



TO GLORIFY GOD, NOT MAN

Jesus, the Majesty of heaven, the royal King of heaven, laid aside His royalty, left His throne of glory, His high command, and came into our world to bring to fallen man, weakened in moral power, and corrupted by sin, aid divine. He clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might reach to the very depths of human woe and misery, to lift up fallen man. By taking upon Himself man's nature, He raised humanity in the scale of moral value with God. Those great themes are almost too

high, too deep, too infinite, for the comprehension of finite minds.

Parents should keep these things before their children and instruct them, line upon line, precept upon precept, in their obligation to God—not their obligation to each other, to honor and glorify one another by gifts and offerings. But they should be taught that Jesus is the world's Redeemer, the object of thought, of painstaking effort; that His work is the grand theme which should engage their attention; that

they should bring to Him their gifts and offerings. Thus did the wise men and the shepherds.

Christmas is coming. May you all have wisdom to make it a precious season. Let the older church members unite, heart and soul, with their children in their innocent amusement and recreation, in devising ways and means to show true respect to Jesus by bringing to Him gifts and offerings. Let everyone remember the claims of God. His cause cannot go forward without your aid. Let the

gifts you have usually bestowed upon one another be placed in the Lord's treasury.... In every church let your smaller offerings be placed upon your Christmas tree. Let the precious emblem "evergreen" suggest the holy work of God and His beneficence to us; and the loving heart-work will be to save other souls who are in darkness. Let your works be in accordance with your faith.

Let the several churches present to God Christmas trees in every church, and then let them hang thereon the fruits of beneficence and gratitude—offerings coming from willing hearts and hands, fruits that God will accept as an expression of our faith and our great love to Him for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Let the evergreen be laden with fruit, rich and pure and holy, acceptable to God. Shall we not have such a Christmas as Heaven can approve?

Now let us turn the current heavenward instead of earthward. Let us show by our offerings that we appreciate the self-denial and sacrifice of Christ in our behalf. Let God be brought to remembrance by every child and parent; and let the offerings, both small and large, be brought to the storehouse of God. You may not be recompensed on earth, but you will be rewarded in the future life, and that abundantly.

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

Brethren and sisters, while you are devising gifts for one another, I would remind you of our heavenly Friend, lest you should be unmindful of His claims. Will He not be pleased

if we show that we have not forgotten Him? Jesus, the Prince of Life, gave all to bring salvation within our reach.... He suffered even unto death, that He might give us eternal life.

It is through Christ that we receive every blessing.... Shall not our heavenly Benefactor share in the tokens of our gratitude and love? Come, brethren and sisters, come with your children, even the babes in your arms, and bring your offerings to God according to your ability. Make melody to Him in your hearts, and let His praise be upon your lips. Let us rejoice that our Saviour liveth to make intercession for us in the presence of Jehovah. As a people we have backslidden from God; let us return unto Him, and He will return unto us, and will heal all our backslidings. Let us, upon the coming Christmas and New Year's festivals, not only make an offering to God of our means, but give ourselves unreservedly to Him, a living sacrifice.

We talk of our friends because we love them; our joys and our sorrows are bound up with them. Yet we have infinitely greater reason to love God than to love our earthly friends; we receive more from Him than from any other friend, and it should be the most natural thing in the world to make God first in all our thoughts, to talk of His goodness and tell of His power, and to respond to His love by our freewill gifts and offerings for His cause.

Will not God acknowledge the offerings thus bestowed? Will He not bless the little ones who bring some offering of their own to the Master? Indeed He will! Is not this a most precious opportunity to educate

your children in the work of self-denial for Jesus' sake? Tell the children of the great missionary field and talk to them of the love of Christ, of the great sacrifice made because He loved us and wanted us to have a home with Him in His kingdom. He came to our world to bless it with His divine presence, to bring peace, and light and joy.

We want to do all in our power to win souls by presenting the attractions of the Christian life. Our God is a lover of the beautiful. He might have clothed the earth with brown and gray, and the trees with vestments of mourning instead of their foliage of living green; but He would have His children happy. Every leaf, every opening bud and blooming flower is a token of His tender love, and we should aim to represent to others this wonderful love expressed in His created works.

Let us represent the Christian life as it really is; let us make the way cheerful, inviting, interesting. We can do this if we will. We may fill our own minds with vivid pictures of spiritual and eternal things, and in so doing help to make them a reality to other minds. Faith sees Jesus standing as our Mediator at the right hand of God. Faith beholds the mansions He has gone to prepare for those who love Him. Faith sees the robe and crown all prepared for the overcomer. Faith hears the songs of the redeemed, and brings eternal glories near. We must come close to Jesus in loving obedience if we would see the King in His beauty.

Excerpts from Ellen G. White statements related to the observance of Christmas and holiday gifts, www.egnwritings.org

Relief Effort for Jamaica

By Jai Hewlett, Lifestyle Educator Director at Uchee Pines
and Director of HisWay Ministries



On October 27, Jamaica was hit by a category 5 hurricane which devastated the island, leaving many without electricity, water, food, and shelter. Stories emerged about churches with their roofs blown off, flooded floors, and, in some cases, completely destroyed. For many, hope was lost along with the buildings. The estimation was that billions of dollars would be needed to rebuild and establish some type of normalcy. With needs of that magnitude, where was help to come from, and when? And would any endeavor to help have any significance at all?

News quickly came that some airlines were allowing two free

suitcases per person, if those suitcases were being brought for relief purposes. Also, shipping companies were giving discounted prices for shipping and declaring relief items. That became a golden opportunity and a timely incentive that served to swing the door of many hearts wide open.

The response to the relief effort began as various individuals at Uchee Pines, pricked by the Spirit, poured in freewill offerings of monetary donations, non-perishables, encouraging religious literature, prayers, and other needed items. Sacrificial giving was displayed and suitcases were donated. As a result of

the combined effort, testimonies flooded in of smiles, tears, and rejoicing as hope sprang into the hearts of many of the locals in Jamaica.

Many more items have been collected recently, and have been packed in containers in preparation for shipping. As the apostle Paul answered the plea from Macedonia for help, so we have seen the same response from within Uchee Pines and other kindred ministries to bring relief to the island of Jamaica. There is still much work to be done, but it is reassuring to know that God's people have participated with such compassion.

Quinoa Salad

1 cup dried quinoa, rinsed
1 15oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed
1 15oz. can garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed
1 15oz. can kernel corn, drained
2 medium tomatoes, diced
1 colored bell pepper, diced
1/2 red onion, diced
Fresh cilantro, chopped
Sea salt, to taste
1/4 tsp cumin
1 avocado, diced
Fresh lime juice, to taste
1 3/4 cups water

In a medium size pot add water, quinoa, and cumin, bring to boil over medium heat, reduce to a simmer, cover, and cook for 15 minutes. Remove from heat, let sit for 5 minutes with cover on.

Add in beans, corn, pepper, tomatoes, onion, sea salt, cilantro, and juice from 1-2 limes, toss well. Top with diced avocado before serving.

From our Lifestyle Center

What Our Guests are Saying

I appreciate that I was not judged and religion was not the focus. Everything surrounded Jesus. It was made so simple to understand that He could accept you and transform you. Once you trust and believe, the physical healing process begins. In spite of the challenges, He will see you through. I had an AMAZING experience and highly recommend this program to anyone seeking alternative treatment.

-Searen

Selenium

Selenium is an essential trace mineral that is mainly derived from soil, water, and plant materials. It boosts the immune system, relieves inflammation, is beneficial for its antioxidant properties, and may reduce your risk of heart disease and certain types of cancer. It also supports many of the body's functions, including healthy thyroid function, improved lung function, and cognitive support. Research shows selenium's antioxidant properties combat the onset and progression of neurological diseases like Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and Alzheimer's disease, and improve mental health and mood.

In addition to high-quality supplements, good food sources of selenium include whole-grain pasta, rice, oatmeal, baked beans, sunflower seeds, and especially Brazil nuts.



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