The Death of a Republic

WAR WITH SPAIN AND PHILIPPINES

Human rights abuses were becoming openly cruel and flagrant in Cuba, when, on February 15, 1898, explosion rocked the USS Maine as it sat in Havana Harbor, Cuba. The ship with 266 of its crew members were lost. Though a mid-20th century investigation proved conclusively that the explosion was internal, the media at that time, led by two of the largest American papers, both based in New York, convinced the American public that the Spanish were to blame. The papers had for some time been promoting war against Spain on behalf of Cuba. Now with this pretext, America was soon launched into war with Spain. After a few short months of conflict, an armistice was signed and within another few months, with the signing of the “Treaty of Paris”, America was in possession of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. 1 The U.S. granted Cuba independence with certain conditions such as: allowing for permanent U.S. military bases on the island and allowing military intervention by the U.S. when it deemed it economically necessary, (which has happened on several occasions), as well as various trade and other economic advantages granted to U.S. corporations. For years, it remained economically and politically dominated by the U.S.

On May 1, just over a month into the war with Spain, American troops sailed into Manila Bay, Philippines. The Spanish had held Philippines as a colony for 330 years. The people, having borne the atrocities and abuses of the friars and other Spaniards for too long, had begun a revolution in 1896. At first Filipinos hailed Americans as their deliverers, but gradually they came to see that America was there to stay and intended to make the Philippines its colony. After the victory over the Spanish by the Americans (July 17, 1898), and the subsequent “purchase” of the Philippines by the U.S.A. from Spain at the Treaty of Paris for 20 million dollars (December 10, 1898), and a subsequent presidential order, stating the intentions of America to govern Philippines, a 14 year long, hostile and bloody war broke out between Philippines and America.

Philippines was not allowed the right to government by the consent of the governed, and their fight for independence resulted in between 250,000 to over 1 million Filipino casualties, from combat, and war related disease, and hunger. 4 Though the cost in blood was much less, America paid a higher price. It lost its identity and mission, in the rejection of the principles that made it a Republic,
and for which it had fought the Revolutionary War. This principle was that "all men were created equal" having certain “inalienable rights”, one of which is a government by the consent of the governed.

In World War II, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos fought alongside Americans. Those who did, were promised U.S. Citizenship and veteran benefits, but this promise was rescinded just after the war. Forty-four years later, a small overture was made by President George H. W. Bush, in an offer to grant citizenship to Filipino war veterans. Later, in 2009 nine thousand dollars was given to the few surviving Filipino veterans by the Obama administration in an economy stimulus package. It was a small pittance, and too late, for their sufferings and sacrifices compared with U.S. veterans who had received full veteran benefits from the beginning. 5

IMPERIALISM

Speaking of the close of the Spanish American War, Encyclopedia Britannica says:

"Incidental to our tenure in Philippines is the commercial opportunity to which American statesmanship cannot be indifferent. … The United States cannot accept less than the cession in full right and sovereignty of the island of Luzon (the main island of the Philippines)." 8

Philippines was rich in resources, including gold, and, for corporations that wanted to create large sugar and tobacco plantations, sawmills, etc., it had cheap land and cheap labor. It was also considered a gateway to trading with the rest of Asia.

THE REPUBLIC

When the Constitutional Convention closed in 1787, a Mrs. Powel of Philadelphia asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" With no hesitation whatsoever, Franklin responded, "A republic, if you can keep it." 9

Until the birth of the Republic of the United States of America, the doctrine had prevailed that God had created one class to govern and another class to be governed. But at the rise of this nation, a new principle was acknowledged. Listen to the words of that grandest of political documents, the Declaration of Independence, penned by Thomas Jefferson.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." 10

Consider the principles set forth in these few sublime sentences. Firstly, that all men are created equal with certain unalienable rights ... Secondly, that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed to protect these rights. These were the principles that actuated the revolutionaries that brought independence to the colonies of the new world. It was these two principles that are represented by the lamb-like horns of the beast that arises out of the earth in Revelation 13:11, for a horn represents power, so prone to the human breast, is smothering priceless, eternal principles. From being a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, it is being rapidly transformed into a government of some of the people, by a few of the people, for all the people. This is imperialism as opposed to republicanism, and this is national apostasy. 7

This imperialism America was entering into became the topic of heated debate. The democrat W. J. Bryan running against the incumbent president McKinley in 1900, made anti-imperialism one of his platforms. He lost, McKinley won. Acquiring overseas possession was in the interest of wealthy bankers and businessmen, and big corporations, and McKinley was catering to corporate America.

McKinley invested the invasion and foreign rule of the Philippines with a profession of benevolent and Christian motives, but lest we be deceived, listen to President McKinley betraying his true motives in 1898, as the treaty with Spain was being considered in Washington:

"To-day this nation is in danger of abandoning the rock and settling upon the sand. The love of power, so prone to the human breast, is smothering priceless, eternal principle. From being a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, it is being rapidly transformed into a government of some of the people, by a few of the people, for all the people. This is imperialism as opposed to republicanism, and this is national apostasy." 6

Percy T. Magan, witnessing these events then taking place, wrote in 1898:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." 10

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feelings Americans had against taxation without representation, of being governed without the consent of the governed. America was conceived in liberty and the two principles just enumerated are the two great principles upon which hang all the constitution and laws. These are divine principles, for Scripture tells us that "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34), and "And hath made of one blood all nations of men..."; (Acts 17:26). All men are equal in God's sight according to Scripture, just as all men are by this declaration made equal before the law. With one sweeping statement, the long established law of "might makes right", governing the nations of the old world is done away with. All are created equal and governments' just powers are derived from the governed. This nation was adopting a maxim forever forbidding it from wars of conquest, from occupying territory without the inhabitants enjoying the freedom to be governed by its own consent, for "all men are created equal."

"Wrapped in these words was a new doctrine. Here was the enunciation of a principle hitherto unheard of. Heretofore sovereignty had been considered as being unlimited and illimitable. But the Declaration of Independence brought to the birth a new principle, that right is superior to all earthly power, whether vested in prince or potentate or in a republican form of government. With the founders of this government it was not a question of what the nation was able to do, but contrariwise, what was right for the nation to do..." 11

But a change was taking place in American thinking by 1898. Percy Magan, in the midst of those changing times wrote:

"An Old World power has been driven from Cuba, but an Old World idea has invaded and well-nigh captured the republic of the United States,- the idea that all men are not created equal, and that governments do not derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. There have been times when the ship of state in the United States has been partially diverted from her course, and greed has used her officers for private ends and personal emoluments. But now the very foundation-stones of the fabric governmental are being undermined." 12

"Prior to the year 1898 this government was a republic pure and simple. Its foundations were laid in principle, and not in power. It was not an empire in any sense of the word, for the foundations of an empire are laid in power, and not in principle. It was built upon that everlasting rock that right makes might. Against this the coming of floods and the blowing and beating of winds are alike powerless, for it standeth sure and falleth not forever. But empires, on the other hand, are built upon that sinking sand that might makes right. Against these the floods come, and the winds blow and beat, and they fall, and great is the fall thereof." 13

REPUBLICANISM IS NOT DEMOCRACY

Bear in mind that, despite the terms often being used synonymously in modern times, republicanism is not democracy. When Benjamin Franklin stated that the convention delegates had just formed a republic, he did not use the word carelessly. He knew exactly what he was saying. He did not use the word Democracy. He understood there to be a distinct difference between the two. He defined democracy as "two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote." 14

While in both forms of government there is voting of the individual, in a democracy the majority can vote away the rights, even the voting rights, of the minority, or vote themselves privileges or money, or vote in, anything they please. But a Republic is inherently different. By definition it requires a certain set of governing documents creating a representative body, specifying who is to be represented, how they are to be represented, where, and what the limitation of their powers is. It is a system of government that having well defined rules as to the limitation of government and its proper sphere, was well adapted to guard the God given, inalienable rights of every individual, even of the minority of the people with a noble constitution and a Bill of Rights such as our own.

"Fraser Tyler, author of The Decline and Fall of the Athenian Republic authored more than 200 years ago said it best. 'A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse (generous gifts) from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship.'"

"Where does the money come from for all the 'good' that government does? Answer, out of someone else's pocket. If it is with his consent it is a form of charity. If forced, a form of tyranny. The more and the longer given, the more entitled the receiver becomes until he is quite willing to take to the streets and demand more of other people's money, fully satisfied that he has every right to it. This works until those who have money are destroyed as a class and everyone is equally poor." 15

REPUBLICANISM GIVES WAY TO IMPERIALISM

A "republic" is defined as "A state in which the supreme power rests in the body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by representatives chosen directly or indirectly by them." 16

When in 1898 the US Government revealed that it intended to occupy Philippines, Percy Magan, discerning the results to the principles of the Republic, wrote:

"If the Republic shall ever permanently desert these..."
great principles, the star of her genius will set forevermore. By that foul act of disloyalty and treason to ‘the laws of nature and of nature's God, she will forfeit her own right to 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...” 17

“...If we shall ever deny to others the right of government by their own consent, by such a deed we shall ourselves surrender to the Creator the charter of our national life, of our corporate existence.” 18

During the 1890s, America began going down that path. After several previous U.S. armed interventions in the government of Hawaii one of which placed the queen under arrest, Hawaii, and the distant Palmyra and Stewart Islands were declared, against the will of the people, a U.S. territory on July 7, 1898. At the Treaty of Paris, Guam, Puerto Rico and Philippines, were made U.S. territories without their consent. In 1899, after several military interventions taking place in previous years, a portion of the Samoan Islands which came to be known as American Samoa, was handed over to America in an agreement between Germany and the UK, without the Samoans’ consent. After a treaty had been signed with Columbia in 1902 for America to build a canal through the province of Panama, in 1903, the American military by the orders of president Theodore Roosevelt, entered Columbia and assisted in a revolution that wrested the province of Panama from Columbia and made it a separate nation. Panama became a tax haven and made it a separate nation. Panama became a tax haven and a revolution that wrested the province of Panama from Columbia in 1902 for America to build a canal through the province of Panama, in 1903, the American military by the orders of president Theodore Roosevelt, entered Columbia and assisted in a revolution that wrested the province of Panama from Columbia and made it a separate nation. Panama became a tax haven and money laundering center for rich American businessmen. They registered foreign ships to carry fuel for Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Co. in order for Standard to avoid U.S. tax liabilities. J. P. Morgan and Co. was made the country’s fiscal agent to manage 10 million pounds of cotton. 19 Nicaragua came under U.S. occupation in 1912. Haiti was invaded and came under U.S. jurisdiction in 1915. The Dominican Republic was next to fall a victim of U.S. imperialism in 1916. What was to become the “US Virgin Islands” was purchased in 1917 from the Danish, without the consent of the inhabitants and were ruled with a military government of the U.S. until 1936.

From 1898 to 1934 America engaged in what became known as the “Banana wars”, in which America invaded various Caribbean and Central American countries, and some of them numerous times 20 taking an active role in revolutions, making sure that the only governments that were allowed to exist were those that were favorable to American corporate interests. American corporations had purchased large tracts of land for growing bananas and other fruits to export to Europe and America. This caused land prices to go up displacing small farmers, and laborers were exploited with small wages and poor working conditions. This often led to unrest and political violence, hence the American involvement in the “Banana Wars” (see 21 and 22).

“I spent 33 years and four months in active military service,” an American veteran named Smedley Butler once wrote, “and during that period, I spent most of my time as a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers.” Butler had fought in the so-called Banana Wars of the early 20th century, when the American military sent their troops south into Central America to keep their business interests there intact. 23

After World War II, America came into control of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The territory consisted of more than 2,000 islands scattered over about 3,000,000 square miles, including: Marshall Islands, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and various other island countries, and some uninhabited islands, as well as Northern Mariana Islands, which soon became proverbial for its human trafficking and labor exploitation. Major lucrative garment manufacturing and tuna industries were started by wealthy businessmen who were not required to follow US immigration or labor laws there. Huffington post reported June 16, 2010 that:

“The Northern Mariana Islands, with a huge foreign worker population, have become notorious for subjecting guest workers from China, and other Asian countries to fraud, wage theft, sexual abuse, even forced abduction. ... American Samoa was recently embroiled in a slavery scandal involving Vietnamese workers (over 200) held captive in squalid conditions at a Korean-owned garment sweatshop.” 24

Poor labor conditions persisted in Northern Mariana Islands until 2007 when a beginning was made to address these problems.

From 1891 to 2005, there have been at least 121 U.S. military and clandestine operations in foreign countries and probably many more. 25 America has overthrown or attempted to overthrow 58 countries since World War II. 26 Today, it is very few nations that are not manipulated or coerced in some way to bow to American interests, whether by reward, trade embargo, fomenting insurrection, staging coups or outright invasion. Prior to 1898 Republican principles were often undermined and ignored, and wrongs were committed at home and abroad. Indians did not enjoy the benefits of the constitution, and slavery of blacks had been tolerated for decades, but these abuses were being corrected over time. It was a new thing to go far from our own shores and take over other peoples for the commercial interests of big corporations, ruling them without their consent, never intending to give them rights the rest of Americans enjoy. This was a most flagrant abjuring of this principle of Protestantism. Starting gradually, a few years before the Spanish American war, the U.S.A. began a course which it fully espoused by 1898. The Protestant Christian, Republican form of government was set aside for the age old, imperialist form of government, where might makes right, and people are governed against their will in contrast to the principle laid out in our constitution that all men are created equal... and government is to be of the people by the people and for the people.
THE BEAST WITH HORNS LIKE A LAMB SPEAKS AS A DRAGON

Scripture had declared that it would do this very thing. "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." (Revelation 13:11) This prophetic symbol refers to the U.S.A. (contact this author for further study). Note with care, that it is while having horns like a lamb (making a profession of Christian principles) that it speaks as a dragon. It is while professing and appearing to be standing for the Biblical principles of Liberty that it would "speak", or legislate, like ancient Imperial Rome (represented in the previous chapter of Revelation by the dragon). And this was to take place before it formed an image of the beast as mentioned in verses 14 and 15.

It was when the ancient Republic of Rome entered upon a course of annexing foreign nations, though at first, with the pretext of liberating them, that Rome ceased to be a republic and became imperial. The conquered nations, in many cases, did not obtain Roman citizenship, and full liberty was only granted to citizens.

THE INTENT OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

It may be argued that the signers of the Declaration of Independence did not have all people in mind when stating that all men were created equal. Some have cited the fact that Jefferson himself had hundreds of slaves. The fact is that Jefferson desired his whole life to bring an end to slavery and actively promoted legislation to that end. He was the instigator of the first step congress took when they made the importation of slaves illegal in 1808. However, he believed it could not be forced upon slave-owners without a civil war, so he tried to eliminate slavery by degrees. Secondly, Jefferson foresaw the possibility of racial wars, and with good foresight he saw that a well-coordinated joint effort of the slaveholders to release their slaves was needed or the results could be disastrous. His fears are understandable in light of the numerous slave rebellions that have taken place, including the slave rebellion of 1739, the aborted slave rebellion of Virginia in 1800, as well as the history of Haiti in 1791, when revolution embroiled the nation in a blood bath. It was the largest and most successful slave rebellion in the western hemisphere. It resulted in the formation of an independent state after the violent loss of the lives of 20% of the black population and nearly half the white population. In Haiti, there were slaves, freed slaves, and runaway slaves which organized together to obtain freedom for all. And we will not fail to mention the carefully orchestrated and perhaps the largest slave rebellion in U.S. history, on the German coast of Louisiana in 1811. Over 500 joined the two-day march toward New Orleans where rebel slaves planned to meet up with more rebels in the city. The plan was to take over New Orleans and set up a black state. This rebellion was put down with great cruelty. Many of the rebels were cut up into pieces, and heads were placed upon poles along the river for 60 miles.

"I tremble for my country, for I know that God is just," were spoken by Thomas Jefferson with reference to slavery.

"The evidence that the great Revolutionary leaders were opposed to slavery is monumental and beyond dispute... At the federal convention, George Mason, compressing the observation of a long life into a few burning words, made the statement, 'This infernal traffic originated in the avarice of British merchants; the British government constantly checked the attempts of Virginia to put a stop to it... Slaves produce the most pernicious effects on manners. Every master of slaves is born a petty tyrant. They bring the judgment of heaven upon a country. As nations can not be rewarded or punished in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.'

At the same time that Franklin was attending the Constitutional Convention, he was also the president of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery (1787).

"An interesting little incident in the history of James Madison also clearly evidences this. In the year 1783 one of his slaves escaped and was afterward found by Madison himself in Philadelphia. But he did not force him back into slavery; on the contrary he wrote to his father that he had "judged it most prudent not to force Billey back to Virginia, even if it could be done;" and that he could not "think of punishing him by transportation merely for coveting that liberty for which we have paid the price of so much blood, and have proclaimed so often to be the right, and worthy the pursuit, of every human being."

"It is a true principle of history that a free people can not long govern subject provinces and still retain their own freedom. Exceptions can not be made to principles without the exceptions destroying the principle itself. If a principle of government is violated today in one portion of a nation’s domain, it will not be long until that violation, like a deadly leprosy, will have eaten its way to every acre of territory in the national domain.

"Lincoln clearly saw and understood this, and expressed it in a speech delivered at Springfield, Ill., June 16, 1858:-

“A house divided against itself can not stand.” I believe this government can not endure permanently half slave and half free. I
do not expect the Union to be dissolved; I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will push it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new, North as well as South.” 32

In a speech delivered at Springfield, Ill., June 26, 1857 Abraham Lincoln reveals the intent of the founding fathers of the nation when they stated in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal".

“In those days [the days of the Revolution], our Declaration of Independence was held sacred by all, and thought to include all; but now, to aid in making the bondage of the negro universal and eternal, it is assailed, and sneered at, and construed, and hawked at, and torn, till, if its framers could rise from their graves, they could not at all recognize it... 33

Dear reader. We have seen in our own recent lifetime the truthfulness of the words quoted above that free people cannot long govern subject provinces and still retain their own freedom. We have experienced the loss of our own freedoms even in the last two decades to an alarming extent. Bear this in mind, when we maintain the principle that "all men are created equal with certain inalienable rights...", even 99% majority of the people could not vote away the rights of the 1% minority. In these few pages of history, evidence has been presented, that the U.S. has been speaking (legislating or governing) like a dragon, for over a century.

The setting aside of the two principles the U.S.A. was founded upon, the grand principles, that: all men are created equal... and that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed, constitutes the fulfillment of the prophecy that the beast with horns like a lamb will speak like a dragon. The dragon represents pagan Rome which started out as a republic, being ruled by the consent of the governed, but became a despotic and persecuting empire, governing other nations against their will, and the U.S.A. has been following in its tracks.

Prophecy of Revelation 13:14 further predicts that the beast with lamb-like horns would form an image to the beast (which was the Papal church & state alliance of the "Holy Roman Empire"). (Contact this author for further study on Revelation 13). The way is quickly being paved for this to happen as well. Notice how the gap between church and state has grown closer and closer. In 2009 the Catholic news agency reported:

Catholic Charities USA has received a five-year, 100 million dollar federal contract to aid in disaster relief throughout the United States. The contract is the charity’s first ever federal contract. 34

In 2010, Catholic Charities had revenues of $4.7 billion, $2.9 billion of which came from the US government. 35

In 2012, the Economist reported that 62 percent of Catholic Charities’ support came from local, state and federal government agencies. 36

The time is coming when Revelation 13 will be completely fulfilled in the coming together of church and state in a “holy alliance”, to enforce the decrees of the church. This will be the formation of the image of the beast.

I pray that you dear reader have gained a brighter perception of God’s character, and the grand principles He would have governing those nations that would be called Righteous.

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin [is] a reproach to any people. (Proverbs 14:34)

And what nation [is there so] great, that hath statutes and judgments [so] righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? (Deuteronomy 4:8)

Oh, that the verse just quoted could be said of our once glorious nation. But now, alas, as George Mason so aptly stated, previously quoted, “As nations can not be rewarded or punished in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providencepunishes national sins by national calamities.” 37 A woe is upon this nation. National apostasy will end only in national ruin.

Just after sending the above article off for proofreading, I sat down for lunch with a gentleman from Switzerland who surprised me by bringing up the subject of American interventions in other governments. One instance further corroborating my findings, was a first hand experience while residing in Indonesia, and being president of a company that was performing a multi-billion dollar contract with the government. He personally knew president Sukarno and his wife and described them as good people with good policies for their people. He told of the CIA backed military coup which ultimately replaced the president with a military general. I was not surprised. The 1958 attempted overthrow of the government is well documented and difficult to hide after Allen Lawrence Pope was shot down in Indonesia while on a bombing mission for the CIA in a B-26. He was later released through the efforts of the Kennedy administration in 1962. 38 Somewhat less documented but still documented enough to confirm this Swiss man’s testimony, is the continued aid to the local military with 64 million dollars, weapons, training of Indonesian military officers, etc. until a military coup took over control of government in 1965. Five hundred thousand to 2 million people were massacred in this CIA backed overthrow of the government of a sovereign nation. 39 The reason was ostensibly because Indonesia would not become involved in the U.S. war in Vietnam.

Endnotes
1 William McKinley president of United States Written By: The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, See Article History https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-McKinley#accordion-article-history
2 William McKinley president of United States Written By: The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, See Article History https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-McKinley#accordion-article-history
3 Pilippine American War, by Amaldo Dumindin https://www.filipinoamerican-war.com/benevolentassimilation.htm
I have seen many disheartened for this reason, but then God encourages me and says:

"Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD’S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD’S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word: If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent me of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings." (Jeremiah 26:2, 3)

"But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not." (Jonah 3:8, 10)

Someone recently asked me a question: Why are we continuing to sin when we know the truth? When I heard that question this text came to mind.

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.” (Hebrews 10:26, 27)

I often read and quote these verses, and each time I become fearful. Every time I hear of people who have been overcome by sin who have known better, I have a sadness and fear comes over me. I am led to wonder like Ezekiel:

“Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?” (Ezekiel 9:8)
We here in Serbia know how to say: I forgave, but I have not forgiven, it would have been a waste for Jesus to come.

The power that sin has on us, but, if it was not possible to save us. In fact, The reason Jesus came, was to save us from sin. He knew we see that the problem is not that God can not or does not want to call to remembrance our sins. And that also is assurance that we need to believe that He can and will forgive us genuinely and sincerely which came from Him, He will also forgive us.

"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31)

In fact, The reason Jesus came, was to save us from sin. He knew he had the power that sin has on us, but, if it was not possible to save us from sin, it would have been a waste for Jesus to come.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

We here in Serbia know how to say: I forgave, but I have not forgotten. But that’s where the trap is. Let’s see how God forgives:

"He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." (Micah 7:19)

We need to believe that He can and will forgive us genuinely and not call to remembrance our sins. And that also is assurance that He will first give us genuine repentance, and hatred for sin.

Another reason that we still commit sin, when we know the truth, is that Satan is holding us in a trap. One of his traps is to tell us: “You’ve gone too far, God can not forgive you!” “It’s no use to repent, you’ve gone too far!” But we read what God says through the prophet Isaiah:

"Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear;" (Isaiah 59:1)

The fact that we are still alive means that God has mercifully extended to us time to repent. It is not too late for repentance while the time of probation lingers.

But Satan has another trap, he says: “Don’t worry, you have more time”. We are led to say: “My lord delayeth his coming.” And so we fall into Satan’s trap to postpone our repentance and we continue to sin. David says:

“For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness.” (Psalm 95:7, 8)

Satan’s next trap is: “Do not worry! Everyone is sinful. Just relax, you are weak and in a state of sin you can do nothing. Christ died and nailed the law to the cross. Why worry now? When Jesus comes He will cleanse you.” This is Satan’s most popular trap today. But lets notice what the Apostle Paul says:

"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 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." (Romans 5:20; 6:6)

Satan’s next trap is: “Your sin is not so big and terrible. God will not keep you out of heaven because of this little thing.” Let’s remember what Adam and Eve did. They just ate the fruit from the forbidden tree. Nobody will have the excuse that his sin is small. We can read in Ezekiel what the sins of Sodom were:

"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." (Ezekiel 16:49)

No sin before God is small because His Son had to die for our sins. Every sin, however small it is, is terrible because it separates us from God. We should not fall for this trap of Satan. The apostle John says:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8, 9)

Therefore, do not misuse the grace we receive from God but repent and turn away from sin and “he is faithful and just to forgive”. And listen to the Apostle James:

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." (James 1:21)
Canada Mission Trip 2018
by Morgan Polsky

Greetings Brothers and Sisters;

We would like to share with you some experiences the Most High God brought us through during our cross country mission trip. The blessings seemed to continually flow as we met with many brothers and sisters in the United States and Canada.

Our trip began from our home in New Brunswick, Canada on June 10th. Our first visit was with a friend of Elaine’s, it was one of our briefest visits yet very worthwhile as Elaine shared her experiences of motherhood according to biblical principles.

The next stop was my brother’s house, we were able to share our witness of what the Bible has done for us by example. My brother’s family is not a Christian family and I covet your prayers for them, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

The Smyrna Camp Meeting was next on our itinerary. We enjoyed sweet fellowship with like believers and heard many messages of encouragement to help us understand prophecy better. I was privileged to speak on the 6th Plague of Revelation 16.

We then ventured out west where our first visit was in Riverton, WY where we stayed two nights with Sister Debbie Eagle Bear. These two nights were a real blessing as we encouraged each other in the prophetic word and spent time with Brother Willard as well.

Washington state was our next destination where we met with a believer and her family. Elaine learned about soap making and we helped them prepare a garden spot. We spent a morning hoeing, raking and moving rocks. We spent a nice Sabbath at the home of another believer and shared testimonies, the prophetic word, and had discussions on the topic of “What is Sin?”

We then crossed over the border into Canada. Although we were back in the country we live in, we were still very far from home. We made our next stop in Grand Forks, British Columbia, where we visited a family of three. The mother of the home is from Brazil and the husband is Canadian. We had some discussions regarding the Father and Son truth. They understand the S.D.A. G.C. is endorsing “new theology”, on the other hand they see winds of doctrine entering the independent groups as well. This has made them cautious, which is a good thing. We are praying for them and are still in communication with them. We also had a nice Sabbath in Keremeos, British Columbia where we met long time faithful believers, Randall, Dolores, Ivan and Russell.

If you have never been to Northern Alberta, we recommend going. The Wolfe family lives in a faraway land close to the Northwest Territories, only a two-day drive to the North Pole! We had a truly blessed experience there as we shared the prophetic word through Daniel and the Revelation. We also shared on the nature of sin. One of the highlights of our trip was going door-to-door selling Great Controversies. We covet your prayers for those who bought and received the books in northern Alberta. We spent a wonderful Sabbath with another family that met us in the beautiful Northwest Territories. We saw some of God’s beautiful nature, waterfalls and lakes. Next, we went to this couple’s home on our way to Saskatchewan. They are going through trials with this message as their four sons are elders in the S.D.A. Church and none of them see the truth as of yet. We ask that you include them in your prayers.

Next stop, Saskatoon. We were able to have supper at a friend of Elaine’s who is Brazilian. They were friends from Ontario and moved west a few years ago. It was providential that we were able to visit her as well. Onto Spalding, Saskatchewan where we met with Jason and Donna, I met them in 2014 at a weekend meeting in Stanwood, Washington. We spent several days there and studied together, on various topics. Elaine learned with sister Donna how to make flat bread with sweet potato and I helped brother Jason on their roof. Donna and Elaine started a book project for children and it is still under construction. On Sabbath we visited the Fisher family who the Hernbergs introduced us to. We shared on prophecy in the morning and we went for a walk on their property in the afternoon.

We then made our way to Ontario. En route, we stopped in Battle Creek, Michigan, where we took an inspiring tour through the home of Ellen White and other historic buildings.

We had several stops to make in Ontario and our first one was in Walkerton where we visited Elaine’s old work place. There were able to share a Great Controversy with one of her past co-workers. We then spent several days in Durham where we visited brother Steve and dearly beloved Mom Margaret, as she loves us as her children. We had a spirit filled time there as we studied prophecy and righteousness by faith. Steve’s sister, brother-in-law, and son came over for Sabbath worship and we enjoyed our day very much together. We visited a couple of other sisters in the afternoon, one of whom could not be with us in the morning because she was sick. On the way to Toronto, providence opened up places for us to stay while we visited with various ones from there. Our last visit in the Toronto area was another friend of Elaine’s. We shared with her the Father and Son truth and sent her several books when we arrived home.

We made our way to our final stop and that was in the Ottawa area and stayed with Vasko and Nevena Belovski. We enjoyed sweet fellowship and had a wonderful Sabbath in Gatineau, Quebec with a Father and Son home church fellowship. It was a real blessing meeting others of like faith from different parts of the world, including Bulgaria and Ukraine.

We departed on July 30th from the Belovski’s and arrived home safely that very same day 50 days from our departure date of June 10th. We would like to thank all of those who opened up their homes to us. We were very encouraged by our visits and we pray that those whom we visited were blessed as we were. I thank our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus for SDHCF inviting us to make this missionary trip for the encouragement of the isolated believers.
In February of this year, it had been close to two years since we moved from Mindanao, the place that had been home for my children and I for almost half a decade. After much thought and prayer with David, and with a sincere desire to meet and be a blessing to our unforgotten brethren, the trip to visit there was set. Mindanao is the second largest island in the Philippines and is home to close to half a million Seventh-day Adventists. Mountain View College, one of the oldest SDA schools in Philippines and founded by an American missionary, Andrew Nelson, is also located there. It is not unusual in Central Mindanao, where this College is located, to see an Adventist church building just one kilometer apart from each other or even less.

Two years prior to this trip, we had shared about the Father and Son with an independent home church that had been actively promoting the 1888 message. They have fully embraced the message, and when we revisited this group, in February, they seemed encouraged by our visit to have a deeper spiritual experience despite the many trials and temptations to let the cares of life take hold of the soul.

We had the providence of getting acquainted with a couple who is running a small vegan diner and bakery. They are baking vegan whole wheat bread which became a favorite of ours. We scheduled a study with them intending to share about the Father and Son but during the study we were able to confirm a rumor we had heard, that they already believe in the Father and Son. In our conversation that followed, they shared some shocking things with us that they have seen and witnessed firsthand; how spiritualism, has crept into one of the big “mainstream” churches close to where they live.

A group of church members are meeting regularly with the pastor and a “prophet” leader sometimes at midnight and early dawn to have group prayers. They call themselves “prayer warriors”, using as their text, a book by that name, written by Pastor Ron Halvorsen Sr. One of the leaders of the group is believed to have the “gift of tongues” and is viewed as a prophet by this group. At times during their meetings she is said to be “possessed” by “Jesus”. Several times our friends witnessed this “prophet” “speak in tongues”, in an unintelligible language to anyone but herself, after-which she would give the meaning of the “revelation”. During one of the meetings this “prophet” prayed the prayer of Jesus in John 17 as if she was Jesus himself. The pastor’s wife was so pleased she exclaimed, ”We are so blessed to have Jesus here with us today”. One time, she declared to the group members, “Receive ye the holy ghost” and breathed into the microphone three times. Various rituals to be found in the Prayer Warriors manual are practiced such as: wearing white robes, looking directly into the sun to practice being able to see Jesus’ glory, marching around the altar 7 times to conquer their difficulties as Israel marched around Jericho, etc. Our friends had attended a number of this group’s meetings, but after these remarkable manifestations, decided to stop as they felt that the rituals, practices and teachings of this group were akin to “Spiritualism”, which the Spirit of Prophecy has warned us would be Satan’s masterpiece of deception in these last days.

“Little by little he [Satan] has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism. He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time... Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in His word, the whole world will be swept into the ranks of this delusion. The people are fast being lulled to a fatal security, to be awakened only by the outpouring of the wrath of God” (Great Controversy p. 561.2).

“As the teachings of spiritualism are accepted by the churches, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches” (Great Controversy p. 603.2).

David had the opportunity to speak at several “mainstream” churches as well as various independent churches. There were perhaps 100 or more people present at one of them when David shared about the Son of Jessmar is a gospel worker in Mindanao that Seventh Day Home Church Fellowships is supporting with a monthly stipend.

A neighbor with a health issue being helped by Marrah.

A home church service in Malaybalay, Mindanao.

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THE CAUSES AND TYPES OF PAIN

The stimuli, converted to nerve signals transmitted to the brain and interpreted as pain, are of three basic types.

- Pressure
- Thermal energy
- Chemical irritation

This conversion of a stimulus of one kind to electrical energy being transmitted to the brain via the nerves, is called Transduction. It occurs at the ends of sensory nerve cells whose terminals are sensitive to this type of activation. These cells, known as nociceptors, are distributed throughout the body. (www.painbalance.org)

THE ROLE OF HISTAMINE

Histamine is a neurotransmitter enabling the transmission of messages (including pain messages) across the synapses. Many pain killer medications are simply anti-histamines, which, by blocking the production of histamine, they essentially block the pain stimuli from reaching the brain.

Histamine has various vital functions. It is one of the chemicals responsible for increased vascular permeability, allowing fluid to escape the vessels into the tissues. It is released in the body’s response to trauma, as a defensive mechanism to protect the cells from damage by toxins (however this causes swelling and the pressure stimulus is signaled to the brain as pain.)

Another function of histamine is to help regulate mineral balance at the cellular level.

HOW CAN WE HELP REDUCE PAIN NATURALLY?

THE EXTERNAL APPLICATION OF WATER CAN HELP RELIEVE PAIN

The external application of water can help in a number of ways and through a number of different modalities. Since water has three states, it can be used in all three ways. Solid, liquid or vapor. For example:

- The application of alternating hot and cold can help to remove chemical irritants and even the pressure stimuli by reducing swelling.
- The application of ice will slow or stop transduction.
- The application of heat in one part of the body can induce more blood flow to that area, thereby reducing the blood flow in another area and thus reduce swelling and pressure causing pain in that area.

WATER IN THE BODY, HELPS RELIEVE PAIN FROM ALL THREE TYPES OF STIMULI

- Pressure
  - Being well hydrated can help prevent Histamine release, thus preventing painful swelling and tenderness.
  - And since Histamine is a neurotransmitter, preventing its release helps prevent perception of pain.
- Thermal related pain
  - Water dissipates heat, thus eliminating the stimulus.
- Chemical related pain
  - Water can neutralize the pH or dilute the chemical, thus eliminating the stimulus.
  - Good hydration enables toxins to be moved into the lymph and blood circulation so they can be eliminated, and helps the circulation transport them.

WATER CAN ALSO ADDRESS THE CAUSE OF SOME DISEASES

In the main editorial of the Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology in June 1983, and also in the SCIENCE WATCH (Science Times) of the New York Times, Tuesday, June 21, 1983 it was reported that F. Batmanghelidj, M.D, successfully treated with only water over 3,000 people suffering from peptic ulcer disease. Dr. Batmanghelidj is the author of several books, one of which is called “Your body’s Many Cries for Water”.

Peptic ulcers are one example of many diseases that are actually caused or further aggravated by dehydration. When the body does not have enough water, not enough hydrochloric acid is produced which allows bacteria causing ulcers to remain alive. Secondly, dehydration inhibits the mucous membrane of the stomach from producing enough mucous to protect itself from hydrochloric acid, which then eats away at the stomach lining.

MAINTAINING GOOD HYDRATION

To be well hydrated requires consuming sufficient water. Under normal circumstances, a rule of thumb for how much water we need to be drinking can be stated as follows. We need just over 1 ounce of water (about 30 grams) for every kilogram (2.2 pounds) of our weight. This can be said in a different way – Approximately 1 oz of water for every 2 pounds of our weight. For example: A person weighing 130 pounds would need to drink a little over 65 oz. Of water per day.
Of course the exact amount of water we need to drink will be dependent on other factors as well, such as our activity, the weather, the state of health or sickness and any other factors that could affect how much water we need or are losing.

But having adequate hydration is not only dependent on drinking water, we also need to eliminate various causes of dehydration.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUGS – A CAUSE OF DEHYDRATION**

- Anti-Histamines
- Anti-Inflammatory drugs
- Some Psychotic drugs
- Gastro-Intestinal drugs
- Some pain medications

By masking signs of dehydration and blocking the mechanism for water regulation, drugs can be a cause of chronic dehydration and thus disease and chronic pain. Furthermore, the dehydration caused by the drug, induces the production of more histamine, thus increasing pain, requiring more of the drug, resulting in a drug dependency.

**OTHER CAUSES OF DEHYDRATION**

- Caffeinated beverages
- Sugar laden beverages (Soft Drinks)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Mineral imbalance
- Inadequate intake

**GOOD HYDRATION REQUIRES ELECTROLYTES**

Another factor in maintaining good hydration is to have sufficient electrolytes and in the proper balance. Sodium and Magnesium are the two most important in the consideration of hydration. Sodium maintains extracellular hydration, while Magnesium maintains hydration in the cells.

**SUMMARY**

By the wise use of external applications of water and maintaining good hydration of the body, pain can often be greatly reduced or eliminated!