch unto prayer, who will search the Scriptures, and flee from temptation. He is elected who will have faith continually, and who will be obedient to every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The provisions of redemption are free to all; the results of redemption will be enjoyed by those who have complied with the conditions.

Praise God there is a way through what the Christian is facing in our present and worsening world conditions. So hold up and Jesus will in turn hold you up.

Doug Whitley

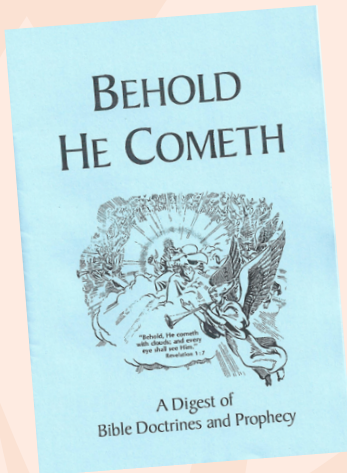
"Wherefore the rather brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

—II Peter 1:10,11





Behold He Cometh



"Behold He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." –Revelation 1:7

This is an economical digest of Bible Doctrines and Prophecy, an excellent booklet full of good basic Bible studies for sharing in family worship times, for church study sessions, or with neighbours interested in Biblical topics.

Subjects include:

Power in the Word of God
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and many more topics;

Paperback

\$1.50 +p&p

In the Office

Over the winter months we have been kept busy with various projects. Almost \$130,000 worth of products were sold or given away with the top 10 products being outreach focused: primarily Bibles, Steps to Christ, Desire of Ages and The Great Controversy. Also a lot of health related books and products have been requested.

One major change in the office has been the departure of Lena who has served with us for eleven and a half years. Many of you will have met and interacted with her over the years and we thank her for her service and wish her the best in her new pursuits.

Our production team has been busy creating print and media projects, both for our own initiatives and at the request of individuals and groups who have needed a hand in their mission focused projects. We are also currently upgrading our website and webshop for better security and to better integrate with our other systems. This will also enable us to connect better with newer standards of technology and essentially get our products and services onto more people's screens online.

Please keep this work in your prayers just as we often pray for you.

Events

During the week of August 15-23, Doug and Angela had the privilege of going to Fiji to join with Shepherd's Call medical missionary



programme. About 70 care providers in their various areas of expertise converged in Suva Civic Centre and gave free health care to a total of 1781 people over four days of concentrated service. The services included the services of dentists, doctors, surgeons, optometrists, lifestyle advisors, massage, health lectures and pastoral care, encouragement and prayer.

Doug and Angela were in the area of prayer and encouragement, which was offered at the end of their consultations.

We gave out over 2000 pieces of literature and 160 Bibles and all that were offered books willingly accepted.



Projects

Blue Bible Project: These Bibles are continuing scatter around the country and world. About 1500 (over two pallet loads) have been sent from here just during August and the first half of September. One box in particular was donated to a youth group who used them to reach out to other youth in their community. Others were used in street evangelism and many have been shared for study contacts and as free offers on Firstlight Television. We are also happy to report that over three quarters of the funds to subsidise these Bibles had already been raised with less than \$10,000 left to raise. We are already working on a new and exciting Bible project that we believe will scatter God's Word more effectively through resources and technology that hasn't been available in the past.



Funding Progress Raised so far: \$40,405.08

\$9,595 to raise

Building Project: We want you to rejoice with us! During September the last dollars were confirmed to repay the very last of the building fund. This is a huge milestone in the history of ministry in New Zealand. It was almost 6 years—to the day—that we moved in to start using it.



And what an interesting 6 years that has been, with many blessed interactions, transactions, and conversations.

This completes the fundraising for this specific project. The funds have been raised primarily through many small donations given specifically for this project but also through various other methods including selling items (like parts of the old house that was on the property and also donated goods), also income from renting some spare office space, a little revenue gained from production jobs or studio use, and allocation of returns on a donated investment. But the last amount was a generous donation to cover the remainder of the project - plus extra.

Autumn Leaves hasn't owed anything on the project for quite a while. We did have a few personal, interest-free loans during the completion of the actual building which were paid back as promptly as possible. We had borrowed internally against other funds while the remainder was raised. There have been some financially tight times but God has been the Master Accountant. No interest has been paid during the whole process. Now we can focus more on funding other projects including video production and using this established resource centre that can now continue to serve in the years to come! Thank you, everyone, for the shared vision, prayers, and trust to make this possible.

Funding Progress Raised: over \$1,589,568.93

\$0 to raise!

Events

Australian Camps — Stand Strong

Neville Camp Meeting

- **Date:** Thursday Oct 8 – Sunday Oct 11
- **Venue:** Neville Siding, 12 Crouch Street, Neville, NSW
- **Speakers:** Elvis Placer, Doug Hurley
- **Contact:** Gwen Svensson, svenssongwen@gmail.com, 0448287992

Tahlee Camp Meeting

- **Date:** Friday Oct 23 – Sunday Oct 25
- **Venue:** 31 Church Street, Tahlee NSW
- **Speakers:** Doug Hurley, Shane Cowan
- **Contact:** Shane & Christina Cowan, lakequeen_nn@hotmail.com, Shane: 0423135143, Christina: 0417002011

Mount Tamborine Camp

- **Date:** Thursday Oct 29 – Tuesday Nov 3rd
- **Venue:** Mount Tamborine Conference Centre, QLD
- **Speakers:** Elvis Placer, Stephen Richards, Doug Hurley, Geoffrey Furaha
- **Contact:** Alan & Lizzy Entermann, entermann21@gmail.com, 0409054747

Christmas Easter Halloween



It's coming around that time again, with these pagan rituals about to do their rounds with Halloween at the end of October and Christmas coming soon after.

Find out the startling but true history behind these commonly kept holidays. A real eye opener!

This is an amazing collection of historical facts and insights showing the origins of the well known events, Christmas, Easter and Halloween.

Information includes:

How they originated

The inner meanings

How they became Christian

What historians tell us

What does the Bible reveal

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*Be careful
that when
you fight
monsters,
you don't
become one
yourself!*



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Categories include: Bibles, Study Aids, Bible Teachings, Stories, Nature and Science, Spirit of Prophecy, Family, Homeschooling, Children, Health, Media, Outreach, Foreign Languages, Donations and Second Hand items.

This newsletter is also available electronically and online.

www.autumnleaves.co.nz/shop

Summer Camps

Grace & Mercy
DOWN FROM HIS GLORY



Speakers



Brian McMahon



Jeff Wehr



Peter Sio

North Island Camp

January 19-24, 2027

Lakeview Bible Camp, 359 Hamurana Road, Rotorua

The North Island camp this coming summer will be at our usual location and in a similar format. We look forward to spending time with all who can attend!

South Island Convention

January 28-31, 2027

St Silas Church, 237 Main North Road, Christchurch

The South Island convention will run from Thursday through to Sabbath evening/ Sunday with the above speakers. This is the weekend after the North Island camp. Keep an eye out in the next leaflet for more confirmed details.

www.autumnleaves.co.nz/events



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The Leaflet

The Leaflet is the newsletter of Autumn Leaves NZ Limited, a registered charitable company, with the purpose of scattering God's message of truth like the leaves of autumn.



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