



Embers

Stop doing your own pleasure on God's Holy Day, and call the Sabbath a delight! Isaiah 58:13

Christmas <i>What does this holiday mean to you?</i>	GYC 2006 <i>An exciting youth event is coming to Baltimore! Are you going?</i>	The Observance of the Sabbath <i>Timeless counsel . . .</i>	Exciting Mission Trip <i>Missionaries from our church are soon to leave for India.</i>
Page 1	Page 2	Page 3	Page 4

Christmas

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas I am reminded of a number of things. The first is that how thankful we should be that when our first parents sinned God did not leave them to the folly of the consequence which they deserved. Instead the Lord went looking for them. God revealed to them a plan that would bring them back into harmony with heaven and the law they had broken.

I think of Thanksgiving at my grandparent's house and all the food that was on the table and the fun that we had eating, talking and fellowshiping together. I think of that and am reminded of an early vision of Sr. White's in the book, Early Writings page 19. "After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and went to the city. Soon we heard His lovely voice again, saying, "Come, My people, you have come out of great tribulation, and done My will; suffered for Me; come in to supper, for I will gird Myself, and serve you." We shouted, "Alleluia! Glory!" and entered into the city. And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length, yet our eyes could

extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit. He said, "Not now. Those who eat of the fruit of this land go back to earth no more. But in a little while, if faithful, you shall both eat of the fruit of the tree of life and drink of the water of the fountain." This will be the greatest Thanksgiving Day ever celebrated. And God wants each one of us to be there enjoying what is on that silver table that was miles in length. There is room for everyone that wants to be there, there is no need for anyone to miss out on the greatest Thanksgiving ever.

As I think of Christmas I cannot help but think of the greatest gift that God has given to us: His Son Jesus. Yet as I think of Jesus, the real gift of Christmas, the one promised to Adam and Eve in the garden after they had sinned, I am reminded that He came as a baby. Jesus came to share in our humanity, and through experiencing our situation, is able to be a compassionate and understanding High Priest. Heb. 4: 15, 16.

Yet the Christmas that we celebrate goes much deeper than a child born

in Bethlehem. For the Child born in Bethlehem was born for one purpose: to give His life a ransom for you and me. This is the real meaning of Christmas. It is more than a baby being born. It is a Saviour coming to earth to give His life a ransom for humanity. Through this gift of Christmas we have the assurance of eternal life. John says in 1 John 5: 11-13, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Christmas is to remind us that the birth was the prelude to Calvary. And Christmas is to also remind us that while Jesus was God gift to us, Christ's gift to us is the assurance of eternal life through Him, and that gift of eternal life that we desire, Jesus will give to us at His Second Coming.

Think of it. God has given His Son as a gift to the world, yet not everyone is willing to accept this precious gift of Jesus and His principles of life. But John says in

his gospel that, "As many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God." So when I think of Christmas I think of two things. Number one, God has through Jesus given me eternal life, and number two Jesus is coming again. Are you ready for this, the world's most spectacular event? To me this is what Christmas is all about.

by Pastor Frost

General Youth Conference

How many of you have watched television commercials that promote products that promise you those 6-pack rock hard abs, a well-toned body, younger looking skin that's almost 'baby-soft,' or have a miraculous hair restoration? Did you notice that they all have a 'Before' and 'After' picture? The After picture always shows that the product really worked and that it not only changed the subject's outer appearance, but also transformed them internally as well!

Let me tell you about a different kind of 'Before' and 'After' picture. Around this time last year, there was something interesting going on at Burnt Mills. There were discussions about this new phenomenon that was growing in our Adventist Church. What was it, you ask?

BEFORE:

"Have you heard of GYC?"

"What is it and what does it stand for?"

"It's the General Youth Conference. It's going to be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee."

"When you say youth, who do you mean? Because I feel like I never moved past 20!"

"Although it is for people who are between the ages of 18 - 35, it also

includes everyone who is young at heart, even you who is now celebrating...er...which anniversary of your 20th Birthday?"

"Wow! That sounds really exciting!"

"We're going, you should come. You can drive with us if you'd like."

"You should be there!"

"Don't forget to go online and register!"

"You can come share our room if you don't have a place to stay."

"What better way to usher in the New Year?"

"Did you complete your registration? Why not? Don't procrastinate! Now is the time!"

And on and on the conversations went until the time had arrived. The Fourth Annual General Youth Conference, or GYC, was held last year in Chattanooga, TN. There were over 2,600 young people gathered at Chattanooga's convention center. The majority of young people came from the United States. However, a growing number of attendees came from international countries such as England, Iceland, South Africa, Sudan, the Philippines, and other countries. (There are GYC inspired Youth Conferences in New Zealand, Korea and Australia). The theme for GYC 2005 was "Now is the Time" based on Romans 13:11, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to wake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed."

AFTER:

There was an outreach on an unprecedented scale in Chattanooga. Attendees knocked on 9,117 doors and gave surveys, producing over 1,200 Bible study interests. Young people who attended this conference were able to make specific decisions

and answered God's call to their hearts in various ways.

Some of the responses I heard upon the return of the attendees from Burnt Mills were:

"We were so blessed!"

"We will be attending the GYC again in 2006 for sure!"

"I didn't know ministering to others could be so spiritually uplifting."

"I was afraid to go knock on people's doors, but once I did, I just had to keep doing it!"

"I finally faced my fear of talking to others about Jesus."

"I realized that the only thing holding me back from witnessing about Jesus was me!"

"I found that people were actually thirsting for the truth."

"We met people of so many different backgrounds."

"We felt like we touched someone's life, even if it was in a small way."

How do you like the 'After' picture? Did you catch that internal transformation? I believe that when we wholly submit our will to the will of Christ and place our trust in Him, we can move mountains! So, how can we be a part of this growing movement? It's simple. Go online to www.generalyouthconference.org. You will find all the information you need. Be sure to register as registration is now open.

QUICK FACTS about GYC 2006:

- December 27-31, 2006.
- Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Theme: "By Every Word," based on the text in Matthew 4:4, which says "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that

proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

- Deadline to Register: November 30, 2006. There is no on-site registration.

Some of the plenary speakers for this year's conference will include:

- Ted Wilson
- Peter Gregory
- David Asscherick
- David Gates
- Jeffrey Rosario

The topics that will be discussed will be what the Bible says about relationships, ethics, evangelism, sharing Christ, and much more!

This is an exciting time for our church. Let us all participate in this movement and carry out our Lord's command to spread the good news one person at a time. May God bless us all as we answer that call in reaching out to others so that we can hasten our Lord's appearing!

by Eric S. John

The Observance of the Sabbath

Great blessings are enfolded in the observance of the Sabbath, and God desires that the Sabbath day shall be to us a day of joy. There was joy at the institution of the Sabbath. God looked with satisfaction upon the work of His hands. All things that He had made He pronounced "very good." Genesis 1:31. Heaven and earth were filled with rejoicing. "The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7. Though sin has entered the world to mar His perfect work, God still gives to us the Sabbath as a witness that One omnipotent, infinite in goodness and mercy, created all things. Our heavenly Father desires through the

observance of the Sabbath to preserve among men a knowledge of Himself. He desires that the Sabbath shall direct our minds to Him as the true and living God, and that through knowing Him we may have life and peace.

When the Lord delivered His people Israel from Egypt and committed to them His law, He taught them that by the observance of the Sabbath they were to be distinguished from idolaters. It was this that made the distinction between those who acknowledge the sovereignty of God and those who refuse to accept Him as their Creator and King. "It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever," the Lord said. "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant." Exodus 31:17, 16.

As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors.

From the pillar of cloud Christ declared concerning the Sabbath: "Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you." Exodus 31:13. The Sabbath given to the world as the sign of God as the Creator is also the sign of Him as the Sanctifier. The power that created all things is the power that re-creates the soul in His own likeness. To those who keep holy the Sabbath day it is the sign of sanctification. True sanctification is harmony with God, oneness with Him in character. It is received through obedience to those principles that are the transcript of His character. And the Sabbath is the sign of obedience. He who from the heart

obeys the fourth commandment will obey the whole law. He is sanctified through obedience.

To us as to Israel the Sabbath is given "for a perpetual covenant." To those who reverence His holy day the Sabbath is a sign that God recognizes them as His chosen people. It is a pledge that He will fulfill to them His covenant. Every soul who accepts the sign of God's government places himself under the divine, everlasting covenant. He fastens himself to the golden chain of obedience, every link of which is a promise.

The fourth commandment alone of all the ten contains the seal of the great Lawgiver, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Those who obey this commandment take upon themselves His name, and all the blessings it involves are theirs. "The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel saying unto them,

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

And they shall put My Name upon the children of Israel;

And I will bless them." Numbers 6:22-27.

Through Moses was given also the promise: "The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto Himself, as He hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord. . . . And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command

thee this day, to observe and to do them." Deuteronomy 28:9-13.

The psalmist, speaking by the Holy Spirit, says:

"O, come, let us sing unto the Lord:

Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. . . .

For the Lord is a great God,

And a great King above all gods.

In His hand are the deep places of the earth:

The strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, and He made it:

And His hands formed the dry land.

O come let us worship and bow down:

Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For He is our God."

"It is He that hath made us, and we are His;

We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture."

Psalm 95:1-7; 100:3, R.V.

These promises given to Israel are also for God's people today. They are the messages which the Sabbath brings to us.

Reform in Sabbath Observance

The Sabbath is a golden clasp that unites God and His people. But the Sabbath command has been broken. God's holy day has been desecrated. The Sabbath has been torn from its place by the man of sin, and a common working day has been exalted in its stead. A breach has been made in the law, and this breach is to be repaired. The true Sabbath is to be exalted to its rightful position as God's rest day. In the fifty-eighth chapter of

Isaiah is outlined the work which God's people are to do. They are to magnify the law and make it honorable, to build up the old waste places, and to raise up the foundations of many generations. To those who do this work God says: "Thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Verses 12-14.

The Sabbath question is to be the issue in the great final conflict in which all the world will act a part. Men have honored Satan's principles above the principles that rule in the heavens. They have accepted the spurious sabbath, which Satan has exalted as the sign of his authority. But God has set His seal upon His royal requirement. Each sabbath institution bears the name of its author, an ineffaceable mark that shows the authority of each. It is our work to lead the people to understand this. We are to show them that it is of vital consequence whether they bear the mark of God's kingdom or the mark of the kingdom of rebellion, for they acknowledge themselves subjects of the kingdom whose mark they bear. God has called us to uplift the standard of His downtrodden Sabbath. How important, then, that our example in Sabbathkeeping should be right.

In establishing new churches, ministers should give careful instruction as to the proper observance of the Sabbath. We must be guarded, lest the lax practices that prevail among Sundaykeepers shall be

followed by those who profess to observe God's holy rest day. The line of demarcation is to be made clear and distinct between those who bear the mark of God's kingdom and those who bear the sign of the kingdom of rebellion.

Far more sacredness is attached to the Sabbath than is given it by many professed Sabbathkeepers. The Lord has been greatly dishonored by those who have not kept the Sabbath according to the commandment, either in the letter or in the spirit. He calls for a reform in the observance of the Sabbath.

Testimonies Vol. 6, pages 348-353.

Exciting Mission Trip

The Frost's and Richard Rajarathinam are planning an exciting mission trip to southern India in February 2007. They plan to conduct an evangelistic campaign in a city that is centrally located between ten villages where ten Bible workers have been developing interests. Once the meetings begin, they plan to help provide transportation for the interested individuals from these villages to the city. When the meetings are finished, they intend on building a Seventh-day Adventist church in each of these villages over the next two years.

This is where your help is needed. Each church will cost approximately \$2500 to build, for a total of \$25,000. If you would like to participate in this project, please talk to Pastor Frost or Richard Rajarathinam.

Please keep this project in your prayers that God's blessing will rest upon the workers, and that many people will come to know Jesus as their personal Savior.