



# STORMS AND DECISIONS

## A WAKE-UP CALL

Barbara Watts  
Norman Park, Georgia

**M**y husband, Elder Larry Watts, and I moved from Colorado to Norman Park, Georgia, at the beginning of March 2023 to support the work of the church and Norman College. Religious Liberty Publishing Assn. was moved as well.

In contrast to the dry weather of the west, the eastern part of the U.S. is very humid, so we expected to encounter weather patterns different from what we were used to. That included heavy rainstorms that occasionally caused power and Internet outages for an hour or so, primarily in the winter. But generally the weather is mild here.

However, something different was coming. When we heard on Tuesday, September 24, that Hurricane Helene was forming in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico and was aiming for Florida, we began to watch the weather reports more closely, because especially the believers in Tampa were predicted to be at risk. What was experienced by many, as opposed to what we experienced, is a story I would like to share. But, more than that, what was reported after this major hurricane and the one that followed less than two weeks later (Hurricane Milton) contained interesting information that sharpens the focus on what is happening in our world.

For perspective, let us always remember that God is very interested in our physical wellbeing. We are His children. He fills us with His Spirit, because He needs us to be wise in little things and big things. The decision about where to live is a major one for everyone, especially those with families, so this storm and the one that followed

presented a good opportunity to think about this. For example, it would be very foolish to buy or build a house on land that is in a flood plain, even though it may be less expensive than land in other locations. Salespeople may tell someone that there has not been a flood in 100 years in an area, as if implying that the place therefore must be safe. (See below concerning the city of Asheville, North Carolina. The very same type of catastrophe occurred in 1916.)

But a report on October 10 from NBC News concerning Hurricane Milton, which followed Hurricane Helene on October 9 (less than two weeks after Hurricane Helene struck Florida), said: "Hurricane Milton dumped so much rain over parts of Florida's Tampa Bay area that it qualified as a 1-in-1,000-year rainfall event.

"St. Petersburg had 18.31 inches of rain—or more than 1.5 feet—in the 24-hour period during which the storm made landfall, according to precipitation data from the National Weather Service.

"That included a staggering 5.09 inches in one hour, from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., ET—a level considered to have roughly a 0.1% chance of happening in any given year.

"THIS IS INSANE! St. Petersburg has reported 5.09 inches of rain in ONE HOUR and 9.04 inches in 3 hours," Matthew Cappucci, an atmospheric scientist and senior meteorologist at MyRadar Weather, posted Wednesday on X. "That's more rare than a thousand-year rain event."

We need to seriously consider the things that are going on in the light



*Hurricane Helene was 400 miles across as it traveled northward on land. Heavy rains caused flooding that severely damaged roads, bridges, and entire communities and towns.*

of what we believe prophecy shows is coming in this world.

We also need to watch what God is doing in our individual lives. To me, His hallmark is that in a particular situation, many different things fall into place at once. We saw this happen in an amazing way when we made the move from Colorado to Norman Park. God alone is to be praised for what He did and how quickly He did it!

It is not His will that anyone be wiped out, injured, made sick, emotionally destroyed by losses, or otherwise hindered from carrying out the purposes for which God brought him into this world at this time. We need to be alive and well to be able to fight the fight of faith—to be spiritually minded. Therefore, let us all plead with Him to show the way in everything—moment by moment, from beginning to end—and follow where He leads!

## Norman Park in the storm

Back to the hurricane. After battering communities in Cuba, the Caribbean, and along the Mexican coast, the track of Hurricane Helene headed north. It landed on Thursday night, September 26, in Perry, Florida, as a Category 4 hurricane with 140-mile-per-hour winds. Hurricanes generally weaken when they reach land and become tropical storms, or they continue out to sea, where they eventually dissipate. But this one stayed on land, traveling 500 miles north through the coastal states of Florida, Georgia, South Caro-

lina, North Carolina, and Virginia. Also affected were Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York.

There was very heavy rainfall as Hurricane Helene reached Norman Park on Thursday night. However, the town was wonderfully shielded, even though the electricity went off at 1:00 a.m. on Friday as the winds increased. The town may be naturally sheltered; if so, we praise God that that is the case! We learned that a town about 30 miles east of us suffered major damage, and so did a town 45 miles south of us, which had winds of 90-95 miles per hour. Because it had rained very hard for several hours before, the strong winds blew down large trees in those towns, for the ground was very saturated and too wet to hold them.

But neither our place nor the college suffered any damage to the buildings; mostly dead branches were blown from many trees. However, a brother who lives on the west side of the college had a large tree fall in front of his home, taking down the power line with it and tearing the electrical box from the house. And another tree fell in back of his house. But neither tree hit his house! Praise God!

On Friday, it felt strange not to have electricity for a whole day. It was quiet outside—no wind, no rain—and quite warm. But many of our normal tasks and activities require electricity, and it was off until about 9 pm that night. It takes time to restore electricity to a mostly rural area, where fallen trees

often take down power lines. The Internet was down for almost three days. Everything was quiet and moved at a slower pace. It took a couple of days for the roads around Norman Park to be cleared of fallen trees so traffic could resume. But think of what it was like in larger cities and other places, where there was great devastation and loss of lives! Weeks later, there still is no relief for them! The conditions were and still are horrendous!

## Devastation on the move

What happened elsewhere? Hurricane Helene traveled north on land at about 30 miles per hour. It was about 400 miles wide. *The Conversation* online reported: “Helene’s size was an important factor. The hurricane was huge—about 400 miles across, similar in size to Hurricane Katrina and among the largest to make landfall in the continental U.S.

“That large size contributed to Helene’s destructive storm surge. Hurricanes push on the ocean, causing water to build up into a storm surge that can swamp the coast with water several feet above normal ocean height. Large, powerful storms push on a larger ocean area and for a longer period of time, building up a larger storm surge.

“Helene’s storm surge peaked around 15 feet in the Big Bend [Florida] area, according to early estimates. That would make it among the highest storm surges on record in the region dating back to the mid-1800s.”

The University of South Carolina reported online: “Much of Helene’s most devastating impact occurred far inland, as the storm moved up the mountains.

“Normally, fast-moving storms are less of a rain hazard, but Helene was a big exception. In the southern Blue Ridge Mountains, Helene’s rain was enhanced by the terrain and what’s known as ‘orographic uplift.’ When a storm is forced to rise up a mountainside, the air cools and condenses, dropping more precipitation.

“In the mountains, that rainfall quickly funnels into streams and rivers. Asheville, North Carolina, a fast-growing city of about 95,000 residents, is located in a bowl in mountainous terrain. That left it and other nearby cities highly susceptible to high river runoff and extreme flooding. To make matters worse, the area was already saturated from a storm right ahead of Helene.



*A 15-20-foot storm surge hit Horseshoe Beach, Florida. The community is relatively poor, with many people living in mobile homes. Hurricane Idalia hit the same town in 2023.*



*Hurricane Helene followed a rainstorm in Asheville, North Carolina. Rivers inundated communities all across the state, leaving virtually nothing behind but mud and debris.*

the designs of those homes will be adequate? Furthermore, when property is destroyed on a large scale and then rebuilt in the same place, that is also extremely expensive. It would seem to be much more sensible to build where it is safer-away from vulnerable areas-because storms have many more costs besides money!

An article in the *Stanford Report*, October 2, 2024, is titled "Study Links Hurricanes to Higher Death Rates Long after Storms Pass." Solomon Hsiang, professor of environmental social sciences at Stanford University explained, "A big storm will hit, and there's all these cascades of effects where cities are rebuilding or households are displaced or social networks are broken. These cascades have serious consequences for public health." He and the lead study author, Rachel Young, "estimate an average U.S. tropical cyclone indirectly causes 7,000 to 11,000 excess deaths. All told, they estimate tropical storms since 1930 have contributed to between 3.6 million and 5.2 million deaths in the U.S.-more than all deaths nationwide from motor vehicle accidents, infectious diseases, or battle deaths in wars during the same period. Official government statistics put the total toll from these storms at about 10,000 [each]...."

"While the study finds that more than 3 in 100 deaths nationwide are related to tropical cyclones, the burden is far higher for certain groups, with black individuals three times more likely to die after a hurricane than white individuals...."



*God will bless those who are willing to learn how to garden successfully.*

"The French Broad River crested at Asheville at 24.67 feet, shattering the previous 1916 record of 22 feet, also caused by remnants of a hurricane.

"In South Carolina, the storm was so big that its rain bands covered the entire state. The National Weather Service at Greenville-Spartanburg reported that Upstate South Carolina received 8 to 24 inches of rain.

"Atlanta received 11.2 inches of rain in a 48-hour period, setting a record."

So much water falling on land in such a short period of time caused major flooding and landslides, in Florida from the surges on the coast and in North Carolina in the mountains. The city of Asheville, described above, has two rivers that meet. Pictures show that much of the city was washed into the rivers. North Carolina received 30 inches of rain. Tennessee and Kentucky had similar problems, suffering washed-out roads.

What would you do if you were in such a place during the storm? So far more than 228 deaths have been counted in seven states, but many people are still missing. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said, "It's going to take billions of dollars to make sure that we bring this transportation [roads, etc.] back up where it needs to be, but we need to take this time to make sure that when we rebuild western North Carolina-and we will-that it's done in a more resilient way." In Asheville, similar storms occurred in the past, with the same consequences. Sister White wrote, "The time is near when large cities will be swept away, and all should be warned

of these coming judgments." -*The Adventist Home*, p. 136.

Less than two weeks later, another major hurricane struck Florida from the west side. People were urged to evacuate, and some of the believers came from Tampa to stay at the college; they helped wonderfully with grounds maintenance!

We praise God that the believers in Florida were protected by the Lord. Some had property damage, the worst being trees falling on a small house at the farm of Elder Idel Suarez, Jr.'s parents. Water came into one sister's house, but only at the entrance. Almost everyone lost power and the food in their refrigerators. Others had to be off work during the storm and its aftermath. Many roads were impassable because of flooding and downed power lines. Sister Erica Murua wrote, "We are thankful to God that we are safe and sound." Oh, how we praise Him for His goodness and care!

### **Even more terrible results**

The southeastern United States is extremely vulnerable to tropical cyclones, including hurricanes; and this is well known. A man told about living in Hunters Point, between Sarasota Bay and the southwestern part of Tampa Bay, Florida, a new waterfront development. In addition to having efficient energy, with utilities placed underground, every home is built of concrete and designed to ride out the worst storms. But the homes cost \$1.4-1.9 million! How many people can afford that? Besides, who knows whether and for how long



*Gardens and fruit trees can provide healthful, organic produce for one's family and others on a small piece of land.*

"The researchers estimate 25 percent of infant deaths and 15 percent of deaths among people age 1 to 44 in the U.S. are related to tropical cyclones....

"These are infants born years after a tropical cyclone, so they couldn't have even experienced the event themselves in utero. This points to a longer-term economic and maternal health story, where mothers might not have as many resources every year after a disaster than they would have in a world where they never experienced a tropical cyclone."

Obviously, the poorer someone is in an area prone to such events, the more likely he is to be terribly affected on different levels in the case of storms—economic, physical, emotional, mental, and even spiritual. And such weather events in the southeastern states are getting more intense and more frequent. The same can be said for the fires every year in California. They remind us that everything in this world is in the process of passing away.

### **What other storms are coming?**

But there is more at stake than just the weather. We want to ask, "Where should my family and I live in this moment of earth's history?" The book *Sketches on Country Living and the End Time*, by Ellen G. White, contains the books *Country Living* and portions of *A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White*. It is available in English and Spanish from Religious Liberty Publishing Assn., including in

the online store at [www.sda1888.org](http://www.sda1888.org). It is also available as an ebook. The book presents the issues that the people of God need to think about in making this important decision in view of the end time. The main theme is, "Get out of the cities!"

These are very serious things to consider, not tomorrow, but today. Much more than human wisdom is needed in these matters. As mentioned already, it is very unwise to choose to live in an area that

is prone to floods and severe weather events. Think of hurricanes, tornadoes, landslides, floods, or earthquakes on one hand and drought, heat, extreme cold, volcanic eruptions, or fires on the other. Such places should be resolutely avoided. People also congregate in cities for the advantage of supposed economic benefit. The world's population reached 8 billion in November 2022, with more than 55 per cent living in urban areas. But when disasters happen in cities, the destruction can impact millions of people suddenly.

Another type of warning is being sounded right now about economic collapse in the U.S. and other countries. Not only wars and expensive weapons systems but also many government programs have consumed unimaginable amounts of (generally borrowed) money, aiding in the Dollar's loss of value. The U.S. meets the definition of an empire, because it has its military personnel around the world (officially 750 bases in 80 countries) in its attempts to influence other nations. It spends as much on its military as the next top seven countries combined. Inflation and economic destabilization are the result. Now the power and credibility of the U.S. around the world have seriously declined, while the society itself has lost its bearings intellectually and morally. No empire of the past that reached such a point of decadence ever recovered.



*There are only a few places where citrus trees grow, but fruit trees of different kinds can be grown wherever one lives.*

The annual interest that has to be paid on the national debt of \$34 trillion is more than what the nation spends for the military. And deficit spending continues unabated. Meanwhile, other nations have taken notice and are working to remove the U.S. Dollar as the reserve currency. Some say that this will happen before the end of the year, even as there is a push among government officials to replace the Dollar with a CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency). According to the Atlantic Council, "134 countries and currency unions, representing 98 percent of global GDP, are exploring a CBDC. In May 2020 that number was only 35. Currently, 66 countries are in the advanced phase of exploration—development, pilot, or launch."

When governments get bigger and bigger, restrict the freedoms of their citizens, and seek to control markets of goods and services, they make huge mistakes that have far-reaching consequences. The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. The elites may actually believe that they are improving the world, but they are guided by their own selfish interests or—worse—by the prince of darkness.

Furthermore, educational leaders have abandoned goodness and truth and are pushing pagan concepts that will destroy the next generation; this is seen most recently in ideas taught to children concerning promiscuity, perversion, abortion, sexual orientation, and gender dysphoria. One can see how far the latter idea has reached into society by looking up "gender dysphoria" on the website of the prestigious Mayo Clinic. The description makes it appear perfectly natural for children and young people to be encouraged to follow their own immature thoughts and use drugs and surgery to overcome their feelings (often urged on by others) about the sex with which they were born.

We must ask, "Is there any safe place on the earth?" If there ever was, there is not now. History testifies that peace and safety are not natural to the sinful inhabitants of this world.

Without God, there is no peace or safety. With Him, everything is peaceful and safe, but not in the commonly understood meaning of the phrase. Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27.

Here is the crux of the matter: God has promised all who trust in Him to be their Wisdom, Guide, and Protector. There is no one and nothing else to be trusted. "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help." Rather, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Psalms 146:3; 18:10.

Sister Ellen G. White wrote more than 100 years ago, "Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise." *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 28.

Here are some things for us to think very hard about and to do to be ready for the coming storms. If we think that it will be a while before they come, we should think again. We will be way ahead if we take care of everything that we can now. God will guide us if we talk to Him about this! Everyone is different, but our infinite God is up to the task. He is preparing every single one of His people to be ready for the coming events and eternity.

- **Put God first**, and praise Him for life, breath, a spiritual mind, and especially the trials that come your way to increase your trust in Him!
- **Simplify**. The more possessions you have, the more time and money you have to spend to manage them, stealing your attention from that which is most important.
- **Do it now**. Everyone has different things that he has decided to do but has not done yet done. Do them now, so that God can give you more to do!
- **Pay off your debts**. Minimize everything that hinders your relationship and communication with God. Figure out how to live without a credit card.
- **Prioritize your health** to include whole food, lots of exercise, and eight hours of sleep every single night.
- **Don't be afraid**. The world controls people through fear, but Jesus often said, "Fear not." Luke 12:32. Perfect love casts out fear, and so does the continual practice of faith. Do what is right because it is right.
- **Keep learning** new things, and put them into practice. After all, learning will be a major activity in eternity.

- **Do everything as quickly as possible**, as well as possible, and with all your might.
- **Trust in God**—no matter what happens.

When God gives us a safe place to live, we should not consider it permanent. Everything on this earth is just a temporary means for Him to accomplish His eternal purpose; right now, that means His final acts. Each of us is preparing in his own way to leave this place and must focus on that which is eternal—the kingdom of God. He alone is perma-



*Now is the time to gain experience in growing and preserving our own food.*

nent. Through His Spirit He lives within us and will supply our every need for the honor of His name.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. We each have an important mission to carry out for His kingdom right now. Don't wait! The Lord provided a shelter for us and many others during Hurricane Helene. Let that and every other experience be a constant reminder that "They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." Psalm 125:1.



*Emil Bainhardt  
Western Field Health Leader  
Novato, California*

Some of you may remember from a previous article on health a quotation from Hippocrates: “Let medicine be your food, and food your medicine.” This applies specifically to helping manage and minimize chronic inflammation, which is a condition that many diseases have in common. Acute inflammation is safe and necessary for healing a wound from a trauma. A clot forms at a laceration site to stop excess bleeding, and our immune system scans our body for any signs of infection. This can cause the injured area to feel warm and swollen. In scenarios like this, inflammation serves an essential function.

But in contrast, chronic inflammation is harmful and is involved in the onset and continuation of serious diseases. Things that cause our immune system to react include infections, toxins from our environment or food, chronic stress, inactivity, or altered gut function.

The symptoms of chronic inflammation can often be vague and non-specific; it can be viewed as a small fire burning inside the body that gets stoked and encouraged by other irritants. Inflammation is at the root of every chronic condition and it affects nearly every-



one. It can lead to long-term health issues like heart disease, cancer, autoimmune diseases, arthritis, depression, Alzheimer’s disease, and Parkinson’s disease. Here are five steps to reduce inflammation.

### Eat inflammation-reducing foods

- **Non-starchy vegetables.** Eat colorful vegetables every day, the more colorful, the better, especially cruciferous vegetables, like broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, and cabbage.
- **Whole fruits.** Stick with low glycemic fruits like berries, green apples, and kiwi. Avoid fruit juices. Fruits are a great source of antioxidants, polyphenols and other phytonutrients which quell free radicals and reactive oxygen species that contribute to inflammation.
- **Nuts and seeds** are sound sources of protein, healthful anti-inflammatory fats, and fiber. Beneficial options include walnuts, cashews, pecans, chia seeds, and flax seeds.
- **Healthful fats.** To ensure proper cellular communication, integrity, and function, your diet must include an abundance of healthful fats. Stick with whole-food fats, such as avocados, nuts, and seeds, as well as extra-virgin olive oil.
- **Gut-healing foods.** Seventy percent of the immune system resides in the gut. Gut health is tightly linked to our inflammatory and immune responses. Eat fermented foods like sauerkraut, unflavored yogurt and kefir, and pickles. Prebiotic foods, like Jerusalem artichokes, onions, garlic, leeks, and asparagus, are good for the gut as well.

- **Herbs and spices.** Many of these are nutrient-rich foods and also contain very potent anti-inflammatory properties. Add fresh and dried herbs and spices like basil, oregano, and parsley to your meals.

### Avoid inflammatory foods

- **Dairy foods** can cause gas, bloating, and congestion among other signs of inflammation.
- **Sugar** has been known to damage the intestinal lining, disrupt beneficial gut bacteria, and decrease immune function. It contributes to diabetes and insulin resistance, is associated with heart disease and obesity, and can impair brain function.
- **Refined grains and processed carbohydrates.** Grain flours, like pastas, breads, and bagels, can spike blood sugar in exactly the same way as table sugar and are associated with similar adverse health effects.
- **Food sensitivities:** If you recognize that you are sensitive to certain foods, it is imperative to avoid them and work to heal your gut.



### Exercise daily

Exercise has been shown to help reduce moderate inflammation. Even 20 minutes of light exercise, such as walking, or just seven minutes of high-intensity interval training can have significant effects on inflammation levels.

Try to find a way to incorporate movement into your activities every day.

### Nourish your spirit

- Cultivate your relationship with God by daily prayer, study of the Word, and sharing with those nearby.
- Maintain close social connections and fellowship with believers.
- Focus on positive thoughts.
- Develop a sense of purpose and goals.
- Try to spend some quiet time in natural surroundings.



# THE WARNING TO LOT ... FOR TODAY

Lot is confused, terrified, and distracted. He begs to be allowed to rest at a little settlement on this side the mountains. Unbelief sprang up in his heart, and he said: "Oh, not so, my Lord; behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die; behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one; oh, let me escape thither (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar."

But why should Lot not have trusted the mercy of the angels in directing him to escape to the mountains, since he ascribed to them the saving of his life? Lot's stay in Sodom had not tended to increase his faith in God, nor had his intercourse with those who knew not God tended to convert them from the error of their way. He had pleaded that the angels permit him to take up his abode in the city of Zoar, saying, "Is it not a little one? and my soul shall live," as though the God who had directed his escape from Sodom did not understand how to preserve the life he had saved. But what mercy and condescension are manifested by the God of heaven! His request is heard, and his plea granted; yet how much better would it have been to heed the angel's voice, and go to the mountains, as far as possible from the wicked city. The angel bids him to hasten, because the fiery storm would be widespread and terrible....

## Consider supplements

The basis of any healing protocol should be whole, real food. However, with the genetic modification of foods, long transport and storage times, monoculture farming methods, and depletion of the soil, food is not as nutritious as it once was. So, supplements can be beneficial and necessary. Here are three supplements to help reduce inflammation and support the immune system.

- **Vitamin D.** Up to 90 percent of the U.S. population has an inadequate intake of vitamin D. This vitamin works closely with magnesium and is critical for proper immune function.
- **Curcumin** has powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties to ease various chronic conditions.
- **Vitamin B-Complex** is crucial for supporting metabolism, immune function, and overall health.

## Conclusion

Inflammation is an important topic that should be addressed before other solutions are considered to combat chronic conditions. Even taking a few small steps can be helpful to overcome inflammation and support the immune system.

### References

Anthony Goodman, MD  
Brierley Horton, MS, RD  
Mark Hyman, MD  
Carolyn Williams, PhD, RD

**Disclaimer:** This article is intended to provide helpful and informative material on the subject of reducing inflammation. It is provided with the understanding that the author and the publisher are not engaged in rendering medical, health, psychological, or any other kind of personal professional services. If the reader requires such services, a competent professional should be consulted. The author and publisher specifically disclaim all responsibility for any loss or risk, personal or otherwise, that is incurred as a consequence, directly, or indirectly, of the use and application of any of the contents of this article.

*Ellen G. White*

**H**ow hard it was for Lot to leave Sodom! Part of his family had to be left behind, and all the wealth he had accumulated had to be sacrificed. He must go out from Sodom a poor man. The labor of years has to be counted in vain. He does not feel the terrible necessity for God's judgment to fall upon the wicked city, and he still lingers. The angels urge his immediate departure; but Lot, stupefied with sorrow for the loss of his children and property, still hesitates. The angels lay hold of his hands, and the hands of his wife and children, and with merciful violence hasten them out of the city. When they reach the city limits, a word of command is given with startling vehemence: "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest ye be consumed." A few moments' delay now, a few moments' hesitancy, a few moments' disregard of the warning, will cost the fugitives their lives. They are not even to turn their eyes back to see if their beautiful home has survived the general ruin, or the storm will burst upon them. God has delayed His retributive judgment only that they may escape. What care, what tenderness, to these four who flee from the doomed city!



The sin of the people rose up to heaven, and because of the iniquity of the people, the Lord poured out the vials of His wrath. The fearful doom of Sodom stands forth as a warning for all time, and especially for those who live in the last days. The destruction of Sodom was a symbol of the destruction that will come upon the finally impenitent, when tempests of fire come from above, and fountains of flame break forth from the crust of the earth. The fate of this ancient city should be a warning to all who live for self, and who corrupt their ways before God. The sin of Sodom is the sin of many cities now in existence, that have not been destroyed as was Sodom. Ezekiel says, "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw good."

The warning that was given to Lot comes down to us who live in this degenerate age—"Escape for thy life." The voice of the tempter is crying peace and safety. The evil one would have you feel that you have nothing to fear, and bids you eat, drink, and be merry. Which voice will you heed, the voice of heaven, or the voice that lures you to destruction? The Redeemer of the world, the compassionate Friend of man, discloses to our eyes the fact that there is a sin greater than the sin of Sodom. It is that of sinning against greater light. To those who have heard and have not heeded the gospel invitation to repent and have faith in Christ, the sin is greater than was the sin of Sodom. To those who have professed the name of Jesus, who have professed to know God, and to keep His command-

ments, and yet who have misrepresented Christ in their daily life and character, who have been warned and entreated, and still dishonor their Redeemer by their unconsecrated lives, the sin is greater than that of Sodom.

Jesus said: "Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shall be brought down to hell; for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained unto this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee."

The warning of Christ sounds down along the lines to our day. He would arouse the people for whom He gave His life, and attract their attention to Himself, the source of all wisdom, righteousness, strength, and hope, and peace. He would have His people let their light shine forth to the world in good works. The sins of Sodom are repeated in our day, and the earth is destroyed and corrupted under the inhabitants thereof; but the worst feature of the iniquity of this day is a form of godliness without the power thereof. Those who profess to have great light



are found among the careless and indifferent, and the cause of Christ is wounded in the house of its professed friends. Let those who would be saved, arouse from their lethargy, and give the trumpet a certain sound; for the end of all things is at hand. —*Signs of the Times*, October 16, 1893.

## EVENTS

### AMERICAN UNION WORKERS' SEMINAR

Monday, October 21,  
to Sunday, October 27, 2024  
*Norman Park, Georgia*

### AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE

Thursday, December 19,  
to Sunday, December 22, 2024  
*Norman Park, Georgia*

### AMERICAN UNION DELEGATES' MEETINGS

Monday, December 23,  
to Tuesday, December 24, 2024  
*Norman Park, Georgia*

The *American Union Newsletter* is published monthly by the International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement, American Union. It is complimentary for members and friends and carries items of interest submitted by believers. We reserve the right to make changes as necessary and to refuse to print certain items. To submit news, send your item in an email to [atramirez829@gmail.com](mailto:atramirez829@gmail.com).

4243 US Highway 319 North, Norman Park, Georgia 31771. Email: [info@sda1888.org](mailto:info@sda1888.org) / Website: [sda1888.org](http://sda1888.org).

