

LOUD CRY  
MAGAZINE

 THE YOUNG MESSENGER

2023

January - March  
VOL. 1 NO. 1

Meditation

Voice from Behind

Q&A

Voice of Youth Box

Feature

Jesus in the Midst of The  
Seven Candlesticks

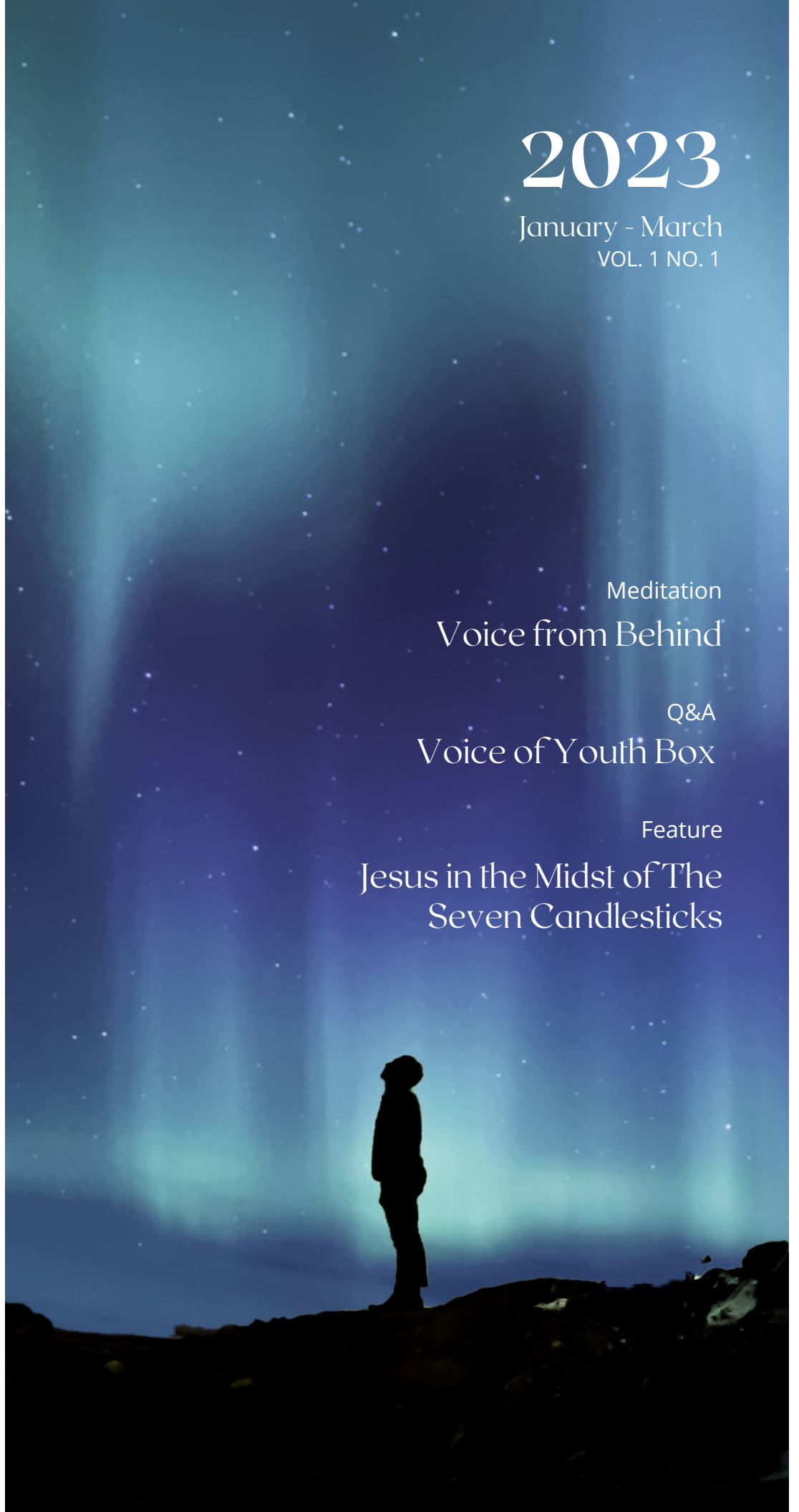




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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1, JANUARY-MARCH 2023

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Official Magazine of International  
Missionary Society Seventh-Day Adventist  
Church Reform Movement Canadian  
Field Youth Department

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"Remember now thy Creator  
in the days of thy youth."  
Ecclesiastes 12:1

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# True Satisfaction

Dear Young Friends,

You live in a dark and wicked world, subject to sickness, pain and death. You may see many things that look beautiful; but how soon they fade away. You may have a dear friend that you love; but soon that one may be torn from you by sickness and death, and you will then feel lonesome.

You should have something substantial to fix your minds and affections upon, that can give real satisfaction and joy, and cheer your spirits in this dark world, and cause your sorrows to bring joy in the end.

There is a blight upon everything. The earth feels the curse that God pronounced upon it, because of the disobedience of our first parents. They broke the command of God in eating of the forbidden tree, after he had given them the privilege of eating of all the other trees in the garden. They listened to the tempter, ate of the forbidden tree, and were expelled from the beautiful garden of Eden.

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The earth that was then so beautiful, was cursed, and the flaming sword was placed around the tree of life to guard it, lest man, in his sin, should approach that tree, and eat of its immortal fruit, and by so doing, live in sin for ever.

The tree of life was designed to perpetuate immortality. Adam and Eve could eat of that tree, and enjoy its rich immortal fruit, until they transgressed the command of God. Death was then pronounced upon them, and all that should ever live upon the earth. There was no way of escape for us; no provision that we might again have access to the tree of life, if we would repent. Whatever evils might befall us, there was then no other way than to bear them without hope of having right to the tree of life, to eat of its leaves and fruit, and be healed. We must ever suffer and groan beneath the curse.

But the Son of God, who was with the Father before the world was, took pity upon us in our lost condition, and offered to step in between us and the wrath of an offended God. Said Jesus, I will give my life for them. I will take the burden of the sins of the world upon men, and will make a way possible for these transgressors to find pardon and enjoy thy favor again, that they may repent and keep thy commandments, and again have access to the tree of life. God consented to give his only Son to die for lost man.

The lovely Jesus laid aside his glory, and came into this dark world, and took upon himself our nature, to be wounded for our transgressions, to be bruised for our iniquities. O, what love for us.—He led a self-denying life, and had not where to lay his head. He was a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief, was despised and rejected, and finally was crucified for us.

But you must not think that you have nothing to do, because Christ died for you. You must repent of all of your sins, and give your hearts to God, and then believe that the blood of Christ will cleanse you from all sin. Then if you keep all the commandments of God, the Sabbath with the rest, you may through the merits of Christ, be brought back to the tree of life. This will be when Jesus comes to raise the righteous dead, and change the living saints. Then you will have right to the tree of life, and eat of the leaves, and immortal fruit of the tree of life and live for ever in perfect happiness. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Revelation 22:14)

from *The Youth's Instructor* August 1, 1852

*Ellen G. White*

# Jesus

## IN THE MIDST OF THE SEVEN CANDLESTICKS

*By José V. Giner*

About 6.000 years ago, the earth was without form, and void. Darkness covered the planet, everything was submitted to obscurity. But God commanded, with His creating might, that there be light and there was light. God also created the sun, the moon and the stars. Light from the sun shone on the planet and gave life to all vegetation, to all the animals and to the human beings. The whole earth depends on light, without it we would perish.





## *I. The Obscurity of Sin*

Man and woman were created by God and their nature was so perfect that light shone forth from their bodies and covered them as a garment. Satan tempted Eve and made her fall into temptation, Adam fell subsequently. When both disobeyed God, the garment of light surrounding them disappeared. Sin made them both realize they had lost their garment of light. They understood that the light was a symbol of God and His holiness and the fact of being in harmony with their Creator.

Now, because of sin, they were subject to darkness. On that day, the sun was shining just like any other day, but to them everything appeared as in obscurity. They experienced how terrible it is to possess a heart without light, full of spiritual darkness. They began to feel shame, fear, uncertainty and they reproached each other bitterly. They were full of anxiety.

## *II. The Light of Grace*

Both sew for themselves two small aprons with fig leaves in order to cover their naked bodies. They had the impression that they had been abandoned and that soon God's justice would unfurl over them to destroy them. However they heard something from God that gave light to their lives. These were prophetic words spoken to the serpent

Now they were assured that in spite of the fact they had fallen in sin and deserved death, Someone would pay their debt, dying in their stead. When China was a great empire, there was a time when it was allowed to buy a 'substitute', who would die in the stead of the condemn to death. In same manner, Adam and Eve, being guilty, would be able to accede to the possibility of eternal life thanks to a 'substitute', the Lord Jesus Christ.

The book of Revelation describe Him as the faithful witness (Rev. 1: 5), who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. The First and the Last, the Morning Star, the hidden manna, He who lives forever (Rev. 1: 18). John, in his gospel describes Him as 'the Light of the world' (Jn. 8: 12). The prophet Isaiah wrote about Him as follows: 'Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Is. 9: 6). John the Baptist named Him, 'the Lamb of God' (Jn. 1: 29). The apostle Peter teaches us that the human race was redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, 'as a lamb without blemish and without spot' (1Pet. 1: 18-19).

When man fell in sin, he became Satan's friend and God's natural enemy. But God promised He would send His Son Jesus Christ, seed of the woman, to crush Satan's head so humanity may receive again the light of God in his soul. Adam and Eve would have to die physically, but through the faith they lay upon the

Lamb of God, they would rise again one day to live eternally.

### *III. The Light of The First Sacrifices*

God taught Adam the sacrifice system of animals, as a symbol of the true sacrifice of Christ, with the objective that he would learn an important lesson that Paul resumes with these words: 'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Rom. 6: 23). '...without shedding of blood there is no remission' (Heb. 9: 22).

Thus, each blood sacrifice represented 'the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world' (Jn. 1: 29). They sacrificed their lambs at the gate of Eden to obtain forgiveness for their sins. Cain and Abel learnt about the divine system which could free their souls from eternal death. However, the biblical record tells us that Cain did not offer a lamb but the fruits of the earth, while Abel obeyed the divine command.

God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's. Cain took envy of his brother and killed him. In Cain's offering there was no substitute, no death and so there was no atonement for sin. This means there was no genuine repentance.

Abel put his hands over the animal and confessed his sins. There was a transfer of sin to the animal, symbol of Christ. The death sentence was transferred to the



animal and Abel received forgiveness for his sins. The blood of the animal was a warrant that the demands of the Law had been satisfied.

Let us remember the case of that king who had promulgated a law that said that if someone in his kingdom was found having committed an offence, he would be condemned to lose two eyes. The first to be found having transgressed the law was the king's own son. The king did not ignore the law, he complied with all justice, but he did it by taking out one of his own and one of his son. The extraction of two eyes was a warrant that the demands of the law of the kingdom had been fulfilled.

God did the same. When He was faced with the fact that Adam, His son, had converted himself into a transgressor of the law of the universe, God decided to give up His Son Jesus Christ. God suffered with His own Son.

This is what a father did also. He sent his son to sleep in the attic as a punishment. The place was dark and full of old things. The child feared this part of the house. But he had committed a misdeed that required an exemplary punishment. The child cried when he heard what was waiting him; the father, however, went up to the attic that night and laid down next to his son. He did not leave him alone even in the accomplishment of justice.

The sacrifice of animals represented the sacrifice of Christ and brought back



the light of God to the heart of the repented one.

#### *IV. The Light of The Sanctuary*

Adam's descendance were slaves in Egypt. On the eve of their liberation, they had light in their homes, while darkness had fallen over the egyptians. Egypt was a nation with obscure practices, spiritism, much debasement, superstition and idolatry.

God brought His people from the slavery of Egypt and guided them for forty years in the wilderness. The system of sacrifices had been left aside for quite a while. It was necessary for the Lord to remind His people of the importance to trust in the Lamb to come.

And this was how God commanded to return to the sacrificial system and for this they were to build a sanctuary. God ordered Moses to build it according to the model he had been shown. This means that a sanctuary exists in heaven. The sanctuary was in three parts: the courtyard, the Holy and the most Holy. When it was built, the glory of God (the Light) filled the holy tabernacle (Ex. 40: 34).

If Israel wanted the presence of God to remain with them, they had to sacrifice animals, one in the morning and another one at sunset. Sinners had to present themselves at the sanctuary with an animal according to their social position.

The blood of the sacrificed animal was brought into the Holy by the priest and was sprinkled on the curtain that divided both parts. And so the demands of the broken law were satisfied.

The holy 'Shekinah' was above the mercy seat. It was the manifestation of God, a great light revealing His presence. In the Holy was a lampstand with seven branches which was always alight. This was a symbol of Christ, who was permanently in the midst of His people and who will ever be with them.

#### *V. The Light of The World*

The moment came when Christ became flesh in Maria, was born and accomplished the mission to bruise Satan's head and redeem mankind from the condemnation of the law. This happened when Jesus died on the cross without having committed a single sin.

During His ministry, Jesus taught that no one could go to the Father but through Him (Jn. 14:6). He taught that He is the way, the truth and the life. He taught that He is the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep. He taught that anyone, black, white, short, fat, Russian, Chinese, Equatorian, Peruvian, Turk... poor, rich... anybody could go to Him and receive rest for his soul (Mat. 11:28). He brought consolation to the world, love, forgiveness, freedom from the chains of sin. John taught that He was the life and light of men (Jn. 1:4-9).

When Christ came it was a time of spiritual darkness, He was to bring the gospel but they did not accept His ministry (Jn. 1:11). However to those who did receive Him, He gave them the right to become 'children of God' (Jn. 1:12).

Those who came into contact with Him and accepted Him as their personal Saviour, received light into their lives. John the aggressive one, converted into the disciple of love. Peter, proud, rugged and impetuous, when converted was asked by Jesus to feed His sheep. Mary broke her alabaster flask and anointed Jesus' feet. The robber at the cross was filled with faith and even pleaded for a place in heaven. You and I have also been reached by this light.

## *VI. Jesus in The Midst of His Church*

Today, Christ can enlighten your extinct life. For when He died on the cross He was a substitute for you and me. Your sin and mine, He took on Calvary. That place was meant for you and for me. But He occupied it in His love. He endured the insults, the jeerings and the indifference of mankind, and He, who had come to save it, became the victim.

He came to cure and He became the stricken One. He came to bring us light and darkness surrounded Him. He came to quench the thirsty and suffered the most terrible thirst on Calvary. All of this

for love. But Christ died, rose again and ascended to heaven. The Bible shows us that He walks among the seven lampstands (Rev. 1:9-15).

The seven lampstands are seven churches, the people of God. They are of gold because the church is precious to the eyes of Christ, it is His special treasure.

Jesus is seen in the midst of the church. There cannot be a closer relationship than this. He is in the midst, always with us. He has seven stars in His hand. These are the ministers of His people, teaching that He guides His people, takes care of them and protects them.

## *VII. Conclusion*

Come to Christ, you have nothing to fear by His side. Come to Christ, He understands your life perfectly. Come to Christ, no problem is so great that He cannot solve it. Come to Christ, there is no sinner, as refractory as he may be, who will not find in Christ forgiveness and peace.

Peter did something terrible, however Christ's gaze full of forgiveness, brought him bitter tears. Peter repented and the death of Christ on the cross redeemed him of all his sins.

Do you want to come to Christ today, and accept His sacrifice on Calvary? May God help us to trust deeply in the expiatory sacrifice of His Son and not to forget that He is in our midst, always by our side.

# VOICE OF YOUTH BOX

"Voice of Youth Box" is a unique online space where you can share your voice.

It can be questions about faith, requests for advice about your concern, suggestions about the youth department plan, or any voice you would like to make! It is all anonymous, so feel free to share your deep thoughts.

Do you have anything to share? Please scan the QR code.

In this article, we would like to share our answers to some suggestions/questions sent through this box.



## Suggestion

Since I can't attend youth meetings always, I suggest you record your response to anonymous questions, and later on, you can decide whether or not to post it as YouTube (or any social media) content, just if you think the response is good and feel the need to share it.

Thank you very much for your suggestion! It is a very good idea to share questions and answers somewhere other than a zoom meeting. The one who asked might miss the meeting, and someone else might have the same question.

The only thing is that we might not record the meeting, as we would like our zoom meeting to be somewhere youths will feel comfortable sharing their opinions and having a discussion without any pressure that other people might be able to see it. It is because we are trying to associate our Q and A sessions with an open discussion.

BUT! Here we came out with another idea that will be a win-win for both zoom meetings and your suggestion, and that's the magazine you are reading right now. From now on, we will share questions and answers in our quarterly youth magazine.

So even if you missed the meeting, you can find answers for you here. Questions will remain 100% anonymous as it has been, so please feel free to ask more! Do not feel shy, if there is any grammatical error, we will correct it before publishing. We are waiting for more suggestions too. Once again, thank you for your suggestion and thus contributing to the development of the work of God. God bless you!

## Question about The Holy

1. Is the Holy Spirit a tangible and physical person, just like the Father and the son?

I think the answer would depend on how to interpret the word, “tangible and physical.” If the question is about “Does the Holy Spirit have physical ears, nose, eyes, arms, legs, etc.?” the answer is: “we don’t know yet and won’t know until we reach heaven.”

It does not show anywhere in the Bible if the Holy Spirit is tangible. Therefore, we are not allowed to know it yet. The Bible does not talk about everything. There are still many mysteries that God will show us after we go to heaven. Until then, the instruction given to us through sister White is as the following:



“We are not to let our imaginations work upon matters that God has not revealed to us. We are to plant our feet upon the Word of the living God, and when we reach the kingdom of heaven, we shall understand the mysteries of that country. Christ will lead us beside the river of life and open to our minds the truths of His Word. He will unfold to us mysteries that we cannot now grasp. In the school above we shall obtain the higher education. Till then we must be content to leave with God the mysteries that we cannot comprehend.” – MS 17, 1903

Even though curiosity is a part of human nature, there are certain things God did not reveal to us yet, because of the limitation of our capability to understand. Instead, why not let this curiosity be another reason we want to go to heaven?



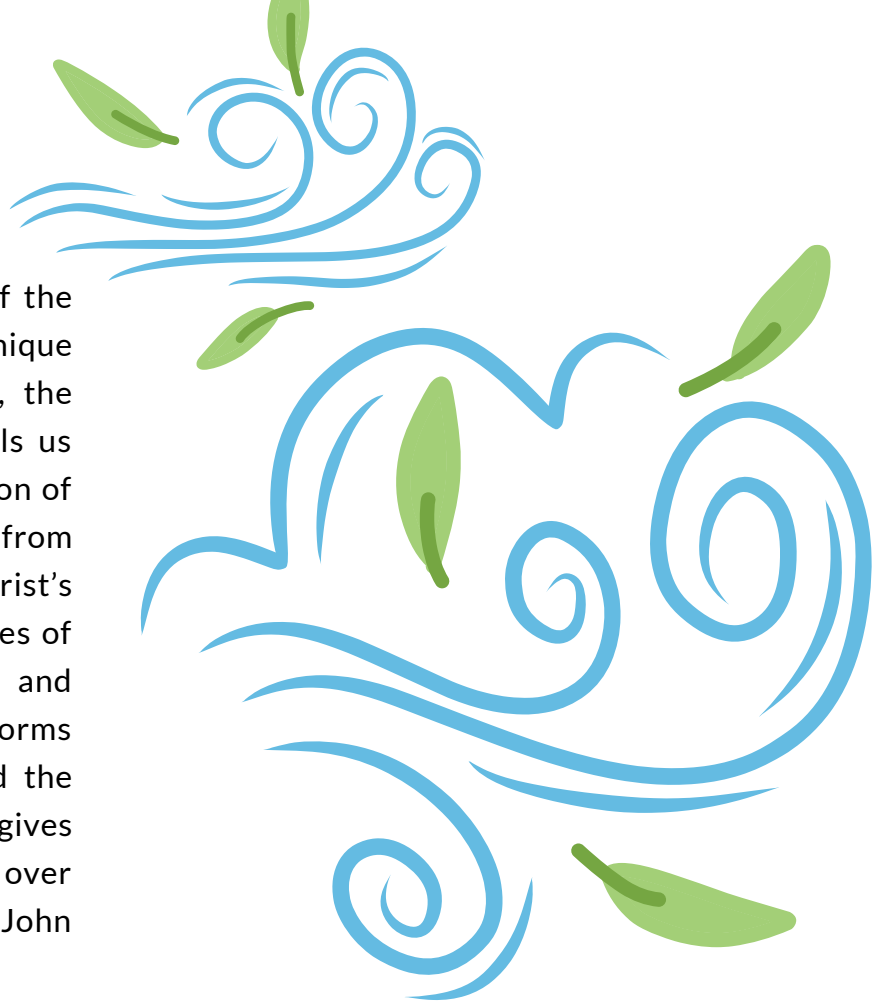
However, if the question asks if the Holy Spirit is an independent, unique figure that has His own existence, the answer is yes. The Bible clearly tells us that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead (1 John 5:7). We know from the bible that the Holy Spirit is Christ's representative on earth. He convinces of sin and leads to repentance and conversion. He renews and transforms man. He also guides into truth and the knowledge of the divine will and gives strength for obedience and victory over sin. (John 3:5, 6, John 14:16, 17, John 16:13)

“We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.” - Manuscript 66, 1899.

“The Father is all the fulness of the Godhead bodily and is invisible to mortal sight.

The Son is all the fulness of the Godhead manifested. The word of God declares Him to be ‘the express image of His person’....

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fulness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receives and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. These are three living persons of the heavenly trio...” - Evangelism pp. 614-615.



From the foregoing, it is shown that the Holy Spirit is this third person of the Godhead and that He is invisible to mortal sight. Yet He is “making manifest the power of divine grace” in His office. In addition, many pointed lines of scriptures show that he is actively fulfilling His office as the third person. For example, He guides men into all truth (John 16:12-24), He reproves (John 16:8-11), He leads men (Romans 8:14), He grieves (Ephesians 4:30), He intercedes (Romans 8:26-27), and He gives men the power to witness (Acts 1:8).

The Holy Spirit is a living God, and He is there for us. It is a great comfort for us that the Holy Spirit is working for us, even in this moment when I am writing and as you are reading this article.

## Question about LGBTQ

**2. My friend asked me what I thought of the LGBTQ community and asked if I supported it. What should I answer?**

In sum, we do not agree with nor support LGBTQ, but we love every people and are against anti-LGBTQ hate.

We will talk about it in two steps:

1. What does the Bible talk about LGBTQ itself? 2. What does the Bible talk about dealing with LGBTQ people?

In the Bible, LGBTQ is stated as the following:

“If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.” – Leviticus 20:13

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;... And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." –Romans 1:18-30

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,” – 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

So, we can see that LGBTQ is declared a sin in the Bible as God created two genders at the beginning to make them a family. He has never permitted marriage to happen among the same gender. Therefore, it is our responsibility to call sin a sin. God will ask about our fulfillment of duty if we do not let others know the truth; hence, they will vanish in sin.

But wait, it is not the end of this discussion.

There is something equally important – how we THINK about LGBTQ people. God hates sin, but He loves sinners. But unfortunately, many so-called Christians misrepresented His character throughout history. Instead, they showed our enemy's characteristics, manifested through anti-LGBTQ hate.

Do you remember the woman who was caught during adultery? People brought her to Jesus and asked, “Should we stone her?.” Jesus did not answer. However, he started writing down the secret sins of those ready to stone her. They saw their secrets. They felt shame and unworthiness. One by one, people left. When there was no one there but Jesus and the woman, He told the woman, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”



LGBTQ is a sin, but are our sins any better than that? Jesus said only the one who has no sin could throw a stone. Can we? If we mistreat them, will not our sin be more significant than theirs? If we talk badly of them on their back, will not God condemn us for hurting the souls that Jesus died for? Remember that we are the head of sinners.

"Call sin by its right name. Declare what God has said in regard to lying, Sabbathbreaking, stealing, idolatry, and every other evil. "They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:21. If they persist in sin, the judgment you have declared from God's word is pronounced upon them in heaven. In choosing to sin, they disown Christ; the church must show that she does not sanction their deeds, or she herself dishonors her Lord. She must say about sin what God says about it. She must deal with it as God directs, and her action is ratified in heaven. He who despises the authority of the church despises the authority of Christ Himself.

But there is a brighter side to the picture. "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted." Let this thought be kept uppermost. In labor for the erring, let every eye be directed to Christ. Let the shepherds have a tender care for the flock of the Lord's pasture. Let them speak to the erring of the forgiving mercy of the Saviour. Let them encourage the sinners to repent, and believe in Him

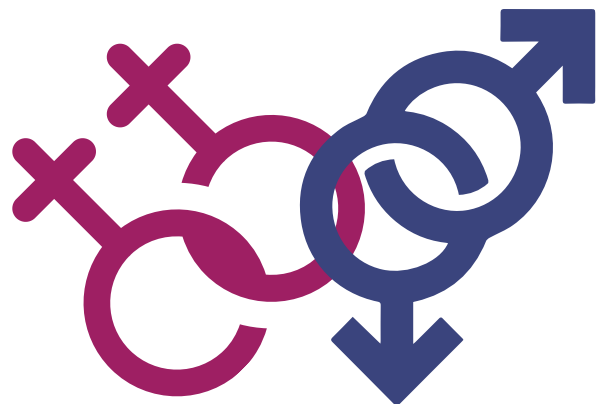
who can pardon." – Desire of Ages, p. 804

When your friend asks about your view, tell them what the Bible says. But don't forget to tell them how much Jesus loves them. Never be judgemental. Never mistreat them. Instead, reflect the character of Jesus so they can feel attracted to Him.

Also, please note that we were talking about the case when your friend asked about your opinion from their side. If they did not ask about it yet, depending on the context, you might want to show how attractive Jesus is to our souls first before talking about LGBTQ directly, as it can rather discourage them. But again, in some situations, you might need to indicate their sins first. How would I know? Pray, my dear youth. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit, and let He guide all your words and thoughts.

For further study, please read the following chapters written by sister White:

- Testimonies on Sexual behavior, adultery, and divorce Chapter 16 - Homosexuality
- Desire of Ages Chapter 50 - Among Snares



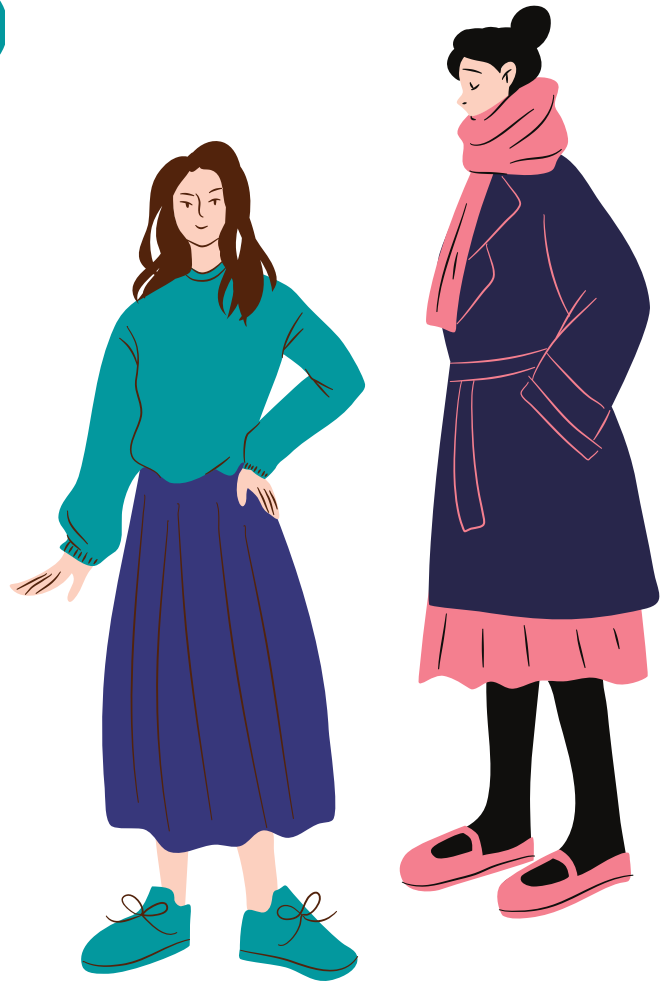
## Questions about Dress Reform

### 3. Can girls in our church wear pants? If not, then what about during the winter or when working out/exercising?

The critical questions we must reflect on to perform proper dress reform are: Is it modest? Is it tidy? Is it healthy? Is it practical? Does it avoid pride and being showy? Will this dress give a positive impression to people? Most importantly, does this cloth honour and glorify God?

The purpose of health reform is to introduce Jesus through our clothing. And now let us think about wintertime. It is cold outside, and we have snow. Wearing only skirts might freeze women's bodies and damage their health. In such case, we might wear leggings under the skirt. Also, let's think about when we work out or exercise. You might be able to go moderate terrain hiking in skirts. But pants might be more modest for horseback riding or active exercises that require running. Long dresses are not practical for some types of exercise and can make you fall too. It will not reflect Jesus to people but make them think that Jesus is hard-headed. Of course, it depends on which activities you do.

Please do not take these examples as something like a law. I am not trying to make a code of law that says, "In this exercise, wear pants. In that situation, do not wear pants." Rather, I'm trying to exp-



lain that we should use critical thinking as keeping one central question, "Will God be honoured by this?"

However, in any case, we should still avoid tight pants, as it negatively influences health and modesty. To avoid misunderstanding, please be noted that pants are not the choice that dresses reformers will make for the worship in His house.

Just as principles are essential in dress reform, avoiding radical ideas is also important. While we should hold the high standard of Christian modesty, we should never allow ourselves to repeat any actions of Pharisees.



#### 4. I know your church is not for wearing jewellery, so what about hair accessories and like?

The purpose of jewellery is purely for decoration and show-off. Therefore, Christians would not use the money for such things; instead of using it for others. However, the purpose of hair accessories is practical - to keep the hair tight and neat. So we do not see any problem with wearing hair accessories. However, Christians would not seek accessories that are costly or showy.

This does not mean Christians should look for something ugly that does not look good on them. It does not mean we are seeking to look untidy. Sister White commented as follows:

“While superfluous trimming and ornaments are to be avoided, as opposed to our profession as followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, we would not discourage the exercise of correct taste, neatness, and order in dress.... All who meet upon the Sabbath to worship God, should, if possible, have neat, well-fitting, comely garments to wear in the house of worship.” - Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene p. 86

I strongly recommend reading the following chapter by sister White:

- Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene Chapter 10 - “Dress”

## Questions about Amusement and Recreation

6. What do you think of sports? With the world cup going on right now, is it okay for Christians to support this kind of activity (and similar sports-related events such as participating in sports clubs at school or joining a sports competition)?



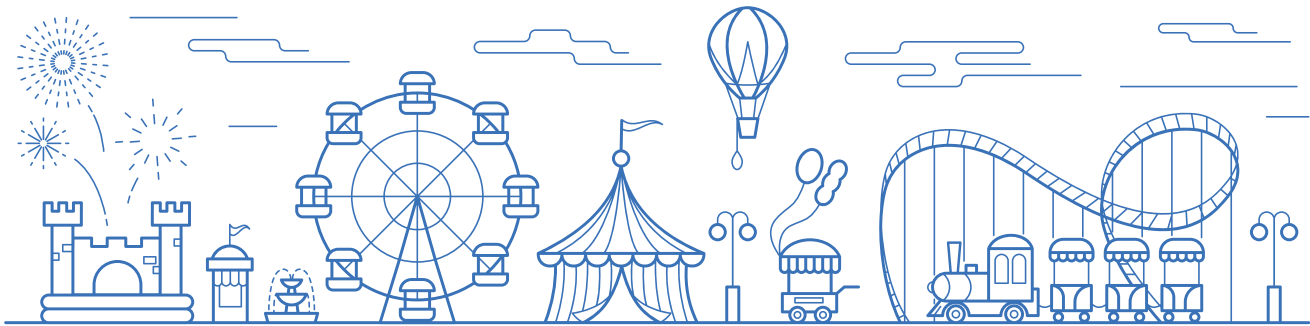
Sister White firmly teaches about the importance and need for physical exercise. However, sports are a little different issue because sports can easily lead to excitement and competition.

“Few evils are more to be dreaded than indolence and aimlessness. Yet the tendency of most athletic sports is a subject of anxious thought to those who have at heart the well-being of the youth. Teachers are troubled as they consider the influence of these sports both on the student's progress in school and on his success in afterlife. The games that occupy so much of his time are diverting the mind from study. They are not helping to prepare the youth for practical, earnest work in life. Their influence does not tend toward refinement, generosity, or real manliness.

Some of the most popular amusements, such as football and boxing, have become schools of brutality. They are developing the same characteristics as did the games of ancient Rome. The love of domination, the pride in mere brute force, the reckless disregard of life, are exerting upon the youth a power to demoralize that is appalling.

Other athletic games, though not so brutalizing, are scarcely less objectionable because of the excess to which they are carried. They stimulate the love of pleasure and excitement, thus fostering a distaste for useful labor, a disposition to shun practical duties and responsibilities. They tend to destroy a relish for life's sober realities and its tranquil enjoyments. Thus the door is opened to dissipation and lawlessness, with their terrible results.” - Education p. 210





## 7. Is it ok to go to amusement parks?

Nowhere in the Bible or Testimonies talk specifically about an amusement park. Therefore, giving a yes/no answer would not be proper. Especially in the church, in a collective sense, there is a danger that saying yes/no to things not mentioned in God's words can lead to Pharisees' deeds.

There are different kinds of amusement parks. For example, if that amusement park is related to Halloween or carnival, it would not be where angels will accompany us. On the other hand, some amusement parks involve much nature, and it is hard to say that it's the wrong place for Christians to go.

Therefore, you would need to judge this matter individually in each situation. However, we can introduce general principles that you can apply to this.

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” – 1 Corinthians 10:31

Think if God would be happy if you went there. What is your purpose for go-

ing there? What is the benefit, and what is the harm? If I go to that place, will that lead me to a Christian recreation, or will it attract me more to this world?

“There is great need of temperance in amusements, as in every other pursuit. And the character of these amusements should be carefully and thoroughly considered. Every youth should ask himself, What influence will these amusements have on physical, mental, and moral health? Will my mind become so infatuated as to forget God? Shall I cease to have His glory before me?” – Adventist Home, p. 512

There is a pamphlet by sister White called “Recreation.” The entire booklet talks about amusement and recreation very thoroughly over 22 chapters. I highly recommend you take a look at this. It will surely strengthen your critical thinking skills according to God’s will.

I also recommend “The Adventist Home” Section 17: “Relaxation and Recreation.”

## Question about Mental Health

5. Christians are among the happiest people on earth because Christ lives in them. If this is so, is depression not a thing in Christianity? Is it ok not to be ok?

We are health reformers, but it does not mean we do not get sick. Mental health is the same thing. Mentality and spirituality are not the only factors that contribute to mental health. It also comes from many other factors, such as physical condition, genes, environment, etc. Therefore, mental health problems do not mean we are not Christian.

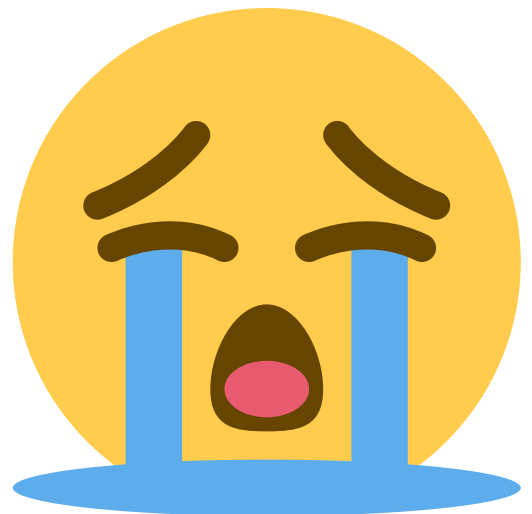
Furthermore, as long as we live in this sad world and the Great Controversy is going on, Christians must face both good and bad days. Many fathers of faith went through trials, and even Jesus had to bear the greatest sorrow.

However, the privilege given to us is that even in those difficulties, we have hope to carry. We hope to meet better days and, in the end, to live in a world without sorrow.

“A feeling of assurance is not to be despised; we should praise God for it; but when your feelings are depressed, do not think that God has changed. Praise Him just as much, because you trust in His word, and not in feelings. You have covenanted to walk by faith, not to be controlled by feelings. Feelings vary with circumstances” – Our High Calling, p. 124

I strongly recommend reading the following chapter written by sister Ellen G. White. It presents the topic of depression from different angles.:

- Mind, Character, and Personality Vol. 2, Chapter 52 - Depression



## Questions about Christmas

**8. What is our stand on Christmas? Is it okay to give gifts and wish people a happy new year without thinking that Jesus was born on December 25th?**

Firstly, we do not celebrate Christmas. We acknowledge that Christmas originates in Sunday worship, started from a heathen religion and adopted by the Roman Catholic church.

“The twenty-fifth of December is supposed to be the day of the birth of Jesus Christ, and its observance has become customary and popular. But yet there is no certainty that we are keeping the veritable day of our Saviour's birth. History gives us no certain assurance of this. The Bible does not give us the precise time. Had the Lord deemed this knowledge essential to our salvation, He would have spoken through His prophets and apostles, that we might know all about the matter. But the silence of the Scriptures upon this point evidences to us that it is hidden from us for the wisest purposes....

This secrecy was to prevent idolatry... He has concealed the precise day of Christ's birth, that the day should not receive the honor that should be given to Christ as the Redeemer of the world—one to be received, to be trusted, to be relied on as He who could save to the uttermost all who come unto Him. The soul's adora-



tion should be given to Jesus as the Son of the infinite God.” - The Adventist Home p. 477

Therefore, it is not the right thing for us to celebrate it, and it wouldn't be the right thing in God's eyes if we waste money to please ourselves.

“By the world the holidays are spent in frivolity and extravagance, gluttony and display.... Thousands of dollars will be worse than thrown away upon the coming Christmas and New Year's in needless indulgences. But it is our privilege to depart from the customs and practices of this degenerate age; and instead of expending means merely for the gratification of the appetite or for needless ornaments or articles of cloth-



ing, we may make the coming holidays an occasion in which to honor and glorify God... There are many things which can be devised with taste and cost far less than the unnecessary presents that are so frequently bestowed upon our children and relatives, and thus courtesy can be shown and happiness brought into the home.” – The Adventist Home pp. 480-481

In this sense, we do not make gifts on Christmas. However, there are some gifts we DO have to make. Just as God has changed the work of Satan many times into blessings, we can take benefit of Christmas for His glory. Sister White tells us to use Christmas as an opportunity to reach people in need. .

"Now a season is coming when we shall have our principles tested. Let us begin to think what we can do for God's needy ones. We can make them through ourselves the recipients of God's blessings. Think what widow, what orphan, what poor family you can relieve, not in a way to make a great parade about the matter, but be as a channel through which the Lord's substance shall flow as a blessing to His poor....

Their desire to make gifts may be turned into pure and holy channels and made to result in good to our fellow men by supplying the treasury in the great, grand work for which Christ came into our world. Self-denial and self-sacrifice

marked His course of action. Let it mark ours who profess to love Jesus because in Him is centered our hope of eternal life...

Christmas and New Year celebrations can and should be held in behalf of those who are helpless. God is glorified when we give to help those who have large families to support....Will you not arise, my Christian brethren and sisters, and gird yourselves for duty in the fear of God, so arranging this matter that it shall not be dry and uninteresting, but full of innocent enjoyment that shall bear the signet of Heaven? I know the poorer class will respond to these suggestions. The most wealthy should also show an interest and bestow their gifts and offerings proportionate to the means with which God has entrusted them. Let there be recorded in the heavenly books such a Christmas as has never yet been seen because of the donations which shall be given for the sustaining of the work of God and the upbuilding of His kingdom” – The Adventist Home pp. 474, 477, 482-483

Also, God allows us to exchange small gifts for people we care. But the prophetess is particular about what kind of gifts we should make. Nothing unnecessary. Nothing for pleasure. But a practical and spiritual gift, which are Bible or Spirit of Prophecy.

“The holiday season is fast approaching with its interchange of gifts, and old and

young are intently studying what they can bestow upon their friends as a token of affectionate remembrance.

It is pleasant to receive a gift, however small, from those we love. It is an assurance that we are not forgotten, and seems to bind us to them a little closer....

It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance if we do not in this forget God, our best friend. We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver. I would recommend such books as will be an aid in understanding the word of God or that will increase our love for its precepts. Provide something to be read during these long winter evenings. There are many who have not books and publications upon present truth. Here is a large field where money can be safely

invested... The many trifles usually spent on candies and useless toys may be treasured up with which to buy these volumes.” – The Adventist Home pp. 478-479

To sum up, we do not celebrate Christmas. We do not waste money on this day to please ourselves. However, we take advantage of Christmas to reach out to people in need and provide gifts. Also, giving a small gift to people we care about is okay, but it has to be beneficial. Books such as Bible or sister White’s writings are strongly recommended.

This answer is a quick analysis of “The Adventist Home” Chapter 77: “Christmas.” So I recommend reading the whole chapter by yourself. Chapter 76, “Holidays and Anniversaries,” will also expand your insights on this matter.



Now moving into the last part of your question, Is it okay to wish people a happy new year?

The answer is yes. God created the sun and made it responsible for showing us time – year. Also, in Exodus 40:2, we can see what God commanded Israel to do in every new year day:

“On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.”

Christmas and new year are two different topics. And greetings people about the new year is not against the Bible. Sister White also wrote new year messages to the church several times. Here are some of those examples.

“The new year has commenced, and with the commencement of this new year, you should dedicate yourselves to God. Now give yourself to him, soul, body, and spirit, to do his will. Let all selfishness, your disobedience to your parents, all your faults, and besetting sins die with the old year. Begin this new year to the glory of God. Pray to him, morning, noon, and night, to give you a meek and humble spirit, a mild temper, an affectionate disposition. Live as you never lived before. Begin this new year with new feelings, fresh desires, and a strong determination to glorify God.” – The Youth’s Instructor, January 1, 1856.

“Although in one sense the first day of the new year is no more to God than any other day, yet He often puts into the hearts of His children at that time a desire to begin the new year with new resolves, –perhaps with plans to carry out some worthy enterprise, –and with purposes to depart from the wrongs of the old year and to live the new year with new determinations” – Australasian Union Conference Record, January 5, 1914

**9. Do you celebrate Christmas? I know some folks in your church, and I see them posting Christmas-related stuff. If yes, why? If not, are the posts purely for aesthetics? Will it not raise questions like I have right now? I’m not criticizing, though; just curious.**

Since we already discussed the celebration of Christmas in our previous question, I will address the second part of your question.

About posting Christmas-related stuff on social media, it is difficult to answer your question, because of the followings reasons:

1) I do not know what kind of posts you have seen. It might need to be revised if they posted pictures of having Christmas parties. However, they might not have known or heard about Christmas. Some might be new to the church and thought Jesus was born on Christmas.

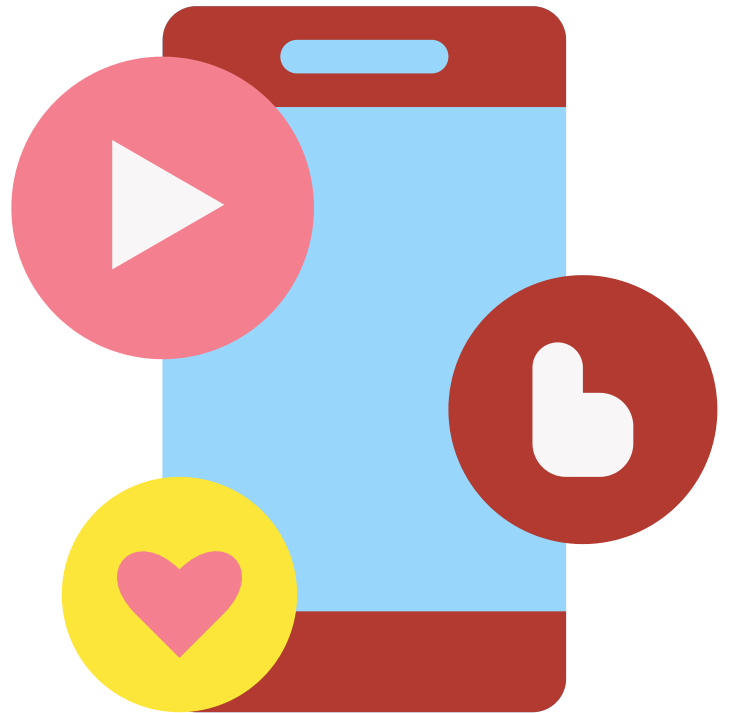
Some posts might be purely aesthetics, as you said. They might have posted the poster for the charity event to work for the poor people, following God's prophet's instructions to take advantage of Christmas. The appropriateness of the posts varies in their contents and context.

2) I cannot tell the purpose or motive of others who have posted it. So I cannot know if they posted to celebrate or purely for aesthetic reasons, as you said. Only God knows their cause, and it is not something we can tell.

Therefore, it is difficult for me to answer this part of the question.

I do not think you are criticizing, as you stated so already. But I would like to redirect your attention to what Jesus advises about seeing the people and the church. He commends us as the following:

"We have been so earthly; we have been talking of earthly things; we have had our conversation upon common and earthly things until eternity has been dropped out of our reckoning. Shall we bring it in? God help us that we may arouse as we never have done before. I tell you, it is an individual work. Do not look at another and say, They have defects in character; they are thus and so. "What is that to thee? follow thou me." I speak of Peter. Said the Lord Jesus Christ, "What is that to thee? follow thou me." " - MS 35, 1891



Until the end of the world, the church will have wheat and weeds. Just because some people in the church do a certain thing does not mean that's what the church believes and teaches. After all, it does not mean that certain people are weeds because they upload posts about Christmas. We all learn and grow up in the church. They might change later. After all, they might not have heard about Christmas. So I recommend you to turn your eyes away from what people in the church do but to what the church believe and teach. Does this church has the truth and the standard that's according to the words of God? That's the only thing we should see when looking for the church of God.

**Do you have any further/other questions? Please feel free to ask through Voice of Youth Box!**

*Introduction  
to Revelation*

# VOICE FROM BEHIND

*Revelation  
1:9-13*

*By Makoto Matsumoto*

When I started reading Revelation, I found the first chapter very weird. It talks about a peaceful afternoon on a Mediterranean island. "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 1:9

Imagine being in that place. It should be such a peaceful scene. Warm sunshine, the sound of waves, the smell of the beach, the touch of soft billows. . .

Revelation is full of majestic visions and fantasy-like beasts. And this peaceful afternoon on a Greek island seems to be inconsistent with the contents that would follow. However, no other introduction could be better than this. Let's see.

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet." Revelation 1:10

Firstly, John was keeping the Lord's day. When is the Lord's day?

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God" Exodus 20:8-10

The book of Revelation cannot be understood without knowing the Sabbath. The seven churches talk about the history of God's church throughout Christian era. The seven seals talk about the events which occurred during the Christian era. We learn about the seal of God, the Sabbath. The seven trumpets include the little book, which was fulfilled in great disappointment. The final battle between the dragon and the seed of the woman will be about the Lord's day. The third angel came to restore the Sabbath.

Therefore, God is telling us that if we do not understand the true Sabbath, we cannot go any further than the first chap-



ter of Revelation. However, just knowing the Sabbath is not enough. Just proclaiming to be an Adventist is not enough. What else do we need?

Let's see the Bible verse again. John was "in the Spirit" on the Sabbath. He was guided by the Holy Spirit, which we need before reading the prophecy. If we don't yield ourselves to the guidance of the Spirit, knowing the Sabbath, reading the Revelation will end up with mere theological knowledge. It will not bring us any closer to Jesus.

Another exciting thing about this introduction is that Jesus' voice came from behind. Isn't it unusual? We would imagine it is natural for a heavenly messenger to appear from the front. However, the voice came from the back in this case. Why?

"And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man" Revelation 1:12, 13

John turned to see who made that voice. He had to turn. The voice came from behind, so John would need to turn. And we see a lesson here. We need to turn. Our life has to change. We need to turn from sins and our old life. And this is the requirement before reading the Revelation.

We need to know about the Sabbath. We need to humble ourselves and ask for guidance from the Spirit. And we need to turn from our sins and our old life. Only

when we do so, we shall see Jesus. And only when we do so, this book of Revelation will be a blessing for us. Without this step, we will not be able to proceed any further than chapter 1.

This year, we will study Revelation in our youth zoom meeting held every Friday. Before we start, let us have the experience of the apostle John. Let us be ready to see the great prophecies and secrets of the invisible world. Then this book of Revelation will surely change your view, your experience, and most of all, your life.

May God bless you!

## Join us!

This year, we have weekly discussions about prophecies in Revelation through zoom every Friday at 7 pm (EST). Message us through Facebook, Instagram or our official website to join the meeting!



CANADIAN REFORM YOUTH

# LOUD CRY NEWS

WHAT HAPPENED, IS HAPPENING AND WILL HAPPEN

## WINTER CONFERENCE 2022/2023

By the grace of God, the field youth conference was held at Bloor street church from December 30th 2022 till January 1st 2023.

The conference was prepared and led by youth. Many worked hard in the front and the back to share their blessings. It led to many blessings, including the privilege for our spiritual family to open the new year all together. More pictures are available at [www.4truth.ca/youth](http://www.4truth.ca/youth)





## YOUTH TEAM 2023

Teams that would work for different projects of Loud Cry in 2023 are as follows:

### Field Youth Department:

- Makoto Matsumoto
- Anita Quicuca
- Brenda Alonzo
- Hailey Curato
- Jasmine Avila

### Local Youth Leaders:

- Aines Abragan (Calgary)
- Anita Quicuca (Hamilton)
- Emelina Garcia (Bloor)
- Mauricio Beltran (Granby)
- Ylenia Gallo (Woodbridge)

### Superintendent Team:

- Edna Climaco
- Jasmine Avila
- Mami Matsumoto

### Graphic Design Team:

- Melissa Avila (Zoom Meeting Poster)
- Hailey Curato (Lesson Book)
- Jasmine Avila (Announcement)

### Social Media Team:

- Aines Abragan (Leader)
- Christina Avila
- Damaris Hunger
- Katherine Mitov
- Makoto Matsumoto
- Mami Matsumoto
- Melissa Avila
- Ylenia Gallo

**Prayer Buddy Manager:** Jason Climaco

**Website Manager:** Katherine Mitov

Please let us know if you are willing to join our projects!

## YOUTH WEBPAGE !



On Canadian Field Website, we got a new page open for the youth department. Here, you can see not only the recent news but also previous activities, pictures, videos, lesson books, etc. This webpage will be constantly updated for new events.

You can access the page with the following address: [www.4truth.ca/youth](http://www.4truth.ca/youth) or You can find the tab "youth" on 4truth.ca

## WELCOME GUIDEBOOK

Welcome guidebook 2023 is available on our website now! It includes the new year message, mission, vision, and the new year plan of the field youth department.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Here are the dates of some major events of Loud Cry! There will be more events and seminars to be added! Stay tuned!

Also, please keep in mind that these are Field events only. For your local church activities and events, please refer to your local church leader or local youth leader.

All dates are subject to change.

March 12: Youth Canvassing Day I at Toronto

April 2: Youth Canvassing Day II at Hamilton

May 21: Youth Picnic Day in Ontario

June 1-4: Summer Youth Conference in Alberta

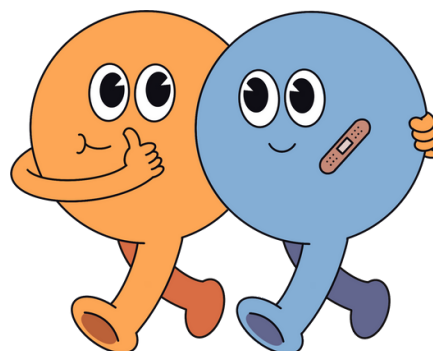
August 27-30: Camping Trip in Ontario

September 1-3: Canadian Field Conference (Youth Choir and Youth Orchestra) at Toronto

## JOIN OUR GROUP!

We have group chats on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Discord. To join, please send us your contact information to our email address! [canadianreformyouth@gmail.com](mailto:canadianreformyouth@gmail.com)

## PRAYER BUDDY PROGRAM STARTED



The Canadian and American Union Youth Departments are holding the Prayer Buddy Program. This program was made to connect the youth of the two countries together (think a modern interpretation of Pen Pal Programs), where youth will exchange phone numbers and/or social media accounts to get to know each other.

Participants applied to this program in January. And the program is running from February to April. Please pray for this program to be a blessing for all participants!



## NEW LESSON BOOK

Our new sabbath school lesson is ready!

We will study prophecies in Revelation throughout 2023 during our weekly zoom youth meeting.

In the first quarter (January-March), we will study "The Seven Churches." The lesson book and contact form for zoom meeting are both available on our website!

May God bless you as you study His words!





THEN SPAKE JESUS AGAIN UNTO THEM, SAYING,  
I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD:  
HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS,  
BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.

JOHN 8:12



THE YOUNG MESSENGER

Vol1, No1 January - March