



YOUNG DISCIPLE

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Sore Knees and



PART 2

A STARRY CROWN

by Josephine Cunnington Edwards

What's happening: Lily's family has barely enough money to survive during the Depression, and they suffer from cold and hunger. When a doctor discovers that Lily has tuberculosis and rheumatoid arthritis, he sends her home from school and arranges for her to be treated at a large children's hospital in a distant city.

As the seasons passed, Lily began to sleep better. The pain in her knees also began to lessen. With apples, peaches, and oranges to eat, her cough improved too, and she began to grow.

Maybe the good food is helping me feel better, Lily reasoned. *My knees don't ache any more, and maybe one of these days I'll quit coughing altogether.* She lay back on her white pillow, warm and restful.

Lily stayed in the hospital for four years. Mother and Daddy were able to visit her only three times. When Lily was finally released to go home, she had matured into a contented young girl with soft, gentle eyes and wavy hair. By the time she left, she knew every hallway, treatment room, and waiting room in the entire hospital. She wept at leaving, although she was glad to be well.

HAPPY HOME

Lily was surprised to find out how much better things were at home. Daddy had a good, steady job, and Mother was working in a bakery at a place called an “academy.”

Just about everything at home looked different, and everyone seemed happier than before. Father had given up drinking beer and chewing tobacco, and he didn't seem to miss them at all. Mother now cooked with all sorts of fresh fruits and vegetables, and Lily couldn't find a bit of bacon, ham, or sausage in the house.

Strangest of all, the family went to church on Saturdays! Saturday used to be the day for baking, cleaning, and bathing—the busiest day of the week.

At first, when Lily went to church on Saturdays with the family, she felt a little odd and self-conscious. It seemed almost like going to church on Tuesday or Wednesday. *What would my friends think if they knew?* she wondered. *How did Mother and Daddy get mixed up in this religion?*

“It's actually because of our new faith that the doctors allowed you to come home,” Mother told Lily as they chopped carrots and onions for a stew. “The doctors consented when they learned that we had changed our diet and that we were eating more fresh fruits and vegetables.” Mother dumped a mound of shredded cabbage into the stew pot. “We know how to live better, dear! I've never felt healthier in my whole life!”

Although Lily didn't admit it at first, she was eager to learn more about the religion that had made such a difference in their home. Even though it seemed strange to her, she knew it must be wonderful. And, as Daddy explained the things he had learned, she began to understand why her parents had been willing to make so many changes.

When Daddy told Lily about the Sabbath and the second coming of the Lord, it all seemed so plain that Lily felt sorry for all the people who did not know this wonderful truth.

“How did you learn all this in the first place?” she asked.

Her folks told her about a radio broadcast called the Voice of Prophecy. “They advertised a Bible study course,” Daddy said, “and it was free of charge. We sent off for it right away, and before

we knew it, we were convinced that what they were saying was the truth. Ever since we were baptized last April, we have wanted to tell you about it, too!”

GOOD IDEA

That night, as Lily prepared for bed, Daddy’s words kept circling through her mind. *When he learned the truth, he wanted to tell me. Now it’s my turn to share it with someone else.*

Suddenly Lily thought of Miss Margaret—dear, kind Miss Margaret. “Of course!” she said out loud. “She’s just the one!”

Lily ran down the stairs to the kitchen. “Mother!” she called. “I want to tell Miss Margaret at the hospital about the Bible course. She was always so good to us. I know she doesn’t know about the true Sabbath or she’d keep it. She does everything good she knows about.”

The next morning, Lily wrote to Miss Margaret McDowell, back at the hospital where she had lived for so long. She told her about the Voice of Prophecy’s Bible study course, and urged her to send for it.

TEARS OF JOY

That fall, Lily entered the ninth grade at the academy where Mother worked. It was like high school, but there were dormitories where some of the students lived. Right away, Lily began to make friends with the students, and in a week or two she was in the swing of things. She learned something new every day in Bible class.

Time flew by. By the time Lily entered the tenth grade, she had become so red-cheeked and healthy she was allowed to work in the laundry

to earn her tuition. She loved almost everything about the academy, especially the Bible classes and Friday night vespers. During that year, she decided to be baptized.

One day a letter came for Lily from far-off California. “Who do I know there?” Lily scanned the letter, and then squealed with delight.

“Mother!” she called. “This letter is from Miss Margaret. She’s not at the hospital anymore. Listen!”

THAT NIGHT, AS LILY
PREPARED FOR BED,
DADDY’S WORDS KEPT
CIRCLING THROUGH
HER MIND.

“Dear Lily,” she read aloud. “Thank you for telling me about the Voice of Prophecy Bible study course. I wanted you to know that I will be a star in your crown some bright day! I was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church last May. Now I am working at Paradise Valley Sanitarium in San Diego. It is a wonderful place, and I plan to help other people as you helped me. God bless you, Lily, for sharing your faith. Lovingly, Margaret McDowell.”

Lily’s eyes filled with so many tears that she could hardly read the letter. And when she looked up, she saw that Mother was weeping too. But their tears were tears of joy.

(Concluded.)





You to **US**
and us to **YOU**

Q **YAB MEMBERS**, how can you honor God in your daily life?

Sasha Willis: I honor God when I stand up for what I believe, do my best to be respectful and kind, and when I obey Him. I honor God when I reflect who Jesus is.



Nicole Potgieter: I can honor God in my daily life by living in a way that would please Him and by sacrificing my own desires to do His will.

Nathan Bixby: I can honor God in my everyday life by taking care of my body and helping others.



Kaitlin Arthur: One of the ways I honor God is by taking time for Him in the morning and asking Him what He would have me do throughout the day. Each decision I make in a day either honors or dishonors God, and it's important to have His counsel.



Kaitlyn Bowman: One of the ways I can honor God in my daily life is through obedience. In this way I show Him and others that I love Him.



Caleb Bowman: I can honor God in my daily life by seeking to live a life that reflects God's character.

Harmony Muehlhauser: I can honor God in my daily life by choosing to serve Him faithfully, even if those around me do not. When I really love God, I will be willing to sacrifice everything in life to be right with Him. He is all that really matters!



Manish Ramtel: I don't need to offer a great, costly sacrifice to honor my God. I can honor God in my daily life by doing things that Jesus wants me to do, like obeying and helping my parents, speaking courteously and politely to everyone, and trying my best to share Jesus with others.

Becky Stone: I can honor God in my life by doing the best I can at everything I do.



Josué Vega: I can honor God in my daily life by extending help when I see a need, forgiving those who hurt me, and keeping in mind that anything that I see, hear, or do is being watched by my heavenly Father.

YOUR TURN!

Are you interested in joining the Youth Advisory Board, or do you have a question for the YAB to answer?

Write to YAB Coordinator, *Young Disciple* magazine, PO Box 400, Inchelium, WA 99138 or YAB@youngdisciple.com.



CHILDS

Last week we challenged you to tell a children's story at your church. This week we have a sample story for you to present. The words in parentheses are instructions for you to follow to make the story extra-special. Be sure to prepare ahead of time. And, before you speak, ask God to help you forget about yourself and your nervousness, so you can concentrate on sharing Him with the children.

STORY: "WHAT COMES FIRST?"

Advance preparation: Fill a clear, 2-quart jar, such as a large peanut butter jar, with unshelled walnuts. Now add as many split peas as you can squeeze into the jar. Be sure to fill all the crevices between the nuts. Now empty the peas into another jar and the walnuts into a third jar. Place the jars in a large shopping bag. You will need all three for our story.

Story: *(Hold up the empty jar. Smile.)* Good morning! This is a very special jar because it is going to teach us something very important. This jar represents YOU at the beginning of the day. You have a whole day ahead of you. What will you put in it? *(Bring out the jar of peas.)* These peas represent the kinds of things we like to do. *(As you talk, pour the peas slowly into the first jar.)* Let's see: You have breakfast, play with your toys, look at a book, talk to your friends. . . . Maybe you go to the park with Mommy. You eat lunch, play some more, ride your bike, jump rope, take a

walk, eat supper, listen to a story, take a bath, go to bed. . . .

(Finish pouring the peas into the jar, and hold up the jar.) There! Your day has been very busy! But wait! Something very important is missing! We filled your day with *your* things, but we didn't put in any of *God's* things! *(Drop walnuts into the jar as you talk, until it is full.)* What can these things be? Bible study, prayer, learning your memory verse, telling your neighbor about Jesus. . . .

Oh dear! *(Look sad.)* We can't add any more of God's things! And He had more for you. *(Hold up the walnut jar, which still contains walnuts.)* I think we've done things wrong. Let's start all over. *(Put the walnuts back into their original jar; empty the peas into their jar.)*

(Hold up the empty jar.) This time let's start the day with God. As soon as you wake up, what should you do? *(Pause for response.)* That's right, you should

CHILDREN'S STORY

Part 2

by Staff Writers

pray. *(As you speak, keep adding walnuts to the jar.)* And let's make time to study the Bible and to learn your memory verse. At worship, you will sing songs for Jesus, and listen to a devotional thought. All through the day, when Satan comes with his temptations, you will send up little prayers to Jesus. Perhaps you will have a chance to tell a friend or neighbor about Jesus. Then, at night, your family will have worship, and you will pray again before you go to sleep. *(Put in the last walnut.)* There! The day is filled with God's things.

Is there room for anything else? Let's see. *(Start pouring the peas into the jar.)* You have breakfast, play with your toys, look at a book, talk to your friends. Maybe you go to the park with Mommy. You eat lunch, play some more, ride bikes, jump rope, take a walk, eat supper, listen to a story, take a bath, go to bed. *(All the peas should be in the jar by this time.)*

(Hold up full jar.) Well, look at that! When we put God first, there is room for doing many other good things. And do you know what? When we put God first, everything else goes better. We are happier, and the people around us are

happier, too. This is what Jesus meant in Matthew 6:33 when He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God . . . and all these things shall be added unto you."

Do you want to put Jesus first in your life? If so, raise your hand with me. *(Raise your own hand.)* I'm glad so many of you want to put Jesus first. When we do, He can do amazing things for us!

(Smile at the children.) Thank you for listening so carefully. You may now tiptoe back to your seats.

When you get to this point, you will have made it through your first children's story! It wasn't as hard as you thought, was it? And next time it will be even easier. After you sit down, be sure to send a silent prayer to God, thanking Him for helping you.

(Concluded.)



Photo: Ted Evert



Mount of Blessing

DELIVER US!



“Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given” (*Steps to Christ*, page 91).

MEMORY TEXT

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen” (Matthew 6:13).

PROJECT: MEMORY – MATTHEW 6:1–21

“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward” (Matthew 6:5).

If you follow the learning and review suggestions each week, you will memorize the entire passage by the end of the quarter!

Bible study hint: Word and word-by-word studies

Word studies help you understand Bible words better so that you can get a fuller meaning of the verses and chapters where they are used. For example, you might want to know more about the word *glory* as used in Matthew 6:13. *Strong's* lists many Bible texts that use this word. It also shows that several different Hebrew and Greek words were translated as *glory*. Do they all mean the exact same thing? You can find out by looking up each number in one of the dictionaries in the back of *Strong's*. As you do this, you will also gain a greater understanding of this word.

A computer program or mobile app that includes *Strong's Concordance* can really help with word studies. For example, the Greek word that is translated as *glory* in Matthew 6:13 is *doxa*, which is *Strong's* number 1391. Computer programs like *Online Bible* or *theWord*, or mobile apps like *MySword* or *PocketSword* show you

each text that uses the word *doxa* in the Greek Bible, no matter how it was translated into English. The programs are free for download at onlinebible.net, theword.net, or your device's app store.

In a **word-by-word study**, choose a Bible verse that interests you, and study each significant word in the verse. *Strong's Concordance* and your marginal references will be important resources, as will a dictionary. Noah Webster's 1828 *Dictionary of the English Language* is especially helpful. After you have researched a verse on your own, you may want to consult the Scripture Index in the *Comprehensive Index to the Writings of Ellen G. White*, Volume 1. The *SDA Bible Commentary* can also provide information and insights. Be sure to record your findings. Some of this week's Dig Deeper assignments will give you practice in doing your own word and word-by-word studies.

Bible Lesson Key

Core Concept & Bible Memory:
For everyone.

Study for Yourself: More challenging.

Dig Deeper: Most challenging.

Puzzles/Activities: Enjoy! For the answer key, use a mirror.

For Further Study: Learn more!

CORE CONCEPT

Did you ever wonder why Jesus said we should pray that God will not lead us into **T**_____? (Matthew 6:13). Does God sometimes try to get us to do wrong?

No! God does not tempt **A**_____ **M**_____ to sin (James 1:13). Temptations come from the **D**_____ (Matthew 4:1). But God is all-powerful. He could forbid Satan to give us temptations or trials. Instead, God promises to give us His grace—His power to overcome and endure. As we use His grace to say no to temptation, we receive a wonderful blessing. Work today's puzzle to discover what it is.

When we pray, "lead us not into temptation," we are asking God to lead and guide us so that we do not meet a temptation that is too strong for us. If we are serious about this prayer, we will surrender ourselves to God and allow Him to lead our lives.

 **Think About It!** "We cannot offer this prayer in sincerity, and yet decide to walk in any way of our own choosing" (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pages 117–118). Instead, we will wait for God to lead us. We will listen for Him to tell us, "This is the way, _____ ye in it" (Isaiah 30:21).

HIDDEN BLESSING!

Decipher the code to discover a hidden blessing that comes from resisting temptation.

"	22	5	22	9	2	7	22	14	11	7	26	7	18	12	13
9	22	8	18	8	7	22	23	26	23	5	26	13	24	22	8
6	8	18	13	7	19	22	4	12	9	16	12	21			
24	19	26	9	26	24	7	22	9							
25	6	18	15	23	18	13	20								

A = 26 **G = 20**
N = 13 **S = 8**
Z = 1

STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

When we yield our way to God's way, who fights our battles for us? See 2 Chronicles 20:17. _____

"When we have troubles and heartaches, we should always bring them to Jesus. He knows—and He has the answers!"

—José Vega



DIG DEEPER

Zec. 3:1–7 shows the attitude that Satan has toward God's people (represented by Joshua). Follow your marginal references to decode the symbols in this passage. What does Christ do for you?

Memory Text

Use the initial letters to learn or review Matthew 6:13. ALUNIT, BDUFE: FTITK, ATP, ATG, FE. A.

(from the Mount of Blessing, page 113)
 ANSWER KEY: "Every temptation resisted . . . advances us in the work of character building." (Thoughts

Satan can make his temptations look very attractive. He's too clever to try to get us to do something that is repulsive to us. Instead, he presents an appealing temptation, and then suggests reasons why we should do it. The longer we think about it, the more attractive it becomes.



Object Lesson! At the zoo, you are safe as long as you stay far back from the lion's cage. But if you jump over the barrier and press against the bars, no one can protect you from the lion's claws and jaws. In the same way, when we try to get as close as possible to a temptation, we enter Satan's territory, and we have no protection from his power.

When you pray, "Lead us not into temptation," you can be sure that God will help you. After all, you have His promise that He "will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are _____; but will with the temptation also make a way to _____, that ye may be able to _____ it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Strong temptations show us how weak we are. If we ask God to help us and strengthen us, He answers by giving us His **G**_____. Then, the **P**_____ of God rests on us, and we become **S**_____ (2 Corinthians 12:9–10). Satan's fierce temptations lose their power, and God's grace changes our hearts!

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER!

When we are tempted, we should always remember something. To find it, examine the letters below each blank. On the blank, write the letter that comes first in the alphabet.

R	E	J	S	B	B	M	F
H	L	K	T	A	C	L	H
J	F	I	U	C	D	N	E

U	P	K	F	G	Q	Z	O	V
T	Q	L	J	E	R	Y	P	X
V	O	O	E	I	P	Z	Q	U

G	R	P	N	H	A	L	O	U	N	H
F	S	O	O	G	E	M	P	I	O	I
H	T	R	M	F	I	N	L	O	P	G



"Jesus has promised that He will not allow any temptation or trial to be too great for us to bear."

—Lilienne Stafford



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

It's always dangerous to see how close we can get to sin. What makes the devil flee from us? See James 4:7.



DIG DEEPER

How can we safely make it through the temptations God allows to come to us? What good can come from being tempted? Do a word study of *temptation(s)* for important answers.

Memory Text

Review the entire Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13), paying special attention to the small words.

CORE CONCEPT

When we give in to temptation, we may fear that Christ will give up on us. But such thoughts are from Satan. The Bible tells us that *nothing* can **S**_____ us from the **L**_____ of Christ (Romans 8:35–39).

If you ever feel overwhelmed and discouraged, remember that “He that spared not His own _____, but delivered Him up for us all” will surely “give us _____ things” that we need in order to resist Satan and his temptations (verse 32).

We may leave Jesus, but He will never **L**_____ us or **F**_____ us (Hebrews 13:5).

Think About It! “Christ will never abandon the soul for whom He _____ has died” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, page 118).

There is a battle going on. It is as real as any war that is being fought by the armies of this world. Satan and his evil angels will try to overcome us, but God does not leave us to fight alone. When we ask for help, He sends **A**_____ to our side (Psalm 91:11). They force back the hosts of evil, and help us do the right thing.

In answer to our prayer for help, our heavenly Father will “_____ us from _____” (Matthew 6:13).



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

What verse in Proverbs 18 reminds us to run to God when we are in danger from the enemy? _____

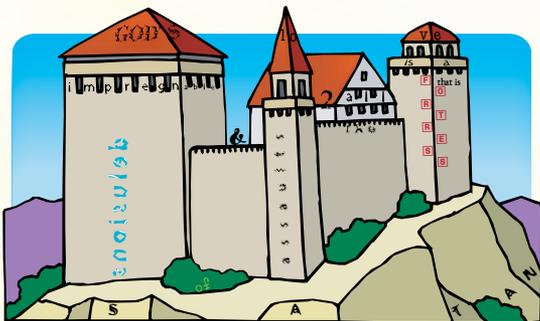
IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS!

When we know and believe God’s love for us, we have nothing to fear from the enemy. The reason is written on the fortress below. Moving ever lower, you will find the message. When you have it, write it on the lines.



DIG DEEPER

Starting with Heb. 13:5, use your concordance and marginal references to find promises of God’s protection and presence.



Project: Memory

Use the cues below to memorize Matthew 6:5:

- A- _____ -est,
- T- _____ -re:
- F- _____
- _____ -eets,
- T- _____ -en.
- V- _____, _____ -ard.

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In the first part of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus points to our heavenly **F**_____ (Matthew 6:9). At the end of the prayer, He reminds us that God has power and authority over everything on Earth.

Jesus could see the years that stretched out before His disciples, and He could see down through the ages to us today. He saw the troubles and sorrows we would face. He saw that in this world we would have **T**_____ (John 16:33).

When these things happen, Jesus does not want us to be fearful or discouraged. And so, right in the Lord's Prayer, He reminds us that God's **K**_____

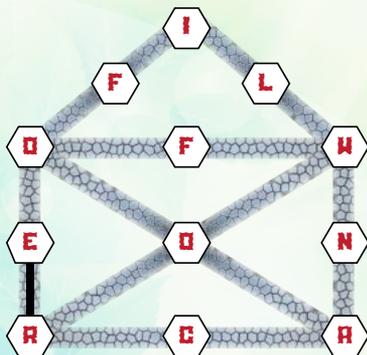
is forever, and that all **P**_____ and **G**_____ belong to Him (Matthew 6:13).

For us today, this is especially important to remember. This world is in its last days, and we can expect many disasters and difficulties. Things will happen that no one in this world has before seen. But no matter what happens here on Earth, we can remember that God has an **E**_____ Kingdom (Psalm 145:13).

God is in control. He holds the future of the nations, the church, and His people in His hands—and "His kingdom ruleth over _____" (Psalm 103:19).

REMARKABLE REWARD!

What will God give those who victoriously endure their temptations and trials? The answer is contained in the diagram below. To find it, start with A, and then trace the lines with your pencil without retracing any line. Pick up letters along the way, placing them in order on the blanks. You may cross the same letter more than once, but only use it the first time. After that, just pass over any used letters and go to the next unused letter.



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

What is God's pleasure to do with His Kingdom? See Luke 12:32. _____



DIG DEEPER

No matter how mighty the kingdoms of this world may seem, God's Kingdom is stronger. Read Dan. 2:31–45 for how God showed this to Nebuchadnezzar. Do a word-by-word study of v. 44–45. What meaning does this have for you today?

Project: Memory

Use the initial letters to review Matthew 6:5.
 AWTP, TSNBATHA: FTLTPSITS
 AITCOTS, TTMSOM. VISUY,
 THTR.

Often when the word *glory* is used in the Bible, it means *character*. But there are other meanings of *glory*. For example, in the Lord's Prayer, it means *honor, praise, and worship*.

When we pray, "Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory," we are telling God, *Because Your Kingdom rules above every kingdom on Earth, and because I can trust in Your power to help me in every situation, You deserve my H_____ and P_____ and W_____.*

Life can be unfair, sad, and painful. We may suffer when others are unkind, critical, or mean. But such things don't have to make us bitter or unhappy. Instead, we

can tell our Father in Heaven all about it. He cares. After all, His Son experienced the same things!

After we have poured out our hearts to our Father in Heaven, we should remember that His is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory **F**_____. Someday soon God will establish His heavenly Kingdom, and we will never again have a sad moment!

Everyone has trials and heartaches, but as Christ's disciples we have the privilege of telling God all about it. He will make all things work together for our eternal **G**_____ in His eternal Kingdom, through His mighty power (Romans 8:28).



POUR IT OUT!

Get yourself an empty cup. Think of things in your life that are causing problems or unhappiness. For each one, add some water to the cup—you decide

how much. Take your cup outside to

a lawn or garden area where you can be alone. Tell God about each problem. At the end of your prayer, pour out the water. Then say, "Lord, I know that everything is in Your hands. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever."



"Whenever we face trials in life, we should run straight to God and give all our burdens to Him."

—Lucinda Epps



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

1 Chronicles 29:10–13 gives one of David's prayers. In verse 11, what does he praise God for? _____



DIG DEEPER

Do a word-by-word study of 1 Chr. 29:10–13. How is David's prayer similar to the last half of Mt. 6:13? What does God's power give us? How should we respond?

Memory Text

Ask your parents if you may lead in a recitation of the Lord's Prayer during family worship.



LIVING EPISTLES

What are you wearing right now? What kinds of clothes do you have in your closet? Why do you dress the way you do?

We dress for different reasons, even if we don't consciously think about it. For example, *some dress for self*. Actually, this is a basic motive for much of what people do today. Some dress and adorn their bodies because they want to be admired. Others dress the way they do because they want to alert the world to the fact that they are individuals. Many people crave extra attention to bolster their egos and their self-confidence, and will often go to amazing extremes to make sure they are noticed.

We see it all around us: the young lady who invites wolf whistles because of her revealing top worn over skin-tight leggings; or the young man bristling with tattoos and piercings. Both point to the same motive: Self longs to be appreciated or at least noticed. But Paul tells us, "If ye then be risen with Christ, . . . set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."¹

Some dress to please others. Children and teens aren't the only victims of peer pressure. Adults of all ages and classes also participate. Fashion is a hard mistress. Whether it is the size of a collar, the width of a tie, the length of a skirt, or the outfit to wear on the tennis court, pressure is there. We all feel it.

A Christian dresses to glorify God.

Christians care about what they wear because they want it to display a beautiful picture of the One they serve. As the hymn says, we want to be "the transparent medium, Thy glory to display."² The Christian's goal is to "do all to the glory of God."³

We are "living epistles" that can be known and read of all.⁴ If the outward

We are "living epistles" that can be known and read of all.

appearance does not match the inward condition of the soul, people will be confused. We can even become an excuse for someone else's rebellion.⁵ A young woman may feel her heart is pure and that she genuinely loves Jesus, but if she dresses in a suggestive way, she can be sure that men looking at her will find it hard to think of Jesus.

Our clothing can be a distraction even if it is tasteful and modest. If our wardrobe is filled with expensive-looking clothes at the peak of fashion, many people will pay more attention to



Principle of Christian dress
1



THE CHRISTIAN MOTIVE FOR DRESSING IS NOT TO PLEASE SELF OR OTHERS, BUT TO GLORIFY GOD.

“WHETHER THEREFORE YE EAT, OR DRINK, OR WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD” (1 CORINTHIANS 10:31).



what we wear than anything we say for the Lord.

We need to beware of displaying self in any form. When our clothes do not make a display of self, people around us will realize that there is more to the Christian life than what meets the eye. And those who are living epistles, known and read of all men, can make a profound impact in the world.

(To be continued.)

1. Colossians 3:1–2.
2. “Live Out Thy Life Within Me,” by Frances Ridley Havergal. See *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, #316.
3. 1 Corinthians 10:31.
4. 2 Corinthians 3:2–3; Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, May 30, 1871.
5. Matthew 18:6; Romans 14:13–15; 1 Corinthians 10:33.

Celestial Fire

RICHES, REVOLT, AND REFORMATION
IN THE NETHERLANDS

by JA. Wylie with Janet Evert

17

THE CONFEDERATES

What's happening: Soon after Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses in 1517, the Reformation arrives in the Low Countries—Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Emperor Charles V responds with cruel edicts and the fires of the Inquisition. When his son, Philip II, becomes king of the Netherlands in 1555, he brings an army of Spanish soldiers to help enforce his father's edicts. Philip returns to Spain, but appoints his half-sister, Duchess Margaret, as governor in his absence. The citizens suffer greatly, yet the Reformation continues to spread. In 1564, the king gives the Church total power to judge and punish heretics. The citizens respond with alarm, terror, and outrage.

William of Orange was a loyal member of the Roman Catholic Church. So were many of the other nobles in the Netherlands. Yet they also had a deep love of freedom and justice. How could any man, they asked themselves, decide the conscience of another? Why should King Philip tell the people of the Low Countries how to worship God?

Yet that is exactly what the king seemed determined to do. With each day, more orders arrived from Spain. The nobles were deeply troubled. The Netherlands had never faced a greater emergency. If something were not done, the Low Countries would find themselves helplessly enslaved to the savage fires of the Inquisition.

Early in 1566, the leading nobles of the Netherlands met together. As they discussed the situation, they realized that their only hope was to work together for their country and their people. They must form a league against the Inquisition. Moving quickly, they

drafted the document they would risk their lives and lands to sign.

They began by calling the Inquisition “a most pernicious tribunal, which is not only contrary to all human and divine laws, but exceeds in cruelty the most barbarous institutions of the most savage tyrants in the heathen world.

“For these reasons,” they said, “we hereby enter into a secret league with one another, promising with a solemn oath to oppose with all our power the introduction of the above-mentioned Inquisition into these provinces, whether it shall be attempted secretly or openly, or by whatever name it shall be called.”

Among the first of the confederates to sign the document were Count Brederode¹ and Louis of Nassau.² Copies were soon scattered all over the country. By the end of two months, 2,000 people—both Catholics and Protestants—had added their names and joined the league. By the time Margaret, still serving as governor,



DUCHESS MARGARET, THE KING'S HALF-SISTER
AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE NETHERLANDS.

learned what was happening, the confederates boasted 15,000 members, and were increasing every day.

What a predicament! King Philip would never allow Margaret to yield in even the smallest detail. Yet if she were to totally ignore the confederates, there was certain to be trouble!

As Margaret thought it over, she realized she had only one choice: She must raise an army to put down the league by force. Yet even this posed a great difficulty. Who could she trust to take command of the troops? William of Orange would never do: He had

made it clear that he believed in liberty of conscience. Besides, he had already spoken out against the edicts. Margaret turned to Count Egmont, but he refused. "Look somewhere else," he told the disappointed governor. "I will never fight for the Inquisition!"

What was to be done?

(To be continued.)

1. A rash nobleman with great ambitions. He could trace his lineage back 500 years to the old sovereigns of Holland.
2. The brother of the Prince of Orange, and an ardent Protestant.

AS TOLD BY
JOHN JACQUES
WITH ADELAIDE
WELLMAN

ESCAPE FROM SIBERIAN EXILE

RED HOT BLESSING

What's happening: Old Russia, under Tsar Nicholas II, allows very little religious freedom. Although Seventh-day Adventist believers face persecution, the church continues to grow. In December 1914, just after the start of World War I, John Jacques and fellow pastor Elias Gorelic are exiled to the Siberian village of Alatayevo. As the weeks pass, they begin sharing their faith with the villagers. Alexander, the oldest son of their landlord, gives up many of the beliefs of Greek Orthodoxy. His family threatens and abuses him; yet he stands strong.

One Sunday morning, the priest of the parish visited our little village to hold church services. We attended, hoping to get acquainted with the character of the man who was the spiritual advisor of our neighbors—and a powerful influence in the area's politics.

In his sermon, the priest denounced all “sectarians,” making many false charges. After his tirade, he remarked that some sectarians had recently come to the community. He admonished the people not to allow these dangerous men into their houses!

Elias and I looked at each other, the same thought coursing through our minds: For once, we appreciated being under the guard's authority—because it also meant protection from the physical assault that could have followed such a speech!

That afternoon, as we sat down to our meager dinner, the priest and his assistant stormed into our room, a crowd of angry men close behind.

“Good afternoon.” I stood up and motioned to my chair. “Please sit down.”

“I should say not,” the priest growled. “I came to arrest the New Testament you gave to Alexander. I have evidence that it is not the edition approved by the Church.”

“I'm afraid I can't help you,” I replied. “Alexander has been on a fishing trip for several days, and he always keeps his New Testament with him. Besides, we gave it to him, and it isn't ours to take back.”

The priest turned to Alexander's father. “Fetch the New Testament from him right away, and bring it to me.”

Alexander's father turned at once to prepare for a long canoe trip.

Elias picked up the Bible we had borrowed from the church, hoping that the priest wouldn't recognize it. “May I just read you a few things?” He read several texts that refuted what the priest had said in his sermon.

“How dare you contradict our priest?” a man shouted. The whole company turned and left as angrily as they had come.

Several days later, when Alexander returned, we heard the story of the New Testament. When his father had found him, Alexander wondered what trouble was brewing. But instead of chiding him or telling him anything that had happened, his father simply said that we had sent him because we wanted the New Testament back.

Alexander hated to give up his treasured gift; but since we had asked, he sent it back with his father. And now, more than likely, none of us would see it ever again!

SPREADING ANTAGONISM

God had a purpose in this trial. Alexander’s brother-in-law Paul, an educated man, had been visiting the family during the hubbub. The uproar aroused his curiosity, and he began to study the Bible with us! Soon he was convinced that many of the teachings of the Orthodox Church were false—and he changed his life to live up to his convictions!

Paul was the foreman of a group of carpenters. As he traveled around, overseeing their work, he told the story of the new exiles and their religion. Before long, everyone in the area had heard of us!

As the word spread, our local community grew more and more antagonistic. We soon realized that even if we could not legally be forced out of Alexander’s parents’ home, their attitude made it less and less practical to stay.

We started looking for a room somewhere else—but most of the villagers wouldn’t even let us visit, much less live in their home. One man agreed to rent us a room with another exile, if the exile would agree. But when we came back to learn the decision, the owner said he had changed his mind!



VILLAGE EMERGENCY

Our prospects seemed bleak, but we kept praying. We knew God would answer at the right time. One day we visited a man who was in poor health and was having a hard time making ends meet for his family. We offered to rent a room from him, and laid some money on the table as an advance. He eagerly took us in to get out of his financial troubles!

As we carried our possessions to our new location, the chapel bell clanged noisily. Since it wasn’t time for any church services or gatherings, the bell could only mean an emergency. We soon saw the calamity: A house on the outskirts of town had caught fire. To make matters worse, a strong wind was

blowing from that direction, putting the whole village in danger.

Most of the men had gone on a fishing trip, and of course there was no fire department. The women clutched pictures of saints to their chests and frantically cried to these icons for help. Some of them even carried the pictures to the house and pled for them to put out the fire!

Elias and I hurried to the house with a few other exiles. “Quick! Gather

when I heard another shout. “Wait, he’s right here!” What a relief!

In the end, only one building and a few sheep and calves were lost. Sinking to the ground in exhaustion, we praised God for His help in averting what could have been a terrible disaster.

Soon after the fire was out, the men returned from their fishing trip. Villagers still mulled around the scene of the fire, and everyone seemed to be talking at once.

“You mean those two sectarians saved the town?” Someone pointed toward Elias and me.

“We thought they were worse than the criminals!” another commented. “Why did they care?”

“Well, we still shouldn’t trust their religion,” someone put in. “Maybe they’re half decent—but they certainly are deceived.”

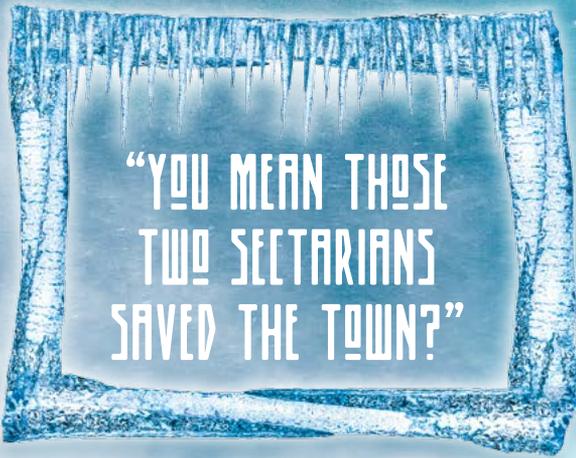
“Yes, but you saw how much the icons did for us!” A woman looked reproachfully at the picture in her

hands. “We prayed to them, but they did not save the building. The icons inside the house burned up with everything else!”

A group of villagers gathered around us. “We don’t understand why you helped us,” they said, “but we thank you with all our hearts.”

As the excitement died down, we settled into our new quarters. Our host family was very kind to us, and spoke good words for us in the community. Soon the people of Alatayevo again began coming to us with questions about the Bible!

(To be continued.)



up all the buckets you can find!” We directed sentinels to stand on the nearest grass-thatched rooftops, and then formed bucket brigades to send them water so they could put out any sparks before they could light.

We knew we couldn’t save the burning building; but as the flames roared, we organized a group to tear down the part that wasn’t yet in flames. That way, we hoped, the fire would have to die out.

“There’s a child in the house!” someone shouted. I dumped a bucket of water over my head and broke a window. I was just about to jump inside

in touch



Dear Young Disciples,

I eased our van onto the road leading to the airport. In a few minutes, I would pick up my friend, Joan. We planned to spend the night in town. The next day, we would do some heavy-duty shopping in preparation for YD Camp.

Everything went as planned. We parked and locked the van, checked into our hotel, and had a lovely evening catching up on each other's lives. The next morning, we got up early so we could get a jump-start on the shopping list. As we neared the parking lot, I fished in my purse for the car keys, but they weren't there. My heart gave a lurch. Could I have locked them in the van? I peered through the window, and spied them still in the ignition!

Now what? We had too much to do to wait several hours for a locksmith. Instead, I decided to try to open the door myself. Someone at the hotel gave us a coat hanger. I prayed for God's help, and then bent the hanger and threaded it through a door frame. After a few false tries, the hooked end caught hold of the lock. A few more seconds, and the door was open!

What a blessing that we hadn't known about the problem the night before! We would have worried and fretted, and the evening would have been nearly ruined. But when the problem was upon us, God provided the solution—quickly and easily.

A much bigger crisis looms ahead of us. I don't know exactly what will happen, although I know those last days in this world's history will not be easy. But I don't need to worry and fret. Instead, I can leave the future in God's hands. He's fully able to take care of me, no matter what!

Your friend,

Janet Evert

I fished in my purse for the car keys.



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HE WHO WOULD PRAY
MUST
BEY.

—E. M. BOUNDS