

# *Tried Stone Ministries*

*Isaiah 28:16*

*“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”*

*TriedStoneMinistries.org*

*Welcome to the Tried Stone Ministries  
Monthly Newsletter!*

*Tried Stone Ministries is intended to  
bring light to current events, expose  
darkness, and to encourage those  
journeying to follow in the footsteps of  
the Tried Stone - **Jesus** the Rock of our  
Salvation.*





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“Brian, I would like to speak to you a moment”, the Pastor said as I was greeting and being greeted by church members one Sabbath morning near the church foyer. “Sure” I said as I was attempting to read his pensive face. “I have heard that you spoke for over an hour and gave long quotes from Sister White’s writings”, he said in a serious tone. I was somewhat taken aback and did not give an answer as he continued “You do not say anything wrong; I have heard you speak and have no complaints about the content, but we can’t have lengthy sermons, and we can only use Sister White’s writings for short quotes. We do not want people to think we are in a cult.” Silently I received the counsel from the Pastor. I thanked him and took my seat. As I sat in stunned silence these verses came to mind:

Isaiah 30:8-13

*“Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.”*

1 Samuel 8:7

*“And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me...”*

Over several years I had been a regular speaker, covering present truth topics like dress reform, health reform, diet, country living and herbal remedies. Not only that, but I was blessed to present a 7-part series called [“Snow Cones, Tentacles and Elephants”](#) an exposé on the rise of the “Luciferian Order”. But now, the prevailing elements who reject such counsels had finally won out and the voice of present truth was to be silenced. Before this, I had spent quite some time updating the 7-part series and it became 9 parts. At the request of some other members, I was preparing to relaunch that series via Zoom and make it available online. My wife compiled a nice flyer, and we asked if it could be passed out with the bulletin. Happily, we announced the series and were gearing up for a fresh look at current events in light of Bible prophecy. But those same elements, who reject such things, won out for the first time. I was not allowed to promote or discuss the series in the very church that hosted it only a couple years previous. Now that same sentiment was allowed to bear sway and I was being told to self-censor, for the sake of church reputation.

These events have caused me to consider, what is the role of the church (John 4:22)? Are we supposed to keep our heads down because the truth may step on the toes of those who are, as it were “at ease” (Matthew 13:21)? Are we supposed to tailor our messages to conform to the World Council of Churches (Isaiah 8:12)? Don’t we have a *special message* for this time? Aren’t we supposed to be a “peculiar” people (1 Peter 2:9)?

*“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention. The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God’s people are to be true to the trust committed to them....” {9T 19.1-2}*





What Christ’s church *is* and what it *should be* are in a juxtaposition. Let us consider what the counsel says we *should* be speaking:

*“Christ says of His people: “Ye are the light of the world.” Matthew 5:14. It is not a small matter that the counsels and plans of God have been so clearly opened to us. It is a wonderful privilege to be able to understand the will of God as revealed in the sure word of prophecy. This places on us a heavy responsibility. God expects us to impart to others the knowledge that He has given us. It is His purpose that divine and human instrumentalities shall unite in the proclamation of the warning message.*

*So far as his opportunities extend, everyone who has received the light of truth is under the same responsibility as was the prophet of Israel to whom came the word: “Son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.” Ezekiel 33:7-9.” (9T 19.3-4)*

Here it’s clearly stated that the prophetic gift (which is a defining feature of God’s remnant people, Revelation 14:12) is not just for the church but the WORLD! Listen to the counsel given to Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 33:1-9

*“Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”*

Was Ezekiel a prophet? Yes. Was he told to give warning to the children of Israel that Babylon was coming? Yes. Why would we think anything different when we are told that “*Babylon is fallen*” is part and parcel our message of warning to the world?

Amos 3:6,7

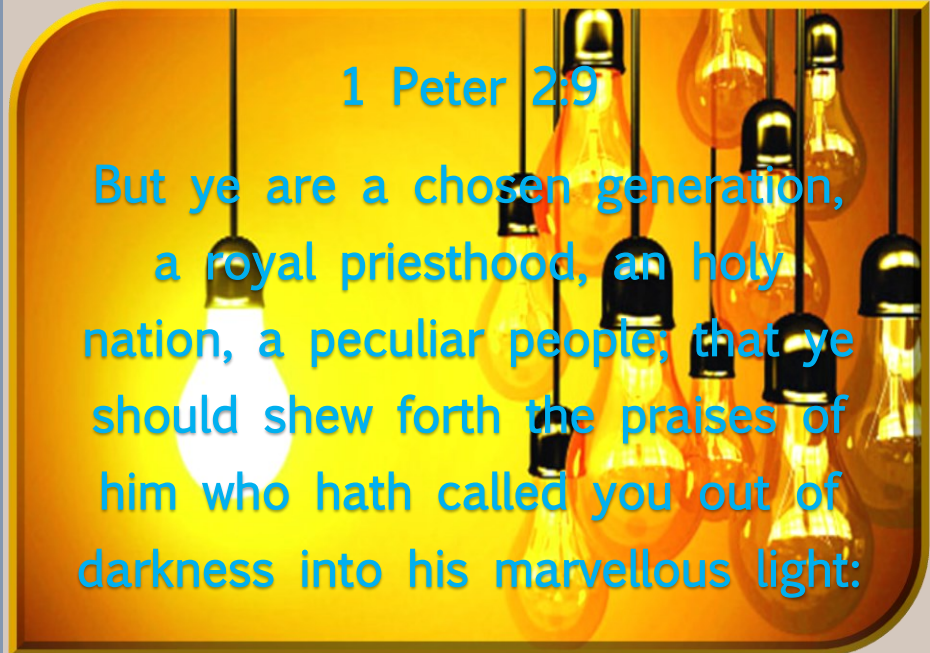
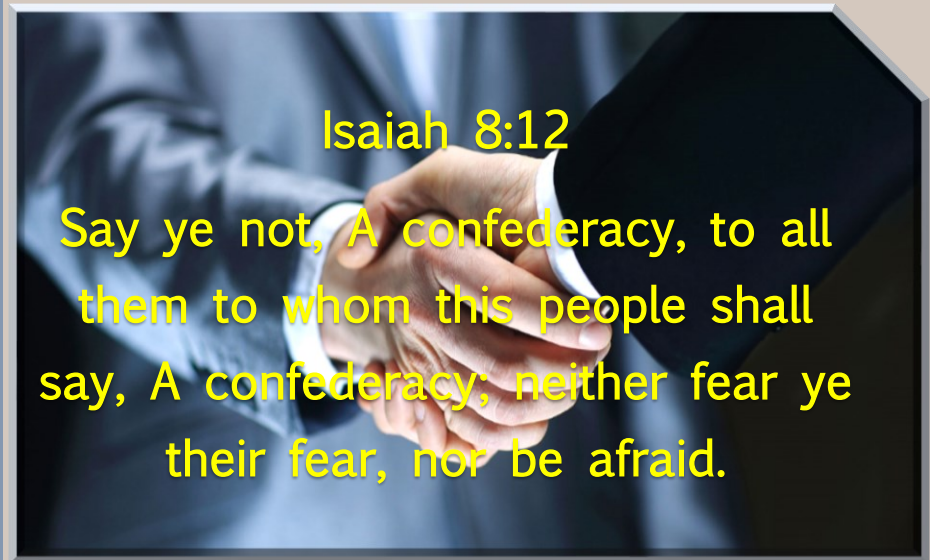
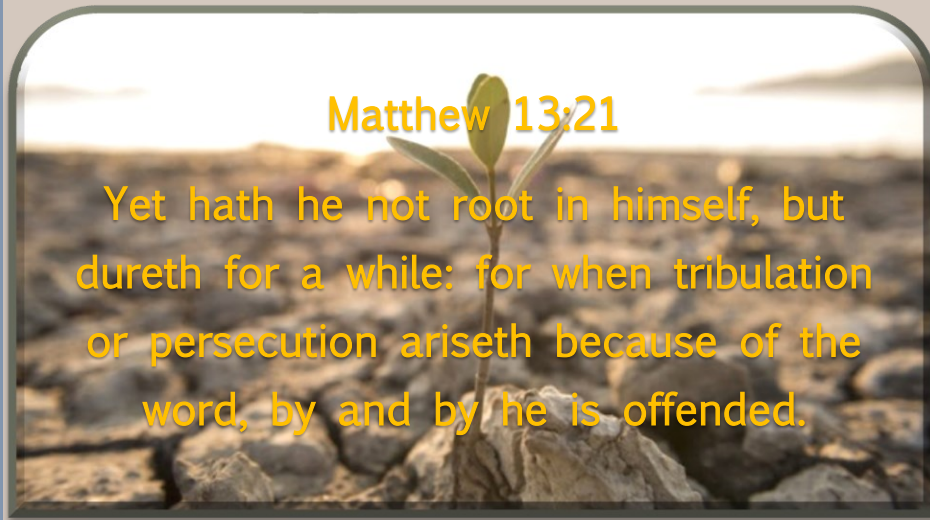
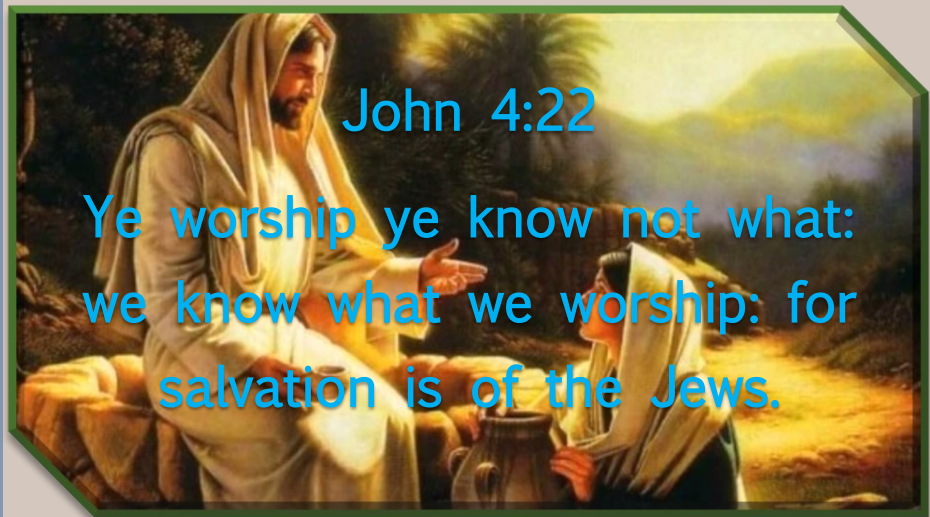
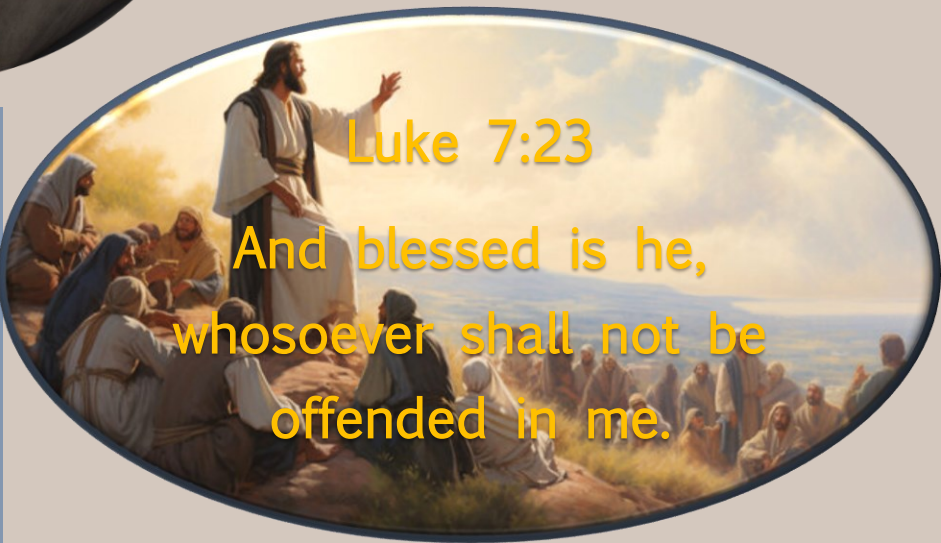
*“Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it? Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”*

The above oft-quoted verse is not just validation of prophecy but also the purpose of prophecy! Blow the trumpet, and call attention to current events and the bearing they have on the world. Make it plain what the prophecies mean that people may be prepared (1 Corinthians 14:20).

Jeremiah 51:12

*“Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon.”*

Is not even Babylon itself to be warned? How do we warn the people when we are not allowed to speak about the very truths that would set people free?







## Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.



## Acts 4:18

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

## 2 Timothy 4:1,2

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

## Mark 16:15

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Truths that were once worth dying for are now a source of shame and contempt among God's people. Can we really call ourselves God's people when we only embrace the softer topics and disregard the justice of God?

Hebrews 5:11-14

*"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*

What good is knowing the prophecies and their fulfillment if we are not allowed to speak about them? Consider what Inspired Pen writes here:

*"Are we to wait until the fulfillment of the prophecies of the end before we say anything concerning them? Of what value will our words be then? Shall we wait until God's judgments fall upon the transgressor before we tell him how to avoid them? Where is our faith in the word of God? Must we see things foretold come to pass before we will believe what He has said? In clear, distinct rays light has come to us, showing us that the great day of the Lord is near at hand, "even at the doors." Let us read and understand before it is too late." (9T 20.1)*

Satan's plan is to keep people asleep and ignorant. Be on guard when we are told *not* to speak, this is no different than the time of the Apostles when they were forbidden to preach in Jesus's name (Acts 4:18). We are entering uncharted waters as we near the end of the world. We must pay special attention to the instruction now like never before.

Joshua 3:3,4

*"And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore."*

The whole world will soon fall under the seductive influence of Satan. We should be prepared in season and out of season (2 Timothy 4:1,2), to speak the words of life to a dying race.

Revelation 13:3

*"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."*

Daniel 11:43

*"But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps."*

What is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Angel's message? Is it not a warning to the world, is that not the very principal of love which Jesus taught us?

Revelation 18:1-4

*"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."*





The commission of our Saviour is ever the same (Matthew 28:19), only circumstances change. The Lord’s desire is that all mankind should know the truth because it is the truth that sets us free (John 8:32). We are never to tailor the message because of the requirements of man, it is because of this that Jesus said:

Matthew 10:34-37

*“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”*

How else does the message go to all the world and then the end come (Matthew 24:14), if we are not to share *every* ray of light that may bring someone to salvation? We have our marching orders (Mark 16:15), and we ought to obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29). The message of Christ’s saving righteousness will cover the world and hearts will be prepared to receive the message. May we accompany the 3<sup>rd</sup> angel with *our* voice to bring light to a world shrouded in darkness (Revelation 18:1).

*“We are to be consecrated channels, through which the heavenly life is to flow to others. The Holy Spirit is to animate and pervade the whole church, purifying and cementing hearts. Those who have been buried with Christ in baptism are to rise to newness of life, giving a living representation of the life of Christ. Upon us is laid a sacred charge. The commission has been given us: “Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:19, 20, margin. You are dedicated to the work of making known the gospel of salvation. Heaven’s perfection is to be your power.” {9T 20.2}*

# A Note from the Editor

Hello Friends!

Remember the days of writing assignments and book reports? Maybe not the fondest memories for some, but what if God could use a homework assignment to give insight on the events of the last days? Sometime in the 1980’s or 90’s I was given the opportunity to hear the story *“Now!”* by Merikay McLeod. Written in 1963 as a homework assignment based on the *“The Great Controversy”*, Merikay and her class were asked to write a story framed in the context of last day events, placing themselves in the events foretold. The five-page writing assignment turned into a 44-page short story and was published in 1965, by *Pacific Press Publishing Association*. I would like to share the sample portion with you and a link where you can download the *Kindle* version for yourself.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

Now!


Merikay McLeod

**NOW!**

**The original story**

Including a special  
50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
backstory session with the author

**Merikay McLeod**



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Originally published in 1965.

The author assumes full responsibility for the accuracy of all facts and quotations as cited in this book.

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NOW!

[“NOW!” Backstory](#)

### NOW!

The original story

By Merikay McLeod

“UN troops are moving into Iraq. The new government which the UN set up there collapsed today after a month of uprisings and riots. The troops are being sent in to bring peace to the small country, put down any further uprisings, and re-establish the democratic government.”

“The president, along with government leaders of England, France, and Russia, signed a peace pact today at Moscow. It is the first time in the history of the world that so many government leaders have agreed completely to a peace document. They all expressed hope that China will soon join in signing the pact, which they believe may well be a step to international peace and good will.”

“The Supreme Court today finally approved the much-debated National Sunday-Sabbath Bill. The bill declares Sunday the one and only day on which all Americans are to worship. Senators Blane (R-Nebraska) and Joseph (D-Maine), who violently opposed it with long, emotional debates last week in the Senate, swayed the vote slightly, but not nearly enough to defeat the bill. Politicians, educators, and religious leaders alike have been pushing the bill for some time, and the majority is quite pleased with its passage. A minority is still skeptical, but it is universally accepted that this bill will prove to be the answer to many of our national and international problems. The president expressed his approval of the bill, and during his peace talks in Moscow, encouraged other world leaders to pursue similar courses in their countries.”

“And now for a look at the local scene. In Kalamazoo this week ...”

Click.

The dial felt very cold as my hot, wet hand turned it, stopping the TV announcer’s voice. I walked over to the window and looked out. As I stared at the bright sky, I kept hearing the words Elder Brown had spoken in Bible Doctrines class only a few weeks before: “The National Sunday Law is the sign for Christians to move out of the cities.”

At the time I had agreed that this was a very good idea. In my mind I had figured out exactly where I would go and how I would get there. But I must not have really believed it would come, for now I seemed to be in a collapsed balloon with everything pressing in around me.

I could see all those many, many charts Elder Brown had drawn, day after day, on the board, showing the events of the time of the end. There were two marks that were very close together—the National Sunday Law and the close of probation. Suddenly it hit me that I had only a very short time left in which to become perfect.

A National Sunday Law? It seemed like a dream. Even though I had read about it and knew in my heart that it was coming, I just couldn’t believe that it was here . . . now.

“Merikay, set the table.” Mother’s words brought me to the realization that this wasn’t a dream. I’d never dreamed of setting the table. Who’d want to?

Troubled, I placed the glasses, plates, and silver where they went, where they’d always gone ever since Beth, my little sister, was big enough to eat at the table. I wondered how much longer I’d be setting this table. I wondered if I was ready for the close of probation.

It seemed so unreal, I couldn’t believe it. And yet I knew it had happened. I knew the Sunday Law had passed; I had heard the newscaster say it, but I just couldn’t believe that it had happened.

In tense quietness I ate supper. I waited, wishing someone would mention the passage of the bill, but everything went as it always did. Dad sat, eating his steak and saying nothing but derogatory remarks toward Pat, my younger brother. Beth left the table many times. First for a glass of water, then for some salt, then for chocolate for her milk, and then to let the cat in the house. That was the way it went nearly every night. She would hop up and down from the table, getting a dozen and one things which she needed.

Finally, unable to keep still any longer, I said, “You know the Supreme Court okayed that Sunday Law today?”

“No!” Pat gasped. “Really?”

I nodded solemnly.

“The time of the end is near,” Mother said, as she often did when



*“The Supreme Court today finally approved the much-debated National Sunday-Sabbath Bill...”*





something horrid had happened. “We can see it all around us.”

Dad didn’t say anything, as usual, and Beth got up to put out the cat.

During Bible Doctrines class, I had planned the conversation that would pass among our family when the crucial moment arrived, but no one said what they were supposed to. Mother was supposed to say, “Well, I guess we’ll just have to move out of the city.” Dad, even though he was never particularly interested in religion, was supposed to be suddenly convicted and agree to go.

But since no one said anything else, I decided to lead out even though that wasn’t the way I’d planned it back in Bible class.

“You know what Mrs. White says about the National Sunday Law.” Oh, no! There was that look on Mom’s face. I knew whatever I said would have no effect. Lately, every time I tried to tell her something, she got the idea that I thought I was better than she was and that I was trying to preach to her. She had all but said that I was a fanatic. Every time she got that look on her face, she did nothing but criticize and pull apart anything I said.

“No, what does Mrs. White say?” she replied with a sigh of here-we-go-again.

Trying not to notice the very apparent lack of interest and even disgust, I replied, “She says we should move out of the cities, for the close of probation is very near.”

“Where are we supposed to go?” Pat asked, all ears.

“Into the country or wilderness somewhere.” I was happy that at least he was interested.

“Just tell me, little Miss Holy-joe, exactly where are you going to find any wilderness around here?” Mother’s cold words surprised me. She wasn’t supposed to be like this at all. She was supposed to agree with me and begin preparations for moving. Her reaction was so different from that which I’d planned that I was completely befuddled for a moment and didn’t know exactly what to say.

“Look up north,” Pat came quickly to my help. “There are huge forests where no one would find us for weeks.”

Pat and I looked at each other. I never realized how interested he was in religious things. He had always seemed so careless and kiddish. But in that brief glance, I could see that he was very interested.

The conversation stopped, for Mom’s and Dad’s cold, indifferent, doubting silence gave us no wish to continue the discussion.

*Things are all wrong*, I thought later as I lay on my bed. *Nothing is happening like it’s supposed to. I didn’t even plan for Pat to get interested so soon. And Mom . . .* I didn’t even think the rest, for I knew now that she

was not interested.

The week passed with many discussions about moving, and soon it was Sabbath. I could hardly wait for church. Mother had promised that if Elder Jenkins, our minister, and his family were moving, Pat and I could go with them. It seemed to me that she wanted us to leave, and yet she didn’t want to really let us go.

At church things went along pretty well. Elder Jenkins had a stirring message on the Sunday Law, the close of probation, and how we should move out of the cities. Everyone agreed with him. People cried and gave hearty amens. Now things were happening.

But later, as I walked out of church, I noticed that the people were laughing and joking together just like every other Sabbath. Some were talking about the new addition they were putting on their house or the new television they had purchased.

Pat and I went over to the Jenkins’s for dinner after the service. I was so excited about moving with them, but still I was scared to ask.

After we had eaten and were talking in the living room, I finally said, “When are you moving?”

There was silence as Elder Jenkins thoughtfully stared at his feet. I was used to this silence, for during all the many times I’d talked to him I had noticed how he was very cautious and thoughtful in answering my questions. “Well . . .” I waited, my eyes fixed on his face. His mouth drew together as he sucked in a short breath of air. I waited. He looked up at me. “I don’t really know, Merikay.”

“Oh,” I said a little weakly and stared at the floor.

There it was. Everything had backfired! My whole world collapsed, and I felt my heart sink. I felt sick, dizzy, like I wanted to die. Oh, why was I ever born? First my mother and now Elder Jenkins. Elder Jenkins, the person I had considered more like Christ than any other, the man I had looked to for guidance and confided my troubles to. The one who had instructed me to live as close as possible to the pattern Jesus had set and then to trust Christ to make up the difference. This wonderful man

*didn’t know when he was moving?*

The story continues, click [here](#) to download your copy!

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

Now!

Merikay McLeod

Roll over image to zoom in

Read sample

Now! Kindle Edition

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"A National Sunday Law? It seemed like a dream. Even though I had read about it and knew in my heart that it was coming, I just couldn't believe that it was here...now."

Now! is an exciting book about the end-time as Adventists have long pictured it. Even though, we cannot know exactly how the time of trouble will play out, this book offers a unique perspective.

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Thank you all for your prayerful support! We are blessed to continue to present items of relevance during these times of difficulty. The world needs the message of the Good News now more than ever! I pray that we stay diligent and vigilant, to make your calling and election sure! God bless each of you!

Your brother in Christ,

Brian Nichols  
Brian@TriedStoneMinistries.org