

The Mustard Seed Advent—Newsletter, IV

June 03, 2012

Phone/Fax: 412-321-4868

Website: www.mustardseedadvent.com

“...Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost” ... “My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world” —John 6: 12, 32, 33

Monthly Dispatch



Greetings in the name of the Lord to all brethren of the faith who love the present truth. The MSC welcomes you to this latest newsletter release. This should keep all abreast of the station of the work and assure us that we are all

ONLY STEPS FROM HOME.

On the 29th of May, this year, the below picture shows the tree which fell from my neighbor’s yard onto my garage roof in the back of my house. As you can plainly see, a portion rested upon the roof while another major portion menacingly dangled over the yard which separates the garage from the house. The fallen tree, at its base, was 49 inches

in circumference or a diameter of 15.6 inches. It fell right in my presence just as I began to cease my yard work, put away my tools, and to make a passage through the garage door heading back home. At that moment, as I opened the garage door to walk through it, I heard a loud snap and witnessed the tree descending, seemingly upon me. I was completely protected by the overhead structure.



The weather, though

overcast, was calm enough for me to be working in it only moments before. What then was it that made the apparently healthy tree to fall? Careful inspection by both my neighbor who is also the owner, and also by the landscaper whom I hired to remove it, both indicated that, though fully foliated, it was rotted at the core.

This drama reminds me of the Text cited in the last Newsletter which reads as follows: **“Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found”** —Ps 37: 34-36. The wicked to

which David refers, is the church. They too, though large and impressive, are rotted to the very core and have no strength to stand in this hour. This, their demise, will occur so that David, AKA, the son of David, will witness their complete fall—even over his property. The fact that it was my neighbor’s tree, neatly defines the moment of time in which we now live: a time when David has left their domain, yet, remains in close proximity. As you can see from the second picture, the tree has been completely removed from my property; hence did David exclaim, “...and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found”.

All can rest assured that, though the tree landed on my property and directly over my head, absolutely no harm or damage resulted. Like an amusement-park, roller coaster, it just served as a titillating drama, a thrill-ride in my life. Yet, what can we learn from our drama? We can use this episode to pinpoint for us the sign of the times. To further the proverb, the storm clouds have gathered; the wind has picked up, the rain has begun to fall. All of this to indicate to us that it is time to temporarily put down our tools for the church reform and rededicate our efforts to making



the short journey back home—for my garage is only a few steps from my home. The storm, the falling tree, will not, in the slightest, impede our progress, block our path, or cause us to stumble. Praise God for His dramatic involvement in our lives.

Others are likewise experiencing their own dramas. These too are intended to compel us to re-dedicate and renew our commitment to the cause of God and the path, “the way” which He leads. He knows, better than any others, the entanglements in which we have become ensnared, the level of devotion that we have to His cause, and the steps required to re-direct our paths homeward bound.

This being evident and certain, rather than becoming frenzied in prayer seeking relief from the storms which have engulfed us, let us instead fully nuzzle ourselves in His house and rest in the assurance of His care—Christ is not asleep. This we can easily do by, again, heeding the Psalmist’s counsel to do two things: to both, “**Wait on the Lord, and keep his way**”. His way is easy to discern: He always sacrifices His will so as to do the will of the Father. This has been given for us as a pattern.

Accordingly, the *mustard seed* lifts up its head in prayer of recovery for the Wing family of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This past week, Colleen Wing, and her youngest daughter, S_____, had a serious automobile accident in which the car was totaled. An illegal and intoxicated driver, in violation of traffic patterns and procedures, collided his vehicle into theirs. Shortly thereafter, Colleen, first, then—because of her more serious injury— S_____ soon after regained consciousness. They were both temporarily hospitalized for observation, recovery, and treatment. This brings me to my prayer: Because both suffered concussions, S_____ the more severe, I petition Father to fully restore them to health and unfold to them the meaning of this very life-disrupting drama. S_____ has been given a recovery schedule of approximately four months. During that time, she will be under careful observation and an order of home rest. Such evokes David, and thus the Lord’s, compassion. Though we feel tender regard for Colleen, the Lord’s sheep, our hearts are always melted the more when pain is inflicted upon the Lord’s lambs. We hate to see them suffer. May the good Lord hasten her full recovery making it sooner than the experts have scheduled. May He also bring relief to Dave, Colleen’s husband and the pillar of strength of their home, as he toils over the burden to heal his household of all suffering.

Turning this experience into a proverb, one lesson looms large: The world around us is replete with illegal

and intoxicated drivers, who, by our close contact (collision) can bring to us much injury. The Lord can easily protect us from them; He does so with our cooperation as we heed the wisdom of His prime minister. To metaphorically illustrate further: Statisticians say most auto accidents occur, not during the prolonged drive, but just as we make the final approach home. And this is where we, Mustard Seed Adventists, now find ourselves. We therefore must drive through these latter days of progress with wisdom and avoid all outside influences that we know to be the fruits of an illegal and intoxicating maneuver. Therefore, when we proceed in our daily duties, our drive in life, we must be very vigilant to keep our distance for such people are unwitting tools of the enemy to collide and derail us from the Kingdom trail. This wisdom I have opulently bestowed upon my children, especially my daughters, and I cannot, in justice and mercy, withhold it from the flock. Therefore, may we all be extra cautious—especially now being only steps from home—as we traverse through life.

AUDIO STUDIES

Since our last Newsletter, May 3rd, 2012, we began a series of audio studies pertaining to “peace”. The two studies have been published on the website and are available to download onto your portable, listening devices. The last four studies are as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SUBTITLE</u>	<u>LENGTH</u>
4-20-2012	<i>Adulterous Generation</i>		74:01 Min
5-04-2012	<i>He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought!</i>		66:35 Min
5-18-2012	<i>Peace, Wonderful Peace, Part I</i>		70:34 Min
6-01-2012	<i>Peace, Wonderful Peace, Part II</i>	<i>Perfectly Whole</i>	69:09 Min

Much thanks to MarLynn for her assistance with the musical lead-in for the last three of these studies.

SUMMER RETREAT

Hopefully, by now, all have become aware of the next, MSA retreat. It will be located in Toronto, Canada, and will be held on the weekend beginning on 06-Jul-2012. So far, some have relayed to us their intention to attend, and there are still seats remaining.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS/BLESSINGS

- It has been a year since the passing of Vinnette’s mother. In the season of MSA advancement, we make mention of this merely to cite to all the marvelous peace and calm that the Lord, by His counsel, has cast upon this house as we risked the revilings of all others and vested our “social security” in His wisdom.
- On a technical, publishing front, Vinnette has greatly facilitated the interchange between the MSC and the website by upgrading the *Word Perfect* software to send to the website facilitator in PDF file format.
- Another technical advance: Vinnette, after nearly two days of an interfacing mission for the computer, achieved that goal while working on the phone with Microsoft business technicians. Now she has achieved the opposite of what we were told when we purchased the new computers a year ago: that such could not be done. This she did in a blessed way, as they, the software company, refunded her the initial fee assessed for that lengthy trouble-shooting task. Hence, we received that service free of charge. Impressive indeed!—even the world is delivering to this house an offering.
- We received a request for literature from an interest in Costa Rica. The document, *Atonement*, was sent, in Spanish. It was carefully edited to assure that the format agrees with the English version. Since that time, some other E-mail studies were also sent. Thanks to Rienzi and Jose for their work in translation.
- Over the past few years, the 2005 book, *Journey through the Murky Bogs*, has been edited with great care so as to make it a more perfect document. The same has been done for all of the other books. Thanks to the efforts of John Anderson as he has dutifully assisted in that tedious and monumental task. Earlier this past month, I have personally reread it as a final editing check. There was not much to do grammatically; no doctrinal adjustments or clarification have been made, but, it has been updated to the mustard seed’s ever-refining zeal for consistency. Decisions pertaining to which words to capitalize, which to hyphenate, which sentences should be re-arranged, which homonyms need corrected such as alter to altar, which short-scriptural citations should likewise be written in “scarlet”, which snippets of SOP references be also written in blue, which abbreviations of Bible books are in need of correction, which titles and themes should be italicized such as time of the gentiles converted to *Time of the Gentiles*, which font sizes for indented quotes and line spacing

between lines and paragraphs were not in harmony with the standard, etc. these and perhaps many other issues have been corrected after a thorough reading. Vinnette and I were very impressed with the overall contents and inspiration of the book; we have forgotten some of the power in that document; accordingly, we recommend a re-reading of it to all. Any desiring the updated copy for their library should feel free to ask. Of course, there is no charge.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Every May 15th, the US government, under the gaze of the IRS, requires that a *PF 990 Financial Report* be completed and forwarded to both Federal and State (in this case Pennsylvania) officials. This form is for the MSA and should not be confused with the need to file individual and personal federal, state, and local taxes, filings which are due each year in the prior month on April 15th. The *PF 990* is a very long and daunting, paperwork assignment, yet —praise be to the Highest— every year, this task seems to get easier and easier. Notwithstanding, it is still a tension-inspiring endeavor, one that I gladly, and with much relief, report to you has been successfully accomplished.

In the *PF 990*, the MSA reported total receipts of \$102.1K. Expenses were listed as \$110.4K yielding a net income, a loss of {\$8.2K}. None should disparage because of this paper loss. The Lord's blessings are often hidden to the undiscerning. People not only miss the spiritual themes of the Bible, they also often do not discern the deeper dimensions of the technical concerns which govern the world, in this case, accounting or the ability to count. Resultantly, I must briefly explain that it is indeed a blessing. The reported, accounting loss is not due to slight of hand or sophistry; it is not born out of a desire to avoid taxes; instead, it merely reflects legitimate book entries entitled, "depreciation" and "occupancy" expenses. These things considered, we have excelled beyond the break-even point. The Lord has given His work the precise income that it requires to advance His Kingdom. We have not yet entered into the time of financial over-abundance and surplus. Doctrinally, our "cup runneth over"; however, financially, it is merely sufficient.

Some other details into the 2011 Income statements, are as follows: \$40K was taken as a salary expense. This expense represents the president's salary, its only employee who is paid. This amount was the highest ever taken in all of its years of operation and has been increased due to the commensurate increase in revenue and because of the increase in its full-time staff—both Vinnette and me. If you look at this report myopically, you will miss the true miracle of provisions which occurred in this fiscal outlay. Before being full-time workers of the MSC, both Vinnette and I achieved an annual house-hold income of nearly \$120K. When I left my employment in 2005, that dropped to approximately \$80K. In 2011, Vinnette lost all of her income midway in the second quarter having been laid off some 18 months before. To allow for the continued advancement of the work, she contributed a \$20K offering, and this allocation has taken both the MSA and our personal finances over the fiscal hump. We now, due to intricate financial maneuvers, can both work full-time and still meet the fiscal needs of running a home. I praise Father—not only for the tithe and offerings, but also—for the vast knowledge of accounting that He has endowed upon me so as to maneuver His work through the monetary challenges that we have faced. Even the simple details, that of 10th-grade geometry, which allow for me to calculate the diameter of a fallen tree, represents investments of knowledge that He has bestowed to me years before I ever knew that this would be my career.

May all continue to journey forward along the ascending, and ever-narrowing trail. May you heed the meaning of EGW's "Impressive Dream" and benefit from the experiences that the Lord has extended to you by example:

"... Much of the time we were compelled to suspend our whole weight upon the cords, which increased in size as we progressed."

"I noticed that the beautiful white wall was stained with blood. It caused a feeling of regret to see the wall thus stained. This feeling, however, lasted but for a moment, as I soon thought that it was all as it should be. Those who are following after will know that others have passed the narrow, difficult way before them, and will conclude that if others were able to pursue their onward course, they can do the same. And as the blood shall be pressed from their aching feet, they will not faint with discouragement; but, seeing the blood upon the wall, they will know that others have endured the same pain..."—EGW, *Testimony for the Church*, Vol. 2, p 595, 596.

May all benefit from the journal of the Kingdom journey, and may we hear the Lord's voice in the dramas of our life.

Derek West