



Volume 42, No. 12 – December 2025

*Conference Time!*

## AMERICAN UNION DELEGATES' MEETINGS

Monday, December 29, to Wednesday, December 31, 2025

## AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE

Wednesday, December 31, to Sunday, January 4, 2026

Norman College | Norman Park, Georgia

Believers and friends of the truth are invited to travel to Norman Park, Georgia, and spend the last few days of the old year and the first few days of the new year together. The delegates will hear reports from the officers about what occurred in God's cause over the last three years (January 2023 through December 2025) and make decisions for the next term. There will be nutritious, delicious vegan food prepared by gifted sisters, spiritual food served by the gospel workers, and blessed fellowship with devoted believers from all around the country and even visitors from other countries.

### Accommodations

Delegates and all conference attendees are welcome to make a reservation by going to [www.normancollege.org](http://www.normancollege.org) and scrolling down to Events. There you will see "Mon, Dec 29–American Union Conference and Delegates' Meetings 2025." Click on the word "Register" and then "RSVP." Fill out the form and submit it. The fees for meals and rooms are shown on the Reservation form. You will receive a confirmation by email.

All rooms have double beds and bathrooms with showers. Linens (bedding and towels) are provided, but you are asked please be prepared to make your own bed(s) the way you like.

### Delegates' meetings

The first meeting of the American Union delegates will begin at 5 pm on Monday, December 29. We hope you will be well rested when you arrive, since the meetings will continue until 9 pm. The certified delegates will be confirmed, and the minutes of the previous session will be presented.

Tuesday's meetings are scheduled for 9:30 am through 7:30 pm, with a break for lunch. Reports will be presented by the officers, field leaders, and department leaders, after which the election of new officers will take place.

If all goes well, the meetings on Wednesday will begin at 9:30 am and conclude at 1:30 pm after the proposals and pending issues are discussed and decided. May all who participate in the delegates' meetings be blessed with wisdom and rejoice at what God has done in the past and will do in the coming days.

### Public conference

The public conference is scheduled to begin at 5:30 pm on Wednesday (New Year's Eve). The conference theme is "The Way," presenting gems from the book of John. In addition to each subject being presented in English and Spanish, there will be special conference activities for the young people and children. Other activities will include a literature table and baptism. On Sabbath afternoon there will be a winter concert.

For those who are flying, we have previously recommended a flight into Atlanta, Georgia. Norman Park is three hours away from Atlanta by car. Now we have found out that flying into Albany, Georgia, is sometimes cheaper than flying into Atlanta; and Albany is just one hour from Norman Park. Check your options for what will work best for you. Just remember that if someone from Norman Park needs to pick you up in Atlanta, he or she will have a six-hour round trip!

We look forward to welcoming you with all our hearts in just a few days. God bless and protect you and give you great joy!



# Blessed—Engaged

Elder Larry Watts  
American Union Vice President  
Norman Park, Georgia

*"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15.*

It is projected that in a few years there will be fewer and fewer cars driven by human beings. There will be mostly self-driving vehicles on the highways. This is expected to eliminate almost all accidents and traffic fatalities.

Most cars today have automatic transmissions, which makes it very easy to engage the movement of a vehicle. But in the past, to be able to drive, you had to learn to use a clutch. That meant that you did not just get in your car, start it, put it in gear, and go. There were a few more steps that had to be taken. They required coordination. Your left foot had to engage the clutch pedal, and the right foot had to press on the gas pedal so that the car would move by engaging the transmission through the clutch. That process was difficult for some people to learn; but despite the difficulties, they had to learn it if they wanted to drive a car.



But those were not the only things that a person had to learn. He also needed to learn the rules of the road and avoid accidents, being constantly alert to what drivers in the vehicles around him were doing. In the spiritual life, coordination is also needed. We need to engage our wills in harmony with God's will. By engaging our desire to go with God and accepting the challenge of facing a world that is in opposition to Him, we can reach the destination that He has appointed for us, without harm to others or ourselves..

"The fallen world is the battlefield for the greatest conflict the heavenly universe and earthly powers have ever witnessed. It was appointed as the theater on which would be fought out the grand struggle between good and evil, between heaven and hell. Every human being acts a part in this conflict. No one can stand on neutral ground. Men must either accept or reject the world's Redeemer. All are witnesses, either for or against Christ. Christ calls upon those who stand under His banner to engage in the conflict with Him as faithful soldiers, that they may inherit the crown of life. They have been adopted as sons and daughters of God. Christ has left them His assured promise that great will be the reward in the kingdom of heaven of those who partake of His humiliation and suffering for the truth's sake.

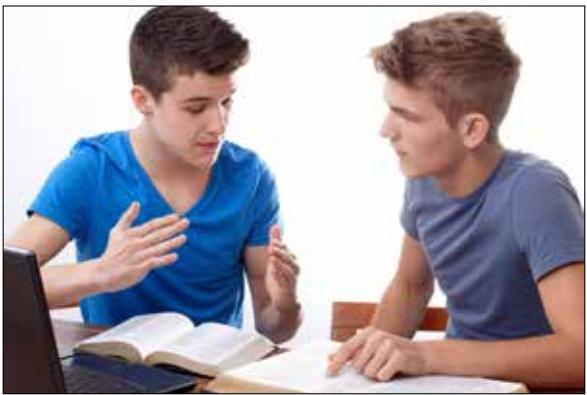
"The cross of Calvary challenges, and will finally vanquish, every earthly and hellish power. In the cross all influence centers, and from it all influence goes

forth. It is the great center of attraction, for on it Christ gave up His life for the human race. This sacrifice was offered for the purpose of restoring man to his original perfection; yea, more. It was offered to give him an entire transformation of character, making him more than a conqueror. Those who in the strength of Christ overcome the great enemy of God and man, will occupy a position in the heavenly courts above angels who have never fallen." —(General Conference Bulletin, April 1, 1899) Sons and Daughters of God, p. 242.

When you first learned to drive, you probably did not use your own vehicle. You sat in someone else's car as he was teaching you all the things that you needed to learn so that when you were given the test you could pass it and get your license. It was a privilege to drive, a privilege that you could lose if you did not follow the rules. Some people have passed their driving test quite easily; and some of them thought it was their right to do whatever they wished with their own vehicles and drive irresponsibly, all too often snuffing out the lives of other souls. We should always remember that what we have been given as privileges are not rights.

There are three ways that I know of that easily reveal character: (1) Stress—like a three-day back-backing trip; (2) how a person sings; and (3) a driver's license, along with the kind of car he or she drives. Road rage in this day and age is just selfish pride that has been unleashed. Cutting others off in traffic is just a revelation of one's true character. Courtesy on the highway is rare. But patience is practiced by those who have heaven in their hearts. They have eternity already; this is God's gift. All glory belongs to God for His wonderful gift to the children of men.

"What we want, brethren and sisters, is true religion. We want the Spirit of God purifying our souls. We want our faces constantly set as a flint heavenward. And when we see sin striving for the mastery in us, then we must fight most earnestly so that it shall not gain the victory. But if you do feel the wound and sting of sin, then cry to the great Physician to help you. We all have to learn this lesson of special trust in our Saviour. We are to trust Him as a little child trusts its earthly parents, to believe that He is working for our good in all things and that He hears every cry for help. If we call upon Him in



faith, He will help us to succeed fully through every temptation." —Manuscript 19, 1888.

God gives us many things without our asking for them. He bestows justification—forgiveness, pardon—on the unjust, the righteous, the filthy, and the holy. All we need to begin our journey and receive His mercies is to accept His acceptance. But to engage His guidance system, we need more: His word and the Holy Spirit, which He gives only to those who ask and obey Him. "So the satisfaction of creature merit cannot be in returning to the Lord His own, for it was always His own property to be used as He in His providence should direct.

"By rebellion and apostasy man forfeited the favor of God; not His rights, for he could have no value except as it was invested in God's dear Son. This point must be understood. He forfeited those privileges which God in His mercy presented him as a free gift, a treasure in trust to be used to advance His cause and His glory, to benefit the beings He had made. The moment the workmanship of God refused obedience to the laws of God's kingdom, that moment he became disloyal to the government of God and he made himself entirely unworthy of all the blessings wherewith God had favored him." —*Faith and Works*, pp. 20, 21.

God's favor is also known as grace, which is unmerited. Did Adam receive unmerited grace even before he sinned? The quotation says that, in his rebellion, Adam "became disloyal to the government of God and he made himself entirely unworthy of all the blessings wherewith God had favored him."

"This was the position of the human race after man divorced himself from God by transgression. Then he was no longer entitled to a breath of air, a ray

of sunshine, or a particle of food. And the reason why man was not annihilated was because God so loved him that He made the gift of His dear Son that He should suffer the penalty of his transgression. Christ proposed to become man's surety and substitute, that man, through matchless grace, should have another trial—a second probation—having the

experience of Adam and Eve as a warning not to transgress God's law as they did. And inasmuch as man enjoys the blessings of God in the gift of the sunshine and the gift of food, there must be on the part of man a bowing before God in thankful acknowledgment that all things come of God. Whatever is rendered back to Him is only His own who has given it." —*Faith and Works*, p. 21.

"And none shall appear before Me empty." "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters." Exodus 34:20; Proverbs 18:16.

"When you open your hand, they open their hearts." This phrase, generally based on Biblical concepts, describes a reciprocal relationship in which generosity leads to a positive emotional and spiritual response. The saying suggests that when one is generous and giving ("open your hand"), it inspires others to be open, receptive, and emotionally generous in return ("open their hearts"). It highlights the idea that living generously creates an atmosphere of love, hope, and connection.

"Man broke God's law, and through the Redeemer new and fresh promises were made on a different basis. All blessings must come through a Mediator. Now every member of the human family is given wholly into the hands of Christ, and whatever we possess—whether it is the gift of money, of houses, of lands, of reasoning powers, of physical strength, of intellectual talents—in this present life, and the blessings of the future life, are placed in our possession as God's treasures to be faithfully expended for the benefit of man. Every gift is stamped with the cross and bears the image and superscription of Jesus Christ. All things come

of God. From the smallest benefits up to the largest blessing, all flow through the one Channel—a superhuman mediation sprinkled with the blood that is of value beyond estimate because it was the life of God in His Son.

"Now not a soul can give God anything that is not already His. Bear this in mind: 'All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.' 1 Chronicles 29:14. This must be kept before the people wherever we go—that we possess nothing, can offer nothing in value, in work, in faith, which we have not first received of God and upon which He can lay His hand any time and say, They are Mine—gifts and blessings and endowments I entrust to you, not to enrich yourself, but for wise improvement to benefit the world." —*Faith and Works*, p. 22.

God kept back from man his entitled death and gave him the map, the Bible, a GPS (God's Perfect Spirit), and the goal—perfection in Christ, and free will—but we must ENGAGE the will to go.

"As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enabling." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 333.

The question, "Are we—am I—engaged?" means something more. When two people are "engaged," it means that they have left behind all other possibilities. They intend to mate, to make a forever covenant with each other. In fact, God uses this example in 2 Corinthians 11:2: "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you [engaged you] to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15. Please do not waste it. Do not dilly-dally. Engage. Now. And disengage never.



# Our Great Treasure House

Ellen G. White

Let none think that there is no more knowledge for them to gain. The depth of human intellect may be measured; the works of human authors may be mastered; but the highest, deepest, broadest flight of the imagination cannot find out God. There is infinity beyond all that we can comprehend. We have seen only the glimmering of divine glory and of the infinitude of knowledge and wisdom; we have, as it were, been working on the surface of the mine, when rich, golden ore is beneath the surface, to reward the one who will dig for it. The shaft must be sunk deeper and yet deeper in the mine, and the result will be glorious treasure. Through a correct faith, divine knowledge will become human knowledge.

No one can search the Scriptures in the Spirit of Christ without being rewarded. When a man is willing to be instructed as a little child, when he submits wholly to Christ, he will find the truth in His Word. If men would be obedient, they would understand the plan of God's government. The heavenly world would open its treasures of grace and glory for exploration. Human beings would be altogether different from what they are now; for by exploring the mines of truth, men would be ennobled. The mystery of redemption, the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice, would not be, as they are now, vague in our minds. They would be, not only better understood, but altogether more highly appreciated.

The Saviour saw that men were absorbed in getting gain, and were losing sight of eternal realities. He un-

dertook to correct this evil. He sought to break the infatuating spell that was paralyzing the soul. Lifting up His voice, He cried, "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" He presents before fallen humanity the nobler world they have lost sight of, that they may behold eternal realities. He takes them to the threshold of the Infinite, flushed with the indescribable glory of God, and shows them the treasure there.

The value of this treasure is above gold or silver. The riches of earth's mines cannot compare with it.

*The depth saith, It is not in me!*

*The sea saith, It is not in me.*

*It cannot be gotten for gold,*

*Neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.*

*It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir,*

*With the precious onyx, or the sapphire.*

*The gold and the crystal cannot equal it;*

*And the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.*

*No mention shall be made of coral or of pearls,*

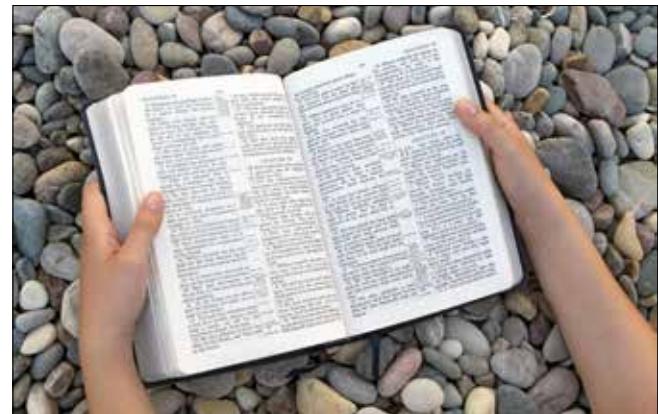
*For the price of wisdom is above rubies."*

This is the treasure that is found in the Scriptures. The Bible is God's great

lessonbook, His great educator. The foundation of all true science is contained in the Bible. Every branch of knowledge may be found by searching the Word of God. And above all else, it contains the science of all sciences, the science of salvation.

In His prayer to the Father, Christ gave to the world a lesson which should be graven on mind and soul. "This is life eternal," He said, "that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." This is true education. It imparts power. The experimental knowledge of God and of Christ transforms man into the image of God. It gives man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe.

This is the knowledge that is obtained by searching the word of God. And this treasure may be found by every soul who will give all to obtain it. "If thou criest after knowledge and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasure; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." —*Signs of the Times*, September 12, 1906.



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