

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY

...To Keep It *Holy*

Vol. 27 No. 1

Winter 2013

Magazine of

THE CANADIAN

Lord's Day
ASSOCIATION

“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: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day, wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.” (Exodus 20:8-11)

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OUR BASIS

- Belief in the triune God whose grace is manifested in the love and righteousness of God the Father, the redeeming work of God the Son, and the quickening power of God the Holy Ghost.
- Belief in the essential Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His Incarnation and Virgin Birth, the truthfulness of all His words, His all sufficient atoning vicarious death upon Calvary for sin, His bodily Resurrection, Ascension, and Coming Again.
- Belief in the whole Bible consisting of the 39 Books of the Old Testament and the 27 Books of the New Testament as the inspired Word of God, and therefore true and Divinely authoritative and as God's sufficient revelation in all matters of doctrine and practice.
- Belief that all men have sinned and come short of the glory of God: and in the necessity of the New Birth by the Holy Spirit in those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Belief in the Divine Authority and perpetual obligation of the Christian Sabbath or Lord's Day and conviction of the necessity that all effectual assertion, observance and defence of the Lord's Day rest, must be on this basis.
- Belief that in asserting the obligation of the Lord's Day the Gospel of the grace of God through Jesus Christ should be proclaimed.



Note: All unsigned articles are written by the editor.

The Sabbath Day and the Lord's Service

"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
(Psalm 118:24)

Dear reader,

What happens on the Lord's Day, which is the day that the Lord has made? On this day the most important thing of the week happens! What is that? What we read in Psalm 40:9-10: *"I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation."*

So it is not strange that the Heidelberg Catechism, in Lord's Day 38, does not start with what is not allowed on the Sabbath Day, but what is allowed and demanded! The fourth commandment is therefore quite positive. Maybe this is also an eye opener for our youth. We don't start with a checklist of restrictions, but with what may be done on this day. At the same time, we must learn that we do not do what ought to be done, to earn anything. His Church does this out of love. Do you do that as well?

This is why the Heidelberg Catechism deals with the Holy Law of the Lord in the third part – the part of thankfulness. We are not dealing with the covenant of works, but the covenant of grace. In it the (true) believer receives the Holy Law out of the hand of Christ.

We can read something about it in "The Marrow of Modern Divinity" by Edward Fisher. This book was a great blessing for Rev. Thomas Boston. This book is well worth reading! He learned that in the Fall the law, as it were, was razed out of man's heart. After that we read: "They [the commandments] were made known to Adam and the rest of the believing fathers, by vision and revelations, and so were a rule of life to them, yet not as the covenant of works, as they were before his fall, and so continued until the time of Moses. And as they were delivered by Moses unto the believing Jews from the Ark, and so as from Christ, they were a rule of life to them until the time of Christ's coming in the flesh. And since Christ's coming in the flesh, they have been and are to be a rule of life both to believing Jews and believing Gentiles unto the end of the world not as they are delivered by Moses, but as they are delivered by Christ." (Edward Fisher, *The Marrow of Modern Divinity*, ch. 3, p.186).

When we receive them from Christ's hand, we are where we must be. At the same time there is much instruction for unconverted people. The law is spiritual. If we do not have spiritual life, we cannot understand the spiritual law! Also the Lord's children need this instruction continually. I hope that you will see that this fourth commandment has to do with the honor of the Lord and our

benefit. That is how it comes to us in this meditation!

What is needed then for a genuine remembrance of this day? We can keep our answer very simple: “a sincere and true faith.” Without faith it is impossible to remember the Day which the Lord has made. It is impossible to rejoice in the Lord. To remember it is to delight yourself in the Lord, His Word and His work. Do you know this by grace?

Maybe there is a question among the youth about which day of the week we ought to keep as the Sabbath. The Old Testament teaches us that the Sabbath Day is the seventh day. However, this day became the New Testament Sabbath at Christ’s resurrection on the first day of the week. We see that by the example of Christ and His apostles (John 20:19, 26; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10). This was already made clear in Deuteronomy 5:15, where the commandment of the Sabbath is grounded on the deliverance out of Egypt – which is an image of the redemption by Christ – rather than in creation, as it is in Exodus 20. This change of day was also prophesied in Psalm 118:24, in which the day of Christ’s resurrection (the day on which the refused Stone becomes the most important Head Stone of the corner) is called “the day which the Lord has made.” He has made all days, but especially this day, and that is why especially this day is called the “Day of the Lord.”

If this is the Lord’s Day, we ought diligently to come under the preaching of the Word. On this day we hear what is necessary to salvation. God’s people receive food and drink under the preaching of

the Word. In the preaching, the Lord Jesus Christ is lifted up. The Holy Spirit uses the preaching to discover sinners to their lost state and to cover them with Christ’s righteousness, according to His good pleasure. Under the preaching you receive earnest warnings which the Lord uses to bring you to a dead end and to lead you as a guilty sinner to be washed in the all cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, then you will rejoice in the Lord and in the salvation which He provided, and that not only for others, but also for you.

Then you may be glad in this day. You hear of your Prophet, Priest and King. You hear His voice in the preaching of the Word. You may see your High Priest, who is at the same time the Lamb of God, who also took away your sins. You may honor your King, because He rules and protects you according to His Word. Do you know of this, by the working of the Holy Spirit?

Dear reader, you may still hear the preaching of this Word on the Day of the Lord. Oh listen to this earnest Word! In hell there are many people who long for an opportunity to hear the Word of salvation once more, but it is denied them. Please keep this in mind and take it to heart! Think of what we read in the Holy Scripture in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Please do it! The Lord points there to the Word of God. In this Word, we can read, “This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” This Word is full to overflowing with Christ and His work. We may hear about it on the Day of the Lord. Did it already become a pleasure for you, by the Lord’s grace?

Rev. A. de Groot

PROJECT REPORT

Which Books Would You Send?

Besides the Bible and the Reformed confessions, which books would you send to Christian pastors who do not have many books on their shelves? A number of members of the CLDA have been burdened by the few books owned by pastors in the Philippines (as reported in previous ...*To Keep it Holy* magazines). Therefore, this past June, 30 sets of Matthew Henry Commentaries were sent to a pastor in Gigaguit, the Philippines, who has distributed them to other pastors in the Philippines. It is our prayer that the Lord would bless these commentaries to instruct and guide these pastors in the understanding and preaching of the word of God, that sinners may be converted and God's people may be edified. Here are a few quotes from an introduction to Matthew Henry's Commentary, by Charles G. Trumbull:

- Matthew Henry digs deep down below the surface of God's Word; he sees truths hidden from most of us until he has shown them.
- So it is a rare spiritual treat to sit down with any part of Matthew Henry's Commentary open before us, and quietly read what he has written.
- The Commentary is permeated with an atmosphere of deep love for the Word of God. It is full of kindly warning, sound counsel for everyday life, and comfort and good cheer.
- The late Dr. Amos R. Wells, who owned a library of 24,000 volumes, in speaking of the Commentary to a friend said that there was nothing else like it, that he used it all the time, and that he got blessing from it each time he read it. All who know the Commentary bear testimony to the spiritual refreshment it invariably brings to the Christian's heart.



Paul writes in his second epistle to Timothy:

**“The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus,
when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books,
but especially the parchments” (4:13).**

What a joy it must have been for Paul to see Timothy coming to meet him with his hands full, for the refreshing of his soul. May something of this be experienced when these pastors receive these precious commentaries of Matthew Henry.



ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Magazine of

THE CANADIAN

Lord's Day ASSOCIATION

General Annual Meeting of the CLDA

All are invited to the annual meeting of the Canadian Lord's Day Association which is scheduled to begin at 7:30 pm on Friday, April 12, 2013. Rev. John Goldby, minister of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland and former missionary in Israel is to give the keynote address. This meeting is to take place in the Ebenezer Free Reformed Church (243 Weir's Lane, Dundas, Ontario). Refreshments are to follow.

Southern Alberta Auxiliary Meeting

The CLDA auxiliary of Southern Alberta hopes to have its annual meeting on Friday, February 22, 2013 at Calvin Christian School in Coalhurst, Alberta. The guest speaker will be Rev. P. Van Ruitenbergh of Chilliwack, British Columbia. All are welcome.

Chilliwack (British Columbia) Auxiliary Meeting

On October 26, 2012 the British Columbia auxiliary held its annual meeting in the meeting room of the Bethel Netherlands Reformed Congregation of Chilliwack. As secretary, Mr. Bill Klaassen opened the meeting with singing, prayer, and a meditation on Psalm 51. He also gave a report of the activities of the auxiliary. Two new auxiliary members were welcomed: Mr. Peter Droppert and Mr. Frank Vroegop. After some refreshments were enjoyed, Rev. D. Kranendonk gave an address drawing lessons for today from seventeenth century Sabbath struggles in the Netherlands. He showed the importance of having a clear understanding of the teaching of Scripture on the Lord's Day as well as of knowing the grace of God which gives a love to the Day and seeks to promote its sanctity which is so under attack.

Did you know?

- Billboard posters are being designed to remind those driving in vehicles of the sanctity of the Lord's Day.
- The Alberta Auxiliary places brief messages about the Lord's Day in many local papers in Alberta and Saskatchewan.
- The British Columbia Auxiliary visits stores to deliver letters about the Lord's Day and speak to owners about the importance of the day.
- A new tract entitled 101 Facts about the Lord's Day is being developed for publication.
- All previous tracts and magazines are being digitized so that they can be made more widely available.

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2013 Daily Diary and the “Weekend”

The 2013 Daily Diary has been published and distributed. As a Lord's Day association we regret not catching an error which is becoming increasingly common in calendars. The body of the diary devotes a page to each week, and provides a text and blank section for each day. These pages begin with the first day of the week – the Lord's Day. However, the small overview calendars of the years 2012 and 2014 begin with Monday and end with Sunday. We regret this error which shifts the Lord's Day to the last day of the week.

We encourage you to take care that you do not make the same mistake when you buying calendars and agendas. Let us remember that the week begins not with work, but rest; not with our work, but the Lord's work; not our words, but His word. Rather than live for the “weekend” like so many, may we live out of the Lord's Day by His grace.

FROM OUR FOREFATHERS

Solitude

Solitude is a separation from all men for a period of time in order to be enabled to express one's self more earnestly and freely as one engages himself in seeking after God. We designate this as a separation from all fellowship with men, in order to distinguish it from that type of solitude of a few of the godly, who at times seek this out in order to communicate with more freedom. Sometimes they choose places of solitude other than those they normally frequent, in order to occupy themselves either with fasting and prayer or with thanksgiving.

Prayerful Solitude

Seasonal separation occurs in order that we might engage ourselves more earnestly and freely in those exercises whereby we seek after God. To seek solitude in order to be lazy or idle is the work of beasts; to do so in order to commit sin—either alone or with someone else—is an abomination. If, however, our objective is holy, we must also be occupied with holy things, that is, with prayer, reading, meditation, singing, and humble communion with God. “Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom” (Prov 18:1). It is immaterial where we seek such solitude.

The Heart Must Strive for Solitude

We must always strive for a disposition of heart that is inclined

toward solitude while surrounded by the turmoil of the world and as we interact with people. This means that we are to be loose and divorced from all that is of this world, such as the honor, love, riches, lusts, and pleasures of men. Furthermore, it means to be free from all creatures so that they will neither have dominion over us, conquer our hearts, confuse, nor trouble us. If a cross or tribulation comes our way, we are not to look for creature comfort or help, but in solitude look unto God: “I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top” (Ps 102:7).

To this continual solitude also belongs a life with God. To be loose from the creature and to be united to God must go hand in hand. It is thus that Enoch (Gen 5:22), Noah (Gen 6:9), and David walked with God: “I have set the Lord always before me” (Ps 16:8). Such was also true for Asaph: “But it is good for me to draw near to God” (Ps 73:28). We are to be in such a solitary disposition when interacting with men; however, we are also to separate ourselves from men at our normal devotional time.

Special Times of Solitude

However, in addition to this habitual disposition of solitude and separation at the normal devotional time, it is an exceptional means for the increase in godliness if we occasionally designate a special time in which we fully separate ourselves from the company of men. This can be for



some hours or some days. Everyone must proceed here, however, in a manner consistent with his physical or spiritual condition. The occupation of some will not permit this. If such persons were to take as much time for this as they would perhaps desire—and which others are able to do—they would do harm (perhaps ruin) to themselves and their families, and let their children run loose without supervision. Godliness would be slandered thereby. Those who do have more time and opportunity, however, also ought to take more time for this.

Exhortation to be in Solitude

Therefore, children of God, seek the face of your Father in secret. Take some time occasionally and seek out lonely places in order that there you might wrestle, pray, weep, call for, and wait upon the comforts of the Lord, for:

First, such was the practice of the Lord Jesus, and He has left us an example so that we would walk in His footsteps. At one time He would go to a solitary place (Mark 1:35); at another time He would ascend a mountain all by Himself (Matt 14:23);

and at other times He would use the Garden of Gethsemane as His normal place of prayer (Luke 22:39). This has also been the practice of the following saints: Abraham (Gen 15), Isaac (Gen 24:63), and Jacob (Gen 32). Many of the godly have prospered exceptionally in doing so. If you are singularly desirous, motivated by love, to follow Jesus in this, be assured that He will meet you in love and sweeten your efforts.

Secondly, it is time and again needful for us to recover from the ill disposition we acquire in the midst of the turmoil of the world. Worldly turmoil is very capable of disturbing intimate fellowship with God and of causing us to be estranged from Him. Here the eye sees something, and there the ear hears something, by which our lusts are stirred up, causing us to be drawn away to give attention to these matters. And thus our lusts are ignited, and those ignited lusts frequently engender sinful deeds which harm and defile the soul. Everywhere there are snares and opportunities to either lust after honor, be envious, say vain words, lust after riches, boast, or have impure inner motions. Is it therefore

not most needful to make a special effort to lift up our heads out of all our failures, seeking restoration of this sweet freedom and to be loose from all creatures? Solitude is a special means to that end, for in this way we may frequently meet God, and will return to our calling with a strengthened heart.

Thirdly, while engaged in our daily routine, we are frequently closed up within. The heart is hard, the eyes refuse to produce tears, and we become listless and dull. If, however, we then seek a place of solitude other than our ordinary, the heart will frequently be enlarged. It becomes tender, and we can vent our complaints in a more intimate manner. Spiritual desires relative to a variety of matters multiply, and we shall begin to supplicate and weep. We can then persevere and pray that it may touch the heart. Even if there are times when we have had not much else than the privilege and ability to pray, we shall nevertheless go homeward with a quiet joy and we shall frequently think of those extraordinary places; they will be to us a Jacob's Bethel.

Fourthly, the Lord is so good that He will meet His children in a special manner when they are in secret—even though it can be at times that all is turned upside down within while they are in secret, that they are overcome with heavy darkness, that the Lord hides His countenance for some time, and they become unbelieving, dull, and entirely empty within. The Lord will yet secretly sustain and cause them to wrestle on. Upon that wrestling the Lord will meet them occasionally in a

**... conduct yourself
as if you were
alone with God
in the world ...**

special manner. He will then manifest Himself with such clarity that this light will be too glorious and strong for them; or He will manifest Himself with such intimacy and love that they will be, so to speak, filled to overflowing. Then again He will grant such assurance of His grace and of their eternal salvation that

it will suffice them. He will lead them into the inner chamber and reveal to them His eternal purpose and love for them; the covenant of redemption established between the Father and Christ on their behalf; His wondrous incarnation; the bitterness of the suffering and death of Jesus; the necessity and efficacy of His perfect atonement on their behalf; Christ's resurrection for their justification; His glorious ascension; and His sitting at the right hand of the Father as their Advocate. This, and all that is implied therein, as well as the perfections of God which are revealed, they see in an entirely different light, and it has a different effect upon their heart than has ever been the case previously. He thus leads them into the banqueting house and His banner over them is love, and it is thus that they are satiated with love.

When Jacob laid himself down in a lonely place, the Lord revealed Himself to him, so that he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place ... this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" (Gen 28:16-17). When he wrestled in solitude on the other side of the river Jabbok, the Lord blessed him and gave him the name "Israel." This had such an effect upon his heart that he said, "I have

seen God face to face, and my life is preserved” (Gen 32:30). When Peter was praying upon the rooftop, he fell into a trance and the Lord revealed the calling of the Gentiles unto him.

Therefore, if you desire singular revelations and singular comforts, seek solitary places. You will then experience that God is good to those who seek Him, and you will perceive that you will then return homeward with a radiant soul.

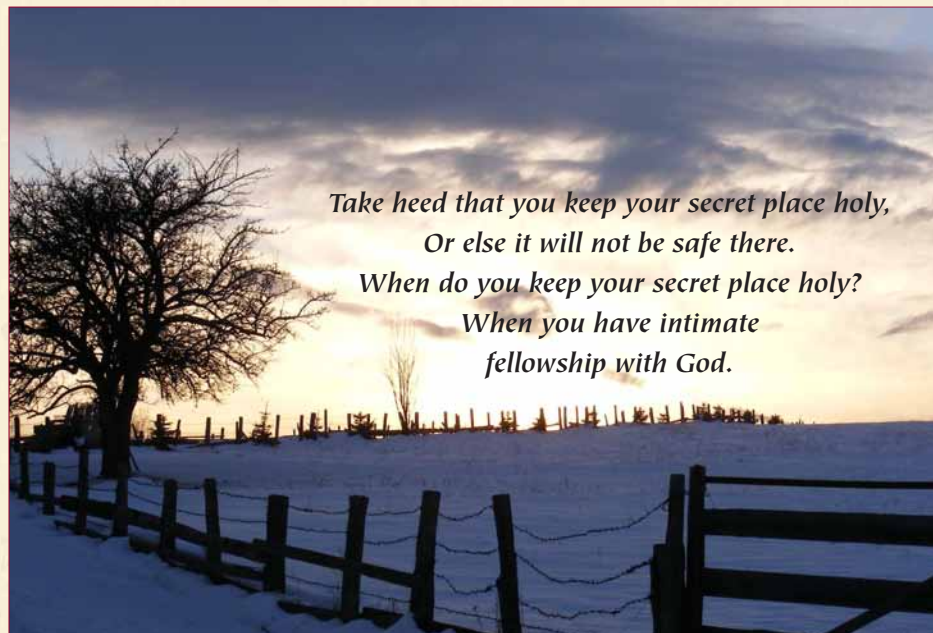
Final Guidelines for Solitude

If, however, you have determined both time and place for this practice and you proceed in this, then see to the following:

- (1) Neither demand nor expect too much from your efforts, nor have any expectations from yourself. Rather, come there humbly, empty, unfit, and longing that the Holy Spirit might teach you how to pray.

- (2) Be not occupied with other thoughts which pertain to your calling or something else. Rather, during that time conduct yourself as if you were alone with God in the world, casting away and resisting all that comes to mind.
- (3) Be especially on guard against your bosom sin, for this would very much defile your solitude and prevent you from receiving a blessing.
- (4) Continually occupy yourself with prayer, thanksgiving, waiting, reading, and singing—even if you do so without feeling and cannot get your heart involved in it. The Lord will be pleased with your efforts and will grant you a blessing.

Condensed from Wilhelmus a Brakel's
Christian's Reasonable Service,
vol. 4, pp. 19-24.



*Take heed that you keep your secret place holy,
Or else it will not be safe there.
When do you keep your secret place holy?
When you have intimate
fellowship with God.*

Farming Based on Christian Principles

106 years of faithfulness to God in keeping the Lord's Day.

Peter Cooke records God's goodness

My grandfather, a godly man, moved to Church Farm (in a village near Swindon) in 1904. He was sixteen years of age at the time and his sister (who was nineteen years old) came to look after him. He married a local young Christian lady called Alice who grew up 250 yards away on an adjoining farm.

They worshipped in the Gospel Standard Strict Baptist Chapel in Swindon and twice on a Sunday they travelled the five miles for worship on a horse and trap. These were the days before cars were in common use!

The farm was 265 acres at that time and Grandfather employed many staff who lived in 'tied' cottages around the farm. He had a flock of sheep, approximately fifty milking cows, and he produced eggs from free-range hens. He also had arable land on which he grew wheat and barley.

His principles were so strong over Sunday keeping (Exodus 20:8) that he found caring for a flock of sheep intruded too much on Sunday worship so he sold them and increased his milking herd.

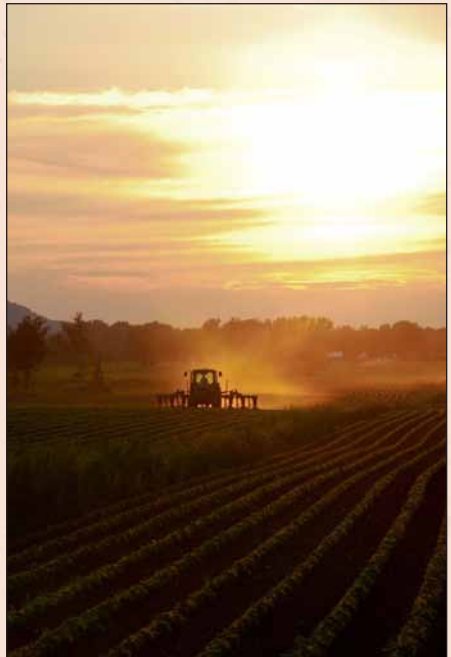
All work that need not be done was put off to the six days of the working week, and this included hay making, fieldwork, planting the crops, harvest and so on.

In the process of time, my father, who was also a Christian, succeeded

his father in the 1960s. My father also observed Sundays as a day of rest, and apart from feeding the animals and milking the cows, no unnecessary work was done.

In the mid-1970s my brother and I, now the third generation - took on the farm, when my father retired. In the years I farmed with my brother, we never had an argument over the running of the farm. As we are both Christians, Sunday observance continued.

Gradually over time the farm was added to and we farmed approximately 850 acres by the



time we handed the farm on to my son (who now represents the fourth generation). Before we retired the cows were sold for economic reasons. God preserved us from having to deal with the devastation of Foot and Mouth Disease.

My son, who is also a Christian, has now increased the area cropped to approximately 1,800 acres with very few staff, and he continues the tradition of Sunday observance. We are known in the area as the only farm where the machines are silent on a Sunday.

Harvesting and Sundays

There have been times, especially in harvest, when we've had a wet week followed by a sunny Sunday. We have often been tempted but had to resist from harvesting on the Lord's Day. We have often known God' answering our prayers concerning anticipated weather to the extent that we have had opposite to the official weather forecast for our area. It's a sign of how much He cares for us, watching over us and wanting the best for his children.

Surely God has been faithful to His promise that seed time and harvest shall not fail!

During harvest we work very long hours, especially when the weather forecast is not so good for the following days. God has designed us to need a day of rest and it's so good to re-charge our batteries and have a fresh start on Monday mornings.

We find by resting and worshipping on the Lord's Day we achieve more in the next six days than our neighbours

achieve in seven continuous days. Often we complete the harvest at the same time as our neighbours. As Scripture says. "them that honour me I will honour."

God has granted us the privilege of working His land and He has been faithful to us in the 106 years the family have been farming at Church Farm. We have never experienced a failed harvest; rather God has often blessed us with a better harvest than our immediate neighbours.

*Oh that men would praise
the LORD for his goodness,
and for his wonderful works to the
children of men! - Psalm 107:31*

Taken from *Day One Magazine*
(United Kingdom)





A Shock to the Beer-Drinkers

Rev Neil M Ross

They called him Thandabantu. His real name was James Fraser, and he was a Free Presbyterian missionary in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) from 1938 to 1959. Thandabantu means, "The man who loves the people", but he was not loved by some Africans – I mean some of those he rebuked for going to beer-drinks in the forest.

Just recently I was kindly given a copy of a letter he wrote in 1948 to a friend in Scotland about preaching at a beer-drink. He wrote: "Last Sabbath, instead of conducting the usual church services, I went away to a quiet spot in the heart of the forest where a big beer-drink was to take place. The revellers got a great shock when they saw me bearing down upon them, but they did not run away.

"As the drinking had not begun in earnest, most of the people were quite sober and listened very attentively as I spoke to them on Matthew 7:21. ['Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.'] I must have had between 60 and 70 of a congregation gathered together under the shade of a big tree.

"I hope to pay many such visits to the beer-drinkers and so try to disturb their peace of mind – a false, carnal peace. May the Holy Spirit water the seed sown in these odd corners!"

How did Mr Fraser know about the beer-drink that Sabbath? The story

is that he went to Mabayi, a mission outstation, to preach. Only one woman turned up for the service – all the other people had gone instead to the beer-drink. He decided that if they would not come to hear the gospel, he would take the gospel to where they were – which he did, the woman leading him the three and a half miles through the trees to their secluded meeting place. Little wonder that "the revellers got a great shock" when they saw him bearing down upon them. At those beer-drinks the people followed their heathen custom of praying to the spirits of their ancestors in times of sickness and trouble, and also to seek for prosperity.

The only cure for the underlying, awful disease of sin – which breaks out in drunkenness, uncleanness, Sabbath-breaking, pagan practices and all other kinds of sin – is the gospel. We, as sinners, are to believe in Jesus Christ, who is presented to us in the preaching of the gospel, so that we would be saved from our sins.

Some of you will have read of Mazwabo, the old African heathen woman who used to be a drunkard. and whom Mr Fraser wrote about in his Mission reports. "O yes, I was a very great drunkard," she once admitted, "but when I believed in Jesus, the old heart which I had for beer died within me. . . . In the past I didn't even know the days of the week; the only day I knew was the Sabbath day, the great day for beer-drinking. . . .

Why should I return to these things when God has made me His child?" She now loved the Sabbath because it was the special day for drinking from the wells of salvation. When pressed by her relatives to join them in their beer-drinks and heathen customs, her reply was always the same, "I have escaped from a dark prison, and do you think that I am going to return to it again?"



Every young person, even if brought up under the gospel, needs the very same thing which Mazwabo, the old heathen, got for herself – the great privilege of being made a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ. May we all be part of that blessed family! Pray to God, "Be pleased to make me Thy child."

Condensed from
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(October 2004)

From Canada's Past

"And to the end that the inhabitants, fishermen, seamen, and all and every other person and persons residing or being at Newfoundland, or any the said islands, or other places, may with all devotion join their solemn prayers and addresses to Almighty God, for the obtaining of his blessing upon their persons and endeavours; be it hereby enacted, That all and every the inhabitants of Newfoundland, or the said islands or places adjacent near thereto, shall strictly and decently observe every Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, and that none of the said inhabitants (who keep any tavern, alehouse, or other publick house for entertainment) shall entertain or sell, vend, utter, or dispose of, to any fisherman, seaman, or other person whatsoever, upon any Lord's Day or Sunday any wine, beer, ale, cider, strong waters, or tobacco, or any other liquor or liquors whatsoever."

King William III, *An act to encourage the Trade to Newfoundland* (1698)

PRISON UPDATE

Concerning prison ministry, we may report the following:

- *The CLDA mailbox continues to receive letters from inmates requesting the Bible correspondence course. Over 150 inmates in Canada and over 30 inmates in Texas have requested courses and guidance.*
- *Most inmates ask for the KJV Bible and like using it.*
- *An increasing number of requests for a second course are coming from those who have completed the Bible course.*
- *Some inmates are released before finishing the course and have given their home address so that they can complete the course.*
- *For 2013, the CLDA is planning to print as many as 75,000 copies of the daily diary.*

One inmate wrote recently:

“I am somewhat saddened that this course has come to an end as fun as the course was. I was equally excited just to receive mail, which in my current status feels huge. I have lost almost all contact with the outside world (except) for a very few exceptions.... If there are any other courses... I would greatly appreciate (it).”

Another inmate wrote:

“I do believe in Jesus. I want so much to feel that Jesus is with me. I’ve asked that He would come into my soul. But yet I feel that I’m missing something.”

May the Lord remember the needs of those who are in prisons. His hand is not shortened, that it cannot save. May they learn to cry in their distress to the Lord, and may they find that there is outcome with the Lord. May He bless His own word to their souls, for while they may be bound, “the word of God is not bound” (2 Tim. 2:9). We commend this ongoing work to your prayerful and financial support.