

# FUTURE NEWS

VOL 20 - ISSUE 4 - APRIL 2016

“GATHER YOURSELVES TOGETHER, YEA, GATHER TOGETHER,  
O NATION NOT DESIRED” ZEPHANIAH 2:1

## Our Duty and Responsibility

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### **We Need Our Schools** *The General Conference Bulletin, October 1, 1896*

“The present duty of every true child of God is to wait patiently, to watch vigilantly, to work faithfully, until the coming of the Lord, that we may be prepared for the solemn event. The characteristics of the true follower of Christ, the perfect man in Christ Jesus, will be manifested in working, watching, and waiting for the Lord. He will not be wholly given up to contemplation and meditation, or be so engrossed in some busy works, that he will neglect the exercise of personal piety; but in the symmetrical Christian, personal devotion will be blended with earnest work, and the follower of Christ will be ‘not slothful in business;’ but ‘fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.’ The lamps must be kept trimmed and burning, that they may send forth bright rays of light into the moral darkness of the world. Every faculty must be brought into play, so that spiritual declension may not take place, and that the note of warning may be sounded, lest the day of the Lord overtake you as a thief in the night.

“The Lord is soon coming, and for this very reason we need our schools, not that we may be educated after the order of the world, but that our institutions of learning may be more like the schools of the prophets,—places where we may learn the will of God, and reach to the very highest branches of science, that we may better understand God and his works, and the character of Jesus Christ whom he has sent. The Lord requires that there shall be faithful work done in his household day by day. The people of God must be gaining more and more skill and experience; for there will be increased work for all, and especially for men in positions of trust. As we near the end, Satan will be moved to make a desperate effort to overthrow all those who dispute his claim to supreme authority on earth, and the people of God must be prepared for the struggle. God requires the full exercise of all the ability he has given to men, that they may do to the extent of their natural and cultivated powers, all that is possible for them to do. Every agency is to be quickened, that the great work may be accomplished, and we must work with an intensity that we have never felt before. No man can leave his post of duty without betraying sacred trusts, without endangering the salvation of his own soul and the souls of others. You are to be true to your entrusted work, and not to be seeking after something new and strange.

**Future News** is the monthly newsletter from **Future for America**.

We also coordinate the **School of the Prophets** for the education of this final generation.

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## FUTURE FOR AMERICA

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The ministry of Future for America is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified by the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis is on the prophetic word including all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, **Future for America** emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. **Future for America** upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

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## MINISTRY UPDATE

Dear Reader,

When the *School of the Prophets* began, our student body was only four students, with a handful of staff members and teachers. We knew that the Lord had called us to start a small school to teach Bible prophecy and agriculture, but were not sure exactly where to begin. In the months leading up to the start date, the staff and teachers began reading everything that the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy, and our pioneers had to share about true education. Our worship hours were used to cover a variety of books, pamphlets, and compilations each dealing with how the Lord would have a school begin and function. With trembling steps we decided to start our first trimester in September 2013.

Our first classes were held on the property where *Future for America* is located. The students were housed in the homes, trailers, or R.V.'s that were available. The cafeteria was simply a home kitchen where everyone met twice per day to eat and fellowship together. Worship was held each morning and evening with the Pippenger's in their living room. We worked on the property, grew a fall garden, learned about growing in a winter greenhouse, and studied Bible prophecy, health, and the science of true education. It was a special time together. We did not know during that first trimester that those first four students were specially appointed by God to join us exactly when they did. We only realized this in hindsight as each of the students agreed to sacrifice their previous life plans and join us in ministry. This humble beginning, with teachable young people, was the seed that the *School of the Prophets* has grown from.

We have continued forward for almost three years now. Our program is divided into trimesters. These periods run from January to March, May to July, and September to November. The intent of dividing the year into these three periods was to incorporate agricultural practices into each trimester, as we attempt to learn the essentials needed for sustainable

gardening, orchards, and greenhouse production. The staff takes a short break between each trimester to regroup, rest, and focus on the upcoming session.

Although *School of the Prophets* began on the property where the *Future for America* office is located, it was never intended to be there permanently. We had purchased a fourteen-acre piece of land in Glenwood, Arkansas with a one-hundred-year-old farm house set neatly in the front of the property. Our first project was to fix the farmhouse up so that a staff family could live there to oversee the changes that were about to begin. (And the changes came rather quickly!) When we finished remodeling the farmhouse, our next step was taken by building a 30' x 40' metal building that would serve as our workshop. After this was finished, we realized right away that we needed a place that could serve as a classroom. It was decided that we should divide a portion of the workshop off and set that small space up as a classroom. Once this was finished, classes began on *School of the Prophets* campus.

During the construction of the workshop and classroom, we purchased an affordable trailer that was in need of some upgrades, but it was structurally sound. The trailer was brought to the campus, and staff and students began the process of scraping off popcorn ceilings, painting, flooring, and repairing where needed. When completed, this trailer served as the new campus cafeteria and girls dorm. It has one master bedroom and bathroom, and two single bedrooms which share a bathroom. The kitchen is small, but the staff has been willing to work with what is provided, and serves two plant-based meals everyday out of this cozy kitchen.

The campus greenhouse was completed in February 2015. The greenhouse is 30' x 100'. It has been growing heirloom organic produce from the date that it was set up. Many of the students have had an opportunity to work in the school greenhouse, as well as the smaller greenhouse located at *Future for America*. The school greenhouse provides a large variety of produce that we serve in the cafeteria, in addition to sharing it with our neighbors and



*Lambert Community Fellowship* church members. Our long term goals for these greenhouses are to sell plant seedlings, produce, and worms to the local community. We have plans to install an automated irrigation system for the school greenhouse, garden, and orchard to make the task of watering easier and more regulated. We believe this will help with the quality of produce that can be obtained.

Not long after the greenhouse was set up, we had the opportunity to purchase a small two-acre parcel of land with a three-bedroom trailer home and a separate office space set up and ready to be utilized. This parcel of land was connected to our already existing twelve acres and we believed that the Lord was leading as we were in need of additional housing for students and staff. When the purchase of the two acres went through, we modified the office building and turned it into a comfortable home complete with a wood stove, kitchenette, and upgraded bathroom. This has provided a nice accommodation for one of our permanent staff members. The trailer that was on the two acres had a very large living room and we moved our classroom from the rapidly shrinking workshop room to the trailer home living room. Doing this allowed us to grow and reach our maximum number of students. We have put our student cap at twelve students per trimester. At this point, twelve is all that we can house comfortably, and it allows us time to get to know each student individually instead of a more formal and cursory relationship.

Even though we upgraded in size on our classroom, we quickly outgrew the living room as well. By the time staff, students, volunteers, and church members joined us each morning at 6:30 am, the once large living room became too small for tables and students combined. Our final trimester in the living room was chair space only. A few students tried to squeeze in a small tray for their writing space, but we knew that we had reached our capacity and that the Lord was going to need to direct us to where we should settle our classroom permanently. We had exhausted all of the campus buildings and were

waiting for directions about whether we needed to begin building a classroom and cafeteria.

Five years ago in May of 2011, a catastrophic tornado hit the small town of Joplin, Missouri. When everything was over, 158 people lost their lives and many more were injured. The devastation was unbelievable. As part of the disaster relief large mobile units were brought into Joplin and set up. Some of these units were to provide temporary school buildings for the community until the schools could be rebuilt. When the original school buildings were restored and school was once again opened, they auctioned the mobile units off for a fraction of their original cost. We had the opportunity to look at one of the units. It came in six separate pieces, but when combined as it should be, there were over 5,000 square-feet of space. This space was already designed for a classroom with white boards, exit signs, P.A. systems, fire code compliant lighting and fixtures, large windows, safety doors, and was overall in great condition. The mobile units were purchased for just the amount that we had set aside to start our school building with. They arrived and were set up in December of 2015.

After the units are combined, you end up with a large classroom, a completely separate kitchen and cafeteria, and a new office for the DVD productions, orders, and printing needs of *Future for America* and *School of the Prophets*. The classroom portion has been completed to date. We painted, carpeted, and repaired all that needed to be finished, and then we moved into our permanent classroom on April 14, 2016. It was a special moment to see how far the Lord has led this little movement in such a short period of time. We have ample space for tables and recording equipment. The new classroom has been such a blessing to everyone involved with the preparations. We are not finished though!

As I am writing this update, a group of students, staff, and volunteers are working to install the new office space, add four bathrooms (two in the cafeteria, two in the lobby), design and build a kitchen capable of handling up to one-hundred people, remodeling



the cafeteria connected to the kitchen to add more windows and a serving bar, and preparing to pour sidewalks, build decks, and eventually move all day-to-day operations of the ministry into our school building. This work is enormous in scope, yet the Lord has sent us volunteers and skilled laborers every step of the way. They come with a willing heart and they work alongside the students and staff, laboring together as a close family would, reaching every day towards the common goal. It has been so exciting watching the Lord lead and guide the individuals that have joined us over the past year.

By now you are probably wondering what this update is all about. Maybe you have been following our progress at [www.sotpar.org](http://www.sotpar.org) and have seen the pictures that go along with this story. Or perhaps you are interested in learning more. The rest of this newsletter is devoted to student updates and first-hand accounts of what our students and staff have experienced during their stay at *School of the Prophets*. We move forward only as the Lord opens the doors and send us the students that He intends to be with us. If you are interested in becoming a student for one of our upcoming trimesters or would like to learn more about what we are doing at *School of the Prophets*, please email me at: [bronwynpeck@gmail.com](mailto:bronwynpeck@gmail.com). I will try to assist you with any questions that you may have or simply forward you the handbook and application forms that you will need to apply.

Finally, this update is even less about inviting you to join us at *School of the Prophets*, but more about letting you know what is coming. We intend to hold our annual prophecy school October 9-16, 2016 on the *School of the Prophets* campus. I know this is kind of early to let you all in on this, as we do not have all the details ironed out just yet. When staff meets again on June 6, we will arrange the finer details of this event, but the dates will not change. Neither will the location. In the past, we have all met for the prophecy school at *Lambert Community Fellowship* church. This has always been a blessing and an ideal location. This year, though, we intend to utilize the spacious grounds, current

buildings, large classroom and lobby, and newly built kitchen and cafeteria on the school campus to better serve our attendees. We believe this will be easier to accommodate the guests that are coming and allow for a more intimate setting for such an event. This will also relieve some of the strain on our cooks, as they will have a larger kitchen to serve from. We solicit your prayers for all the planning that is involved with this endeavor. As soon as the details are settled, we will post the formal invitation online, in our newsletter, and on Facebook.

Thank you for your commitment and devotion to this cause. It has been many years now since this little ministry sent out a monthly tape and newsletter explaining the importance of the king of the north and everything that has been connected to the study of Bible prophecy. We have advanced ever forward, leaning on the Lord as our guide, and He has not forsaken us. We give all glory and honor to our Redeemer for using our weak vessels to hold such a precious message as the one that we are handling today. Please keep all of our students, staff, volunteers, and church members in your prayers.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the



mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” Ephesians 6:12-20.

In Service, Bronwyn

## WINTER 2016 TRIMESTER STUDENT & STAFF ARTICLES

### **Blessings in the Journey**

**By T. Bairos**

One day my dog “told” me he wanted to go for a walk. I told him, “later.” Well, later came and so did he, as he pushed his nose again under my hand to prevent me from typing. So, finally I said, “okay!” I believe the Holy Spirit used my dog that day to grant me a blessing, and to also help me keep some very important health laws: exercise, water, sunshine, air, temperance and trust in God.

As I stepped outside, to my surprise the rain started to come down. I hesitated for a moment, thinking about taking a rain check, but then the thought came, “seize the moment.” Our health is important and we need to have temperance with our work, we ought to guard the time we need to keep our body’s temple in the best condition possible, so that the Holy Spirit may dwell within us.

Although the sunshine was not as bright that day, I am sure that the natural light outside was still helpful to produce that melatonin that causes us to sleep better at night. On my walk, not only did I get the fresh air, which is vitally necessary to our health, but the best part was having quality time with God. Trust in God becomes easier as we spend more time with Him. I was able to admire the beauty of His creation! I saw flowers pink, blue, and purple, yet they were all coming from the same stem, I stared in awe of God’s awesomeness! I listened as the creek rippled on by and as the birds sang their lovely song. I saw the trees beginning to bud and as I looked, I contemplated the thought of how all creation obeys His voice. The trees grow, bud, blossom and will bare fruit. The question then came to my mind, “Why does mankind not do the same, Lord? Why don’t we trust and obey?”

To which He responded, “My child you are holding an umbrella. The rain is pouring down right now all around you and only you have the ability to prevent it from reaching you. Freedom is a gift that I have given and you can choose to receive the rain or not. Creation welcomes the rain and rejoices with singing as it falls and so will you, if you only would allow it to reach you.”

With that in mind I contemplated this “rain,” that causes things to grow. The rain is the Holy Spirit; it is the Word of God, and if you allow it to reach your heart, you will grow. You cannot remain the same. You will bud, blossom, and bare fruit, but it requires you to let go of your “umbrella.” Let go of being comfortable; do not worry about what others think of you; do what is right because it is right; honour God because He is worthy. As you read His word and are convicted of the changes that need to be made in your life, make them; do not delay! Do not say, “another day,” because you and I both know “later” may never happen. The rain is falling and it will accomplish its work, but only to those who are seeking and willing to receive it. Now is the time to change, now we have been granted a few more years of grace, the latter rain even now is falling in preparation for the great day of the Lord. Time is rapidly running out, soon the harvest will be passed and the summer will have ended. I pray that none will be found wanting. Be do not dismayed, just be ready. God has made all the provisions possible.

With that in mind, I closed up my umbrella and enjoyed the rest of my walk allowing the rain to fall on me. I pray in the same way that the Word of God would break up the fallow ground of my heart, and



that I will continue to grow in the knowledge of His love and grace. By beholding, we will become changed. Water is not only good for drinking, but it is also good for showering. I sure did get a shower that day, not only physically, but more importantly spiritually. I had such a beautiful experience, and looking back it is hard for me to think that I was going to forfeit my walk that day. Why is it such a challenge for me to keep the laws of health, when every time I obey, I always reap blessings? I am not sure why but I say we ought to let go and let God!

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving his light and knowledge, must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement, and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and he will finish his work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. **Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.**” The Review & Herald, March 2, 1897.

## Lessons from the Garden

By T. Bairos

“The great Sower can make His garden a lesson book.” *Home and Church School Manual*, 46.

God has been teaching me many lessons as I have spent time in the greenhouse. One particular thought that comes to mind is when I had the job of transplanting the little seedling shoots into bigger soil pots. I planned to throw away the soil blocks that “appeared” to have dormant seeds. There was one soil block that seemed to have no life, but as I was breaking it up my eyes quickly noticed that there was life! The seed did in fact germinate, it was just buried in the dirt. It was growing, but had not broken through the surface yet.

This put a question in my mind: if I were a soil block, would I want to be tossed away? As I pondered that question, there was no doubt in my mind that my heavenly Father does all that He possibly can to cause His Word to grow in my heart/life. As I care for the plants in the garden, I am often reminded of how God cares for me. With that thought in mind, I transplanted the little shoot to see if it would continue to grow. I want to take care of the plants as best I can, knowing that my heavenly Father does the same for me.

This also made me contemplate judging by appearance only, rather than by what is on the inside. Those seedlings, although they were planted all at the same time, they did not all shoot up at the same time. Being patient is necessary, especially in the early stages of plant growth. As I watch the seedlings grow, I am reminded of the precious seeds that are planted in the hearts of our souls. I pray that my faith will grow just like the plants I see in the greenhouse. I desire to actually believe the promises that are written in the Word—not just read them, but believe in them.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower,



and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but **it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.** Isaiah 55:10,11.

Working in the greenhouse has been a joy unspeakable. I cannot believe how many things I have taken for granted, like plants that grow to sustain our lives. It became very clear to me just how much I loved gardening when my heart became sad when I was told that it was time to go and continue with other things that were planned for the day. I enjoy seeing the miracles that take place each day in the garden, as it gives me hope for my own life. And just in case you were wondering, the little shoot did survive and it is continuing to grow. May this little shoot give us encouragement. I highly recommend contemplating these inspired words below and pray that we all will continue to grow spiritually with our Lord.

“The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a figure of the development of character. There can be no life without growth.

“The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the growth of character. At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God’s purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be constant advancement.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 197.

## **My First Breadmaking Experience**

**By A. Thoms**

“If facilities for manual labor were provided in connection with our school, and students were required to devote a portion of their time to some active employment, it would prove a safeguard against many of the evil influences that prevail in institutions of learning. Manly, useful occupations, substituted for frivolous and corrupting diversions, would give legitimate scope for the exuberance of youthful life, and

would promote sobriety and stability of character. All possible effort should be made to encourage a desire for moral and physical as well as mental improvement. If girls were taught how to cook, especially how to bake good bread, their education would be of far greater value.” *Testimonies to the Church*, volume 5, 90.

When Sister Esther (the mother of one of the staff members at *School of the Prophets*) approached me and suggested that I should learn to make a particular recipe for bread for the purpose of teaching the skill to the other students, I was left a little overwhelmed with such a responsibility. I did not have enough confidence in myself to conduct such an important position that would be a benefit to everyone on campus. In fact, at first I rebelled in my heart and wanted this responsibility to be taken from me, so that I would be free from this burden. The burden itself was not so much about making the bread because I was sure that I could handle the task, as the recipe was rather easy. But, the burden was in actuality centered around a lack of self-confidence and imagining that I would somehow mess it up.

But, dear Sister Esther felt confident that I would be just fine after she left to go back home, since her stay was very short-lived. She did ensure me that whatever mistakes I make, the bread still would be okay, as she confided that she had made all the mistakes imaginable with this bread recipe. Her faultiest task was when she realized that she had once forgotten to put the yeast in the dough, and seeing that it did not react during the raising period, she had to throw the whole batch out. Oh, I was worried that this kind of thing would happen to me! Regardless, when I realized that I was not going to be able to escape this task, I concluded that I would have to get use to the idea that I am going to be making bread every Sunday, like it or not.

So, the first Sunday that I had to make bread, my stomach was in knots. I prayed dearly for the Lord to guide me and help me. I really wanted the final outcome of fresh bread to be a success. Nevertheless, the first Sunday of my bread making experience was



a total disaster. I remember Sister Tamina (Esther's daughter) had asked me if I could to make six loaves of bread for my first batch. "Sure I could," I thought to myself. "I have learned how to make a six-loaf batch with Sister Esther." So, with prayers and trying to find that self-confidence in my ability on the first day, I went ahead and followed the recipe instructions exactly wrote them down in my notes.

My desired confidence wore off pretty quick when I realized half way through the job that I added far too much yeast to the flour. The dough kept bubbling, and hissing, and growing. There was so much dough that I had to prepare a seventh bread pan, and even that was not adequate! The seventh bread pan kept bubbling over. I had to put that loaf pan in another dish and bake it so that the excess dough drippings would collect in that instead of the bottom of the oven—this helped!

In the back of the oven, I put four loaves side by side to bake. All four of these bread loaves had baked together and stuck pan to pan, which after the baking process, I had to cut apart to separate. The two outside pans had dough dripping down the bread pan that were baked hard on the outside of the pans. As I was removing them from the pans, three of the loaves were stubbornly sticking to the inside of the bread pans, and they tore open I as I was removing them with a knife. However, the two loaves that I had placed in the front of the oven turned out nice.

This was my first experience in making bread for the school. I wanted to cry. Several people asked me how the bread turned out—oh, how hard it was for me to show them the broken loaves! But, even with all that had happened this day, I know that there was a valuable lesson for me to learn, though I may not have seen it right away. After much advice and help that I received from Sister Tamina, the next Sunday I made only four loaves (and much less yeast!). This bread was a great success and I was very happy that it tasted good too. Ever since that day, the homemade bread proved to be a blessing to all of us at the school. Praise God!

The next author works for one of *Future for America's* sister ministries, *Future is Now* (FIN) and has also served as staff at *School of the Prophets*. FIN hosts annual prophecy schools, in addition to publishing a quarterly newsletter. The leading family of FIN owns an off-grid property in Portugal where country living is practiced to its fullest. Currently, they are planning to build a place for local believers to gather for studies, as well as a recording studio for any speakers who wish to come and present at events such as prophecy schools. This will aid in speeding up the work of spreading the Lord's last-day message to the world.

## **Medicinal Herbs - The Pharmacy of God**

### **By T. Blaesing**

Most people have experienced a doctor's visit because of an illness. Some things that are performed during this visit might include a lung check, taking one's pulse, or even getting a blood sample. After the procedure is over, typically, the doctor will write out a prescription on a small piece of paper. Then, the patient takes this paper to the drug store to redeem their prescription, often with the false view that whatever that drug is, it must be the perfect remedy for the illness at hand. Sadly, this is not the case. While it may seem that taking these medications are relieving to the ailment, they are actually not curing anything. If you can relate to the situation of visiting a doctor and receiving a prescription, have you ever looked at the packaging of the prescriptions that you might have been handed? If you have, then you will know without fail, that there will be a number of side effects listed on the packaging, informing you that if you consume that prescription, you may experience such side effects. It is safe to assume that taking these types of prescription



drugs will probably harm you more than actually help your body heal.

Today, it seems that the practice of using medicinal herbs as remedies has been almost forgotten. In ancient Egypt, the use of herbs was imperative to their culture and health. During the Dark Ages, those who possessed a knowledge of herbal remedies were called witches, and were persecuted by being burned at the stake as a result.

Why are medicinal herbs so important? Simply because they are the true “pharmacy” of God. God gave them to us as a gift, that through responsible use we may fully recover from any ailment that might plague us.

Seeking a typical doctor for assistance in herbal remedies will not prove to be beneficial because they do not have the proper knowledge, or for that matter any knowledge (usually), of herbal use. Alternative practitioners on the other hand, are properly educated in this area. The only problem with some alternative practitioners is that they might be caught up in spiritualistic teachings. It is important that if you wish to seek such individuals, that you are sure that they are not involved with these false doctrines.

Do you have an interest in using herbs medicinally, but are hesitant because you are not sure how to properly use them? There is good news. We live in the age of technology, and the internet is flooded with information on how to use herbs medicinally. If you are not sure how to go about using such natural remedies, “Google” the herb and its use, and you will find many resources at your fingertips. You may purchase herbs online or in health food stores. You can also harvest your own herbs from your garden, or even find them growing in the wild. Foraging, however, requires a thorough and careful knowledge of herbs—what they look like, how to harvest them, how to use them, etc. Often times, many herbs look alike, but they are totally different from each other, in that they will have a completely different effect on the human body. Some are dangerous, some are not. For example: bear’s garlic

is harmless and looks much like the lily of the valley which is poisonous. So, if you have a garden, it is a good idea to grow herbs that you can identify and herbs that you will know how to use.

Sister White comments on the use of herbs:

**“God has caused to grow out of the ground, herbs for the use of man and if we understand the nature of those roots and herbs, and make a right use of them, there would not be a necessity of running for the doctor,** so frequently, and people would be in much better health than they are today. I believe in calling upon the Great Physician when we have used the remedies I have mentioned. In regard to manner of labor, we certainly need to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We might be very zealous, but it might be an unwise zeal, and serve to hedge up our way. Then there is danger of being so circumscribed in our work as to do very little good.” *Letter 35*, February 16, 1890.

“The Lord has taught us that great efficacy for healing lies in a proper use of water. These treatments should be given skillfully. We have been instructed that in our treatment of the sick we should discard the use of drugs. There are **simple herbs that can be used for the recovery of the sick**, whose effect upon the system is very different from that of those drugs that poison the blood and endanger life.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 288.

“It would have been better if, from the first, all drugs had been kept out of our sanitariums, and use had been made of such simple remedies as are found in pure water, pure air, sunlight, and some of the **simple herbs growing in the field**. These would be just as efficacious as the drugs used under mysterious names, and concocted by human science. And they would leave no injurious effects in the system.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 291.

“The Lord has given some **simple herbs of the field** that at times are beneficial; and if **every family were educated in how to use these herbs in case**



**of sickness**, much suffering might be prevented, and no doctor need be called. These old-fashioned, **simple herbs**, used intelligently, would have recovered many sick who have died under drug medication.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 294.

“**The Lord has provided antidotes for diseases in simple plants**, and these can be used by faith, with no denial of faith; for by using the blessings provided by God for our benefit we are cooperating with Him. He can use water and sunshine and the herbs which He has caused to grow, in healing maladies brought on by indiscretion or accident. We do not manifest a lack of faith when we ask God to bless His remedies. True faith will thank God for the knowledge of how to use these precious blessings in a way which will restore mental and physical vigor.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 289.

Sister White makes it quite clear in these quotes that much suffering can be cured or prevented through the use of simple herbal remedies. This does not mean, however, that we are never to go to a physician. Please do not misunderstand this. But rather, that we should first try to use natural remedies, and prayer of course, as a means of healing our bodies.

God created us. We are His creatures. He is the One who gave us the herbs of the field for healing. He is the One who gives them life. He possesses all of the healing power. He is the One who allows the herbs to be a means of an act of faith on our part, and makes the use of herbs cooperate with our bodies because He knows exactly what we need in a time of illness. If we are healed by the use of natural remedies, we must remember that all healing comes from God. If we seek the use of pharmaceutical drugs and become “healed,” so to speak, then we were “healed” by something manmade. Should not all of the honor and glory for something like this go to our Lord?

Sometimes, we may find ourselves in a situation where we might actually need to take certain pharmaceuticals. Let us pray that this does not happen, though, because our bodies are not

meant to handle these things. Furthermore, if this does happen, we must be sure that we have done everything possible as far as herbal remedies and other related things. Too often, we might find ourselves lazy and not desirous to target the main problem that is causing the illness, which most likely is a result of our diet or lifestyle. All of us as Seventh-day Adventists, but more specifically present truth believers, must get back to nature’s way of healing for ourselves, our families, and for the times that are soon to come upon us. May we always stay prayerful in times like these.

## SUMMER 2016 TRIMESTER STUDENT UPDATE

Hi All,

I’m having a truly blessed time here at Future for America’s School of the Prophets (SOTP) program. We have many countries represented in our class of ten students (excluding staff and volunteers), namely: UK, Holland, Canada, Brazil, Australia (me) and the USA, of course!

Everything here is run in strict and loving (agapē love) accord with the King James Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Let me tell you my daily routine: I wake by no later than 6 am every morning. We have our morning prophecy school with Jeff Pippenger and FFA staff at 6:30 am. Then, breakfast at 8am (All meals are prepared in devoted accord with *Counsels on Diet and Food*, as well as other Spirit of Prophecy publications. The food is so good and healthful!). After this, we engage in outside labor from 9:30am to 1:45pm in the substantial organic garden and extensive grounds of the SOTP property. This is followed by lunch at 2pm, and then more class from 3:30pm to 5pm, followed by evening worship from 5:15pm to 6pm. Personal time goes from 6pm and there is a notional lights out at 9:30pm, which is not strictly enforced, but most of us comply with it because we are so exhausted!

The only difference to the above schedule is that (1)

we have a Prayer Meeting on Wednesday evening from 6-7pm, and (2) on Friday, since it is Preparation Day, we clean our living areas in the morning so that the afternoon is available either for free time or for a trip to town (Hot Springs, Arkansas) to buy any personal needs. On Sabbath we attend the local church for Divine Service, followed by lunch and an afternoon nature walk, hike and/or personal free time.

Everything about this place is totally professional, well organized, punctual, efficient and scripturally/SOP driven. It is clearly God's school and I am receiving great light in what I am learning over here, both from the manual work and from studying God's word in the KJV Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy!

The food is terrific, incredibly tasty, and healthful. The daily (morning) work schedule and practical work experience gained is really great; everything from all the work in the garden and the amazing greenhouses over here, to weed-wacking with the whipper-snipper, to a multitude of different types of tractor work, ride-on lawnmower work, trench digging with the tractor rear-mount excavator bucket and laying high-speed internet data cables, building and carpentry work (brand new kitchen and cafeteria), machine and engine maintenance, tree felling and forest clearing with chainsaws, wood chopping with hydraulic wood-splitting machines and wood-splitting axes and so on and so forth. The work is, of course, never ending on a farm of this size and scale, but it is very enjoyable on so many levels. The personal responsibility, friendship, cooperation and comrade being developed is a great blessing, but the biggest blessing of all is the work of reform being done by the Lord to our characters!

Indeed, I am receiving very good object lessons on what being a Seventh-day Adventist is truly all about and I am discovering just how solemn and sanctified our God given mission and purpose in this world really is!

From my experience as a recently returned Seventh-day Adventist (I was brought up in the SDA church), it has been my perplexing observation that as an organized corporate church body we are failing dismally in living up to the abundance of light so graciously given us by God from on High.

As a consequence, it is becoming clear to me that there is only a small percentage (single digit at best) of Seventh-day Adventists that really do understand their true role, purpose, and mission as identified and articulated in the Bible (Jeremiah 6:16, Isaiah 28:9-14, Revelation 14:6:12, John 6:25-66, Habakkuk 2:1-4, Daniel 11:40-45, Revelation 2:5, Ezekiel 1-3) and the Spirit of Prophecy (also typified in the Great Advent Movement of 1840-44), and even less still that are seeking to accept and fulfill these God given responsibilities.

However, God will not be left without a people. Indeed, in my opinion, the *Future for America* ministry and its SOTP program is definitely the place to truly receive, gain, and learn how to teach this Heaven-sent message of warning and invitation as to our true role, purpose and mission to others in Adventism before probation closes for the SDA Church and those professing to be God's people at the end of the world. As Sister White puts it: "Time is short." (*Life Sketches*, 423).

In a nutshell, if we are to be God's true messengers we must seek the old paths and the good way, and do the first works the Lord has entrusted to us as His good and faithful servants in the form of the three angels messages; most importantly (as revealed by inspiration) "the third angels message (the Binding-Off Message), given to prepare a people for the coming of our King. This is God's (most) solemn message of warning and invitation (ever given to man) and is to be proclaimed as widely as His messengers can carry it!"

Richest blessings, W.P.