

# PREPARING TO STAND

#5 — June 2008

---

“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.” SW 3-21-05

---

## An Impressive Dream

By Ellen White

(Quoted from *Testimonies for the Church Volume Two* pg 594-597.)

While at Battle Creek in August, 1868, I dreamed of being with a large body of people. A portion of this assembly started out prepared to journey. We had heavily loaded wagons. As we journeyed, the road seemed to ascend. On one side of this road was a deep precipice; on the other was a high, smooth, white wall, like the hard finish upon plastered rooms.

As we journeyed on, the road grew narrower and steeper. In some places it seemed so very narrow that we concluded that we could no longer travel with the loaded wagons. We then loosed them from the horses, took a portion of the luggage from the wagons and placed it upon the horses, and journeyed on horseback.

As we progressed, the path still continued to grow narrow. We were obliged to press close to the wall, to save ourselves from falling off the narrow road down the steep precipice. As we did this, the luggage on the horses pressed against the wall and caused us to sway toward the precipice. We feared that we should fall and be dashed in pieces on the rocks. We then cut the luggage from the horses, and it fell over the precipice. We continued on horseback, greatly fearing, as we came to the narrower places in the road, that we should lose our balance and fall. At such times a hand seemed to take the bridle and guide us over the perilous way.

As the path grew more narrow, we decided that we could no longer go with safety on horseback, and we left the horses and went on foot, in single file, one following in the footsteps of another. At this point small cords were let down from the top of the pure white wall; these we eagerly grasped, to aid us in keeping our balance upon the path. As we traveled, the cord moved along with us. The path finally became so narrow that we concluded that we could travel more safely without our shoes, so we slipped them from our feet and went on some distance without them. Soon it was decided that we could travel more safely without our stockings; these were removed, and we journeyed on with bare feet.

We then thought of those who had not accustomed themselves to privations and hardships. Where were such now? They were not in the company. At every change some were left behind, and those only remained who had accustomed themselves to

endure hardships. The privations of the way only made these more eager to press on to the end.

Our danger of falling from the pathway increased. We pressed close to the white wall, yet could not place our feet fully upon the path, for it was too narrow. We then suspended nearly our whole weight upon the cords, exclaiming: "We have hold from above! We have hold from above!" The same words were uttered by all the company in the narrow pathway. As we heard the sounds of mirth and revelry that seemed to come from the abyss below, we shuddered. We heard the profane oath, the vulgar jest, and low, vile songs. We heard the war song and the dance song. We heard instrumental music and loud laughter, mingled with cursing and cries of anguish and bitter wailing, and were more anxious than ever to keep upon the narrow, difficult pathway. 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.

At length we came to a large chasm, at which our path ended. There was nothing now to guide the feet, nothing upon which to rest them. Our whole reliance must be upon the cords, which had increased in size until they were as large as our bodies. Here we were for a time thrown into perplexity and distress. We inquired in fearful whispers: "To what is the cord attached?" My husband was just before me. Large drops of sweat were falling from his brow, the veins in his neck and temples were increased to double their usual size, and suppressed, agonizing groans came from his lips. The sweat was dropping from my face, and I felt such anguish as I had never felt before. A fearful struggle was before us. Should we fail here, all the difficulties of our journey had been experienced for nought.

Before us, on the other side of the chasm, was a beautiful field of green grass, about six inches high. I could not see the sun; but bright, soft beams of light, resembling fine gold and silver, were resting upon this field. Nothing I had seen upon earth could compare in beauty and glory with this field. But could we succeed in reaching it? was the anxious inquiry. Should the cord break, we must perish. Again, in whispered anguish, the words were breathed: "What holds the cord?" For a moment we hesitated to venture. Then we exclaimed: "Our only hope is to trust wholly to the cord. It has been our dependence all the difficult way. It will not fail us now." Still we were hesitating and distressed. The words were then spoken: "God holds the cord. We need not fear." These words were then repeated by those behind us, accompanied with: "He will not fail us now. He has brought us thus far in safety."

My husband then swung himself over the fearful abyss into the beautiful field beyond. I immediately followed. And, oh, what a sense of relief and gratitude to God we felt! I heard voices raised in triumphant praise to God. I was happy, perfectly happy.

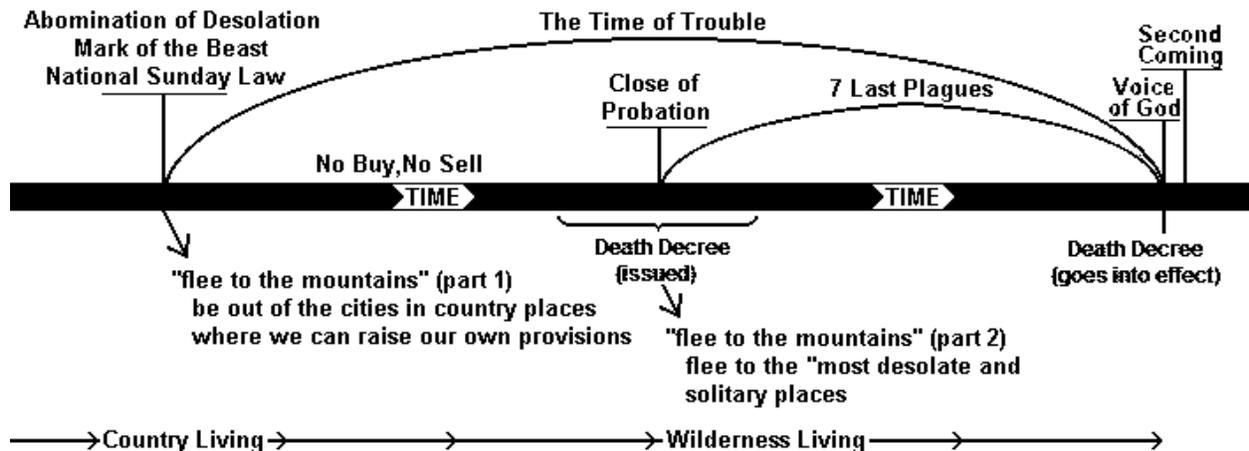
I awoke, and found that from the anxiety I had experienced in passing over the difficult route, every nerve in my body seemed to be in a tremor. This dream needs no comment. It made such an impression upon my mind that probably every item in it will be vivid before me while my memory shall continue.

-----

Did you notice the fifth paragraph? I know she said, "This dream needs no comment." But I can't help but point out a few things, just in case you missed them or didn't catch their full implication. So, let's re-read this paragraph.

"We then thought of those who had not accustomed themselves to privations and hardships. Where were such now? They were not in the company. *At every change some were left behind, and those only remained who had accustomed themselves to endure hardships.* The privations of the way only made these more eager to press on to the end." (Emphasis supplied)

To help us see exactly what we are talking about here, let's take a look at this time line to see what's "up the path" for us.



It said, "at every change some were left behind." What this tells me, is that at each new development there will be those who will stop traveling up the path. For example: when faced with having to move into the country, some will stop traveling up the path; at the Sunday law crisis, some will stop traveling up the path; because of not being able to buy or sell, some will stop traveling up the path; when the death decree is issued, and we need to flee to the "most desolate and solitary places," (*Great Controversy* page 626), some will stop traveling up the path; when faced with the 7 Last Plagues, some will stop traveling up the path. But those who stop traveling up the path, don't make it! Remember, Jesus said, "But he who endures to the end will be saved." Matthew 24:13.

And, the paragraph above tells us why they stopped traveling up the path. It says, "those only remained who had accustomed themselves to endure hardships."

This is so opposite to our very culture, with its emphasis on comfort and convenience. Video games, fast foods, spectator sports, and the whole entertainment industry, have caused us to be impatient and have short interest spans; not to endure to the end—especially when things get rough. “If it doesn’t come easy, let it go,” is the message of the media. *Culturally* we have been set up to stop traveling up the path. We need to stop listening to these messages that encourage us to stop traveling upward; stop wasting time with things that hinder our progress; and stop choosing the easy, convenient, comfortable way. Instead, let’s spend our time drawing close to God and learning things that will help us, and others, keep going on up the path.

What about you my friend? Are you letting God train you to make it *all the way* to the end of the path, or are you setting yourself up to turn back at some point along the way? What are you preparing for? Let’s be really honest here, if you are only going to follow the path for a ways and then turn back, you may as well turn back now and “enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season,” because that is all there is! Hebrews 11:25. Why press on the upward way, only to turn back at some point and miss out on both the heavenly reward *and* the pleasures of sin?

Pastors, teachers, evangelists, youth leaders, other spiritual leaders and *especially parents* I *APPEAL* to you! Are you content to help the people God has placed in your charge only to make it to a certain point along the path? For example, will they turn back when faced with the Sunday law? Will they stop traveling up the path when they are no longer able to buy or sell? Will they turn back when they have to flee to the mountains?

This is not *Jesus’* goal for your ministry. He said, “I ... appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.” John 15:16. True, there are some people that we encounter for only a short time, and all we can do is help them along a bit. But, what is the emphasis and goal of your ministry as a whole? What are you *working* for? “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for food which endures to everlasting life.” John 6:27. We cannot give what we do not have. Thus we must allow God to prepare ourselves to endure to the end, then we can help and encourage others to go all the way up the path.

In closing, I have discovered that the troubles we encounter in our lives cause us go one of two ways. Either they cause us to let go of God, or they cause us to cling more tightly to Him. Jesus said, “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.” Luke 16:10. By developing the habit of holding on to God in the troubles we have now, He is preparing us to keep hanging on to Him in the great time of trouble ahead. So, let’s not be impatient and let go of Him, let’s cooperate with what He is doing to train us to make it all the way to the end of the path. “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6.

—Jim Buller

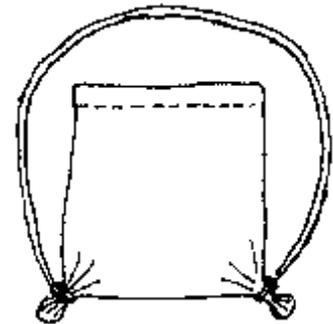
---

**Contact Information:** “Preparing to Stand,” Jim Buller, jabuller@juno.com

**Primitive Backpack**  
C. Fischer 2007

“the poor have the gospel  
preached to them”

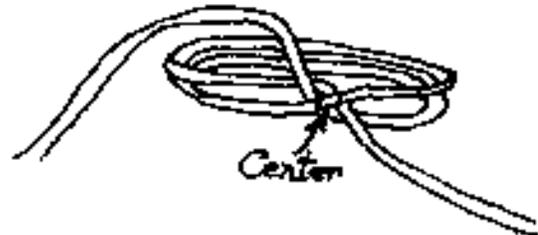
1. Bag —pillowcase, feed sack, any sturdy bag you can find or fabricate.
2. Place a small item (35 mm film canister, small ball of cordage, matchcase, stone, etc.) In each bottom corner of the bag.
3. Cordage —about 2-wing-span length piece, or longer. Find center of cordage by folding in half. Mark with knot, ink, tape, etc. Excess length can be knotted out here, preserving the versatility of the piece.
4. Using a slipknot, scaffold knot, cinch knot, two half-hitches, or other suitable knot, attach each end of cordage around the objects in the corner of the bag.
5. You may wish to waterproof your pack by lining it with a plastic bag. Load the pack. Place clothing or other soft items next to your back.
6. Closing the Pack —grasp the cordage on both sides of center, with arms crossed, right over left.



Move hands back to their respective sides.



Now, stack the two loops together, left over right. This will create a clove hitch. It looks like this:



Gather the mouth of the bag together, slip the clove hitch over as far as possible, and pull tight. Put your arms through the straps. Walk away.

$\frac{3}{8}$  –  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch rope is recommended.  
Use your creativity in making shoulder pads from available materials.



Special thanks to: Dan Murphy, and Backwoodsman Magazine